

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

## Introduction

Tom Foster published Volume 1 of his master work, 'The Postal History of Jamaica to 1860' in 1968. Before his death in 1978 he had been working on volume 2, the story for the next 100 years-ish. Drafts of sections of this book had been sent to collectors and this document seeks to publish their contents.

In some cases the draft available is the master with his annotations – so we can assume he approved them, in other cases they are drafts annotated by others which may not be verified and hence have only been included with a health warning.

### VOLUME II.

The Postal History, Postmarks, Post Offices and Agencies of Jamaica 1860—1967

### PART V.

The Postmarks of Jamaica 1860-1967.

Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

**Contents**

Introduction .....	1
Contents .....	2
Outline of the Parcel Post Service.....	3
Date stamps and Markings. ....	4
Type PPO 1 – The "J" marking.....	5
Type PPO-02 – PARCEL POST OFFICE / G.P.O. JAMAICA .....	5
Type PPO-03 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA .....	5
Type PPO-04 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA .....	6
Type PPO-05 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA .....	6
Type PPO-06 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA .....	6
Type PPO-07 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA .....	7
Type PPO-08 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA .....	7
Type PPO-09 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA .....	7
Type PPO-10 – SUPT. PARCELS POST .....	7
Type PPO-11 – PARCEL POST/KINGSTON .....	8
Type PPO-12 – PARCELS OFFICE / KINGSTON .....	8
Type PPO-13 – PARCEL POST/KINGSTON/JAMAICA .....	8
Type PPO-14 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O. ....	9
Type PPO-15 – PARCELS OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA .....	9
Type PPO-16 – PARCEL(S) POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA. ....	10
Type PPO-17 – PARCELS POST/JAMAICA .....	10
Type PPO-18 – *PARCELS POST OFFICE* / KINGSTON, JAMAICA .....	11
Type PPO-19 – *PARCELS POST OFFICE* / Kingston, Jamaica .....	11
Type PPO-20 – PARCEL POST OFFICE / KINGSTON, JAMAICA .....	11
Type PPO-21 – PARCEL POST KINGSTON / JAMAICA .....	12
Type PPO-22 – PARCEL POST/KINGSTON .....	12
Parcel Post Labels. ....	12
The Cash on Delivery Service and its Markings. ....	13
Type C.O.D. – C.O.D. OFFICE / JAMAICA .....	13

## Outline of the Parcel Post Service

Before listing the date stamps and markings used in the Parcel Post Department of the Jamaica Post Office, it may be as well to piece together the few details of its development that are known. Little information regarding the workings of the service exist, any details that would enable a more complete picture to be built up would be welcome.

Prior to the opening of the official Jamaica Parcel Post Service in 1887, parcels had been carried from Jamaica mainly by private commercial means.

When the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company commenced its first service in the early 1840's, packets and parcels were not accepted for transmission by the Jamaica Post Office. Handbills of those days, however, reveal that they were accepted for conveyance to ports en route by the Company's agents in Kingston and quote the following rates :-

1 Cubic Foot and under	at	7/6d
1 - 3 Cubic Feet	at	15/-
Above 3 Cubic Feet	at	5/- per cubic foot

Sometime after 1860, "parcels" could be sent through the inland post. The word parcels is somewhat misleading as the rates reveal that they must conform to the following regulations :-

Not exceeding 4 Ounces in weight	at	3d
Above 4 Ounces and not exceeding 8 Ounces	at	6d

The Royal Mail Steam Ship Company, former holders of the contract, had by now carried out their revised sailing schedules and did not operate direct but sailed via Trinidad and Barbados on a fortnightly basis. Until the beginning of the 1914 War therefore, the mail contract was lodged in the hands of the Elder Fyffes Line and the original carriers only conveyed supplementary mails.

Parcels for the U.S.A. were carried by the Royal Mail Line which operated a tri-monthly service from New York, by the Hamburg America Line with a similar service and by the United Fruit Company with irregular schedules from Boston and New York. Parcels for Canada were conveyed bi-monthly by the Halifax & West Indian Steam Ship Co.

