

# JAMAICA

## PRE - STAMP COVERS

— 1760 - 1860 —

By

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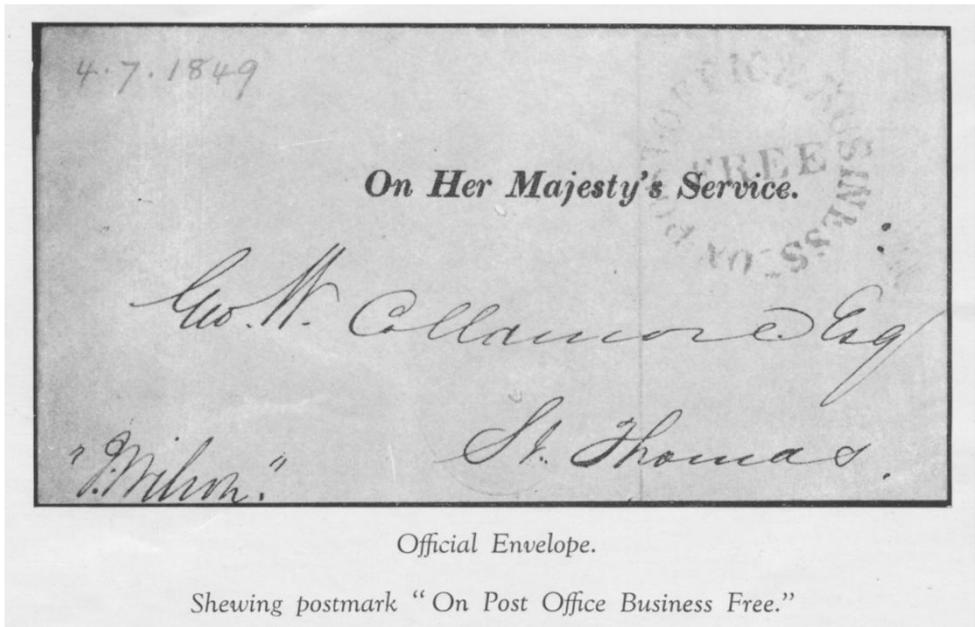
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CONTENTS

(1) NAME OF COLONY ONLY..... 4  
(2) NAME OF COLONY AND DATE IN STRAIGHT LINES. .... 4  
(3) NAME OF COLONY AND DATE IN CIRCULAR FORM. .... 5  
(4) KINGSTON (circular form with date). .... 6  
(5) POST-TOWNS (straight line without date). .... 8  
(6) POST-TOWNS (Circular form with date)..... 9  
(7) "SHIP-LETTERS." ..... 12  
(8) "PAID" MARKS. .... 13  
(9) "TO PAY" MARKS. .... 16  
(10) "FREE" MARKS..... 16  
(11) "TOO-LATE" MARKS. .... 17  
(12) MISCELLANEOUS. .... 18  
(13) "COMMERCIAL ROOMS"..... 19



THE Pre-Stamp Covers of any country are exceedingly interesting, and those of the West Indies, of which Jamaica was the most important island, particularly so, as they tell us the history of the various ways by which letters were brought to the Mother country over a period of one hundred years, during which we were constantly at war with France and Spain and America. Even when not at war, there was no love lost between us and these countries, and any vessel which was not of his own nationality was fair game for the Captain of a ship to chase and loot if he could, or be chased in return to suffer a similar fate if caught.

There were two ways of sending letters from Jamaica to England in those days.

You could either send your letter by a "Packet" boat, which was equivalent to our modern mail-boat, or you could send it by a warship or a private vessel trading between the West Indies and Great Britain. The former were run by the British Government, and letters sent by them always had a Jamaican post mark put on them before they left the island. They were marked "Packet" or "By the Packet", etc., usually in the bottom left-hand corner. A common practice was to put the letters "Q.D.C." after the name of the Captain and vessel which was taking the letter. These stand for "Quum Deus Conservet" (whom God preserve).

The latter had no Jamaican postmark, but were stamped "SHIP-LETTER" on arrival, with the name of whatever port the ship put in to, *i.e.*, "SHIP LETTER PORTSMOUTH", etc., etc.

An exception is to find letters with both Jamaican and English "SHIP-LETTER" marks.

I am not quite certain why this was done, but the fact remains that they are the rarest of all Jamaican pre-stamp covers.

A few hints to the collector of these pre-stamp covers will probably be of use to him or her in forming a collection.

In the first place, if you wish to find the date when the letter was posted, do not take it for granted that the date at the commencement of the letter is the one you want. Read the letter through, and you will often find that it is only a copy of an earlier one repeated in case the original had not got through safely.

and then there follows the actual letter you want, with a date several months later.

Another practice was to start a letter, and then hold it up until the next mail came in from England, when the writer, added a bit more at a much later date.

I repeat, always *read* the letters.

I once purchased one for a mere song, and upon reading it discovered that the writer had just returned from Philadelphia where he had been one of the signatories to the American Declaration of Independence !

