

BERMUDA

1617 to 1970



Map of Bermuda by Speed
1620

A Display to the
Royal Philatelic Society London of the island's
Stamps and Postal History
1617 - 1970

By David Cordon

Historical Introduction

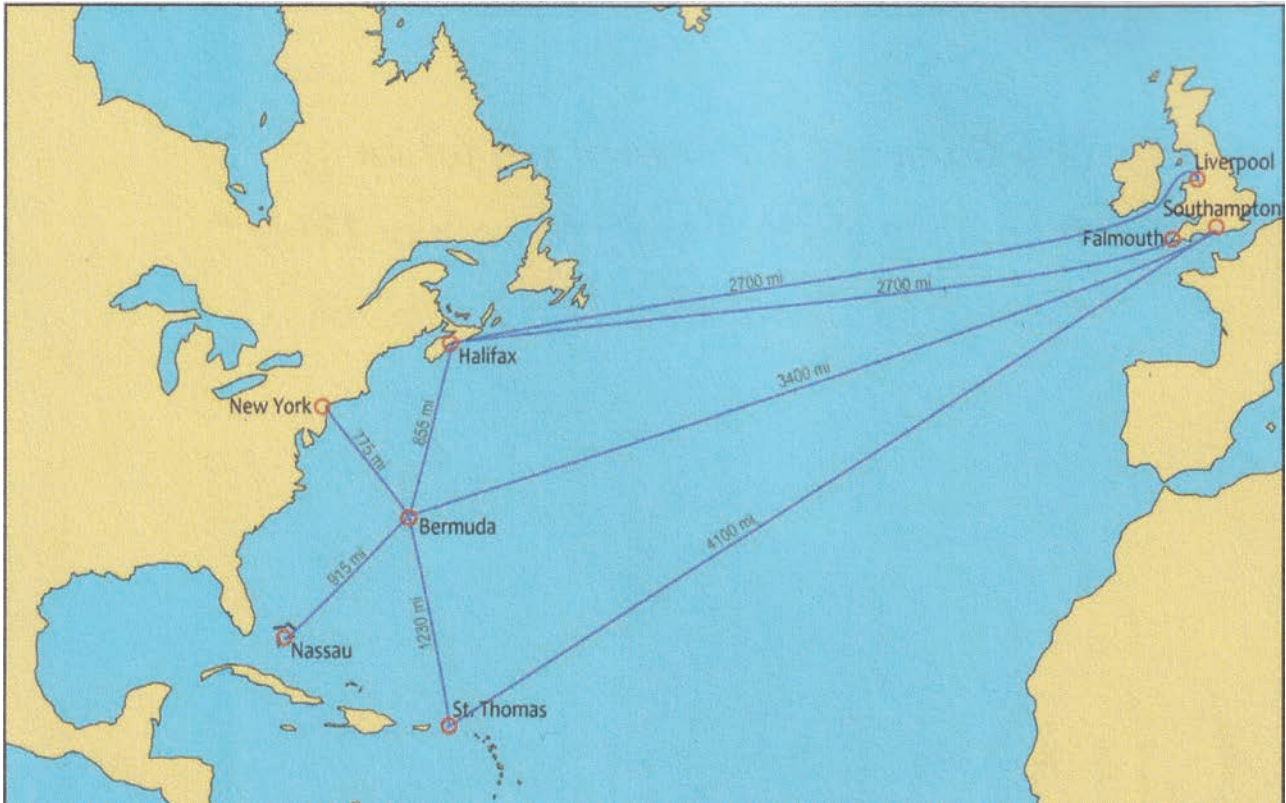


Image supplied by Art Groten

Bermuda is a group of islands approximately 580 miles east of Cape Hatteras, 720 miles south-east from New York and 1,000 miles north-east from Miami, and 3,400 miles from London.

It was discovered in 1505 by Juan de Bermudez, a Portuguese sailor, and named after him. Sir George Somers was shipwrecked in 1609 while on the way to Virginia. This led to British settlement and founding of a government in 1612, the earliest in the Western Hemisphere.

The town of St George was founded in 1612 as the capital of Bermuda which was moved to Hamilton in 1815 being more centrally located.

DAVID IAN CORDON

PERSONAL

Born in Bermuda 24 May 1959, school from 9 in England where I passed A levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry . Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas for two years before I decided to return home and entered the Insurance industry

Worked in London for Pearson Webb Springbett from 1980-82 and helped get David Springbett into Bermuda high values and in the insurance industry. In my last role at Zurich Insurance I was the Chief Underwriting Officer in Bermuda for 12 years which ended when I was made redundant in June 2022 and then into retirement.

I was married in 1989 and widowed in 1998, I have been with my current partner Julie Lunn for the past 20 years and we currently have my/our second Rhodesian Ridgeback “Charlie” who is 130lbs and almost 11 years old

STAMPS

I started collecting stamps when I was 8 years old and met a number of the great collectors of Bermuda in my youth including being invited to Sir Henry Tucker’s house in about 1976/7 to view his collection. After this it was always my goal to have one of the best Bermuda collections and I believe, other than postmaster stamps, that I have met this goal. Hopefully the viewers of my display will also be pleased with the completion shown here today.

I sold my first Bermuda collection when I got married in 1989 and then for a while I collected Turks Island and very briefly France, US and Great Britain. I restarted my Bermuda collection in 2004 and my first exhibit was Boer War which was awarded a gold medal and research prize in New York in 2009 and a Large Vermeil at the 2012 International in Romania. I eventually sold this collection to be able to focus and improve my Queen Victoria material.

I have shown the following exhibits:

Queen Victoria – as a five frame exhibit which was awarded Gold Medals in the United States, the Mail Coach award at Stampex 2018, a Large Gold at Stockholm 2019 (as part of the Royal Philatelic Society anniversary) and a Large Gold at London 2022, as well as Best in Show at Newcastle Australia as part of the RPS team.

Docks - as a one frame exhibit in the US and also at the 2016 New York international where it was awarded a Large Vermeil with 88 points

King George V high values. - shown in a number of US shows with 93 FIP points a number of times, at New York 2016 International (Large Vermeil 88 points), London Stampex (93 points), and then Best in Show at San Diego 2022 (93 points)

Note: A copy of my complete display will be available on the Bermuda Collectors Society website www.bermudacollectorssociety.com .

PHILATELIC HISTORY

This is the first 1pm display devote solely to the island of Bermuda although David Pitts and Art Groten presented David's exhibit "Crossroads of the Atlantic" in November 2016 at 5pm.

Named sales:

Auctioneer	Date	# Lots	Owner	Focus
Robson Lowe	Sep 1975	256	Senator Henry Hicks	All
Harmers London	Oct 1978	582	Sir Henry Tucker (I)	All
Harmers New York	Apr 1979	261	Sir Henry Tucker (II)	All
Temple Bar	Jun 1989	1,367	George Ulrich	All
Spink	Jun 1999	922	M. H. Ludington	All
Cherrystone	Dec 1999	221	R. Dickgiesser	All
Spink	Oct 2003	334	Baron Stig Leuhusen	All
Grosvenor	Mar 2005	756	Apollonia	KGVI HV
Spink	Nov 2012	479	Hon David Saul	All
Spink	Apr 2017	393	David Pitts I	All (Used)
Murray Payne	Mar 2017	448	Charles Freeland	KGVI/KGVI
Spink	Oct 2017	225	David Pitts II	PH Exhibit

Sales with significant Bermuda material:

Auctioneer	Date	# Lots	Owner	
Spink	Nov 2007	209	(Wood)	QV
Cavendish	Jan 2009	191	Geoff Osborn I	PH
Spink	Nov 2010	220	?	
Cavendish	Jan 2012	132	Geoff Osborn II	PH
Spink	Dec 2015	315	Vesty	All
Cavendish	Jul 2016	120	Longtail (Shanks)	PH
Corinphila	Jun 2021	166	Berascon	All
Corinphila	May 2022	101	Berascon	All
Argyll Etkin	Oct 2022	654	Mitton + another	PH, QV, Boer

Other References used in the Display include:

Horst Augustinovic. *Bermuda's 1953, 1962 and 1970 Definitive Postage Stamps*. Moosehead Communications, 2021.

