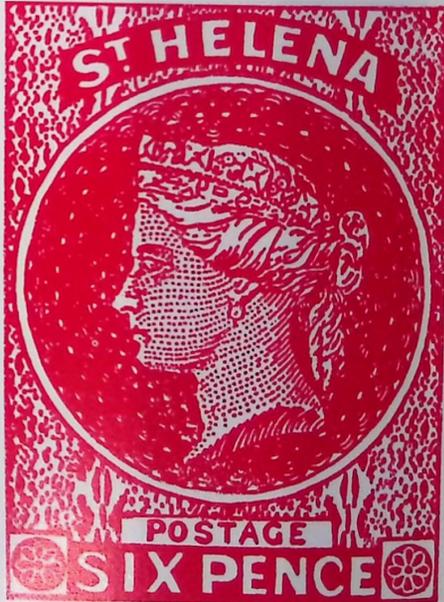


The *West* Africa Study Circle

St. Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 39



The West Africa Study Circle

ST. HELENA AND ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT

Number 39 January 2003

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The West Africa Study Circle

St. Helena and Ascension Supplement
Number 39 January 2003

EDITORIAL

Bernard Mabbett and Robert Johnson at Post Box
on summit of Flagstaff, St Helena

See article page 4



Apologies for the late publication of this issue due to my two lengthy holidays in November and January, but if all goes to plan it should be despatched the first week in February.

I would like to publicly thank Bernard Mabbett, Bob Deakin, Jeremy Martin, Peter Cottis, Richard Payne and Stefan Heijtz for contributing to the truly superb display at 41 Devonshire Place on 9 November. A report should appear in John Powell's Newsletter so I will not go into details here, but those not attending missed a unique opportunity to see such material.

Readers hoping to see the next part on Sorting the KG VI Definitives will, I'm afraid, have to wait a while. During my London visit in November I called at the British Library and found some conflicting information regarding the printings. I hope to return this year to dig deeper!

This is likely to be the last issue of the *Supplement* in its present format. It has been decided to publish *Cameo* three times a year (January, May and September), one issue of which should be devoted to St Helena and Ascension and distributed to all WASC members. The exact details need to be finalised, but in all probability the September edition will have the next South Atlantic content, so please send me your letters and articles as usual.

I will end by sending you all best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2003.

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YOUR LETTERS



Your comments on any letters and articles, or on the style and content of the Supplement are most welcome, as also is correspondence on any philatelic subject which may be of interest to our readership. Please respond via the editor, by letter or e-mail. My addresses are on Page 2.

Robert Johnson has forwarded me the following (edited) letter he received from Martin Crawford in South Africa. If any readers wish to respond, please get in touch with me and I will put you in contact with Martin.

St Helena Picture Postcards, Lettercards & Foldcards

Dear Robert,

My wife Marilyn and I have been collecting St Helena picture postcards for a few years. At the same time I have been developing a listing of all known St Helena cards. This now has over 870 entries and the list covers all periods from 1897 to the latest PC's issued for the new museum's opening. While on the Island in April/May this year, I spoke to various people on the Heritage committee and at the new museum and they were all in favour of a copy of the results of this research eventually being lodged in the museum, maybe as a static display, or online when their computer system is operational, or both.

The purpose of my letter is to ask whether your readers have any postcard information which they would be willing to share. I catalogue the cards in approximate date order according to publisher and the idea is to precede each section with information about the publisher. I did a certain amount of research into the publishers whilst on the Island, but found information on some is scarce or non-existent. I am therefore particularly interested on any help on the lives of the postcard publishers, both those who had substantial runs of cards, e.g.:

AL Innes, Frank (a Dutch publisher), Jackson (we have gained some info from EL's book), TLM Adams, Thorpe (have already got much information from Nick T.), Edward Warren and Marion (printers). Also those who produced 'one-offs' or Boer War cards. Innes especially seems to be a mystery. Where did he come from (UK?) and where did he go after leaving the Island in the early 1900's? Was he a shopkeeper?

If you know of any collectors of St Helena cards, I would appreciate being put in touch with them. Many thanks!

Martin Crawford
Western Cape, South Africa

NOTES FROM TWO SMALL ISLANDS

(With apologies to Bill Bryson)

Barry Burns

Most readers will be aware that in May 2002, several members of the West Africa Study Circle joined me in a visit to St Helena to coincide with the Quincentenary of the Island's discovery in 1502. Our return was via Ascension Island.

This is my personal recollection of this memorable journey, put together from notes made in my diary at the time. It is not intended to be a full summary of the celebrations - I leave that to other better qualified reporters. Some of the detail may seem superfluous, for instance the timings and menus, but they do give an insight into travelling to this fascinating part of the world and of course I am something of an 'anorak' - being a rail enthusiast!

So join Alan Scrine, Bernard Mabbett, Richard Payne, Robert Johnson and myself as we head for the South Atlantic...

Sunday 5 May

Leave Stokesley, North Yorkshire by car at 07.55 hours. Weather sunny and mild. A172, A19, A168, A1, A14, M11, A505, A1301, B184, B1053. After 222 miles and breaks for coffee and toilet arrive Great Sampford, Essex at 12.20. Bernard already here. Lunch at Richard's. Leave by taxi 13.20. Arrive Stanstead Airport 13.35, departing on Jetlink 727 bus at 13.42. Arrive London Heathrow Terminal 1 at 14.30. After coffee meet up with Alan and Robert and have meal together. Board Boeing 747 ZS-SAU at 20.30 for South African Airways SA 221 21.05 hours flight to Cape Town. At 21.30 Captain announces instrument problem. Flight cancelled at 21.50 - fuel gauge misreading. Dinner served on board - fillet steak - excellent. 23.45 leave aircraft for Renaissance Hotel. Single rooms, very plush, very expensive - but free to us. Lights Out (LO) 00.30.

Monday 6 May

Early Morning Call (EMC) 07.30. Free breakfast 08.15. 10.30 go for walk outside hotel - weather dull and damp. Wonder why largish group gathered outside with cameras on poor day, then - Concord takes off - superb aircraft - superb sight - superb noise! Nothing, absolutely nothing, of interest to see around hotel. 12.30 free lunch. Leave hotel 14.00 on minibus. Take off 16.43 on rescheduled SA 221 16.30 to Cape Town. Boeing 747 ZS-SAP flown from Johannesburg to deputise. Fillet steak - again - and again excellent. Good flight, no complaints. Apologies from airline, with voucher for half price future flight - unfortunately time-dated so of no use to us.

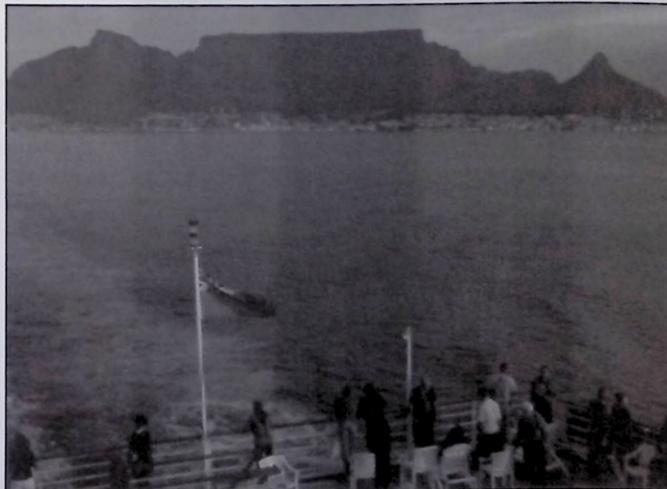
Tuesday 7 May

05.40 (04.40 British Summer Time - BST) arrive Cape Town. Immigration and Customs quickly negotiated - no other arrivals at this early hour! 06.30 arrive Town House Hotel, very comfortable as in 1998. To bed! Get up 11.00 and shower. Andrew Duncan, the WASC member and friend we had met in 1998, arrives and takes Bernard and I to his home below Table Mountain. Renew acquaintance with his delightful wife Sandy - examine his quite superb Ascension and Papua - New Guinea collections. Beautifully written up and presented. Memo - must take action on my collection. Drive with Andrew and Sandy to Camps Bay, lunch at Trinidad Restaurant. Swordfish - super. Afterwards Victoria and Albert Waterfront. 20.00 dinner at Town House - excellent.

Wednesday 8 May

EMC 07.00. Weather mild and sunny, a beautiful day. Breakfast at Townhouse. Pay bill - accommodation and meals only 574 Rand each - equivalent to £46 - excellent value - for Brits! 10.00 leave hotel with Andrew to visit shops and Post Office. Bernard buys diamond and platinum ring for Lesley and is delighted. I buy nothing for Eileen and feel guilty! Lunch at Waterfront then to Town House for 14.00 departure by minibus for quayside arriving *RMS St Helena* at 14.20. Surprise, surprise! Who should be on the quay but Peter and Angela Johnston of Cape Town - two of the many good friends we had made in 1998. We did not know of their return visit to St Helena - they unaware of ours. I share cabin A5 with Alan and Bernard. Richard and Robert next door in A7. Goodbye to Andrew Duncan - 16.00 emergency muster in sun lounge. 16.30 leave quayside. No Pomp and Circumstance March as played in 1998.