On 24th October 1913, the Post Office was entirely housed in more suitable quarters with greatly improved accommodation. By 1923, however, adjacent premises had been taken over and the greater part were allocated to the growing Parcel Post Department. These buildings were situated at the corner of King Street and Barry Street and were separated from one another by Oliver Place, which was later to become a familiar site for parked mail vans.

The outbreak of War retarded further development in the department, and after a short while, mail boat arrivals from England declined sharply. Later on, this loss was counter-balanced by the ever increasing postal traffic from the neutral United States.

On the 1st April 1916, legislation passed in the Assembly, ordered a War Tax of 3d to be levied on every postal parcel containing dutiable matter arriving in the island and on every outgoing parcel to addresses in the Empire, with the exception of those to H.M. Forces.

Officially, this tax had to be paid by means of specially overprinted postage stamps which were then cancelled in the normal way, but on incoming parcels, it was customary to use printed type-set labels inscribed "WAR TAX" and "3d", to which was added the duty. Needless to say, these labels are rarely seen nowadays and are very desirable items to find. War Tax was discontinued in the summer of 1919.

After the War, efforts were again made to restart regular parcel post schedules and it was not long before they were being exchanged between Jamaica and the U.K., U.S.A., Canal Zone, Canada, Panama, Honduras, the Turks Islands and the Cayman Islands by every opportunity. Other parcels were being forwarded mainly via the U.K.

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

At this time, the top weight was 11 lb and only parcels to the U.S.A. could be registered, although there was an insurance scheme in force for parcels carried to certain countries. Postages had to be prepaid in stamps and certificates of posting could be obtained free from the G.P.O.

The Jamaica Post at this time began to use its growing system of motor mail vans for inland parcel conveyance at a rate of 3d per lb and bulk parcel mails were also carried by train.

It is not possible within the scope of this work to give details of the overseas Parcel Post Rates as they varied from country to country and little information can be deduced from them.

By 1921, the parcel post was once more conveyed between Jamaica and the U.K. and Jamaica and the U.S.A. by steamers on direct, regular schedules. The Elders & Fyffes Line and the Leyland & Harrison Line were responsible for the mail to the United Kingdom, while that to the U.S.A. was conveyed by the United Fruit Company, the Atlantic Fruit Company, the Caribbean Steam Ship Company and the Jamaica Fruit and Steam Ship Company. parcels for Canada were carried by the steamers of the Pickford & Black Line, trading between Halifax and Jamaica on monthly schedules.

Parcels for Central and South America were exchanged by the United Fruit Company, the Caribbean Steam Ship Company, the Elders & Fyffes Line and the Clyde Steam Ship Company, which operated between them, schedules to Cristobel, the Canal Zone, the Colombian ports, Belize in British Honduras, Tela in Honduras, Puerto Barrios in Guatemala and Cortes.

In 1924, the Windward Islands Line was conveying parcel post from Jamaica to Haiti and the British West Indies by a direct service and parcels to other Caribbean islands could be sent via the U.S.A. Parcel Post was also being conveyed by the new Canadian Government Merchant Marine Service, trading between Montreal, St. John's and Jamaica once every three weeks. This line later became the Canadian National Steamship Company, the owners of the famous "Lady" liners.

The Horn Line and the Royal Dutch West India Mail Company were carrying mail on direct services to Haiti by 1925 and irregular services to the Cayman Islands began in the same year.

Regular exchanges were carried out between all the West Indian islands, Canada, U.S.A. and U.K., but those for other places, including Cuba, had to be sent via the U.S.A. The Jamaica - U.S.A. parcel exchange became the subject of competition from the Di Giorgio Fruit Company in 1930, but that company do not appear to have been in the field for very long.