Michel Forand & Charles Freeland. *Bermuda Mails to 1865: An inventory of postal markings*. Published by British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, 1995

Myles Glazer. *The King George V High-Value Stamps of Bermuda, 1917-1938*, Calaby Publishers, 1994.

M.H. Ludington. *The 1910-36 "Ship" Type Stamps*. Junior Philatelic Society, 1955.

M.H. Ludington. *Bermuda: the post office, Postal Markings and Adhesive Stamps*. Robson Lowe, 1962.

M.H. Ludington, *The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda*. Quarterman Publications Inc, 1978

Eric Yendall. *The King George VI Large Key Type*. London: Royal Philatelic Society, 2008.

Bermuda Post – Journal of the Bermuda Collectors Society (1986 onwards)

DISPLAY LAYOUT

Frame(s)	Subject
1 - 6	Early Postal History
7	Military Covers
8 - 13	Queen Victoria
14 - 16	Dock issue
17 - 21	King George V – caravels
22 - 26	- high values
27 - 29	King George V / VI – commemoratives
30 - 31	- pictorials
32 - 35	King George VI – high values
36 - 37	Queen Elizabeth II – predecimal
38 - 42	Postal Stationery

Acknowledgments:

I am most grateful to Richard Stock who originally invited me to display my Bermuda exhibit, which due to COVID-2019, I was unable to do. Mike Roberts, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, extended my invitation to give this presentation during his presidency. It represents the largest display of Bermuda philately ever attempted.

My thanks also to Peter Fernbank and Roger Baxter for being kind enough to edit portions of this display and phamplet.

This would not have been possible without the support of my partner Julie, who has accepted my collecting without too many complaints.

COPYRIGHT:

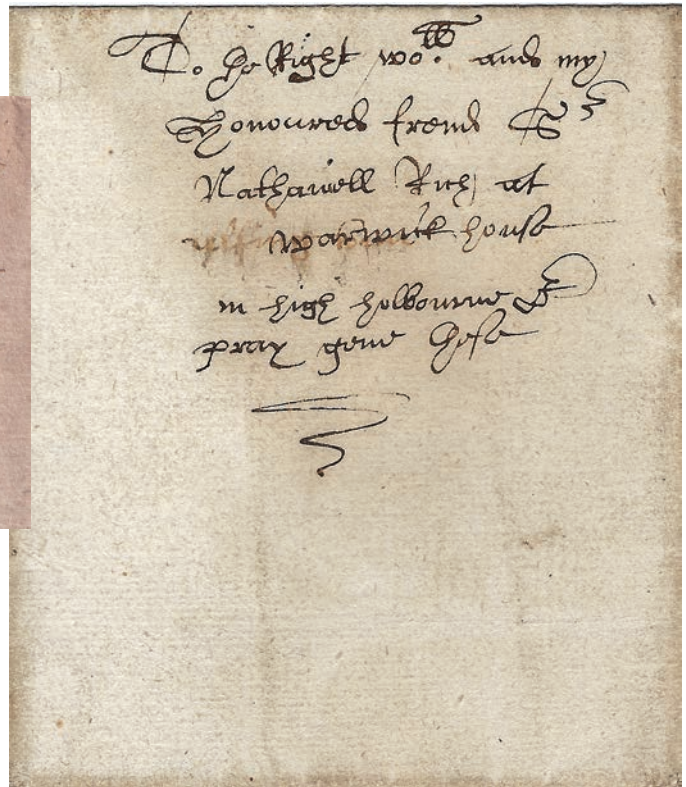
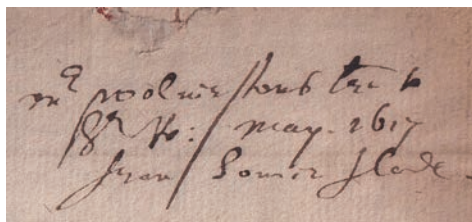
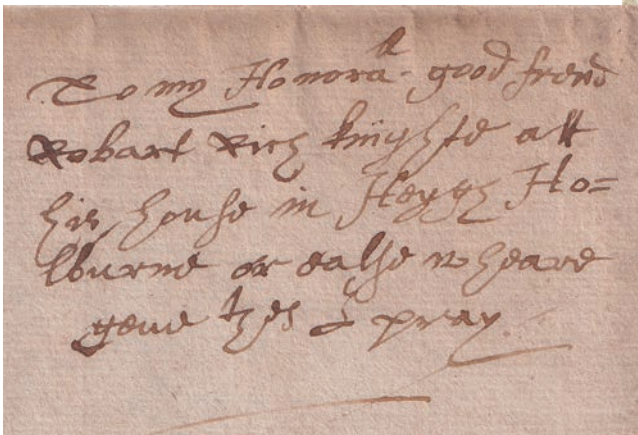
Copyright vests with the author, with the exception of the maps in this handout; no part of which maybe reproduced without the author's permission.

Frames 1 - 6

Prestamp Postal History

I mainly consider myself a “stamp” man and I have issues on developing the story to appease judges for postal history exhibits. After the great exhibit “*Bermuda Postal History from 1620 to the UPU*” of David Pitts, and the lack of having any postmaster stamps (on or off cover) I am unlikely to exhibit this group. However, I do have sufficient material to more than fill these 6 frames. The postal handstamps are arranged in order of Morris Ludington’s numbering system.

Unmarked covers



The earliest and third earliest covers in private hands.
1617 and 1620

Nathaniel Rich (Earl of Manchester) owned a share and the family papers were auctioned by Sothebys Park Bennet in New York in the 1970s. The majority of the papers were purchased for the Bermuda National Archives but a few are still in private hands including two documents in this display.

			EKD	LKD	#
PM1	StG	red	02 Feb 1820	19 Jan 1824	1 / 13

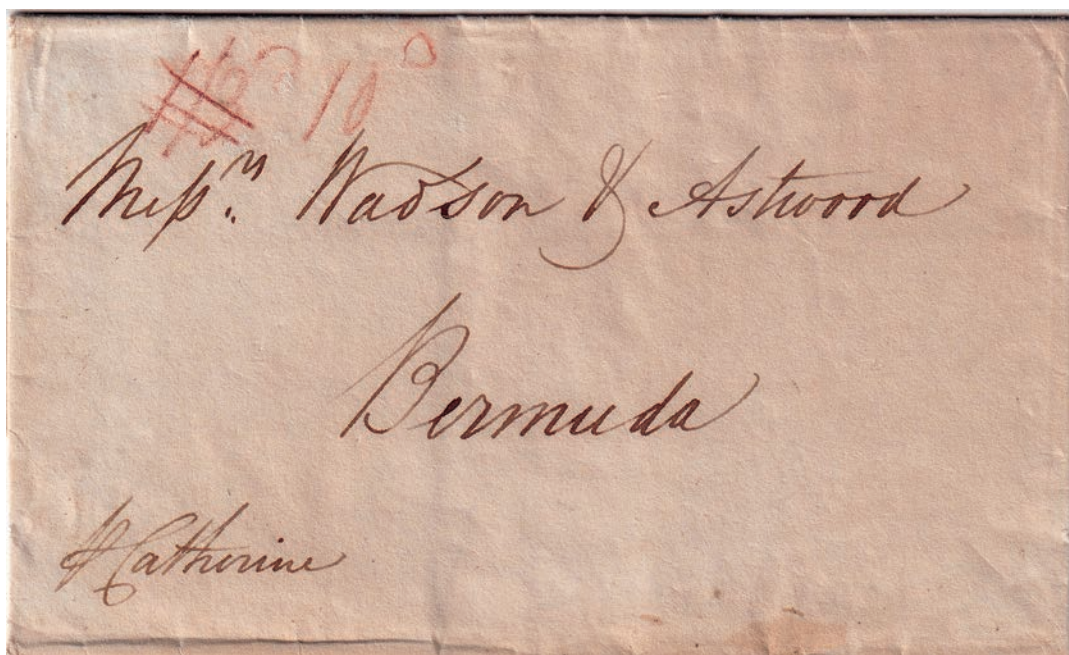
Research: I used the information in the Forand / Freeland’s *Bermuda Mails to 1865* and I updated this information from auction records to get current numbers. The information is captured and shown in boxes above each cover. I currently record about 1700 covers from 1615 to 1900 along with auction details and provenance. In addition I continue to compile these into a pictorial version by including scans from the catalogues to be able to definitively confirm covers with the same details with the same dates.

