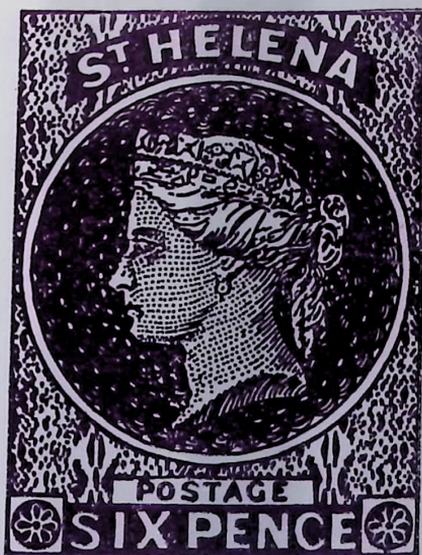


The West Africa Study Circle

St. Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 22



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EDITORIAL

This issue has taken some time to put together, not because of a lack of material, but on the contrary, more material than I could put into one issue. (probably the wrong thing for an editor to say) Trying to strike a balance between purely philatelic articles, historical articles that have a philatelic background such as Trevor Hearl's article on Surgeon Moore, whose early letters from the island were reproduced in Supplement No 14. and snippets of information such as the new door to door delivery service for St. Helena is the difficult bit.

Also included in this issue is part three of Christopher Riding's 'En Route to St. Helena, with the concluding part being published in the January 95 Supplement, St. Helena 4d. Surcharge, St. Helena Postage Dues, Ascension Forgery etc; reproduced with kind permission of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, and three items of St. Helena Postal History reproduced by kind permission of Harmers of London from their auction of 21st July 1994.

Now I probably have enough material for most of Supplement No 23, but I am always in the need for something new, so if any member has something new, unusual or a problem cover or postmark etc please don't be shy about putting pen to paper. As our membership is spread far and wide our main means of communication is the Supplement, so I look forward to hearing from you.

Bob Deakin and myself hope to have a U.K. meeting for the Ascension and St. Helena collectors some time in the Autumn. Those of you who expressed an interest in attending will be notified when a date and time has been arranged.

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ASCENSION SALES FIGURES

Bernard Hughes

L R Coasby writes in *Supplement* No 19 to ask if sales figures of the first two Ascension definitives are known, or can be deduced from numbers destroyed, whilst John Dobson asks if there is any record of the numbers printed of the 4d Badge on "lemon" and "yellow" paper respectively (*Supplement* No 20 P13).

Whilst it is always difficult to prove a negative, I would be very surprised if the numbers will ever be known. Philip Beale's interesting WASC Ascension Study Paper No 1 "Ascension Island's Post office 1922-24" to which Mr Coasby refers suggests to me that record keeping was not a strong point in the early days of the Post Office. Merrick's report (P6) suggests the "whole of the stock of these stamps is kept at Ascension" and Merrick was astonished to find £4,000 worth of stamps there in January 1924, a figure consistent with an average of 180 sheets of 60 of each value (180 x 60 x 7/4d = £3960) as reported by Arnold (Beale P9) in November 1923. Merrick clearly did not realise there was a further £14-15,000 worth on St. Helena and he had the advantage of being on the spot! What hope do we have 70 years later?

Two other factors militate against sales figures turning up. The first is that in addition to supplies on Ascension, there were stocks on St. Helena, where there seem to have been some unusual practices. As Beale mentions, a lot of Ascension philatelic mail was in the early days at least processed on St. Helena. (The Post Office staff there were rewarded by a small commission, so presumably they wanted to boost sales where possible.) Beale reported in the very first St. Helena Supplement that he met a former St. Helena Treasurer who said that complete sheets were destroyed on withdrawal, but part sheets were kept by the Post Master, and various former issues could still be found in the Post Office. When supplied to St. Helena officials these were handstamped with a violet SPECIMEN stamp, the only Ascension set treated thus being the 1922 overprints and only a few of these are known. What happened to other part sheets is not recorded, but as Crown Agents quite often supplied part sheets, these could have been quite numerous.

The other problem, perhaps more with the 1924-33 Badge set, is the separate Crown Agents stocks. At one time, Crown Agents sent out all sheets remaining after initial dealer orders were met. But it is also often said that the 1933 1d (actually 1932 per Beale WASC Study Paper No 2 "Ascension Island: The Crown Agents Records in the British Library") was never sent out, hence its considerable scarcity used, reflected in the catalogue price (SG11d). Mint copies of SG11d that I have seen do not look at all tropicalised, which tends to support this thesis. If so, Crown Agents must have maintained a stock as well as the Ascension and St. Helena Post Offices, making reconciliation of any figures harder still. Mention of tropicalisation is perhaps relevant to Mr

Coasby's statement that the 1932 ½d "has a dull brown vignette". I would agree with him that some ½d stamps including quite a few postmarked 1932 and later can be found with this effect, but this is likely to result from tropicalisation. Perhaps the 1932 ½d was particularly prone to this, but some values only printed in 1924 are also known with brownish vignettes, and the largest mint block of the ½d which I have with a brownish vignette is certainly 1927 (and tropicalised). Fresh mint blocks of the ½d which from the state of certain flaws are from the 1932 printing can be found without this brown vignette, further suggesting it is only a tropicalisation effect, and also that Crown Agents must have sold sheets of the 1932 ½d.

With shades of the paper used, it is often the case that a single printing shows a change of colour. Crown Agents bought coloured papers in small quantities, and did not regard as important changes which are significant to philatelists today, so the records kept do not show what proportion of the printing was on which shade of paper. Among Ascension stamps found on coloured paper, the 1922 overprint 1/-, and the 1924 Badge 4d and 2/- are recorded on varying shades of paper. The 1922 1/- can be found on green or blue-green paper, the blue-green seems to be the scarcer. The 1924 2/- is recorded by Ford half a century ago as coming on blue or a scarcer deep blue paper: if the deeper blue paper on a couple of my 2/-'s are what he means, this is a lesser variation than on the 1922 1/- and 1924 4d, though I would agree the deep blue paper seems to be the less common. It is possible the difference appeared greater when Ford wrote, and the paper was much fresher. The 1924 4d is found on yellow or lemon paper, the latter being the scarcer. But in all probability only a very small proportion of the approx. 1000 sheets printed of these stamps were ever sold anyway, and the balance among those sold may be untypical of the total printing, most of which will have been destroyed as unsold.

So can one draw any conclusions about sales figures? The very small initial printing for the 5/- 1934 pictorial (106 sheets, or 6,360 stamps) is an indication that sales of Ascension high values were very disappointing! Postal use would have been limited to philatelic mail and parcels, but revenue use (e.g. for passport fees) may have helped. 2/- and 3/- were not very useful denominations in the 1920's: they originate in the three tier Empire parcel post rates (1/- to 3lb, 2/- 3-7lb, 3/- 7-11 lb) widely adopted around the turn of the century, but which were no longer current by 1922. If I had to guess numbers sold, I would guess around 6,000 of the 1922 3/- key value, and around 10,000 of the 1924 key (not counting the 1d shade) values of 6d and 3/-, or about 150-200 of each of the vignette flaws. The 6d was withdrawn in 1927 and used to be the most highly catalogued value. Its withdrawal in 1927 is odd as one might have thought the increase in the registration fee in 1926 to 3d, making the 'foreign' registered rate 3d + 3d = 6d, would have given the stamp some commercial use, but it was not to be. Sales in the early 1930's of the Badge stamps were boosted by interest in the vignette flaws, but this was too late for the 6d.

