

BRITISH WEST INDIES

THE A. H. HOPKINSON COLLECTION PURCHASED BY FRANK GODDEN, LTD.

GODDEN'S GAZETTE February, 1935 p109

With the issue of this number of the Gazette, I have some news of prime importance. News that will be of the greatest interest to the ever widening circle of philatelists who specialise in the attractive stamps of the British West Indies.

My firm has purchased the magnificent collection formed by the late Mr. Allen H. Hopkinson, R.P.S.L., of the stamps of the British West Indies, comprising the remarkable number of forty-eight volumes.

The sudden death of Mr. Hopkinson last year was a great blow to philately as, although his serious interests in stamps only commenced a few years ago, he had already outstripped many leading specialists. With his charming personality and extreme thoroughness in everything he took up, it would not have been very long before his philatelic work had gained worldwide repute.

Looking over the volumes, it is easy to appreciate the man who made it. Every page bears witness to his selective judgment, his flair for stamps, not necessarily rare in themselves, but exceedingly so in the condition he chose to admit them into his wonderful albums. The great interest and importance of the early pre-stamp portion, with the early postal history of the West Indian Islands, are a testimony to the philatelic talent of this collector.

Jamaica takes pride of place in the collection, and it is the finest series of these in the world known to me. In it are incorporated most of the 'Trivett' and 'Clutterbuck' collections, which, in themselves, were acknowledged as being exceptional. The study of the early postal history of Jamaica right up to to-day is included in no less than twenty-five albums.

It has been my great pleasure and honour to have been Mr. Hopkinson's confidante during the whole formation of this great collection. I have, therefore, seen the collection grow from its early stages and enjoyed its formation and its study, so much so, in fact, that we began to look upon it as 'our' collection.

Mr. Hopkinson also took a great part in furthering the researches on Jamaica stamps in conjunction with other leading specialists. With the co-operation of Mr. L.C.C. Nicholson, the well-known Jamaica expert, some new discoveries have been made, and it was due to these that Mr. Hopkinson had planned a visit to Jamaica this winter.

The collection is so vast that it is impossible to give even a fleeting glimpse of its many interesting pieces in one number of this Magazine. I am commencing this number with some notes on the Jamaica stamps, and will continue with the other portions at a later date.

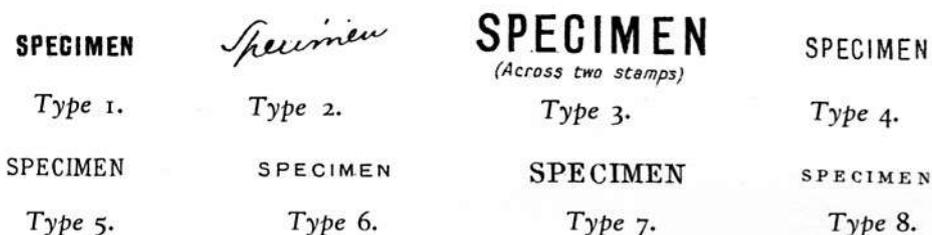
The collection comprises the following:—

	volumes		volumes
Jamaica		Nevis (proofs only)	1
Pre-stamp period	6	St. Kitts Nevis	1
British used in Jamaica	3	St. Lucia	1
Stamps	10	St. Vincent	2
Postmarks	5	Turks Islands	1
Postal Stationery	1	Turks and Caicos	1
Antigua	1	Virgin Islands	2
Barbados	3	Great Britain used in the West Indies	1
Barbuda	1	Pre-stamp covers of the West Indies	4
Cayman Islands	1	Pre-stamp covers of other countries, chiefly GB	1
Leeward Islands	1		
Montserrat	1		

Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson has very kindly offered to assist me by writing an article on the pre-stamp portion, which will be in a following number. These relics of early postal history have been overlooked far too long. They have an almost unlimited field for research, much of which has an important bearing on the early stamp period. Mr. Nicholson has made a great study of the pre-stamp period, and his article appertaining to those of Jamaica, with illustrations from his own and Mr. Hopkinson's collections, will, I know, be appreciated by all philatelists.

COMMENTARY ON THE JAMAICA STAMP COLLECTION.

An interesting feature of the collection is the inclusion of a number of photographs, old prints, maps, etc., of scenes in Jamaica. Some of these are of buildings and views which have been used for the designs of issued stamps. I have occasionally seen collections with some photographs and maps, but nothing to be compared with the series which are incorporated in this collection. It is easy, when running through the volumes, to visualise the scenes and journeys through which these old stamps travelled many years ago.



