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CROWN AGENTS 1857 to 1866, p245 to 248

Jamaica Revenue Stamps

Although the next Day Book entry concerns revenue stamps it is dealt with here because of the light it throws on procedure at this early stage. Thomson Hankey & Co. of Mincing Lane, whose West Indian connection dates back to the seventeenth century, placed the order with De La Rue on behalf of the Jamaica Government. The full details of the transaction are to be found in the records of the Board of Inland Revenue, to whom Thomson Hankey sent the following letter on July 13.

About a year ago the Executive Committee of the Government of Jamaica instructed us to have prepared two stamps for three half-pence and three pence respectively, which in due time were made by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

Lately we have received further instructions to have prepared for them adhesive stamps of higher denominations of duties, viz. of 1/-, 5/- and 10/- and these likewise have been ordered of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. who have already engraved the Master Die.

On informing these Gentlemen of the expressed desire of the Jamaica Government that some precaution should be taken for security from forgery and fraudulent issue, as these duties are large, they stated to us that the Dies for the Government of India are partly, ed at the Mint, and the stamps are printed under the inspection of an officer of the Inland Revenue who is superintended by Mr. Hill.

With the view of thereby meeting the wishes of the Jamaica Movement, we request the favour of your Honourable Board for the printing dies for the specific duties to be prepared and the Stamps to be printed under the same supervision as authorised in the supplying of those for India.

The Board agreed, and on July 21, 1857 Warren De La Rue wrote the following letter to Edwin Hill, in charge of the Stamping Department:

We have received a letter dated yesterday from Mr. Keogh informing us that in consequence of an application from Messrs. Thomson Hankey & Co., relative to the preparation of adhesive stamps of the duties 1/-, 5/- and 10/- for the Government of Jamaica, the Board of Inland Revenue will undertake the supervision of the dies and stamping of these duties in the same way as is done for India.

The Master Die is ready and I enclose a proof - and I shall be obliged by your sending an authority for the Master of the Mint to proceed with making the punch from the Master die and striking therefrom three dies for the specific duties named above. These dies, will ultimately, when completed, be hardened at the Mint.

The request to the Master of the Mint should include the following matters

- 1st. To harden the Master die engraved for the Government of Jamaica.
- 2nd. To strike a punch from this die and to harden it after it has been worked up by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.
- 3rd. To strike therefrom three dies and to harden these three dies after the engraving of the specific duties 1/-, 5/- and 10/- thereon,

and to deliver these dies to and receive them from Messrs. De La Rue & Co., during the course of the operation, as they have to go several times to the Mint.

A letter marked R.4312/57 from Mr. Keogh to us and a corresponding one to the Master of the Mint gives you the authority to sign such papers as we now require on behalf of the Board of Inland Revenue.

This letter proves that at that time punches and subsidiary dies from the master die were made at the Mint, and that the hardening of the steel between one process and another was also carried out at the Mint. The preparation of the die for any one duty, therefore, involved several journeys.

As this order was out of the usual routine it caused some confusion in the various Government departments affected. The following note by Edwin Hill, dated July 20, 1857, shows the routine involved in getting the paper.

In respect of the Indian Postage Labels the Warehouse keeper receives the paper from the Mill, and issues it under Stamping Warrants to De La Rue & Co.

The Comptroller receives advice from the Mill of the consignment of the paper to the Warehouse, and keeps the necessary Jamaica accounts.

The Excise Officer at the Mill counts the sheets when made, seals the reams and gives them out per consignment as required, advising the Comptroller of each consignment.

Instructions are therefore necessary to each of these Officers.

In October Ormond Hill, acting on behalf of the Board, asked what was happening and was informed that the three dies had been completed, and two of them were being electrotyped, but that the Master Die and punch were at the Mint. This was in fact a case of 'jumping the gun', as red tape decreed that the Master of the Mint should deliver the hardened dies to the Stamping Department of the Board of Inland Revenue (Edwin Hill) and not direct to the firm. In the end Edwin Hill, in a letter dated November 13, 1857, asked for discretion to modify the conditions governing 'all the stamps that Messrs. De La Rue & Co. may be employed by the Board to prepare ... as security and convenience of operation may hereafter dictate'. Presumably he received the necessary authority. The two lower duties, Three Halfpence and Threepence, described as receipt stamps, were invoiced in August 1857 at 2/9d. per 1000; the three higher duties were invoiced on November 30th. The wording of the first item is interesting, and explains why, apart from the Ceylon Halfpenny, Jamaica should with British Honduras hold the distinction of being the only colony with a special Queen's head on her postage stamps.

The invoice of November 30, 1857, reads as follows:

• Engraving a highly finished head of Her Majesty to serve as the Original for all future denominations of Jamaica Stamps	57	0	0
• Hardening the same & taking therefrom a steel counterpart for making Master Dies for several Duties; retouching, turning & hardening the Counter Die	8	0	0
• Striking from the Counter Die three Master Dies for the Duties of 1/-, 5/-, 10/-, working up the same as Original, turning, fitting and hardening -at £16. each	48	0	0
• Preparing 3 Electrotypes Formes, each containing 240 Duplicates, for the Duties of 1/-, 5/- & 10/-.	255	0	0
• Mounting them on Cast Iron plates truly planed. At £85. per form			
• Printing in Fugitive ink as a protection against Forger, perforating & Cementing at the back per 1000 3/6	20	15	9
	388	15	9

Here again the charge for this Original die for Jamaica is very close to the standard charge of £50 for engraving a working die from an Original already in existence. The charge of £85 for the printing plate of 240 multiples is the standard charge.

