

The West Africa Study Circle

Saint Helena Supplement No. 5

Edited by Roger B West

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Consultants:

Bernard J Mabbett - Boer War

I D Lampart - Postal History



EDITORIAL

Several collectors unaware of our Study Circle were talking of forming a St Helena society in Britain. Although it may seem a good idea at first, stretching and dividing our membership in this way would weaken rather than strengthen everybody's prospects. The main communication between members is through the magazine, and it was felt that barely enough research is being published to satisfy one, let alone two. As a result, it was suggested that we build up our own membership to form a 'society within a society'. To this end, this Supplement has been specially prepared. If our membership can expand as a result, there's no reason why we shouldn't have a 30+ page Supplement every time. Plans are also underway to organize a 'specialist' meeting every year.

The success of these ventures can only be good for the society as a whole, and for this reason, everybody is urged to contribute if at all possible. Material for the Supplement is always required, whether in the form of a complete article/study or just a tiny snippet. Details of any current researches can put you in touch with others with the same interests. Or maybe you know someone who might benefit by becoming a member - please do what you can.

Correspondence on this and other matters to: Roger B West, The Corner Shop, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks RG12 5HR. Tel Bracknell (0344) 54060.

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THE TRANSFER ROLLER FLAWS

The discovery of several new plate varieties on the Perkins Bacon 6d plate comes as no surprise to me as these are frequently turning up - particularly minor ones. What is surprising is that these flaws form a pattern appearing in two vertical columns following along the same lines as the Transfer Roller Flaws. Indeed, this pattern is so consistent that I feel obliged to regard the flaws as a sub-division of the transfer roller flaws.

The seven stages of the flaws were fully discussed in Supplement No 3, but it may be worth recapping. The laying down of the plate started at the bottom of column 12 (on the sheet) and progressed up and down the columns until the 240 impressions were laid down. During this process, two flaws developed at different stages producing varieties which may be divided into seven classes. Consequently, every stamp on the sheet shows one of these stages.

The new flaws appear on the inside frame line of the left hand square and affect the last six stamps of column 8 (15/8 - 20/8) and the first sixteen stamps of column 7 (20/7 - 5/7). I have designated the flaws as A, B, C and D and these serve as suffixes to the basic stages of the flaw, eg. stamp 5/7 would be 5D and 6/7 would be 5C and so on. The four sub stages are illustrated below together with a diagram of columns 7 and 8 showing the locations. It should be noted that stamps 15/7, 16/7 and 17/7 do not show this additional flaw, as the blocks and sheets I have to hand are all perforated through this critical section.

	COL 7	COL 8		
Row 5	D	-		
Row 6	C	-		
Row 7	C	-		
Row 8	C	-		
Row 9	C	-		
Row 10	C	-		
Row 11	C	-		
Row 12	B	-	STAGE A	STAGE B
Row 13	B	-		
Row 14	B	-		
Row 15	-	A		
Row 16	-	A		
Row 17	-	A		
Row 18	A	A		
Row 19	A	A		
Row 20	A	A	STAGE C	STAGE D

VARIETIES AND MARKINGS ON THE PERKINS BACON 6d PLATE

Its been some time since my article on the plate varieties appeared in Stamp Collecting. To incorporate recent discoveries and the latest information on the transfer roller flaws, a revised listing follows.

ROW/ COLUMN	POSITION ON SHEET	DEFECT STAGE	HORIZ GUIDE LINES	DESCRIPTION OF VARIETY
1/1	1	7	L	Line in left square Guide dot above upper left hand corner
1/2	2	7	L	Base concave
1/3	3	5	L & R	Base concave
1/4	4	5	L	Curved line in left square
1/5	5	5	L & R	Vertical guide line in left margin Extended right frame line at bottom Base concave
1/6	6	5	-	Base concave
1/7	7	5	-	Left square broken Frame line doubled at left
1/8	8	1	-	-
1/9	9	1	L	Base concave
1/10	10	1	L & R	-
1/11	11	1	L & R	-
1/12	12	1	L	-
2/1	13	7	-	Guide dot at 9 o'clock
2/2	14	7	-	Diagonal line at top right extending into stamp 15
2/3	15	5	-	Diagonal line at top left from stamp 14
2/4	16	5	-	Vertical guide line at 3 o'clock Line in left square
2/5	17	5	L	Vertical line outside right hand margin
2/6	18	5	-	-
2/7	19	5	-	Line in circle at 2 o'clock
2/8	20	1	-	Vertical line in left square
2/9	21	1	L & R	-
2/10	22	1	L	-
2/11	23	1	-	-
2/12	24	1	-	-
3/1	25	7	-	Vertical line in left hand margin Small line in left square
3/2	26	7	L	-
3/3	27	5	L	-
3/4	28	5	R	-
3/5	29	5	R	-
3/6	30	5	L	Small vertical line on Queen's throat Left square broken
3/7	31	5	L & R	Weak upper frame line Retouch over 'L' Left square broken
3/8	32	1	L	-
3/9	33	1	L & R	-
3/10	34	1	L & R	-

ROW/ COLUMN	POSITION ON SHEET	DEFECT STAGE	HORIZ GUIDE LINES	DESCRIPTION OF VARIETY
3/11	35	1	L & R	-
3/12	36	1	L & R	Guide dot at 3 o'clock
4/1	37	7	L & R	-
4/2	38	7	L	-
4/3	39	5	-	-
4/4	40	5	L & R	Left square open Weak upper frame line
4/5	41	5	-	Vertical guide line in left margin
4/6	42	5	L	Left square broken
4/7	43	5	L & R	-
4/8	44	1	R	-
4/9	45	1	L & R	Blurred 'A' of St Helena (later ptgs)
4/10	46	1	L & R	Vertical guide line outside left margin Line through 'P' of Sixpence extending into circle at 6 o'clock
4/11	47	1	L & R	-
4/12	48	1	L & R	-
5/1	49	7	L	-
5/2	50	7	L & R	-
5/3	51	5	L	-
5/4	52	5	L & R	Left square broken
5/5	53	5	L	-
5/6	54	5	R	-
5/7	55	5D	L	Flaw 'D' in left square
5/8	56	1	L	-
5/9	57	1	-	-
5/10	58	1	L	-
5/11	59	1	-	-
5/12	60	1	L	Guide dot at 3 o'clock
6/1	61	7	R	-
6/2	62	7	-	Two vert lines in circle at 4 o'clock Vertical line in left margin
6/3	63	6	L	-
6/4	64	5	L	-
6/5	65	5	L	Vert guide line in circle at 3 o'clock Blurr in bottom left of left square
6/6	66	5	L	This stamp approx 1mm lower than 65
6/7	67	5C	L	Weak upper frame line Thick horiz line in circle at 8 o'clock Flaw 'C' in left square
6/8	68	1	L	-
6/9	69	1	R	-
6/10	70	1	L	Re-entry to letters of St Helena Spot on nose
6/11	71	1	L & R	Small dot in circle at 8 o'clock Retouch to letters 'St'
6/12	72	1	L & R	-
7/1	73	7	R	Weak upper frame line
7/2	74	7	R	Right frame line weakened at centre
7/3	75	6	L & R	-
7/4	76	5	R	Weak upper frame line