The first issue commences with a page of Die proofs of the 3d, 4d and 1/- values. These are printed in black on white cards, and are attractively mounted in neat frames with a black background. These are followed by a most interesting group of the various types of 'Specimen' stamps of the Pine watermark issue. The first page is a rather crowded one with the heavy block type SPECIMEN (Type 1) on imperforate stamps. The values include the 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d, with singles and pairs showing a range of shades. I do not remember having seen in any publication illustrations of the types of SPECIMEN used on the early Jamaica stamps. Those illustrated are from stamps in the 'Hopkinson' collection, which has some copies of all that are known.

Continuing with the description of the collection, the next page shows more examples of Type 1 'SPECIMEN' on imperforates. These are a block of six of the 4d and a strip of six of the 2d. The latter has the full lower sheet margins with inscription (see illustration). Both these pieces were gems from the 'Trivett' collection.



The Manuscript overprints (Type 2) are particularly fine with the 1d, 3d, and 1/-, the latter in both red and black. A magnificent marginal block of eight has pride of place in the centre of the page. Next come two of the most interesting pieces in this group. A corner block of seven of the 3d and a marginal block of six of the 1/- cancelled with diagonal lines in ink. These are considered to be Specimen stamps, and only two other blocks which, incidentally, join on to these, are known. Mr. Hopkinson had taken the trouble to find out where the other blocks were and to have photographs taken with them joined together. The photographs show their original form before they were divided.

A further type of 'Specimen' is on the next page, showing the word spread over two stamps (Type 3). A pair of the 3d and a strip of three of the 1/- are shown. The latter is particularly interesting as, for some reason, it has been cut in half horizontally, but the word 'Specimen' is complete as it is spread over the lower half of the three stamps (see illustration).



The next page has a number of perforated stamps with the Type 1 overprint. The most interesting item is a single copy with the Control No. 1, which is doubly printed. Two rare Specimens of the 1/- value imperforated come next. These seem to have a type all to themselves and are shown in Types 4 and 5.

The following page has blocks of the 1d, 6d and 1/- perforated with Type 1 overprint. These are very fine and scarce in blocks. A smaller overprint is represented on the next page, as illustrated by Type 6. At the bottom of the page is a complete set with two copies of the 1/- value with larger serif letters (Type 7). These are placed either vertically or diagonally, probably due to the fact that the overprint is slightly larger than the width of the stamp.

The next page is an interesting one, as it shows a block of four of the 3d perforated 'Specimen' similar to Type 6, but with serif letters (Type 8).

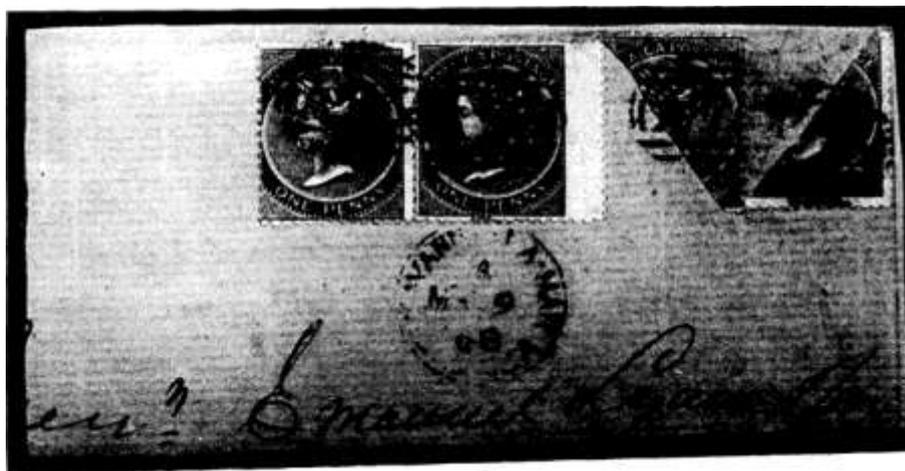
The AH Hopkinson Collection

This completes the display of the 'Specimen' stamps of the Pine issue. It has always intrigued me as to why Jamaica had so many Specimens with different overprints, which is probably due to the fact that they ranged over a considerable period. The stamps were entirely Colonial property, and the Postmaster General had to write to Jamaica whenever specimens of the postage stamps were required on behalf of foreign Governments.

