

Leeward Islands Postal Stationery 1890 – 1956

Synopsis Chicagopex 2026 Date: 6/22/2026

Introduction: This exhibit is a study of the Leeward Islands postal stationery from the first issue in 1890 to the dissolution of the colony in 1956.

Goal: The goal of this four frame exhibit is to show specimen, mint, and used examples of Leeward Islands postal stationery.

Treatment and Organization: The exhibit is organized as shown on the title page.

Philatelic Knowledge, Personal Study, and Research: I have been collecting and studying Leeward Island King George VI 1938 to 1954 stamps and postal history since 1990. As part of that exhibit, I obtained three KGVI stationery. In 2024 I broadened my focus and began to collect Leeward Islands postal stationery from 1890 to 1956. In 2024 I co-authored an article with Darryl Fuller on my discovery of the second known copies of the 1934 1d and 1 1/2d postal envelopes. I have corresponded with the two exhibitors of this material: Darryl Fuller of Australia (eight frames, FIP Gold) and Stephen Chivers of New Zealand (six frames, FIP Vermeil).

Exhibit Highlights:

For an overview of the exhibit, see **Table 1** which shows the number of mint and used stationery by reign and stationery type.

1. What I have:

- Specimens: complete showing of all 42 specimens.
- Mint: first complete showing of all 58 stationery in mint condition by any exhibitor. Exhibits by Fuller and Chivers are missing mint examples of the 1934 1d and 1 1/2d postal envelopes.
- Used: strong showing of 41 stationery in used condition. Most examples are commercially used, and the few that are philatelic uses are noted as such in the exhibit.
- For a detailed list of the rarest mint and used stationery, see **Table 2**.

2. What is missing: for a detailed list of the used stationery missing from the exhibit, see **Table 3**. I have based the availability of an item on the number of examples recorded by Fuller, less the number in the exhibits of Fuller and Chivers. By my calculations, 10 of the 17 missing items are unavailable.

Rarity:

Rare items are indicated with a red dot:

The term “recorded” refers to the Fuller census in his article “Leeward Island Postal Stationery Rarity Guide.” His census includes items in his collection and exhibit, other collector’s exhibits, and items in auction catalogues. His census of used items is for commercially used, with some exceptions if only philatelic uses are recorded.

Condition: Condition of specimens and mint stationery is high. Condition of used stationery is very good to high considering the humid and hot climate of the islands.

Track Record: This is the second showing of this exhibit. The first showing was Indypex 2026.

References:

Fuller, Darryl, "Leeward Island Postal Stationery Rarity Guide" in Postal Stationery Collector, Vol 16, #4 (pages 103-109), and Vol 17 #1 (pages 17-21), 2011. Available to download at no cost from the Postal Stationery Society of Australia website.

Lutt, Frederick, and Darryl Fuller, "Leeward Islands Rare KGV Airmail Postal Stationery Envelopes" in West Indies Philately, June 2024, page 18.

Table 1. Mint and Used in Exhibit

	Postcard		Reply Card		Postal Envelope		Registered Envelope		News-wrapper		Total	
Reign	Mint	Used	Mint	Used	Mint	Used	Mint	Used	Mint	Used	Mint	Used
QV	2	1	2	1	4	4	2	2	2	2	12	10
KEVII	2	2	1	1	2	2	4	4	2	1	11	10
KGVI	5	2	3	1	7	4	7	6	2	0	24	13
KGVI	2	2	-	-	4	4	4	2	1	0	11	8
Total	11	7	6	3	17	14	17	14	7	3	58	41

Table 2. Rare Mint and Used in Exhibit with Recorded Number Known

Year/item	Oliver	H&G	Mint	Used	Comments
Queen Victoria					
1891 2d RE Size H2	RE2	C1a		1 of 11	
King Edward VII					
1910 2d RE Size H2	RE6	C3a	1 of 3	1 of 3	
King George V					
1913 2d RE Size G	RE7	C4a	1 of 2		
1922 2d RE Size F	RE9	C4	1 of 2	1 of 8	
1927 1/2d PC	PC6	9		1 of 6	
1929 1d PE	PE12	B7	1 of 5		
1929 3d RE Size K	RE13	C5c	1 of 6		
1934 1d PE	PE13	None	1 of 2	1 of 3	H&G not listed
1934 1 1/2d PE	PE14	None	1 of 2		H&G not listed
King George VI					
1938 1/2d PC	PC10	16		1 of 10	
1938 1d PC	PC11	17		1 of 4	
1938 1d PE Tall	PE15	B10a		1 of 5	
1938 1d PE Long	PE16	B10		1 of 7	
1938 1 1/2d PE Tall	PE17	None		1 of 7	H&G not listed
1938 1 1/2d PE Long	PE18	None		1 of 7	H&G not listed
1938 3d RE Size F	RE14	C6	1 of 5	1 of 4	
1938 3d RE Size K	RE17	C6c	1 of 4		
Totals			9	12	

Abbreviations used in Table 1.

