

# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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EXPLORING JAMAICA THROUGH  
OBLITERATORS

BY IAN R. WOODWARD

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# BCPSG



## EXPLORING JAMAICA THROUGH OBLITERATORS

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## PREFACE

When the great cartographer, Herman Moll, drew the map of Jamaica some two hundred and fifty years ago, this lovely Caribbean island was already well known for its rich produce of molasses and rum, coffee and cigars.

From the time that earlier philatelic students - such as L.C.C. Nicholson - first published the results of their researches in 1928, the Obliterator Numbers of Jamaica have been an intriguing subject to the postal historian. It is a complicated but fathomable mystery, requiring the exercise of diligence, curiosity and perseverance to unravel. In 1967, members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG), lead by R. Topaz, made significant strides in pinpointing the scarcity and value of every known stamp carrying an obliterator number. More recently, Thomas Foster, in his book entitled "The Postal History of Jamaica, 1662-1860", gave complete treatment to obliterations with British postage stamps used in Jamaica.

This publication is a reproduction of an exhibit on Jamaican obliterations as it existed in late 1982. The material has been assembled over a period of 15 years, and comprises several choice items which have resided in the collections of well known past and present Jamaican philatelists. It is in a way a tribute to their memory as each has added new discoveries and research information to this fascinating aspect of Jamaican postal history.

Many members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, British West Indies Study Circle and Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society have assisted me, through which friendships have been developed and will be cherished forever. Special acknowledgements go to Dr. Paul Aman, who started me on the path to specializing in Jamaican obliterations; to Messrs. Bowman, Lant, Larsen, Moseley, Raymond and Seifert, who have encouraged me or critiqued my exhibit as it has grown; and to Messrs. Bogg, Martin, Tatham, Topaz and Winnand, who have provided many of the treasured items in this exhibit. Last, but not least my thanks go to my family: to my Mother who first gave me an interest in philately at the age of five, my Father who has suffered many heart palpitations in acquiring most of the gems at London Auction Houses, and my wife who has given me encouragement throughout the many long hours spent in developing this exhibit while "Exploring Jamaica Through Obliterations".

Ian R. Woodward  
September, 1982.



# EXPLORING JAMAICA THROUGH OBLITERATORS

This exhibit explores Jamaica from 1858 to 1903 through selected examples of obliterations used first with G.B. and then Jamaican stamps at various post towns. A new research contribution by this exhibitor is the relative ranking of the various "strikes" and stamps. The earliest and latest recorded dates are also updated.

The exhibit is arranged as follows:

- Frame #1      G.B. issues used at the Post Towns in 1858 and 1859 *before* the arrival of the obliterations.
- Frames #2-4    G.B. issues used at the Post Towns in 1859 and 1860 and Kingston *after* the arrival of the obliterations.
- Frames #5-10   Jamaican issues used in the Counties of Cornwall, Middlesex, and Surrey from 1860 to 1903.

An obliterator is a mark used to deface postage stamps and unlike other cancellations which may be found anywhere on a cover, the obliterations are always on the stamps themselves.



Jamaica is divided into three counties—Cornwall, Middlesex, and Surrey—which together contain 14 different parishes including Kingston [shown in red above].



## OBLITERATOR TYPES

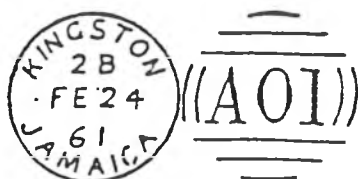
Jamaica used 15 different types of obliterators, Kingston having seven of them—A to G. Kingston was founded in 1692 by survivors from the earthquake at Port Royal. Before long it supplanted Port Royal as the chief seat of trade and port of entry and prospered on the wars and trade of the eighteenth century.

1858-1863



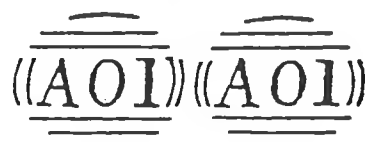
A

1859-1870



B

1859



C

1863-1875



D

1871-1884



E

1874-1885



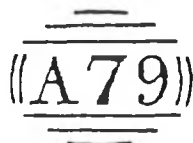
F

1874-1885



G

The remaining eight types, H to P (excluding I), were used at various Post Towns around the island.



H



J



K



L



M



N



O



P





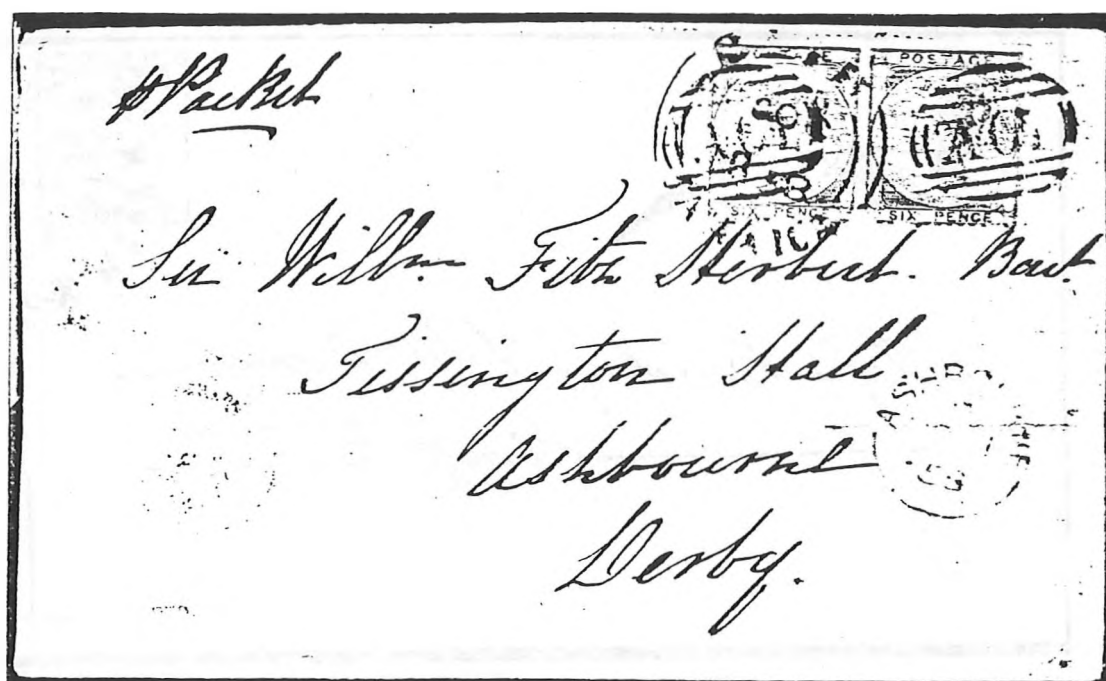
G. B. used in JAMAICA



## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Stamps used *BEFORE* the obliterators were issued can be distinguished when they have the town's date stamp on the cover. However, similar to the "P.O. Lucea" cover alongside, the postmaster at Bath should have left the stamps uncanceled until they reached Kingston, where the A01 was applied.

### TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES



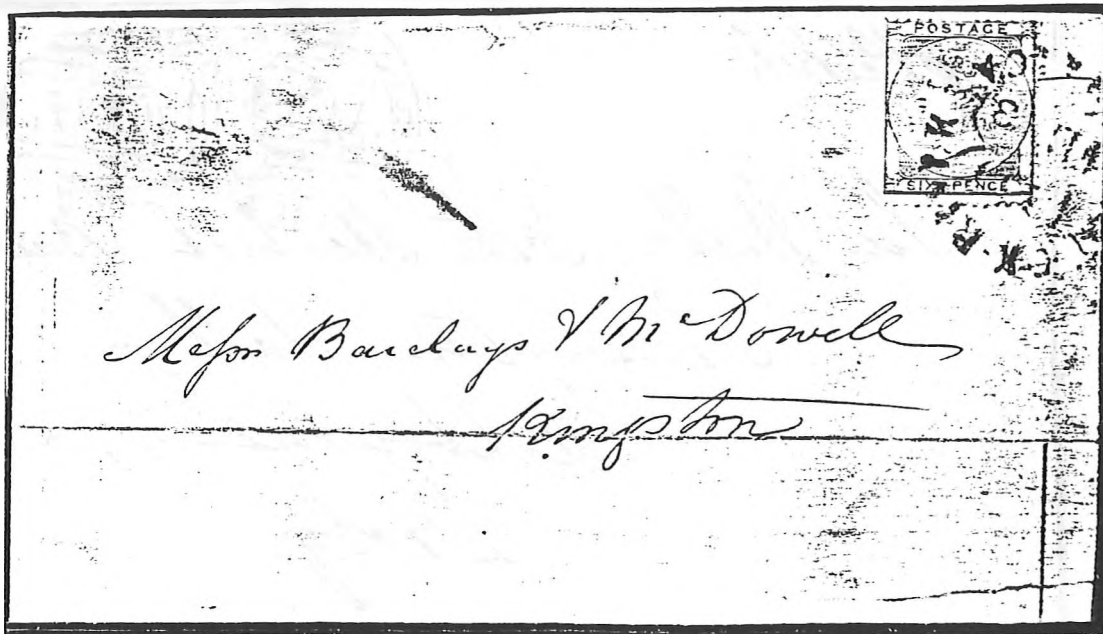
### BATH

The cover from Bath to Derby, England, shows two 6d. G.B. stamps cancelled by the circular town stamp on 8 October 1858. The A01 type A obliterator was applied at Kingston the next day, as shown by the transit mark on the reverse, and front-stamped at Ashbourne three weeks later.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Initially, the use of postage stamps was restricted to the Packet letters and could not be used for inland correspondence which had to be paid in money. Extension of the use of British stamps in Jamaica to correspondence posted for delivery within the island came into effect on 1 February 1859.

UNRECORDED EXAMPLE

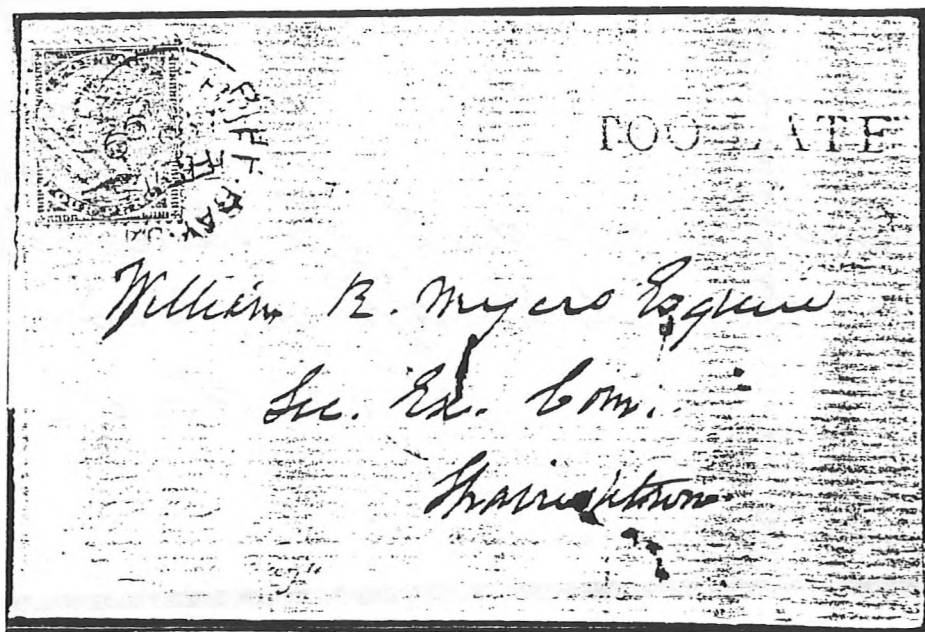


BLACK RIVER

A single rate entire letter from Black River to Kingston bearing a 6d. Lilac cancelled by the Black River P2a dated 3 FE 59, just two days after the authorization of the use of British postage stamps within the island.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

"Late Letters" which were handed into the post office on which the "late fee" had not been paid were ignored and retained for inclusion in the following mail. Such letters were hand-stamped with one of the TOO LATE markings provided for that purpose.