Before the issued stamps is a page of 'Pines', imperforate. These are exceedingly scarce, and I am sorry to see that Mr. Hopkinson had been unable to complete it with a copy of the 6d, although he had two of the 1/- in different shades.

Now we come to the issued stamps, beginning with a mint display of singles of the whole issue with all recognised shades. The 6d, deep purple, is a gem. It has full gum and, in my opinion, is one of the rarest stamps of Jamaica, although it is only catalogued at £20.

A similar page, only with used stamps, comes next, to be followed by a remarkable series of the 1d value, bisected and used as a ½d. There are several pages of these bisected stamps on covers, and two of them containing two copies of the bisect are extremely rare. One of these is illustrated. Another unusual 'split' is an entire containing a copy of the 2d and a 1d bisected, making a 2½d rate (see illustration). Another with the 'Too Late' postmark right across the stamp is exceedingly attractive (see illustration).



The array of mint blocks must be one of the most valuable collections of this type in existence. The 1d is represented by no less than eight blocks in various shades, made up of thirty, twelve, ten, two of nine, two of six, and one of four stamps. There is a fine mint block of four of the 2d but the 3d is stronger with blocks of 24, 12 and 4. Two fine blocks of the 4d are very scarce, but the pair of 6d in the deep purple colour is remarkable. It is perfectly mint and seems as though it were only printed yesterday. In the ordinary shade there is a mint block of twelve with side margin.

## The AH Hopkinson Collection

We now come to the most valuable piece in the collection. It is a magnificent corner block of twenty of the 1/- in the yellow-brown shade in perfect condition. For many years I had never seen a block of four until I purchased one in the 'Trivett' sale a few years ago. This block of four is now in Mr. Hopkinson's collection on the same page as the wonderful unique piece of twenty.

The Dollar varieties include some of the finest copies I have seen. The unused specimen of the yellow-brown is a gem, and the variety on all these stamps is exceptionally clear.

The volume is completed with the used section, which comprises some extremely fine covers, many of which show unusual rates of postage.

The second volume commences the CC issue with a series of 'Specimen' stamps. The display of the mint and used sections are very similar to the first issue, with many wonderful blocks. The Dollar varieties are also well represented with mint and used copies.

The single CA issue of 1883 is also similar, but I should like to draw attention to two very fine mint blocks of four of the 1d blue in different shades, as this is an exceptionally rare stamp to secure in anything larger than a pair. Another piece worthy of mention is the block of four of the 4d in the rare red-orange shade.

Three pages containing the 'Dollars' of this issue comprise the variety in a block of four, corner block of ten and a complete pane of sixty. The latter is, to my knowledge, the only one known.

There is an interesting cover containing a pair of the ½d used in the Cayman Islands with the Grand Cayman postmark in violet. This is an exceedingly scarce cover as, although the use of Jamaica stamps in the Cayman Islands was authorised, very few have been found on covers, and this is the only one in this vast collection. It is interesting to note that at one time the idea was considered of overprinting Jamaican stamps for use in the Cayman Islands and some were actually prepared, although they were never issued.

Mr. Hopkinson had been successful in obtaining some of the rare perforated 12 of this issue. This is the first time I have had a collection with any of these included. The stamps shown are the ½d, 3d, 4d and 6d values.

The Provisional Issue of 1890 - the Twopence Halfpenny on 4d stamp - has a volume to itself. Mr. Hopkinson had made a special study of this stamp with its many varieties and different settings. I have never before seen such an array of blocks of this stamp. It is rather interesting to note that although the rate of postage between Great Britain and the Colonies was reduced to 2½ d per half-ounce on January 1st 1891, Jamaica had already issued this provisional six months earlier, the reason being that the rate for letters from the United States to Jamaica was 2½d per half-ounce, but in the reverse direction it was 4d. Naturally, the people in the island objected to this one-sided arrangement, and eventually in May, 1890, the Governor acceded to the general desire on his own responsibility. There are three settings of this surcharge, which are very interesting for collectors who like to reconstruct the various types. The first one was made up of a vertical row of ten stamps, the second two horizontal rows of six, and the third a horizontal row of three. Mr. Hopkinson has completed all these settings in both mint and used state, with the exception of setting 3 used. For some reason no used copies of this setting have been found. The errors PFNNY and broken K for Y are well represented.