ROW/ COLUMN	POSITION ON SHEET	DEFECT STAGE	HORIZ GUIDE LINES	DESCRIPTION OF VARIETY
7/5	77	5	L & R	This stamp is approx 1mm lower than 76
7/6	78	5	L	Thin curved line from diadem to cheek
7/7	79	5C	L & R	Flaw 'C' in left square
7/8	80	2	L & R	-
7/9	81	1	L & R	-
7/10	82	1	L & R	-
7/11	83	1	L & R	-
7/12	84	1	L & R	-
8/1	85	7	R	Left hand frame doubled and very weak Marks in circle at 4 o'clock Mark in left square
8/2	86	7	-	Left hand frame line doubled Re-entry to left hand side
8/3	87	6	-	-
8/4	88	5	-	Vert guide line through right of circle Thin vertical line through right square
8/5	89	5	R	-
8/6	90	5	-	-
8/7	91	5C	L	Weak upper frame line above 'Helena' Flaw 'C' in left square
8/8	92	2	L	-
8/9	93	1	L	2mm break in right frame line at centre
8/10	94	1	L	-
8/11	95	1	-	Bare patch below circle at 8 o'clock Fleck in right square
8/12	96	1	L & R	-
9/1	97	7	-	Vertical lines in left square Weak upper frame line
9/2	98	7	L & R	Horiz line in lower left of left square
9/3	99	6	-	Vert guide line in circle at 9 o'clock
9/4	100	5	-	-
9/5	101	5	-	Double vert line outside right margin
9/6	102	5	-	-
9/7	103	5C	-	Line through circle at 10 o'clock Flaw 'C' in left square
9/8	104	2	-	-
9/9	105	1	R	-
9/10	106	1	-	-
9/11	107	1	-	-
9/12	108	1	L	-
10/1	109	7	4	Minor re-entry - misplaced impression 1mm too high with traces of re-entry at bottom from stamp 121
10/2	110	7	L & R	-
10/3	111	6	-	-
10/4	112	5	L & R	Vert guide lines in circle at 3 o'clock and in right square
10/5	113	5	L & R	-
10/6	114	5	R	-
10/7	115	5C	-	Flaw 'C' in left square
10/8	116	2	-	Marks in circle at 9 o'clock and in left square

ROW/ COLUMN	POSITION ON SHEET	DEFECT STAGE	HORIZ GUIDE LINES	DESCRIPTION OF VARIETY
10/9	117	1	R	Mark on rosette in left square
10/10	118	1	R	-
10/11	119	1	-	-
10/12	120	1	-	-

(Listing to be concluded in Supplement 6)

ILLUSTRATIONS OF VARIETIES LISTED ABOVE



2/2 & 2/3



3/6



4/9



4/10



6/7



6/10



6/10



6/11



7/6



8/4



8/11

THE S.V. SEA BREEZE

I recently received the following snippet from Trevor Hearl which apparently comes from the diary of Miss Marion 'Minnie' Gorrie, the 18 year old daughter of John Gorrie, Governor Advocate at Mauritius. In 1876, her father, later Sir John, was posted to Fiji as Chief Justice, so he sent his wife and daughter back to England. They travelled from Mauritius to London on the 685 ton Sailing Vessel SEA BREEZE, a ship which sailed regularly in the sugar trade, between 1858 and 1877, calling only at St Helena en route. This was perhaps her last voyage before being sold to Norwegian owners. At this time she was owned by Blyth, Green & Co., whose long-standing agent at St Helena was a Mr T. Baker. They left Mauritius at the end of April, and by early June longed for a sight of St Helena. On board the passengers did little but read, sew and write letters to be posted at Jamestown.

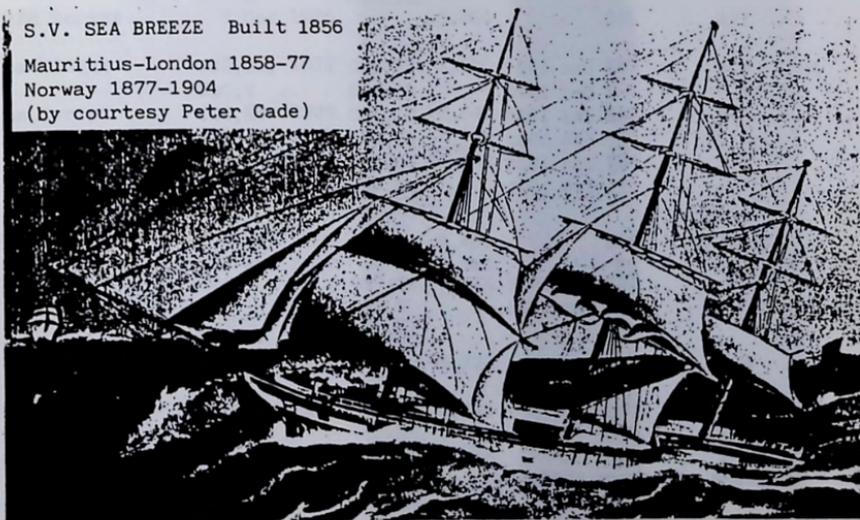
"Friday 2nd June (1876) St Helena is in sight at last! We shall be on shore tomorrow morning if nothing goes wrong...

Saturday 3rd June We were up early... expecting to be on shore about half-past eight, but L'homme propose et dieu dispose. We were not in till about half-past one. The wind dropped in the early morning and we were knocking about all that time quite close, but not close enough...

Just as we were trying to get in, we had the pleasure (?) of seeing the Cape Mail go away, so that our Mauritius letters will most likely have to lie there a month, unless the transport arrives which is going to the Cape first, then on to Mauritius. We tried to get the letters on shore in time but just missed it by about five minutes. It is very annoying..."

The copyright of the diary belongs to a descendant, Miss Judy Allen to whom I extend my warmest thanks for allowing me to print this item.

S.V. SEA BREEZE Built 1856
Mauritius-London 1858-77
Norway 1877-1904
(by courtesy Peter Cade)



1922 BADGE ISSUE - INVOICE DATES AND QUANTITIES PRINTED

I was surprised to find that a complete listing of invoice dates and quantities printed of the Badge Issue had never been published. From this list some interesting comparisons can be made with catalogued prices. The quantities of the three main varieties can also be deduced, highlighting their true relative scarcities.

VALUE	DATE OF INVOICE	STAMPS PRINTED	SHEETS PRINTED	SPECIMEN OVERPRINTS
½d	30 Dec 1922	117,180	1,953	416
	16 Feb 1932	62,100	1,035	
	9 Apr 1936	31,500	525	
	15 Jun 1936	30,000	500	
	14 Oct 1936	63,000	1,050	
	28 Nov 1936	59,940	999	
	11 Feb 1937	<u>88,140</u>	<u>1,469</u>	
		451,860	7,531	
1d	17 May 1922	23,880	398	404
	Apr 1923	120,120	2,002	
	26 Mar 1930	60,780	1,013	
	16 Feb 1932	61,860	1,031	
	28 Nov 1936	30,900	515	
	11 Feb 1937	<u>60,060</u>	<u>1,001</u>	
		357,600	5,960	
1½d *	22 Dec 1922	118,440	1,974	416
	11 Feb 1937	<u>44,160</u>	<u>736</u>	
		162,600	2,710	
2d	30 Dec 1922	119,460	1,991	416
	2 Dec 1926	60,120	1,002	
	12 Jul 1928	61,200	1,020	
	16 Feb 1932	61,260	1,021	
	15 Jun 1936	30,000	500	
	11 Feb 1936	<u>28,440</u>	<u>474</u>	
		360,480	6,008	
3d	22 Dec 1922	111,720	1,862	416
	30 Dec 1922	<u>7,620</u>	<u>127</u>	
		119,340	1,989	
4d	30 Dec 1922	120,720	2,012	416