By 1932, the exchange between Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados was maintained by the Elders & Fyffess Line via Cristobal and the Canadian National Steamship Company had extended its services to British Honduras. The Harrison Line had terminated their side of the Jamaica - U.K. contract and been replaced by the Jamaica Direct Line, whilst the Colombian Line had emerged as parcel carriers between the West Indian islands and the mainland of Central and South America Tourist Board.

During the past few months, the G.P.O. in Kingston has taken over the former building occupied by the South Camp Road Hotel, but the compiler has no knowledge as to whether the Parcel Post Office was involved in the move and would welcome any up to date information.

## **Date stamps and Markings.**

Date stamps and markings of the Department are amongst the most difficult of all Jamaica postmarks to find in collectable condition. Due to severe handling, it is usual for the stamps on parcels to be damaged and subsequently discarded and in addition, the surfaces of most parcels are not conducive to receiving good strikes. Indeed, when good readable strikes are seen they are almost always accompanied by unreadable date plugs.

In the U.K., it is a universal practice to manufacture Parcel Post date - stamps from rubber in order not to damage the parcels contents, but in Jamaica, most of the markings employed have been steel dies, although there are several exceptions to this rule.

Parcel Post markings have only been used in the Parcel Post Department of the G.P.O. in Kingston and in its Parcels Office. They have never been used by the Post Towns. For purposes of distinction, they have been allocated in this article the prefix "PPO", and unless otherwise stated are always struck in black ink.

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

Five of the markings listed are undated and in the rest the date is usually in the normal, two line style, with plugs comprised of two units. In the TRD types, however, the date is in a single line across the centre of the date-stamp.

Details of the Table of Rarity are given at the end of the section and it should be mentioned at once that none of the marks are common. Several of them are cross-listed in other sections of this work.

**Type PPO 1 - The "J" marking.**

This is the first type and consists of an oblong block, manufactured from rubber, wood or cork, with the letter "J" cut in its centre, this appearing in relief. The block measures about 9 x 19mm and is vertical in format.

It was almost certainly used as a makeshift canceller for parcels pending the arrival of the proper date-stamps.

Only one example is known and it is struck on a 2d Rose with Crown CC watermark

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-01	Black			U

**Type PPO-02 - PARCEL POST OFFICE / G.P.O. JAMAICA**

PARCEL POST OFFICE  
G.P.O. JAMAICA

This type has wide, double rings, 5mm apart and has a diameter of 28mm. The lettering is 2½mm in height and there are dots on either side of the date-stamp. The date is in the normal style with two unit "day", "month" and "year" plugs. It was listed by Nicholson as M 27, and was listed as by Foster.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-02	Black	18 Jan 1888	? Aug 1910	UN

**Type PPO-03 - PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA**

. PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O. .  
JAMAICA

A date-stamp in the Double-circle classification with a diameter of 27"mm. The lettering is 2½mm in height and there are dots at the sides of the postmark. The date is in the normal style.

It was previously listed by Nicholson as "Type 2" but not illustrated by him. It is cross-listed in Section 4 of this work as a G.P.O. Service Type in the "DC 2" classification.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Black	5 Sep 1900	:? Aug 1910	UN

### Type PPO-04 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA

. PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O. .  
JAMAICA

A date-stamp in the Double-circle classification which has a single outer ring, 27mm in diameter. The date is in the centre in two lines and the lettering in 2"mm in height. There is a dot on either side of the postmark.

It is cross-listed in Section 4 of this work as a G.P.O. Service Type in the "DC 7" classification, and like all the other daters of that classification with a single ring, is believed to have been manufactured in Jamaica.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Black	1 Apr 1910	6 Apr 1914	R

### Type PPO-05 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA

. PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O. .  
JAMAICA

Another date-stamp in the Double-circle classification with a diameter of 26mm. The lettering is 2½mm in height, appearing larger than in "PPO 3" and there is more space between the word "PARCEL" and "JAMAICA". The date is in the normal style and there are dots at the side of the postmark. This mark was also rated UN by Foster.