Great headway had been made with the reconstruction of the sheets with exceptionally large blocks, some of which I notice contain the interesting errors of spelling. In the used section there is a cover containing a pair showing one stamp with the broken 'K' for 'Y'.

The issue of 1903-4, the Arms type, commences with some interesting Die Proofs showing the preparation for the border and central design of the 2½d and 5d values. Apart from the display of the SER.ET errors there is one piece worthy of mention, and that is a mint block of sixty of the 5d. This block makes up a complete pane. There is a large and valuable display of SER.ET errors, both mint and used, and the rarest, the 5d, is shown in a complete pane of sixty. I do not know of another piece like this. It is certainly a very valuable item to have, as it shows the position of the variety on the sheet.

The series of the same types on the Multiple Watermark paper of 1905 is also very fine and, again, the rare 5d with the SER.ET error is well represented. It is shown in mint state as a single, in a strip of three and in two blocks of nine. The variety only occurs once in the sheet and, from what is known of the records of the consignment of this 5d stamp with the Multiple Watermark, only fifty sheets could have existed. It is, therefore, very remarkable that Mr. Hopkinson had been able to get together such a wonderful display of these errors.

The 1905 issue now follows with the re-issue of the first types in new colours. Many collectors, perhaps, will not appreciate the fact that the plates used for printing the 1903-11 issue were the same ones as were used for the first issue with pine Watermark in 1860. It, therefore, shows a remarkable record of preservation and long use of these plates. The printings of 1905 are better than those in 1860. The colours chosen for this new issue are exceedingly attractive, and Mr. Hopkinson seems to have taken a special fancy to them, collecting together a very fine volume of shades with pairs, strips and blocks.



## The AH Hopkinson Collection

An unusual piece is a horizontal strip of twelve of the 4d brown, made up of two strips of six from the bottom two adjoining panes. I like this piece, not so much because it is one of the scarcest stamps in the set, but it is so attractive with the inscription on the bottom margin 'Price: 4d per label, 2/- per row of six, £1 per sheet of sixty'.

A marginal mint block of six of the 2/- is extremely scarce. I remember a collector who specialised in mint blocks of four Colonial stamps who was never able to obtain this stamp in a block.

The Dollar variety on the 1/- value again appears in this series, and is shown with two corner pieces of four, one mint and one used on piece, and a mint vertical strip of three.

It is rather a curious thing that there is only one Edwardian stamp for Jamaica, and this was not issued until after King Edward's death. This is the 2d value, which is a very common stamp mint. It appears that large stocks of these were bought up for speculative reasons, and very few were used at the time.

It is not necessary for me to say very much about the first Georgian issue. 1912-18, except to say that they are represented in a complete volume, with many blocks, shades, etc., both mint and used.

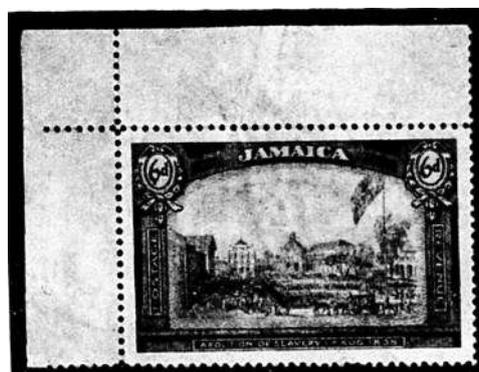
The War stamps make an interesting study, as there are quite a number of varieties of the overprints. The collection has a large volume of them, with an almost endless display of varieties of type, including the scarce ones such as 'TAMP', letters inserted by hand, inverted overprints, etc., which are mostly in blocks, some of them showing the position on the sheet. There are two very valuable pages in this collection, as they contain three mint blocks of eighteen, twelve and eight of the 3d 1917 issue with overprint inverted. These came out of the 'Clutterbuck' collection and are the only pieces of this size that are known.



I consider the issue of 1919-21 to be one of the most attractive any Colony has produced, chewing as it does the many charming scenes, prominent buildings and interesting events connected with Jamaica. Prefacing the stamps is a remarkable series of Die Proofs. Many show the design in unfinished state, others the frame or vignette separately, some in colour and some in black. I have chosen three out of a set of four of the 1 ½ d value, which show the gradual building-up of the portrait of King George V. In the first the portrait is little more than a sketch, the second is more defined, the third has the background slightly heavier and the last one is similar to the issued stamp. I have not illustrated the third state as the differences are not great enough to show in an illustration. There is also a gradual strengthening of other parts of the design but these are not so pronounced as the work on the portrait. The series of photographs of the various places depicted on the stamps add considerably to the charm of this volume.

