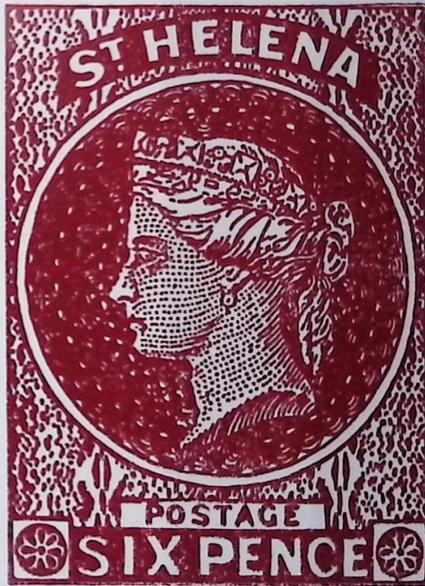


The West Africa Study Circle

St. Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 19



ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 19

DISTRIBUTED WITH CAMEO - JANUARY 1993

CONTENTS

Editorial.....2
 Ascension KGV1 Definitives.....3
 St. Helena WW11 - The VV Code.....10
 Information From The St. Helena Postmaster.....12
 For The Record.....14
 Ascension First Issue.....18
 Ascension Badge Issue.....19
 Book Review.....20
 St. Helena War Tax Issues.....21
 En Route To St. Helena.....23
 Travel To St. Helena.....29
 John Attwood, Ascension at Auction.....31

©1992 - The West Africa Study Circle. The contents of this and all previous Supplements are protected by Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited.



ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 19

EDITORIAL

It is on a sad note that I start this issue of the Supplement by having to report the sad and untimely death of Bill (William) Hart. Bill who was one of our dealer members died suddenly on November 8th 1992 after a brief illness. Bill was a well respected collector, dealer and international judge; as well as being a personal friend for some 16 years. To his wife and sons we send our sincerest best wishes.

This issue sees part 2. of the Ascension K.G.VI article, a ST. Helena WWII censored cover, information from the St. Helena Postmaster, Ascension First Issue, Ascension Badge Issue, A Book Review, St. Helena War Tax Issues, St. Helena mis-sent Mail, The John Attwood Ascension Postal History at auction plus the usual For The Record. All in all a varied and I hope, interesting issue.

With best wishes for 1993

BERNARD MABBETT.

34 VERONICA GREEN,
GORLESTON,

NORFOLK. NR31 8LE.

TEL (0493) 656147

ASCENSION GEORGE VI DEFINITIVES

by BERNARD HUGHES

This is the second part of the review started in Supplement No 18 - the third part will follow in No 20, and will cover flaws and marginal markings. This instalment deals with the shades to be found, and is based on examples from each printing which have been identified by perforation, paper, fluorescence etc (Part One) and/or by their flaws etc (Part Three).

SHADES; Much has been written about these! It is not an easy topic. It is hard to distinguish shades, and to describe them. The various authorities differ. It is worth recounting the difficulties:

a. Shades are not always constant through a printing, especially a large one - e.g. see Lockyer (GSM July 1991 P67) on Falkland Dependencies 1946 set (another recess printing from De La Rue) where there is only one printing but several stamps show distinct shades. Wartime paper shortages and printing problems meant exact shade matching was not a priority. For Ascension, within both the 1938 and 1944 printings in particular, variations appear.

b. Shades have changed depending on the way the stamps have been treated over the last 40-50 years, and many stamps are no longer fresh.

c. The extent of plate wiping (very variable on some printings, especially the 1949 ones) affects colour brightness, as well as paper tone.

d. The thickness of the paper can affect colour intensity, and this affects some stamps, e.g. 1944 ½d which can be found on very thin paper.

e. It is very hard to describe slight shade variants in a way that is easy to interpret. Anyone who thinks it is easy should try! For example, most authorities describe the 1944 4d shade as blue and 1945/51 4d printings as ultramarine, which suggests a big change, but it is very slight. The difference between the 1944 and 1945 10/-, large enough to make the B & W Commonwealth catalogue, is sometimes not mentioned at all, or if it is, the difference sounds slight (e.g. between 'paler purple' and 'pale bright purple', and 'bright paler purple' and 'pale bright purple'.) It is all very confusing.

f. Fortunately, there is some measure of agreement on shades, but this is not true for all values, e.g. ½d and 1½d. The 1½d is particularly odd, some writers describe 1946 as well as June 1949 and 1953 as 'rose-carmine', but 1946 stamps are not remotely like later ones, which followed a deliberate colour change.

TABLE: This table lists the frame colour/shade, along with fluorescence (except on P13½ stamps where I doubt this is of help), whilst the "Other" column details other features of particular printings - where "Var" is shown, part of the printing only has this variant. Under "Shade" only frame colours are described (following Fryer and Attwood) as variations in the black colour, where found, do not seem to follow a constant pattern.

Value	Date	Perf	Shade	Paper	Fluorescence	Other
½d	1938	13½	Reddish violet/ Violet	Off-white	-	
	1944	13	Violet (shades)	Off-white	White	Var:Thin paper
	1949	13	Bright pale violet	Off-white	Violet	
	1953	13	Deep violet	White	Purple	
1d	1938	13½	Green	Off-white	-	Green Mountain
	1940	13½	Yellow-orange	Whiter	-	
	1942	13	Yellow-orange	Opaque	Bright white	Var:Thick top perf tooth
	1944	13	Yellow-orange	Off-white	White	
	1946	13	Yellow-orange	Off-white	Violet	
	Feb 49	14	Bright yell-orge	Toned	Violet	
	Jun 49	13	Green	Off-white	Violet	Thick top tooth
	1953	13	Bright green	White	Purple	Extra perf hole
	1955	13	Green	Off-white	Deep violet	Extra perf hole
1½d	1938	13½	Scarlet	Off-white	-	Var: Inv perf
	1944	13	Bright scarlet	Off-white	White	
	1946	13	Dull scarlet	Off-white	Violet	
	Feb 49	14	Dull vermilion/ Brownish vermilion	Off-white/ Toned	White/ Violet	
	Jun 49	14	Rose carmine/ Dull rose carmine	Off-white/ Toned	White/ Violet	
	1953	13	Bright rose carmine	White	Purple	
	1954	13	Rose	Off-white	Deep violet	
2d	1938	13½	Red-orange (shades)	Off-white	-	
	1944	13	Bright red-orange	Off-white	White	
	1946	13	Red-orange	Off-white	Violet	
	Feb 49	14	Red-orange	Toned	Violet	
	Jun 49	14	Deep scarlet/ Deep dull scarlet	Off-white/ Toned	White/ Violet	
3d	1938	13½	Ultramarine	Off-white	-	Var: Inv perf
	1940	13½	Dark grey	Whiter	-	
	1944	13	Dark grey	Off-white	White	
	1946	13	Blackish grey	Off-white	Violet	
	1950	13	Grey	White	Purple	
4d	1940	13½	Violet blue	Whiter	-	
	1944	13	Blue	Off-white	White	
	1946	13	Ultramarine	Off-white	Violet	
	1950	13	Ultramarine	White	Purple	