* Includes all three shades

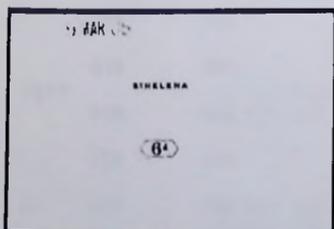
VALUE	DATE OF INVOICE	STAMPS PRINTED	SHEETS PRINTED	SPECIMEN OVERPRINTS
5d	23 Jul 1927	29,760	496	422
	9 Apr 1936	6,300	105	
	15 Jun 1936	15,000	250	
	17 Jun 1936	50	1	
	29 Apr 1937	<u>11,280</u>	<u>188</u>	
		62,390	1,040	
6d	17 May 1922	15,900	265	404
	16 Mar 1925	<u>62,400</u>	<u>1,040</u>	
		78,300	1,305	
8d	22 Dec 1922	119,760	1,996	416
	29 Apr 1937	<u>11,400</u>	<u>190</u>	
		131,160	2,186	
1s	17 May 1922	13,920	232	404
	2 Dec 1926	30,000	500	
	29 Apr 1937	<u>6,000</u>	<u>100</u>	
		49,920	832	
1/6 MCA	17 May 1922	10,080	168	404
1/6 Script	2 Dec 1926	20,220	337	421
2s	23 Jul 1927	20,760	346	422
2/6 MCA	17 May 1922	9,120	152	404
2/6 Script	2 Dec 1926	20,460	341	421
5s MCA	17 May 1922	7,620	127	404
5s Script	2 Dec 1926	15,540	259	421
	29 Apr 1937	<u>5,700</u>	<u>95</u>	
		21,240	354	
7/6	17 May 1922	6,480	108	404
	29 Apr 1937	<u>5,340</u>	<u>89</u>	
		11,820	197	
10s	17 May 1922	6,720	112	404
15s	17 May 1922	6,460	107½	404
£1	17 May 1922	5,880	98	404

AUCTION RESULTS - WARWICK & WARWICK 6th NOVEMBER 1985

72 lots of St Helena went under the hammer at Warwick & Warwick's 6th November sale. Items of particular interest included:-

Lot		Realised
525	1902 postal stationery card to Germany with 'Passed by Censor/St Helena/Head Office' strike Est £250	£230
535	1903 Die proof of 8d frame Est £250	£180
536	1908 Die proof of 6d (name and value tablet only) Est £250	£180
539	1911 Registered cover to Germany with Edward 10s Est £250	£200
541	1911 Unissued 1d opt Specimen Est £200	£180
542	ditto but with minor faults Est £100	£110
544	1912 Die proof of 2½d frame marked Before Striking Est £250	£180
545	1912 Die proof of 6d frame marked After Striking Est £250	£180
563	£1 Badge with variety 'hole in hull' Est £400	£350
564	£1 Badge with 'Torn Flag' variety Est £600	£625
566	½d Badge optd Specimen with 'Torn Flag' variety Est £150	£130
567	½d Badge marginal with watermark inverted Est £40	£40
569	1d Badge colour trial in issued colours of 7/6 value watermark sideways (unrecorded) Est £500	£500
573	1½d Deep carmine-red mint corner block with one stamp showing variety 'cleft rock' Est £300	£270
586	15s Badge fine used Est £700	£625
587	15s Badge with 'Torn Flag' variety (slight faults) Est £750	£600
590	Tristan Relief set u/m marginals Est £2,500	£2,200

All lots subject to plus 15% V.A.T. but there is no buyer's premium



536



587



539



541



525



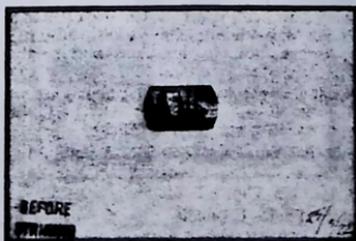
569

AUCTION RESULTS - PHILLIPS 7th NOVEMBER 1985

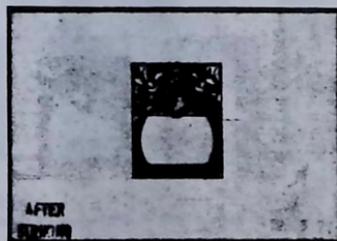
67 lots of St Helena attracted some keen bidding at one of the most important sales of the season. Outstanding items included:

Badge Issue die proofs	Realised
357 Vignette marked 'Before Striking' Est £200/250	£370
358 ditto marked 'After Striking' Est £200/250	£360
359 1d frame marked 'Before Hardening' Est £250/300	£190
360 1½d frame without state Est £200/250	£150
361 6d frame marked 'Before Striking' Est £250/300	£190
362 6d frame marked 'After Striking' Est £250/300	£185
363 1s frame marked 'After Hardening' Est £250/300	£175
364 1/6 frame marked 'After Striking' Est £250/300	£210
365 5s frame marked 'After Hardening' Est £250/300	£190
366 7/6 frame marked 'After Hardening' Est £250/300	£185
367 10s frame marked 'After Striking' Est £250/300	£185
368 15s frame marked 'Before Striking' Est £300/350	£320
369 1l frame marked 'Before Striking' Est £270/320	£220
370 Cut down proofs of ½d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 4d and 8d affixed to piece and marked 60+2 leads Est £400/500	£540
371 Cut down proofs of 1d, 6d, 1s, 1/6 and 2/6 affixed to piece and marked 60+2 leads Est £400/500	£1000
372 Cut down proofs of 5d and 2s affixed to piece and marked 60+4 leads Est £350/400	£370
373 Cut down proofs of 5s, 7/6, 10s, 15s and 1l affixed to piece and marked 60+2 leads Est £500/600	£720
(the above four items sold as one lot at Robson Lowe in December 1978 when they fetched £1600 plus 8% buyers premium).	
374 10 bi-coloured perforated colour trials affixed to De La Rue records sheet Est £1700/2000	£1050
375 5 similar trials affixed to sheet Est £1200/1500	£880
376 Printers sample 1d green & purple Est £80/100	£105
377 Similar item in brown & green Est £80/100	£95
381 1l Badge in corner marginal block of 4 Est £700/900	£1050
387 ½d Badge complete sheet of 60 Est £20/30	£48
388 1d & 1½d Badge complete sheets of 60 Est £80/90	£310
390 2d Badge complete sheet of 60 Est £40/50	£195
391 Similar sheet Est £40/50	£250
392 3d Badge complete sheet of 60 Est £50/60	£270
393 1/6 MCA Badge complete sheet of 60 Est £250/300	£680
394 2/6 MCA Badge complete sheet of 60 Est £500/600	£800
395 5s MCA Badge complete sheet of 60 Est £700/800	£1100

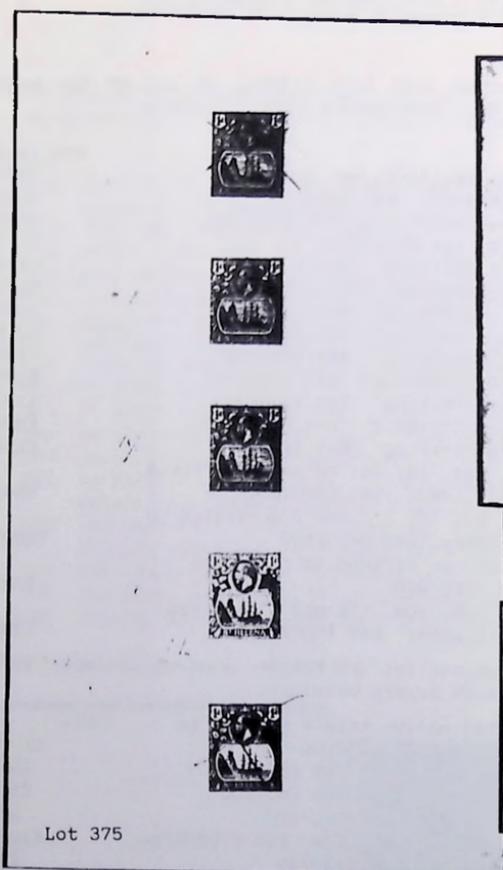
All prices subject to a 10% buyers' premium