Cape Town from
RMS St Helena



20.00 Dinner - second sitting - Table 12 - Martin our waiter. Melon, asparagus soup, kingclip (a fish), chocolate layered cheesecake - lovely. To hell with the diet! 21.30 coffee in lounge, walk on deck before retiring, clocks go back one hour.

Thursday 9 May

Establish routine for day - 07.00 EMC, tea or coffee in bed, Ocean Mail arrives, 08.00 breakfast in dining room. Today, sea with very slight swell, weather fine, broken cloud. Crossword / Daily News on sun deck. Deck Quoits for the energetic! 12.15 lunch in dining room - vegetable soup, grilled plaice, almond and pear flan. 13.30 sitting on sun deck writing postcards and letters - for the ship handstamps and possible paquebot markings. 16.30 afternoon tea with sandwiches. Need to be quick for these - travelling Saints don't hold back! Bernard - the ornithologist, now in his element - points out an Albatross and 3 Sooty Shearwaters - been following ship most of day. 18.00 Captain Martin Smith's cocktail party in main lounge then dinner - trout, smoky bacon soup, halibut, spotted dick, all accompanied by 'RMS St Helena' red wine. Coffee in lounge then stroll on deck. LO 23.30.

Friday 10 May

Very slight swell, broken cloud, warm. Walk on deck before breakfast. Try porridge - superb! Sun deck until coffee at 10.00 then talk by Robin Castell on history of St Helena. 12.00 salad lunch on sun deck - lazy afternoon. Yes, another!! Very quick visit to exercise room, but why spoil a good day? After usual afternoon tea more postcard writing - pre-dinner drinks in main lounge at 19.00. Meet Sydney George, returning to Island for first time in 39 years! Dinner tonight: tiger prawns, brown Windsor soup, musselcracker (another fish), pecan nut pie. 22.00 deck skittles followed by 'Colour Blind' duo - Frankie and Mark. LO 23.45.

Saturday 11 May

Calm sea, partial cloud, warm. Beautiful day, but nothing in sight for second day running! No ships, no birds, nothing. 10.00 video of Governor's Cup Race to St Helena. 11.00 beef tea in sun lounge. Cricket on cargo deck - don't participate but take rare opportunity to explore bows and this area of deck - usually off limits. Lunch today - celery soup, bluefish, rhubarb and apple pie. Reading on sun deck until afternoon tea followed by Percy Teal's humorous talk on St Helena life. Gin and tonics before dinner - duck breast, potato and leek soup, chicken, sticky toffee pudding. After coffee, casino night in sun lounge. Pontoon with the Captain, and liar dice with Robert, amongst the many games on offer. LO 23.45.

Sunday 12 May

Calm sea, cloudy, warm. After breakfast settle shop and bar account. Fortunately they take credit card - no surcharge. 10.30 religious service in main lounge. 11.00 beef tea followed by suitcase packing, in turns due to space restrictions. How many shirts Alan? Salad lunch in sun

lounge - another lazy afternoon sunbathing. Cloudy but very warm. After tea, talk by purser Colin Dellar on arrival at St Helena - Frater and Johnston videos. 18.00 Bernard finishes the communal jigsaw - apart from the missing piece. 20.00 BBQ on sun deck followed by singing and dancing to Colour Blind. After the party, look up to the stars including Southern Cross - in this unpolluted environment a magnificent sight. LO 23.45. Clocks go back one hour. Sleep badly - too much meat, too much alcohol.

Monday 13 May

EMC 06.15. On deck by 06.25 - St Helena in sight - excitement! Sea calm, cloudy, very warm and humid. 07.45 breakfast, drop anchor 07.56 in James Bay - slight rain! Immigration procedures on board - £11 to pay. Launch takes passengers ashore - for me at 09.11 - after four years away. How does Sydney George feel after thirty nine? By bus to Consulate Hotel, arriving 09.35. Bernard and I share Room 12 above Solomon's - the Honeymoon Suite, according to the maid! Fortunately it has twin beds - the name referring to the magnificent window design - not our amorous activities. 10.00 coffee and cakes in lounge - introduction to the hotel and facilities by Mandy and Denzil Fowler. 10.30 Tracey Corker arrives - gives details and takes bookings for Charabanc and Land Rover tours. £12 per head per day including packed lunch - seems reasonable. 12.15 to Anne's Place in Castle Gardens - fishcake lunch with Castle beer - £2.60. After unpacking leave at 14.30 - walk via Napoleon Street and Market Street to visit Colin Quinn at the Garden Flat, Cambrian House. Colin, a Brit living in Australia and world traveller - no stranger to St Helena. Tea and biscuits on veranda. Colin shows us long term resident at Cambrian House - 16 H.P. Austin saloon car - reputedly used for the Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and their children in 1947. Depart 16.40 via the 'Run', the path following the stream down into Jamestown. 17.10 arrive Consulate, 18.25 Edith Timm - friend from 1998 - drops by. We suggest dinner together on Saturday - BMB to arrange. 19.00 dinner at Consulate - mushroom soup, stuffed loin of pork (very fatty) and apple crumble. 20.30 walk to Quay to see RMS followed by beers at the White Horse. A truly memorable day, especially for the first time visitors. LO 22.40.



Austin 16 h.p. saloon at Cambrian House

Tuesday 14 May

07.00 EMC. Tea in bed, thanks Bernard. 08.15 breakfast at Consulate. Establish routine for our stay on the Island - only variation being responsibility for early drink depending on who

needs toilet first! 09.54 depart hotel on Charabanc trip 1 - Colin Corker - owner, guide and driver. Alan and Bernard stay behind, having 'been there' in 1998 but I go - for the video. 10.15 arrive The Briars, shown around by Audrey Constantine. 11.25 arrive Longwood House - £2 entrance but interesting talk by 'Jay Jay' Smith. Picnic lunch then leave at 13.35 for Napoleon's Tomb - workman hoists Tricolour for photographs. 14.40 depart via Woody Ridge flax mill, Silver Hill shop, Powell's Valley and Bamboo Hedge to Plantation House arriving 17.10. Photograph Jonathan, Diana and other (unnamed?) giant tortoise. Return via Ladder Hill to Jamestown. 19.00 dinner at Anne's Place - vegetable soup, roast chicken, fruit flan. Walk to quay before retiring.

Wednesday 15 May

We all leave Consulate at 10.18 on Charabanc trip 2 - to the South West of the Island via St Helena and the Cross church, Sandy Bay Ridge, Broadbottom and Harpers Dam to the Prince Andrew School arriving 12.00. Guides Anthony and Kerry show us round - normal school day. Picnic lunch in grounds before leaving at 14.00 to Knollcombes - visit Boer Cemetery. Then St Paul's and Broadcasting House at Pounceys. Quick tour around facilities here - witness smooth handover from BBC World Service to St Helena Radio at 15.00. Arrive Scotland 15.10 to see the very rare Boxwood tree. Return via Oaklands, Half Tree Hollow (HTH) arriving Jamestown 17.00. Interesting day, but trip 1 probably best if only time for one. Dinner at Anne's Place again - Bernard wants chicken and chips - tonight with vegetable soup and apple crumble and ice cream followed by coffee. An early bed at 22.55.

Thursday 16 May

Visit Post Office - book appointment with Postmistress - Beverly Francis. Sign visitor's book at Tourist Office. 09.58 depart in Aubrey's off-road Land Rover tour to Fairyland - above Sandy Bay - extremely windy - mist rolling in from sea - lovely views - spectacular drive. 12.35 picnic lunch at George Benjamin's Arboretum then High Knoll Fort arriving 12.55. Workmen preparing stage for all day musical spectacular on 22 May - and manage to get Portaloos wedged under archway - hope they are 'free' for event! Arrive Jamestown 14.00 - go straight to Castle Archives and examine Government Secretary's Reports - thanks Maureen Stevens - find and photocopy much useful information. Watch this space! Tea at Consulate before leaving at 18.10 in Charabanc - Pub Cruise. First stop Pub Paradise, Longwood. Very quiet at this time - meal of rice and sweet corn (both cold) and stew (hot) with beers. Leave 19.35 for Oasis, HTH. Very basic - local lads playing Pool - beers this time with sausages and fish fingers - both cold - on (separate!) sticks. Depart 21.10 for Godfather's Rock Club, HTH. Very, very, noisy! Cheese Puffs with beer - the remaining sausages and fish fingers - now even colder - like us - having travelled in the open charabanc. Return to Consulate 22.20 after interesting evening with plenty to drink and eat - if you want it! Recommended for the experience. LO 23.00.

Friday 17 May

09.00 meeting at Post Office - Beverly Francis, Alan and Bernard (Supplement 38, page 12), 10.15 to Archives then lunch at Anne's Place - stock up at Post Office - return to Archives for 13.45. 16.00 tea at Consulate then Bernard and I approach foot of Jacob's Ladder with some trepidation. Start ascent at 17.21, reaching the top - 699 steps later - at 17.38. 17 minutes and 6 seconds - not too bad I think. Bernard follows a little later - suitably caught on video - with unrepeatable expletive on reaching top! Start descent at 17.50 - arrive base camp 18.03. Meet Dot, of former Café fame - but now retired, at Miss St Helena 2002 contest at Consulate. Give her photos from our 1998 meeting. Noleen Fowler wins title in our absence as we have dinner at Donny's Place on the Quay. T bone steak, chips and salad, fruit salad and blueberry ice followed by coffee. Not bad for £5 - and excellent too! Discuss morning meeting with Beverly before addressing envelopes and cards for tomorrow's visit to the Sub Post Offices. LO midnight.