Sales as low as this could apply to recent definitives. At Stampex, I asked Crown Agents about their sales of Ascension stamps, and was told sales would seldom fall below 10,000 except for high value definitives. Of course if sales were large on Ascension, this would affect the position, but is that likely? From what the man at Crown Agents said, sales of the 1981 definitive would have been much higher than sales of the 1986 Ship definitives, and the 1991 set, whilst still on sale, has sold very badly (by Ascension standards) so far. Of course this does not mean the recent issues are likely to be as expensive as the earlier ones. Most of those sold will be unmounted mint and in good condition - the condition of the 1922 and 1924 stamps is often poor and many of those sold must now be too discoloured to collect. The 3/- key stamp in the 1922 set often has very poor violet inking, making many copies that do survive uncollectable as well. Among Ascension specialists, I imagine many of us have quite a few of each value of the George V stamps, even the high values - illustrating flaws, postmarks, covers etc - but very few of the recent high values, and I would guess there will always be more interest in the earlier ones.

However guessing Ascension sales has a poor track record. For many years sales of most colonies Silver Jubilee sets as publicised by the New York Sun were given credence. But when Crown Agents Records showing numbers printed became available, it became clear that these were poor guesses indeed. The New York Sun figures for Ascension sales were 1½d 50,800 2d 31,300 5d 42,700 1/- 38,500. It is now known the numbers printed were 1½d 50,340 2d 57,780 5d 32,700 and 1/- 29,460. Ascension is one of a number of colonies where the numbers printed for several values were less than the New York Sun said were sold! In fact fewer sets of Ascension Jubilees were printed than for any other colony - of course numbers sold may be different, and these are not known. But even today the Catalogue price of the 2d used is the same as the 5d used, even though there are far more copies of the 2d around, and the 2d is the easiest used value to find - perhaps a relic of the New York Sun (false) belief that the 2d was the key value. The message must be that guesses can easily be misleading!

A final thought is that if one is looking for Gibbons listed material with very small numbers available, the GB Used in Ascension section includes many unique items, especially if one regards each Plate of the 1d red or the 6d grey as a separate listing, and many other listed items of which only a handful exist. Whilst prices vary, compared to the prices reached for unique or near unique items elsewhere in the catalogue, it could be argued some GB Used on Ascension are quite cheap in that context. Some may not exist at all, John Attwood has tried to get the 6d Plate 17 deleted. For many years Gibbons listed the 6d grey with no Plate specified but with (1880) after it. Then this suddenly changed to Plate 17, which was issued in 1880, but is that what (1880) meant? Surely it was more likely to mean a 6d used in 1880 (which does exist - Plate 16. As it was the 1880 postmarked Plate 16 that got Plate 16 added to the catalogue, the same piece COULD have been the origin of BOTH listings! To add to the confusion, the Gibbons Auction Catalogue advertising the Plate 16 piece called it Plate 13!). No-one seems ever to have seen or heard of Plate 17 used on Ascension, so this Gibbons listed item probably does not exist, but John Attwood's efforts to have it deleted came to nothing.

SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS
ON THE HALFPENNY SURCHARGE

By Roger Morgan

- REFERENCES
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| (a) St. Helena | Fred Melville. 1912. |
| (b) St. Helena | The Wd. Green Issues of 1884-94
J. D. Mounfield. May 1973. |
| (c) St. Helena | E. Hibbert. 1979. |
| (d) St. Helena | St. Helena Supplement No. 4. 1985. |
| (e) St. Helena | John B. Marriott (Ex London Philatelist
January 1974). |

A lot has been written about all the early St. Helena Surcharges and even the earlier Double Surcharges are well documented; and thanks largely to Roger West (Ref (d), for instance) the Halfpenny narrow Surcharge is now particularly well covered. But the Broad Surcharge is another story and to a novice like me it is surprising that not only are there large gaps in information, but also the information that does exist seems often conflicting. This has intrigued me and I thought it worth setting out some of these problems in the hope that further facts might come to light.

2. I consider three particular aspects:-

- The dates of printing, particularly of the Emerald colour (S.G. 35).
- The spaced N.Y.
- The Double Surcharge.

PRINTING DATES.

The consignments of the Halfpenny sent to the Island were as follows:-

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Aug 5th 1884, | 24,000 (100 sheets) |
| (b) March 3rd 1885, | 61,200 (255 sheets) |
| (c) April 25th 1887, | 24,000 (100 sheets) |
| (d) March 14th 1890, | 72,480 (302 sheets) |
| (e) Sept 5th 1893, | 142,800 (595 sheets) |
| (f) Nov 23rd 1894, | 144,000 (600 sheets) |

4. The Gibbons catalogue dates the narrow Surcharge (S.G. 36) as 1893 and Mounfield states that: "The Short Surcharge is found only on the Dark Green printings and came into use in 1894". (Ref (b) p. 127). However, Roger West in ref (d) p. 10 - his erudite treatise on how the surcharges were made - states clearly that the First Format of the Narrow Surcharge was the March 1890 printing. This is one problem.

5. The second problem concerns the Emerald and Green printings of the Broad Surcharge. Gibbons gives the Wd. Green (S.G. 34) as 1884 and the

Emerald (S.G. 35) as 1885. Melville (Ref (a) p. 52) states: "The colours, even for the old values, are to a great extent changed - green, varying from emerald - a small early printing - to deep green for the halfpenny---." Mounfield (Ref (b) p. 103) states: "The first printings of the ½d. were in emerald, at first with clear impressions, but later with blurred ones. Then followed several printings in shades of green---."

Marriott (Ref (c) p. 21) quotes E.V. Mann as saying: "½d. (3 consignments, Emerald (clear to blurred) and green (wide setting))." Roger West Comments: "The S.G. description of 'Emerald' is extremely confusing and I suspect over the years has been the cause of countless mis-descriptions by collectors, dealers and auctioneers. I believe Mounfield was well aware of this and made some effort to clarify the point by identifying the first two (?) printings as 'clean' and 'blurred'. There is room for much research here and clearly a large number of covers or dated used examples need to be inspected. One point to consider on dated examples however is the evidence that stamps were printed and despatched while large stocks were still to hand."

6. The only sure way of resolving these problems is by research of covers bearing the appropriate stamps. This is a mammoth task, of course and one would need access to world-wide auction catalogues for many years past to cover the field properly. However, I did my own limited survey and went through all the auction catalogues I had for the last four or five years (some hundreds) plus one or two particularly important ones, including the Lampart Sale and the Jamestown and Ayre sales; and the results were interesting and probably significant.

7. (a) Only one cover of any sort sent in 1884 showed - and that was dated December 29th with only a 6d. stamp. 1884 seems to be a 'scarce' year!

(b) 1885 produced only three covers bearing ½d. stamps, all of them advertised as 'emerald' and one of them dated 12th February - which must have come from the first printing. The other two could have been first or second printing.

(c) The first cover alleged to bear a copy of the ½d. green (S.G. 34) did not show until 1887 (date not given). The odds are heavily in favour of the emerald being the first printing.

(d) The first of the Harrow Surcharges (S.G. 36) did not show on cover until February 25th 1895. The 1893 consignment would not have reached the Island until late in the year and, assuming that a year's supply of the Broad Surcharge stamps was still available in the Island and would be used up first, Feb 1895 could prove to be quite an early cover bearing this stamp. (See ref (c) p. 42 in which De La Rue asked the Crown Agents to impress on the Colonies the need for them to keep a year's stock).