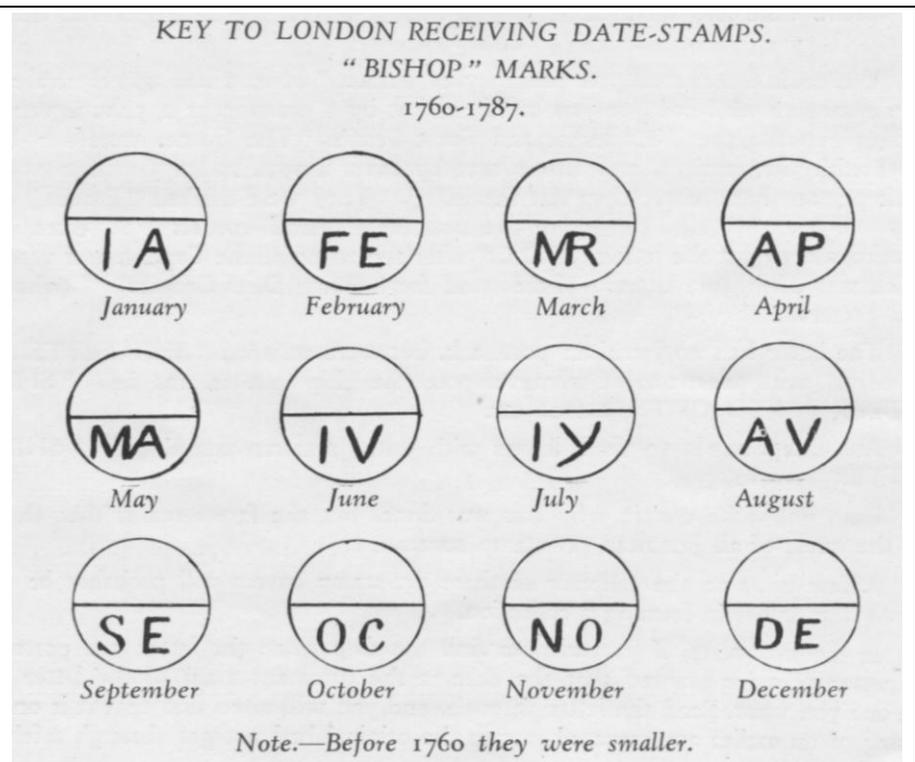
So much for dates of posting, now a few words on arrival dates.

The "Bishop" mark was in use on most letters received from Jamaica from 1760 to 1787. I have illustrated these, as the Latin "I" for "J", and "V" for "U" often trip up the beginner.

"IV" is June, not April, "IY" July; "AV" August, etc.

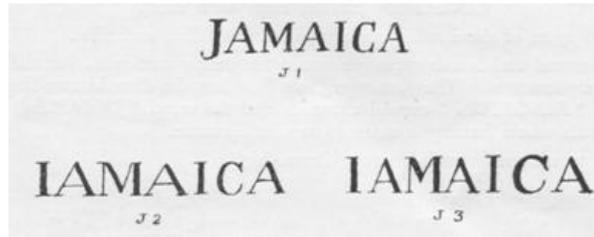
Jamaican postmarks appear to have started about the year 1760, and I propose to take each type and describe it with the earliest and latest known dates of use, etc.

The collector is warned that he will usually find only a portion of the postmark showing of the early types, and often very faint.



## (1) NAME OF COLONY ONLY.

(Used at Kingston)



The earliest type which can be traced (vide J.1) consisted simply of the word "JAMAICA" in a straight line, in large serif letters, 35 mm. long by 6 mm. high.

Earliest date known 17 May 1762.

Latest date known 5 April 1780.

In the *second* type (vide J.2) the word was spelt "IAMAICA" and was in heavier type. This was 42½ mm. long by 6 mm. high.

The letter "M" is very broad, and the letter "C" normal.

Earliest date known 21 Sept. 1765.

Latest date known 20 Sept. 1797.

The *third* type (vide J.3) is a renewal of the second type and was possibly sent out with it. Here the word is still spelt "IAMAICA" in heavy type, but is 42 mm. long by 6½ m.m. high.

The chief difference, however, is that the letter "M" is narrow and the letter "C" very broad.

Earliest date known 26 March 1768.

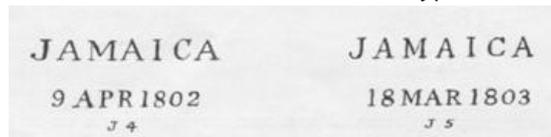
Latest date known 31 Oct. 1776.

Of these three types, the first is distinctly scarce, and the second much commoner than the third.

## (2) NAME OF COLONY AND DATE IN STRAIGHT LINES.

(Used at Kingston)

This was the first dated postmark of Jamaica, and is in two types.



The first (vide J.4) has the word "JAMAICA" in a straight line in small serif letters 32 mm. long by 3½ mm. high.

The date is underneath in a straight line in slightly smaller serif letters, and a little shorter than the word "JAMAICA".

Portions of a circle round this date-stamp show occasionally (about 37 mm. in diameter), but this is merely the outer edge of the circular holder.

Earliest date known 9 April 1802.

Latest date known

The *second* type (vide J.5) was a renewal, the only difference being that the letters are taller (4 mm.) and narrower, especially the letter "M".

Earliest date known 15 Jan. 1803.

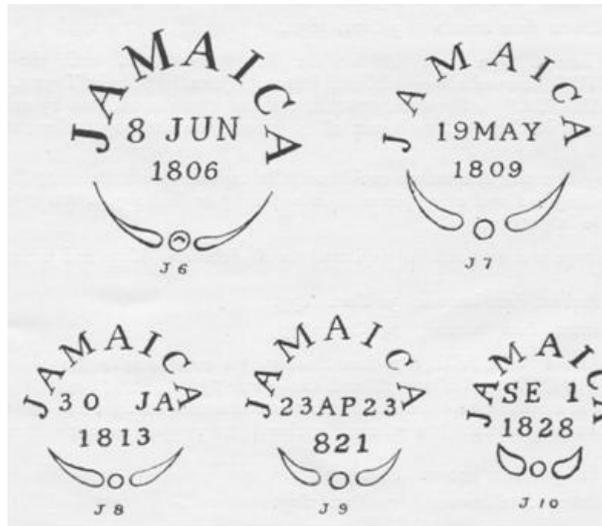
Latest date known 14 July 1804.