Saturday 18 May

Telephone Edith regarding tonight's dinner - meet Irene at Harris's Guest House in Main Street - discuss menu. More stamps from P.O. before departure at 09.30 in Robert Peter's Datsun pick-up for the Sub Post Offices. First stop Solomon's Longwood Supermarket at 09.55 (Longwood) then Solomon's Silver Hill Shop at 10.22 (Levelwood) At each office, post letters and cards and take photographs. Who knows when they may close? Solomon's Sandy Bay Shop at 10.54 (Sandy Bay), Mrs Audrey Yon's Shop at Blue Hill 11.20 (Blue Hill) and Red Hill Shop at 11.45 (St. Pauls 2). Here, the proprietor is Mrs Phyllis Peters - mother of Beverly Francis - Post Box a carrier bag! Then 12.05 Solomon's Shop at Guinea Grass (St. Pauls 1), 12.20 Mrs Doris Yon's Shop at New Ground (New Ground) - Post Box a canvas bag - box recently damaged. Two posting points at HTH - Eric Andrew's Shop - Solomon's Spar Supermarket (Half Tree Hollow). Following this marathon, a break at Ladder Hill to photograph the cannon - admire the view. 13.45 welcome lunch at Donny's Place - cheeseburgers and chips - then walk around Castle Walls looking for six Postal Stones used during the rebuilding. Manage to locate them with some difficulty - duly photograph for reference. The more energetic (Alan and Robert) swim in the open air pool before we all take tea on Consulate veranda. Robert, in surprising burst of activity, decides to climb Jacob's Ladder before we get ready for dinner with Edith Timm at Harris's Guest House. Excellent meal - mushroom soup, chicken, croquette potatoes, peas, carrots, crème caramel and fresh fruit salad and ice cream, followed by coffee - interesting conversation with Edith regarding air access. An interesting and enjoyable day. LO midnight.

Sunday 19 May

No laundry facilities at hotel today - hand wash two pairs of underwear! 09.30 Bernard, Robert and I depart - Ford Sierra taxi - arriving Longwood 09.45. Walk over Deadwood Plain, photograph site of Boer Prisoner of War camp, recently constructed wind farm and wirebirds

(quite a number). 11.10 arrive at summit of Flagstaff Hill - discover - much to our surprise - a newly erected posting box and handstamp. Write makeshift covers from scrap paper in camera bag and stamp edging from stamps! Apply handstamp cachets to them for later posting.



Cover 'made' on summit of Flagstaff - note stamp sheet margins used to seal edges
30p Wirebird stamp (airmail rate) cancelled Jamestown oval datestamp 24 May 2002

Relax and partake of packed lunch from Consulate - cheese, ham and lettuce sandwiches, cheese and onion crisps, apple, Mars bar and fruit juice. Very enjoyable in fine location - excellent and dramatic views over the sea and to the barren north-east corner of the Island. Witness the almost simultaneous arrival of the *RMS* from its shuttle to Ascension Island - and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Ship *Grey Rover* - visiting for the Quincentenary (Q5) celebrations. Depart 12.35, arriving Longwood 14.00 and Jamestown (by taxi) 14.15. After these exertions, tea on bed at Consulate before walk to quay - see the two recent arrivals anchored in James Bay. Meet up with Alan and Richard, who had enjoyed the barbeque lunch at the Mule Yard. Pineapple drinks all round, courtesy Bernard, and ice creams courtesy Richard. Their reward? - a soaking as a freak wave breaks over the quay as we look the other way at the crowds enjoying the sunshine. Meet Robin Castell - invites us in his pick-up to visit his collection of maps and prints of the Island. Arrive Prince's Lodge 17.50 - red wine - view this quite magnificent collection - beautifully arranged in several rooms. 19.00 dinner at Consulate - chicken soup, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, sliced green beans and mixed vegetables, jam sponge and custard, and coffee. Our best meal at the hotel. 20.30

walk off dinner going to Quay to see the two ships - music playing in the Mule Yard. Afterwards, drinks on hotel veranda with Colin rounds off another full day.

Monday 20 May

Bernard wakes with sore throat and cold but - good news - laundry back in business! We tell Peter and Angela of our successful visit to Flagstaff but they are not impressed - they walk every day - further and more demanding than ours! More stamps from Post Office before Richard and I depart in Aubrey's Land Rover for Sandy Bay. Meet Ann and Alan Ashworth from Wells, Norfolk - just arrived on the *RMS* from the U.K. via Ascension. At 10.20 notice another ship anchored in James Bay - the *RMS* and *Grey Rover* joined by the French Naval Patrol Vessel *Albatross* on call from the Antarctic for the celebrations. 11.20 visit Baptist Chapel nestling at the foot of Lot - once famed for its double seated latrine(!) - now unfortunately replaced. 11.40 arrive Sandy Bay beach for photographs - stroll around - insufficient time for the interesting walk to Lot's Wife's Ponds. 12.55 depart, stopping for packed lunch outside Sandy Bay shop. 14.40 another visit to Knollcombes - this time concentrate on the church rather than the graves. After calling at St Paul's Cathedral, view the *RMS* departing on a Round the Island tour for Saints, from the excellent vantage point that is High Knoll. Return to Consulate for tea at 16.45 - chat with Colin on veranda before 20.00 dinner at Wellington House Hotel in Main Street. Tuna and apple, roast beef, peas, carrots, potato, pineapple sponge with cherries and cream and coffee - excellent. 22.30 walk to Quayside to see three ships at anchor, followed at 23.30 by Midnight Service - St James' Church with Bishop John Salt. LO 01.10.

Tuesday 21 May

St Helena Day - Quincentenary of Discovery - our reason for being here this particular time. Start day mundanely cleaning tar from shoes picked up at Sandy Bay beach - ex oil tankers. Photograph deserted Main Street before breakfast - road closed so no traffic. 10.00 watch the march to Grand Parade - for speeches and open air Service.

HE Governor
Hollamby arriving
at Grand Parade



HE Governor
Hollamby giving
welcoming
speech at Q5
Celebrations

21 May 2002



11.00 coffee at Consulate as crowds increase in Main Street and Grand Parade. Post Office opens for sale of the new stamps and first day covers. Decide I am not a f.d.c. collector - later wish I had sent one - hand addressed - therefore worthless - but a good souvenir. 12.00 lunch at Anne's Place, what else but fisheake roll to celebrate. Visit newly opened Heritage Museum - sign visitor's book on first page - beaten to it by Robert who had invite to the opening. After cup of tea at Consulate, join the crowds walking around, enjoying the music, entertainments, stalls, beer drinking and general partying. Meet Barbara and Basil George - introduced to Ian Mathieson of Miles Apart - also visiting from the U.K. Buy bags of chips to sustain us until evening before yet another cup of tea at Consulate. At 18.00 some personal bad news - Eileen telephones to say my mother taken to hospital - very weak and unable to eat. I am worried - and today of all days. But the show goes on, starting with one of the big events - the float procession along Market Street, Main Street and into Grand Parade. Floats portray the history of St Helena - from its discovery by the Portuguese - right up to the current burning question - air access. We view it from the comfort and excellent vantage point of the hotel. At 20.00 view firework display on the Quayside from steps of Wellington House before dinner there. Asparagus pancake, chicken devil, pumpkin, beetroot, potato, bread and butter pudding and coffee. Both firework display and dinner superb. 21.45 Grand Parade and Quay for music and dancing. A truly memorable day for Saints and - in a very different way - for mam and I. 23.30 LO.

Wednesday 22 May

08.15 light breakfast - hangover! 09.50 walk around Main street and Grand Parade - visit Heritage Museum to take photographs and video - less crowded today. 12.00 coffee at Anne's Place before setting off with Richard on walk to Munden's at 13.20. Look at remains of

batteries and cannon - return to Jamestown by same path - that to Rupert's collapsed in landslips. 15.00 tea and crisps at Consulate - leave in Robert Peter's taxi at 16.00 for Crack Plain and High Tea with Edith Timm. Meet Delia Yon and Egil Eide - he visiting from Norway but of St Helena parentage. Ham, lamb chops and stuffed pumpkin just some of the delights served up - thanks Edith, a superb meal and evening. Leave at 21.00 in same taxi, arriving Consulate 21.30. Early bed tonight - bad head all day despite too many aspirin.

Thursday 23 May

06.45 EMC, after good night's sleep. Long queues at Post Office - first normal opening day since Monday. Give up waiting after 15 minutes - no apparent progress made! 10.00 coffee at Anne's Place, thanks Alan. 10.30 to Heritage Museum again, this time to purchase replica early prints and postcards. Shopping for gifts followed by lunch at C & M's store - since sold to Solomon's. Cheese and tomato sandwiches and can of lemon twist. 13.30 visit Archives with break at 14.05 to photograph the *RMS* - leaving on another Round the Island trip. Meanwhile, Bernard and Richard visit Michel Martineau in private apartments at Longwood - donate for archives copy of letter from Napoleon. 16.10 tea on Consulate balcony, courtesy Richard, before taxi ride to Ladder Hill to watch setting sun at 18.00 from Nigel and Sheila's home. Fine sight - but of more interest is watching the lizards catching and devouring the moths attracted to the veranda lights. Thanks and goodbyes at 19.30 before dinner at Anne's Place. Vegetable soup, tuna steak, chips and salad, apple pie and ice cream, coffee. Excellent.