It is cross-listed in Section 4 of this work as a G.P.O. Service Type in the "DC 2" classification. It was previously listed by Nicholson as M 28.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Black	1918	9 Oct 1926	UN

### Type PPO-06 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA

PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O.  
JAMAICA

A date-stamp similar in format to "PPO 2", having wide double rings about 4½mm apart and with an external diameter of 29mm. The lettering is 2½mm in height, small and close, and there are no dots at the sides of the date-stamp. The date is in the normal style.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Black	1920	1951	UN

**Type PPO-07 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA**

PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O.  
JAMAICA

Another date-stamp in the Double-circle classification with a diameter of 28mm. The letters are 3½mm in height and there are no dots at the sides of the postmark. The date is in the normal style.

It is cross-listed in Section 4 of this work as a G.P.O. Service type in the "DC 1" classification.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-07	Black	27 Jan 1923	7 Nov 1944	N

**Type PPO-08 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA**

PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O.  
JAMAICA

Similar in format to "PPO 6" with 5mm rings and a diameter of 30mm. There are no dots at the sides but the letters are larger, about 3mm in height. The date is in the normal style.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Black	22 Dec 1929	9 Jun 1954	N

**Type PPO-09 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA**

The date-stamp is also in the Double-circle classification. It has a diameter of 29½mm and the lettering is very small, being about 2mm in height. There are no stops or dots at the sides and the date is in the normal style.

This postmark is crossed-listed in Section 4 of this work as a G.P.O. Service Type in the "DC 1" classification.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Black	7 Dec 1933	3 Jun 1943	N

**Type PPO-10 – SUPT. PARCELS POST**

SUPT. PARCELS POST

A handstruck marking, manufactured from rubber and believed to have been used as a Free Mark by the Department when sending out administration directives to the Post Towns. It is known struck on part of an undated directive the reverse of which bears a fragment of the "BUY BRITISH GOODS" slogan used from 1927 onwards.

It has the words "SUPT. PARCELS POST" in sans serif letters about 3mm in height, set out in an oblong frame which measures 54 x 10mm.

This marking is cross-listed in Section 20 as type "FR ". SUPT. PARCELS POST

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
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Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

PPO-	Purple	1927		VR
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### Type PPO-11 – PARCEL POST/KINGSTON

PARCEL POST  
KINGSTON

A date-stamp of the "Birmingham" classification and listed in Section 6 of this work as type "B 5". It has the normal "Birmingham" type "B 1" format, but the wording at the top reads "PARCEL POST" and at the bottom "KINGSTON"; Foster rates it as S and it is struck in black.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-		16 Sep 1940		S

### Type PPO-12 – PARCELS OFFICE / KINGSTON

PARCELS OFFICE  
KINGSTON

A "Birmingham" type date-stamp which was issued in triplicate to the Parcels Office [and is cross-listed in Section 6 of this work as types "B6 (i)", "B6 (ii)" and "B6 (iii)".] {These three types are listed below as Types I, II and III.}

It has the {All Types I, II and III have the} words "PARCELS OFFICE" at the top and "KINGSTON" at the bottom and are in the normal format for the Birmingham type of marking. (The markings have either stars or a square between the two sets of wording).

The Proof strikes of these three types are all dated 26 Jul 1946 but they were not issued until 6 Dec 1946 or later.

Note:- These three date-stamps can easily be distinguished from one another if the following points are taken into consideration.

Type I	From the top of the letter 'L' to the top of the first letter 'F' is 11½mm	Spacer bars 5mm long	Star plug is elongated
Type II	Distance 10½mm	Spacer 6mm long	Star plug is elongated
Type III	Distance 9½mm	Spacer 7mm long	Star plug is square

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-12 (i)	Black	31 May 1947	1960	C
PPO-12 (ii)	Black	5 Aug 1947	21 Dec 1964	C
PPO-12 (iii)	Black		1960	C

### Type PPO-13 – PARCEL POST/KINGSTON/JAMAICA

PARCEL POST  
KINGSTON  
JAMAICA

An undated rubber handstamp with a diameter of about 29mm.