Value	Date	Perf	Shade	Paper	Fluorescence	Other
6d	1938	13½	Pale blue	Off-white	-	
	1944	13	Pale blue	Off-white	White	
	1946	13	Pale blue	Off-white	Violet	
1/-	1938	13½	Sepia	Off-white	-	
	1944	13	Sepia-brown	Off-white	White	
	1945	13	Brownish sepia	Off-white	White	
	1946	13	Brownish sepia	Off-white	Violet	
	1954	13	Brown	Off-white	Deep violet	
2/6	1938	13½	Carmine	Off-white	-	
	1944	13	Carmine	Off-white	White	
	1945	13	Bright carmine	Off-white	White	
5/-	1938	13½	Light brown	Off-white	-	
	1944	13	Brown	Off-white	White	
	1945	13	Deeper brown	Off-white	White	Inverted perf
10/-	1938	13½	Bt Purple (aniline)	Off-white	-	
	1944	13	Bt Purple (aniline)	Off-white	White	Fiery ink fluor
	1945	13	Paler bt purple	Off-white	White	Muted ink fluor

½d: 1938 is P13½, and generally much redder violet than P13 stamps, though 1938 shades vary. Lockyer associates the (early) sheets without the 'Long Bar to E' flaw at R2/3 with the less red shade. Gibbons make all P13 stamps bluish violet in comparison with P13½ stamps. 1944 (P13) varies somewhat in shade, 1949 is variously described as pale violet or brighter violet in comparison. I think paler, brighter violet for 1949 is about right. 1953 is on white, slightly glazed paper, but is closer to the 1944 group of shades than to the 1949 shade.



1d yellow: 1940 is P13½, 1942 (P13) is on a very distinctive thin opaque paper with a prominent watermark, 1949 is P14. Personally I cannot distinguish 1944 and 1946 other than by fluorescence/Mountaineer flaw - the opinion of other writers makes 1946 brighter (paler?) and more like 1949, but the difference seems inconsistent, and very slight. 1949 is much brighter.

1d green: The three printings are easy to tell apart - 1949 (much the commonest) has a very large perf tooth at the top, 1953 has an extra perf hole and is on white paper, 1955 has the extra perf hole and is on less white paper. Shade differences are slight, 1953 being a bit deeper/brighter than the others. It is hard to find 1953 or 1955 used, St. Helena use being found more often than Ascension use in my experience (this issue was valid on St. Helena).

1½d scarlet: Gibbons says vermilion, but everyone else says scarlet. 1938 is scarlet, 1944 a little brighter, 1946 a little duller (NOT rose-carmine as some have suggested). 1949 is a distinct duller shade in its own right, as well as being P14. There is a striking range of shades within this printing, apparently caused by plate wiping, which sometimes leaves the paper very grey. This can be well illustrated by extreme examples, but many stamps are intermediate.

1½d carmine: 1949 (P14) has two listed shades from distinct parts of the printing, carmine (associated with relatively white paper) and the scarcer (duller) rose carmine, associated with toned paper. Whilst Gibbons would not at first list this on the grounds that intermediate shades exist, the true shade is distinctive, though dealers often make mistakes. 1953 is P13 and on white paper, 1954 P13 on less white paper. Their shades are also distinctive, and arguably more noticeable than the two 1949 printings. 1953 is a particularly bright shade (partly because of the paper), 1954 is duller and is rose rather than rose carmine, as Stamp Collecting said on issue. The vignette is less black in 1954. In writing this, I realise I am going against most recent writers who make the brighter colour 1954 not 1953, but it does agree contemporary comment. I think the oft-repeated comment that the Jibstay flaw occurs only on the 1954 printing could be part of the problem - in fact it appears on both 1953 and 1954, and is more often found on the bright shade because that printing was larger. Remember the 1953 1½d was issued along with the ½d, found on white paper, and the 1954 1½d with the 1/-, which is not. It would thus be odd were the 1953 1½d paper off white, and the 1954 1½d white.

2d orange: 1938 (P13½) offers a wide range of shades, the black vignette can be found very dark or very pale. The frame on 1944 (P13) is a bit brighter than 1938 (P13½) or 1946 (P13). 1949 is both P14 and on paper that is toned to a greater or lesser extent. Everyone seems to agree on the 2d shades!

3d grey: I do not agree with any descriptions on this value! Some writers describe some frames as black, but there is always a difference in colour between frame and vignette. 1940 is easy to tell (P13½) and in my opinion is dark grey, not grey, and very similar to 1944, though 1944 shades do vary in intensity. 1946 is quite different, being a distinct blackish grey shade. This shade, in my collection, is linked to violet fluorescence, and I have a block in this shade with the retouch at R10/4, whilst white fluorescence is linked with dark grey stamps, R10/4 showing no retouch. 1950 is on white paper, and both frame and vignette are much paler, Commonwealth Catalogue lists the 1950 shade.

4d: The consensus here is that 1940 (P13½) is violet-blue, 1944 (P13) blue, and 1945 (P13) and 1951 (P13 white paper) ultramarine, and I would go along with this, with the caveat that these differences are very slight: it is not easy to distinguish this value by shade alone. Attempts to distinguish 1945 and 1951 by the intensity of the black vignette seem optimistic to me, there is no agreement as to which is the darker printing (personally I think the black is too variable), and it is much easier to rely on the distinctive white paper.



6d: Not at all easy to distinguish by shade. 1938 (P13½) is the palest (frame and vignette) but this can vary. 1944 and 1946 (both P13) are very much alike (Stamp Collecting described them as identical, the only time they used this word) though some writers distinguish between "pale blue" and "pale slate blue".

1/-: This is the really difficult value! 1938 is P13½, and 1954 fluoresces a deeper violet (the same paper as the 1954 1½d of course) than the other P13 printings. The other three are very hard to distinguish. All writers describe 1938 and 1944 as black and sepia, GSM gives this for 1945 and 1946 as well. SC and Potter give both 1945 and 1946 as deeper black and deeper sepia, later writers all say brownish sepia. The only mentions for 1954 are in GSM (deeper black and olive) SC (slightly warmer shade of sepia brown) and Renton (deep black and sepia). Without any flaws to help, the only certainties I have are blocks ex Gibbons 1946 and 1954 - which fluoresce violet and deep violet as expected - and some examples with the "dot" guide mark above R5/3, which cannot be 1944. Under fluorescence, I am reasonably confident at identifying 1946 and 1954 stamps, those for 1954 seem to me to be a warmer shade, brown rather than sepia. 1946 is closer to the 1954 shade than 1938, so brownish sepia seems right. Most of my stamps fluoresce white, and must be 1944 or 1945, but none were at all close to the 1938 shade, as would be expected per previous writers. I could divide them between those like the 1946 shade (one with dot over R5/3, so this must be 1945), and those with a hint more sepia, say sepia-brown. So I can largely agree with previous writers, but I am not wholly confident on the 1/-, as 1944, 1945 and 1946 are very similar shades. More research is needed, especially on flaws or marginal markings - ones that develop in later printings.



2/6: After the 1/-, an easy one! Everyone agrees 1938 (P13½) and 1944 (P13) are carmine, 1945 (P13) bright carmine. This is a good shade.

5/-: Some writers describe 1938 (P13½) and 1944 (P13) as the same, others make 1938 lighter. All agree (as do I) that 1945 (P13) is deeper, and most say the vignette is greyish black rather than black, though I cannot see this. The easiest way to distinguish 1945 from 1944 is that the perf frame was inverted in 1945, so that all 1945 sheets have the top margin imperf and the bottom margin perf, not vice versa as normal. This can be spotted on individual stamps as the large 'overlap' perf hole is at the foot, not the top, of each 1945 stamp.