Lot 357



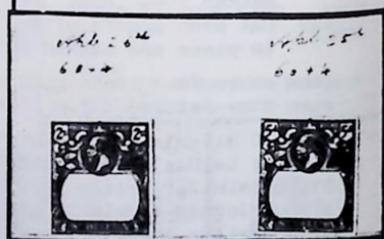
Lot 364



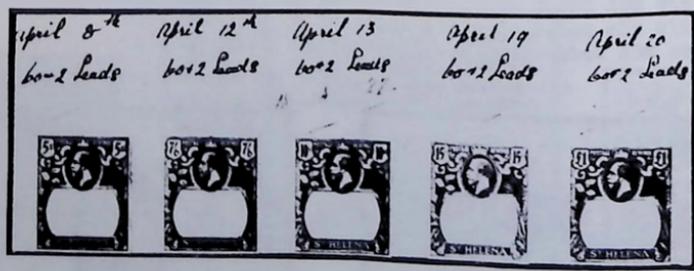
Lot 375



Lot 381



Lot 372



Lot 373

This column shows other colour
 combinations for the post
 approved on 11/12/1974. Three of the
 substitutes being chosen for the 1/64,
 1/2, and 1/3. All stamps were printed
 in Inland-Postive Inc.

29th March 1972
 A. Helman
 Reg. 11341



1



1/2



1/3



1/64



1/2



Lot 31st Lot 30th Lot 29th Lot 28th

60x2 Leads 60x2 Leads 60x2 Leads 60x2 Leads

1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

Lot 27th Lot 26th

60x2 Leads 60x2 Leads

1/2 1/2

Lot 370

Lot 371

March 24th 29th 30th 31st 1st April

60x2 Leads 60x2 Leads 60x2 Leads 60x2 Leads 60x2 Leads

1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

THE POST OFFICE RECORDS

Phillip Beale has spent numerous hours sorting through the Post Office records for Public Notices and Post Office Instructions relating to West Africa. He has kindly sent me photocopies of all such notices which relate in some way to St Helena. The documents which date from 1854 to 1889 are of tremendous importance in understanding the postal rates to (and from) the Island, and the various routes taken.

Unfortunately, the quality of the originals is often very poor and the photocopies reflect this. Consequently, I have started to transcribe the contents and these are shown below - the remainder will appear in future Supplements. Anybody wishing to see the originals can do so by visiting the Post Office Records, Freeling House, Glasshill Street, London (near Waterloo Station).

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the archivists for their invaluable help and for permission to reproduce the documents. I must also thank Phillip Beale for his unselfish encouragement.

By Command of the Postmaster General

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
and
Instructions to all Postmasters

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS TO CERTAIN COLONIES

GENERAL POST OFFICE
April 1854

On and from the first of next month, the Postage upon Letters conveyed whether by Packet or Private Ship, between the United Kingdom and the following British Colonies and Possessions, viz.-

CEYLON
HONG KONG

ST. HELENA and
The GOLD COAST

will be reduced to a combined British and Colonial Rate of -

	s	d
For a letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz in weight.....	0	6
" exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz and not exceeding 1oz... 1	1	0
" exceeding 1oz and not exceeding 2oz... 2	2	0

and so on, increasing One Shilling for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce. The Postage upon Letters for Ceylon and Hong Kong may be paid in advance, or not, at the option of the sender, but upon Letters for the Gold Coast or St Helena, the Postage must be prepaid or the Letters cannot be forwarded.



By Command of the Postmaster General.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC,

AND

Instructions to all Postmasters.

Extension of the Privileges of the Colonial Book Post.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
FEBRUARY, 1865.

ON and from the 1st March next, the regulations of the Colonial Book Post, will, in most respects, be assimilated with those of the Inland Book Post, and will be as follows, viz:—

1. A Book packet may contain any number of separate Books, Publications, Prints, Almanacs or Maps, and any quantity of Paper, Parchment or Vellum, (to the exclusion of Letters, whether sealed or open) and the Books, Maps, Paper, &c., may be either printed, written or plain, or any mixture of the three.

2. The packet must not exceed two feet in length, breadth or width.

3. The name and address of the Sender, and any words not of the nature of a Letter, may be written or printed upon the envelope or cover of the packet, in addition to the name and address of the person to whom it may be forwarded.

4. The Books, &c., may be in any binding, mounting or covering, whether such binding, &c., be loose or attached. In the case of Prints or Maps, rollers may accompany the same; and markers, whether of paper or otherwise, may be sent with Books or other printed papers.

5. If a Book packet be found to contain any enclosure which is sealed or otherwise closed against inspection, or any Letter whether sealed or not, the Letter or other enclosure will be taken out and forwarded to the address on the packet, charged with the full postage as an unpaid letter, together with an additional rate equal to the amount chargeable on a Book, not exceeding half-a-pound in weight. The remainder of the packet, if duly prepaid, will be forwarded without any extra charge.

6. If a packet be not sufficiently prepaid according to its weight, but nevertheless bear Postage Stamps of the value of a single Book-rate, it will not as heretofore, become liable to the letter rate of postage, but will be forwarded charged with the deficient Book postage, and an additional Book-rate as a fine.

7. In the event of a Book packet being posted altogether unpaid, or paid less than a single rate, it will be detained and sent to the Dead Letter Office.

The following is a List of the British Colonies and Possessions to which the Book post has been established, and to which therefore, these extended privileges apply; and annexed to the name of each Colony is a Table of the rates of postage, chargeable on Books, &c., sent under the above regulations, from the United Kingdom.

Names of British Colonies and Possessions.	Not exceeding 1lb. in weight.	Exceeding 1lb. and not exceeding 1lb.	Exceeding 2lb. and not exceeding 2lb.	Exceeding 3lb.
The British West Indies ..				
Bermuda				
Canada				
Nova Scotia				
New Brunswick				
Prince Edward Island				
Newfoundland				
Hibernia	0 6	1 0	2 0	3 0
Ionian Islands				
St. Helena				
Gold Coast				
Cape Town				
New South Wales				
South Australia				
New Zealand				
East Indies	0 8	1 4	2 8	4 0
Ceylon				
in Mauritius				
Hong Kong				

No Book packet exceeding the weight of three pounds can be sent to the East Indies or to New South Wales, &c., &c., addressed to any of the other Colonies above enumerated, the postage for heavier packets will increase by two rates of postage for every pound or fraction of a pound.

Book packets can only be forwarded to the above British Colonies and Possessions by British or Colonial Mail Packets, excepting in the case of Cape Town, New Zealand, and St. Helena, to which places (there being no direct Packets) Books may be forwarded by private ships.

In no case can a Book packet be sent to the Colonies, (except at the letter rate of postage), through a Foreign Country.

To prevent any obstacle to the regular transmission of letters, any Officer of the Post Office may delay the transmission of any Book packet, for a time not exceeding 24 hours from the time at which the same would otherwise have been forwarded by him.

These Instructions are not to extend to, or interfere with, the transmission of printed papers, allowed to pass by the Post, under the Newspaper privilege, which will continue subject to the existing regulations.

ROWLAND HILL,
Secretary.

REGISTRATION OF LETTERS
AND PACKETS OF
PRINTED PAPERS FOR CERTAIN
BRITISH COLONIES

GENERAL POST OFFICE
12th December 1857

On the 1st January next, and thenceforward, a Letter or a Packet of Printed Papers addressed to any of the undermentioned British Colonies may be registered on the application of the person posting it, provided the postage, together with a Registration fee of Sixpence, be paid in advance:-

Canada	St Helena
New Brunswick	Cape of Good Hope
Prince Edward Island	Natal
Barbados	Mauritius
Turk's Islands	Ceylon
Trinidad	South Australia, and
Sierra Leone	Western Australia
Gold Coast	

ROWLAND HILL
Secretary

Circular

The following Instructions must be carefully affixed to the Book of Instructions furnished for the guidance of the Postmasters in the West Indies.