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

It has a central horizontal channel about 11½mm deep, in which are set the words "PARCEL POST / KINGSTON / JAMAICA" in three lines, the letters being about 2½mm in height. The top line of lettering is seriffed.

Above and below the central channel, six thick, vertical bars extend to the upper and lower reaches of the handstamp.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-13	Purple			

Seen on a QE II stamp.

### Type PPO-14 – PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O.

PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O.  
JAMAICA

A date-stamp in the "New Birmingham" classification [and cross-listed in Section 7 of this work as type "NB".]

It has the format of [type "NB 1A"] {Birmingham B 3}, but the lettering at the top reads "PARCEL POST OFFICE G.P.O." instead of the name of the post office.

Seen on KG VI and QE II issues.

It is possible that this type may have been issued in duplicate or triplicate in the same way as the "PPO-12" date-stamps. Not enough copies have been to justify this comment but it does seem reasonable, especially as several of the post towns are known to have used more than one example of the ["New Birmingham"] (B 3 postmark.)

All copies seen so far have had unreadable dates.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-14	Black	1953?		N

### Type PPO-15 – PARCELS OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA

PARCELS OFFICE G.P.O.  
JAMAICA

This date-stamp has a diameter of 23½mm and is one of the modern single-ring postmarks. It is cross-listed in Section 9 of this work as type "SC" and the remarks in the note below in (paragraph three of) type "PPO -4" may also apply to this dater.

It has the words "PARCELS OFFICE G.P.O." at the top and "JAMAICA" at the bottom all in sans serif letters, 2½mm in height. The date plugs are in the centre in the normal style. A six-pointed "star" plug surmounts the date and the marking is struck in black ink and has been seen on QE II issues.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-15				n

**Type PPO-16 – PARCEL(S) POST OFFICE G.P.O./JAMAICA.**

PARCEL(S) POST OFFICE G.P.O.  
 JAMAICA

Another date-stamp in the same classification and closely resembling the previous type. The lettering at the top reads "PARCEL(S) POST OFFICE G.P.O." and all other details are the same. It is not known for certain whether there is a letter "S" in the first word of the inscription at the top. This date-stamp is known to have been used on Post Office Form 514a, used for Customs clearance etc.

Note:- The remarks below "PPO-14" may also apply to this date-stamp and it is possible that there is the same connection between types "PPO-15" and "PPO-16" and "PPO-17" as there is between types "PPO-11" and "PPO-12". This dater is cross-listed in Section 9 of this work as type "SC".

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-16	Black	21 Nov 1957		

**Type PPO-17 – PARCELS POST/JAMAICA**

PARCELS POST  
 JAMAICA

A further date-stamp in the modern single-ring format with a diameter of 24mm. The wording at the top reads "PARCELS POST" and at the bottom "JAMAICA" in sans serif lettering 2½mm in height. The date is in the centre in the normal style surmounted by a six pointed "star" plug.

The dater is cross-listed in Section 9 of this work as type "SC" and is known used on Post Office Form 514a, used for Customs Clearance etc.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Black	25 Jun 1964		N

Note:- See remarks below type "PPO-16".

Post Office Form 514a.

All incoming and outgoing parcels have to be cleared through the customs and where necessary, Import Duty, Surtax and Customs Clearance Fees are chargeable. In order to expedite this work and show the various assessments, a form is stuck on the parcel and filled in by M/s. This form also carries the Customs Clearance fee of 6d, paid by means of an ordinary postage stamp of that value and cancelled by a date-stamp of the Parcel Post Department.

Form 514a is printed in black ink on white paper and measures 110 x 85mm. Various printings of the form probably exist, but the one in current use has a lay-out as follows :-

Contents		514a
Origin	Bill No.	Entry No.
		£ s. d.
Date Stamp	Import Duty Assessed	
	Surtax	
	Customs Clearance Fee	_____
		_____

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
 Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings  
The Postmaster is unable to deal with any enquiry in  
 connection with this Parcel unless this label as well as the  
 Customs Declaration (which is affixed to the Parcel) are  
 submitted.