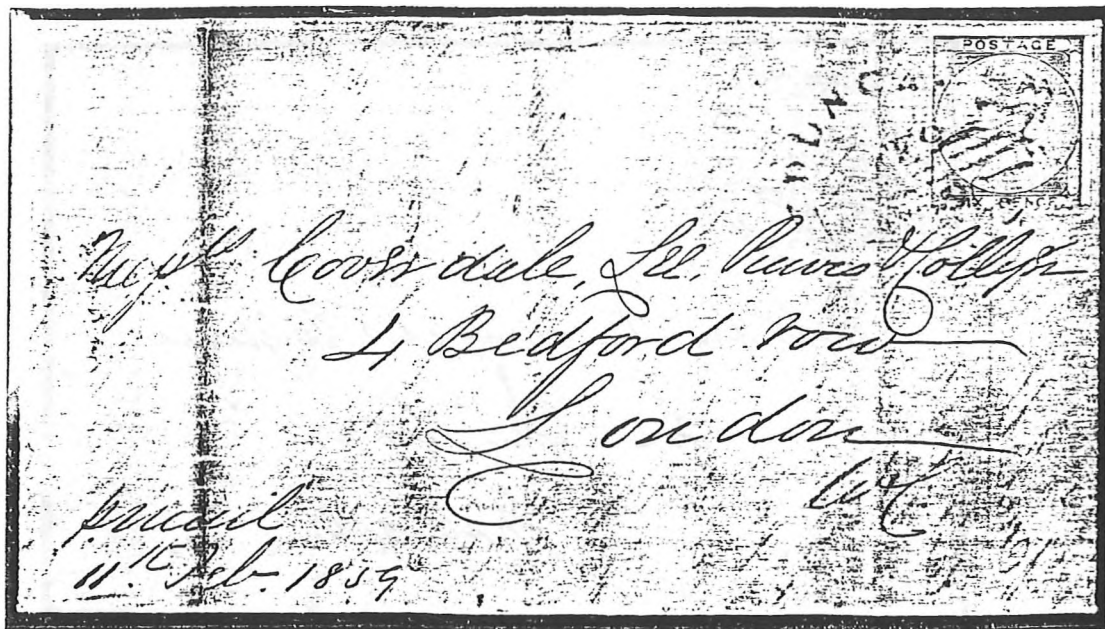
BUFF BAY

A single rate letter to Spanish Town bearing a 4d. Rose tied by two strikes of the Buff Bay P6 dater of 15 FEB 59 and strike of the A01-A obliterator. Besides the Spanish Town P2b and Kingston daters, this letter shows the TOO LATE handstamp TL3.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Henry Benaim was the postmaster at Duncans—who handled the entire letter below—and remained there until succeeded by W. Gentles on 22 May 1864. At that time Duncans was a flourishing agricultural village.

### UNRECORDED EXAMPLE



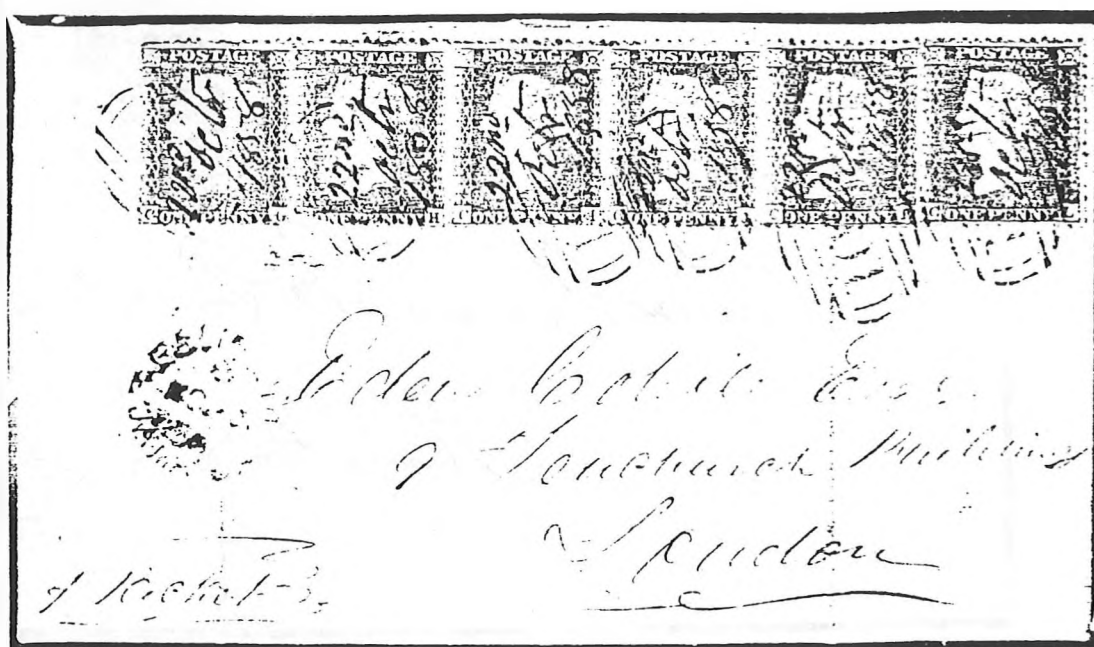
### DUNCANS

An 1859 entire letter to London bearing a 6d. Lilac cancelled with the Duncans P2a datar and A01-A obliterator. This is one of two items now recorded showing usage at Duncans on G.B. Issues before the arrival of the oblitters at the Post Towns.



## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Falmouth was the chief town of Trelawney parish in Cornwall county. In some cases the local postmaster obliterated the stamps with the date mark or by writing the date across the stamps in pen and ink, as shown below.

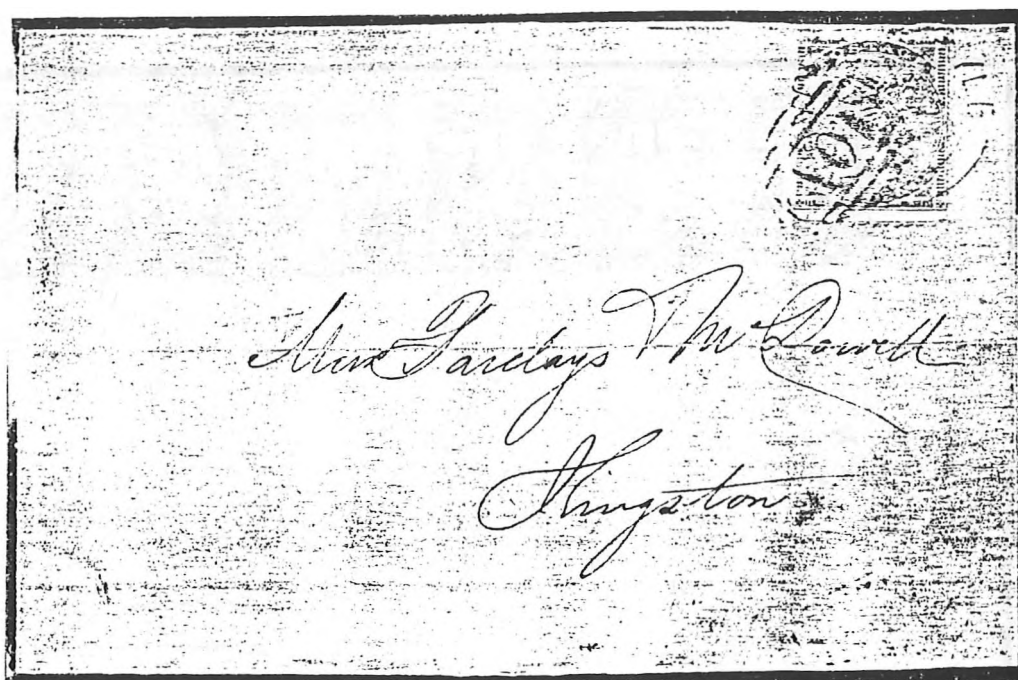


FALMOUTH

A single rate entire letter from Falmouth to London bearing 1d. strip of six, each stamp with manuscript date *22nd Octr 1858* and also cancelled with the A01-A obliterator at Kingston.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Gayle, in the parish of St. Mary's, was a very small post office. The place was originally an estate. The first postmaster was L. Phillpots who was succeeded by F. Michelin on 23 March 1858.

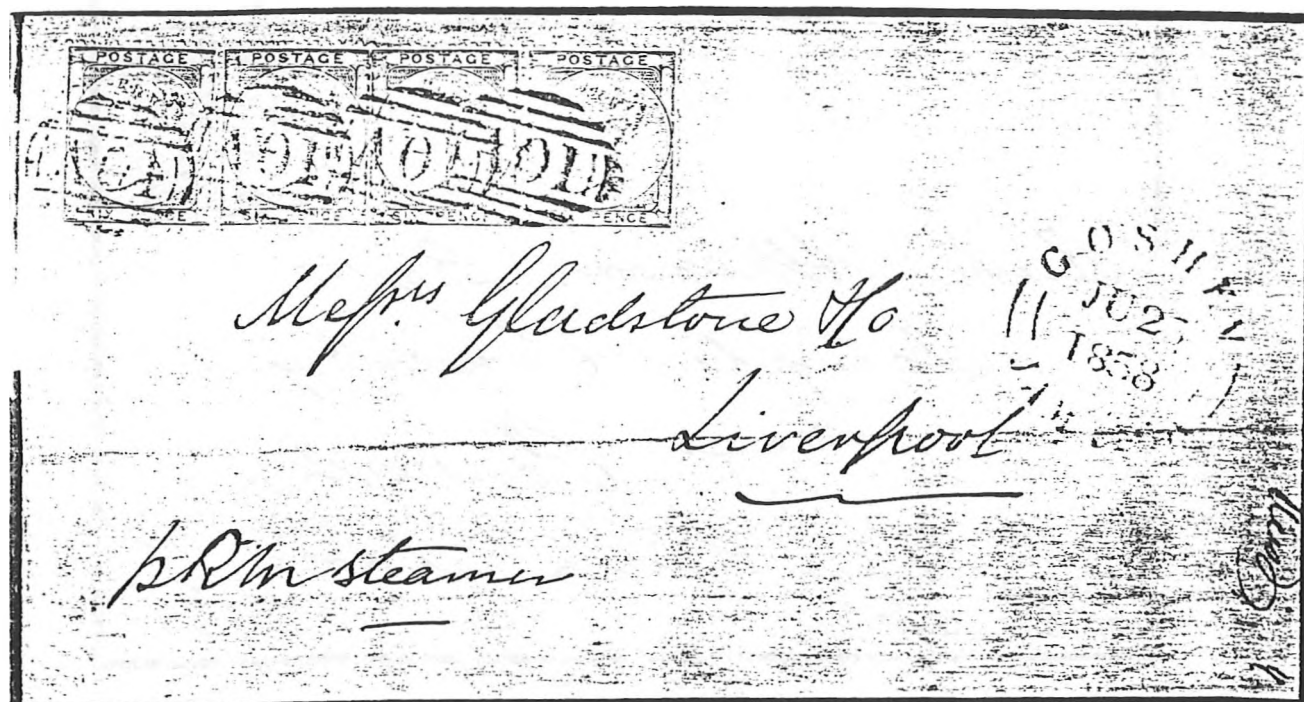


GAYLE

A single rate entire letter-wrapper to Kingston bearing a 4d. Rose-Carmine cancelled by the Gayle P8 dater of 21 FE 59 and the A01-A obliterator. The wrapper has a Gayle P8 and a Kingston dater of 23 FE 59 on the reverse.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Goshen was an estate in St. Elizabeth's parish in county Cornwall where R. Muschett was the postmaster from 1845 to 1865. Less than ten examples are recorded with Great Britain issues used at Goshen before the arrival of the obliterated.