Neither of these types is common, and the first one is seldom seen. They are almost identical with the scarce type of British postmark used at Aberdeen, Bristol, Hull and Liverpool, from 1798-1804.

### (3) NAME OF COLONY AND DATE IN CIRCULAR FORM.

(Used at Kingston)

These are very handsome marks, but are usually very faint. They consist of five types, the original having been renewed four times, and each renewal being smaller than its predecessor.



The original type (vide J.6) has the word "JAMAICA" in large serif letters (about the same size as J.3) curved in a semi-circle above the date, with two curled-up leaf-like ornaments on either side of a small circle, below the date, which is in two lines in the middle. There is an inverted crescent inside the small circle, and the whole forms a date-stamp measuring 37 mm. in diameter.

Earliest date known 14 April 1805.  
 Latest date known 15 May 1807.

The first renewal (vide J.7) has the leaf-like ornaments at the bottom fatter, and the crescent is omitted from the small circle, which is slightly below the level of the ornaments. Diameter of date-stamp 35 mm.

Earliest date known 29 July 1808.  
 Latest date known 17 Oct. 1810.

The *second* renewal (vide J.8) has the leaf-like ornaments the same size as the first renewal, but not so curved, and the small circle is in correct alignment with the ornaments. It has no crescent in it. The day of the month was at first put on the left-hand side only, and later on both sides. Finally, the thousand figure of the year date was omitted. Diameter of date-stamp 30 mm.

Earliest date known 30 Jan. 1813.  
 Latest date known 20 Dec. 1823.

The *third* renewal (vide J.9) has the leaf-like ornaments much shorter. There is no crescent in the small circle, and the day of the month is on both sides. In this renewal the thousand figure of the year date is always omitted (*i.e.* 818 for 1818). Diameter of date-stamp 29 mm.

Earliest date known 7 Feb. 1820.  
 Latest date known 11 Aug. 1823.

The *fourth* renewal (vide J.10) has the leaf-like ornaments shorter still, and they nearly touch the small circle, which still has no crescent in it. This renewal is recorded in the G.P.O. books (London) as having been sent out to Jamaica on 26th September, 1826. Diameter of date-stamp 26 mm.

Earliest date known 18 Jan 1828.  
 Latest date known 11 Sept. 1828.

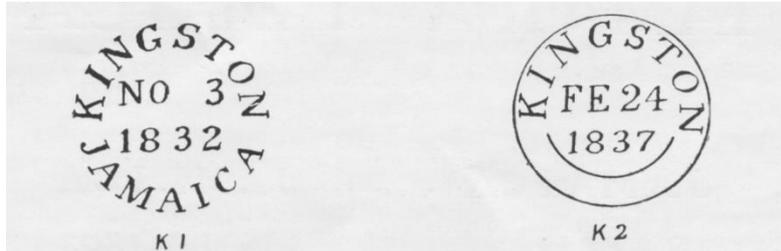
These marks are scarce, the first particularly so.

This peculiar type, in all its sizes, was in general use, with the appropriate name, in most of the West Indies.

**(4) KINGSTON (circular form with date).**

Seven types of these marks were used between 1824 and 1860.

The second and fourth types are not so frequently met with, but the others are all fairly common. The first type (vide K.1) has the date in two lines with the word "KINGSTON" curved above it, and the word "JAMAICA" curved below it, the whole forming a circle 25 mm. in diameter. Both words are in serif letters 3½ mm. high.



This date-stamp was renewed and sent out in duplicate on 26 September, 1826. The renewals have slightly smaller lettering.

- Earliest date known 24 May 1824.
- Latest date known 3 Nov. 1832.

The *second* type (vide K.2) has the date in two lines, with the word "KINGSTON" curved above it in serif letters 3½ mm. high, as in Type 1. The word "JAMAICA" is, however, omitted, and the whole is enclosed by an outer circle 25 mm. in diameter, with part of an inner circle showing underneath the date.

Seeing that this date-stamp could easily be confused with the many "Kingstons" in England and other places, it is surprising to find that it was ever sent out for use in Jamaica.

This type was sent out (in duplicate) on 28 February, 1833, and is not very common.

- Earliest date known 31 Dec. 1835.
- Latest date known 19 Oct. 1839.

The third type (vide K.3) has the date in two lines, with the word "KINGSTON" curved above it, and the word "JAMAICA" curved below it. There is a small cross on either side between the two words, which are 3 mm. high and in serif letters. The whole is enclosed in a single-lined circle 26 mm. in diameter.

- Earliest date known 8 July 1833.
- Latest date known 24 Dec. 1839.



The *fourth* type (vide K.4) is merely a renewal in a larger size, the words being 3½ mm. high and the diameter of the circle 30 mm. This type was sent out on 25 June, 1836, and is not very common.

- Earliest date known 18 Aug. 1836.
- Latest date known 23 Apr. 1839.

The *fifth* type (vide K.5) has the date in two lines, with the word "KINGSTON" curved above it, and the word " JAMAICA " curved below it, both in serif letters 3 mm. high. The date is in fancy type. There are segments of an outer and an inner circle on either side between the two words.

Diameter of date-stamp 29 mm.

This type was sent out on 23 November, 1839, and again on 30 March, 1840, with smaller letters and shorter segments.

Earliest date known 1 Feb. 1840.

Latest date known 12 Feb. 1851.