Postmaster General.

### **Type PPO-18 – \*PARCELS POST OFFICE\* / KINGSTON, JAMAICA**

\*PARCELS POST OFFICE\*  
 KINGSTON, JAMAICA

A Temporary Rubber Date-stamp and cross-listed as such in Section 10 of this work as type "TRD?".

It has an oval format with an external measurement of 46 x 31mm, the outer frame line being double with the central oval 6mm distance. The lettering at the top reads "PARCELS POST OFFICE" and at the bottom "KINGSTON, JAMAICA", all in seriffed capitals 2½mm in height. The date-line is in the centre in the normal style for a modern TRD and is not a separate item as in the case with many such markings. The letters and figures comprising it are 4mm in height. There is a small "star" separating the wording at each side of the postmark.

This date-stamp is known used on Post Office Form 514a.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-18	Purple	22 Sep 1958		R

### **Type PPO-19 – \*PARCELS POST OFFICE\* / Kingston, Jamaica**

\*PARCELS POST OFFICE\*  
 Kingston, Jamaica

Another TRD and crossed-listed in Section 10 of this work as type "TRD ?".

The format and essential measurements are the same as in the previous type but the lettering at the top reads "PARCELS POST OFFICE" and at the bottom "Kingston, Jamaica". The top wording is in seriffed capitals 2½mm in height, but the wording at the bottom is in upper and lower case type, 1½mm in height. The date is in the centre in the normal TRD style and there are small "stars" separating the wording on either side.

This date-stamp is also known on Post Office Form 514a.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Purple	8 Jan 1960	17 May 1960	S

### **Type PPO-20 – PARCEL POST OFFICE / KINGSTON, JAMAICA**

PARCEL POST OFFICE  
 KINGSTON, JAMAICA

Another Temporary Rubber Date-stamp and cross-listed as such in Section 10 of this work as type "TRD ?".

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

It is similar in every respect to type "PPO-18", but there is no letter "S" in the top lettering, i.e. "PARCEL" instead of "PARCELS".

It is also known used on Post Office Form 514a.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-20	Purple	10 May 1963		S

### Type PPO-21 - PARCEL POST KINGSTON / JAMAICA

PARCEL POST KINGSTON  
JAMAICA

A rubber roller type marking which has the words "PARCEL POST KINGSTON/ JAMAICA" in two lines between double, horizontal lines. The sans serif lettering is 1¼mm in height and the distance between the horizontal lines is about 1mm. The depth of the mark is 15mm.

? date of issue. S

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-	Purple	25 Nov 1957		S

### Type PPO-22 - PARCEL POST/KINGSTON

PARCEL POST  
KINGSTON

A similar marking to the last type. The lettering is 3mm in height and reads "PARCEL POST / KINGSTON" in two lines all in sans serif capitals. The double horizontal lines are 15mm apart.

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
PPO-22	Purple	16 Jun 1962		UN

### Parcel Post Labels.

Parcel Post Labels are affixed to parcels mailed in the island by the Parcel Post Department, apparently as a means of identification. Printed in black ink on white paper, each label bears a number and has a perforated tab or stub, with a like number. Presumably, the stub is handed to the sender of the parcel as a receipt, although instances are known with both sections affixed to the parcel. The labels are also perforated vertically and apparently are printed with consecutive numbers in book form. Two types are known and details are as follows :-

- a) A label measuring 40 x31 mm with the wording 'Imperial & Foreign Parcel Label' in upper and lower case type measuring 1½ and 1 mm in height. Below this is 'JAMAICA, B.W.I.' in 2½mm seriffed capitals and below this, a large number, 4mm in height. The tab measures 40 x 19mm with lettering reading 'JAMAICA, B.W.I.' in 2½mm seriffed capitals and the same number, 4mm in height

Example:

Imperial & Foreign Parcel Label'  
JAMAICA, B.W.I.'