GENERAL POST OFFICE
1st February 1858

SIR,

With reference to the printed Instructions ... respecting the Registration of Letters forwarded through the United Kingdom to any British Colony or Foreign Country, with which arrangements have been made for Registering Letters sent from the United Kingdom, I have to inform you, that ... Letters addressed to the following British Colonies may now be registered at your Office, when intended to be forwarded through this Country, viz:-

Canada	Sierra Leone	Prince Edward Island
New Brunswick	Ceylon	Cape of Good Hope
South Australia	Western Australia	Mauritius
Gold Coast	Natal, and	St Helena

COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT
of
POSTAGE ON LETTERS
for
BARBADOS, TRINIDAD, & ST. HELENA

GENERAL POST OFFICE
10th September 1858

On the 1st October next, and thenceforward, the compulsory prepayment of postage will be extended to all Letters addressed to

Bardados,
Trinidad, and
St. Helena

The postage also of Letters posted in those Colonies, addressed to the United Kingdom, will be required to be prepaid by the senders.

By Command of the Postmaster-General
ROWLAND HILL
Secretary

LETTERS
for the
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, NATAL
ST. HELENA and ASCENSION

GENERAL POST OFFICE
12th March 1864

As many Letters for the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena and Ascension, continue to be posted insufficiently prepaid, the Public are reminded that Letters for any of those places, when not specially directed to be sent by Private Ship, are forwarded by Mail Packet, and are chargeable with the following rates of postage, viz:-

FOR A LETTER

Not exceeding ½ oz.	Above ½ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	Above 1 oz. and not exceeding 1½ oz.	Above 1½ oz. and not exceeding 2 oza.	For every additional ½ oz.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1 0	2 0	3 0	4 0	1 0

In all cases where the whole postage is not paid in advance, the Letters are charged, on delivery, with an additional rate of one shilling, besides the amount of the deficient postage.

By Command of the Postmaster-General

ALTERATION OF DAY FOR
DESPATCHING MAILS DIRECT
TO THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

GENERAL POST OFFICE
16th November 1864

COMMENCING with December next, the direct Mail Packets for the Cape of Good Hope, St Helena and Ascension, will, in future, leave Devonport on the morning of the 10th of each month, on the arrival of the Mail despatched from London on the previous evening.

When, however, the 9th of the month falls on a Sunday, the Mails will not be despatched from London until the evening of the 10th, and the Packet will not sail until the morning of the 11th.

These Packets will, henceforth, go on from the Cape to Mauritius, calling at Natal, and any Letters &c, for Mauritius, specially directed via the Cape of Good Hope, will be sent by that route. Such Letters, &c, will be liable to the same postage as when forwarded via Southampton and Suez.

By Command of the Postmaster-General

P A T T E R N P O S T
TO QUEENSLAND, THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,
NATAL AND ST. HELENA

GENERAL POST OFFICE
29th December 1865

On the 1st January next, and thenceforward, the regulations of the Pattern Post will be extended to the Colonies of Queensland, Cape of Good Hope, Natal and St Helena. The following will be the rates of postage, which must be pre-paid by means of Postage Stamps, viz:-

Via SOUTHAMPTON.

For a Packet not exceeding 4 ozs.	Above 4 ozs. and not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Above $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and not exceeding 1 lb.	Above 1 lb. and not exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ Above 1 lb. and not exceeding 2 lbs.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
0 4	0 8	1 4	2 0	2 8

Via MARSEILLES.

For a Packet not exceeding 4 oz.	Above 4 oz. and not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Above $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and not exceeding 1 lb.	Above 1 lb. and not exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Above $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and not exceeding 2 lbs.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
0 6	1 0	2 0	3 0	4 0

To
Queensland,
Cape of Good
Hope, Natal,
St. Helena.

BY PACKET, Via DEVONPORT.

To Cape of
Good Hope,
Natal, and St.
Helena.

For a Packet not exceeding 4 ozs.	Above 4 ozs. and not exceeding ½ lb.	Above ½ lb. and not exceeding 1 lb.	Above 1 lb. and not exceeding 1½ lb.	Above 1½ lb. and not exceeding 2 lbs.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
0 3	0 6	1 0	1 6	2 0

and so on, increasing by two rates of postage for every half-pound, or fraction of half-a-pound.

No packet of patterns or samples must exceed two feet in length and one foot in breadth or depth, and no packet addressed to Queensland must exceed three pounds in weight.

By Command of the Postmaster-General

REDUCTION OF FEE ON REGISTERED
LETTERS FOR BRITISH COLONIES AND
FOREIGN COUNTRIES

GENERAL POST OFFICE
22nd January 1866

On the 1st February next and thenceforward, the British Registration Fee on every Registered Letter posted in the United Kingdom addressed to any British Colony or Foreign Country, will be reduced from sixpence to fourpence.

The same reduction will take place in the fee chargeable on any Newspaper or Book Packet addressed to a British Colony or to the Kingdom of Italy, which the senders may desire to register.

By Command of the Postmaster-General

MAILS FOR ST. HELENA

GENERAL POST OFFICE
5th March 1866

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

ADDITIONAL MAILS
to the
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

GENERAL POST OFFICE
20th January 1868

The Union Steam Ship Company having established, experimentally, a line of extra Steamers to the Cape of Good Hope, leaving Southampton on the 25th of each month, arrangements have been made for the conveyance of Mails by those Steamers, in addition to the Mails which are already made up for conveyance from Plymouth by the Packet of the 10th of each month.

Additional Mails will, accordingly, be made up, until further notice, for despatch from Southampton on the 25th of each month for the Cape of Good Hope; and all Letters &c, addressed to the Cape Of Good Hope, Natal St Helena and Ascension, posted in time, will be forwarded in those Mails.

Such Letters &c, will be chargeable with the Packet rates of postage. When the 25th of the month falls on a Sunday, the Mails will be despatched from London on the previous evening..

By Command of the Postmaster-General

M A I L S
for the
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

GENERAL POST OFFICE
3rd April 1871

PERMISSION has been given to the Union Steam Ship Company to substitute Southampton for Plymouth as the port of departure and arrival of their Packets employed, under contract, for the conveyance of Mails between this Country and the Cape of Good Hope.

The change will take place commencing with the Packet appointed to sail on the 10th of April next, which will leave Southampton, and the Mails for the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St Helena, Ascension and Madeira, will be made up in London on the morning of that day, and thenceforward on the morning of the 10th of each month, instead of on the evening of the 9th and 24th as heretofore.

When the 10th or 25th falls on a Sunday, the Mails will be made up in London on the morning of the following day.

By Command of the Postmaster-General



MAILS FOR THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, NATAL, ST. HELENA, and ASCENSION.

FROM the commencement of next year, the Mail Packets for the Cape of Good Hope will be despatched from Southampton three times, instead of twice, in each month.

Mails for the Cape of Good Hope and Natal will be made up in London on the Morning of the 5th, 15th, and 25th of each month; but the Packet from Table Bay to Natal will, for the present, be fitted only to the arrival at Table Bay of the Packet from Southampton of the 5th of the month.

The direct Mails for St. Helena will be despatched by the Packet of the 5th of the month, which will call at St. Helena; but Mails for that Colony will be forwarded to Table Bay by the Packet of the 15th, in the hope that they will arrive in time for transmission to their destination by the Homeward Packet appointed to leave on the 15th of the following month.