The interesting 'Slave' stamp of this issue is represented by a page of 'Specimens'. A Colour Trial in green and violet and two copies of the completed stamp overprinted 'Specimen'. One of these is on Multiple Crown C.A. paper and the other on Script CA paper. The first one has the word 'Specimen' reading up and the second reading down.

The next page shows the only known single copy of the stamp without 'Specimen'. This is on Multiple Crown CA paper and is from the corner of the sheet (see illustration). The origin of this stamp is particularly interesting. It was the last design to be completed for the pictorial issue and when the first consignment arrived in the Island it was considered inadvisable to issue the stamp on account of the unrest amongst the negroes at that time, as it was thought that the design which had reference to bygone days of slavery might be used for purposes of inflammatory propaganda. The stamp is printed with the frame in blue-grey and the vignette in Indian red. The latter shows a scene depicting a gathering in the square of Spanish Town on August 1st 1838, when the Governor-Sir Lionel Smith read to the assembled people the proclamation of 'Declaration of Freedom from Slavery'. The



The consignment of stamps which arrived in the Island were burned at the General Penitentiary at Kingston. Those on hand at the Crown Agents were also destroyed on instructions received by cable. It is known that two blocks of four on Script CA Watermark exist, as they were preserved, one for His Majesty's Collection and the other for the Official Records at the General Post Office at Kingston; these are on Script Watermark paper. It is interesting to note that His Majesty's collection also contains another block of four on Script Watermark paper and also a block of four on the Multiple Crown CA paper, which were presumably, supplied from the agents in London. The copy in the 'Hopkinson' Collection is the only other one known and was evidently saved in some way or other from burning.

## The AH Hopkinson Collection

A new 6d stamp was designed and issued in 1922, the vignette showing a scene at Port Royal about 1850. In the collection is a proof of the vignette in blue and a colour trial of the completed stamp in brown and red.

In the display of the Child Welfare issue of 1923, Mr. Hopkinson had secured prints from the actual photographs taken by Miss Violet F. Taylor, which were used for the designs. These are autographed, and I think must be worth more than 5/- at which I have priced them.

Amongst the new line-engraved type of 1929 with the head of King George, a very valuable piece is a block of four of the 1d plate proof printed in blue. The general issues are completed with an attractive display of blocks with the latest pictorial designs, including some on covers with steamer cancellations.

The postal fiscals make quite an interesting volume, and include some attractive Die proofs, which I do not remember having seen in any other collection. The condition of some of the large blocks of the 1855 issue on the glazed paper is unusual. These stamps were printed on a very highly surfaced paper, and the design is easily rubbed off. Some of these stamps are shown on covers, including a very fine pair of the 3d imperforate.

The high values of 1858, showing the 5/- and 10/-, make an attractive display, and a copy of the 5/- on cover is an exceptional item.

Amongst the Official stamps are some blocks showing the various settings, but the piece de resistance is a copy of the 2d green, key-plate type, overprinted 'Official'. This stamp was prepared for use, but was never issued, and I have only seen two other copies of this rarity.

There is a section of Telegraph stamps in which there is a most beautiful coloured drawing on card of the 3d value which was later accepted for the design of the issued stamp.

This section completes the volumes containing stamps of Jamaica, and in the next number I hope to continue these notes, describing other portions of the collection. I should like to mention that in selecting the material for illustration I have chosen the unusual, as I appreciate that all of you know what the Jamaica stamps look like, and it is, therefore, unnecessary for me to illustrate any of the beautiful blocks, although they are of the greatest rarity.

The announcement of our purchase of this outstanding collection of the stamps of the British West Indies in the last number of the Gazette brought an avalanche of enquiries to see some of the volumes. It is on these occasions that we wish it were possible to broadcast the news in a more gradual manner so that we could deal with all enquiries promptly. As is always the way when fine collections such as this are broken up, everybody wishes to have an early pick. We are endeavouring to deal with all enquiries in order of rotation, and we hope that all collectors will return approval sendings promptly so that as many specialists as possible can have their choice in the minimum of time.