10/-: 1938 (P13½) is brighter than the 1944 and 1945 (P13) stamps, which are easily distinguished as 1944 gives an aniline reaction seen on the back of the stamp (as does 1938), but 1944 does not. All three inks are fluorescent, but 1946 much less so than 1938 and 1944 - the fiery colour is lacking. I have several 1944 blocks - all show different degrees of bright purple, most being bright, but some pale. All my 1946 blocks are pale bright purple.



COLOUR CHANGES: These were needed to comply with the UPU model colours, which required the foreign printed matter basic rate stamp to be green, foreign postcard rate stamp to be red and foreign letter basic rate stamp to be blue. For Ascension, these are rates outside the Empire, of course - lower rates applied within the Empire/Commonwealth. St. Helena, and thus Ascension, adhered to these colours from 1922 (single colour view stamps) onwards. The George VI St. Helena stamps show the same colour changes as Ascension.

Rate set	Printed Matter Green	Postcard Rate Red	Letter Rate Blue	Postal Notice in St H & A Supplement
1926	1d	1½d	3d	No 10 P25
1939	1½d	1½d	4d	No 11 P32-33
1948	1d	2d	4d	-

It can be seen that the changes were all to bring colours into line with UPU - 4d in 1940, 1d and 2d 1949 - or to stop the use of a UPU colour for the wrong value - 1d and 3d in 1940, 1½d in 1949, though making the 1½d carmine, similar to the 2/6 carmine (same design) and still quite red, was odd. Obviously no green stamp was in use when the printed matter/postcard rate were the same. The postcard rate went up to 2½d in 1951, but no stamps were changed as a result. On QE2 issues, the UPU colours were ignored.

UPDATE TO PART ONE - FIRST DAY COVERS: On Page 10 of Supplement No 18, I said That the only FDC's I have seen were for the original issue in 1938. I have now seen one FDC for the 3d change of colour on 8 July 1940, so I presume the 1d and 4d can similarly be found. The postmark is very weak, but it is the right date. The rate for a letter to the United States was then 4d, hence the "T" mark applied on Ascension. The other marks are added in the US, 4c being the equivalent of 2d, double the 1d deficiency. .

T



ASCENSION
8 JULY 1940



D. H. Reichgut,
5 Wessex Road,
Silver Spring, Md.,
U. S. A.

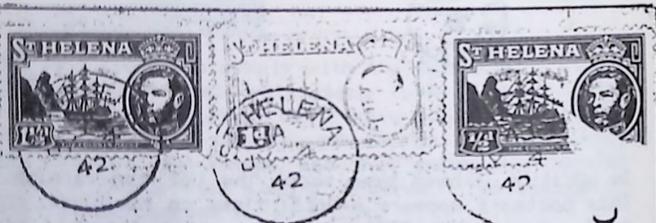
In addition, I have been shown the 1½d rose-carmine clearly postmarked 1 JU 49. This postmark appears several times on the block, and there is no mistaking the date. Presumably FDC's must be around, though I have yet to see one. No-one has commented on the earliest dates of use of the P13 stamps!

ST. HELENA VV 11 - THE VV CODE

BY JEREMY MARTIN

At a recent meeting of The Forces Postal History Society George Crabb displayed a 1942 censored cover.

The cover addressed to the U.K. from V.A. Thorpe & Sons, was franked with 4d., 1d. and 1½d. KGV1 values and dated July 4th 1942. The cover had been censored and re-sealed with the Type 5G Label. The front and reverse of the cover both have the VV 1 type Army censor cachet Type CM 7 in black, number 2496 which is recorded used in the island between 1940 and 1942. Alongside the censor mark are the initials "VV" in violet sans serif capitals, 11 x 8 mm. V.V. was the censor code allocated to St. Helena and in this instance it appears to have been used with the Type CM 7 cachet.



Richard Johnson & Nephew

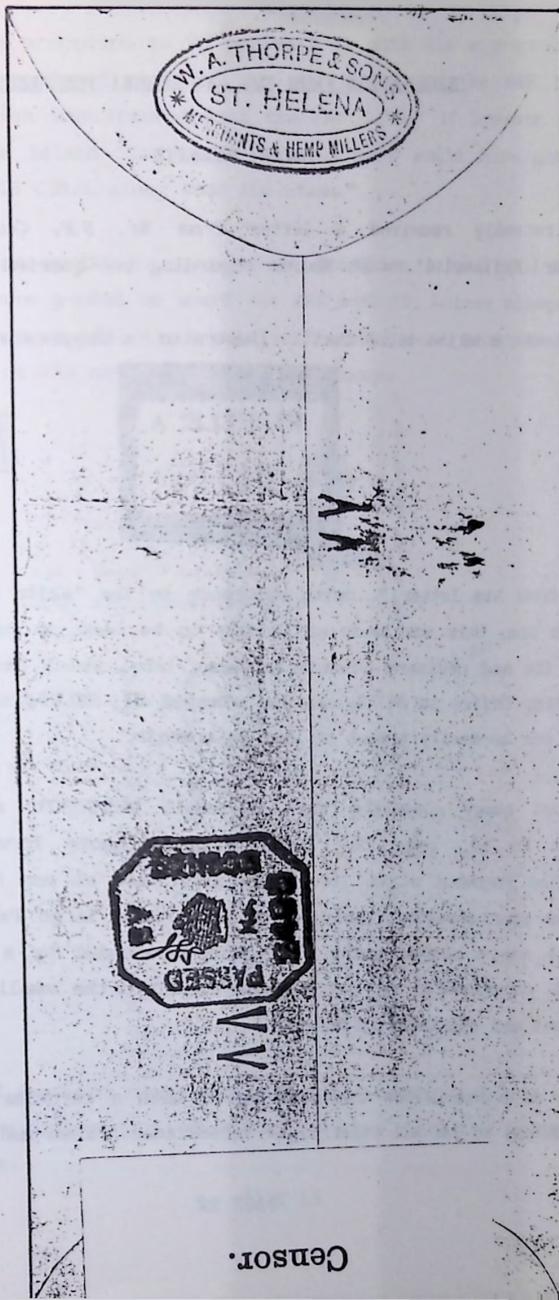
Manchester 11.

En gland.



opened

Reverse of 1942
censored cover
with Type CM 7
cachet and VV
censor code.



INFORMATION FROM THE ST. HELENA POSTMASTER

BY B. MABBETT

I have recently received a letter from Mr. F.P. Constantine, Assistant Postmaster (Philatelic) on St. Helena regarding two queries I had sent to him.

The first was a white label that I illustrated in Supplement No 13., Page 29.



I quote from his letter ".....with reference to the "white label" referred to in paragraph one, this was made up locally to be used on parcels sent from St. Helena. Its an ordinary adhesive economy label which has been perforated at our Printing Office in St. Helena and stamped ST. HELENA and a number so that a parcel can be easily traced if lost in transit."

The second query concerned the new small 'PAQUEBOT' mark illustrated in Supplement No 18., page 27. Once again I quote from Mr. Constantine's letter..."The Paquebot stamp itself was also made at our Printing Office. In answer to your question regarding the small and large Paquebots, the large one which was a rubber stamp which was superseded by a smaller one purely because it deteriorated and got damaged therefore the smaller one was made for replacement and currently in use now."

"The RMS is a Sub-Office therefore we do have a circular date stamp marked RMS St. Helena as for all other eight sub-offices. When mail is received from

a sub-office the procedure is to postmark it with the appropriate C.D.S. In answer to your postcard question, it was posted on the RMS bearing a St. Helena stamp which was franked with the RMS C.D.S. If however it would have had an Ascension Island Stamp, the Paquebot mark would have gone across the stamp and the RMS C.D.S. along side the stamp."