The Original Colonial head served as the master die for all the working dies of Colonial postage stamps prepared by De La Rue until the engraving of the 'New Colonial Head, B' superseded it in 1863, the Bahamas One Shilling being the first stamp for which the new die was used. These were 'original heads', and there is no record of any charge having been made to the Crown Agents for preparing them, just as there is no record of any charge having been made for the Original Head which Joubert engraved for the Great Britain Fourpence of 1855

A completely new head was a costly business to engrave, as is seen by the firm's charge of £200 for doing so.

The superimposition of enlarged photographic negatives reveals the fact that there is complete coincidence of line in the Queen's Head (omitting the details of the diadem) and ruled background on the following 'original' dies:

- (1) Joubert's Great Britain Head, first used for the Great Britain Fourpence
- (2) Ceylon One Halfpenny
- (3) First Jamaica die, used for the One Penny, Two pence, Sixpence and One Shilling (not the other values)
- (4) India Eight Pies of 1860
- (5) Original Colonial Head (Sierra Leone)

CROWN AGENTS 1857 to 1866, p252 to 255

Jamaica Watermark Pineapple: 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d, 1s

The first issue of Jamaica postage stamps was again handled by Thomson Hankey & Co. for the Government of Jamaica. A Board of Inland Revenue Minute of May 3, 1860 authorised De La Rue to go ahead under the supervision of Edwin Hill.

The design was clearly defined in the letter to Thomson Hankey from the Jamaica Executive Committee, a copy of which is in the Inland Revenue Records: 'Her Majesty's Head as previously engraved, with the words "Jamaica Postage" at the top of the head, and at foot the words "One Shilling" or "Sixpence" etc., as the case may be, expressive of the value of each denomination'. There is no mention of a pineapple watermark on the paper.

The Board on May 3rd asked Thomson Hankey 'upon what kind of paper these stamps are to be printed, and by whom it is to be supplied'. In their acknowledgment of May 15th Thomson Hankey said that they were 'not yet in possession of their (the Executive Committee's) decision about the quality of the paper.' They followed this up on May 30, 1860 when they said: 'Messrs De La Rue inform us that the makers of the Water Paper (sic) will be Mr Richard Turner of Chafford Mills'. It is possible that this correspondence caused the Inland Revenue to realise that for some little time postage stamps printed on unwatermarked paper had been going out to the Colonies. Ormond Hill's next note, dated May 31, 1860, has a reference to 'similar cases' which may have that interpretation. As the watermark is one of the securities against fraudulent imitation, the preparation of the watermarked paper is carried on under the inspection of Officers of the Board who check the number of sheets made.

I submit that it is best that the same course be followed in respect of these stamps and in similar cases; and that in the present case Messrs De La Rue be requested to communicate with me on the subject in order that, I may take the necessary steps for having the watermark recorder deposited in the hands of the Excise Officer at Chafford Mill as soon as completed, and for having these officers duly instructed to superintend the making of the paper and to report to the Comptroller the quantities of sheets made, &c.

The fact that there was a watermark in the first place was clearly not due to the Jamaica Government or their London Agents: similarly there is nothing to show why a pineapple was chosen, and who chose it. The stamps were invoiced on October 17, 1860 so that the production was put through quickly. Strangely enough one multiple in the printing plate of the One Shilling was damaged and not repaired, and the well-known 'dollar variety' persisted until 1912. The invoice gives a full description of the processes used, except that it does not refer to perforation. The fact that moulds were charged indicates that the pineapple paper was hand made.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making from the original die of H.M. head used for the Jamaica Receipt Stamps a counter die and altering it in part, so as to adapt it for the postage stamp. Transferring the counter die on five dies to be used as master dies for the postage rates id. 2d. 4d. 6d. & 1/-. | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working up the Queen's head on each equal to the original die and engraving a distinctive device on each respective die; fitting and hardening the same five dies @ £30 each | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing five Electrotpe printing plates each containing 240 duplicates for the several duties of 1d. 2d. 4d. 6d & 1/- postage rates, mounting the Electrotpe plates on cast iron plates truly planed @ £85 each | 425 | 0 | 0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing moulds for the manufacture of the paper with the device of a pineapple repeated 240 times so that each stamp bears the watermark of a pineapple repeated 240 times so that each stamp bears the watermark of a pine | 48 | 0 | 0 |

• Supplying watermarked paper for and printing in various fugitive inks soluble in such menstrua as could be used to remove the obliterating mark in order to prevent the possibility of reissue of the stamps after once passing the Post Office - Cementing the Stamps at back	61	5	9
• 817,200 Stamps @ 1/6			
	£684	5	9

The 817,200 stamps of the first printing were divided as follows: One Penny, 270,720; Twopence, 70,320; Fourpence, 325,920; Sixpence, 138,960; One Shilling, 11,280.