8. The final piece of evidence concerning the printings of the Narrow Surcharge is contained on p. 41 of ref (C) in which Hibbert quotes from a letter from De La Rue; "when the 1893 order arrived, this forme was not in a fit state for use, and it had to be entirely reset, when the opportunity was taken of closing up the lettering a little, so as to obtain a better register". I conclude therefore, that the first four consignments of halfpenny stamps were Broad Surcharge and the last two Narrow Surcharge.

(R.V. comments: "On the evidence shown, your conclusion that the first four printings were of the Broad Surcharge are probably well founded. However, if that is the case, the Broad Surcharge would represent 38% of the total printed while the Narrow Surcharge would be 62%.

On the other hand, the first three printings represent just 23% and from my own observations, a 1:3 ratio is more likely to be correct.")

9. But where does this leave the theory of Roger West (para 4 above) and how did the Third and any subsequent formats come to be printed? It seemed to me that a possible solution lay with the large number of remainders (868 sheets) sold by the Crown Agents between January 1898 and 1904; but on looking at information available on these I became confused.

10. (a) Hibbert (Ref (c) pp. 51 and 52) describes how St. Helena asked for a further 1,200 sheets of the ½d. stamp of a different design in 1894; and the Crown Agents instructed De La Rue to halve the quantity ordered - hence 600 sheets sheets of the 1894 consignment.

(b) In January 1898 the Remainder sale started. (Ref (e) p. 24) states that: "The figures show that the ½d. 1d. and 2½d. remainders must have included the whole of last and a considerable part of the last but one consignments of these denominations-----."

(c) The Crown Agents Notice ordering the sale (reproduced in St. Helena Supplement No. 7 p. 28) refers to "the whole stock remaining in the hands of the Government and of which no further supplies will be printed---."

(d) The Q.V. ½d. Key Plate consignment was sent to the Island at the end of 1896 (102,000 stamps).

(e) Gibbons catalogue states that "Nos 36/45 and No 20 have been sold cancelled with a violet diamond shaped grille---." Yet Mann states in (Ref (e) p. 24) "That the ½d., 1d. and 2d. do not exist with the remainder cancellation; and there appears little doubt that this cancellation was not applied till 1904 by which time these values had been sold."

11. The clear implication in the above remarks is that the 1894 printing of the ½d. was the last and that these large quantities of stamps were later

returned from the Island to be sold. The 1/2d. Key Plate arrived in St. Helena at the end of 1896; and yet the surcharged stamps were still being sold and used in quantity throughout the Boer War and afterwards. I had thought it possible that De La Rue had made a further printing in anticipation of a further demand from the Island (the second half of the 1894 order perhaps?) - but who would have paid for them?

(R.V. comments: I agree with Mounfield that there were three settings and made the assumption that they represented the last three invoices. The basis of my solution is that the Type Formes were re-aligned twice indicating three printings. It is possible (although I can't think why) that the formes were re-aligned during a print run. In such an event, it would be possible that two (or more) settings came out of one print run. Your suggestion that the second half of the final order was a separate printing is indeed possible. I suppose you could also speculate that a seventh and later printing was made but not entered in the record books or entered for another value or Territory.)

12. The Third Format contains the exclusive varieties "Capped Y" and "Value and Bar wide apart" and I do not recall ever having seen these stamps in a used state. So I am left with a sneaking suspicion that another printing was made and sold as Reminders - though not with the Remainder cancel (para 10 (e) above).

(R.V. comments: I vaguely remember seeing a used 'Capped Y' but as I had little interest in used stamps I passed it by. In any event, the variety is fairly scarce and I can't recall being aware of any more than half a dozen or so. The mint - used ratio is probably 5 or 6 to 1 so a used example might be difficult to find.)

(TO BE CONTINUED)

MORE ABOUT ASCENSION POSTCARDS

by John Plant

Now that the c.1902 series of Ascension Pictorial Postcards has been brought up-to-date, with the final instalment of the "update" being published in the St. Helena and Ascension Supplement No 21, the attention of Ascension postcard enthusiasts, such as myself, could perhaps be directed to another series. This is a very short one, which was also mentioned by John Attwod in his book "Ascension - The Stamps and Postal History", at the beginning of Chapter 6.

While every serious collector of "Ascension" will be likely to have a copy of this book, I am sure that John will not mind me quoting here, the paragraph which refers to this little series, which reads as follows:-

"Two other cards which do not seem to fit in with the two major series are a pictorial mailed on 29th March 1913 showing the view "PIER HEAD, ASCENSION" and another showing the view "GROGETOWN, ASCENSION FROM MAILBOAT". The Picture on both the aforementioned postcards is in glossy sepia."

There is, in fact a third card which is definitely in the same series as the two cards mentioned above. This is one showing the view "ROLLERS, LONG BEACH, ASCENSION", making it a three card series. This little series must have run for quite a considerable time, as I have one of the cards postmarked 30th November 1906 and John Attwood refers to one mailed on 29th March 1913. So, it is not suprising that there were a number of different printings and that some of these printings showed recordable and, thus, collectable differences from each other. I cannot put them in date order but I have sufficient detail below of the three different "sets of three" which I have in my collection sufficient, I hope, to enable each different set to be identified.

TITLES ON THE 3 CARDS IN EACH SET

PIER HEAD, ASCENSION.
GROGETOWN, ASCENSION, FROM MAIL BOAT.
ROLLERS, LONG BEACH, ASCENSION.

TYPE A. Picture colour - Very brown shade of Sepia.
Lettering - On picture side and address side - BROWN
Lettering on address side:-
POST CARD
Printed in Saxony
In dotted address square - AFFIX STAMP
above right hand side of back - ADDRESS ONLY
Dividing lines (forming divided back):-
Long verticle line = SINGLE
short horizontal line = SINGLE

TYPE B. Picture colour - Glossy Sepia.
Lettering - On picture side and address side - BROWN
Lettering on address side - POST CARD
Dividing lines (forming divided back):-
 Long verticle line = DOUBLE
 Short verticle line = SINGLE

TYPE C. Picture colour - Glossy Sepia.
Lettering - On picture side and address side - RED.
Lettering on address side - POST CARD
Dividing lines (forming divided back):-
 Long verticle line = DOUBLE
 Short verticle line = DOUBLE

I hope that the information given above will be of interest to Ascension Postcard collectors. If any other member of the West African Study Circle has a card of this series which does not fit in with the details given, I hope that he will write to me.

JOHN PLANT

MILES APART

For New and Secondhand books and maps on the South Atlantic Islands contact Ian Mathieson:-

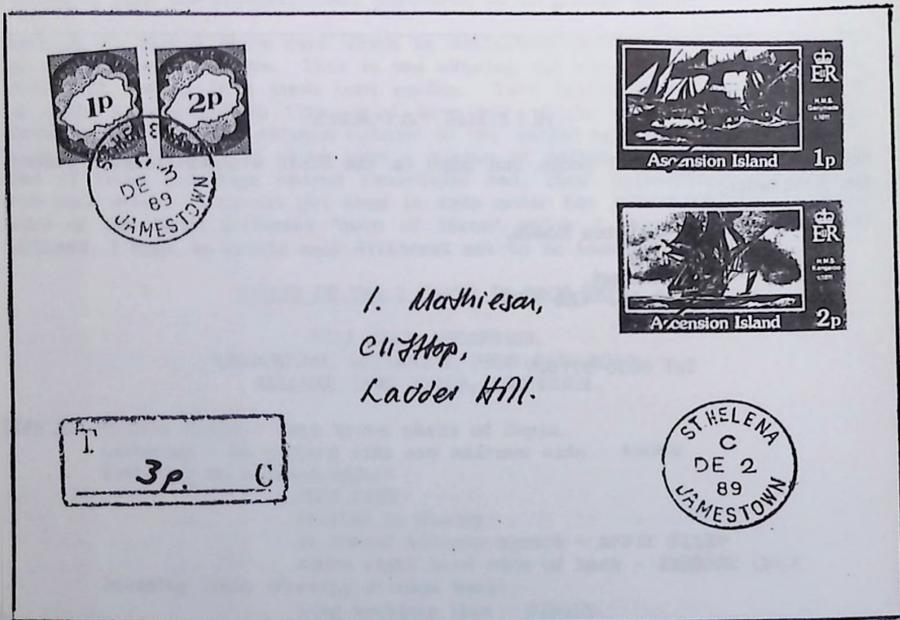
5 Harraton House,
Exning,
Newmarket,
Suffolk. CB8 7HF.
England.