No doubt the same system is operated at Ascension Island as I have a number of covers that were posted on board the RMS with St. Helena stamps applied. The stamps are struck with the Ascension Paquebot mark, while the Georgetown C.D.S. is struck on the cover away from the stamps.

Air Mail



MR & MRS T. W. HEALL,
49 NOVERTON LANE
PRES
CHE
GLO
EN



PAQUEBOT



*Specimens from St. Helena. There
got quite a lot of information on
Dr. Arnold which I have been
wishing this little report of the
club. They have about quite
a lot of rain in the Oct & it is
nice & open. The new field is
very comfortable, I am very much
enjoying the field. Will contact you
when I get home. Best wishes
T. W. H.*




Mr & Mrs HEALL
49 NOVERTON AVENUE
PRESTBURY
CHELTENHAM
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ENGLAND
GL52 3DD
UNITED KINGDOM

© Copyright 1979 by Brian Cornwell

Island of St. Helena
Heartshaped Waterfall and the Briers Pavilion.

Illustrations of Paquebot marks used correctly at both St. Helena and Ascension Island. This new information helps to determine where the Paquebot mark was put on the cover.

FOR THE RECORD

BY B. MABBETT

Several new items of mail that I have received for my Queen Elizabeth II collection may be of interest to other members; they include the new type of registration label which came into use late 1989 or early 1990. The earliest copy I have is dated April 21st 1990. Other items are an inter-island registered cover from Ascension to St. Helena from the Police Office with a boxed Police Office handstamp, a new Department of Agriculture & Forestry oval handstamp, much smaller than the old one, a new oval handstamp for the Public Works & Services Dept, another Department of Finance oval handstamp similar to that illustrated in Supplement No 18., but with Income Tax below the date in the centre, a Personnel Department oval handstamp and finally a Social Services oval handstamp. All these items are illustrated over the next few pages. An interesting point is that many St. Helena Government Departments have now gone green and are using recycled paper for official envelopes. This appears to have started around December 1988 as I have covers from that date.



Registered cover showing new type of registration label.

26-127



Recycled Paper

On Her Majesty's Service

Michael Hooper
Oak Bone



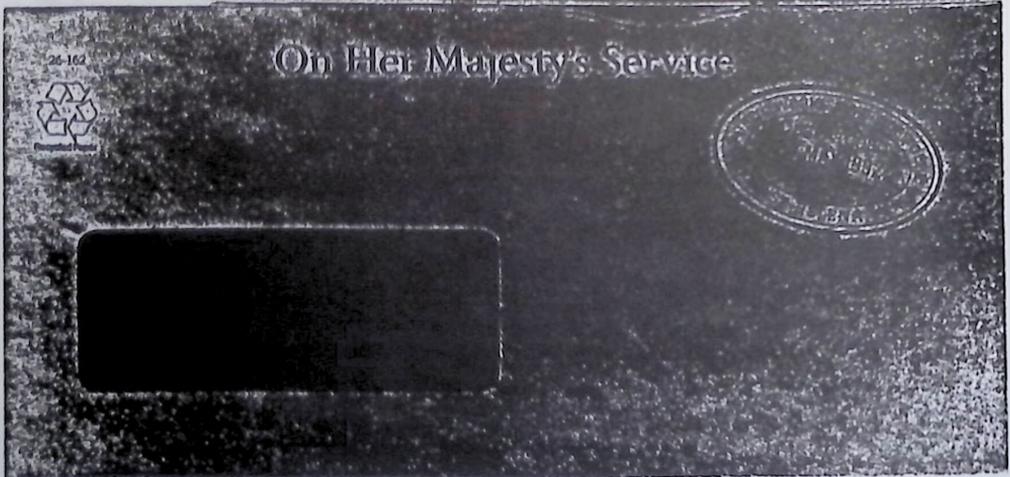
ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE



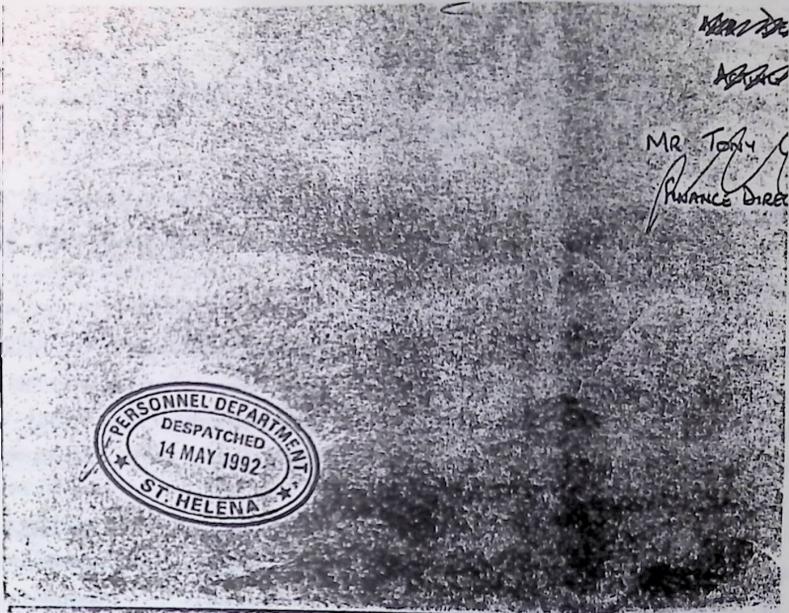
Mr Nicholas George
P. A. George & Sons
James Town
St. Helena
South Atlantic Ocean



Department of Agriculture & Forestry handstamp and Ascension Police Office handstamp.



Public Works & Services Department handstamp and Department of Finance handstamp.



Personnel Department handstamp and Social Services Office handstamp.

ASCENSION 1st ISSUE

By L.R. Coasby

My piece in Supplement No. 17 - (f) needs to be amended as follows:-

(F) If in fact the 1mm overprint on stamps at (c) are on script watermark paper, they cannot be forgeries.

Since writing this piece I have studied the two Study Papers by Philip Beale on numbers printed. From them one would think there should only be a small difference in price, but when one sets it against numbers actually sold the reason for the difference is evident. From the figures given, the position at 23/11/1923 is as follows:-

	NUMBERS PRINTED	SPECIMEN	SOLD	IN STOCK
½d.	59,580	413	50,825	8,342
1d.	59,280	413	29,661	29,206
1½d.	59,820	413	15,524	43,953
2d.	58,200	413	22,124	35,663 x
3d.	59,640	413	13,468	45,759
8d.	60,060	413	9,043	50,604
1/-	60,240	413	10,121	49,706
2/-	58,860	413	5,121	53,326
3/-	60,900	413	4,692	55,795

x 2d. line through P, numbers sold 369/370 specimen 6/7.

As they were not replaced by the Badge issue until 20/8/1924, some more must have been sold. From Philip Beale's narrative, the issue was over ordered, particularly in the higher values. As there must have been a considerable number unsold when the Badge issue was placed on sale. What happened to them? If we assume they were destroyed, how many? Numbers must have been recorded at the time, are they still available?