An order for a further consignment of these five duties was received by De La Rue in January 1862, who informed Ormond Hill on January 16th of the fact, and raised the point as to whether or not the Board still wished to supervise the stamps, or whether they had 'intimated to Messrs Hankey that the supervision of the production of these stamps lay in future with themselves'. They went on to ask permission for Turner to make a further six reams of pineapple paper, and also requested the immediate delivery of the five reams lying in stock at Somerset House. It was agreed that they should allow a margin of from 10 to 15 per cent for spoilage. De La Rue's hint to the Board was acted upon, and the following excerpt from a letter to Thomson Hankey dated January 20, 1862 marks the end of the Inland Revenue's connection with the printing of stamps by De La Rue for the Colonies.

I am directed to inform you that the Board will upon the present occasion undertake the supervision of the preparation of the stamps in question upon the usual terms.

I have however to state that in consequence of the great augmentation in the demand for adhesive stamps in this Country arising principally from the extension of the application of such stamps to a variety of documents especially by acts of Parliament papers, in the two last Sessions, it is found impracticable for the Officers of this Department to continue any longer to superintend the manufacture of stamps for the Colonies in addition to their ordinary duties.

The Board have therefore directed me to inform you that it will be necessary to make your own arrangements with Messrs. De La Rue for the supervision of the manufacture of any future supplies of such camps as may be required for the Government of Jamaica.

The quantities of this second order, invoiced on March 22, 1862, were: One Penny, 540,720; Twopence, 411,120; Fourpence, 140,640; Sixpence, 173,280; One Shilling, 12,000.

Jamaica Watermark Pineapple: 3d

The original die for the Jamaica Threepence was charged at £30 and became the original die later on for the One Halfpenny, Two Shillings and Five Shillings which were printed on Crown CC paper. A comparison of this Threepence head with the heads of the original five Jamaica duties reveals that a great deal of retouching by a different hand, and in a more open style, was carried out on the punch of the master die of the Head. This retouching is reproduced exactly in the working dies of the One Halfpenny, Two Shillings and Five Shillings. There are therefore two groups of the Jamaica head showing a laurel instead of a diadem.

The first printing of the Threepence, invoiced on August 11, 1863, amounted to 247,920. The plate was 240 multiples.

It is unusual for the daybook entries to indicate the colours of the stamps, but on this occasion they were described as 'printed in green fugitive ink'.

CROWN AGENTS 1867 to 1879, p273

Jamaica CC Paper

In 1867 the Crown Agents took over from Thomson Hankey & Co., the supply of stamps for the Government of Jamaica. De La Rue submitted a tender for reprinting the Twopence, Sixpence and One Shilling, which was accepted on May 30, 1867. Evidently there was still a supply of pineapple watermarked paper available, for the stamps were not printed on the CC paper until the next reprint invoiced on October 1, 1869. This included the Twopence, Threepence and Sixpence. The Fourpence first appeared in the invoice dated January 25, 1872, followed by the One Penny, and One Shilling, invoiced on August 29, 1872 with the first consignment of the One Half-penny.

CROWN AGENTS 1867 to 1879, p299/300

Jamaica One Halfpenny

The order for the new Jamaica One Halfpenny was sent on June 14, 1872. The Postmaster sent a sketch, and stipulated that it should be 'similar in general design to the other postage labels in use'. The firm quoted their usual rates and the estimate was accepted on June 25th.

The die, plate of 240 multiples and stamps (494,640) were invoiced on August 29th. On November 29th the Crown Agents forwarded a letter from the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica complaining that the charge of £50 for the die compared unfavourably with the charge of £30 made in 1860 to Thomas Hankey & Co. for the dies of the other stamps. This is the first instance of any colony complaining about prices, and the firm took a strong stand.

It will be within your recollection that prior to the 1st January 1867 we supplied the Crown Agents with Postage Dies and plates for the gross charge of £90 - £30 being for the Die and £60 for the Plate. It was found however that these prices did not re-imburse us the necessary outlay, much less leave us any profit; of this we convinced you and a new schedule of prices was on the above date agreed upon between us. These are only calculated to afford us a sufficient profit upon this class of work which involves high artistic and mechanical skill, and we may say that no other Government Department is supplied by us on such advantageous terms as your own.

Although we previously supplied the Jamaica Government through a private firm instead of through your department, we still did not think it equitable in the case of the Dies to charge our full prices to that Colony when all the Colonies which we were supplying through your department were being charged at the reduced scale of prices.

But if, after the 1st January '67 when the revised schedule had come into force, Messrs. Thomson & Hankey had applied to us for any new Dies we should have charged them as to you, in accordance with the new rates given in the revised schedule above referred to, viz. £50 each.

We trust that this explanation will be deemed satisfactory and we herewith return you the original letter from the Government of Jamaica which you sent for our perusal.

There is no further correspondence on the subject.