Tel 0638-577627

ST. HELENA POSTAGE DUES

In Supplement No. 21 I illustrated the St. Helena Postage Due stamps and asked if any member had seen them used on cover. One of our members, Ian Mathieson forwarded to me two photostats of covers. The first dated 2nd December 1989 was an attempt by Ian to get Ascension Stamps used on St. Helena; as can be seen by the illustration the Ascension Stamps were disallowed and struck through with a pen. The cover was struck with the Tax marking but was only charged 3p. postage (Correct internal rate), whereas it should have been 6p. double the deficient postage. The 1p. and 2p. Postage Due Stamps were applied and dated 3rd December 1989.

The second item is a registered cover from James Kraemer (One of our new members) in Canada. The Canadian Postage rate had changed on 1st January 1990 so this cover was 52 cents underpaid. It was Taxed at \$1.06 double the deficiency which converted to 50p sterling. Cover illustrated in South Atlantic Chronicle, Page 7...January 1994.



James E. Kraemer
17 Commanche Dr.,
Ottawa, Canada, K2E 6E8

**AIR MAIL
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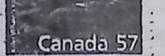


JAN 18 1990 CANADA

JAN 18 1990

OTTAWA ON

OTTAWA



Mr. Barry Dillon
Box 45
Jamestown
St. Helena
(S. Atlantic Ocean)

R
OTTAWA ON
OTTAWA CITYVIEW
204

REGISTERED MAIL



317152
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OTTAWA ON

317152
JAN 18 1990
OTTAWA ON

POST OFFICE
RECEIVED
29 MAR 1990
ST. HELENA ISLAND

1934 CENTENARY 10/-

By Bob Deakin

A large piece of a parcel franked with a block of four of the 1½d. Centenary issue and a single of the 10/- value. The parcel was Registered and also shows large straight line "PER PARCEL POST" handstamp. The piece is dated 17th January 1935. Has any member seen the 10/- genuinely used on cover or piece, or even philatelically used on cover?

(In the Hibbert sale of 8th Feb 1984 there was a block of four of the 2/6d. value on a cover registered to the U.K. dated 17th January 1935 bearing label inscribed "LETTER POST./Pathological Specimen. FRAGILE". This was Lot 710 estimated at £260 and realised £220. But like Bob I have not seen the 10/- genuinely used to date) EDITOR.



BLIGH OF THE COUNTY'S BREADFRUIT MYSTERY

By Trevor Hearl.

Breadfruit may not merit a place in St. Helena's "Sustainable Environment Development Strategy" but reading Kenneth Bain's chapter on the famous Captain Bligh's visit in 1792, reminded me that the fate of the Breadfruit plants he so conscientiously delivered remains one of the mysteries of 'our Island story'.

The tale is told by Gosse, quoting Bligh's own account of the event. He was master of HMS Resolution under Captain Cook when he saw the value of Breadfruit (Artocarpus sp.) to the South Sea islanders and thought it would improve the diet of slaves in the West Indies. The Government took up the idea and put him in charge of an ambitious project to transplant trees from Tahiti to Jamaica. We all know the fate of his attempt in 1789 aboard HMS County! But after the mutiny and surviving a voyage of 4,000 miles in an open boat, he tried again. This time he succeeded and on 17th December 1792 his plant-laden ships, HMS Providence and HMS Assistance, anchored in James' Bay en route for Jamaica.

Viewed from the Castle Terrace "the delightful scene" seemed little short of miraculous, as W.H. Doveton told Bligh on behalf of the Governor and Council.

"[It] raised in them an inexpressible degree of wonder and delight to contemplate a floating garden fraught with what may prove of inestimable value to that part of mankind ... transported in luxuriance from one extremity of the World to the other."

"By His Majesty's goodness", 22 pots of Breadfruit plants, and 36 specimens of other species, were off-loaded and planted under the care of Bligh's botanists. They also left "mountain rice seed" and a cooked sago pudding to show its use. In return they were given "such Plants and Trees from this Island as they wishes for", and after ten days, with "all needful refreshment", they sailed to a 13-gun salute from Ladder Hill and a parting shot from Captain Bligh: "May you live to see a happy result of the labours to serve the Island with the inestimable Fruits." In his journal he was careful to note:

"The principal plants were taken to a valley near [Col. Brooke's] residence called Plantation House, and the rest to James Valley. On 23rd, I saw the whole landed and planted, one plant was given to Major Robson, Lt.-Governor, and one to Mr. Wrangham, the first in Council."

Governor Brooke reported hopefully to the Directors in London: "Most of these Plants are in high health and we trust will do well."

St. Helena was fulfilling a role for which the Island was ideally suited by virtue of its latitude, climate, soil and isolation, that of halfway house for the transmission of plants from one hemisphere to another. For this purpose

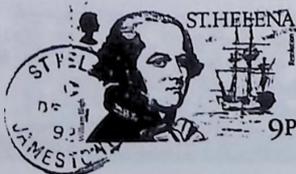
Henry Porteous had been appointed to superintend the botanical garden in James' Valley. His fine house next to the Castle Gardens was to earn him a footnote in history on 16th October 1815 as Napoleon's first lodging in exile, but his real contribution to Island history has yet to be explored. Bligh duly reached the West Indies where signs of his enterprise are still to be seen. "In Kingstown St. Vincent," reports Bain, "there is a notice on an ageing breadfruit tree which commemorates the first such planting there of a Tahitian breadfruit by Captain Bligh." But where is the evidence on St. Helena?

If Bligh's breadfruit flourished no-one noticed them. When in 1808 Thomas Henry Brooke described his uncle's "exertions to promote the natural resources of the island", it was not Bligh's breadfruit nor even his miraculous "floating garden" that he recalled, but mundane increases in livestock and potatoes. Six years later, DR. Roxburgh of Calcutta's botanical garden, listed Island plants during a nine-month stay, but he saw no breadfruit. Neither did another expert observer, Surgeon Frederick D. Bennett of the whaler Tuscan in 1836, though his descriptions of it in the South Pacific - ironically included Pitcairn - occupied 3 pages of his Narrative. Meliss (1875) is similarly silent.

Nevertheless there is a St. Helena breadfruit! I first noticed it listed by Agricultural Officer R.O. Williams in 1977. But from its botanical name *Monstera deliciosa*, its appearance as a prolific climber, and the taste of its fruit, "a mixture of pineapple and banana", it clearly owes nothing to "Breadfruit Bligh's" visit two hundred years ago.