Friday 24 May

09.00 another try at Post Office. Long queues again - better progress today and patience rewarded. Leave by Robert Peter's taxi at 09.35, arriving Rupert's Bay 09.50. Walk along cliffs to Banks' Batteries returning by same route. Robert has to stop half way - recurring ankle problem. Return to Jamestown in time for lunch at Anne's Place at 12.30, followed by shopping and hunt for a strong cardboard box - to send non urgent goods home by surface mail. Although successfully located, not actually sent but carried as check in baggage. Yet another PO visit - send registered and insured letters home - also collect the now correctly processed mail which had been returned to the Post Office following our meeting with Beverly Francis on 17th. I pay £4.02 in postage dues! 15.00 start packing for tomorrow, leaving at 16.00 for walk to Cambrian House via the 'Run' - with bottle of rum for Colin. Drinks, cheese, crackers, coffee and port on veranda. Nichola and Steve Bruce from Hastings - staying in next flat - call with photographs of Thomas Bruce - ex Postmaster - of 1922 'Badge' fame. Leave at 18.10 via the run, but getting dark now - care required. 19.00 dinner at Consulate - deep fried mushrooms (stone cold!) with garlic sauce (also cold), chicken with tomato and onion sauce, strawberry cheesecake and coffee. Not Bernard's favourite meal! After dinner - further packing - walk to Quay for our last evening on St Helena. Starts to drizzle - Donny's Place bouncing with his Hi'n'Bye farewell party. Evening concludes with Castle beers in Consulate Bar - unbelievably our first visit this trip! 23.15 LO.

Saturday 25 May

06.30 EMC, luggage outside room by 07.30. 07.50 we decide to walk to Quay before breakfast - shock, horror, no *RMS* in sight! Apparently delivering fuel to Rupert's Bay as the Island's supply running low. 08.15 back to Consulate for breakfast - say goodbye to all our friends on the Island - and to Peter and Angela, staying another week before returning to the Cape - then to Police Station for stamping of passports. As he leaves, Robert hurts ankle on steps - hobbles to Quay for the 150 metre bus journey to the steps. 10.30 board the *RMS* still anchored off Rupert's. 11.30 safety muster in main lounge before departing 12.00. Same cabins as before. Salad lunch on sun deck then serious sunbathing. Usual afternoon tea before further card and letter writing - this time for the Ascension paquebot marks. Pre-dinner drinks at 19.15 - back to table 12 for dinner - mushrooms, carrot and orange soup, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding - Robert failed on his third! - treacle flan and coffee. Early night as little entertainment on offer.

Sunday 26 May

Everything as before - back to the old routine. Sea with very slight swell, broken cloud but air very warm. Walk on deck before breakfast at 08.00. Fill out landing forms for Ascension, and finish writing postcards before Divine Service in Main Lounge at 10.30. After beef tea, a lazy hour before lunch - dining room today - for a change. Chicken and mint soup, cold roast beef, chips, vegetables and ice cream followed by coffee on sun deck. Sunbathing - deck quotes played by the more energetic. Following afternoon tea, a presentation 'Dark Lion' by the RAF diving team - been searching the wrecks of the sunken *Darkdale* and *Witte Leeuw* in James Bay. Watch sunset from bridge at 18.00 before our final dinner on board - smoked sausage, soup, bullseye (yet another fish), cheesecake. After coffee, a last evening walk around deck in the balmy air.

Monday 27 May

Sea calm, weather cloudy but bright and very warm. Pack suitcase followed by a stroll on deck and breakfast. Return to deck to watch sea birds - Bernard identifies Blue-footed Boobies, Brown Noddies, Wideawake Terns, Ascension Island Frigatebirds - and flying fish. More sunbathing after coffee - disturbed by the bridge announcing sighting of Ascension Island - 27 nautical miles away - at 10.40. 11.15 beef tea on sundeck - will this be my last ever?

Drop anchor in Clarence Bay at 13.25 in presence of two other ships - including *Maersk Gannet*. In order to land, must pay £11 entry fee plus £27.50 baggage handling - each. Seems excessive - must be crippling for a large family. 15.15 land at pier then by bus to Hotel Obsidian - the former Guesthouse. Bernard and I are in apartment 5 - actually small bungalows. Weather is hot - too hot for comfort. 3 letters arrive for me - 2 from U.K. - 1 from the *RMS*. 15.50 go shopping at the only supermarket in Georgetown, now run by Solomon's.

Ascension Island
from
RMS St Helena



Meet Iva Henry, who had been Postmistress at Jamestown during our 1998 visit, at the Post Office. Afternoon tea on B5 veranda at 16.20 before Bernard sets out on bird watching tour to Wideawake Fair, returning 18.15. At 19.30 we all help to prepare dinner of tinned corned beef, tinned chicken, baked beans, bread and brie cheese. Not bad for amateurs - but less exciting than previous dinners! Another downside - we have the washing up to do! Walk to pier via Green Turtle club. Pipe fish, crabs, and orange coloured soldier fish chasing young turtles in the water beneath the pier-head lights. 21.30 tea in bungalow followed by early night.

Tuesday 28 May

07.00 EMC, then Alan and Robert prepare breakfast - bacon, eggs, bread and tea. Collect hire car at 10.00 for three days - a Ford Tonic Laser registration A 785 - 1.3 litre petrol engine - 34,660 miles on the clock - surely not all on Ascension! Leave Georgetown at 10.30 to explore the Island - Two Boats village, Ariane tracking station, North East Bay with its geyser. Photograph Green Mountain from Two Boats - as 1938 set. Return to bungalow - lunch of tuna, corned beef, cheese, bread rolls and apples. After the ubiquitous washing up - siesta until 14.35 when we leave in two cars - very rough road to English Bay - via Clarence Bay. Swimming in the warm water - super. Return to B5 in time for 17.00 dinner at the Galley. Lamb chops, potatoes, chips, mixed vegetables, jelly and ice cream, fruit juice and coffee. Not bad for £5 - and no washing up to do! 18.00 Bernard and I climb up to the cannon and guns (ex *HMS Hood*) now on the hillside behind Georgetown. We all go to Green Turtle Club for beers before joining the Turtle Watch at Long Beach. See the females hauling their huge mass

out of the water - up the steep beach to the dry sand - do not stay long enough for the egg laying - it takes several hours. However, young hatchlings from previous nests constantly digging themselves out the sand and - after initial survey of their new world - scamper down to the waters edge and swim away. A truly magnificent sight - never to be forgotten. 23.30 LO.

Wednesday 29 May

08.00 Bernard cooks breakfast - just a little help from yours truly. Bacon, eggs, tinned tomatoes, bread and tea. 08.45 walkabout Georgetown taking photographs of Post Office - and Pier and Long Beach - as 1938 set.



Post Office at
Georgetown,
Ascension Island

10.15 coffee and jam tarts at Coffee Shop (thanks, Alan), leaving at 10.55 for Green Mountain arriving 11.15. After long, arduous climb over the muddy terrain - amongst the bamboo - I (the only one daft enough) arrive at the summit Dew Pond.



Post Box at
Dewpond,
Green
Mountain

Very disappointing - no view due to impregnable bamboo, but use handstamp in posting box to stamp covers. Return by same muddy path to car and lunch at Bungalow 5 - tinned salmon, polony, blue cheese, buns, Castle beers and coffee. Collect letters from Post Office at 14.00, then swimming and sunbathing at English Bay. Shop for souvenirs at Green Turtle - 17.10 dinner at the Galley. Tonight's menu is tuna in batter, chips, mixed vegetables, tinned fruit salad and ice cream together with the usual fruit juice and coffee. Walk around Georgetown taking photos in the fine evening sunshine -

another trip to the pier at 19.30 - usual species active beneath the lights. Tonight, though, fishermen filleting some fine looking tuna and Moray eels as added entertainment. 20.30 Green Turtle Club with Egil, Alan and Anne until 22.30.

Thursday 30 May

08.30 to Post Office to buy stamps - including the last 7 booklets in stock - of the 1997 £1 issue. 08.45 and Richard's breakfast of bacon, eggs, beans, tomatoes and bread declared the best on Ascension. Write postcards and pay hotel bill before driving to Devil's Ashpit below Green Mountain in dull, damp weather. Land crabs in abundance. 11.45 arrive Green Mountain summit for last visit - proceed to walk part of the way down to find location for photo of Three Sisters as on 1938 set. Eventually find it - Two Boats village now spoils the scene! 13.00 last lunch at B5 - plenty to eat up including tinned corned chicken (absolutely dreadful!), salmon, meat paste, cheese, bread, Castle beers and coffee. Decide to leave remaining food in refrigerator - just as well as discover my exposed film - put there to keep cool, and forgotten about. Otherwise this article would be photo free - (*did somebody shout 'Good'!*).