ASCENSION

BADGE ISSUE NUMBERS SENT TO THE COLONY

By L.R. Coasby

Paper No.2 by Philip Beale gives very important information on numbers issued for various Ascension issues to 1970. The numbers shown for the Badge Issue enable us to calculate the maximum numbers that can exist for the major varieties (i.e. Cleft Rock, Torn Flag and Broken Mainmast). The 1d. (SG 11d) and 5d. (SG 15d) were issued after the Torn Flag had been repaired so this variety does not occur on these stamps, but of course it is replaced by the variety Torn Flag repaired. Two values had three printings ½d. (1924, 1927 and 1932) 2d. (1924, 1927 and 1930), two values had two printings 1d. (1924 and 1932) 5d. (1927 and 1930). The 1932 1d. is SG 11d, and the ½d. printed in 1932 has a dull brown vignette, but has not yet received catalogue status. Do we know the numbers destroyed when the issue was withdrawn?

Numbers as follows:-

	NUMBERS ISSUED	SPECIMEN	BROKEN MAINMAST	CLEFT ROCK	TORN FLAG	TORN FLAG REPAIRED
½d.	153,300	409	2,555	2,555	1,019	1,536
1d.	61,980	409	1,033	1,033	1,033	-
1d. SG 11d.						
	60,420	-	1,007	1,007	-	1,007
1½d.	60,600	409	1,010	1,010	1,010	-
2d.	145,860	409	2,431	2,431	922	1,509
3d.	60,900	409	1,015	1,015	1,015	-
4d.	59,820	409	997	997	997	-
5d.	80,580	409	1,343	1,343	-	1,343
6d.	60,360	409	1,006	1,006	1,006	-
8d.	59,220	409	987	987	987	-

NUMBERS		BROKEN	CLEFT	TORN	TORN FLAG	
ISSUED	SPECIMEN	MAINMAST	ROCK	FLAG	REPAIRED	
1/-	60,240	409	1,004	1,004	1,004	-
2/-	60,000	409	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
3/-	61,620	409	1,027	1,027	1,027	-

14d. Broken Scroll 1,010

Position on sheet - Broken Scroll (40), Broken Mast (13), Torn Flag (42) and Cleft Rock (49).

BOOK REVIEW

EXPLORING ST. HELENA: A WALKERS GUIDE

For anyone with an interest in St. Helena whether it be philatelic or historical this book is a must. Its pages contain details of 25 main walks, and several smaller walks and places of interest. The book is profusely illustrated with maps, drawings and lithographs which with the superb text brings the island and its geography to life. In the centre are 8 pages of superb colour photographs which help to give the reader an insight into the terrain of the island. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable book which has only hardened my resolve to one day visit this lonely island and its people. The book is available from Anthony Nelson Ltd. PO Box 9, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 1BY, England. Price £9.

ST. HELENA
WAR TAX ISSUES

By L. R. COASBY

Many years ago I purchased an album page of the above stamps on which the previous owner stated there were five printings, two for the first type and three for the second. Edward Hibbert in his book confirmed this. For the first issue the dates given on the sheet are 1st September, 1916 and January, 1918, Mr. Hibbert gives the date of invoicing as 4th August, 1916-103,380 stamps and 4th November, 1916 - 51,480. If we accept the date of the invoices were correct, the alleged date of issue of the 2nd printing is open to question. The stamps were overprinted on SG 73a. black and scarlet but on thin paper.

The second type on SG 73. is black and carmine-red was issued in 1919. Mr. Hibbert gives the dates they were invoiced as follows:- 29th March, 1919 - 60,540, 13th August, 1919 - 60,300 and 15th December, 1919 61,140 and states there are three shades. Gibbons also states there are shades. My three confirm this; the difference between the first and second is small, the second being a little lighter, with the third printing the difference is outstanding being considerably brighter.

Can any member add any more information particularly (1) the regulations as to their use, (2) when were the regulations repealed, (3) why change (4) were any destroyed, if so how many.

I can answer some of Roy's questions for him. Under Post Office Ordinance dated 1st September 1916 a War Tax of 1d. was levied on every letter sent from St. Helena. A postage rate of 2d. in respect of every ounce or part thereof also came into use from 1st September 1916. Therefore a letter

weighing up to 1oz would be franked 3d., 2d. postage and 1d. War Tax and a double rate letter 5d., 4d. postage and 1d. War Tax.

On 25th January 1922 the postage to Foreign Countries was set at:- Letters 3d. for the first ounce, and 1½d. for each successive ounce or part thereof. Post Cards (Single)-1½d. and Printed Matter 1d. per two ounces- additional ½d. for every successive two ounces or part thereof.

These alterations became necessary owing to the increase on the International rates of postage made by the Postal Union. Therefor a letter to a Foreign Country after January 1922 would be franked 4d., 3d. postage and 1d. War Tax.

A Post Office Ordinance made in Council on 27th March 1922 repealed the Ordinance dated 1st September 1916 which levied the War Tax and set new rates of postage for letters to any part of the British Empire as 2d. for the first ounce and for each additional ounce or part thereof 1½d.

The Post Office Notices mentioned were illustrated in Supplement No 8. July. 1967 pages 28 to 31.

I can't help Roy on number four (were any destroyed, if so how many) maybe another member can help with that one.

EDITOR

THE ROUTE TO ST. HELENA

BY C. R. RIDING

Where is St. Helena? All readers of this Supplement will (it is hoped!) know the answer but vast numbers do not. Even at stamp society meetings in Britain fellow-members have said to me 'Isn't it in the West Indies?' or 'In the Mediterranean near Italy - where Napoleon was held prisoner, isn't it?'

In the mid-seventies I had the pleasure of living on the island for two years, working as the Civil Engineer in charge of the Public Works Department. One day I asked the Postmaster, who I knew received much mail from overseas: 'What happens to the envelopes from the overseas mail that you receive?'. To which he replied that they were thrown away. Being 'thrown away' in those days meant being collected with the rest of the island's rubbish and then tipped into the sea from West Rocks, which is at the opposite end of the wharf from the portion that can be seen on the 1903 and 1912 Wharf issues. Even now, nearly two decades later, I still shudder to think of the philatelic treasures that must have descended into that watery grave over the years to be forever irretrievable!

From that day on the postmaster collected all the envelopes and passed them on to me. The stamps themselves, being modern ones, were generally not of great interest to me. But as an amateur postal historian I was intrigued by the various markings on the envelopes. Soon I began to notice that there was quite a respectable number of mis-sents and odd postmarks, which had clearly been applied because someone along the route had not known where St. Helena was, and couldn't be bothered to find out. As well as being on post office mail I sometimes found similar markings on other incoming mail, including my own. By the time I left the island I had enough of such markings to form a goodly collection which I have shown at societies on various occasions.

In October I displayed some of it to a meeting of the Postal History Society at Tiverton, Somerset, and afterwards I was asked by one of your members, Jeremy Martin, if I would be willing to write an article around the markings for this Supplement. Not long in answering in the affirmative I received a letter from your Bulletin Editor - hence this article. It will need to be spread over several issues because there are quite a lot of covers to be illustrated, though I shall show only the more interesting ones. For many of these mis-sents there is no rhyme or reason for them so they cannot be studied in depth but they are, at least for me, a fascinating byline. I have grouped them into geographical areas in the main but I start this time with a group of covers that have gone to places that they should not have gone to because of similarity of name.