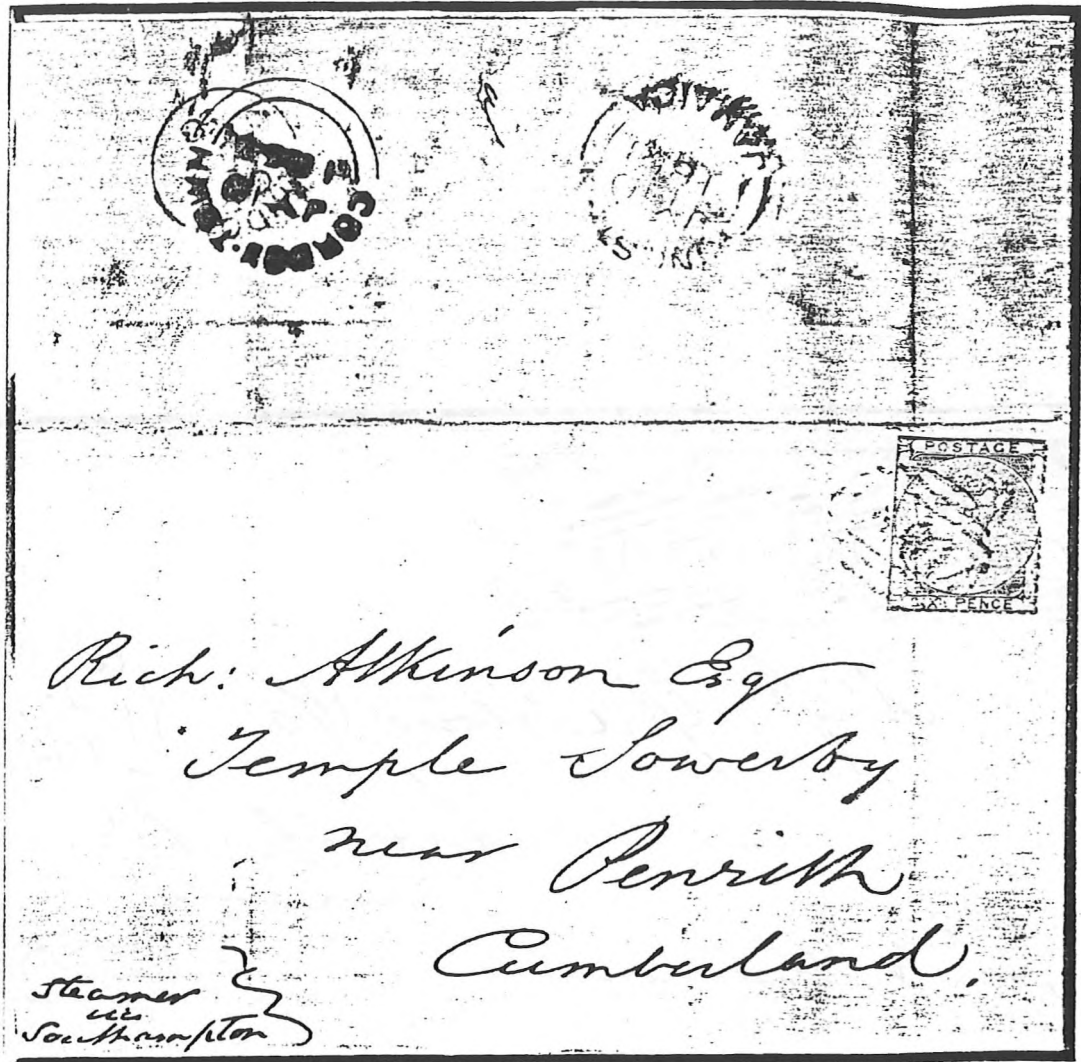
GOSHEN

A quadruple (2 oz.) rate letter-wrapper to Liverpool bearing two horizontal pairs of the 6d. Lilac all cancelled with the A01-A obliterator at Kingston. Shown alongside is the Goshen P2A dater of 25 JU 58.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Gordon Town was originally an estate of that name and was owned by the family of the well-known Colonel William Gordon who died in 1731.

UNRECORDED EXAMPLE



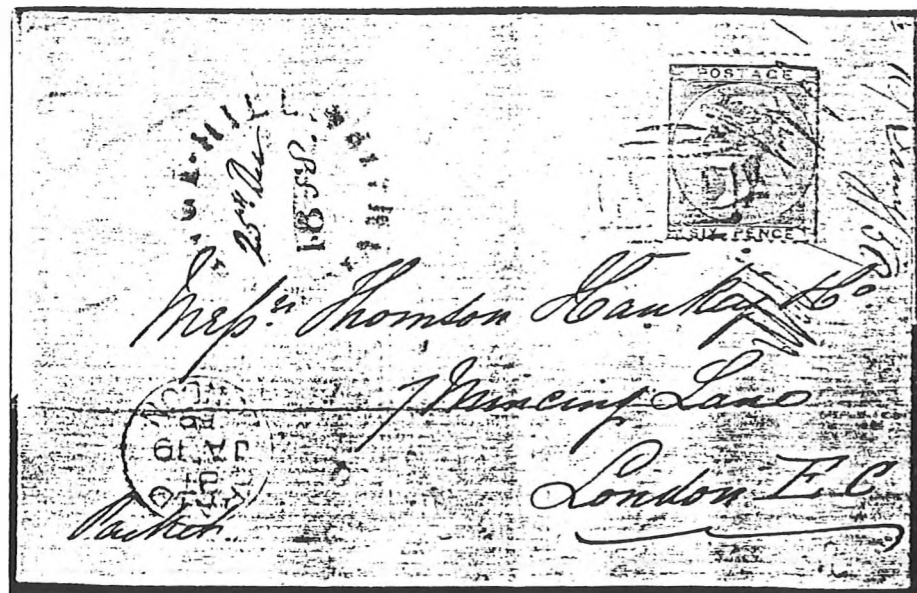
GORDON TOWN

A single rate entire letter from Gordon Town to England bearing a 6d. Lilac tied by the A01-A obliterator at Kingston and showing the Gordon Town P5 dater of 10 JY 58 together with the Kingston K8 of the same date.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Grange Hill was a very small place in Westmoreland, halfway between Savannah-La-Mar and Green Island. The post office was opened in 1839 and, as shown on the letter below, was open for business on Christmas Day, 1858!

POSTED ON CHRISTMAS DAY



GRANGE HILL

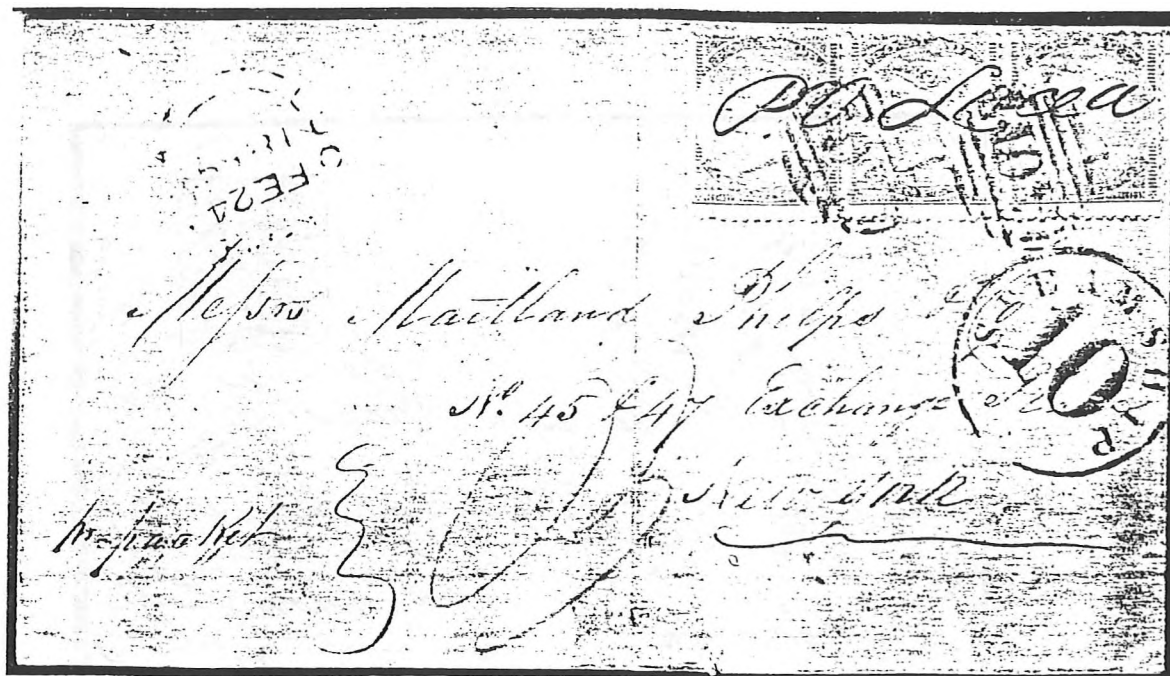
A single rate letter to London, bearing a 6d. Lilac cancelled with the A01-A obliterator at Kingston. The letter has the Grange Hill P2a dater of 25 DE 58 with date in manuscript on the obverse side.

## GREAT BRITAIN used in JAMAICA

The A01 type A obliterator was the first to be used at Kingston together with British stamps starting on 8 May 1858.

Before the arrival of the obliterators at the various post towns, the postmasters were requested to leave the postage stamps to be obliterated with the A01 upon arrival at Kingston. With mistaken zeal some offices used pen and ink to obliterate the postage stamps as shown below:

### TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES



### LUCEA

This double packet-rate letter-wrapper to New York shows two strikes of the A01 type A Kingston obliterator and a manuscript endorsement "P.O. Lucea." The letter has the Lucea P6 dater of 24 FE 1859 and a framed "Steamship 10" handstamp.

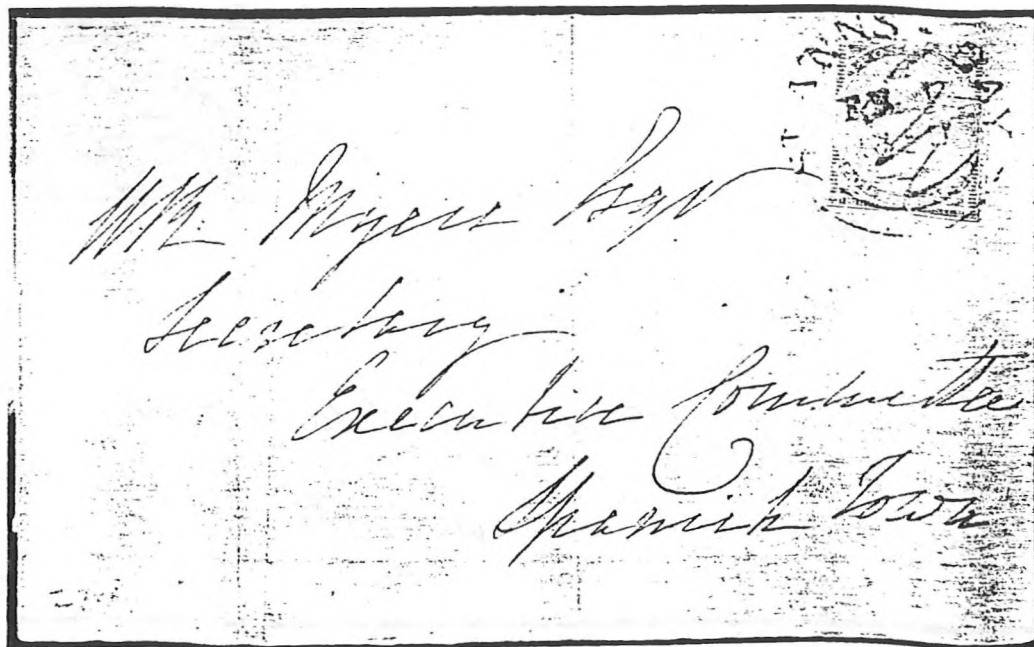


## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Initially British postage stamps were restricted to the Packet letters and could not be used for inland correspondence which had to be paid in money.

On 9 November 1858 the British Treasury gave their authority for the extension of the use of British stamps in Jamaica to correspondence posted for delivery within the island. This procedure came into effect on 1 February 1859.