Take group photographs - first and only ones of the trip. English Bay again, but after brief swim it starts to rain - no sunbathing. Suntan will have to await return to the UK - if we get a summer! Dinner at the Galley - Southern fried chicken, potato, mixed vegetables, fruit crumble and evaporated milk. 17.45 finish packing so quick final trip to pier. 20.05 depart hotel by minibus, arriving Wideawake airfield 20.15.

All stationery and cards in suitcase, so purchase postcards to send home upon discovering Post Box there - for the 'Field Post Office 998' c.d.s. At 21.38 Tristar lands from Falkland Islands - all passengers alight. Most appear to buy beers in the airport shop. We board at 22.45 for flight RR 3211, 22.50 to Brize Norton. Tristar ZE 704 eventually leaves at 23.15 with few, if any, empty seats. Note some seats removed for stretchers - reminder of purpose of this flight. I sit just behind Jim Davidson, returning home after entertaining (!) troops in Falklands. Not a fan - but pleased he is prepared to joke and sign autographs. Flight attendants - male and female - dressed in uniform - very smart and provide good service. Light meal - ham and pickle bun, cheese puffs, blueberry muffin, orange juice and tea served at 00.15. Possible to borrow video player to watch films or play games - but decide to pen notes for Supplement 38 editorial - before dozing.



Post box at Wideawake Airfield

Friday 31 May

Cooked English breakfast served at 07.00 - probably the best in flight breakfast of my travels. 08.13 (BST) arrive Brize Norton, Oxfordshire - two minutes early! Smart, modern terminal a surprise to me. 09.20 say our Goodbyes to Alan and Robert as Bernard, Richard and I leave in Martin's Ford Galaxy. Back to the hustle and bustle again - A40, M40, M25, M11, Stanstead Airport - for quick look at the buses!, Molehill Green, Broxton, B1051 to Great Sampford arriving 11.45. After very welcome pot of tea and snack with Richard, bid farewell to my two friends as I retrieve trusty J 61 RVN from the undergrowth and head north at 12.20. It is the Friday before the Jubilee Bank Holiday and traffic is horrendous - what a change from the last few weeks!

Sitting in the traffic jams there is plenty of time to reflect on a splendid holiday. The success was due to more individuals than I can mention here, but I must single out my four travelling companions for their friendship and good company. And I am certain that Alan, Richard and Robert will join me in thanking Bernard in particular for getting the project off the ground, and ensuring that everything fitted together so well. His title of 'Tour Group Leader' was well deserved. And the overriding memory? As I mentioned in the previous editorial, it must be of the warmth, friendliness and character of the inhabitants of these delightful Islands. Let us hope that improved access to St Helena, by whatever means, does not destroy this very special charm which is so rare these turbulent days.



Our last day on Ascension Island - and still smiling after four weeks together!
Alan Scrine, Robert Johnson, Bernard Mabbett, Barry Burns and Richard Payne

☺☺☺☺☺

ASCENSION POSTMISTRESS WINS SEAT ON NEW ISLAND COUNCIL

Trevor Hearl

At Ascension Island's first ever General Election, on 1 November 2002, Postmistress Iva Henry was one of the seven members elected to the new Island Council. She will be joined by another woman Councillor, Caroline Yon, who topped the poll. Among other successful candidates were Mrs. Henry's husband, Lawson, and the Island's long-serving Medical Officer, Dr. Raxa Sukhtankar. The other Councillors are Nicky Andrews, Nicholas Hobson and Peter Thomas.

This Election was indeed an historic event. Twelve good candidates contested the seven seats, indicating the strength of support for the political process. All did well. Their manifestoes - which can be read in *The Islander* for 31 October (www.the-islander.org.ac) - demonstrates that the new Council will face the future with realism, as well as idealism. 337 voters went to the polls, 54% of the electorate. Until a new Council Chamber is ready in the old Islander hostel, the Council is meeting in the Obsidian Hotel.

Islanders had campaigned vigorously for an Island Council for several months, ever since the British Government decided to 'democratise' the Administration after the 'Users' refused any longer to finance the Island's services. Hitherto Ascension's only residents, since it became a British base in 1815, have been serviceman and contract workers for the various communications services based there, the 'Users'. Islanders now feared that, though they would have citizens' right of abode under 'democratisation', they would be ruled from Jamestown as the Island has been an administrative dependency of St Helena since 1922 when the Royal Navy left. Hence the petitions and appeals to Baroness Amos, Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and to Members of both Houses of Parliament to be allowed their own locally elected Council - 'no taxation without representation'. In the end they won their case and, having had to fight for their Council, they will be all the more determined to make it work effectively.

And so the future once again looks rosy for Ascension Island - if they can get the use of that airfield for tourism! Meanwhile collectors will be curious to see how 'democratisation' can be commemorated philatelically, and the Island Council will welcome all the philatelic support it can get from collectors!



VISITS TO THE ARCHIVES IN THE CASTLE, ST HELENA MAY 2002

R. I. Johnson

Bernard Mabbett, Barry Burns, Alan Serine, Richard Payne and I spent some time in the Archives looking at different papers stored there.

I took on the task of going through the St Helena Guardian roughly in the period 1850 to 1880, such St Helena Almanacs (their equivalent of Whitaker's Almanac) and a dusty box that I found at the back of the secondary storeroom.

This article and one or two others to follow will give an indication of some of the information that I found. It was impossible to copy everything so my selection is eclectic as I was mainly looking for information connected with the Diamond Line contract. That will be a separate article in its own right.

In the back room I found a Correspondence Book of the Post Office in St Helena for a year in the 1890's. This book containing the originals of all communications and notices received and sent is a good reflection of the daily business of a colonial post office anywhere.

As I am a Trustee (with Richard and Sue Hopson) of the Stuart Rossiter Trust (and this cuts down a longer story) I was able to recommend publication of this book (with the help of the Archivist and the consent of the Governor □ which is in the process of being obtained as I write this). This will involve archival breaking down of the book, photocopying each page, archival restoration and binding, and, importantly for us, the ability in the UK to have the photocopy pages typed for editing, printing and publishing.

It seems appropriate, as this will be published in the Supplement nearest to Christmas, to start with a photocopy of a Christmas letter sent in 1961 by the Postmaster in Washington to the Postmaster of St Helena (Page 21). These letters must have been sent to every postal administration.

Next is an extract from the St Helena Guardian for 29 October 1863. This deals with preparation of mails and late fee *fines* (sic). It also refers to arrangements at the Police Office for mails. The format of the notice was Royal Arms followed by the title 'Post Office Notification' on the front page of the Guardian.

*In order during the brief stay of the Mail Steamers to secure greater facility and accuracy in the delivery and despatch of the mails the following arrangements will be adopted.



THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

December 15, 1961

Dear Mr. George:

The approach of the Christmas season inspires in all of us a feeling of happiness as we experience renewed realization of the message of human kindness which comes to men of good will everywhere.

My staff joins me in the wish that the holiday time will be filled with joy for you and those near to you, and that the New Year will bring good fortune and the blessings of peace throughout the world.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Kennedy", is written over the typed name "Postmaster General".

Postmaster General

Mr. C. J. George
Postmaster
Saint Helena

1. For the purpose of securing undivided attention to the issue of the letters immediately on their arrival at the office, *no letters for the return mail will be RECEIVED during the first hour while the mail is being issued.* Letters may however be deposited in the box at the door, care being taken that correct prepayment is made by stamps on the letters so deposited, to save the fines which will be chargeable in England on letters insufficiently prepaid.
2. All *Registered* letters must be posted not less than half an hour before the time for closing the general mail.
3. All prepaid letters must be *stamped* before being posted in order to avoid confusion and delay caused by the receipt of broken sums of money with letters. To prevent any difficulty in complying with this regulation a clerk will be in attendance at the Police Office with a supply of stamps and a table of the rates for foreign postage.
4. During the last hour before the departure of the mail the Post Office (*as heretofore*) will be closed to the public in order to afford the necessary time for the making up of the mails, preparation of the letter bills, and accounts with the London Post Office for prepaid and transit postage, & c. But in order to facilitate the Public convenience it will be arranged in future that late letters (for England only) will be received *during the last hour* at the Police Office by the clerk from the Post Office in attendance there, *provided the postage* is prepaid and also *a fine in addition of sixpence for each letter* - -- the fine being required to prevent unnecessary pressure at the last moment, and to meet any additional expense which may be occasioned by this convenience.

H. R. Janisch Postmaster St Helena Post Office 6th October 1863'

The reference in that Notification to a table of postal rates at the police station leads neatly on to the St Helena Almanacs which contained the St Helena Postal Regulations.

The Regulations contained the internal and foreign postal rates. There is no point in summarising them; it is better to print everything (Pages 23 - 26). The edition selected is that for 1867. The run of Almanacs is not complete; rather it is sparse. I noticed elsewhere that if there was a deficiency in the Regulations then British Postal Regulations were to apply but I cannot trace the reference now as I probably did not copy it.

This now enables me to consider the 1866 1s 8d cover illustrated and discussed in Supplements 30 page 22, 34 page 12 and 36 page 6.

The franking of 1s 8d appears to be correct by reference to the 1867 Almanac.
Letters had to be fully prepaid; so the question is what does fully prepaid mean?
London marked the letter as 'Paid'.