The *sixth* type (vide K.6) has the date in two lines with both the words " KINGSTON-JAMAICA " curved above it, in *sans-serif* letters 2½ mm. high.



There are segments of an outer and an inner circle underneath the date. Diameter of date-stamp 25mm.

This type was sent out on 11 February, 1847, and again on 5 January, 1850 (with larger letters).

Earliest date known 8 April 1847.

Latest date known 24 Jan. 1861.

The *seventh* type (vide K.7) is very similar to type 6, the only difference being that the word "JAMAICA" is placed at the bottom of the date-stamp, instead of following after "KINGSTON" at the top. There are segments of an outer and an inner circle on either side, between the two words, as in type 5.

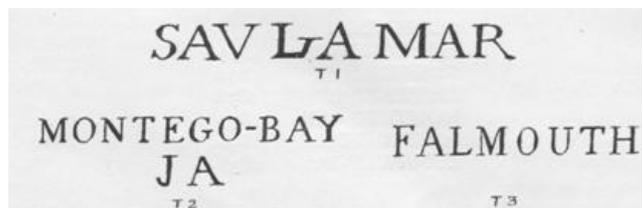
Diameter of date-stamp still 25 mm., and words still in *sans-serif* letters. This type was sent out (in duplicate) on 29 April, 1853.

Earliest date known 13 June 1854.

Latest date known 8 Nov. 1861,

## (5) POST-TOWNS (straight line without date).

There are only three types of these. None is common, and the first type is very rare.



The earliest type known (vide T.1) consisted of the name of the Town in one or two straight lines in large serif letters (varying from 5½ to 7 mm. high) similar to type J.3. This type was certainly in use in 1773, probably earlier, and was used on letters despatched *and* on letters received.

Jamaica had 23 Post-towns in 1774, and 33 in 1788.

The following are known with this type of postmark:

KING STON	in two lines dated from 1774-1790.
BLACK RIVER	in two lines dated 2 July, 1794.
LACOVIA	in one line dated from 1778-1793.
MORANT BAY	in two lines dated 1773.
SALTSPRING	in one line dated 18 Jan. 1790.
SAV-LA-MAR	in one line dated 6 April, 1802.

Lacovia had a large eight-pointed asterisk after the name. It is not known why this was done.

The *second* type (vide T.2) had the name of the town in one line in smaller serif letters (4 mm. high).

The abbreviation "JA" (for Jamaica) is under each name in larger serif letters.

The earliest date known is Spanish-Town 25 Jan. 1806.

Some of them remained in use until after 1840, although type 3 was sent out in 1833.

There were 38 Post Towns open in 1810, and the following are known with type two.

ANNOTTO-BAY	1820.
CLARENDON	1844.
DRY-HARBOUR	1837.
FALMOUTH	1810-1832.
LACOVIA	1819.
LUCEA	
MONTEGO-BAY	1809-1836.
ST. ANNS	1824.
SAVANNA-LA-MAR	1808.1809,
SPANISH-TOWN	1806-1834.

The third type (vide T.3) was nearly the same as Type 2. The differences being that the letters are taller (4½ mm.) and the abbreviation "JA" is omitted.

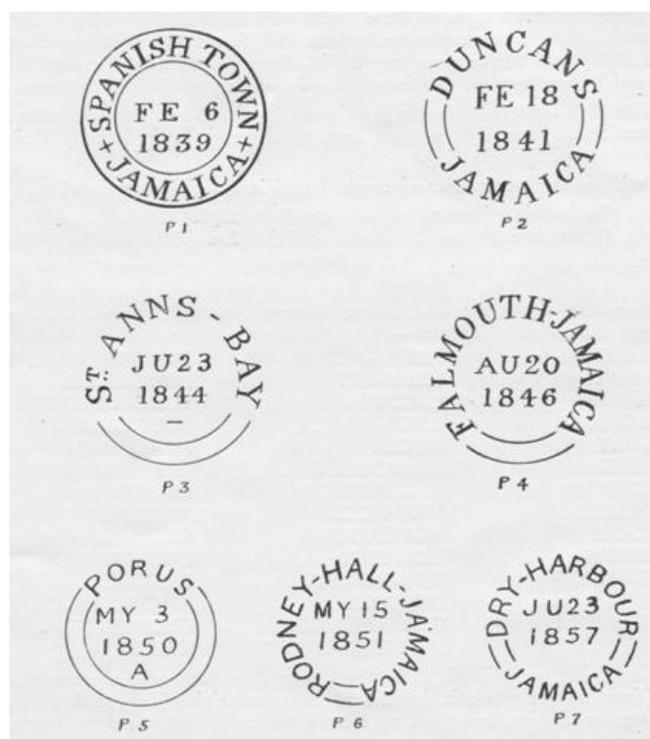
The Records at the G.P.O. London give specimens of forty-two "Town Names" of this type sent out on 7 Feb. 1833.

The following are known with type three.

CLARENDON	1838.
FALMOUTH	1834-1838.
GOSHEN	1840.
LITTLE-RIVER	1837.
MONTEGO-BAY	1835-1839.
PORT-ANTONIO.	1838
RUNAWAY-BAY.	1838

### (6) POST-TOWNS (Circular form with date).

There are seven types of these marks used from 1836 to 1860. Some of the smaller town names are scarce, such as Pear-Tree-Grove, Ewarton, Claremont and Bull Bay, and I have never seen Robin's River (later Robin's Bay) or Runaway Bay, which must both be very rare. The remainder are all fairly common.



The *first* Type (vide P.i) is peculiar to Spanish Town and was most likely sent out about June 1836, as apart from the inner circle, it is very similar to Kingston's type 4 (vide K.4).