We have been pleasantly surprised by the numerous requests to see the volumes of pre-stamp covers on which Mr. Hopkinson had devoted considerable study. The articles on the pre-stamp covers by Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, FRPSL commence in this number will be appreciated by many and give others an insight into the fascination of these early relics of postal history. The series of Jamaica comprise all the postmarks that are known and form a standard work of reference for all time.

This month we are continuing the description of the collection with some very brief notes on the three volumes containing British stamps used in Jamaica, continued with the same cancellations on the early Jamaica stamps.

#### THE GREAT BRITAIN STAMPS USED IN JAMAICA, AND POSTMARKS

This collection is arranged in the order of postmarks. First on the English stamps, then the first issue of Jamaica, followed by the subsequent issues so long as the particular obliterator was in use.

The first stamps of Great Britain sent out for use in Jamaica were issued on 8th May, 1858. This consignment consisted of £2,000 worth, and was made up of £1,300 of 6d stamps, £550 of 4d stamps, and £150 of 1d stamps. This supply was calculated to provide for two months Post Office business. It is not definitely known how many consignments of these English stamps were sent out, but it is fairly certain that the ratio of 1d stamps was a good deal less than the others, as it is quite a scarce stamp to secure with any of the Jamaican postmarks.

With the first supply, only one obliterator was sent out, and this was the A01, which was kept at Kingston. The Postmasters outside this town as a rule put their date-stamps on the envelope, and the stamps were cancelled at Kingston if the letter was going there, with this A01 postmark. In a few cases, the postmasters cancelled the stamps with their town date-stamps or defaced them in ink. These were subsequently stamped again with the A01 if going to Kingston, and are quite scarce.



Besides the obliterator A01 of Kingston, there are 52 others numbered from A27 to A78 inclusive, but these did not come into use for the various Post Towns until 1st March, 1859.

The collection commences with the A01 obliteration of Kingston, and shows a series of fine covers of all three values, some of them containing the 1d in pairs in conjunction with other values to make up various rates. This is followed by a series of pages of the same postmark used on all the issues of Jamaica up to the key-plate issue of 1889. There is a copy of the £1 Edward of Great Britain with the A01 cancellation (see illustration). This was used in London after the obliterations had been returned from Jamaica, and evidently this one was used to postmark stamps which the clerk thought were not sufficiently cancelled. It is not necessary for me to say very much about this portion of the collection.



The collection now continues on similar lines, showing the various towns in their alphabetical order. I notice some covers in which the town date, stamp on the cover has the date filled in in manuscript. This was done quite frequently, as it will be appreciated that at this time the Postmasters in these out of the way places were mostly natives, and they were not very particular about fitting the dates into the date-stamps. These postmarks are quite interesting, as they show the state of affairs existing in the early days of the Post Office.

## The AH Hopkinson Collection

I like one of the covers of Goshen, containing a copy of the 6d. cancelled with the Goshen town date-stamp. This was not cancelled again at Kingston, as the letter was sent to Spanish Town. A strip of four of the 1d on cover used from Highgate is a rare piece. One of the outstanding covers contains two magnificent pairs of the 4d with the A64 cancellation of Port Antonio.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Hopkinson has prefaced each series from the various towns with a description of the place, its size and other notes.

I am illustrating a pair of 6d used from St. Ann's Bay, which shows the local town date-stamp and the A01 obliterator of Kingston. Another cover from the same place is very curious, as the postmaster has evidently cancelled the stamps with some special postmark of his own (see illustration).



Some of the Spanish Town stamps are known cancelled with a '½'. At first it was thought that the stamps were cancelled with this handstamp after they were fixed on the envelope, but Mr. Nicholson, when looking through the collection, informed me that he had seen two or three covers and in each case the cancellation ends abruptly at the edge of the stamp, which tends to prove that this was put on before the stamps were used. This is an exceedingly rare postmark, and the copy in the 'Hopkinson' collection is illustrated. Another cover illustrated is a very fine one containing six copies of the 1d. used from Lilliput. Mr. Hopkinson's notes on this town are as follows:- "This place can hardly be traced today, but it was in St. Elizabeth not far from Balaclava. This Post Office was opened on November 16th, 1857, and the business done was so small that it was eventually closed down in 1874 or 1875."



Many of Mr. Hopkinson's notes on the various towns tend to show how tiny they were, and the small amount of Post Office business that was done. It seems extraordinary to me that covers containing stamps from these towns survived at all.