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 BENNETT, F.D: Narrative of a Whaling Voyage round the Globe. (1840) 11 368-370
 BROOKE, T.H: History of St. Helena (1808) 279-280
 GOSSE, P: St. Helena 1502-1938 (1990) 215-217
 MELLISS, J.C: St. Helena, Physical, Historical & Topographical... (1875)
 ROXBURGH, Dr. Wm. (in) BEATSON, A: Tracts Relative to... St. Helena (1816)
 Appx 11
 WILLIAMS, R.O: Plants on St. Helena (1989) 79



Captain Bligh commemorated on Explorers and Navigators definitive stamp.

EN ROUTE TO ST. HELENA
PART THREE

By Christopher Riding

This time I'll start with the cover that I referred to in my previous article, (Supplement No.20) one of my favourites, Illustration No. 1. It was correctly addressed to St. Helena but somewhere the word 'Argentina' was added - in a different ink and style so not written by the sender. On being received in Argentina, where the 'DECLARACION CONJUNTA DE BUENOSAIRES' handstamp was applied, the sorting clerk there did not know where St. Helena was so he forwarded the letter to the Falkland Islands. There it received a very clear 'MISSENT TO FALKLANDS ISLANDS' stamp and a rather fainter Port Stanley backstamp with the date 7th March 1977. Thence to Cape Town on 22nd March and to St. Helena, date of receipt there not known.

I have a few covers sent to Guyana en route to St. Helena but my next is the only one that I know of on which the sorting clerk there, for a reason that we will never know, applied two different styles of his 'MISSENT TO GUYANA' handstamp, Illustration No. 2.

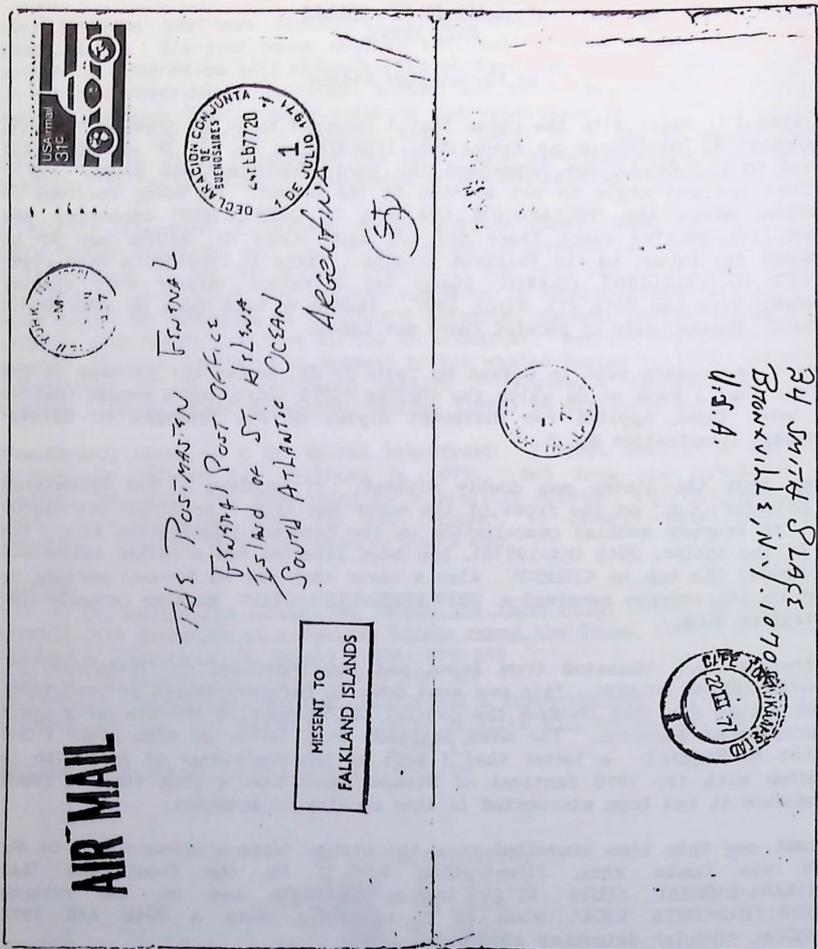
Another from the States was doubly missent. It received a 'Mal Encominado a/El Salvador, C.A.' on the front of the cover and then - or first, one cannot tell - an Uruguay machine cancellation on the reverse, Illustration No.3. The date in the latter, 25th Oct/197(9), has been inverted and a rather indistinct word around the top is 'CORREO'. Also a cover that had no Missent marking on it but on its reverse received a 'SERV.AEREO/STGO.-CHILE' machine cancellation, Illustration NO.4.

Illustration No.5. emanated from Japan and was addressed to 'Jamestown, St. Helena/ASCENSION ISLAND'. This one went down to Paraguay though perhaps there was an excuse for that because the capital of Paraguay is the similarly spelt and pronounced Asuncion. The same happened to a letter of mine after I had returned to England: a letter that I sent to the Postmaster at Ascension in connecton with the 1976 Festival of Stamps issue took a long time to reach him because it had been mis-sorted in this country to Asuncion.

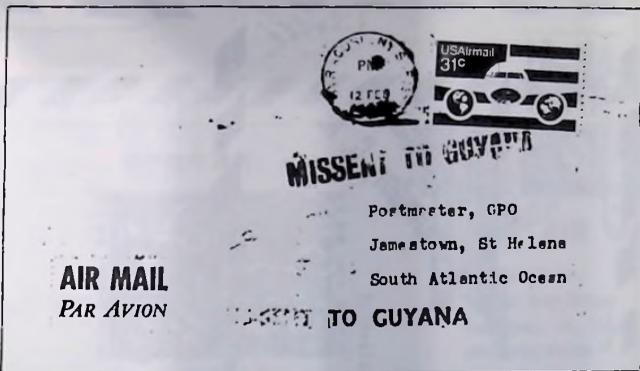
The last one this time travelled from the States (stamps uncanceled) to St. Helena via Costa Rica, Illustration No.6. On the front was 'MAL ENCAMINADA/MISSENT COSTA RICA' in a rectangle and on the reverse 'MAL/REMITIDO/COSTA RICA', also in a rectangle, with a 29th ABR 1978 AEROPOSTAL circular datestamp alongside.

In the final part of this article I'll describe another half-dozen or so covers that have travelled through countries I have not yet referred to.

(to be continued)



COVER No.1
(Illustration reduced by 25%)



COVERS Nos. 2 and 4
(Illustrations reduced by 25%)

George J. Gavrell, M.D.
4151 East Arcadian Drive
Castro Valley, California 94546
U.S.A.



VIA AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO
PAR AVION

Philatelic Bureau
Post Office
Jamestown
ST. HELENA (South Atlantic)

San Salvador, C. A.

COVER No. 3.
(Illustration reduced by 25%)

PAGE 20



COVER No. 5
(Illustration reduced by 25%)

Theodore F. Moech
37 Sanford Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410



United States 13c

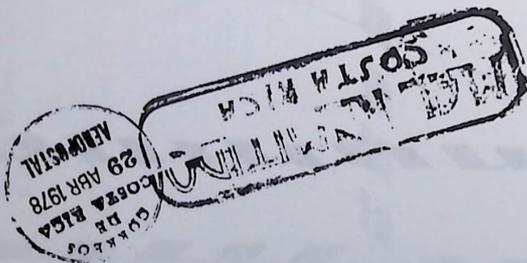


United States 13c



Post Office/Philatelic Bureau
St. Helena
South Atlantic Ocean

MAL ENCAMINADA
MISSENT COSTA RICA



COVER No. 6

A MODERN ASCENSION FORGERY

by Jeremy Martin

By Courtesy of The Royal Philatelic Society, London we are able to reproduce this Ascension cover. It is possibly a ('Madame Joseph') cover with an altered date (Type 24). It shows an attempt to improve unused stamps, in this instance, by simulating use on a letter posted on the day of issue. Which was in fact 19th November 1956.