UNRECORDED EXAMPLE



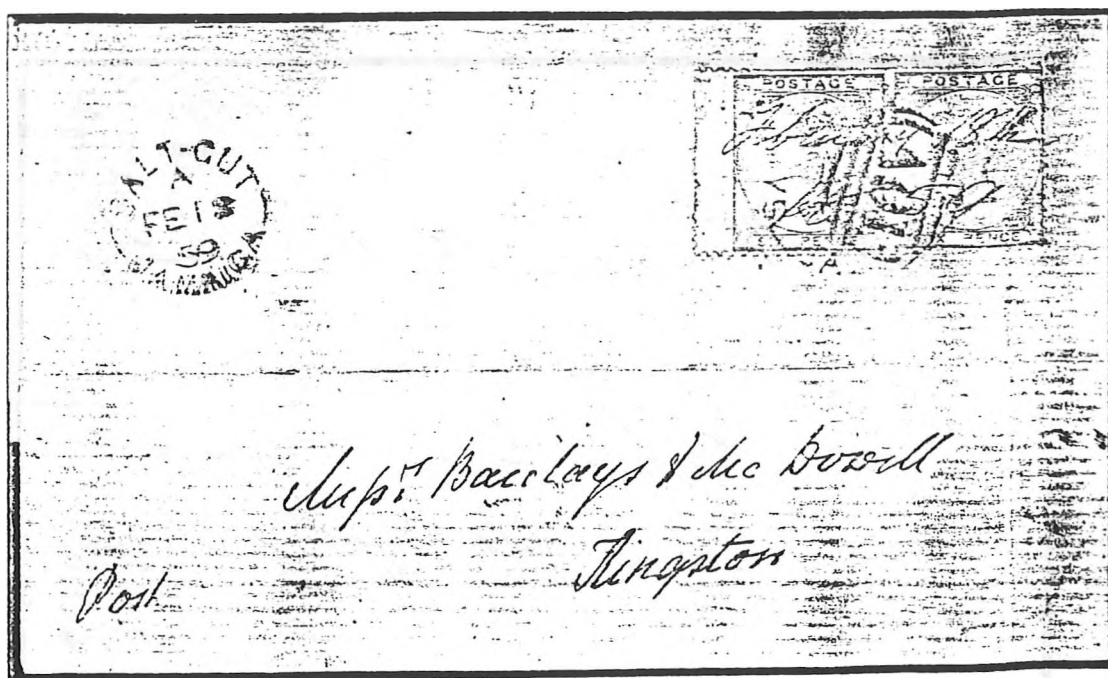
ST. ANNS BAY

An 1859 Entire from St. Anns Bay to Spanish Town shows a 4d. Rose pen-cancelled, and with the St. Anns Bay P3 dater of 1 FE 59 across the stamp. *This is the first date authorized for such use.*

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Salt Gut is on the north side of the island near Ocho Rios. In this example the local postmaster cancelled the letter with the datestamp showing the post town, obliterated the stamps with the same dater, and also wrote the date across the stamp in manuscript. The stamps were also obliterated with the A01-A upon receipt at Kingston.

### TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES

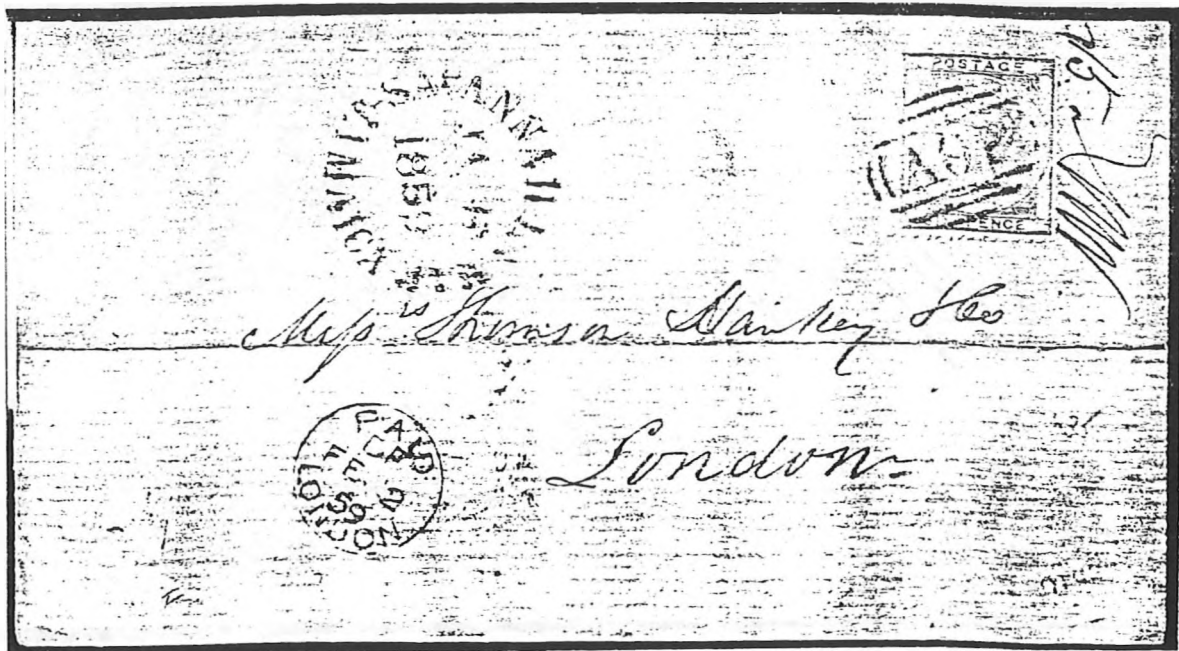


### SALT GUT

A double rate entire letter from Salt Gut to Kingston bearing a pair of the 6d. Lilac, cancelled with the A01-A obliterator at Kingston. The letter also has the Salt Gut P10c dater of 18 FE 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Savannah La Mar was the chief town of Westmoreland. It was of considerable size since it was in the heart of a sugar growing district. Business here was substantial as illustrated by the 15 items of G.B. issues recorded before the arrival of the obliterators.

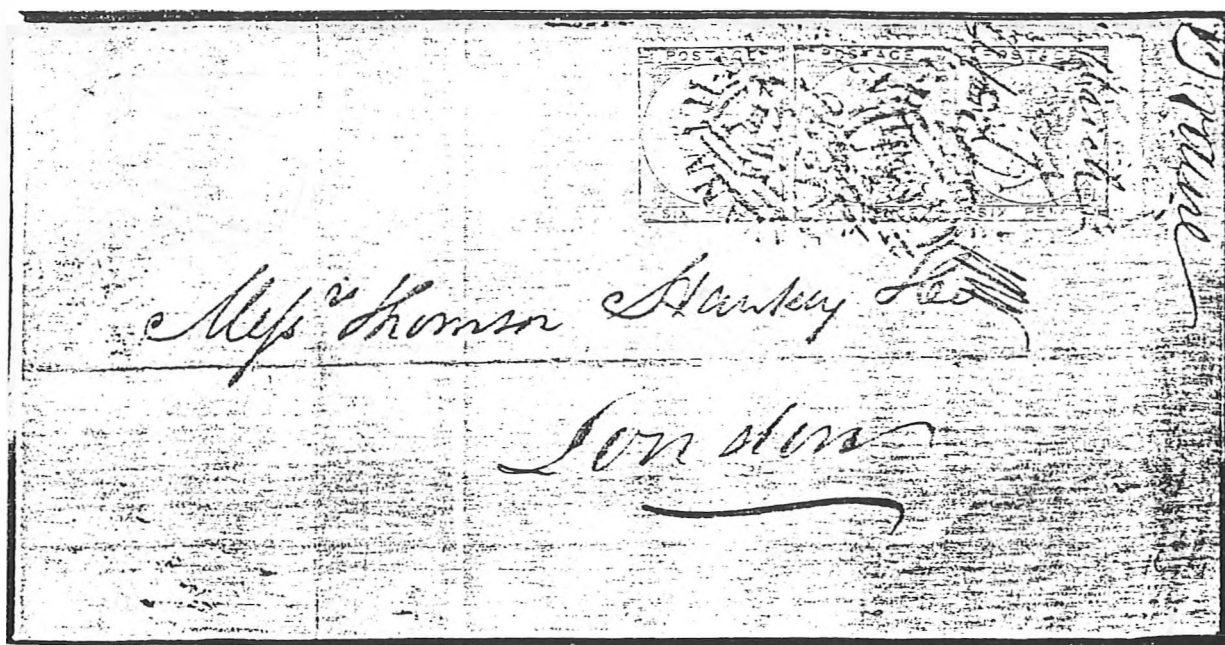


SAVANNAH LA MAR

A single rate entire letter from Savannah La Mar to London, bearing a 6d. Lilac cancelled with the A01-A obliterator, and showing the Savannah La Mar P2b datestamp and London paid mark alongside.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Packet letters to the British Isles cost 6d. per half ounce. Less than 100 items are recorded of G.B. issues used at the Post Towns before the arrival of the obliterated. The letter-wrapper below is the only recorded example of a treble rate (1-1/2 oz.) used during this period.

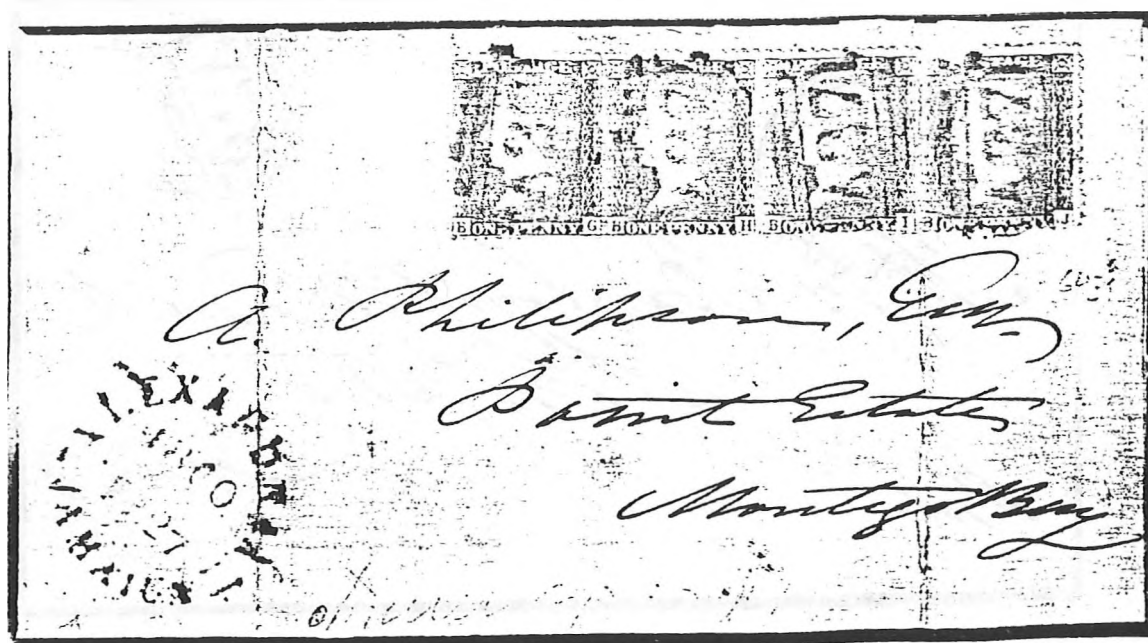


SAVANNAH LA MAR

A treble rate (1-1/2 oz.) letter-wrapper to London bearing a horizontal strip of three 6d. lilac G.B. cancelled by two strikes of the "A01" obliterator and two strikes of the Savannah La Mar P2b dater of 25 FE 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

All district offices used their obliterators from March 1859, with the exception of A79 which was not used until November 1863 at the Richmond post office. A27 through A78 were in use on Great Britain stamps from 1 March 1859 until the end of May, 1860.