It is not at all common and can be found in blue ink early in 1840.

Earliest date known	24 Nov. 1836.
Latest date known	13 Feb. 1840 (in blue).

The *second* type (vide P.2) is exactly the same as Kingston's type 5 (vide K.5).

Forty-two date-stamps of this type were sent out from the G.P.O., London, on 1st April, 1839, as follows :—

ALEXANDRIA	HIGHGATE	PORT-ANTONIO
*ANNATTO-BAY (error)	HOPE-BAY	PORT-MARIA
BATH	LACOVIA	PORT-MORANT
BLACK-RIVER	LITTLE-RIVER	PORT-ROYAL
BUFF-BAY	LUCEA	RIO-BUENO
CHAPELTON	MANCHIONEAL	ROBINS-RIVER
CLARENDON	MANDEVILLE	RODNEY-HALL
DRY-HARBOUR	MAY-HILL	RUNAWAY-BAY
DUNCANS	MONEAGUE	ST. ANNE'S-BAY
FALMOUTH	MONTEGO-BAY	SAINT-DAVID
FLINT-RIVER	MORANT-BAY	SALT-GUT
GOSHEN	OCHO-RIOS	SAVANNAH-LA-MAR
GRANGE-HILL	OLD-HARBOUR	SPANISH-TOWN
GREEN-ISLAND	PEARTREE-GROVE	VERE

\* *This error was corrected on the date-stamp issued in 1842.*

The *third* type (vide P.3) has the date in two lines, with the name of the Post Town curved above it, in serif letters 4 mm. high. The word "Jamaica" is omitted, and in its place there are the segments of an outer and an inner circle

Diameter of date-stamp 29 mm.

The following eleven were sent out on 15th December, 1842.

ANNOTTO-BAY	OCHO-RIOS	RIO-BUENO
GREEN-ISLAND	PEAR-TREE-GROVE	ROBINS-BAY
HOPE-BAY	PORT-ANTONIO	ST. ANN'S-BAY
MONEAGUE	PORT-MARIA	

The *fourth* type (vide P.4) is the same as the third, only the word "JAMAICA" is added *after* the name of the Town.

Diameter of date-stamp still 29 mm.

Two only of these were sent out on the same day as type 3 (15th December, 1842).

FALMOUTH and HIGHGATE.

The reason the word Jamaica was added to these two is obvious to any Englishman.

The *fifth* type (vide P.5) has the date in two lines, with the name of the Post-Town curved above it, in *sans-serif* letters 3 mm. high. The word "Jamaica" is omitted, and in its place there are again segments of an outer and an inner circle.

Diameter of date-stamp 25 mm.

Five of these were sent out, as follows : —

PORUS (24.8.1846)	CLAREMONT (31.5.1851)
GOLDEN-SPRING (13.11.1846)	GORDON-TOWN (31.5.1851)
PLANTAIN-GARDEN-RIVER (16.5.1850)	

The *sixth* type (vide P.6) is the same as the fifth, only the word "JAMAICA" is again added *after* the name of the Town.

Diameter of date-stamp still 25 mm.

Five of these were sent out, as follows :—

EWARTON (26.9.1849)	RODNEY-HALL (8.11.1850)
LUCEA (16.4.1850)	BUFF-BAY (30.4.1852)
STEWART-TOWN (24.10.1850)	

The *seventh* type (vide P.7) is similar to the sixth only the word "JAMAICA" is placed at the bottom (the correct way up), under the date, instead of at the side following after the town name. There are two lines at each side above the word "JAMAICA". There are three sizes of this date stamp, and they were sent out as follows :—

(I) *Diameter 25 mm.*

DRY-HARBOUR (15.2.1853)	CLARENDON (16.5.1855)
MANDEVILLE (—9.1853)	OLD-HARBOUR (25.11.1856)
BROWN'S-TOWN (14.10.1853)	GAYLE (5.12.1856)

*Diameter 22 mm.*

BULL-BAY (27.8.1857)	MILE-GULLY (1.10.1857)
LILLIPUT (1.10.1857)	RAMBLE (13.11.1857)
LITTLE-RIVER (1.10.1857)	MONTPELIER (13.11.1857)

*Diameter 20 mm.*

FALMOUTH (27.2.1858)	SALT-GUT (27.2.1858)
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The last four to be issued had only *one* line on each side above the word "JAMAICA". The inner line in each case being omitted.

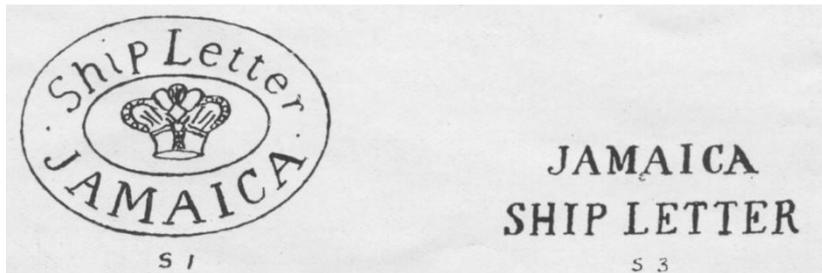


An interesting cover from the "Nicholson" collection showing postmarks of four towns on the same day.

## (7) "SHIP-LETTERS."

Jamaican pre-stamp covers with *English* Ship-Letter marks are not scarce. Those with *Jamaican* Ship-Letter marks are (as previously stated) the rarest of all Jamaican pre-stamp covers. These marks appear to have started in Jamaica about the year 1800, and are all in black ink.