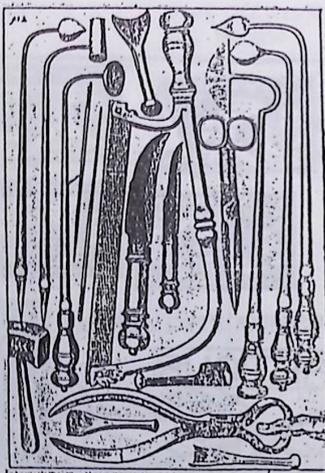


the backstamp
on the envelope

Illustration reduced by 25%

A 17th CENTURY SURGEON AT ST. HELENA:
FRANCIS MOORE 1674-1682

By Trevor Hearl



Some Amputating Instruments
from the Surgeon's Chest

FOREWORD

This memoir, recalling the infant days of the St. Helena Medical Service, is a sequel to 'The Secrets of Surgeon Moore' published in the West Africa Study Circle's St. Helena & Ascension Supplement No.14 (July 1990, pp.21-28). That had been prompted by a letter which I acquired written to Surgeon Francis Moore at St. Helena by his father in 1678. Hedward Hibbert's St. Helena: Postal History and Stamps (1979, p.142) revealed it to have come from the earliest known private correspondence with the Island. Mr. Hibbert kindly made other letters available to me with which, after further research, I sought to probe Surgeon Moore's 'secrets'. Did he return to London, for example, to become the 'Old Moore' of Almanac fame?

Publication usually brings forth fresh evidence to light. In this instance I had the good fortune to interest the St. Helena Government's economic advisor, Mr. Laurence Carter, in my quest. Combining the Island Council's Consultations and In-Letter files for 1674-83 in the Jamestown Archives he generously provided vital source material which revealed many more of the Surgeon's 'secrets'. I am also indebted to the Government Archivist, Mr. Cecil Maggott, for a copy of the surgeon's will. This Francis Moore clearly did not live to become 'Old Moore'!

In the annals of St. Helena, however, he merits honourable mention for his service to the settlement in the hard times that followed its capture from the Dutch. For over seven years he worked in conditions that few other surgeons were prepared to tolerate. Now St. Helena has further reason to be grateful to Surgeon Moore as his letters help to uncover the early years of the St. Helena Medical Service. Hitherto, apart from the appointment of an unknown surgeon in 1668 and Moore's arrival in 1674 at a salary of £25 p.a., its record began virtually in 1684 with the resignation of Thomas Spencer. Thanks to Moore, six earlier surgeons have now been traced covering most of the 'lost' years. This also affords a salutary reminder that the Island's contribution to medical history has yet to be chronicled.

As the importance of Moore's correspondence becomes better known, further letters may yet be brought to light, such as those he mentioned in 1682 to Thomas Lewes at East India House. Meanwhile we can step back 300 years and take a new look at life among the pioneers of 'our Island story'.

SOURCES

[see also 'Notes' after text]

EXTRACTS from St. Helena Consultation and Letters from East India House 1673-84

LETTERS 5/10/1678 Francis Moore (sen), London, to Francis Moore, St. Helena
JANLSCH, H.R. (comp) Extracts from the St. Helena Records (4th edn P.L. Teale 1981)

CRAWFORD Lt. Col.D.G: The St. Helena Medical Service (in) Roll of the Indian Medical Service 1615-1930 (1930) pp.618-622

WOBHALL, John: The Surgeons Mate 1617. With Introduction by John Kirkup (1978)

A 17th CENTURY SURGEON AT ST. HELENA:
FRANCIS MOORE 1674-1682

"Our Iland is very sickly and soe are the soldiers: and ye Medicines were bad at ye first: but are now expended and soe are mine also ye most upon the soldiers: but ye Givernour takes notice of it. I am almost dishartened and wish myselfe upon Ascention where ye fowles would be more kind than ye people here... If I were Chyrurgion of a ship I should live better" (Appendix C)

Surgeon Francis Moore was explaining to Thomas Lewes, a senior official at East India House in 1682, some of the frustrations of serving at St. Helena. His discontent was not only professional, it was personal, "for here is so much pride and hypocrisie that I cannot live under it". Among the causes for his discomfort were the megalomania of the Governor, Major John Blackmore - "noe king desires more obeydiance nor sevritude" - and the arrogance of his family - "their Boy who hectors, swears and dams without contrroll is now placed at ye Governours table". Surgeon Moore had the doubtful privilege of dining with the Governor, but the only favour he then wanted was permission "to come off".

It was almost eight years since Moore first sighted St Helena. He had been appointed in December 1673 "to attend the care of all inhabitants and soldiers of the Island" under the Honourable East India Company's renewed Commission of Government after its recapture from the Dutch by Capt. Richard Munden the previous May. The Company had "always showed a creditable solicitude for the alleviation of sickness and suffering"(1) on their ships and on shore having appointed their first 'factory' surgeon in 1605 at Bantam, followed by Bombay (1610), Madras (1630), Bengal (1645) and St. Helena in 1668. Moore was thus among the earliest members of the St. Helena Medical Service about which, unfortunately, little is known before 1684. He must have passed the Company's examining surgeon (2) however, probably having learned his trade at a London hospital before becoming a member of the United Barber-Surgeon's Company. He would have mastered the Company's health regulations drawn up by its first Surgeon-General, John Woodall, with whose Surgeon's Chest of medicines and instruments, and textbook, The Surgeon's Mate (4th edn. 1655), he must also have been familiar. Produced "chiefly for the benefit of young Sea-Surgeons employed in the East-India Companies affaires", these still dictated the techniques for everything from tooth-drawing and blood-letting to the use of that "great and terrible instrument ... the dismembering sawe". Even trephining was practised with Woodall's instruments and methods,(3) though Moore would also have been equipped for more mundane tasks, such as trimming the hair and shaving the stubble of St. Helena's resident 'roundheads'.

Moore's salary was £25 p.a., with a £5 gratuity if "careful and diligent", little more than the wage of a carpenter. But while low compared with the Rev. William Swindle's £100 as Minister and Schoolmaster, his appointment had its perks. He was to be given 20 acres of land with cattle "as other planters", "sick house rooms and lodgings", a place at the Governor's table, and above all the senior seat on the Island Council below the Deputy-Governor. Thus, when he sailed with the supply ships European and John and Alexander early in 1674

with his wife, a young family and, of course, a Surgeon's Chest, it was with due benevolence towards 'John Company' in general, and St. Helena in particular.