CROWN AGENTS 1867 to 1879, p306 to 307

Jamaica Two shillings Five Shillings

A requisition was received from the Crown Agents on March 9, 1875 for a further supply of stamps, including the new Two Shillings and Five Shillings. In his letter of February 24th to the Colonial Secretary the Postmaster of Jamaica made the following reference to the designs for the new values: In view of the great experience of the Imperial Post Office in such matters, I have requested the Secretary of the General Post Office to be so good as to cause the necessary designs and colours to be furnished by his Department to the manufacturers on application, and I have accordingly furnished as a guide to the selection a specimen of each of the Postage Labels at present In use. There is no record of any communication from the firm, verbal or in writing. On May 1st Sargeant wrote again on the subject:

Be good enough to furnish me with an estimate for two Postage Dies and plates of 60 Multiples - duties 2/- and 5/- – for the Government of Jamaica, and submit designs for approval.

The quantity of stamps required is as follows.

£3,000 worth 2/-d.

2,000 worth 5/-d.

The invoice for dies, plates and stamps is dated July 14, 1875. The printing plates had 60 multiples.

The small plate possibly accounts for the guillotine 12½ perforation. This is the only recorded printing on CC paper, the quantities being: Two Shillings, 28,320; Five Shillings, 7,680.

There were two consignments of the Two Shillings, and three of the Five Shillings, invoiced in 1897, when the total numbers were: Two Shillings, 16,020; Five Shillings, 9,120. These represented one printing.

CROWN AGENTS 1883 to 1884, Page 376 to 379

Universal Colour Scale

Early in June 1883 negotiations began between De La Rue and the Crown Agents for the generally accepted scale or scheme for the colours of the Colonial postage stamps, bearing in mind that the colours for the Halfpenny, One Penny and Twopence halfpenny equivalents had been determined by the regulations of the International Postal Convention.

Samples were prepared for each Colony.

Extract of letter from Crown Agents to De La Rue dated 1st October 1883

Jamaica 5 August 28, 1883. No indication of specimens used.

Approved January 14, 1884. The Colonial Secretary asked the Crown Agents 'to ascertain that there is no objection on the part of the Imperial Post Office'. The G.P.O. were asked by the Crown Agents to give their sanction, and did so, subject to the regulations of the Postal Union being observed.

CROWN AGENTS 1883 to 1884, Page 391

Jamaica Colour Changes: Halfpenny, One Penny, Twopence, Sixpence

New colours for Jamaica were finally approved on January 17, 1884. The four values concerned were the Half-penny, One Penny, Twopence and Sixpence. The first printings of these stamps to be invoiced subsequently were: Halfpenny, 21/1/85, 241,200; One Penny, 21/1/85, 488,640;

Twopence, 21/1/85, 67,120; Sixpence, 31/12/89, 19,680

CROWN AGENTS 1883 to 1884, Page 448

Jamaica: Threepence Colour Change

A Jamaica requisition including the first supply of Three-Pence since the adoption of the new colour scheme, was received on September 1886. The new stamps (40,080) and 400 Specimens were invoiced on October 4th.

CROWN AGENTS 1886 to 1889, Page 455 to 456

Renewal of plates

The firm sent the following letter to the Crown Agents on July 4, 1887:

We have to report that the Postage Stamp printing plates mentioned below are so much worn as to be unfit for further uses and we must ask you to be good enough to authorize us to put in hand new plates, so that they may be in readiness for future orders. In accordance with the existing arrangement the new plates would be provided at half the original price.

Natal One Penny Jamaica One Penny Twopence

1d. Natal Postage Plate.

1d. Jamaica " "

2d. " "

Plate made Printed from plates

Oct. 1873 - 1d. Natal Post. 106,000 sheets (including 12,000 in hand)

Oct. 1860 - 1d. Jamaica, 39,960 sheets

Oct. 1860 - 2d Jamaica, 61,625 sheets

The Crown Agents asked to be told the size of the plates, the cost of new ones, and how many impressions had been produced from the old plates. This continued assumption of complete ignorance by the Crown Agents about what was going on in the production of the vast numbers of postage stamps which they were ordering must have tried De La Rue's patience but their behaviour continued to be exemplary. They pointed out that the plates were 240 multiples, the cost would be half price or £42. 10. as already arranged, and they repeated the statements in regard to quantities which they had given in their previous letter. They added that 'some plates yield far more impressions than the stipulated quantity, while others barely yield that quantity. The wear of the plates depends upon physical conditions which are entirely out of our control'. The quantity at which a plate was qualified for replacement was 35,000 impressions, or 8,400,000 stamps. The new Natal One Penny plate No. 2 was authorised September 20th and invoiced on November 22nd. The reporting to the Colony of the defective Jamaica plates led to a new design for Unified stamps.

CROWN AGENTS 1886 to 1889, Page 458 to 459

Jamaica: One Penny, Twopence, Unified

On July 14, 1887 the firm had asked permission to make new printing plates for the Jamaica One Penny and Twopence.

This application had been forwarded to the Colony by the Crown Agents, and elicited the following reply from the Colonial Secretary on October 11th:

I am desired by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 148/334 of the 20th July last and in reply to ask you to be so good as to give the necessary instructions to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., for the preparation of the new Stamp Key Plates to which you refer.

2. As, however, by a recent law of which I enclose a copy for yours information, one description of stamp can now be used for both Postage and Revenue purposes the new plates should have the words 'Jamaica Postage and Revenue' instead of 'Jamaica Postage' only as heretofore.

3. A requisition for the stamps required will be forwarded to you by next mail.

The firm wrote to the Crown Agents on November 3rd, telling them that the alteration would make new dies and printing plates necessary. They quoted the usual £50 for the die and £85 for a printing plate of 240 multiples.