The *first* type (vide SA.) consisted of a large oval (39 mm. by 28 mm.) enclosing a smaller oval, with "SHIP-LETTER" at the top in fancy type and "JAMAICA" at the bottom in large serif letters. There is a crown in the centre, but no date. This type is similar to those in use for various ports in England during the same period.



Earliest date known    4 Feb. 1803 (received in London).  
 Latest date known     6 April 1816,

The *second* type (vide S.2) has the date in two lines, with KINGSTON curved above it and SHIP-LETTER curved below it, both in serif letters. The whole forming a circle 30 mm. in diameter. This was sent out on 26th September, 1826, with letters 4 mm. high. It was renewed on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1839, with segments of circles on each side, between the words "Kingston" and "Ship-letter" (not illustrated), and again renewed on 30th March, 1844, with smaller letters forming a circle 28½ mm. in diameter (vide S.2a).



In spite of these three having been sent out, I have only seen one specimen of this mark in my life. This is dated 16 April 1844, and is the second renewal. It is on a letter sent from England to Spanish Town, Jamaica, via Kingston.

The third type (vide S.3) was simply "JAMAICA" and "SHIP—LETTER" in two straight lines, in serif letters 4 mm. high. This was sent out on 17 August 1841, and the shape of the last letter "A" is very peculiar after 1860, owing to wear. On covers bearing postage stamps it is found used in conjunction with the figures "1½" (vide PD.9).

Earliest date known    30 Nov. 1850.  
 Latest date known     20 Feb. 1867.

Similar "Ship-Letter" marks were sent out for "Falmouth" and "Luca" (pronounced LU-SEE) on 18 October 1846 and 16 April 1850 respectively. The former is worded "Falmouth—Jamaica" and "Ship—Letter" in two lines, and the latter "Luca" and "Ship—Letter" also in two lines. I have never seen specimens of either of these marks.

"Postal Markings" for 20 Oct. 1934, Vol. 4, No. 5, page 60, illustrates another Jamaican "Ship-Letter" mark, viz., "Annotto Bay" and "Ships Letter" in two lines.

"Annotto Bay" is in script type and "Ship-Letter" is in serif letters, the whole being surrounded by a single-lined frame.

This is stated to be in the collection of Mr. A. V. Richardson (of Lennoxville, Quebec), and is also a mark I have never seen.

It must be exceedingly rare on a cover.



Cover shewing Jamaica and Portsmouth Ship-Letter Postmarks.  
(From the "Nicholson" Collection.)

## (8) "PAID" MARKS.

Special Marks to denote that the postage on a letter had been paid by the sender came into use in Jamaica about the year 1820. On pre-stamp covers these marks are always in red ink. They were all (except Types PD.6 and PD.7) used at Kingston.

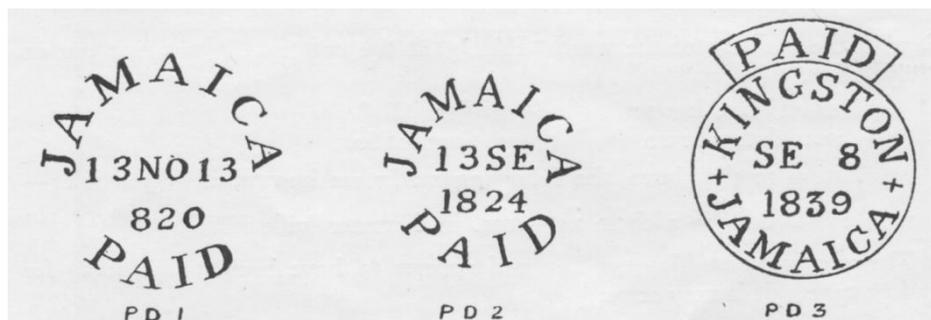
After 1833 if a Paid letter emanated from Kingston, it appears to have received a "KINGSTON—JAMAICA" Paid mark. If on the other hand, it emanated from a Post-Town, it was stamped with a "JAMAICA" Paid mark.

I have seen exceptions to this theory, but I possess an interesting cover which seems to prove that this was the rule, as it emanated from MONEAGUE and was addressed to London, England.

It has Type PD.5 dated 13 November, 1852, on it, but this is crossed out in black ink and Type PD.4 (also dated 13 Nov. 1852) is put alongside it.

This system was probably introduced to check up the amount of cash payments received by the Post-Towns.

Types 1, 2 and 3 are all exceedingly scarce and rarely met with. Types 4 and 5 are fairly common, especially the former, which was in use for over thirty years.



Jamaica Pre-Stamp Covers 1760-1860 By LCC Nicholson Pub 1936

The earliest type known to me (vide PD.1.) has the date in two lines, with the word "JAMAICA" curved above it, and the word "PAID" curved below it; both words being in large serif letters 4½ mm. high. The whole forms a "PAID" mark 31 mm. in diameter.

This type has the same peculiarities as the "JAMAICA" date-stamp Type J.9., in that the day of the month is put on both sides, and the thousand figure of the year date is omitted.

Earliest date known 13 Nov. 1820.  
Latest date known 9 Feb. 1824.

The *second* type (vide PD.2.) was a renewal of the first one in a smaller size (25 mm. in diameter). It, however, has the day of the month on the left-hand side only, and the thousand figure of the year date is included.

Earliest date known 13 Sept. 1824.  
Latest date known 15 Nov. 1837.

The *third* type (vide PD.3.) is similar to Kingston's early date-stamp Type K.4, only smaller (28½ mm.), with the addition of the word "PAID" above the circle.

This type was sent out on 28 February, 1833. It is very rare.