The probable answer is paid to the entry point into the foreign country. This makes sense of the 5 cents charge for the US domestic charge after the letter had been unloaded at New York.

POSTAL REGULATIONS

Bermuda—	ditto	ditto	ditto
Borneo—	ditto	ditto	ditto
Bourbon, 1s. 5d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Brasil, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 11d.		ditto	ditto
Bremen—1s. 5d. ditto		ditto	ditto
British Columbia, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 11d.		ditto	ditto
Brunswick—ditto		ditto	ditto
Buenos Ayres, 1s. 11d. ditto		ditto	ditto
California and Oregon, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 8d.		ditto	ditto
Canada, 1s. 5d. ditto		ditto	ditto
Cape de Verds, 1s. 3d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Cape of Good Hope, under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 5d.		ditto	ditto
Canary Islands, 1s. 5d. ditto		ditto	ditto
Ceylon, 1s. 5d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Chili, 1s. 11d. ditto		ditto	ditto
China, 1s. 11d. ditto		ditto	ditto
Constantinople, 10d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Costa Rico, 1s. 11d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Cuba—ditto		ditto	ditto
Dardanelles, under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 10d.		ditto	ditto
Denmark, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 5d.		ditto	ditto
Ecuador, 2s. 11d. ditto		ditto	ditto
Egypt, 1s. 5d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Falkland Islands, 1s. 5d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Fernando Po—ditto		ditto	ditto
France, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 8d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 4d.		ditto	ditto
Frankfort, 1s. 5d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Galatz, 10d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Gallipoli—ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
Gambia, 1s. 5d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Gibraltar,—ditto		ditto	ditto
Gold Coast—ditto		ditto	ditto
Greece, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 2d.		ditto	ditto
Grey Town, 1s. 5d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Guatemala, 1s. 11d. ditto		ditto	ditto
Hamburgh—1s. 5d. ditto		ditto	ditto
Hanover—ditto		ditto	ditto
Haiti—ditto		ditto	ditto
Hesse—1s. 5d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Hesse Homburg—ditto		ditto	ditto
Holland—1s. 2d. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Hong Kong—1s. 11d. ditto		ditto	ditto
India—1s. 5d. ditto		ditto	ditto
Ionian Islands—1s. 9d. ditto		ditto	ditto
Italy, (except Papal States), 1s. 4d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto
Java, 2s. 8d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.		ditto	ditto

POSTAL REGULATIONS.

Labuan—1s. 11d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Larnaca—1s. 10d. ditto	ditto
Lauenburg—1s. 5d. ditto	ditto
Liberia—1s. 5d. ditto	ditto
Lippe Detmold—ditto	ditto
Lubeck—ditto	ditto
Madeira, 1s. 3d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Malta—1s. 5d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Mauritius—ditto	ditto
Mecklenburg—ditto	ditto
Mexico—1s. 11d. ditto	ditto
Moldavia—1s. 9d. ditto	ditto
Mytelene—10d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Monte Video—1s. 11d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Nassau Duchy of—1s. 5d. ditto	ditto
Natal—ditto	ditto
New Brunswick—ditto	ditto
New Grenada— 1s. 11d. ditto	ditto
New South Wales—1s. 5d. ditto	ditto
New Zealand—ditto	ditto
Newfoundland—ditto	ditto
Norway—1s. 7d. ditto	ditto
Nova Scotia—1s. 5d. ditto	ditto
Oldenburg—ditto	ditto
Papal States, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 2d.	ditto
Panang—1s. 11d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Peru—2s. 11d. ditto	ditto
Poland—1s. 9d. ditto	ditto
Porto Rico—1s. 11d. ditto	ditto
Portugal, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1s. 5d.	ditto
Prince Edward Island—1s. 5d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Prussia—ditto	ditto
Phillipine Islands, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 2s. 3d.	ditto
Reuss—1s. 5d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Rhodes, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 10l.	ditto
Russia—1s. 9d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Sardinia—ditto	ditto
Samsoun—under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz 10d.	ditto
Salonica—ditto	ditto
Sandwich Islands, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz 1s. 11d.	ditto
Saxe Altenburg—1s. 5d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz	ditto
Saxe Coberg Gotha— ditto	ditto
Saxe Meinigen—ditto	ditto
Saxe Weimar—ditto	ditto
Saxony—ditto	ditto

POSTAL REGULATIONS.

Schaumburg Lippe—ditto	ditto
Schwartzburg Sonderhausen—ditto	ditto
Scutari—1s. 10d. ditto	ditto
Seres—ditto	ditto
Singapore—1s 11d. ditto	ditto
Sierra Leone—1s. 5d. ditto	ditto
Smyrna—10d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Spain—1s. 6d. ditto	ditto
Surinam—1s. 11d. under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Sweden—1s. 5d. ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Switzerland—under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 9d.	ditto
Syria— ditto 10d.	ditto
Turkey in Europe—1s. 5d. not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	ditto
Tasmania—ditto	ditto
Tchisme—1s. 10d. ditto	ditto
Tenedos—ditto	ditto
Trebizond—1s. 8d. ditto	ditto
Tultcha—ditto	ditto
Tunis—1s. 6d. ditto	ditto
United States—1s. 8d. ditto	ditto
Vancouver—not exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 1s. 11d.	ditto
Varna—1s. 8d. ditto	ditto
Venzuela—1s. 5d. ditto	ditto
Victoria—ditto	ditto
Wallachia—1s. 9d. ditto	ditto
West Indies, British, 1s. 11d.	ditto
West Indies, Foreign (except places specified) 1s. 11d. ditto	ditto
N.E.—Via Marseilles to India. Ceylon, Mauritius, Tasmania, New Zealand, 1s. 9d. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Japan, Java, Penang, Singapore, China, Phillipine Islands, 2s. 3d. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	

Letters for any foreign Colony or Settlement must be fully prepaid, if not it will not be forwarded.

In all cases of an unpaid letter being refused, or if the party to whom it is addressed shall be dead, or cannot be found, the writer or sender shall pay the postage.

Letters, whether containing coin or not, can be registered until within half an hour of the closing of the Mail by which they are to be sent, on payment of a registration fee of fourpence in addition to the ordinary rates of postage. A printed acknowledgement, torn out of a receipt book and stamped with the Office Stamp, will be given to any person registering a letter.

Non-commissioned officers, captains, and purgers, stewards, seamen, stokers, and soldiers, can receive letters under the weight of half an ounce, on their own private concerns only, while they are employed in Her Majesty's Service, or in the service of the East India Company, for one penny.

POSTAL REGULATIONS.

The Penny must be paid at the time the letters is put into the Post Office.

The name of the person, his class or description, and the name of the ship, regiment, corps, or detachment to which he belongs must be specified.

The Officer having the command must sign his name, and specify the name of his ship, regiment, corps, or detachment he commands.

The penny must be paid at the time letters going to such persons are put into the Post Office, and the direction must specify the class of person, and the ship, regiment, or corps to which he belongs.

The postage upon soldiers, and seamen's letters received in the United Kingdom from this Colony, without the penny having been prepaid, is twopence in addition to the ship letter gratuity, if received by private ship.

Soldiers and seamen's letters are liable to the ship letter gratuities in addition to the postage, but are not liable to any additional rate upon re-direction, but all other

LETTERS RE-DIRECTED

become on re-direction to new rates of postage.

Re-directed letters for commissioned officers in the army or navy are, in the event of such officers being removed upon service, forwarded without any additional charge for postage.

PERSONS EXEMPT FROM SHIP LETTER POSTAGE.

The Owners, Consignees, and Shippers of Goods on board vessels inward bound, are entitled to receive their letters free from sea postage, to the extent collectively of six ounces, in weight, by any one vessel to any such person. The Owner, Charterer on Consignees must be ascribed as such on the address and superscription, and in the case of shippers, owners, or consignees of goods, it must also appear by the Ship's Manifest that they have goods on board the vessel. Such persons are intitled to have their letters which comes within the above conditions before the master of the vessels deliver the other letters in his charge to the Post Office.

* * * Every person who shall, with intent to evade any duty of postage falsely superscribe a letter as being the owner or the charterer or the consignee of a vessel conveying the same, or as the owner, or the shipper, or the consignee of Goods shipped in such vessel shall for every such offence forfeit ten pounds.

BOOKS, MAGAZINES, REVIEWS, PAMPHLETS, &c.

A Book Packet may contain any number of separate books,

THE ST HELENA QUINCENTENARY SET

Trevor Hearl

The liner which the Crown Agents put in the latest Quincentenary First Day Cover gave potted biographies of the leading personalities featured on the stamps. These were written by Trevor Hearl, after the Crown Agents had found it beyond their resources! CA had suggested that St Helena might like to put a brief introduction about the Quincentenary celebrations, but it did not materialise. There isn't even a title! - they can't be called 'St Helenians' because only two were born there, but at least they are beginning to recognise some of their 'heroes' at last. The text from the insert and stamp designs are reproduced below - Ed.