Mails for Ascension will be forwarded to Table Bay by each of the Packets, and will be delivered by the Homeward Packets, which will call at Ascension twice a month.

When the 5th, 15th, or 25th of the month falls on Sunday, the Mails will be made up in London on the following Morning.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
23rd December, 1872.

1947 ROYAL VISIT OVERPRINTS

In Supplement 3, I reported on six George VI items overprinted 'Royal Visit' which went under the hammer at Sotheby's on the 7th September 1984. The catalogue described their status as unknown although the lot included a document to Governor Clark which referred to the stamps. The six stamps together with the document were estimated at £80-£100 and were sold for £220 + 10%.

I was recently given the chance to view a small accumulation of similar stamps consisting of 11 items. These showed three different overprint settings on the George VI definitives (½d to 4d). The source was traced back to a relative of Governor Clark and all the signs pointed to both lots having the same origin.

Three overprint settings naturally suggest some sort of trial, possibly produced locally. Most of the items were marginal copies from the top or bottom of the sheet which give the impression that very small quantities were produced - possibly two rows or maybe just a block of each value.

The three settings are illustrated diagrammatically below.

FIRST	ROYAL VISIT	ROYAL VISIT
ROYAL VISIT	ROYAL VISIT	ROYAL VISIT
29th APRIL	29th APRIL	29th APRIL,
1947.	1947.	1947.
(A)	(B)	(C)

- (A) Tall thin capital lettering (2½mm tall) heavily serifed
- (B) Similar but without the word 'FIRST'
- (C) Large and small serifed capitals (2mm tall), 7/8mm spacing between the first two lines and a comma after April.

VALUES OVERPRINTED

- ½d Violet (C)
- 1d Yellow (A) & (B)
- 1½d Red (C)
- 2d Orange (A) & (B)
- 3d Grey (A) & (B)
- 4d Blue (B)



I have also heard, but not seen, that these overprints appear on the Victory and Coronation sets. Confirmation on this or any additional information would be most welcomed.

R.B.W.

In Supplement 4 I reported on and illustrated the twelve types of circular date stamps used in St Helena from their introduction in 1870 upto the present time. The article involved considerable research and expanded our knowledge by almost doubling the number of cancellers recorded by Hibbert.

I was astonished therefore to see the same article abridged in an American 'specialist' society's newsletter. The same illustrations had been used and the earliest and latest recorded dates quoted, but the number of cancellers had been reduced to seven. (An eighth type reported in Supplement 2 was also included). To add to the confusion, the sequence had been re-numbered using Roman numerals. The result is in some cases, upto three different notations for the same canceller, eg. Hibbert's cds 4 = West type 7 = the American type V.

To try and clarify the situation, I would like to repeat that there are at least TWELVE types of cancellers. The five types not individually recognised by the Americans are obviously worthy of some comment:

Types 3 & 4 The dot/hyphen difference between these two types represent the essential ingredient of philately at the serious level. If a strike is insufficiently clear to identify its type, that is an unfortunate fact of life and could easily apply to any other cancellation.

Types 6 & 7 The difference between these two cancellers is rather more obvious, type 6 has a 'C' slug and type 7 an 'A' slug. The earliest dates I had for each was 1927, but the 'A' slug type has since been recorded as early as 1923, further justifying the case for distinguishing the two types.

Types 8 & 9 I have received from the Postmaster at Jamestown specimen strikes of these two cancellers (see illustration). In his letter to me, the Postmaster stated "...there are two types of these handstamps currently in use". A simple overlay on tracing paper will reveal the different setting of 'St Helena'.

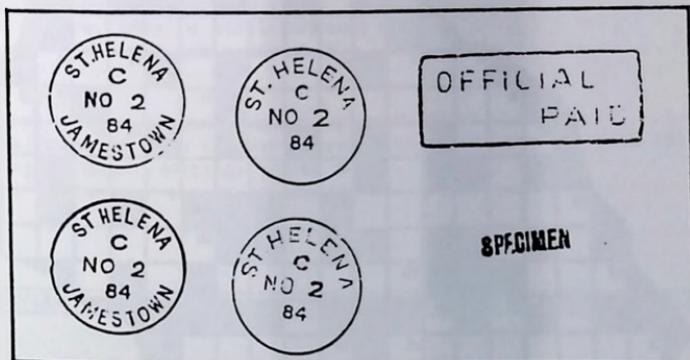
Types 10, 11 & 12 The 'Local Post' cancels (type 10) were designated for use in the SUB post offices and by definition, must differ from the Jamestown or MAIN post office cancels. The 'locals' were introduced four years earlier, and although still in use, such usage is understood to be purely philatelic. Since 1979 (?) the locals have been kept at the Jamestown office. The wording 'St Helena' differs considerably on the Local and Jamestown types. The two Jamestown cancels also appear on the specimen card from the Postmaster, and the same comment refers. Types 11 and 12 may easily be identified by the letter 'M'.

The difference between several of these types is not always minor, but in any event, minor differences are invariably significant in most aspects of our hobby. To appreciate this, we only have to consider retouches and varieties, key plate dies, clean and rough perforations, perf gauges, surcharge types and varieties, the transfer roller flaws, shades and the like. On a wider spectrum we could add to this list such items as: types and thicknesses of paper, gum types, watermark changes, phosphors, printing processes, overprint types, reprints, forgeries,

etc, etc, the list is endless. Furthermore, it must be remembered that in some cases genuine and forged cancels can only be positively identified by such minor differences.

If the hobby is to prosper, then original research must be respected and perhaps expanded. The prime function of a specialist society must be to encourage such research. Condensing, abbreviating or simplifying remains a personal preference but should not be supported, and certainly not published by a society dedicated "to promoting the study and research of philatelic matter".

R.B.W.



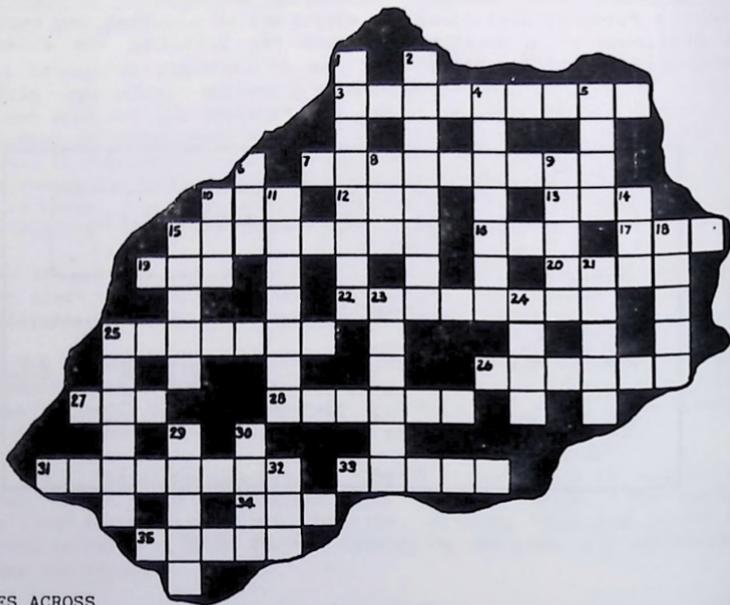
ST HELENA NEWS REVIEW

I feel obliged to report on the local St Helena News Review which is published weekly by the Island's Information Department. The review is comparable to a local Parish Newsletter and although non-philatelic, it does offer an interesting insight into Island life. Recent topics have included the opening of Levelwood Reservoir, 12 mile mini marathon, the formation of a swimming club, fibre-cement roof tiles, Government news, Radio St Helena programmes and details of visiting ships.