Earliest date known 2 Aug. 1839.  
Latest date known 30 March 1840.

The fourth type (vide PD.4.) was sent out on 23 Sept. 1840 (in duplicate).



It is similar to Kingston's early date-stamp Type K.5. The wording, however, being "JAMAICA" at the top and "PAID" at the bottom.

Earliest date known 29 July 1841.  
Latest date known 13 Jan. 1874.

The fifth type (vide PD.5.) is similar to Kingston's early date-stamp Type K.6, with the addition of the word "PAID" at the bottom. It was sent out on 23 July, 1847.

Earliest date known 7 Jan. 1848.  
Latest date known 24 Sept. 1860.

In addition to the above, the following marks are known, all in red ink : --

1. "PAID 8d" in a circle 24½ mm. in diameter (vide PD.6).

This was used at Montego-Bay and appears to have been made locally for inland postage. It is very scarce.

Earliest date known 30 Oct. 1848.

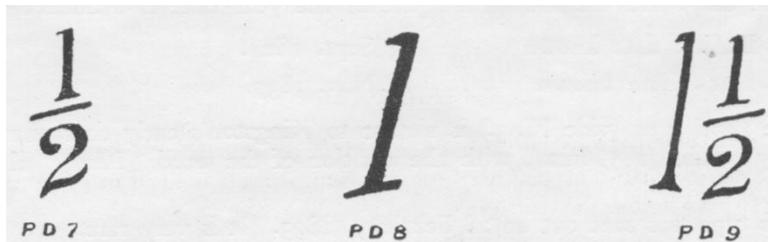
Latest date known 23 Jan. 1854.

2. The figure "½" 20 mm. high (vide PD.7.).

This was used at Spanish Town, but I have only seen it in red on a dated circular of 1861. This was before the official authorisation to bisect the one penny stamp was published.

It is, however, almost certain that it can be found on pre-stamp covers, as 50 of these marks were sent out from the G.P.O.. London, on 17 Oct. 1843, and Spanish Town was using it (in black) in 1858 and 1859 to obliterate the British Stamps then in use.

It is exceedingly rare.



3. The figure "1" 22 mm. high (vide PD.8).

Fifty of these were also sent out on 17 Oct. 1843. The only one I have seen was used at Kingston on a newspaper, in conjunction with Type PD.5, dated 26 April 1856.

This is also very rare.

4. The figures "1½" 21 mm. high (vide PD.9).

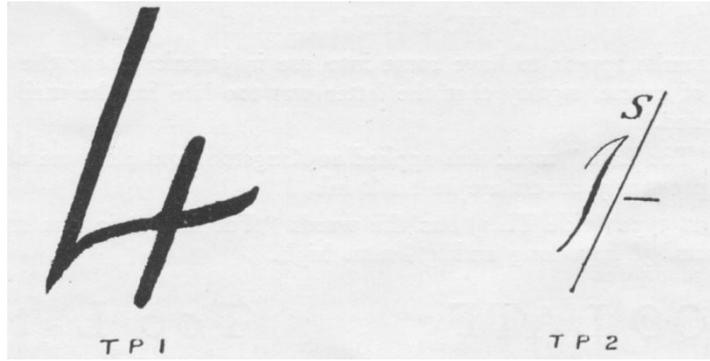
This appears to be struck from a *single* hand-stamp, but it is very similar to Types PD.7. and PD.8, and was probably sent out about the same time. I have, however, only seen this mark used at Kingston between 1863 and 1875, and then it is on "Ship-Letter" covers bearing postage stamps and is generally used in conjunction with Type S.3. (Q.V.).

It is quite possible that it was never used on pre-stamp covers. It is another mark rarely seen.



Cover with "Jamaica Ship Letter" and "1½" cancellations.  
(From the "Nicholson" Collection.)

### (9) "TO PAY" MARKS.



These marks indicated the amount of postage to be collected on delivery. They are usually in manuscript, but Kingston had at least two that were stamped on the letters in black ink.

1. The figure "4" 40 mm. high (vide TP.1.).

This appears to have been made locally for inland postage.

The only date of use known to me is 22 Oct. 1848, on a cover sent from Kingston to Spanish Town.

It is a very rare mark.

2. The amount "1/-" 30 mm. high (vide TP.2.).

Three boxes of these were sent out on 13 Nov. 1846, but they do not appear to have been used very much, as they are far from common.

They denote the rate of postage for a ½ oz. letter from Jamaica to England.

Earliest date known 8 April 1847.

Latest date known 22 Dec. 1849.

### (10) "FREE" MARKS.

Jamaica has had a great number of "Free" Marks, but I can only trace one that was used on pre-stamp covers.

This was used at the G.P.O., Kingston, and consisted of the words "On Post Office Business" curved completely round the word "FREE" which is in a straight line in the middle (vide F.1).



Two of these marks were sent out on the 9th November, 1843.

Diameter of mark 29 mm.

Only known date of use 4 July 1849, in red ink.

## (11) "TOO-LATE" MARKS.



These marks appear to have come into use in Jamaica about the year 1850. They, of course, signify that the letter was too late for the mail for which was intended.

The "Too Late" mark was applied at Kingston, and all three of the types known on pre-stamp covers are in black ink.

The first type (vide TL.1) has the words "Too Late" in one straight line serif letters, 38 mm. long and 4½ mm. high.

In all the specimens I have seen the bottom stroke of the letter "E" is broken off short.

Earliest date known 14 May 1851.

Latest date known 21 Feb. 1868.

The *second* type (vide TL.2) is also in one straight line, but the words are in antique lettering 35 mm. long and 2½ mm. high, the "T" and "L" being 4½ mm. This mark is very rare.