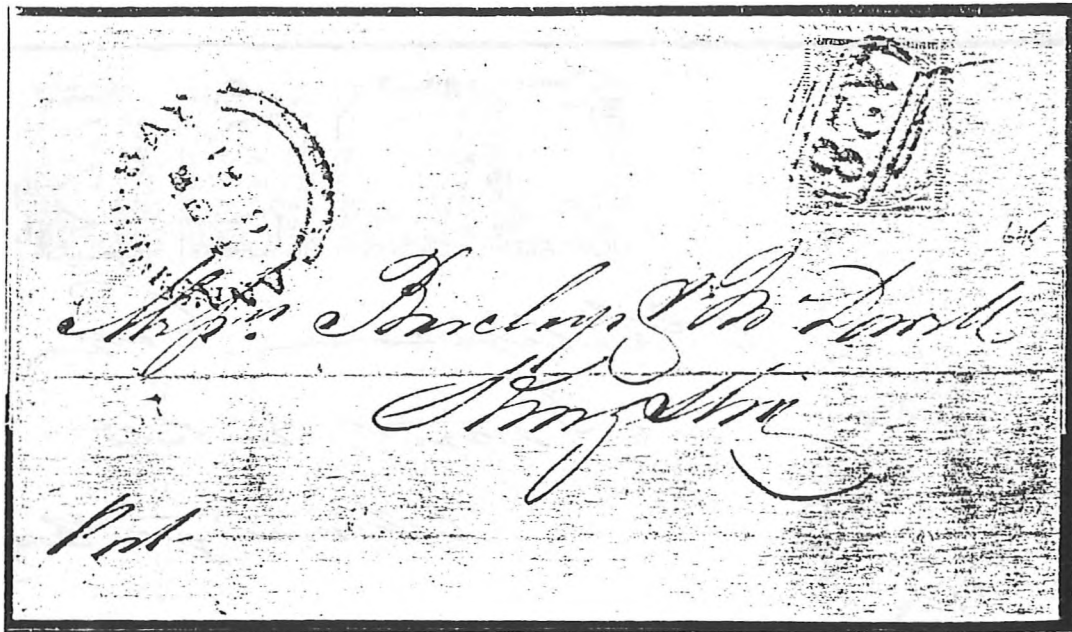
A27 ALEXANDRIA

The entire shows a strip of four 1d. G.B. from Alexandria to Montego Bay, each with A27 obliterator, and an Alexandria P2a datestamp on the front. 27 FE 60 is the latest recorded date for this P2a Alexandria datestamp.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

In 1843 a new system of postal charges was introduced to the British Colonies based on weight together with the distance that a letter had to be carried. The old system of charging according to the number of sheets in a letter was abolished.

Up to 60 miles	4d. per half oz.
Between 60 and 100 miles	6d. per half oz.
Over 100 miles	8d. per half oz.



A28 ANNOTTO BAY

This single rate entire letter from Annotto Bay to Kingston shows an A28 obliterator and the latest recorded date of the Annotto Bay P3 datestamp of 4 SE 59.



## G.B. used in JAMAICA

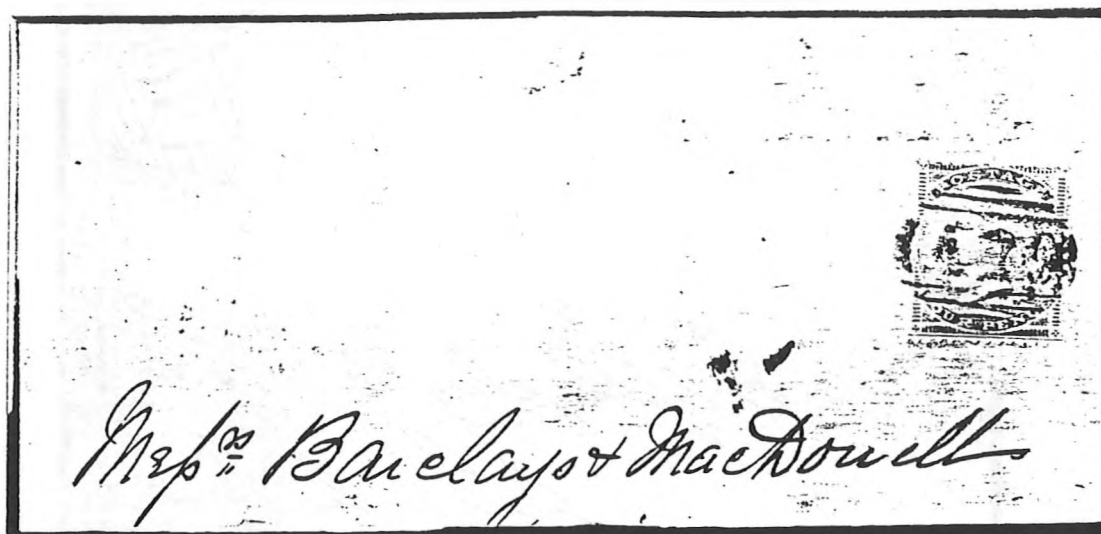
The town of Bath is interesting for its hot mineral bath and for the Botanic Garden which was the first in the island. The A29 type H obliterator was used at Bath from 1 March 1859 to about the end of 1891.



A27 ALEXANDRIA



A28 ANNOTTO BAY



A29 BATH

This large piece shows an A29 obliterator on a 4d. rose G.B. stamp addressed to Messrs. Barclay and MacDowell. It is backstamped with the Bath P2a cancel and is dated 12 AP 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

No genuine examples of a British postage stamp are known recorded with the A38, A50, and A63 type H obliterators.



A30 BLACK RIVER



A31 BROWN'S TOWN



A32 BUFF BAY



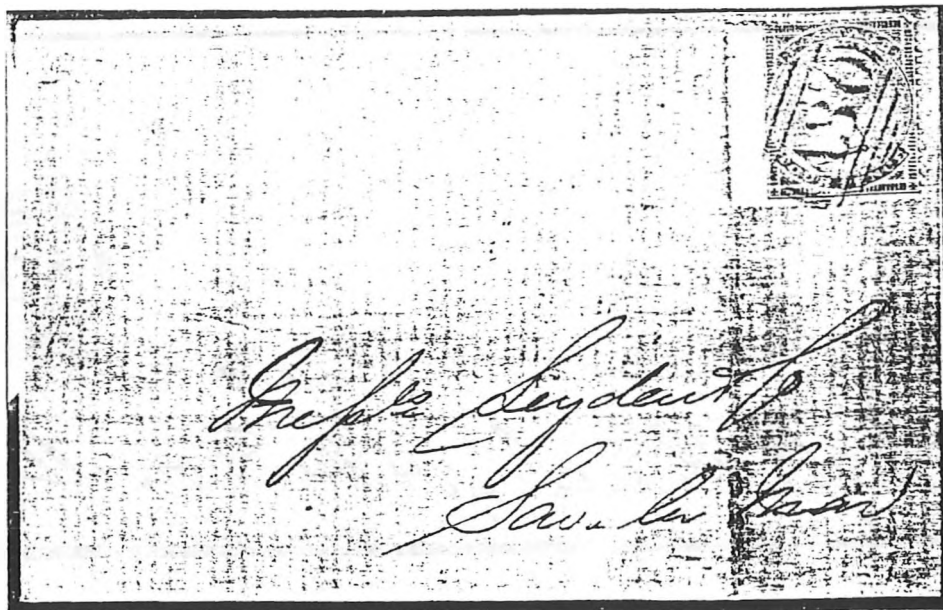
A34 CLAREMONT



A35 CLARENDON



A37 DUNCANS



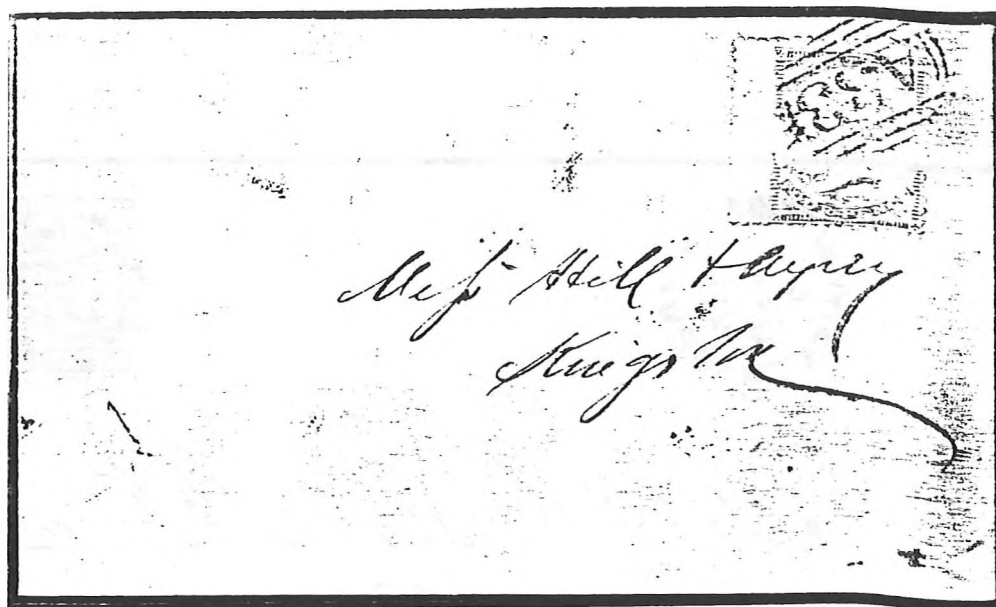
A30 BLACK RIVER

This entire from Black River to Savannah La Mar shows an A30 obliterator and is backstamped with a Black River C.D.S., type P2 dated 13 MY 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

The only British stamps authorized for use in Jamaica are marked by a star. But other British stamps could be used if they were brought in by visitors to the island.

1d. Rose-Red★	SG40	4d. Rose★	SG68
1d. Rose-Red	SG36	4d. Rose-Carmine	SG68b
2d. Blue	SG35	6d. Lilac★	SG70
4d. Rose-Carmine★	SG67	1/- Green★	SG72



A33 CHAPELTON

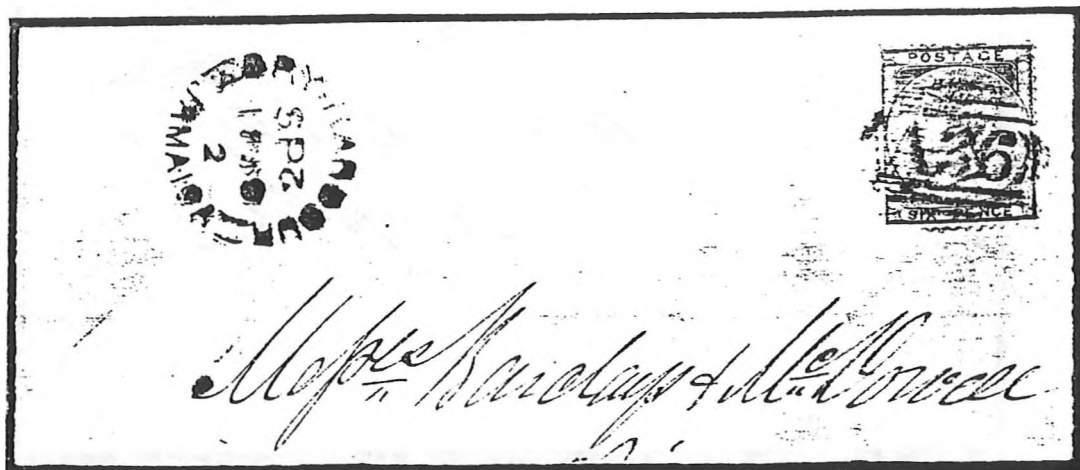
A single rate entire from Chapelton to Kingston showing the A33 obliterator on 4d. G.B. Rose and backstamped with Chapelton P2a dater of 27 SE 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

The A36 type H obliterator used at Dry Harbour, like the A75 type H, had a very short life. It was either broken, damaged, or lost just about the time the watermark Pineapple issue came out (November, 1860). As a result there are very few items known recorded with this obliterator.