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings  
2881

-----  
JAMAICA, B.W.I.  
2881

- b) A similar label measured 40 x 33mm with the wording "BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND/FOREIGN PARCEL POST LABEL" in two lines in 1½mm capitals. Below this are the words "JAMAICA W.I." in 2mm capitals, the letter "J" having a tail and therefore 3mm. The number below this is very large and seriffed, 10 mm high. The stub measures 40 x 29mm with the wording "JAMAICA W.I." in 2mm capitals, the letter "J" having no tail. The same number is in 5mm figures and seriffed.

Example :-

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN PARCEL POST LABEL  
JAMAICA W.I.  
1984

Details of other labels known to you would be of great interest to the compilers.

### **The Cash on Delivery Service and its Markings.**

On 1st August 1908, a Cash on Delivery Service for parcel post began between the United Kingdom and Jamaica. This service was introduced to help and encourage the purchase and sale of British made goods throughout the island and it resulted in a vast increase in trade between the two countries, especially from the mail houses in the United Kingdom.

The service operated up to a value of £40 in each country and the relevant customs duty of the country of entry had to be prepaid at an estimated amount. A fee of 6d was added to the duty and postage for the service and another fee of 2d, later increased to 3d, added for delivery charges in Jamaica. All fees and duties were payable in postage stamps affixed to and cancelled on the parcels and in the United Kingdom, certain export formalities had to be complied with. In Jamaica, parcels intended for transmission by the service were only accepted at the Parcels Office of the G.P.O. in Kingston.

There is some doubt as to whether distinctive date-stamps had been used for this service since its origins in 1908, as examples have only come to light in recent years and they are by no means common. In 1927, the C.O.D. Service was using a Form 4758a, a C.O.D. Bill for Parcel Post from the United Kingdom. This form was used as a receipt and on it, in the space reserved for the official stamp, is struck type "PPO-07" dated 12 Jan 1927. The form carries the typeset signature of R.H. Fletcher, Postmaster for Jamaica.

Little was known regarding special C.O.D. markings until a few years ago and even now, only one type of date-stamp is known. Information regarding others in your collection would be most welcome. Although the markings are listed in the Parcel Post Office Section, it is thought best to allocate a separate prefix for listing them and this will be "C.O.D.". No individual number has been given to the one type known in case others turn up.

### **Type C.O.D. - C.O.D. OFFICE / JAMAICA**

C.O.D. OFFICE  
JAMAICA

A date-stamp in the "New Birmingham" classification and cross-listed in Section 7 as type "NB ?". It has the same format as type "NB 1", but the wording at the top reads "C.O.D. OFFICE", and as usual, none of the copies seen have readable dates.

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
Section 17 The Parcel Post Office Markings

Type	Colour	EKD	LKD	Rarity
COD-	Black	Circa 1956		UN

Jamaica Postal History Volume II (unpublished)  
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Table of Rarity.

The rarity rating of an individual date-stamp cannot be based on a fixed monetary value as so much depends upon the philatelic value of the stamp on which it is struck, whether the item is a good strike and whether it is on or off cover.

For this reason, the compiler has devised a simple Table of Rarity, the differing grades of which he proposes to use on all research he has been engaged upon and throughout this work. The given rates are as he finds them, how they occur in his records and researches, or in certain cases in his estimation, and these are based on inspection of practically every collection of note both in this country and in the U.S.A.

No example yet recorded but known to have been issued	*
Believed to be Unique (One copy known)	U
Very Rare (Up to ten known copies)	VR
Rare	R
Scarce	S
Uncommon	UN
Normal	N
Common	C
Very Common	VC

Note :- The letter c after the l.k.d. indicates that that particular item is still in current use.

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"Jamaica - Its Postal History, Postage Stamps & Postmarks"	W.K. Watson
Jamaica Post Office Guides	"West Indies Federation Journal" and many others
A.N. Johnson	
A.H. Latham	
R. Lant	
Hooton Mitchell	
Jamaica Pocket Books	
Decordova's Almanack (various).	