Unmarked covers

First Bermuda Postal Charge

21 August 1812

Packet *Swiftsure*
left Falmouth on 1
September arriving
in Bermuda on 25
September



Bermuda's first Official Post Office Act was passed on 8th May 1812 and was short lived as that Act did not receive Royal assent and was declared illegal by London in 1814. The Act had a provision for payment for mail carried by packets of 5d for single rate, 10d double rate and 1s3d for triple rate as shown in red crayon on this cover.

29 August 1849



Cunard packet *Europa*
left Liverpool on 1
September, arriving
in Halifax on 10
September. This cover
was carried onwards
on the *Ospray*,
leaving Halifax on
11 September and
arriving in Bermuda
on 16 September

1s rate to Bermuda, the six one penny stamps were applied to pay for a **late fee** for sending this cover by train to Southampton. No Bermuda datestamp was applied upon arrival.

Date stamps



PM1



PM2



PM3



PM4



PM5

The St Georges post office became a branch of the General Post Office, London in 1818. However, the earliest recorded handstamp is the datestamp with a small fleuron, shown below. The initial three handstamps did not have a location as all the mail was sent out of St Georges. However, much of the mail did not receive a handstamp as evidenced by the large quantity of mails from 1820 to the 1849s that are unmarked.



Earliest cover with a Bermuda post office hand stamp (year should be 1820).

Marked 6/6 being a triple rate which was erased and changed to a double rate of 4/4

Per packet *Chesterfield* (3 Feb) to Falmouth (6 Aug) via New York and Halifax

One of 5 covers with the PM1 in black. Probably carried on naval ship *Redpole* which sailed on 8 March



Date stamps



Finest of 6 recorded copies of the (St Georges) **PM3**, Dated NO30 (3 is inverted). Carried on HMS *Pearl* to Southampton



Cover reduced by 25%



Ireland Island entire to London paid with manuscript 6/- in black (with the Ireland Island PM4 on the reverse) for a triple rate. Carried on RMS *Dee* departing Bermuda on 21 July 1825 for Southampton. Six copies recorded.

Paid stamps



P1



P2



P3



P4

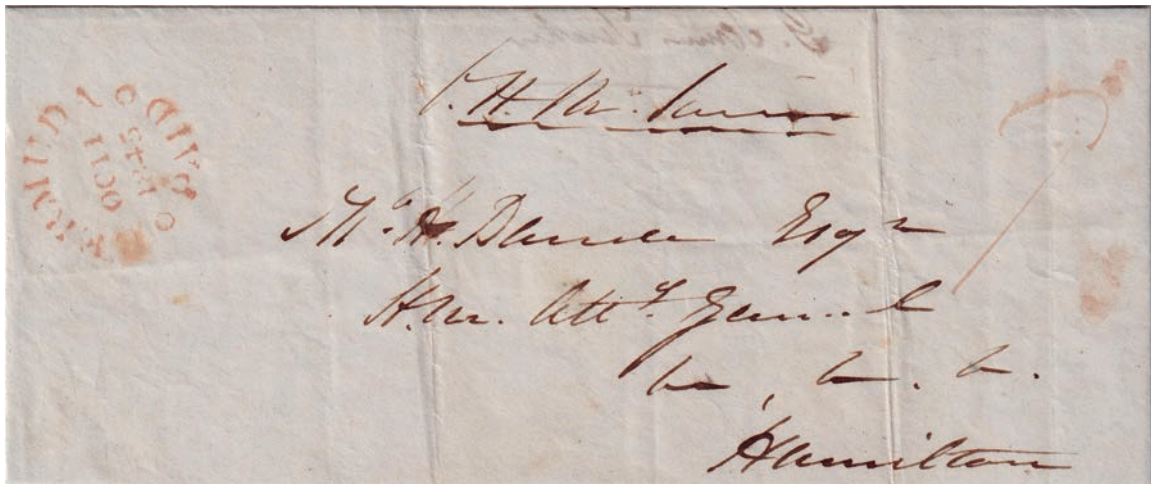


P5

Bermuda paid stamps were issued to

Bermuda postal history includes the P2 “crown circle” paid handstamp for Hamilton, Ireland Island and St Georges and is normally found with the corresponding datestamp in use at that time.

Paid stamps - P1



Cover reduced by 25%

Bermuda’s first paid stamp (P1) was used at St Georges by Postmaster James Taylor. Seventeen examples are recorded from 1835 to 1846. This letter from GLTucker, marked as “paid 1d” - although the majority of local mail was unmarked – was sent by mail carriage along North Shore Road to Hamilton. The daily average of letters carried in 1846 was fifteen.

Paid stamps - P2 (CROWN CIRCLE)

Bermuda postal history includes the P2 “crown circle” paid handstamp for Hamilton, Ireland Island and St Georges and is normally found with the corresponding datestamp in use at that time. The datestamp is almost always on the back of the envelope.

Hamilton.



Hamilton P2 and PM4 on reverse

Both envelopes to Canada carried on the Cunard mail boat *Ospray* which departed Bermuda on the 9th February and arrived in Halifax on the 13th.

St Georges



St Georges P2 on front and PM5 date stamp on reverse.

1846 envelope sent to Cuba at the packet rate of 1/- with the St Georges P2 and a Hamilton PM4 on the reverse. The only example recorded to Cuba and this cover is illustrated in Forand & Freeland on page 77.



Paid stamp - P2 (CROWN CIRCLE)

Ireland Island

Daniel FC Grote was the Sub Postmaster at Ireland Island from October 1858 to July 1870. Due to the volume of mail from ships at that "end" of the Colony, Grote also created handstamps to show the rate charged. These are known for values 4d, 6d and 1s. A total of 33 covers are recorded with the this crown circle.

1859 envelope with **Grote 4d** handstamp (rate to Canada) the PM5 date stamp for 13 July on reverse.

One of three recorded



1860 envelope to London with the **Grote 6d** handstamp with the PM5 date stamp for 13 July on reverse. This is relatively common (22 recorded) as this was the rate from 1854 to 1862.

1864 envelope with **Grote 1/-** handstamp to England with the PM5 date stamp for 5 May on reverse.
Only recorded example.



Ship Letters

**BERMUDA
SHIP LETTER**

S1 - Two types of handstamp are recorded: Type (i) red - 22; and Type (ii) black - 2 and red - 4

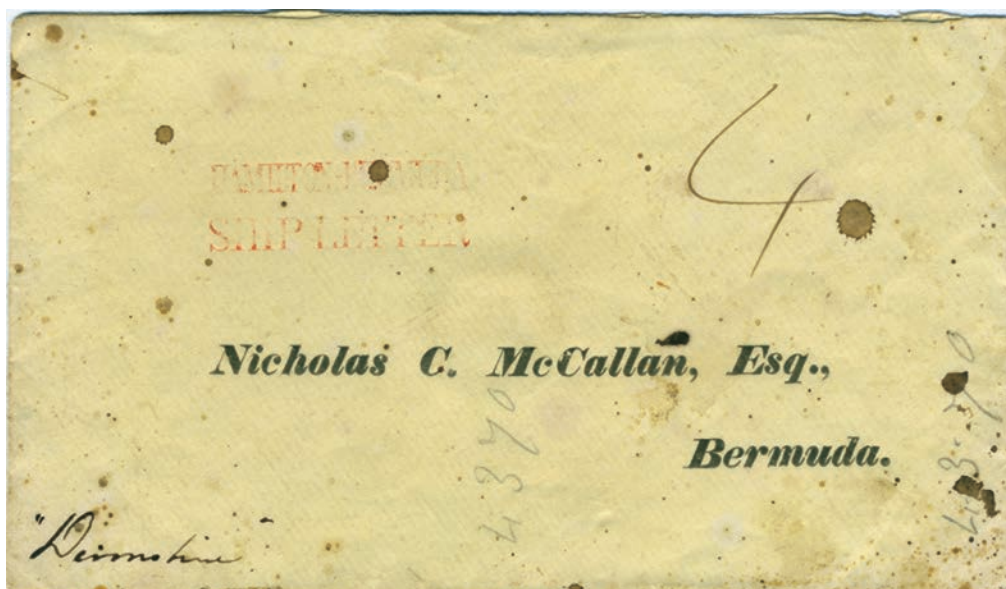
**HAMILTON-BERMUDA
SHIP LETTER**

S2 - six examples are recorded all of which are in red.