20p Sir W Doveton (1753 - 1843)

Sir William Webber Doveton has the distinction of being the only St Helenian to have been knighted. Descended from a 17th century settler family, he entered the East India Company's St Helena service as a writer and rose to become a leading Member of Council and popular Commandant of the St Helena Volunteers during the Napoleonic Wars. For this he was presented in 1810 with a 100 gn. Sword of Honour which is now preserved in the St Helena Heritage Society Museum. The naturalist W J Burchell, the Company's botanist on the Island, wrote warmly in his diary of Doveton's 'manners and speech That good old man .. is the best Islander and possesses an excellent heart.'



In 1818 he went to England to receive his knighthood from the Prince Regent at Brighton Pavilion (30 January 1819). A story is told that, on arriving in London and meeting a lady he knew in one of the crowded streets, he asked her to defer their conversation 'until the procession had passed'!

On 4 October 1820 Napoleon, with his entourage, paid an unexpected visit to Sir William at his house, Mount Pleasant, Sandy Bay, taking a cold meal prepared for the occasion. This was remarkable as Napoleon very rarely paid visits, or took a meal with strangers, and it was the last time he ventured beyond the grounds of Longwood House, his home during his exile (1815-21).

Doveton died at the age of ninety in 1843. His grand-daughter, Anna, became the mother of Admiral Sir Frederick Doveton Sturdes, victor of the Battle of the Falkland Islands in 1914.

25p Canon L. Walcott (1880 - 1951)

Lawrence Chase Walcott came to St Helena in April 1909 as Vicar of Jamestown and gave unstinting service to the Island community for almost forty years. Born in 1880 of a West Indian barrister father and English mother - his maternal grandfather was Frederick Martin, founder of the *Statesman's Year Book* - Walcott was educated in England and trained at St Augustine's College, Canterbury, before being ordained in South Africa in 1906.



He soon made his mark as a diligent, single-minded and scholarly priest and pastor, winning the affection and trust of his parishioners. For several years, however, he faced opposition from country congregations who objected to a coloured priest though, as Bishop Holbech reminded them, most of them were coloured. In 1917 Walcott returned to England, but on hearing of the Bishop's difficulty in replacing a successor, he returned

to Jamestown in May 1921, accompanied by his bride, Winifred Ida. They remained to serve the Island for the rest of their lives.

In addition to parochial duties Walcott vigorously supported Church schools, teacher training and youth work through the Church Lads' Brigade and the Scout Movement. He founded the first Scout troop in 1915, followed in 1921 by a Guide Company founded by his wife, and when in 1936 they were inspected by Lord and Lady Baden Powell the Chief Scout expressed surprise at finding 'a group so large and so smartly turned out in uniform' on the little Island. (*Supplement 38, page 18 - Ed.*) Walcott was also a keen promoter of team games - football, hockey and especially cricket - for their character-building qualities. His influence was further strengthened through the monthly *St Helena Magazine*, the only island periodical, which he edited and printed for thirty years (1921-51), an invaluable source today for local historians.

For many years, when he was the only priest on the Island apart from the Bishop, the distant district of Blue Hill was added to his pastoral care. In 1950 Canon Walcott resigned on health grounds - he was 70 - and died at his home, Palm Villa, a year later. He was buried next to Winifred, who predeceased him in 1941, in St Paul's Churchyard. There, in 1986, on the 35th anniversary of his death, his memory was honoured by a large attendance of Scouts and Guides at a Requiem in the Cathedral and a laying of wreaths. As part of the Quincentenary celebrations in 2002, a Walcott Memorial is being unveiled on 21 May in St James's Church garden.

30p Governor H R. Janisch (1824 - 1884)

Hudson Ralph Janisch has the distinction of being the only St Helenian to have held the post of Governor since the Colony came under the Crown in 1834, and is one of the longest-serving in that role. He was the eldest son of Georg Wilhelm Janisch of Hamburg, personal secretary to

Sir Hudson Lowe during Napoleon's exile, who in 1823 had married Ann Mira, daughter of William Seale, and settled on St Helena as a mercantile agent and Hanseatic Consul for Hamburg and Bremen.

Janisch, named Hudson after the former Governor, joined the civil service and, despite prejudice against him as a Baptist lay preacher, rose to its head as Colonial Secretary in 1868. With the recall of Governor Patey in 1873 he was appointed Acting Governor by the Colonial Office and ordered to lease or close Plantation House, the Governor's official residence. Following a change of government in London, Janisch was confirmed as Governor in 1873 - 'the right man in the right place', commented the *St Helena Guardian* - but on local salary (£900 p.a.) without accommodation. Thus he continued to live at Palm Villa, next to the abandoned Botanical Garden in Upper Jamestown where, as a keen amateur astronomer - he was a nephew of Johann Encke and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society - he had built a private observatory.



He worked hard to counter the colony's economic decline, encouraging the development of the first flax industry in 1874, and fostering pride in the Island's heritage, compiling a volume of *Extracts from the Records* which was published posthumously in 1885. In 1882 he lost his eldest son, Bertram, who had qualified as a doctor and practised on the Island. Janisch himself died in office two years later, on 10 March 1884 at the age of 59. His widow, Eleanor, daughter of Captain J J Pritchard of an Island family long established in the Company's service, emigrated with the family to the Cape. An imposing memorial was erected 'by the inhabitants' at the Baptist cemetery, Knollcombes, 'to commemorate the high respect and esteem in which the late Governor was universally held'.

80p Dr W J J Arnold (1867 - 1925)

Wilberforce John James Arnold is commemorated on the Island's most prominent memorial, an obelisk in the main square of Jamestown, as 'the greatest friend St Helena ever had'. This is no exaggeration when it is considered that, over a period of twenty years, he carried the responsibilities of physician, surgeon, dentist, health officer, Justice of the Peace, Member of Council and, on three occasions, Acting Governor.

Arnold was born in Belfast where he received his medical training at Queen's College, and began his career in 1895 as a surgeon at Aberdare, among the coal mines of South Wales. In 1900 the Anglo-Boer War brought him to St Helena with the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, to attend the troops and the Boer prisoners' hospital in Jamestown. In 1903 he was appointed Colonial Surgeon and Health Officer, becoming so devoted to the work that, despite the low salary (£200-£300 p.a. 'plus horse allowance'), pressure of work, usually as the only doctor, and his own indifferent health, he spent most of his life in the Island's service. Arnold, who

was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, left the Island but twice to study ways of meeting its particular medical problems.



During the First World War (1914 - 18) he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps on hospital ships and in Palestine, reaching the rank of Major, returning to St Helena in 1920 'to cheers from the crowds' at the Wharf. It was not only his diligence and willingness to serve the Island in so many roles that earned him the love and respect of all classes, but his caring manner and the missionary zeal which imbued all his work,

derived from his Presbyterian background. He never stinted in his labours, visiting the sick and elderly, supporting charities from his meagre funds, paying fees rather than accept them from the poor, while living frugally as a bachelor, latterly at Maldivia by courtesy of the owner. His work in preventive medicine, instilling basic rules of diet, hygiene and public health, are said to have cut the death rate by two-thirds - from 17.3 to 6.4 per thousand - within ten years (1899 - 1909).

In November 1924 Dr Arnold's life was saved by an emergency operation performed by a visiting surgeon. Though far from well he resumed his duties, not only as the lone Medical Officer, but as Acting Chief Justice and Acting Governor, and it was while attending a ceremony at Longwood in this capacity that he collapsed and died on 27 January 1925. He was 57. It is said that half the population flocked to his funeral. Thirty years later an elderly 'Saint' told travel writer Lawrence Green, 'I tell you, a shiver went through this place the day the doctor died'.

Text courtesy of Mr Trevor W Hearl

Technical Details

Printer:	BDT International Security Printing Ltd
Process:	Lithography
Stamp Size:	28.45 x 42.58 mm
Format:	Landscape
Sheet Size:	50 (set in two panes of 25)
Watermark:	CA Spiral Old OBA Free
Perforation:	14 per 2 cms

The set of four stamps were issued on 21 May 2002, five hundred years after the Island's discovery.



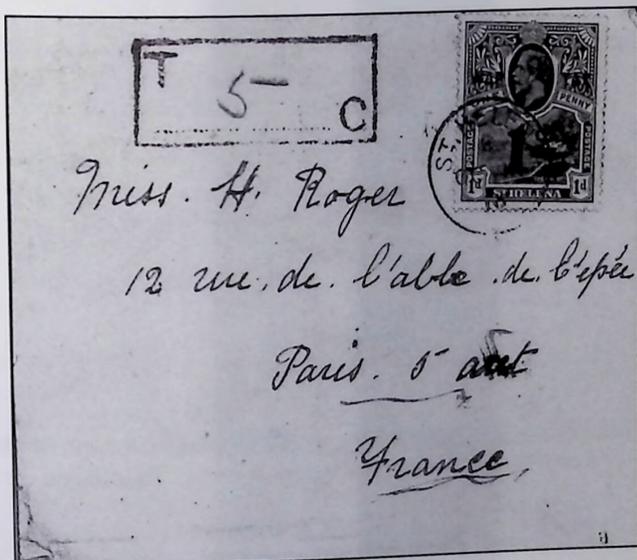
ST HELENA : USE OF THE 1919 WAR TAX STAMP

Jeremy Martin

This cover was acquired from a Swiss dealer at the Belgian National Exhibition. It is franked with just a single copy of the 1d War Tax stamp S.G. 88, is date-stamped October 1919 and is addressed to France.