Published at the princely sum of 2p (yes two pence), the reviews are despatched to coincide with the departure of R.M.S. St Helena. The news is consequently history by the time its received, but nevertheless, is very interesting. A subscription of say £5 would probably provide you for a couple of years with a fine assortment of commercially used newspaper wrappers, and you might even receive an acknowledgement with the 'Information Dept' handstamp.

PRIZE CROSSWORD

In case the following crossword is difficult, I have decided to offer a prize. Anybody sending me the correct solution will receive one of my 'Seventeenth Facsimile' presentation packs. Good luck.



CLUES ACROSS

- 3 At length I finally came home (4,5)
- 7 It belongs about here on the map, that's Capital (9)
- 10 Return the sub, another way to travel (3)
- 12 She loses a point from the sale (3)
- 13 Initially, a censor (3)
- 15 De La Rue's masterpiece (3,5)
- 16 Edward's number (3)
- 17 Copy from part of the Cape (3)
- 19 Insect at the end of 1 (3)
- 20 Diet for a change, of water (4)
- 22 (23 & 24) Change a round variety of Perkins Bacon (8,6,4)
- 25 Equipment and uniforms belong (7)
- 26 On the Island, a man's home? (6)
- 27 Metallic mail? can be (3)
- 28 He visited the Island, but not by comet (6)
- 31 An example perhaps overprinted or perforated or handstamped (8)
- 33 Spider man with designs on the Badge (5)
- 34 Ten returned only to get caught (3)
- 35 I came between the United Nations and some Territorials, before the union (5)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Fifty join the poor countryman, that's nice (8)
- 2 The Island outlined here (2,6)
- 4 Save tin for the locals (7)
- 5 Suspend from Half Tree Hollow? (4)
- 6 Exchange for money (3)
- 8 A little bit of mattress to wipe your feet on (3)
- 9 With a point, the lion was colourless (5)
- 10 Wager (3)
- 11 They didn't discover St Helena, but are close to those who did (7)
- 14 Nutty as a fruit cake? or a bit of Madeira (3)
- 15 High on the Centenary 5s (5)
- 18 Old or new, they're still currency (5)
- 21 I tear about and get annoyed (5)
- 23 See 22
- 24 See 22
- 25 I deal with a thousand and got posted (6)
- 29 This Princess gets in everywhere, with or without her peak (5)
- 30 Cronje's County cottage (4)
- 32 Born in two (or three) points (3)

REVIEW - THE PHILATELY OF THE CAMPS FOR BOER PRISONERS OF WAR

I was delighted to receive my copy of "St Helena - The philately of the Camps for Boer Prisoners of War - April 1900 to August 1902". (Compiled and edited by Bernard J. Mabbett and published by The Anglo-Boer War Society). The 64 page handbook covers all aspects of this popular area with numerous illustrations, tables, dates and lists.

From a brief introduction, the book takes the reader through the various camps with examples of most censor marks and seals (numbered in accordance with the Anglo-Boer War Society). Several pages of illustrations show the various censors' initials and other markings. Other sections of the book cover such diverse topics as Overseas Inter-camp Mail, Forged Censor Mark, Hospital Mail, Unclaimed Handstamp, Returned Letter Handstamp and Censor Seals - again all illustrated.

Tables cover the volume of mail handled during the period, arrival and departure of prisoners (transport, dates and numbers) and a schedule of censor marks and handstamps. The book closes with over 30 examples of picture postcards of the Boer War.

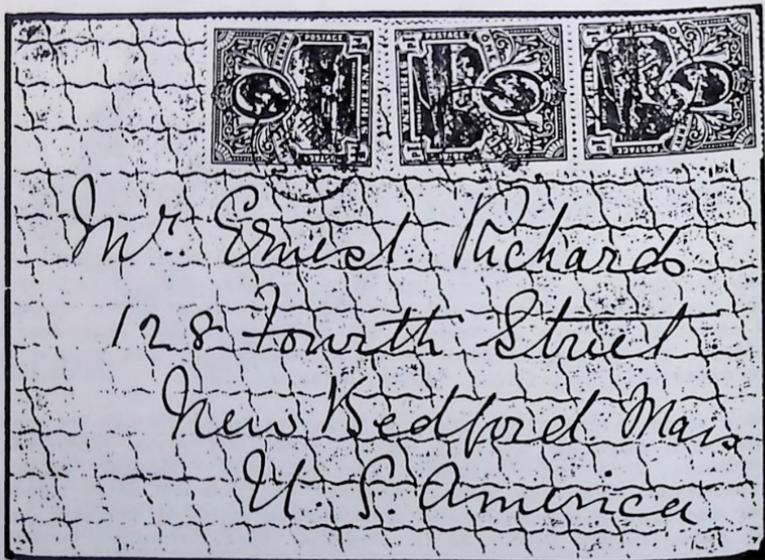
The book is well researched with a wealth of information, although a more comprehensive index would have been useful. No doubt someone will criticize the quality of some of the reproductions, but a higher quality here would inevitably push the price right up. Despite this, the book is quite excellent and a must for anyone with the slightest interest in the St Helena Boer War connection.

The book is available for £6 (post paid) to Bernard J. Mabbett,
34 Veronica Green, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8LE

THE CIRCULAR DATE STAMP - TYPE 1

Although the cover illustrated below has appeared elsewhere, I thought it worth featuring here as it shows the type 1 cancel of February 25th 1912. This cancel was effectively replaced with type 2 in 1897 and types 3 and 4 were introduced in 1901. Type 3 however, showed signs of wear from 1908-1911 and if it was sent away for repair or replacement, it is possible that type 1 was re-introduced as a stand by. I have several examples of this cancel used on the Edwardian Issues, including two of March 7th 1912 - the latest recorded date.

I also have several examples dated November 24th, but as there are no signs at all of a year slug, I regarded them all with some suspicion. The existence of such an item on cover does offer some credibility to these cancels. I must thank Don Lampart for the photocopy of the cover.



FE 25 12



MR 7 12



MR 7 12



NO 24



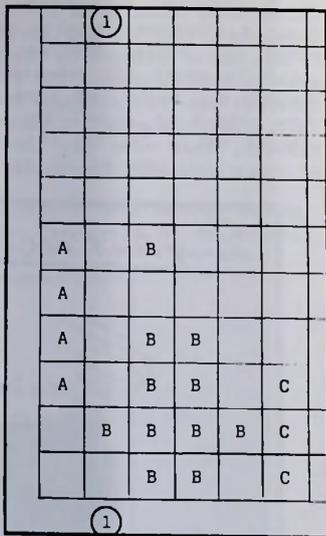
NO 24

KEY PLATE FRAME BREAKS

In Supplement 1, I reported on frame breaks on the Edwardian Key Plates. The diagrams below show three typical types on the 2½d value, and their locations on the left hand frame. Similar flaws occur on the 4d and 6d values although I have not been quite so successful in plating these.

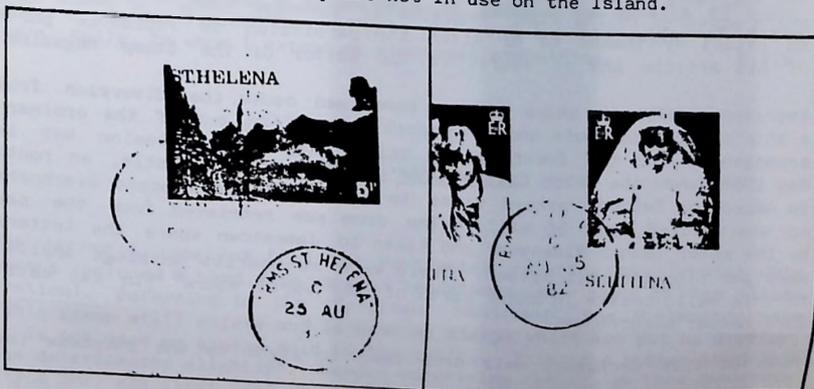


2½d Ed Key Plate - Left Hand Pane



R.M.S. ST HELENA CANCELS

Illustrated below are two covers with the R.M.S. St Helena cancellations reported in Supplement 2. The examples dated 25 AU and AU 25 show that two cancels exist although there are no other differences between them. These cancels were not included in my article on the circular date stamps (Supplement 4) as they are not in use on the Island.