**BERMUDA
SHIP-LETTER**

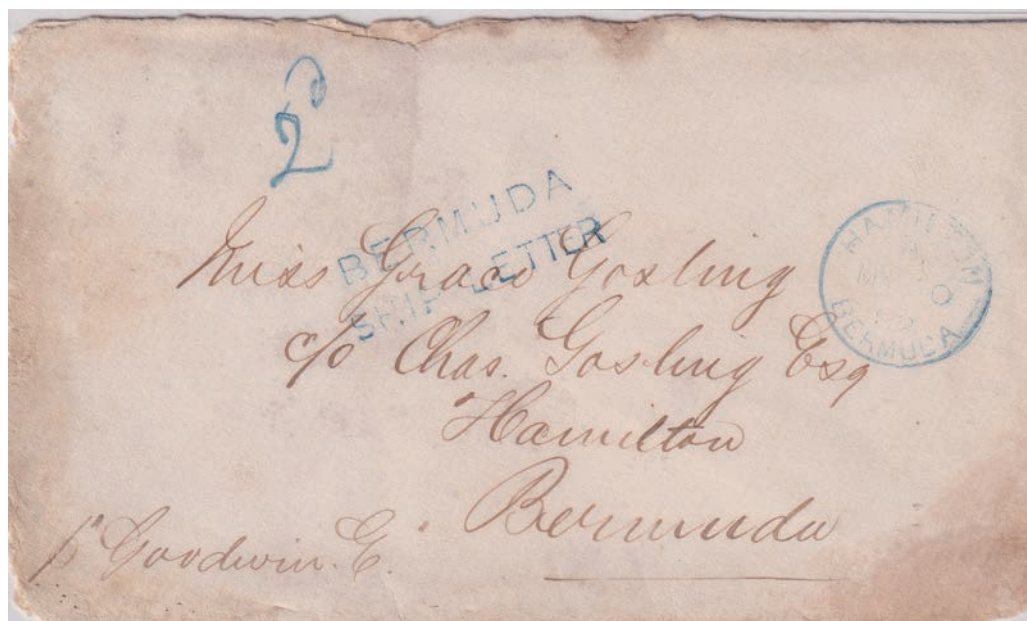
S5 very scarce with one example in red and one in blue.

The ship letter hand stamp were to be used on letters received for carriage of mail on ships that did not have a mail contract. These stamps are all believed to have been used in Hamilton and were only seldomly used.



Hamilton Bermuda Ship Letter, a total of 7 recorded examples. Incoming from the US per brig *Devonshire* with a Hamilton PM4 datestamp for 24 NO 1862 on reverse.

1882 S5 Ship Letter in blue. The earliest of two recorded examples



Forwarders

Very few forwarder handstamps have been recorded. The three examples shown below are all from the Higgs family in St Georges.



1849 cover mailed from New York to Martinique. The mail was carried via Bermuda and attracted the **Henry Higgs** forwarder in St Georges. Only recorded example, a slightly different type is recorded



Circa 1850 envelope sent to Boston Mass. with a **B Wilson Higgs** forwarder. Only recorded example.



1868 envelope sent to Boston and Acushnet, Massachusetts with a **J Mallaby Higgs**. Two examples recorded.

Frame 7

Military related

Military covers

In 1762 the Bermuda government requested England to supply a naval presence to protect Bermuda from Spanish and French privateers. From 1767 Bermuda was designated the North American and West Indies Station. In addition Bermuda has frequently had British regiments stationed in Bermuda.

Early military mail is scarce. and Ludington 1978 reports the opening of the Royal Navy post office at Ireland Island by “at least early in 1842” (pg 28) and possibly as early as “the early 1830s” (pg 121). Countersigned sailors’ letters and are known from the 1850s and soldiers’ letters from the late 1860s. These covers were at a concessionary rate of 1d. Officers’ letters had a special rate of 6d. However some letters are known sent via New York at an additional 1d fee payable to the United States.

In this frame is also a section of US civil war blockade runner covers, a number of these are recorded with the cover going through Bermuda, fewer covers are recorded from Bermuda and/or with Bermuda hand stamps.

Other covers can be found in the Queen Victoria section showing usage of Bermuda stamps and in the earlier postal history section under Bermuda forwarders.



Second earliest letters sent from Bermuda at the concessionary rate of 1d.

Letter from Col H Wilkinson, 30th Regiment, date-lined St Georges 15 May 1839 concerning the discharge of Sgt Charles Haughey. It was carried to England by Haughey and mailed from Hull on 20 June at the concessionary 1d soldier's rate after receiving a counter signature from "Town Major" Robt Simson.

Concessionary Rate.



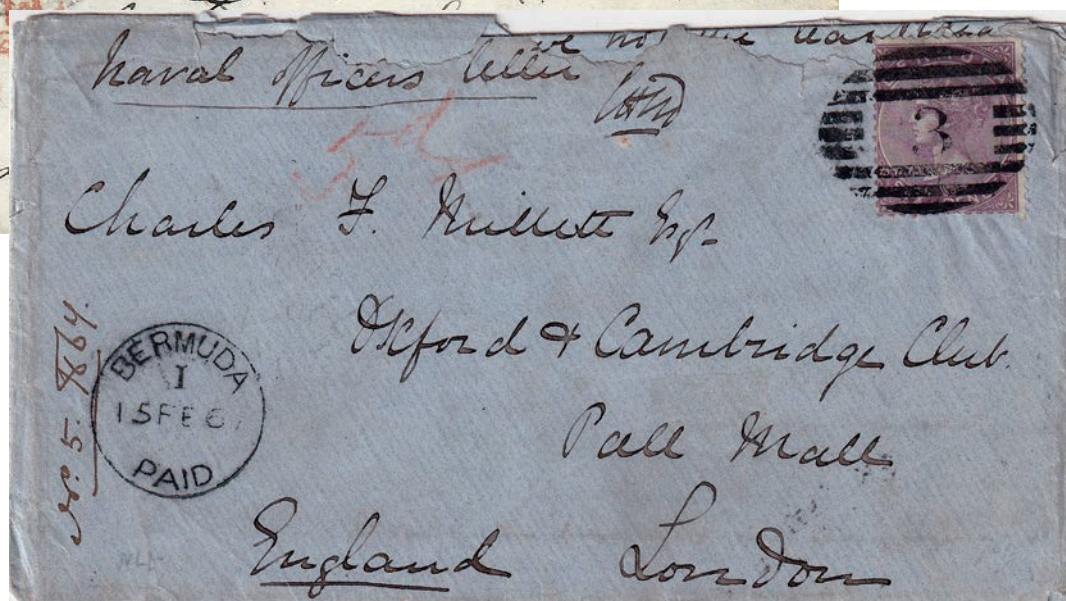
Cover sent using British stamps before the introduction of Bermuda stamps

1864 sailor's envelope. "From George Grayson HMS *Thurston*", signed by the Commanding Office and bearing two GB 1d stars (double rate). Carried on Cunard's mailboat *Alpha* which departed Bermuda for Halifax on 19 March 1864, arriving in Liverpool on 13 April.

With the introduction of Bermuda stamps



Non-commissioned officers paid only 1d. and Officers paid a 6d rate



Blockade Runners

There was a blockade of the southern states' ports during the American Civil War. Bermuda was used by ships "running" the blockade; this included carriage of some mail. Most covers were sent through Bermuda although few have Bermuda postmarks. Those without Bermuda postmarkings have been determined to have been shipped through Bermuda, by matching the dates on the cover with shipping to or from Bermuda.



Bermuda to Ocala Fla. via Charleston S.C. "Charleston S.C. Feb. 2" (1863) pencil "12" rate (10c plus 2c ship fee), manuscript "S.S. Princess Royal" rare Florida-addressed incoming blockade-run cover, only three inbound covers are recorded out of more than 200 total.