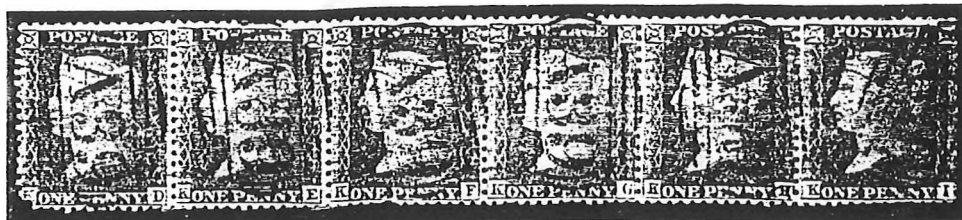
A36 DRY HARBOUR



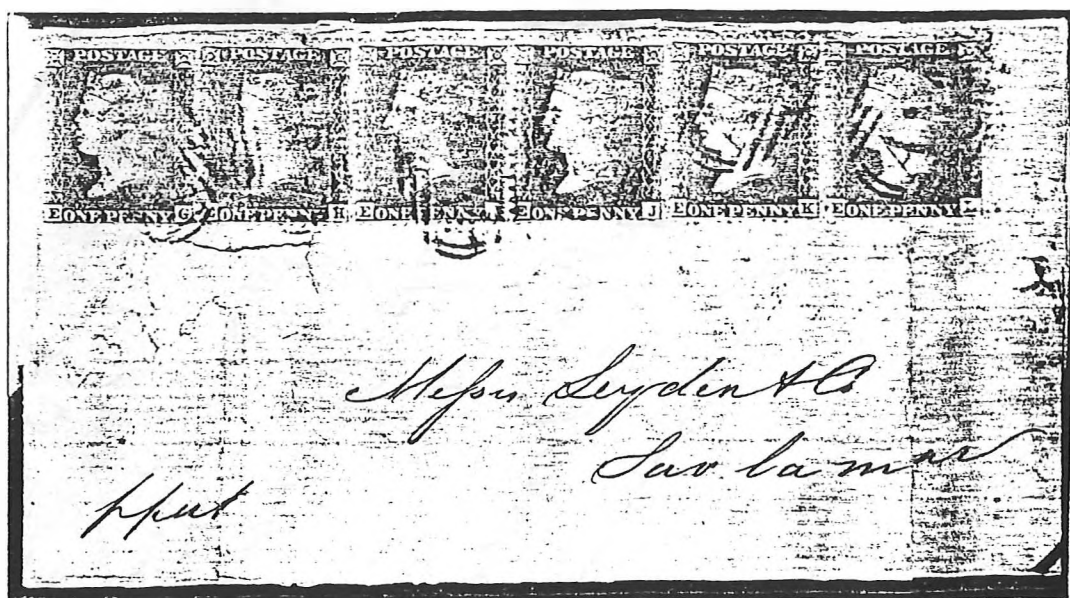
The piece from Dry Harbour to Messrs. Barclay and McDowell in Kingston shows an A36 type H obliterator on 6d. G.B. and a Dry Harbour type P8 cancel dated 2 SP 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

With compulsory prepayment of postage on all inland correspondence becoming effective on 1 February 1859, Jamaica was the first of the British offices abroad where British stamps were available for internal correspondence.



A39 FALMOUTH

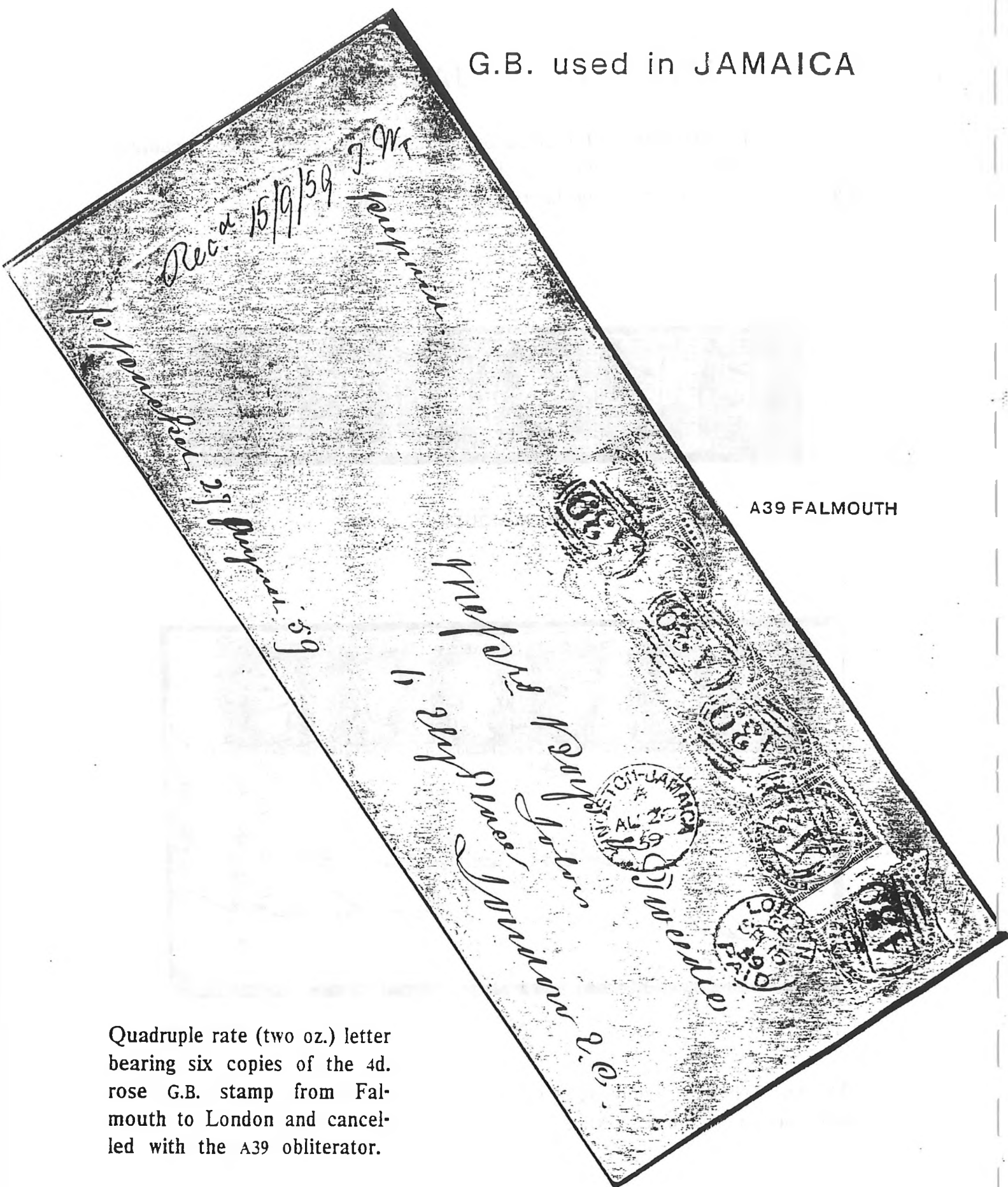


The entire shows a strip of six 1d. G.B. with A39 obliterator of Falmouth and addressed to Savannah La Mar.

G.B. used in JAMAICA

A39 FALMOUTH

Quadruple rate (two oz.) letter  
bearing six copies of the 4d.  
rose G.B. stamp from Fal-  
mouth to London and cancel-  
led with the A39 obliterator.



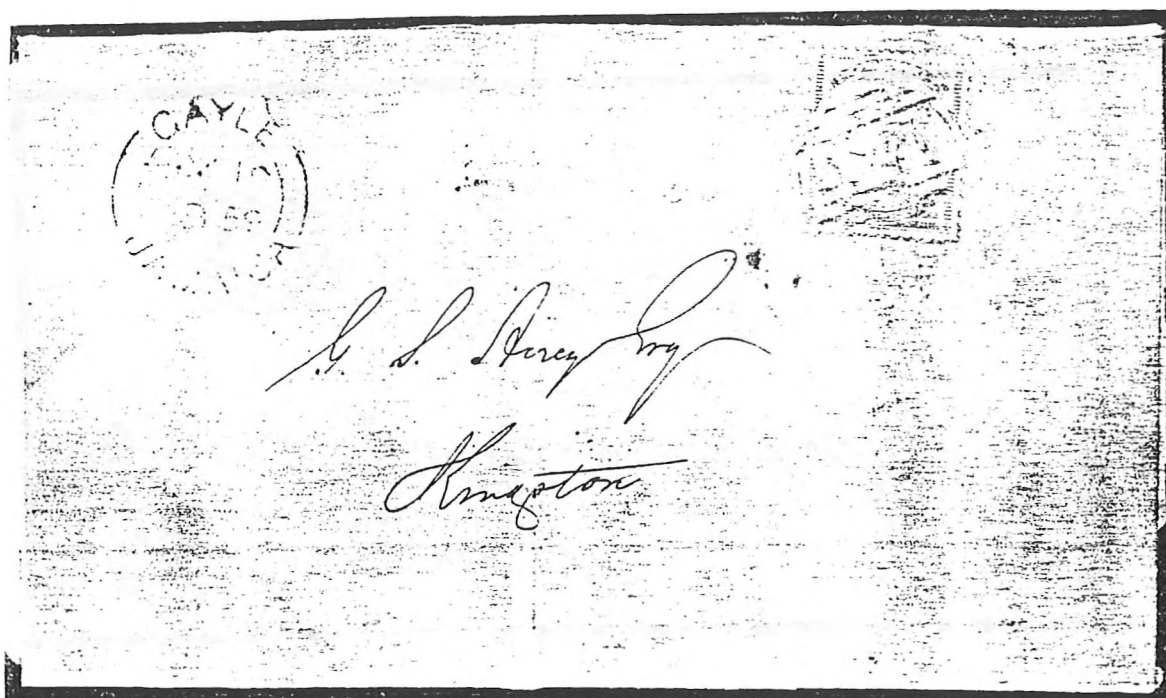


## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Two examples of "Early Date-Stamped of the Post Towns" are shown below with a type P2a cancel used at Flint River, and type P8 cancel used at Gayle. These new markings gradually replaced all the straight line types then in use.



A40 Flint River with Type P2a Cancellation



A41 GAYLE

This entire from Gayle to Kingston shows an A41 obliterator and a Gayle type P8 cancel dated 19 JY 59. This single rate entire letter is the only recorded example.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

The postage rate per half ounce for distances between 60 and 100 miles was 6d. Since Goshen is 68 miles from Kingston, the correct rate of 6d. has been applied to the entire below.



A40 FLINT RIVER



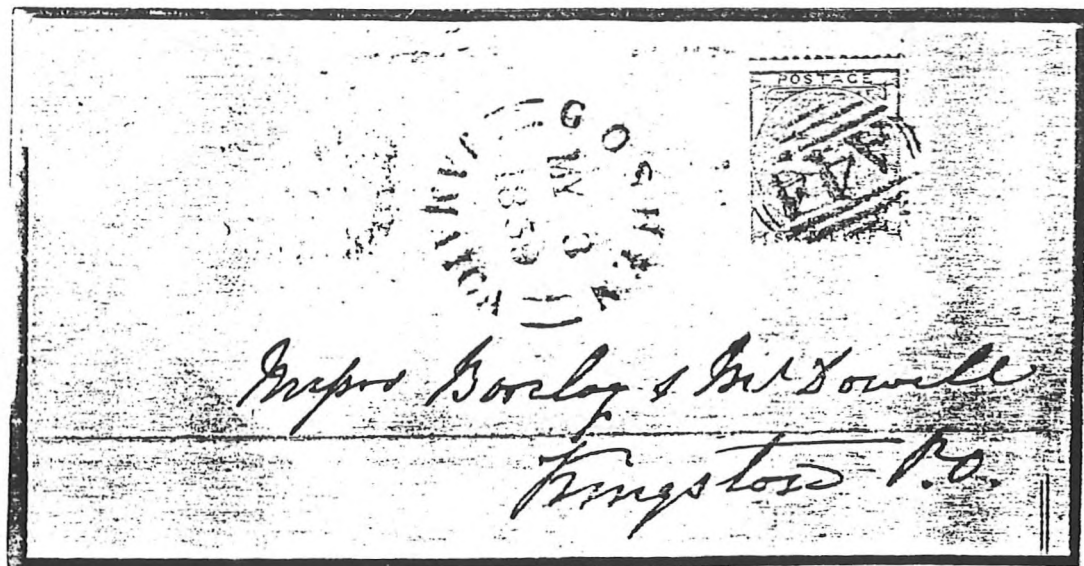
A41 GAYLE



A42 GOLDEN SPRING



A44 GOSHEN



A44 GOSHEN

This entire from Goshen to Kingston shows an A44 obliterator and a Goshen type P2a cancel dated 3 MY 59, and is back-stamped with a Kingston K8 datestamp showing receipt on 4 MY 59.