PC = postcard RC=reply card PE=postal envelope RE=registered envelope NW=newswrapper

Table 3. Missing Used with Recorded Number Known and Availability

Year/item	Oliver	H&G	Chivers Exhibit	Fuller Exhibit	Fuller Recorded Commercially Used	Availability to exhibitor for purchase
Queen Victoria (2)						
1890 1 1/2d PC	PC1	1	3	2	Scarce	Available
1890 1d RC	RC1	3	1	2	Scarce	Available
King Edward VII (2)						
1902 2d RE H2	RE4	C2a	1	3	6	2 available
1902 1d NW	NW4	E4	1 phil	3	Scarce	Available
King George V (11)						
1913 1/2d NW	NW5	E5	1	1	2	0, all in exhibits
1915 1d PC	PC5	8	1	1	2	0, all in exhibits
1927 1 1/2d PC	PC8	11	1 phil	1 phil	0	0, only philatelic use
1927 1/2d RC	RC4	12	1 phil	1	1	0, all in exhibits
1927 1d RC	RC5	13	1 phil	1 phil	0	0, only philatelic use
1927 1d PE	PE7	B5	2	2	4	0, all in exhibits
1927 1/4d NW	NW6	E7	1	2	3	0, all in exhibits
1928 1d PE lined	PE10	B9	1	1	2	0, all in exhibits
1929 3d RE K size	RE13	C5a	0	0	0 comm, 0 phil	0, doesn't exist used
1931 1d PC	PC9	15	3	2	8	3 available
1934 1 1/2d PE	PE14	none	1	1	4	2 available
King George VI (3)						
1938 3d RE H2 size	RE16	C6b	1	1	10	8 available
1938 3d RE K size	RE17	C6c	1 phil	1 phi	0 comm, 3 phil	1 philatelic use available
1938 1/2d NW	NW7	E8	1	2	3	0, all in exhibits
Total Seeking	17					
Scarce (>20)	3					
Difficult (2-8)	3					
One (1)	1					
None (0)	10					

Abbreviations used in Table 2.

PC = postcard RC=reply card PE=postal envelope RE=registered envelope NW=newswrapper
comm=commercially used
phil=philatelic use

Leeward Islands Postal Stationery 1890 – 1956

Title Page Chicagopex 2026 Date: 6/22/2026

Introduction

The goal of this four frame exhibit is to show specimen, mint, and used examples of Leeward Islands postal stationery issued from 1890 to 1956. Five types of postal stationery were issued: postcards, reply postcards, postal envelopes, registered envelopes, and newswrappers.

Stationery was used throughout the Crown Colony of Leeward Islands, which consisted of the Presidencies of Antigua, British Virgin Islands, Dominica (until January 1, 1940), Montserrat and St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.

Printer

Thomas De La Rue, London printed all Leeward Islands postal stationery and created all specimen overprints. Postcards and envelopes were printed in forms of four, envelopes were embossed individually, and newswrappers were printed in forms of six.

Timeline

1871 Federal colony formed.

1879 Leeward Islands joined UPU.

1879-1890 Each individual island issues postal cards in accordance with UPU mandate.

1890 Leeward Island stamps and postal stationery replace issues by individual islands. Older issues are withdrawn and invalidated.

1899 British Virgin Islands resumes issuing its own stamps and stationery due to declining philatelic revenue.

1902 King Edward VII stationery issued.

1903 The rest of the islands resume issuing their own stamps and stationery. Leeward Islands stamps and stationery are sold and used concurrently on each island.

1913 King George V stationery issued.

1927 King George V stationery comprehensive update of issues with new designs.

1928 Individual islands stop issuing their own postal stationery, using Leeward Islands stationery exclusively.

1938 King George VI stationery issued.

1952 Queen Elizabeth II reign begins but no Leeward Islands stationery is issued for her.

1956 Leeward Island colony is dissolved, and its stamps and stationery are withdrawn and invalidated.

Rarity

Rare items are indicated with a red dot:

The term “recorded” refers to the Fuller census in the article “Leeward Island Postal Stationery Rarity Guide.”

Exhibit Organization

Items are shown by reign in chronological order.

Queen Victoria 1890 – 1902 (frame 1)

King Edward VII 1902 – 1913 (frames 1-2)

King George V 1913 – 1938 (frames 2-4)

King George VI 1938 – 1956 (frame 4)

Epilogue (frame 4)

References

Fuller, Darryl, Leeward Island Postal Stationery Rarity Guide, Postal Stationery Collector (Australia), Vol. 16, #4 (p103-109), Vol 17, #1 (p17-21) 2011.