AN INTERESTING COVER

Illustrated below is a P.O.W. cover from Port Elizabeth addressed to Commandant Cronje, and marked Boer Prisoner of War Camp. Although Cronje was a prisoner on the Island, he and his wife were allowed to stay in Kent Cottage. The thing which struck me as being of particular interest was that although the cover had been censored, it had not been initialled. However, I understand from our Boer War expert, Bernard Mabbett, that very few incoming covers were initialled, irregardless of their apparent importance.



ST HELENA DRUM MAIL

The following is an extract from "St Helena Drum Mail" by David Allen which appeared in The Stamp Magazine of December 1985. I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Allen for permission to reproduce parts of his article and of course to the editor of The Stamp Magazine.

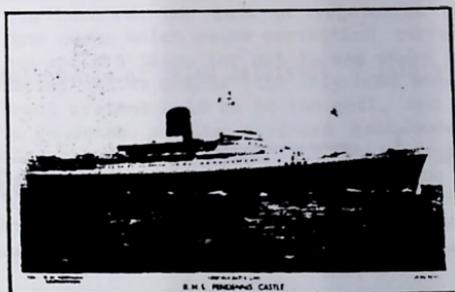
Emergency calls to ships at sea sometimes cause the diversion from a ship's intended route and the possibility of an out of the ordinary arrangement for the forwarding of mail. One such occasion was in May 1968, when the Union Castle Line's RMS Penderennis Castle, en route to Ascension Island, passed close to St Helena and dropped overboard an unscheduled drum of mail. The drum was retrieved from the sea by the motor launch Wideawake and taken to Jamestown where the letters were put into the mail system. There were no special markings applied to this mail, unlike in other parts of the world where 'tin can mail' is a normal occurrence.

News of this emergency mail drop came to light by the purchase (by

the Author) of two covers. Both covers have Hampshire addresses and bear St Helena stamps cancelled May 21 1968.

It has been suggested that the Pendennis Castle was diverted from her usual mail route for some sort of mercy mission, possibly a sick child on St Helena, but the problem was resolved before the ship reached the Island. The ship's bureau collected the items of mail and the money for the postage, and made up a mail bag which was sealed into a standard 40 gallon oil drum. This was lashed to a spar and weighted so that the whole construction floated upright. The report says that there may have been a flag at the top of the spar.

News of the event was reported in the St Helena News Review of May 25th stating " the canister and the marker flag will be on display at the Hardware Store until June 1st".



OBITUARY - ARTHUR H. MAWSON JP

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Arthur Mawson who passed away on the 3rd October following a long illness. Until his illness, he was an ex-island councillor, Justice of the Peace, President of the Cricket Association, Member of the Stamp Committee and Chairman of the Heritage Society. Although not a member of the Study Circle, Arthur was a great help in sending me details of local news, stamp committees etc. He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Molly, to whom I extend my sincerest sympathies. R.B.W.

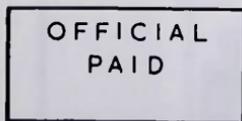
SPECIMEN HANDSTAMPS

The letter I received from the Postmaster relating to circular date stamps included a card with various handstamps (see page 25 for illustration). Referring to the 'Specimen' handstamp, the Postmaster says "This stamp still exists and is used on stamps which are put on display. It is not used on stamps sold to the public. This is a rubber stamp and has deteriorated slightly". Hardly surprising really, as this handstamp (type SH2) was first used on the 5s orange of 1967 - 120 years ago.

OFFICIAL PAID HANDSTAMPS

It has been suggested that the 'Official Paid' handstamps be re-numbered and separated from the 'Castle' types. This has come about by confusion over recent discoveries not recorded by Hibbert. One 'new' handstamp designated as OFF 6A for example, is neither like OFF 6 (as implied) nor does it follow OFF 6 chronologically. Acceptance of these proposals now will eliminate further confusion in the event of any additional types (or sub types) coming to light. Details of all known types are set out below, together with earliest and latest dates recorded. Any revisions or comments on this listing would be most welcomed. The 'Castle' types will be dealt with in the near future, and relevant information on these is also required.

OFFICIAL 1 'OFFICIAL PAID' in manuscript



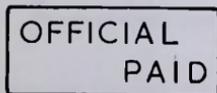
OFFICIAL 2



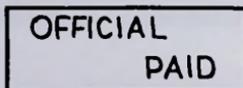
OFFICIAL 3



OFFICIAL 4



OFFICIAL 5



OFFICIAL 6



OFFICIAL 7

NEW NUMBER	OLD NUMBER	EARLIEST DATE RECORDED	LATEST DATE RECORDED
OFFICIAL 1	-	1878	
OFFICIAL 2	OFF 4	5 September 1898	6 May 1901
OFFICIAL 3	OFF 5	26 January 1909	
OFFICIAL 4	OFF 6A	10 September 1917	18 July 1924
OFFICIAL 5	OFF 6	18 April 1934	Current
OFFICIAL 6	OFF 8	25 February 1975	2 July 1979
OFFICIAL 7	OFF 7	21 April 1980	20 August 1981

A CONSERVATION STORY

500 years ago, St Helena was completely covered in lush vegetation, but since man appeared, two-thirds of the Island is now barren. This has lead to soil erosion and climatic problems. Happily a re-planting programme organised by Kew Gardens is now underway and this has been described as "one of the most successful conservation stories of the century". The following details are from Radio Two's John Dunn Show.

Since its discovery in 1502, the Portuguese sailors introduced goats to St Helena so they could call there for fresh meat. Within a hundred years, the goat herds were over a mile long, eating virtually everything green. This resulted in the surface disappearing through wind and water erosion, and even today, if heavy rains fall, the sea is quite muddy for nearly a mile. Furthermore, the lack of vegetation enables the sun's rays to heat up the rocks which cause convection currents. Any clouds then get caught up and are taken far out to sea where they condense into rain. By introducing native plants (the only ones which seem to thrive) their tenacious root systems hold on to the soil, and the plants cause mist and cloud to condense putting goodness back into the soil. The plants have little use at this stage, but it is hoped that once the programme is established, more economic plants can be introduced. The World Wildlife Fund set up a nursery propagation unit in January 1985 and they are currently re-planting 2,000 plants per month. As for the goats? they were all killed off by the 1970's.

WANTED

I would be very interested in buying the following in mint condition:

P12½ 1s Type B (SG18)	P14 x 12½ 3d (SG23)
P12½ 5s yellow (SG20a)	P14 x 12½ 6d (SG25)

Please contact Roger B West, The Corner Shop, Binfield, Bracknell Berks or give me a call on Bracknell (0344) 54060.

THE LAST WORD

John and Michael had been the best of friends for over fifty years and for most of that time were very enthusiastic stamp collectors. When Michael passed away, his friend found it difficult to cope. Eventually, he consulted a medium who was able to 'put him in touch'. After the initial small talk, John asked "what's Heaven like?"

Michael replied "it's not all as good as you might think. We have a very active stamp club up here with some of the greatest names in philately - as a matter of fact, there's a meeting here tonight."

"So what's so bad about that then?" asked John.

"You're the guest speaker!"