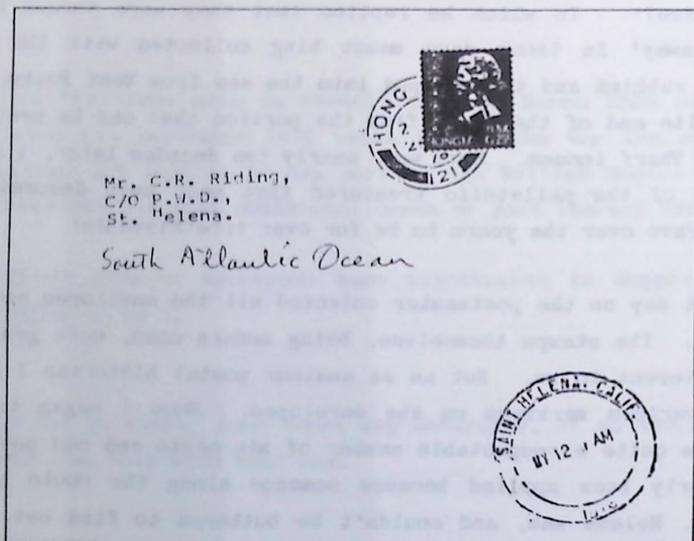
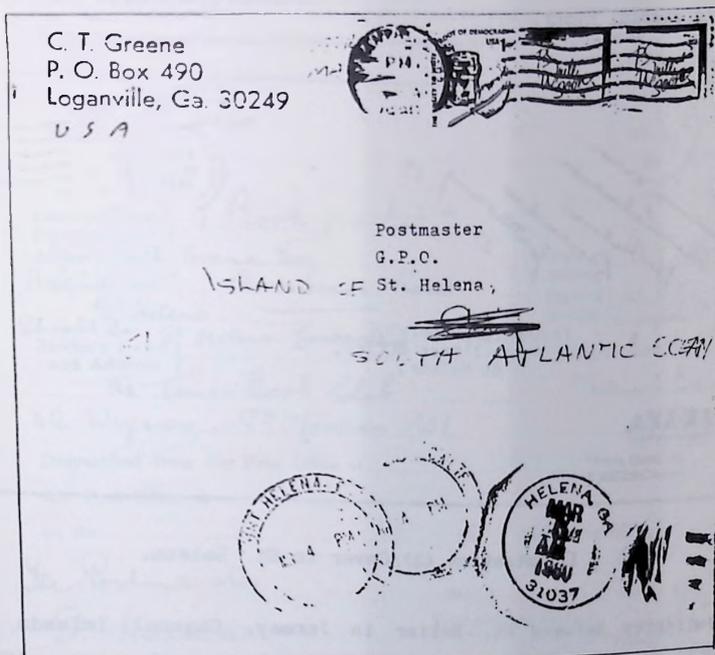


Illustration (1) From Hong Kong.

Before working in St. Helena I was in Hong Kong for three years. While there I joined the Hong Kong Philatelic Society and on leaving I transferred to life membership so the society's monthly newsletters used to be sent to me in St. Helena. My first illustration is of a wrapper from Hong Kong that was correctly addressed to me but en route it went via 'St. Helena, Calif.' (USA). Illustration No. 2 is of a cover from the States and it too went via California's St. Helena but in addition it travelled to 'Helena, GA' (Georgia, USA).



That this situation is not a new one is evident from the next two illustrations. One is of a 1937 cover from Manchester to the 'Postmaster General, General Post Office, St. Helena' which was sent to St. Helens in Lancashire receiving there a manuscript endorsement reading 'Opened in

error by Head Postmaster St. Helens, Lancashire, (signature), 27.4.37' - not an altogether suprising error because Manchester and St. Helens are so near each other. And, even further back, in 1926 the Times Book Club slipped up because a 'Book-packet' that should have been addressed to Grosvenor Road, St. Helens, Lancashire was inadvertently similarly addressed but to St. Helena. My illustration shows the printed enquiry letter from the Assistant Controller of the Post Office of Great Britain, London, to the Postmaster, St. Helena - one wonders if the book ever did reach its rightful owner.

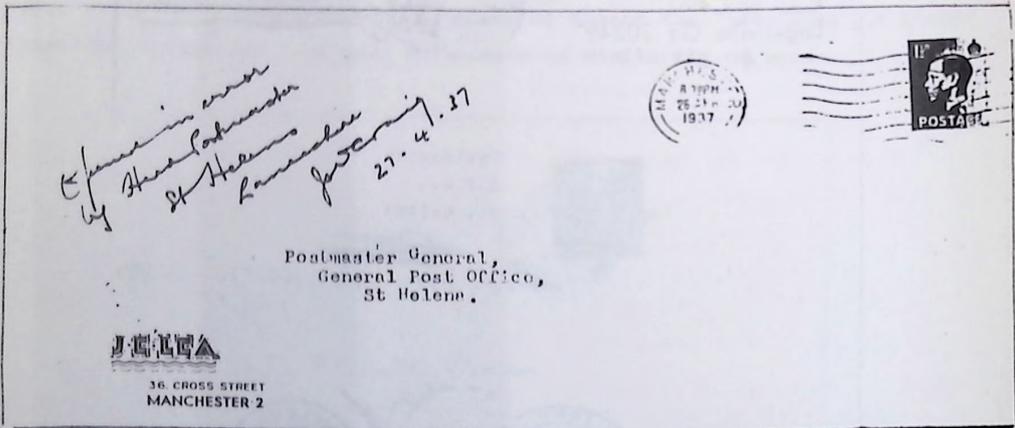


Illustration (3) Cover to St. Helens.

The similarity between St. Helier in Jersey, Channel Islands, and St. Helena can also lead to confusion. A fairly recent cover, 1982, from Maidenhead, Berkshire, again went to St. Helens, Lancashire per the machine cancellation on the reverse and someone there (presumably) wrote on the front 'Try Jersey C.I.'; however that was crossed out and there is no evidence that the cover did in fact go to St. Helier.

POST OFFICE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Address reply to —
 The Assistant Controller,
 Island Section,
 London Postal Service,
 London, E.C.1.
 Quoting the No. L.P.S. L. 39584

LONDON,

24 April

1926

SIR,

I am directed to inform you that the Postal Packet described below is stated ^{to} ~~not to~~ ~~have been incorrectly addressed~~ ~~have reached the addressee~~ I am to ask, therefore, that your Office will be good enough to make any enquiries in its power and to acquaint me with the result.

P-1
26



Description of Postal Packet | 1 Book-packet
 Address | E. A. Evans Esq.,
 "Beetholme" Grosvenor Road,
 St Helena.
 Should be | St Helena Lancashire England.
 Sender's Name |
 and Address | The Times Book Club
 42 Wignore St London W1.
 Date of posting | 18.3.26
 Place of posting | W. D. C.
 Wimpole St London
 Contents | Books
 "Adam's Record"
 Despatched from the Post Office at _____ to _____
 the Post Office at _____
 on the _____ of _____ 1926. Number on list _____

The Postmaster
 St. Helena.

I am
 Sir,
 Your obedient Servant,
 C. A. WHEELER
 Assistant Controller



L.P.S. I.S. 24 (O.E. 6).

(11x5d. 5010, 25)
 (26000) Wt 235844/273 7,000 1/28 H & S 09 101

Illustration (4) Enquiry form.