The Crown Agents then asked them to consider unifying the whole series of Jamaica stamps, and of adopting the key plate system. As it was intended for study by the Colonial authorities De La Rue's answer was perforce lengthy. It covered all the arguments put forward on similar occasions. They sent two designs: a small Head with coloured duty tablet (figures in white) for the lower values, and a small Head with white duty, tablet (figures in colour) for the higher values. They submitted a colour scheme but suggested that the Halfpenny might continue to be printed from the existing plate in orange, to distinguish it from the Twopence, which was to be printed from a keyplate in green doubly fugitive ink, and a duty plate in green singly fugitive ink.

It must be remembered that the dies of all Jamaican stamps hitherto had been struck from the special Jamaica Queen's head, in which a fillet of bay had been substituted for the diadem: the small Colonial Head now suggested showed a diadem. On November 26th the Crown Agents asked if the larger Jamaica head could not be retained: they also wanted the plates if possible to be of 120 multiples. De La Rue had stipulated 60 multiples for bi-colour printing. The firm could not agree to these changes, if the 'description of Stamp' shown in their specimen was required.

On the same day the Crown Agents also sent the next requisition, which the Colony had advised would be ready shortly. De La Rue suggested on November 30th that this order, in view of the Act, should be printed in doubly fugitive ink, and overprinted with the words 'and Revenue' or 'Postage and Revenue'. The Crown Agents considered however that as the Act was 'permissive' only this requisition could be carried out in the same way as the previous one. The old One Penny and Twopence plates therefore had to supply a further 5,000 and 3,750 sheets respectively, and the question of replacing them was again submitted to the Colony by the Crown Agents.

The designs were approved on April 17, 1888, and the key die and plate of 60 multiples, and two overprint plates of 60 multiples for the One Penny and Twopence, were invoiced on October 22nd.

CROWN AGENTS 1886 to 1889, Page 469

Renewal of Plates

On November 1, 1888 the Crown Agents sent a Jamaica requisition containing an order for 1,152,000, One Penny and 996,000 Twopence from the keyplate. In acknowledging this requisition on the next day the firm wrote:

In our letter of Nov. 23rd last we stated that the printing of stamps in two colours would necessitate the use of a 60 set key plate.

Since writing this we have perfected our system of printing in two colours, and can now use a 120 set key plate. We therefore suggest that you should authorize us to increase the 60 set key plate ordered by you on April 17th to 120 set, at a cost of £21. 10/-. By adopting a 120 set key plate the price of Stamps will be reduced to 2/3 per 1,000 when a ream or more of any one duty is ordered at one time, and 3/3 per 1,000 when less than a ream is ordered at one time.

The present order is so large that the cost of increasing the size of the key plate will be saved on it alone.

The Crown Agents agreed, and the cost of increasing the plate was invoiced with the stamps on February 7, 1889. Four hundred specimens of each were also charged.

CROWN AGENTS 1886 to 1889, Page 483

Gumming Difficulties (continued)

A particularly violent attack from Jamaica was followed by a complaint from Tobago, and when forwarding this on April 15, 1890 the Crown Agents wrote:

We have looked further into the question and find that no complaints of deficient gumming appear to have been made until the last few years which clearly points to some alteration in the manufacture of the Stamps, and this we understand has taken place, the sheets being now gummed by machinery instead of by hand as formerly. In these circumstances as no change is stated to have occurred in the quality of the gum used, the application of it would appear to be what is infault, and we must demand that steps may be taken to ensure that such an adequate quantity of gum is applied to the sheets as will prevent the recurrence of the very numerous complaints which have reached us from the Colonies in all parts of the world of deficiencies in this respect.

The firm again refused to be brow-beaten on a scientific principle on which they believed they were right, and answered fully and vigorously on April 21st

It is quite true that all the complaints which have been received as to deficiency of gum are since the commencement of 1887.

The alteration from gumming by hand to gumming by machinery took place in the year 1880, and is, we submit, a vast improvement in every way, for by machinery we are enabled to lay a much more uniform and even layer of gum on the sheets of paper. Instead of the gumming having been deteriorated by the introduction of machinery, as you seem to imply, it has been materially improved, and is, in our opinion, better now than it ever was.

As we have on previous occasions informed you, we buy the best gum in the market, under laboratory test, and to overcome any slight variations that there may be in the different parcels, we make it a habit to mix 50 or 60 tons together before bringing the gum into use. We feel satisfied that the gummed work leaves us in good and perfect condition, and that the complaints received are due to influences entirely beyond our control; either the Stamps are improperly stored, or possibly in damp climates, a comparatively short exposure to climatic influences may deteriorate the gum. We use the same machinery and the same gum for every kind of Stamp manufactured by us, and, without troubling you with the figures of the numerous countries for which we manufacture Stamps, we give you below the number of sheets (240 set) gummed in the years 1887, 1888, and 1889 for the English Government and for yourselves:

	1887	1888	1889
English	8,731,000	8,706,000	12,697,000
Crown Agents	134,000	124,000	168,500

by which you will see that the work done for you does not amount to 1.5% of that done for the English Government alone. During the years 1887, 1888 and 1889 we only received one complaint about the English Stamps...