The St Helena Post Office applied the Type 5 underpaid cachet with '5' centimes being underpaid, $\equiv \frac{1}{2}d$. It would seem that the P.O. treated the War Tax stamp no longer as a Tax and the rate to France as $1\frac{1}{2}d$ although it should have been $2\frac{1}{2}d$.

I would appreciate the opinion of other members.



⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙

'THE KAISER' SPOOF POSTCARD

R. I. Johnson

In going through one of my collections for someone else I came across this spoof postcard. (illustrated at approximately 80% actual size - Ed.)

It was produced by the Cynicus Company of Edinburgh (Cynicus used to produce comic postcards with a socially cutting edge) and used postally in February 1915.

Obviously the Kaiser was put in the same basket as Napoleon!



☺☺☺☺☺

PUNCTUAL POST?

Shelley Magellan

Just this week a member of the public relayed a displeasing experience that they had encountered with our Island's Postal Service, although this isn't the first time I've heard someone complain about our Postal Services' 'ineffectiveness'. They told me: 'I airmailed a

letter to a friend in the UK when the *RMS* left on 26 July. I received a phone call a week later from her saying that she had received it'. Now here comes the ironic part, a bill was sent through the post to be delivered to the same member of the public, the date 24 July was stamped on the envelope to confirm that the bill was now in the possession of the postal services awaiting to be delivered. Nevertheless it took a period of *two weeks* for this particular mail to be delivered to an address in Napoleon Street! That's right you read correctly, a week for a letter to reach the UK approximately 4,000 miles away and two weeks for some mail to be delivered a mere 200 yards'.

Some of you may wonder, so what's the big deal? It was an honest mishap. The point is that this isn't the first time an incident such as this has happened, wouldn't you be very annoyed if later on a percentage was added to the current bill, a bill you hadn't received? Let alone had the chance to pay for it!

I asked Mrs Beverly Francis the Post Mistress if she would like to comment on 'Why does local mail generally take a long time to be distributed?' This is her reply:

'During the months of May and June the Post Office suffered serious staff shortages. A reorganisation of staff was necessary which followed that one of the Postmen was used to provide counter service. This meant that one Postman carried out all local mail deliveries. If the intake of mail indicated that all areas of the Island needed service at the same time, a sorter was engaged. We aim to have all mail, which is received at the Post Office, delivered within three days. There are times when this is not possible. Some of the reasons for this are as follows:

Insufficient Address e.g. Leslie Clingham, Hutts Gate. There are two Leslie Clingham's residing at Hutts Gate.

Letter Boxes The majority of homes do not have letterboxes. A calling card is left only when a recorded delivery item is to be delivered; if there is no letterbox the calling card can only be left in a safe place. There are times when the Postman cannot leave a calling card if there is a dog. The item is returned to the Post Office and delivered later. This means, the customer has no record of the first delivery.

Residential Address The Postman has to find the addressee to the best of his knowledge. There are no area codes. A letter addressed to 'Joe Bloggs', Half Tree Hollow, can be situated anywhere in Half Tree Hollow. Most times the information is gathered from the public.

RMS arrives Priority is given to the arrival of the *RMS St Helena*. Mail is collected from the *RMS St Helena* for incoming mail and from the Sub Post Offices for outgoing mail'.

One of the problems the Post Mistress posed was that 'the Island has no area codes'. Well, most of you will probably agree when I say that the Postal Sector should make it one of their

priorities to introduce an area code system on St Helena - if they feel it will prove to be more effective.

Also in conclusion Mrs Beverly Francis did add, 'If a customer has a problem with mail delivery, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Officer on 2652 for assistance'.

This article appeared in the St Helena Herald on 9 August 2002, and is reproduced with permission - Ed.

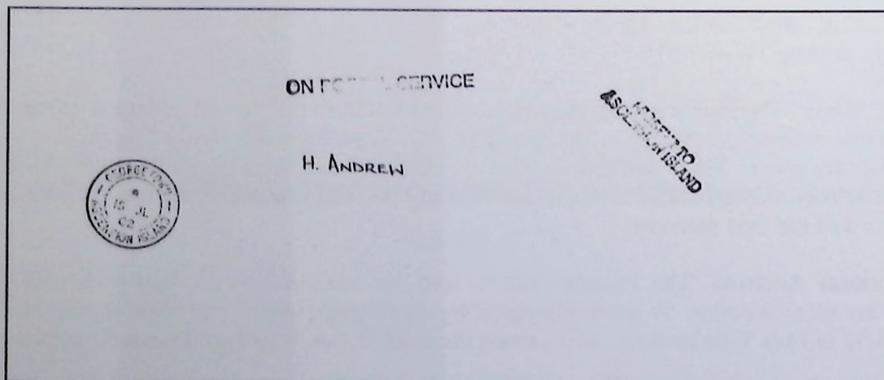


MISSENT TO ASCENSION ISLAND

Oliver Andrew

This envelope contained a cover which had been sent on 9 January from Ascension Island to Poste Restante in Banjul, Gambia. Damaged, the cover was repaired there and returned, wrongly, to Ascension. There it was put into the envelope illustrated here and returned, correctly, to the sender.

This envelope shows the ON POSTAL SERVICE and MISSENT TO / ASCENSION ISLAND handstamps, and the Georgetown double-ring c.d.s. for 15 July 2002.



The envelope is illustrated at approximately 60% actual size and I have erased the recipient's U.K. address - Ed.



FROM THE AUCTIONS

The following auction lots are all St Helena and, as usual, I give the pre-sale estimate followed by the price realised - including the buyer's premium - in *italics*. Note particularly Lot 767, realising more than 20 times the lower estimate!

Spink - London. 18 July 2002

Lot 389 1922-37 Script 1d and 2d, both in a complete unmounted mint sheet of sixty showing *broken mainmast* and *cleft rock* plate flaws; both sheets with a few split perfs and light foxing in the selvedge. S.G. 98/a/c, 100/a/c £554

£120-200 *£230*

Lot 390 1922-37 5d, a complete unmounted mint sheet of sixty showing *broken mainmast* and *cleft rock* plate flaws; some split perfs along central fold. S.G. 103/a/c £424

£120-150 *£322*

Lot 391 1922-37 6d, a complete unmounted mint sheet of sixty showing *broken mainmast*, *tom flag* and *cleft rock* plate flaws; corner crease at lower right affecting two stamps and perforations partly split along central fold. S.G. 104/a/b/c £682

£150-180 *£483*

Lot 392 1922-37 8d, a complete unmounted mint sheet of sixty showing *broken mainmast*, *tom flag* and *cleft rock* plate flaws; slight gum crease and central fold. S.G. 105/a/b/c £599

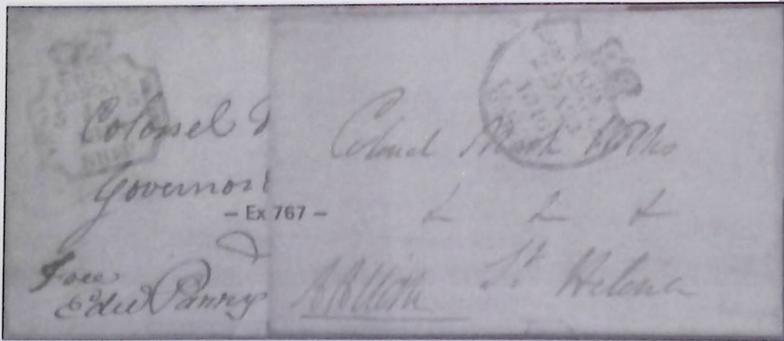
£180-220 *£483*

Lot 393 1922-37 1/-, a complete unmounted mint sheet of sixty showing *broken mainmast* and *cleft rock* plate flaws; gum creases at left, some split perforations and vertical fold towards left. S.G. 106a/c £717

£200-250 *£552*

Lot 767 1816 (Jan.) two outer letter sheets addressed to Colonel Wilks, Governor, St Helena; the first dated 5th January bears a good strike of Crowned 'FREE/LONDON/INDIA/SHIP/LETTER' in double-framed oblong with chamfered corners, struck in red-brown; the second cover dated 23rd January (one '3' is inverted) bears a very fine strike of the Crowned shield 'FREE/INDIA-PACKET/LETTER/LONDON' struck in red (Robertson In. P.5). Also three other wrappers addressed to Colonel Wilks in London or the isle of Man. These are two exceptional covers, the first strike previously unrecorded whilst Robertson only records the second on piece. (Photo, page 36) *Note: Colonel Mark Wilks was a famous Manx man and is commemorated by a set of stamps issued by the Isle of Man in 1981.*

£500-1,000 *£10,925*



Spink Lot 767



And Finally

Acknowledgements for information and help this time go to:- O. Andrew, J. Blake, P. Cottis, M. Crawford, R. Deakin, D. Foster, T. Hearl, S. Heijtz, R. Johnson, T. Hill, B. Mabbett, S. Magellan, J. Martin, M. Olsson, R. Payne, A. Serine, M. Stevens, Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, The Islander, N.E.P.A. Spink, St Helena Herald, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., and to anyone else I may have inadvertently forgotten.



And... overheard at 41 Devonshire
Place on 9 November...

*Hmm - It looked much better laid
out on the bed!*