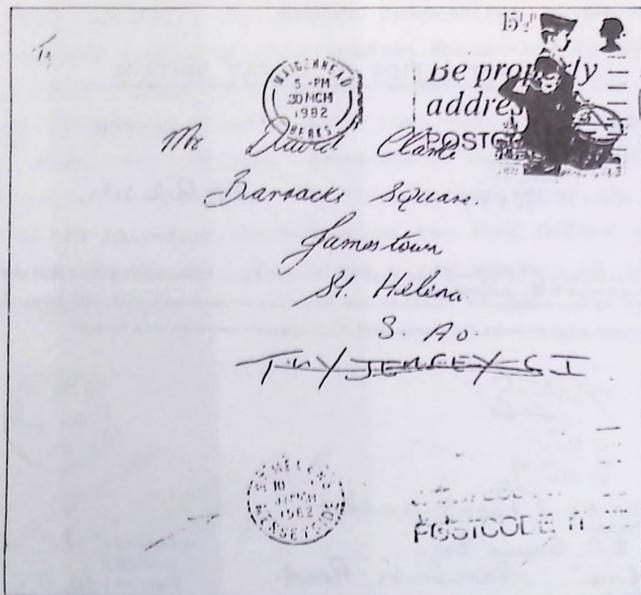


Illustration (5) Try Jersey C.I. cover.

Another one though from Canada definitely did go to St. Helier as is evidenced by the 'Jersey / Channel Islands' machine backstamp on the next illustration. (Cover illustrated overleaf)

Next time I shall show some covers that went to the West Indies so proving that the fellow-members of philatelic societies referred to in my opening paragraph are by no means unique.

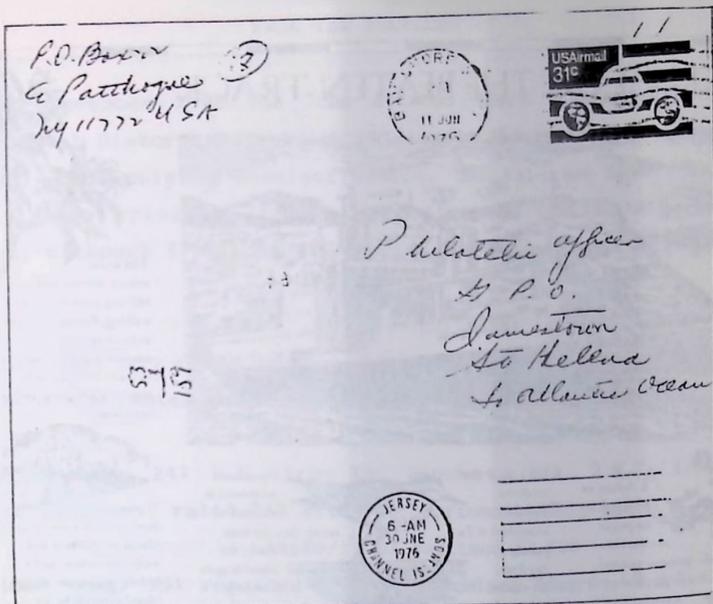
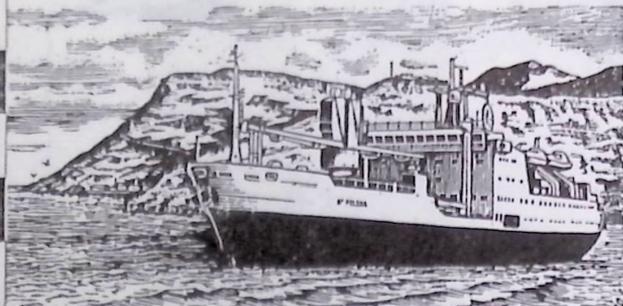


Illustration (6) Cover from Canada.

Trevor Hearl has sent me some interesting bits on information concerning travel to St. Helena. An American Company has been advertising an Around Africa Cruise departing on Jan 9th 1993 for 35 days and calling at St. Helena along with many other places for \$6740. Also the Curnow Shipping Co are advertising holidays to St. Helena for those who don't like package holidays. Details listed overleaf.

Also Trevor mentions a 26-minute video showing all aspects of the Island today, produced by Charles Frater, and sold by Silverglade Associates, 127. Canalot, 222 Kensal Road, London W10 5BN. Price £20 (inc. VAT & postage) Trevor states "It really is St. Helena at its best".

CRUISE OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



And today, nature, history and relaxing pursuits such as walking, fishing, golf and swimming complement the unspoilt nature of the island to make a voyage to St. Helena a genuinely unique experience.



If you are interested in a sea voyage of classic proportion and exclusive nature, and a holiday on a truly unique island unspoilt by the trappings, noise and clutter of the modern package,

phone the number below or complete the coupon for a FREE brochure that can help you to cruise off the beaten track.

A holiday on St. Helena is for people who don't like their recreation packaged. It is for people who appreciate rugged, unspoilt scenery, an equable, subtropical climate, a wide variety of endemic plants and animals - and

the freedom to enjoy all the South Atlantic island has to offer at their own pace.

The topography of St. Helena's 47 square miles varies from high, craggy cliffs that dominate the coastline to the lush rainforests of the interior. Between the two extremes lie rolling pastures and the remnants of a once thriving flax industry.

This splendoured isolation can only be reached by ship, sailing from Cardiff on board the RMS St. Helena.

It is a voyage that recalls the traditional atmosphere of the passenger cargo liner, but with the addition of several more contemporary comforts, such as air conditioning, a lounge bar, water service and swimming pool.

And after unwinding on the two-week passage, calling at Tenerife en route, this delightfully isolated and unique Crown colony is yours to explore.

You can lose yourself in the island's rich history: the heritage and indelible mark the East India Company has left, the legacy of Napoleon's final years in exile, the house where he reflected on his campaigns and conquests, the cliff-side fortifications and the remains of the five observatories (one used by Halley) that grace the island.



For those interested in the natural rather than the man-made, the island is again a treasure house to explore.

Indigenous species of flora and fauna abound - some thought 'extinct' for many years. There is the wirebird

unique to St. Helena, a daily dolphin run close to the shoreline that has to be seen, as have the fantastic rock formations around the island. It was these and all the other natural attractions of the island that brought Charles Darwin to its shores in 1836.



☎ 0326 563434



ST HELENA
SHIPPING
C O M P A N Y

I'm interested in cruising off the beaten track. Please send me details of the RMS St. Helena and St. Helena itself.

Name

Address

Postcode

Please complete and return to: Carrow Shipping Ltd. (Agents for St. Helena Shipping Co. Ltd.) The Shipyard, Portholes, Helston, Cornwall TR11 9JA

FROM THE AUCTIONS

On the 26th November 1992 the John Attwood award winning collection of Ascension Postal History was sold by Phillips. The collection consisted of 84 lots, of which only 23 remained unsold. As this was a very important collection I have tried to list as many items as possible together with photographs; although I have had to shorten the descriptions slightly.

ESTIMATED IN BRACKETS

Lot 188 1817 (Mar. 7) cross written E.L. from Naval Chaplain aboard H.M.S. Inconstant to Winchester. Earliest recorded letter from Ascension.

(£800/1,000) Realised £1,550

Lot 189 1830 (May 24) E.L. from Lt. Sausmarez R.N. H.M.S. Ariadne at Ascension to Guernsey, rated 1/8 with red "Portsmouth/Ship Letter".

(£800/1,000) Realised £1,200

Lot 190 1833 (Aug. 15) repaired E.L. from Rowland Edwards, H.M.S. Isis at Ascension to London rated 1/3 and backstamped "India Letter/Plymouth".

(£800/1,000) Realised £800

Lot 193 1847 (Dec.31) OHMS E.L. from Mr. Walling, H.M.S. Tortoise to London. Earliest recorded official mail from Ascension.

(£700/900) Realised £850

Lot 198 1864 (Apr. 1) envelope with contents from Mid Long, H.M.S. Archer to Sussex rated "6" and "Cape Packet Devonport" c.d.s.