## G.B. used in JAMAICA

The 1/- value was placed on sale at Kingston and some of the larger distict offices. It was not used as commonly as other values, although it can be found with obliterations at tiny offices that would not have had it for sale. These four items are examples of the few known to be recorded on the 1/- value.



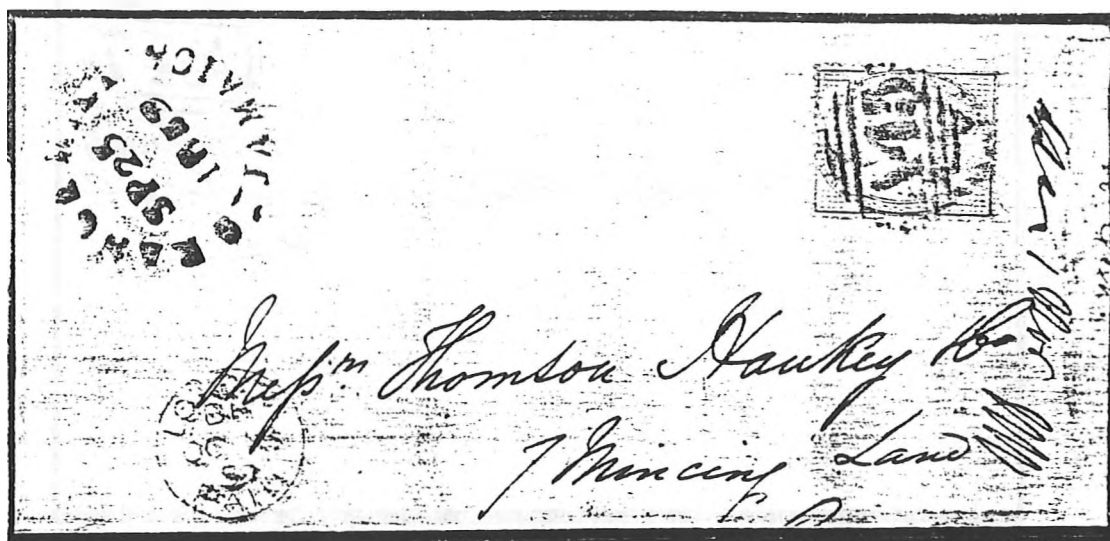
A41 GAYLE



A45 GRANGE HILL



A78 VERE



A45 GRANGE HILL

This large part entire shows the 1/- green with an A45 obliterator together with a P2a C.D.S. dated 25 SP 59 and was sent from Grange Hill to London.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Highgate was named because of its prominent site on the brow of a hill. It was a small village and only four letters are recorded from this place with G.B. stamps.



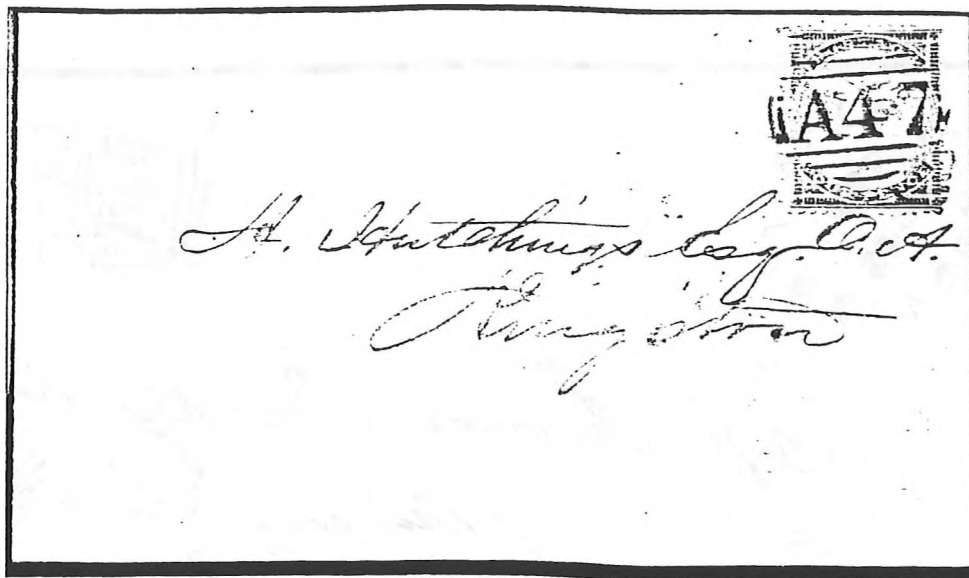
A45 GRANGE HILL



A46 GREEN ISLAND



A47 HIGHGATE



A47 HIGHGATE

A single rate entire from Highgate to Kingston shows a 4d. Rose with A47 obliterator.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

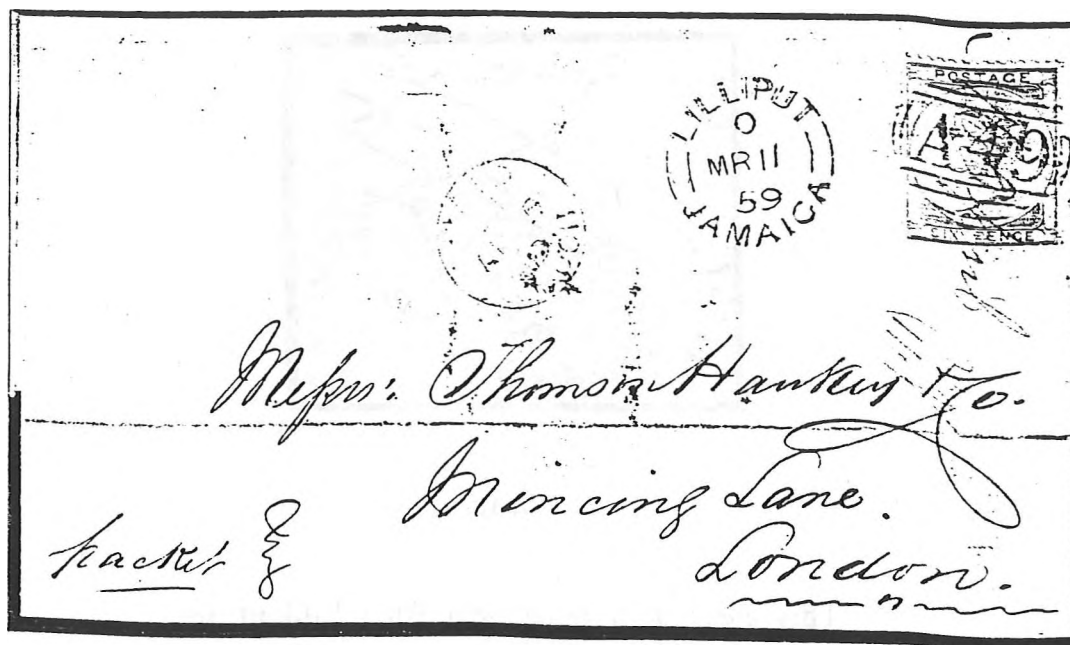
When the Act of 1852 became effective in Jamaica on January 1854, all Packet Letters from anywhere in the island to the British Isles were at the rate of 6d. per half ounce. The cover below shows an example of the correct rate.



A48 HOPE BAY



A49 LILLIPUT



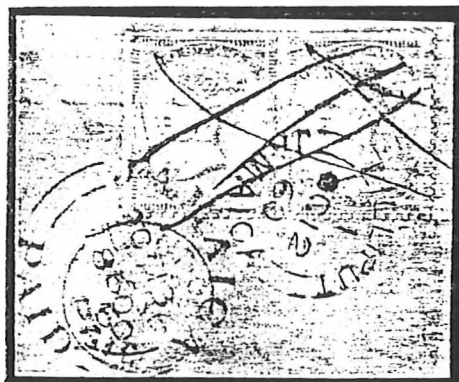
A49 LILLIPUT

A 6d. Lilac on an 11 MR 59 entire from Lilliput to London, cancelled with an A49 obliterator and Lilliput type P9a C.D.S. alongside.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Jamaica took over control of her own Post Office on 1 August 1860 when the use of British stamps in Jamaica ceased to be valid. The Postmaster continued to receive letters bearing British stamps and the illustration below shows how he treated them.

BRITISH STAMPS  
CONSIDERED INVALID



LILLIPUT

This piece of a letter sent from Lilliput to London, on reaching Kingston on 13 October 1860 had its two 4d. G.B. stamps crossed out with ink and the Jamaica Paid stamp impressed.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

The postage rate per half ounce for distances over 100 miles was 8d. Since Lucea is 142 miles from Kingston the correct rate of 8d. has been applied to this single rate entire below.

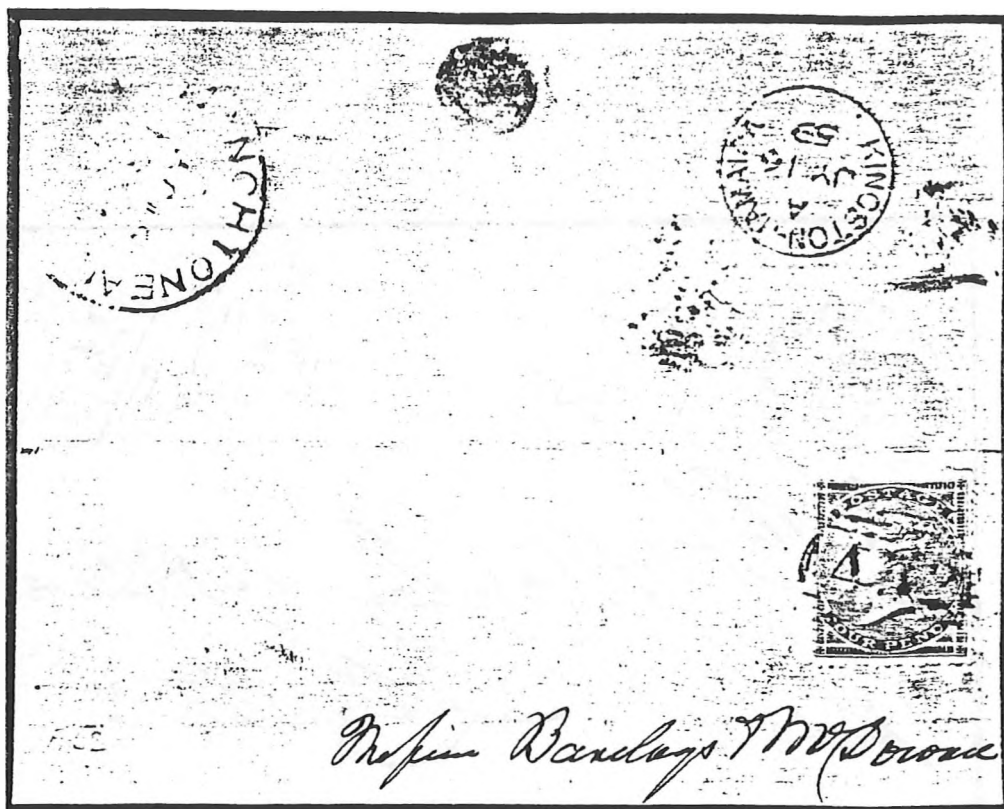


A51 LUCEA

A single rate entire from Lucea to Kingston with an A51 obliterator and Lucea P6 datestamp of 17 NO 59 alongside.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

On 22 October 1850 a provisional datestamp was sent to the colony together with a "double set of types and 62 additional letters." This marking had a diameter of 33mm and was intended for provisional use in case of damage to or loss of any current datestamp. An example of this type P7 datestamp is shown below.