Earliest date known 30 Nov. 1859.

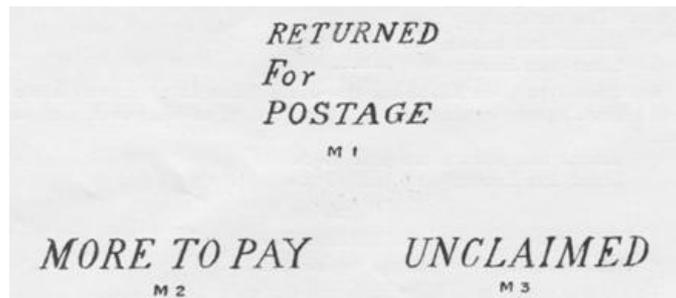
Latest date known

The third type (vide TL.3.) has the words "Too Late" curved inside the top of a circle 24 mm. in diameter, with a portion of an inner circle underneath them.

Earliest date known 20 June 1856.

Latest date known 13 Jan. 1874.

## (12) MISCELLANEOUS.



1. "Returned for \_\_\_\_\_ Postage" (vide M.1).

This was a special brass handstamp sent out on 2 Sept. 1845.

From about this time to the 'seventies, if a prepaid letter had been insufficiently paid, it was returned to the sender for him to pay the additional postage. A very excellent system, which I for one am sorry is not in vogue nowadays in our own country.

Although this mark was sent out in 1845, I have only seen one specimen of it, and this is on a cover with postage stamps, dated 17 Sept. 1868, and is in red ink.

2. "More to Pay" (vide M.2.).

This was sent out on 28 Sept. 1843, but I have not seen it used before 1867, and then it is in red ink and on a cover with postage stamps.

3. "Unclaimed" (vide M.3.).

This was also sent out on 28 Sept. 1843, but here again, I have never seen it on a pre-stamp cover. My earliest date is 1860, in red ink, and also on a cover bearing postage stamps.

There was no house-to-house delivery of letters in Jamaica, even in Kingston, before 1870, and everyone had to call at the Post Office for his or her letters. They were kept for one month, and if by that time they had not been claimed, they were stamped with this mark and returned to the sender.

4. "Missent to Jamaica" (not illustrated).

This mark was sent out about 1840, but I have never seen a specimen of it.

5. "No ----

Detained for Postage" (not illustrated).

This mark was sent out on 2 Sept. 1845, but it is likewise one that I have never seen.

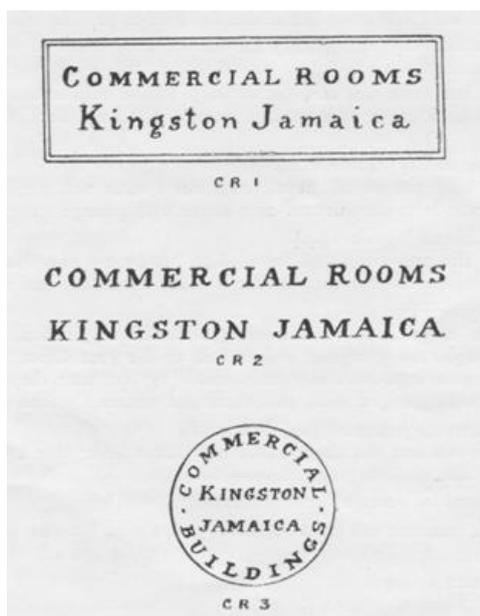
6. "Jamaica

Not on this Station" (not illustrated).

This mark was sent out on 18 Oct. 1846, and is another one that I have never seen. I do not understand what it means, or when it was intended to be used.

There are doubtless others of which no record exists.

### (13) "COMMERCIAL ROOMS".



Although not strictly speaking a postmark, this mark is to be found on Jamaican pre-stamp covers, and is extremely interesting, as well as scarce.

The Commercial Rooms (later known as the Commercial Buildings) were in Kingston, and appear to have been something in the nature of our "Lloyds" in London.

Three types can be found as follows :

1. "Commercial Rooms" in serif letters 2½ mm. high, and " Kingston Jamaica " underneath in antique letters 2 mm. high; the " K " and " J " being larger (3¾ mm.).

This is in two straight lines and the whole is surrounded by a double-lined frame 67 mm. long by 21 mm. high (vide CR.1.).

Only known date of use 20 July 1820 on a letter addressed to London and stamped "Deal Ship-Letter".

2. "Commercial Rooms" and "Kingston Jamaica" in two straight lines, all in serif letters 66 mm. long and 3 mm. high. This mark has no frame lines round it (vide CR.2).

Earliest date known 12 May 1823.

Latest date known 10 July 1829.

3. The words "Kingston" and "Jamaica" in two straight lines in serif letters mm. high, with the word "Commercial" curved above them, and the word " Buildings " curved below them, also in serif letters, but 2 mm. high. The whole is surrounded by a single-lined circle 27½ mm. in diameter (vide CR.3). This is an extremely rare mark.

Earliest date known 16 Sept. 1832.

Latest date known 14 Sept. 1833 (received in London).

This concludes all the postal markings of Jamaica known to me which can be found on pre-stamp covers.

No doubt there are others of which I am unaware, as although I have a fairly extensive collection of them myself, and have had (through the courtesy of Messrs. Frank Godden Ltd.) the privilege of taking notes from the whole of the collection formed by my late friend Allen H. Hopkinson, I still suffer from lack of material in order to make an absolutely complete list.

However, I think the foregoing can be taken as the standard work on the subject until such time as more material is discovered.