(£1,000/1,200) Realised 1,450

Lot 203 1868 1d. privilege envelope endorsed "From Douglas White Seaman HMS/Rattlesnake Ascension" and countersigned by his Commanding Officer, bearing G.B. 1d. plate 73 FH. Tied on arrival by "Devonport H.M.S./250" duplex.

(£700/900) Realised 700

Lot 204 1872 (Aug. 1) envelope with letter addressed to London bearing vertical pair of G.B. 6d. plate 9 AB/BB tied by London "43" cancellations.

(£800/900) Realised £800

Lot 205 1873 (Nov. 23) privilege envelope to Westmorland endorsed "From B.M. Reade Matron RN Hospital Ascension", countersigned by staff surgeon in charge, bearing G.B. 1864-79 1d. plate 160 LJ cancelled on arrival, also Ascension c.d.s. (£600/800) Realised £650

Lot 206 1875 (Oct. 15) similar envelope from same correspondence bearing 1d. plate 1398 NK tied by "Plymouth HMS/620 duplex over Ascension c.d.s. (£800/900) Realised £820

Lot 208 1875 (Dec. 15) stamps envelope to London endorsed in red manuscript "No stamps at Ascension/Asel Postmaster", charge mark of "1/-". (£500/600) Realised £850

Lot 210 1877 (Oct. 11) mourning envelope to London bearing G.B. 1873-80 6d. plate 15 RL tied by Plymouth "620", additional "Cape-Packet Plymouth" and "Ascension" c.d.s.'s, also redirection postage due "1d." handstamp. (£1,000/1,200) Realised £1,000

Lot 211 1878 (Jan. 31) envelope "On Her Majesty's Service" crossed through to Portsea bearing 1873-80 6d. plate 15 GA tied on arrival by "B16", also Ascension c.d.s. (£300/350) Realised £650

Lot 212 1883 (Nov) privilege envelope to Devonport endorsed "From John Clarke Boiler Maker Island of Ascension", countersigned by the Officer in Charge, bearing 1881 1d. lilac tied on arrival by "Plymouth to Bristol T.P.O.", "Ascension" and "Devonport" c.d.s.'s on reverse. (£700/900) Realised £700

Lot 215 1898 (Aug. 18) Sailors 1d. privilege envelope to Plymouth endorsed "From C.J. Johnson, Writer. 1 of Ascension" and countersigned by his Commanding Officer, bearing G.B. 1d. lilac tied by Ascension c.d.s. with Plymouth Ship Letter c.d.s. on reverse. (£400/600) Realised £400

Lot 223 1914 (Dec. 8) envelope bearing G.B. K.G.V. 1d. tied by "Ascension" c.d.s. addressed to St. Helena, with part St. Helena arrival c.d.s.

(£130/150) Realised £130

Lot 241 1915 (July. 5) a letter bearing G.B. 1d. tied by "Ascension" c.d.s. opened out for display bearing "CENSORED" and "SUPERINTENDANT EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY" oval cachet.

(£200/250) Realised £230

Lot 243 1916 (Feb.) envelope to London bearing G.B. K.G.V. 1d. tied by "Ascension" c.d.s. alongside is a strike of the rare "PASSCENSOR" cachet and censors initials. Only two examples recorded.

(£250/300) Realised £360

Lot 244 (Dec. 18) envelope to Portsmouth bearing G.B. K.G.V. 1d. tied by "Ascension" c.d.s. together with a strike of the "PASSED CENSOR/ASCENSION" cachet, censors initials in red.

(£150/200) Realised 160

Lot 247 1919 (Feb. 11) unstamped "On Active Service" envelope to St. Helena, with "Ascension" c.d.s. and "St. Helena" arrival c.d.s., rare inter-island privilege item. (£300/400) Realised £360

Lot 256 K.G.V1 envelope to London bearing 1938-53 3d. tied by boxed "POSTED ON STEAMER" Ascension and Sierra Leone "QQ/1" censor handstamps.

(£150/200) Realised £150

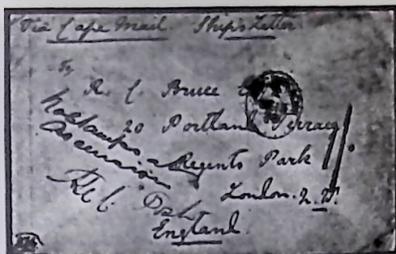
Lot 257 A K.G.V1 envelope to Bournemouth bearing 1938-53 1d. (3) tied by "POST OFFICE MARITIME MAIL" duplex and boxed "Crown/PASSED/XI.." censor cachet.

(£100/120) Realised £130

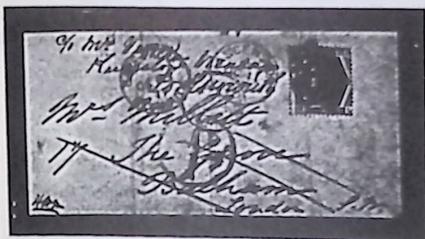
Lot 266 POSTCARDS 1903 (NOV. 23) "Ascension" c.d.s. cancelling G.B. 1892 1d. U.P.U. p.c. addressed to Glasgow, reverse bears a photograph captioned "Ascension from the Sea" (£200/300) Realised £200



206



208



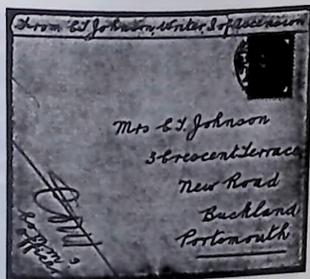
210



211



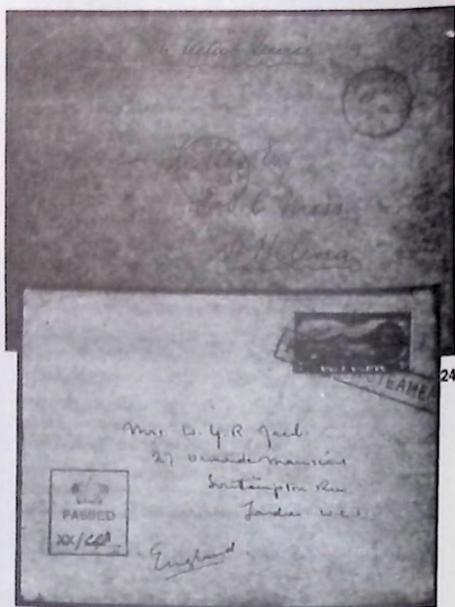
212



215



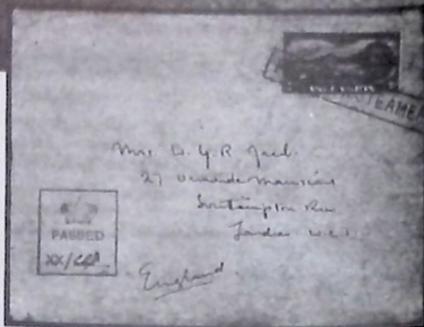
241



247



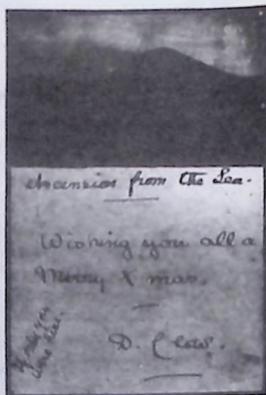
243



256



257



266