Jamaica

Date of Complaint: Jan '90

Remarks: We test and report gum to be satisfactory

CROWN AGENTS 1890 to 1892, Page 489

Jamaica Official One Penny Twopence

On February 5, 1890 the Crown Agents forwarded a letter from Jamaica containing the following suggestions for 'Official Postage Stamps' of the duties of One Penny and Twopence:

1. Each Stamp is required to have the word 'Official' across its face
2. The above Estimate includes the initial cost of new Dies and Plates under the Key-Plate System; but it is suggested that the Crown Agents be asked to consider and decide: -
First - Whether the present 1d. and 2d. Key and Duty Plates for the Unified Postage and Revenue Stamps may not also be used for the above referred to Stamps; the word Official being added in the printing.
Second - Whether the Die and Plates which were used prior to the Unification of the Postage and Revenue Stamps might not be made available.

It will be an economy in either case.

3. If new Die and Plates be absolutely necessary the word 'Official' may be engraved in thus.
4. The Stamps being solely for Official purposes need not be printed in 'Doubly Fugitive' but in Single Fugitive Inks.

The firm reported on February 7th that the old plates had already been destroyed as being unfit for use, and proposed therefore to overprint the existing unified stamps with the word OFFICIAL. They proposed red singly fugitive ink for the One Penny and grey for the Twopence.

The estimate and design were approved on February 10th, and in acknowledging the instructions De La Rue promised delivery in three months. On February 10th the Crown Agents asked for an advance supply to be ready for the steamer closing on March 5th. The temporary overprint forme (at £3. 3. od), 964,800 One Penny, 243,400 Two Pence, and 400 Specimens of each were invoiced on March 29th.

CROWN AGENTS 1890 to 1892, Page 491

Jamaica Renewal of Keyplate

On February 26, 1890 De La Rue reported that the Keyplate Jamaica used for the Jamaica One Penny and Twopence required renewal. The Crown Agents replied as follows:

With reference to your memo. of the 26th instant, relative to the defective condition of the Jamaica Postage & Revenue Keyplate, it appears to us that the matter requires full consideration before we can authorize any expenditure on a new plate, as altho' the impressions yielded are in excess of the stipulated number, the fact of the plate having been so very short a time in use, raises the question whether some change in the system of producing the stamps is not necessary, and further whether the present system ought ever to have been introduced.

The firm replied fully on March 3rd:

It will be within your recollection that in our letter of Nov. 23rd 1887 we suggested that the 1d. and 2d. Stamps, being requisitioned in large quantities, should be produced from separate (240 set) plates, which would necessitate an outlay of £50 for each die and £85 for each plate, if the Stamps are to continue to be 'Postage & Revenue', for the existing dies only bear the word 'Postage'.

We would remind you that the prices given in our letter of Nov. 23rd 1887 were referred to the Colonial authorities, who no doubt went into the question of cost etc., before deciding to have the 1d. and 2d. 'Postage & Revenue' Stamps produced from a key-plate, which is of course available for all other duties. The fact of the Key plate being worn out is due to the large number of 1d. and 2d. Stamps produced from it.

We cannot see what ultimate advantage as regards the wear of the plates the Colony would reap from abandoning the Key-plate system. Plates yield on an average 35,000 impressions, and manifestly if several duties are produced from the same Key Plate, that plate will require frequent renewal, but in the long run the Colony will expend much the same amount on renewals, whether Stamps are produced from a Key-plate or from separate plates for each duty.

For some reason the Crown Agents attached unusual importance to the possibility of a Keyplate requiring renewal, and they asked for further information on March 13th:

We are quite aware that the expenditure would not be materially different upon plates whether the Stamps are produced from a Keyplate or from special plates, but as the cost of supplying stamps under the former system is very much greater than that of the latter, especially when large quantities are supplied, we again refer the correspondence to you for any further observations you may have to make, before writing to the Colonial Government on the subject.

The firm sent the following reply:

With reference to our memo of the 3rd inst. the reason why we in our letter of Nov. 23 '87 recommended special plates for the 1d. and 2d. Stamps was that, provided no change is likely to be made in the Stamps, it would in the long run be the more economical way of producing them. The average life of a plate is 35,000 impressions, and taking 240 set plates the yield of Stamps would be 8,400,000 at 1/- per 1000, against 2/3d. per 1000 for Stamps produced by the Key Plate system; thus the saving effected by adopting separate plates would be 1/3d. per 1000, equal to £525 On the life of the plate, against which must be set the cost of the die, £50, and of the plate £85; thus if a 240 set plate runs its average life, £390 would be saved on each duty by adopting special 240 plates.

Against the above argument must be set the risk of any unforeseen event necessitating a change in the plates.

The Jamaica Government approved the renewal of the keyplate in a despatch dated May 6th, and 'One repeat Jamaica Postage and Revenue Key Plate, 120 set No. 2' was invoiced on August 7th.

In reply to an enquiry from the Crown Agents dated February 28, 1890 De La Rue submitted a range of specimen designs for various duties of the Universal Unified Keyplate series for the Fiji Islands.