What went wrong? His contract was in no way dishonoured. He was given a 20 acre plantation, with cattle, at the hangings by Sandy Bay ridge; he had two rooms for medical use at James Fort; he dined at the Governor's table, and duly sat at the Council. Nor does he seem to have been on bad terms with his first Governor, Captain Gregory Field, although that official was later said to be dismissed for "incivility". Yet Moore's disenchantment was such that before a year was out he had applied to return home. Whatever complaints he voiced later about despotism and medical supplies - a common grumble among surgeons in the tropics - it is likely that as Londoners the Moores were ill-prepared for life in a tight-knit isolated community or for producing household needs from the land. In smoky, plague-ridden London, St. Helena must have seemed a healthy and luxuriant paradise, but its appeal soon palled. Nor were the puritanical Moores the only unhappy family. Plagued by gossip, rumour, and probably Royalist/Roundhead discord, unrest in the colony was rife, seeming to Company officials in London to derive "chiefly from a want of energy in the Government." (4)

Moore's request for a passage home was, in fact, granted by the Company in March 1675. But on one condition; he must await a replacement either from home or from one of "our returning ships". "A small chirurgery chest" duly arrived but no surgeon came with it, and Moore tried recruiting a colleague from ships anchoring in James Bay. This taught him another predicament of serving at St. Helena. As the last port of call from the East, all on board had only one wish - to get home. The unhappy surgeon was stuck! The next year (1676) he watched frustrated, as Richard Hull, who came out with him, was put on "the first ship" home at the request of friends in London. A surgeon's services, like a chaplain's were not so easily spared, however, and thus similarly 1677 came and went. After four years' service, Moore was still awaiting a successor.

His hope revived in 1678, however. Moore's father (also Francis Moore) had pressed for his son's return, and the Company assured him a replacement was on the way. At this joyful news the surgeon put his wife and four children on the next ship and, having given up the plantation, confidently prepared to leave. Whether in celebration or consolation, Governor Field had, in March, sent Moore senior a present of "a silver-headed cane" by the hand of the astronomer Edmond Halley who, with his assistant, Clerke, had spent 13 months on the island mapping the stars of the southern sky. It is not known if they needed Moore's services, but ironically it was Halley's complaint that led to Field's recall. (5)

But what of surgeon Moore? By October 1678 it was clear to his family in London that he could not join them before that year's ships returned in 1679. His father therefore wrote by the supply ship *Loyal Subject* to confirm that someone had to be sent "to take charge from you" and report that his wife and family had arrived "in good health" on 6th August.

"Shee hath taken a house upon Stepnay Caussy lately built...We all wish you a prosperous voyage and pray god to send you safe to london for wee all long to see you." He added pointedly that "if you had come with them the Company would have employed you in there services if you had liked there proposals". (Appendix B)

Meanwhile a new Governor presided at St. Helena. Major John Blackmore, who was given greater authority by the Company to curb disorder on the island, did not appoint the departing surgeon to his Council. But what of Moore's replacement? None arrived that year, or during the 1679 sailing season; nor, Council noted bitterly, could one be lured "out of any of this yeares returning ships". In May (1679) Moore must have felt he had nothing to lose by taking his father's advice, for he then left the Island to join his family in London.

His departure reveals that St. Helena was not, in fact, without medical cover. The Council soon found a temporary successor from among the inhabitants in William Hunt, "for some good time a practitioner in physick and chirurgery in England and on the Island". Presumably called out of retirement, he received a salary of £25 from 19th May 1679 for one year, or until "the Honourable Company (our masters) shall send another to this place." Predictably a year later St. Helena was again without a Medical Officer as Hunt resigned promptly in May 1680. Martinet Major Blackmore proved equal to the emergency. Finding that "no such person could be gotten out of the coast fleet or ship Caesar", he stressed the "great necessity of such an officer for this Island", and ordered "Matthew Pouncy inhabitant" to fill the post as "one that hath exercised and practised chyrurgery both upon the land and several places on the sea". He was offered £20 for a years contract from June "unless the Hon. Company our Masters do in the meantime send hither any Chyrurgeon". That two experienced practitioners were to be found at an infant colony of under 500 souls seems unusual; it also suggests that Moore's anxieties had been more for his career than for leaving the Island without medical cover. (Appendix A)

The Company had, in fact, sent their South Atlantic outpost a Surgeon on this occasion. He arrived in July 1680 on the supply ship Society. Astonishment at St. Helena's unusual good fortune could not have been greater to find that he was none other than "Mr. Francis Moore...having a desire to return to the Island...with his wife and ffamily". Were home prospects so bleak that he was better off under Governor Blackmore? For despite all his protests he even contemplated sending for his recently widowed fater to live with them at St. Helena. So to what kind of life and work had he committed himself and his family in 1680?

To take domestic circumstances first. He was paid £30 p.a., and an allowance of 8 months' provisions for his family (now five children) "till his plantation can give him a supply." (6) Their house was in "four acres of cleared and enclosed ground" perhaps at his old plantation by "the hangings toward Sandy Bay ridge".

This may have been extended from 20 to 40 acres, as allowed from 1677, for he had to let Lt. Johnson, who had taken 30 acres near High Peak in 1679, take one hundred Yams a week for three months from his land as if they were his crop. Yams were grown for the slaves of whom, at this time of labour shortage, Moore had two: a girl Mully, for domestic duties, and a man Sattoe for working the plantation. Could the surgeon have been given the same Sottee whose right hand he had presumably cut off by order of Council in November 1679 as punishment for knifing his master, John Boston? Whoever he was, he worked as a stockman for Moore who grazed cattle rather than raised crops, providing milk, meat, and an income to buy the Company's subsidised provisions. When their free allowance ended, Moore asked for - and was granted - permanent free rations for himself because he spent "more of his time in the country among the inhabitants and such soldiers as quartered with them...than at the fort where the general table is kept. The Company's rations hardly sound appealing: "Dr. Moore & ffamily 6 persons - 5lb bread, 6 packets [?] of rice, 120 lb. of boifs [beef?] monthly." Yet as this was the accepted diet in the tropics, it is understandable that Moore and most fellow settlers - time-expired soldiers and 'refugees' from the Great Fire of London with little interest or skill in farming - should prefer purchasing provisions at cost to producing their own. St. Helena's economic problems were already being sown.

What then of Surgeon Moore's professional duties? He had two "sick house rooms" at the Fort for his surgery but, as he remarked, most of his time was spent treating settlers and soldiers in their homes, troops being boarded with inhabitants at £6 p.a. Since 1676 their numbers had been reduced to fifty in line with Company policy to train white residents as militiamen responsible for their own defence. No mention is made of a horse for the surgeon but without one it would be hard going visiting his scattered patients. Medicaments came from his Surgeon's Chest but his complaints of their quality and quantity may have encouraged him, in the spirit of the age, to start a 'physic garden' rather than rely on wild herbs, the garden at James Fort being first enclosed in Moore's time in January 1682. His comment in February that "ye Medicines were bad at ye first but are now expended, and mine also", suggests that he had augmented the Colony's basic supply on his return in 1680.

How were the Company's surgeons equipped? For each ship settlement a fully-fitted, massive wooden iron-bound chest was provided, based on a sturdy if intricate design by John Woodall. Constructed in three layers it contained no fewer than 270 medicines in separate compartments labelled, not in the usual Latin, but in English. Some surgical tools - 75 basic items excluding spares were fitted into the lid; others were packed separately such as craniological instruments for trepanning, and a barber's case with razors, ear-pickers, paring knives (for corn cutting) and dental forceps. A further range of basic nursing and medical equipment was issued for sick rooms, including cupping glasses, bleding bowls, apothecaries' scales, pails, splints, pestells and mortars, even lantern and tinder box, ink and quills. A surgeon in the Company's service had to be self-sufficient.

Woodall's advice in the use of this material was strongly influenced by eight years spent at Stade in North Germany. Thus he stressed cleanliness and careful maintenance of instruments; preferred conservative treatment to amputation; warned that "the temper" of patients' teeth be noted in selecting forceps of the right grade of steel to avoid shattering; advised preventive treatment of common ailments, especially scurvy by prescribing the regular use of lemons or available citrus fruits; and cautioned against reliance on strong drugs. Although enlightened and practical in his approach, Woodall's theories were naturally embedded in the teaching of his times, such as warning against major surgery at the full moon. Readers wishing to study his manual, *The Surgeons Mate*, will find it reproduced and discussed by John Kirkup in a modern edition (1978).