Per steamer *Plantagenet* from Havana, Cuba to England avoiding the US blockade. The *Plantagenet* stopped in Bermuda. There are only 5 recorded examples of the St Georges P5.

Frames 8 - 13

Queen Victoria

The frames in this display are based on the exhibit that won the Mail Coach award in the spring 2018 Stampex, a Large Gold at Stockholm, and an International Large Gold at London 2020. It includes the vast majority of the proof, essay and specimen material for the Bermuda stamps that were issued from 1865, including the first essays.

1865 Crown CC perf 14



Essays for the 1d, 6d and 1s stamps that were issued in September 1865 and the 3d with a different design issued in 1873. Note there is no recorded essay for the 2d which was issued in 1866.

Die Proofs



The original die proofs in an unaccepted design are known for the 6d and 1s on the full format, only cut-down examples are known for the final design for the first four values with only a couple recorded of the 2d value issued in 1866.

Plate Proofs



D2



D8



DS

Three blocks of four are recorded. The 3d and 1s in this collection and a 6d block. All are ex Tucker.

Note: numbering of specimen types per Marcus Samuels

De La Rue(DLR) is known for having a number of different specimen collections and examples for their archives. Most examples are only known from one or two copies

Issued Stamps - Specimens



D5 specimen, known on
all values, rare on the 1d.



Manuscript specimen recorded on the 1d, 2d and 6d



D8 specimen, believed
only recorded examples.



D5 specimen in blue, two examples one the 1s, also recorded on the 2d



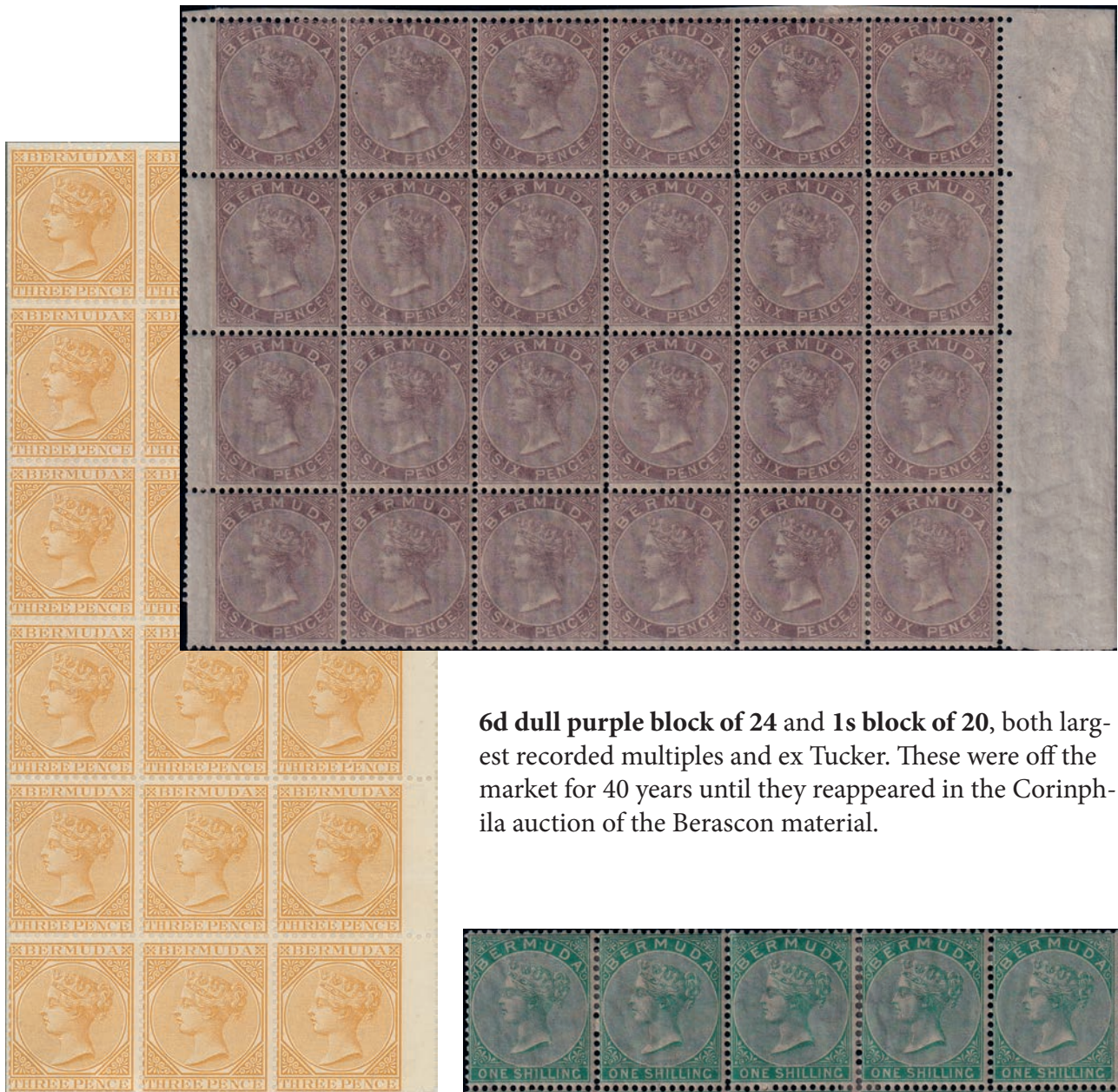
Collection ex DLR archives
with manuscript "x". Ex Ul-
rich and Ludington



D4 cancelled, believed from
later 1880s DLR collection.
Also recorded on later stamps

18

First issue - Multiples



6d dull purple block of 24 and 1s block of 20, both largest recorded multiples and ex Tucker. These were off the market for 40 years until they reappeared in the Corinthila auction of the Berascon material.

3d block of 18. From a Feldman auction in 2017 and ex a Brazil collection. Previously the largest multiple was a block of 6



First issue - Earliest dates

The display includes the earliest recorded covers for the 1d, 3d and 1s values. That of the 3d with the stamp in orange helped validate that this colour is the first printing



Officially, stamps were first issued at the post offices on 25th September 1865. However, this cover dated 28th is the earliest recorded stamped envelope.

The collection shows personal research on printings, including a strong suggestion that only the final printing of the 1d on CC watermark was by DLR (Ludington p240 states that printings beginning January 1877 were perforated by DLR), and that the 3d orange must be the first printing.



Pair of 3d orange stamps on envelope dated 5 JUL 73. This cover helped prove that the 3d orange was the first printing. Previously, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue showed the yellow buff shade occurring before the orange shade.

1874 THREE PENCE provisional

The three penny stamp was issued in 1873, primarily for covers being sent to Canada. In 1874 these stamps ran out and therefore it was necessary to surcharge excess 1s stamps to cover this rate.



The Three pence on 1d was an essay and it is believed that a pane of 60 stamps was over-printed locally.

Less than 10 covers have been recorded with the three pence provisional stamps. This is the only cover with the P and R different.

1875 One Penny provisional

In 1875 it was the turn of the one penny stamp. However this time the stamps were overprinted in panes of 60 stamps and the load was shared by using the two pence, three pence and one shilling stamps

MONCRIEFF cover

The rate via Halifax was 6d, however one could send mail via New York for an additional 1d.

It is believed that Moncrieff's son served on a British naval boat. A cover from Falklands is also known sent to this address.



Arguably Bermuda's most famous cover at the correct 7d rate for mail to the United Kingdom when sent via New York. Affixed are examples of all of the provisional One Penny surcharged stamps plus a scarce – at that time – unsurcharged 1d stamp.

1875 One Penny provisional cont'd.

Major varieties



Major errors of the One Penny (no full stop) are known on the 2d (eight mint and six used) and on the One Shilling (two mint – one in the Tapling Collection – and six used). Six known examples of the One Shilling value with an inverted surcharge all have faults.

Largest recorded multiples



1d on 2d

This block of 16 is the *only recorded multiple* of the 1d on 2d. Stamps 3, 10 and 11 exhibit the round 'O' variety.

Ex Tucker



1d on 3d

There are two blocks of 4, and a mint and used pair.