CROWN AGENTS 1890 to 1892, Page 501/2

Jamaica Twopence halfpenny

The Twopence halfpenny Jamaica was also ordered by telegram, which the Crown Agents forwarded on December 2, 1890. De La Rue pointed out that if it were required for Postage and Revenue the new stamp might be printed from the Jamaica keyplate; otherwise they suggested a special die and plate of 240 multiples, remembering no doubt the correspondence they had had with the Crown Agents when the Keyplate was due for renewal. The special plate would take three months.

The Crown Agents on December 8th confirmed that the Twopence halfpenny was to cover Postage and Revenue and that an overprint plate should be made for the keyplate. The firm suggested printing the tablet in blue.

The overprint plate, 291,600 stamps and 400 Specimens were invoiced on February 3, 1891. In this case also there was a local surcharge.

CROWN AGENTS 1890 to 1892, Page 519

Jamaica Keyplate renewal

The fact that the Jamaica keyplate required renewal after Jamaica 68,000 impressions was reported to the Crown Agents on Keyplate December 29, 1892, but no reply was received. On August 10, No. 3 1893 a further requisition was sent by the Crown Agents, to which De La Rue replied on the following day:

With reference to the 1d. and 2½d. Postage Stamps, which are printed from a Key plate, this plate is worn out, as stated in our memo of the 29th December last, in which we requested authority to make a new plate. We shall feel obliged if you will say whether for the present order these stamps shall be printed from the old plate, although we fear the stamps would be scarcely satisfactory; or will you give us authority to make a new plate, which will take from 3 to 4 weeks.

We could deliver to your Inspector a supply of the ½d., 1d, and 2½d Postage Stamps in 10 weeks, and the finish of the order in 4 months after receiving your instructions.

On August 15th the Crown Agents authorised the new plate. it was invoiced as Plate No. 3 on December 30, 1893. The first order from it, invoiced on the same day, amounted to 22,584 impressions.

CROWN AGENTS 1893 to June 1895, Page 533

Jamaica One Penny

On January 9. 1894 De La Rue informed the Crown Agents that the sixty-multiple Jamaica One Penny overprint plate had yielded 256,000 impressions. The new plate was authorised on January 19th.

CROWN AGENTS July 1895 to 1897, Page 584

Jamaica New plates

On October 5, 1896 De La Rue reported that the Jamaica Postage and Revenue Keyplate of 120 Multiples had yielded about 120,000 impressions, and the One Penny overprint plate had yielded approximately 180,000. New Plates were authorized on November 26th, and were invoiced on March 2, 1897.

CROWN AGENTS 1898 TO THE END OF THE REIGN, Page 616

Jamaica One Penny overprint plate

On July 7, 1898 De La Rue reported that the duty overprint plate for the Jamaica One Penny Postage and Revenue had yielded about 153,000 impressions, and was unfit for the production of good work". A new plate, authorised on August 25th, was invoiced on September 26th.

CROWN AGENTS 1898 TO THE END OF THE REIGN, Page 624/6

Jamaica One Penny Llandoverly Falls

The circumstances leading to the issue of the Jamaica One Penny pictorial Postage and Revenue stamp are explained in the following letter from the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated April 8 1899, which was forwarded to De La Rue by the Crown Agents On May 4 1899 with a request for an estimate and designs; the stamps would be printed in doubly fugitive inks.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject, I have the honour to inform you that the question whether the Colony should adopt the Imperial Penny Postage rate has been reconsidered in Privy Council and that, with the advice of that body, I have now decided that the Imperial Penny rate should come into force here on Her Majesty's Birthday, the 24th May next.

It has also been decided to issue a new penny stamp which should be entirely different from any of those now in use. The proposal is that the principal feature of the design should be the representation of a characteristic bit of Jamaica scenery, and I forward with this 3 views which I shall be obliged if you will place in the hands of the Crown Agents with a view to their having a design prepared from the one which may be considered best suited for the purpose. I have to request that the design may be forwarded for the approval of this Government before being finally engraved. The colour of the stamp and other details would be left to the Crown Agents, after obtaining competent advice, to decide. The word 'Jamaica' should of course appear on the Stamp, with the words 'Postage and Revenue'.

The firm reported fully on June 6th, after considerable experiments. Their letter reveals the complete change which had taken place in their attitude towards the line-engraved or copperplate process.

We beg to enclose designs in duplication in the Postage and Revenue sizes prepared from the photograph of the waterfall marked A, and, we think that you will agree with us that the Revenue size gives by far the better result and will afford more scope to our engraver. These designs are prepared for Stamps to be produced by the copper plate process, as we could not undertake to obtain a satisfactory result by surface engraving.

As the letter from the Colony said that the Stamps were required for Postage and Revenue purposes we were very anxious if possible to produce them by surface printing as our doubly fugitive inks are only available by that process. We consequently selected the photograph B. which lent itself best to surface engraving and engraved it in soft metal, to show the result which could be obtained. We enclose a proof in duplicate, which is sufficiently finished to show that the result would not be satisfactory. We think that you will agree with us that the Stamps must therefore be produced by copper-plate, and it will be necessary to inform the Colony that they are not protective against a written obliteration and must in all cases be cancelled by means of ordinary obliterating inks. Under the circumstances we would suggest that the new stamps should be used for postage only and that the present 1d. stamp, which is printed in doubly fugitive ink, should be retained for Revenue purposes. If you fall in with this suggestion, of course the word 'Postage' would have to replace the word 'Revenue' in the enclosed design.