TO BE CONTINUED

DANISH & NORWEGIAN CONSULATE HANDSTAMPS

I have recently been sent by Barbara George, Secretary of the St. Helena Heritage Society photocopies of three handstamps. These handstamps were owned by the late Major Moss who was Hon Consul for Denmark and Norway. Has any member seen these handstamps used on covers from St. Helena? I would be very grateful for any information regarding the handstamps, or Major Moss.

Hon Editor.



ASCENSION KGV1 1d.

By Leon Jacobson

I have a block of six of the 1938 1d. which does not show the long bar to the "E" Row 2/3. The Row 2/2 re-entry unfortunately does not show up on the photocopy but is there.



(Bernard Hughes comments) I did touch on this in Supplement No. 20 page 7. Quite a few collectors have examples, but there are more examples with the flaw around. In two recent Ascension Island Study Group auctions a complete sheet went for £105 (1991) and a block of four for £35 (1993). Richard Lockyer (Gibbons Stamp Monthly Aug 1986, pages 43/44) writes that most examples appear to be tropicalised, but that shades vary. He suggests that the long "E" arises from a retouch and therefore that a state with the middle bar missing or broken might exist. I doubt this myself - the flaw looks to me more likely to result from foreign material becoming embedded on the Plate. If it is a retouch, it seems a very poor retouch! If it arose by accident, I don't think any records could demonstrate how many sheets had the flaw and how many did not. Lockyer has looked at the printers records but there is nothing to demonstrate one way or the other as to whether a retouch was needed, let alone how many sheets might have had such a retouch - if there was one!

AUCTION NEWS

Stephan Wertz & Co (Johannesburg) auctioned the De Witt Hamer correspondence in their auction of 230th March 1994. This was a massive correspondence of some 700 covers and cards, unfortunately I have not had a list of prices realised. There were some very rare items in this sale and I hope to have a full review in the next Supplement.

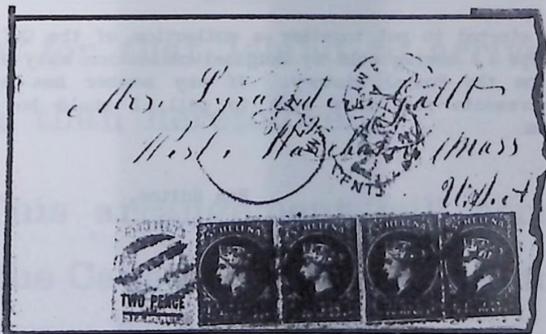
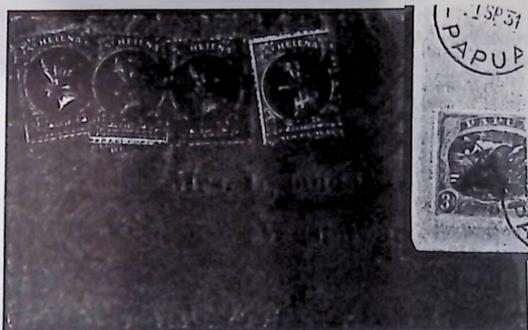
Harmers of London have given me kind permission to reproduce photostats of three rare covers that they are auctioning on 21st July 1994. The three covers all show the 1/5d. rate to the U.S.A. the 1/5d. rate to Canada and the U.S.A. was in use between 27th April 1863 and 30th June 1876; Hibbert records seven covers with this rate, two to Canada dated 1863 and to the U.S.A. dated Feb 1868, Dec 1868 (Ex Hon Editors collection), Jan 1870, April 1870 and May 1873. The three covers to be auctioned are all to the same addressee. There were several American whaling ships at St. Helena around 1870s so it is possible that they are from a whaling ships' captain to his wife.

The covers are dated March? 1870 franked with 1868 1d. (2) 3d. and 1/-, unclear oval date stamp overstruck by New York date stamp and 2cents carrier charge handstamp. The cover shows a manuscript rate of "6" possibly made up as follows 1d. due to St. Helena plus 5d. for the postage from the U.K. to the U.S.A. *(Packet Rate from St. Helena to the U.K. 1/- - 11d. due to the U.K., 1d. due to St. Helena plus 5d. from the U.K. to the U.S.A. making the 1/5d. rate).*

The second cover is dated 1870 date unclear but has a London transit of 19th November 1870. The cover is franked 1868 2d. and 1/- with manuscript "3" for the balance of the 1/5d. postage rate being paid in cash (See Hibbert St. Helena The Postal History & Stamps page 43). This cover New York date stamp and 2cents carrier charge handstamp struck across the 1/- stamp.

The third cover is dated 27th April 1871 and is franked with 1868 2d. and a strip of three and a single 1868 3d.. The balance of the 1/5d. postage rate being once again paid in cash which is denoted by the manuscript "3". London and New York transit marks and 2cents carrier charge handstamp.

Also included in this sale is a large selection of the 1922-37 Badge Issue with Colour Trials, Torn Flag, Cleft Rock and Broken Mast varieties.



ST. HELENA INTERNAL POST

Information just received from Wick Thorpe on St. Helena is that from the 1st June 1994 a new door-to-door delivery service will come into effect.

INTERNAL POSTAGE RATES AND OTHER CHARGES

IN compliance with the new door-to-door internal delivery the following postage rates will come into effect from 1 June 1994.

(i)	Letters	£
	For the first 50g or part thereof	0.05
	each additional 50g or part thereof	0.03
	(Maximum weight 2Kg)	
(ii)	Postcards	0.05
(iii)	Printed matter and small packets	
	For the first 30g or part thereof	0.05
	For each additional 20g	0.02
(iv)	Special charges	
	a. Registration fee	0.35
	b. Recorded delivery	0.30
	c. Advice of delivery	0.26
	d. Private bag (to be supplied by the user)	
	for collection and delivery by the Postman.	
	Annual fee	20.00

WANTED**ST. HELENA QUEEN VICTORIA STAMPS**

I have recently started to put together a collection of the Q.V. stamps from 1856 to 1894 (Type 1.) having sold my original collection many years ago when I concentrated on the Postal History. If any member has any duplicates surplus to requirements that they wish to sell, I would be interested in hearing from them.

Hon Editor.

No. 12, 1866.



MAILS FOR ST. HELENA.

THE Mail Packets leaving Devonport on the 10th of each month for the Cape of Good Hope, which have hitherto called at St. Helena on the homeward voyage only, will, in future, call there *on the outward voyage* also; thus causing letters for that Island to arrive much sooner than heretofore.

This arrangement will commence with the Cape Packet appointed to leave Devonport on the 10th instant.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
5th March, 1866.

No. 35.

13 SEP 7 1875

3088



ASCENSION.

THE Mails for Ascension have hitherto been despatched from England by each of the three Packets sailing monthly for the Cape of Good Hope, for delivery by the first homeward Packet touching at the Island, but, as only one of the Packets calls at Ascension on the homeward voyage, it is found that the practice of sending the Mails from England three times a month to the Cape is, in two cases, attended with no advantage whatever.

For the future, therefore, Mails for Ascension will be made up in London only once in each month, viz. :—

Via Southampton on the morning of the 15th, with a supplementary despatch via Plymouth the same evening.

These Mails, instead of being carried on to the Cape, as formerly, will be landed at St. Helena, for return thence by the first homeward Packet.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.