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The
Philatelic Handbook
of Jamaica

VOL. TWO

E. F. AGUILAR

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OF JAMAICA

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by

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JAMAICA, BRITISH WEST INDIES

Preface

FIRSTLY I must thank Messrs Stanley Gibbons Ltd. for the dies which illustrate the stamps in this first chapter. Readers will see that in this edition, the prices are given for the mint, used, and on full cover. These prices are based in Jamaica, and readers will see that many items which are far easier to obtain in London, are certainly very much more difficult in this Colony.

The prices of an item on cover is merely average, as this depends on the obliterator number or the single ring strike. In all the early covers, the items can be worth eight to ten times more than it is listed in the *Handbook*, as the strike might be one of the rarest in the obliterator field.

The issued date of the 1d CC is still very much in doubt. During the past ten years I have handled, at the very least, five covers, ranging between June and August 1871. At auction, Mr Alex Watt's sale, his cover bore the date of 10th August 1872; while Mr Brinkley Turner's was dated August 1871. This item was actually auctioned off years ago, and has a catalogue listing in Scotts. The author has an extremely fine cover dated August 1871.

In the Key Plate issue, which is one of the popular stamps for the finding of obliterator numbers, and early postmarks, the 1d with the blue shade is still extremely difficult to locate in the duty plate. The Arms of Jamaica on the MCA paper, there is not "Ser. et" in the 1d or 2½d values. There are however, quite a number of fakes. In the war stamps the main varieties, and errors, have been listed but many more can be found. Booklets are getting more popular, each year, and I have made a general listing of these, which appears from George V issue onwards. These booklets are very rare in the Pictorial and Jubilee issues. In the Pictorial issue of 1919-21 one of the most interesting stamps is the 1½d value. It appears that in the fourth

printing the plate was getting worn as the impression on the bottom row shows a number of defects. Such as double impressions on part stamps and "CMBARKING" for "EMBARKING".

In the Pictorial issue with the script watermark, the 2/- stamp can be found with the lower marginal edge imperforated of which only twelve copies can exist. While the double impression of the 2/- and 10/- are both extremely scarce, and rare items. In the Jubilee issue the double flag staff variety occurs in the 1½d, 6d, and 1/- values. The latter being quite a scarce item. While the George VI issue the broken chimney in the 1/- value is getting very difficult to locate. The ½d with the watermark sideways so far has not been located in mint condition. In the Queen Elizabeth issue the 1d stamp has been found in sheet form imperforated.

The last issue just published, the Federal stamps have numerous flaws but these have not been listed as the majority of the flaws are not constant.

The last issue just published, the Federal stamps have numerous flaws, but these have not been listed, as the majority of the flaws are not constant. All covers listed from 1923 onwards, are priced as first day of issue.

SECTION TWO. *The obliterator numbers for Jamaica.* This chapter has been kindly prepared by Mr R. A. Gibson of the USA. It is a field which has always been very popular, and will give readers a very good idea of the number of stamps known on the different numbers, and also just exactly what items are missing.

Any collector having any of these stamps that might not be listed certainly would appreciate to hear from them.

It is interesting to record that up to the present times the obliterator letters "D", "E", and "F" are still unknown. The letter "C" was also discovered on full card, last year, by Mr Gildart.

SECTION THREE. *The temporary rubber date marks issued in Jamaica since 1880 to the different parishes.* This has been one chapter which has to be carefully checked, and re-checked, as so many temporary rubber date marks have been issued and re-issued. Some collectors will find that a town mark might be listed on their maps as Port Antonio while in the *Handbook*, it will be classified as St. Thomas or St. Mary. This is due to the fact, that the distributing point for mail comes from those post offices. In the past ten years, the temporary rubber date marks, better known as TRDs, have been

extremely popular with collectors, and many of these marks are really extremely rare. Full illustration of all types will be found in the first volume of the *Handbook*.

In the modern types some of the most interesting strikes, seems to be with the UCWI which operated a post office for one week, so far only a few of these marks are known after which the post office was removed to Mona. Another mark that collectors might run into now and again, is the one the post mistress at Main Ridge used for three or four days, her sealing wax die, as a TRD stamp. The only initials that appear on the letter are the large "MR".

Altogether, this makes the *Philatelic Handbook*, which I now take pleasure in presenting.

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NOTE(S) *after any stamp indicates that shades
of the colour can be found*