* * * *

If you approve of our proposal, we would submit you various colours to select from when the plate is engraved. It would take us about four months before we could begin to deliver the Stamps to your Inspector.

We retain the photographs pending your further instructions.

The report was sent to the colony and the following instructions from the Governor were sent to De La Rue on October 31st:

I consulted my Privy Council in the matter and I have now to report that it has been decided that the larger stamp of the specimens sent out, printed by the copper plate process should be adopted with the following amendments.

- (1) The figures '1899' to be printed in the scroll at the foot of the stamp.
- (2) The words 'Llandovery Falls' to be printed below the view.

I would explain that my Privy Council were of opinion that the danger of obliteration of writing on the Stamp was so infinitesimal that it need not stand in the way of the adoption of the Stamps for Revenue as well as for Postal purposes.

I return a specimen of the stamp selected.

The firm submitted an amended design to the Crown Agents on November 3rd, and promised delivery about three months from the date of receiving final instructions. A discussion then took place on the subject of the colour of the stamp. The Crown Agents wrote on November 8th: Before putting the plate for the new penny stamp in hand we shall be glad to hear in what colour (or colours) you propose to print it.

The red in which the stamp should be printed will we fear not give a satisfactory result.

If possible we should like to see some specimens in various colours.

The firm suggested that they should be authorised to make the plate and submit proofs from it in various colours. They said it would be impossible 'to recommend any particular colour until the engraving is finished, because the effect of Stamps varies so much in different colours'. This reasonable suggestion was not adopted by the Crown Agents, who were not sure that the design 'as at present proposed' would be suitable for printing in red. On November 13th De La Rue assured them that there would be 'no difficulty in getting a red which would give a good result'.

On November 15th the Crown Agents suggested that the firm should put the plate in hand at their own risk, but this De La Rue refused to do. They sent specimens of the Tasmanian pictorial stamps for the Crown Agents to inspect. This won the day, and a requisition for 64,000 sheets of sixty multiples (3,840,000 stamps) was forwarded on December 22nd. Four different colour proofs were submitted on February 6, 1900, one of which was approved two days later.

The invoice was dated July 10, 1900. The original plate was charged at £8 and the working plate of 60 multiples at £20. The first printing consisted of 3,886,830 stamps and 750 Specimens.

CROWN AGENTS 1898 TO THE END OF THE REIGN, Page 661/2

Jamaica Colour Change One Penny

The alteration of the Jamaica One Penny from a single red printing to a bi-coloured stamp was the result of a telegram from the Colony to the Crown Agents on November 29 1900. The firm's reply is annexed to the Crown Agent's letter in the Correspondence Book.

We have received a telegram from the Government of Jamaica asking us to cancel the order for stamps under the above Requisition if possible. In what position is the work

Reply. We beg to inform you that we have printed 60 reams of the 1d. Jamaica Stamps out of the 120 reams ordered. We have suspended the printing of the further 60 reams pending your instructions.

We think it right to inform you that the whole of the paper is cut in readiness.

The printing of the remainder of the Requisition is complete.

The Crown Agents instructed De La Rue to send out to the Colony the stamps that had already been printed, and to hold the balance of the paper in stock. On December 21st they forwarded the letter from Jamaica, which has not been copied into the Correspondence Book. The firm's reply of December 24th is annexed.

The enclosed letter from the Government of Jamaica (dated the 4th instant) complaining of the appearance of the new One Penny stamps, is forwarded for any observations you may wish to make. What would be the cost of printing in two colours and would it be possible to utilize the existing plate in any way, if it should be decided to adopt this course, either by cutting out the centre or the borders and so saving the cost of one of the plates?

Reply. Letter returned herewith. We much regret to gather that the Colonial Authorities are dissatisfied at the 1d. stamps having been printed in one instead of two colours. This stamp was, as you will recollect, printed in one colour to a specimen selected and approved by yourselves. There will be no difficulty in making use of the original plate for producing new working plates for printing the stamp in two colours.

Of course the existing working plate is useless for the purpose. Two new working plates of the superficial area of 120-set Postage size will be required, at a cost of £20 each, and we shall be glad to receive your instructions as to putting these plates in hand.

There is no doubt that a much better effect would be obtained in two colours, as the engraving - which we submit is of the very highest character - would show up better. At the same time, we understand that the stamp was ordered in one colour for economy's sake.

If you desire it, we can print the stamp from the existing plate in a variety of colours, and allow our artist to piece them together. By this means we should obtain specimens in a combination of colours, showing the result which would be obtained in a two-coloured stamp.

On December 31st the Crown Agents reported that they had received a further letter from the Colony asking that the second half of the requisition should be printed in two colours. The firm sent twelve specimens in various combinations on January 2, 1901, and said that it would take from five to six weeks to make the necessary printing plates, so that a delivery could be made in nine weeks of the receipt of final instructions. They said also that two months would be required for 'the completion of the outstanding 30,000 sheets ... from the date of the first delivery.

A 'Working View Plate', duty plate, 1,789,08 stamps and 722 specimens were invoiced on July 4th.