1d on 1s

There are three blocks of 9, a block of 6 and a few blocks of 4.

1880 Crown CC Perf 12 x 14

Rates were reducing and changing when Bermuda ordered the 3d, 6d and 1s stamps which were perforated 12 x 14 instead of the usual 14 x 14. While these were delivered in March 1880 the stamps were not released until a number of years later - the 1s in 1894 and the 6d not until 1903



Imperf between stamp and right margin. Maximum of 20 examples, those from the lower pane are as single stamps, the upper pane are generally in strips with two examples



Imperf between vertical stamps, generally in vertical strips of three although strips of 4 were known. Also a used pair and stamp and a part stamp have also recorded.

1880 Crown CC new values

The rate to the US was changed to 2½d from 1879, Bermuda therefore used the 1880 ½d stamp to make up this rate until the introduction of the 2½d stamp in 1882. In addition the rate to England was reduced from 6d to 4d making a 4d stamp necessary.



Unaccepted essays for the new ½d and 4d values.

These values were issued on the 25th March 1880. The ½d stamp is known with an inverted watermark which is not uncommon. However, the ½d is also recorded with an inverted and reversed watermark for which I no seen any action records, and the 4d with the inverted watermark of which I record two example one is in this display and a reversed watermark which again I have no records.

1883 Crown CA

The watermark was changed from a Crown and CC to a Crown and CA and the 'Crown Colonies' watermark was changed to 'Crown Agents'



One of the most important philatelic items for Bermuda is this appendix sheet for the CA stamps.

There is also a partial sheet and 2 other sets are recorded of the stamps with the perf 12.



Hand painted essay for the 2½d stamp



Die proof with a break in the right hand outside frame. This made it necessary to produce another set of die proofs.

1901 One Farthing

1901 One Farthing Bermuda started charging for local newspaper delivery and therefore ordered a One Farthing stamp to pay this rate. Within days of first issue (11 January 1901), speculators bought almost the entire printing of 240,000 stamps. This led the Post Office to flood the market with two additional printings, amounting to some 970,000 stamps, later in 1901. Relatively few were actually used on newspaper wrappers.

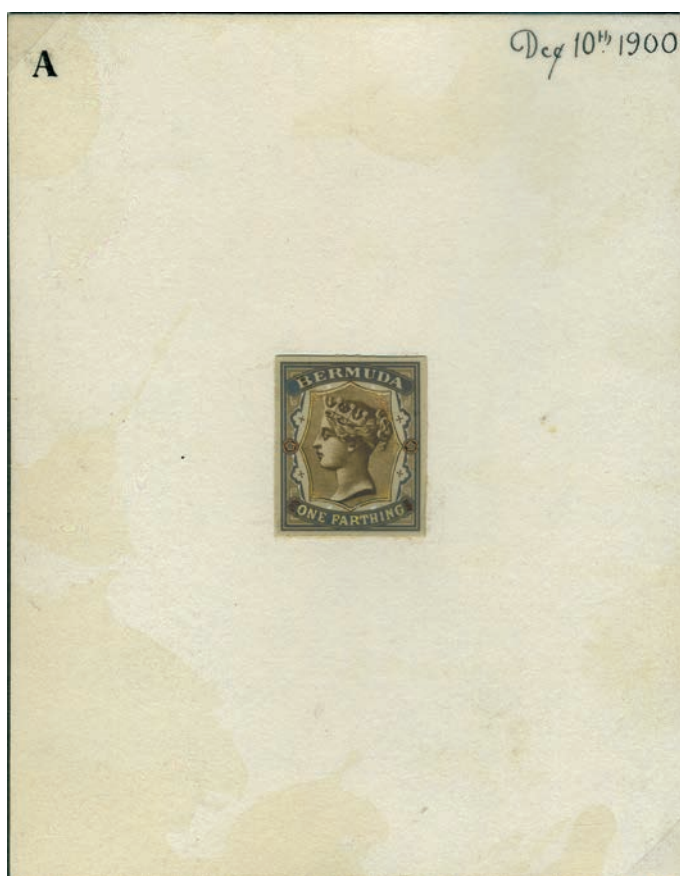
These stamps would only be used for regular postage in pairs or more. Covers with these stamps are readily available these days, but it is almost impossible to find the stamps used paying the wrapper rate.

A printed wrapper was released in February 1903 using the Dock issue design.



The appendix sheet with imperf plate proofs with the accepted version initialed. There is an additional appendix sheet and one of each of these plate proofs for an original six that would have been printed.

1901 One Farthing



Two of the four die proof essays are recorded all of which are in this display, all of which are very similar other than colour variances.



The imperf plate proofs would have been printed in a strip of 6. Today there is the appendix sheet on the previous page, another sheet, and a set of six singles of which 5 are in this collection and another ex Mitton. The other three examples appear to no longer exist.



Broken F



F inserted by handstamp

Major flaws are the "F" inserted by handstamp, approximately 10 examples including one in a strip on a postcard, and the precursor of the broken "F" which is not listed by Gibbons for which only about 3 examples are recorded.

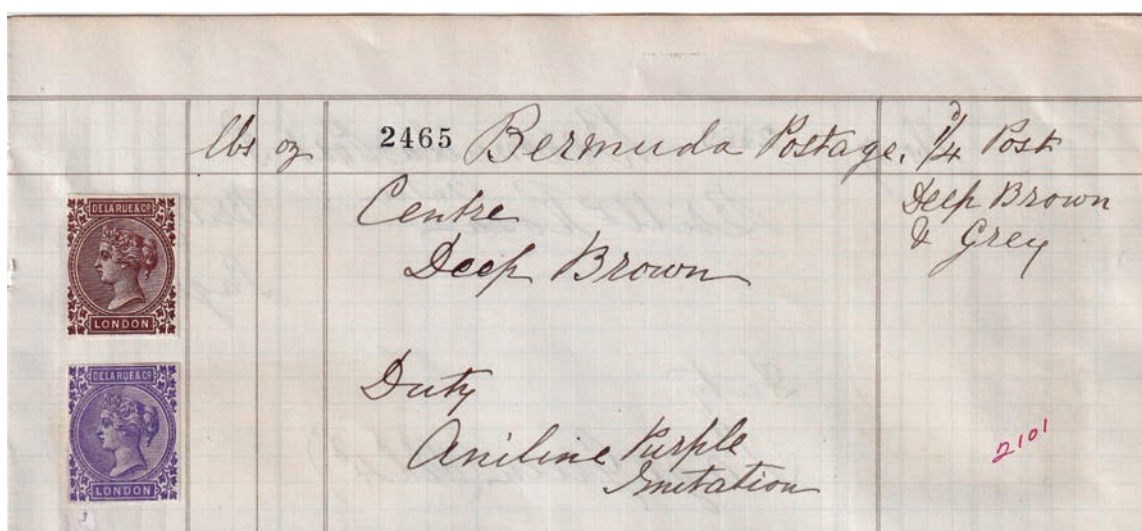
Frames 14 - 16

Dock Issue

Originally I had showed the “Dock” issue as a one-frame exhibit that focused on the preproduction material. It was awarded a Large Vermeil at the New York 2016 International. This has been expanded to three frames here, including stamps and a number of covers. Regrettably, it is virtually impossible to expand this exhibit to a full five frames.



Die proofs were produced for all values although that of the 1/4d appeared to have been originally made for the newspaper wrapper. With the new values additional die proofs were produced, while about 10 examples exist for the 1d value there is only one example of the 2d, three of the 2½d and three for the 4d value.



DLR ink recipes appeared on the market, a number of which are in this display of the Dock issue

Dock Issue - plate proofs



1d plate proof in the accepted colours for the ½d value. The example that has been perforated is unique. There appears to only be single examples other than those on the appendix sheets for the initial values and that of the ½d value.



Reconstruction of the strip of six of the plate proofs. This can only be done for the final group of 24.



Twenty-four combinations of colour were prepared for the new colours for the 2d, 2½d and 4d stamps. All of the plate proofs on the appendix sheer of 11 stamps are only recorded without margins. The 13 stamps not on the appendix sheet are known with margin including the set of 13 with plate numbers above (10 of which are ex Ludington). The Royal Philatelic Collection has the marginal pairs from the right of the strip.

Frames 17 - 21

King George V - caravels

The "Caravel" issue which covers stamps from ¼d to 1s has relatively low catalogue status (although the mint 1d values have been steadily increasing). However there are many printings and flaws such that a number of the values can be fully plated. Displayed here are 5 frames of a 10 frame writeup.

I purchased a collection which included approx 12,000 used 1d stamps, all plated and EVERY stamp marked as to it's position. I expect many years of pleasure studing these in the future.



The "Dock" issue was an unpopular design. These are the two essays for the "Caravel" stamps: No 1 with the "Dock" issue frame and the new vignette and No 2 with the new (accepted) frame design.



Master plate proof

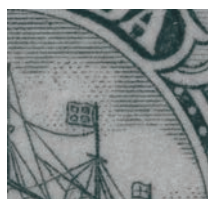
Plate II (state II)
Master die proof in red
Ex Ludington

1s inverted water-
mark. Only known
example

3d Specimen
double
one albino

Caravels

Flag Flaw



Normal



Flag flaw



Positions 7 - 12 and 19 - 24

The flag flaw is damage to the mizzen flag and adjacent clouds, this flaw occurs on plate 2 position 8 and is the only flaw to obtain catalogue status.

Wet vs Dry paper.

Beginning about 1930 De la Rue ceased damening paper before placing in the printing presses. Before this the damp paper would dry and thus slightly shrink, the stamps printed on the dry paper are 0.5-1.0mm larger than their counterparts. This can assist specialist in separating the final printings.



Note the right hand perforations are aligned but the bottom strip is slightly wider than the top strip.

Frames 22 - 26

King George V – High Values

The pages shown are from my five-frame exhibit that has been awarded Large Golds at Stampex, and in both London and the US where it frequently obtained research awards or felicitations. However, it only received a Large Vermeil at the New York 2016 International. I have changed the treatment, as I am unable to get this exhibit to eight frames. I was not allowed to re-show this as a five-frame exhibit, as more than two years had passed since it was last shown.

Much of the work on printings and flaws was done by Morris Ludington and followed by work on the printings by Dr. Myles Glazer.

Watermark errors

The most commonly recorded error is the 5s inverted, £1 inverted and the 2s reversed.



Two essays for a high value were prepared in 1912, however Bermuda did not issue stamps with a value greater than 2s until 1918 when they used the key plate design originally for Nyassaland.



5s inverted and reversed
3 recorded



5s reversed
2 recorded



Pair of the July 1932 printing, bright orange vermillion. Two pairs are recorded.



10s inverted
Three examples recorded
all fiscally used



The primary need for the high value stamps was to pay duty. While there are 348 sheets of the 1917 printing of the 10s there were 1,018 sheets of the May 1922 printing. This second printing is far scarcer as the passenger head tax was raised from 5s to 10s in 1922. It was raised to 12s6d in December 1928

King George V - high values

Plate proof of the 12s6d which was approved for colour. The stamp was issued later that month.



With the advent of plane travel the head tax was attached to the plane tickets. About 6 complete tickets are now recorded for BOAC, PanAm and Colonial Airlines.

1936 Revenue - Revenue



Reduced die proof.
This and a full size copy
are recorded



Revenue revenue
perforated
"Specimen"
Unique



The majority of these stamps were
used fiscally. About six copies are
currently recorded with a fiscal
cancel; many of these stamps were
cleaned and regummed.

Frames 27 - 29

King George V/VI – commemoratives

The first Bermuda commemorative issue was the 1920/21 Tercentenary which has numerous watermark varieties. The display includes a number of these, complete sets of both the Before and After Hardening die proofs etc.

The majority of the other commemorative stamps were for omnibus issues from the 1935 Silver Jubilee to the 1949 UPU.

1920 Victory



These two photo essays were prepared to celebrate the Allied victory after World War I, however Bermuda decided not to issue any stamps.

1920/21 Tercentenary

To celebrate the 300th Anniversary of Parliamentary Institutions in Bermuda, two issues (nine stamps in each) were produced. The stamps are often recorded with errors of watermark including the missing A and C. Most of these are very scarce although a few examples are from a complete sheet and therefore more common.



Die proof in colour -
grey and pale green.
Unique



Working die proof on
coarse card. Six different
examples are recorded.



Imperf plate proof produced in sets of
six, currently two pairs and two singles
for each value.

The first design was produced by De la Rue based on suggestions from the local Governor with the king's head and the Sea Venture.



D9



D11

An unusual specimen is known D9 - which is easily determined from the wide "N", this has been recorded on all the stamps in the first series except the 1d and 2½d. One of each except the ¼d and 6d have been recorded on an additional stamp.



H. J Dale
design No 1.

The second design was requested by the Assembly. The two designs were prepared by a Hamilton architect, H. J. Dale and incorporated the sword of state, the Speaker's gavel, Bermuda's coat of arms and the Sea Venture.

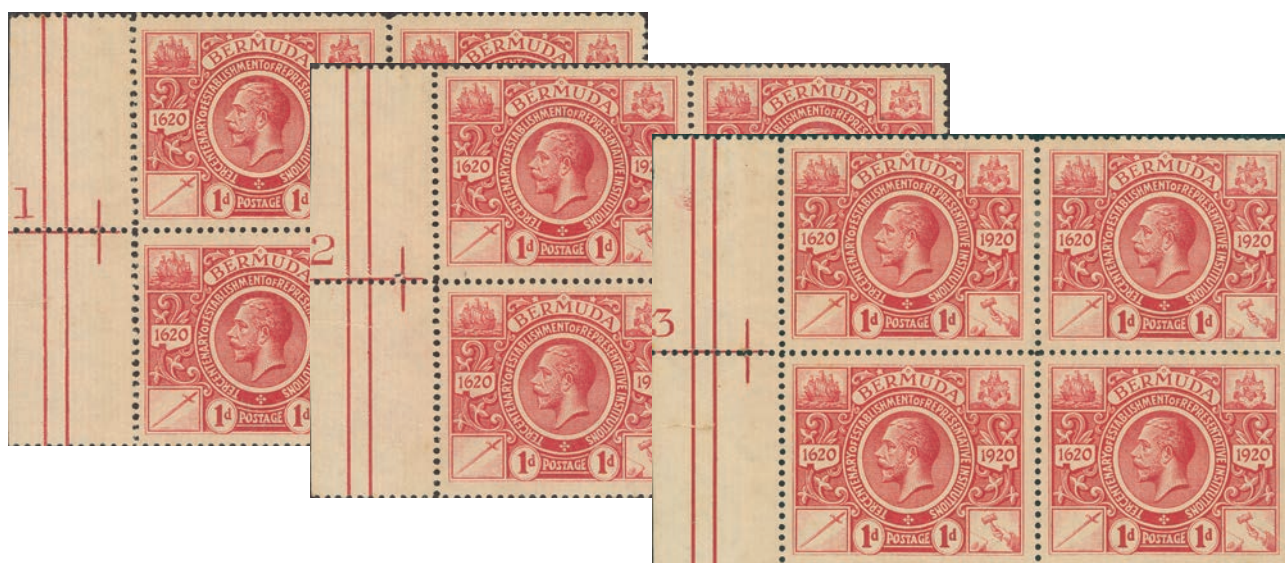
1920/21 Tercentenary



H. J Dale design No 2.



Printers samples produced from the 1s stamp in claret with (and without) different specimen hand-stamps



The second Tercentenary Issue was printed using recess as opposed to the typographic printing used to prepare the first issue. The plate number was printed on the side of the sheet. In almost all cases this was cut off the margin before being sent to Bermuda. Only a few examples have been recorded and the block with the plate 3 is the only recorded example

1935 Silver Jubilee

The Bermuda stamps were printed by Waterlow and Sons Ltd who also printed the stamps for Bardados. The Bardados 1d stamp is known with a broken turret but not the bird by turret, the Bermuda stamps have the bird by turret but, although catalogued by Stanley Gibbons for having the broken turret, I do not believe this exists on the Bermuda 1d.



Kite and vertical log



Master die proof
only example recorded
for Bermuda



Kite and horizontal log

1937 Coronation



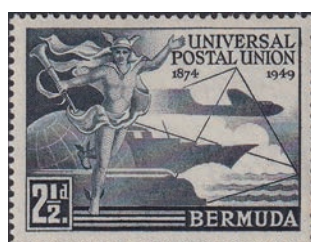
Set of imperf plate proofs for which 6 sets were produced.

1948 Perot



In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Postmaster stamps. These were printed by Bradbury and Wilkinson, a unique set perforated SPECIMEN.

1949 UPU



1949 UPU showing the only recorded copy of the 2½d with the missing C in the watermark. Another stamp with a missing A also been discovered. Both are, currently, the only recorded examples.

Frames 30 - 31

King George V/VI – pictorials

The basic design ran through to the end of the King George V era and was used throughout the reign of King George VI. A postwar (King George VI) design was contemplated in the early 1950s; this was cancelled on the death of George VI. It was not until 1953 that a new set of pictorials bearing the head of Queen Elizabeth II would be released. Shelton and Potter did one of the earliest studies of the printings for the KGVII.



Three printers produced design essays for the pictorial issue which was printed by Bradbury Wilkinson



American Banknote Company
Four designs recorded.

De la Rue produced at least 17 designs with for values from 1/2d to 1s.

Bradbury Wilkinson
Plate proof of the King George V accepted design of the 3d value



the design remained constant for both Kings, however the colours were reversed for King George VI



Introduction of the 7 1/2d airmail rate in 1941. Photo essay.

Frames 32 - 35

King George VI – High values

This area was one of the starting points of my collecting career as I was unable to afford the high values of King George V. Having “done” early work in the 1970s on the printings and flaws and I worked with (and for) David Springbett. This is an area that has taken a back burner in my collection and is based more on sheet reconstruction and collecting in multiples. However, it does include a number of covers and most of the plate blocks and that part I am most proud of is the reference collection of plate plugs. The wear on the plugs is a great benefit in proving the printing of the stamps.



Cancelled H.M.B, (Home Mail Branch).

King George VI - high values

November 1937



July 1938



August 1938



November 1941



The plate plugs on the King George VI high values can be used to prove the printing from the extent of damage to the plug. Only the first printings have the plug above position 2. This plug was then moved to below position 59 and then broke down over time.



Bermuda to Prague Czechoslovakia "Prague cover"

Seven covers bearing a 12s6d stamp are recorded to the same addressee. The stamp does not appear to be on one of the recognized printings and has been listed as a Prague lemon yellow. Working with equipment at the National Postal Museum at the Smithsonian did not bring any clarity on this shade.

Frames 36 - 37

Queen Elizabeth II – pre-decimal



Bradbury Wilkinson photo proofs and essays. The final designs for the 1d, 6d and £1 values were changed. A 12s6d value stamp was never issued.

QEII 1962 Buildings

Harrison & Sons printed the 17 values of the “Buildings” definitives (from 1d to £1) that were issued on 26 October 1962. An additional stamp (10d) was added in 1965 to meet new postal needs. There are numerous minor flaws and errors including colours omitted and watermark errors. Six values were printed with a sideways watermark in 1966 and the values also used for the change to decimal currency in 1970.



2d lilac omitted.



2d green omitted.
3 examples recorded



5d missing value (and
“a” of Bermuda) caused
by a strip of paper



A number of values
exists with watermark
errors



2d imperforate



3d on envelope with brown omitted.
RPS cert



3d dry print due to stoppage of the
printing press.

QEII 1970 decimal

Bermuda underwent decimalization with the change from pounds, shillings and pence to the Bermuda dollar and cents on 6 February 1970.

5 values with sufficient stocks were returned for overprinting (1d, 2d, 3d, 6d and 2s3d) and the remaining values were reprinted on sideways watermark paper including the surcharge.



2c on 2d
14mm green shift



10c on 10d strip across the sheet, the overprint is almost completely omitted on the left hand stamps due to changing pressure on the stamps during the printing process



2c on 2d lilac omitted.

60c on 5/- overprint omitted. This value has a sideways watermark while the 1962 stamp is with watermark upright

QEII Commemoratives

Bermuda has only issued 22 sets of commemoratives (60 distinct stamps) between 1953 and 1969. Nine of these commemorative sets were for British omnibus issues! A number of the local issues have small flaws; some of the constant varieties are displayed here.



Red-brown "BERMUDA 3d"
omitted. 25 mint and 3 used
(on two covers) exist.



1968 Human Right Year. 2s6d stamp
with blanket offset producing a triple
image of the birds.



Artwork from the archive of the artist Michael Farrar Bell. An example of known with 'Omnibus' instead of 'Bermuda', however no other countries participated in this design.

Frames 38 - 42

Postal Stationery

An area that seems to have fallen on hard times, although I hope viewers of the display will enjoy the items included herein. Being asked to do this display encouraged me to write up this material into what I hope to show as a 5 frame exhibit.

Postal Stationery Cards



Formula cards - those with the issued stamps applied - ½d for local mail and 1½d in red for foreign mail. These were printed in 1880 and are uncommon for used examples. Each value has 3 varieties in the design.

For the ½d card printed in blue on buff paper there is some uncertainty if the card on buff paper is an essay or if they were printed to cover a shortfall of the ½d card on blue stock.

Postal Stationery Cards

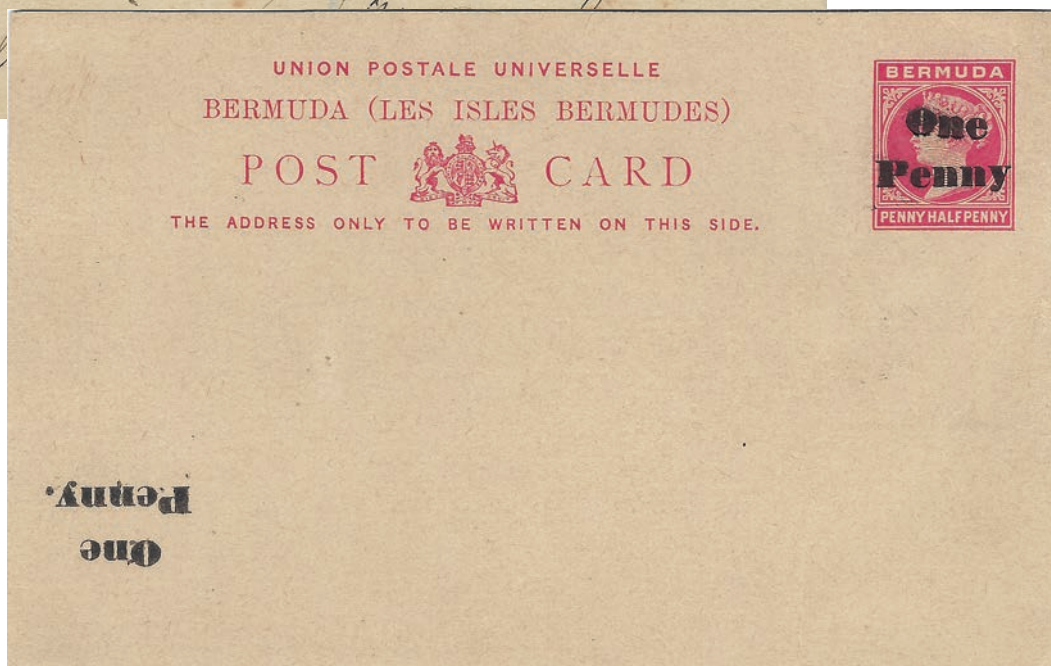
Overseas card
used to New
York-



Two one penny on the 1½d formula cards are known registered.



Double
overprint,
one inverted.
Three examples
recorded



The rate for postcards changed to 1d from 1½d on 1st July 1893, as such 87 of 1½d formula cards were overprinted the Royal Gazette. The entire stock of these cards were purchased by AC Jones, a clerk of the post office. In addition 6,116 regular cards and 414 reply cards were also overprinted.

Registration Envelopes



McCorcondale attempted to get into the Bermuda market. A set of their envelopes overprinted specimen are ex George Ulrich with two examples recorded used in Bermuda.



This display includes a number of production items including the essay for the indicium, the die proof in vermillion both for the Queen Victoria envelopes and the die proof essay for the Dock issue.