A52 MANCHIONEAL

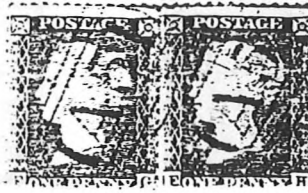
The large part entire from Manchioneal to Kingston bearing a 4d. Rose and cancelled A52 shows the travelling date stamp of Manchioneal type P7. Only one other example of this datestamp used at Clarendon is recorded.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Mandeville is the chief town of the parish of Manchester and 62 miles west of Kingston. On 4 November 1878 a mail coach service was established between Kingston and Mandeville for the conveyance of mails, passengers, and parcels. The journey took six to seven hours.



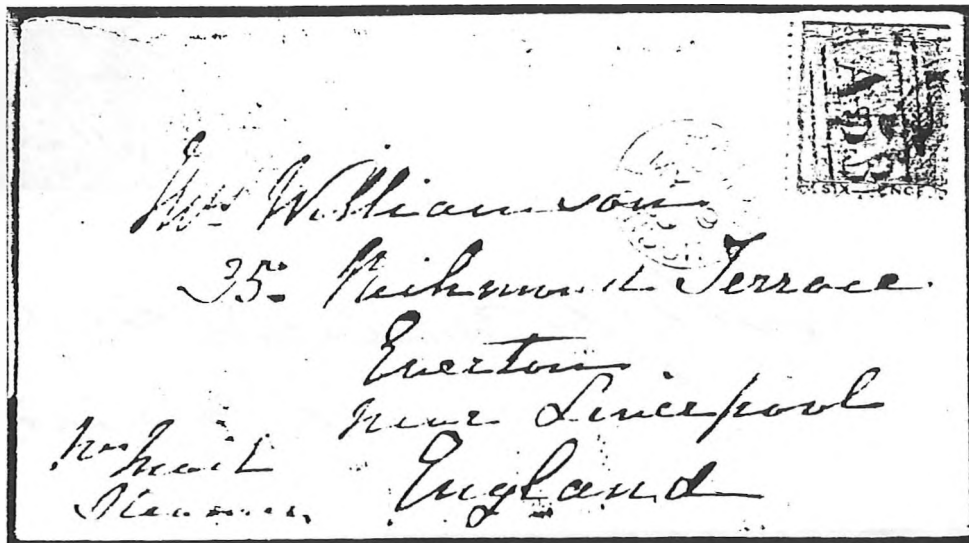
A52 MANCHIONEAL



A51 LUCEA



A53 MANDEVILLE

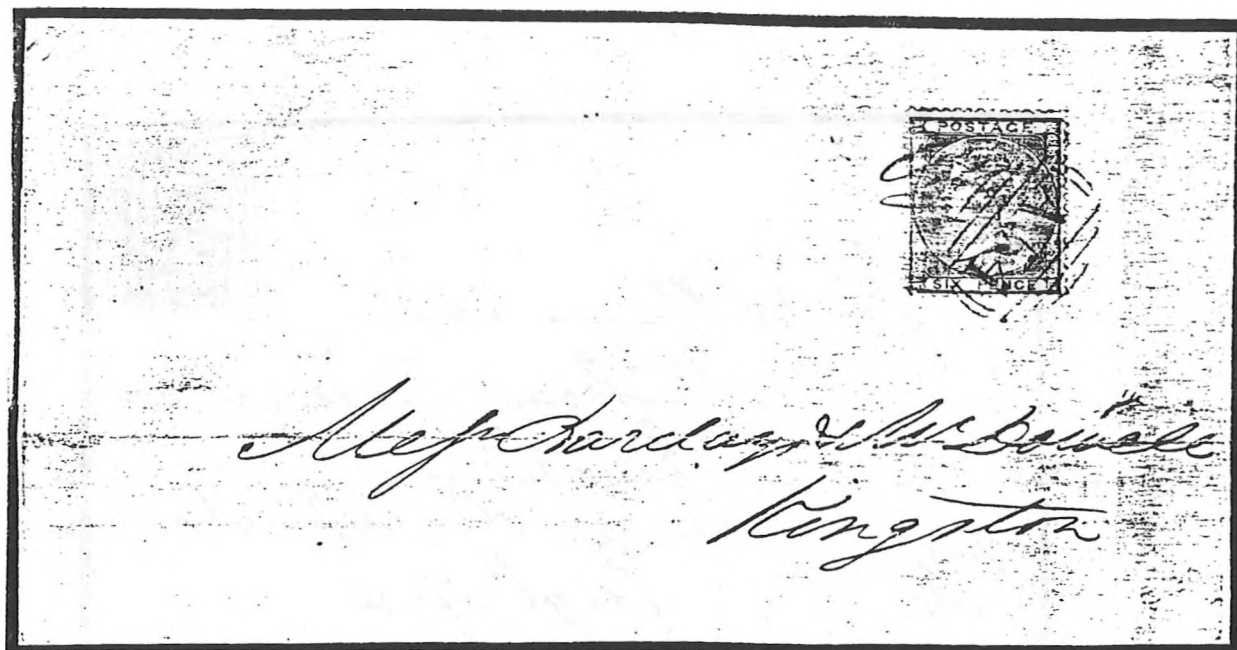


A53 MANDEVILLE

The Great Britain 6d. used on the 22 AP 59 cover from Mandeville to Everton, Liverpool, was canceled with an A53 obliterator and a Mandeville C.D.S. on the reverse.



A55 MILE GULLY



This part entire from Mayhill to Kingston shows an A54 obliterator and is backstamped with a Mayhill type P2a cancel dated 12 AU 59 and a Kingston K8 datestamp of 13 AU 59. It is one of two recorded examples.



## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Montego Bay is the second largest town in Jamaica and is the administrative and commercial center of the parish of St. James on the northwest shore of the island. Montego Bay is 114 miles from Kingston and thus requires 8d. as shown by the exhibit below:



A57 MONTEGO BAY



This single rate entire letter from Montego Bay to Kingston bears a pair of the 4d. G.B. cancelled with two strikes of the A57 obliterator.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Montpelier is situated eleven miles due south of Montego Bay in St. James parish. Although the A58 type H obliterator was allotted to Montpelier on 1 March 1859, it could not have been much used there. The post office was closed by 1860. In 1861 it was apparently reopened but was thereafter closed for over 30 years.

ONLY TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES



A58 MONTPELIER

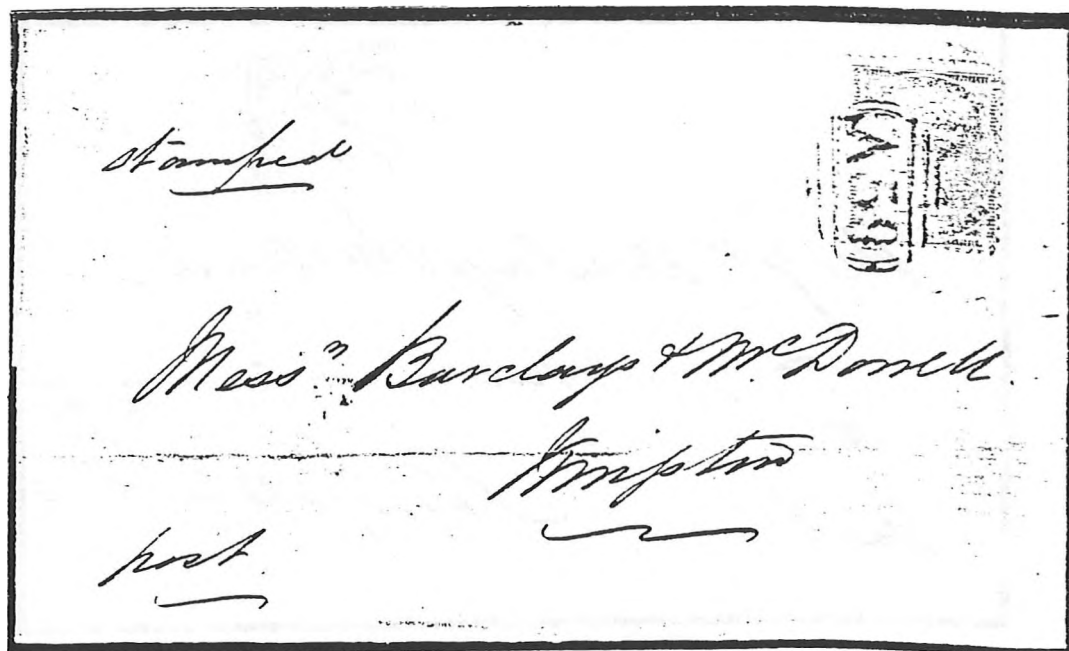
What happened to this original A58 obliterator is a mystery. The only two specimens which are known recorded are on a 6d. lilac Great Britain (S.G. #70) one of which is shown here. British postage stamps cancelled with the A58 obliterator are unknown on letters or parts of wrappers.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

With a view to safety and possible economy, the district post offices were established at the Court House at Montego Bay, Falmouth, and Savannah La Mar. In the smaller villages the office was often very primitive as well as being difficult to reach.



A59 ~~PORT~~ MORANT BAY



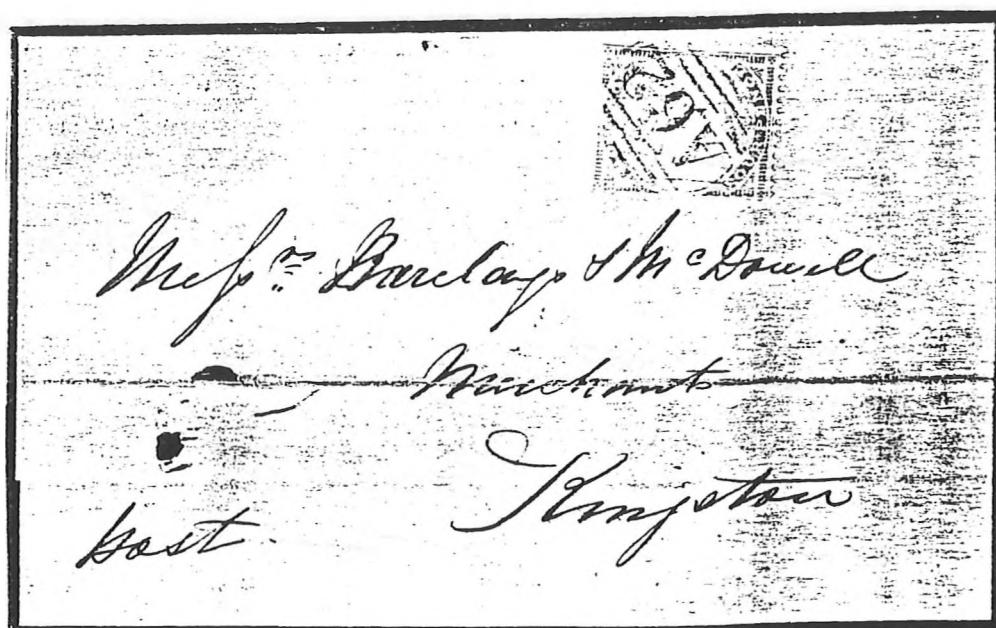
This entire shows an A59 obliterator used at Morant Bay and addressed to Kingston. The backstamps are a Morant Bay C.D.S. type P2a. The date is indistinct but a Kingston C.D.S. type K8 shows receipt on 28 DE 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

The mail for outlying parishes was conveyed by pack mule accompanied by a postman who also rode a mule. They covered an average distance of 70 miles in 24 hours. In 1844 it became necessary to arm postmen with pistols against the chances of robbery.



A62 PLANTAIN GARDEN RIVER



This letter, with a 4d. Great Britain stamp, has the correct rate since Plantain Garden River is three miles within the limit of 60 miles from Kingston. It shows the A62 obliterator and is backstamped with a Plantain Garden River P5 cancel dated 27 MY 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

### Northside Road to Green Island

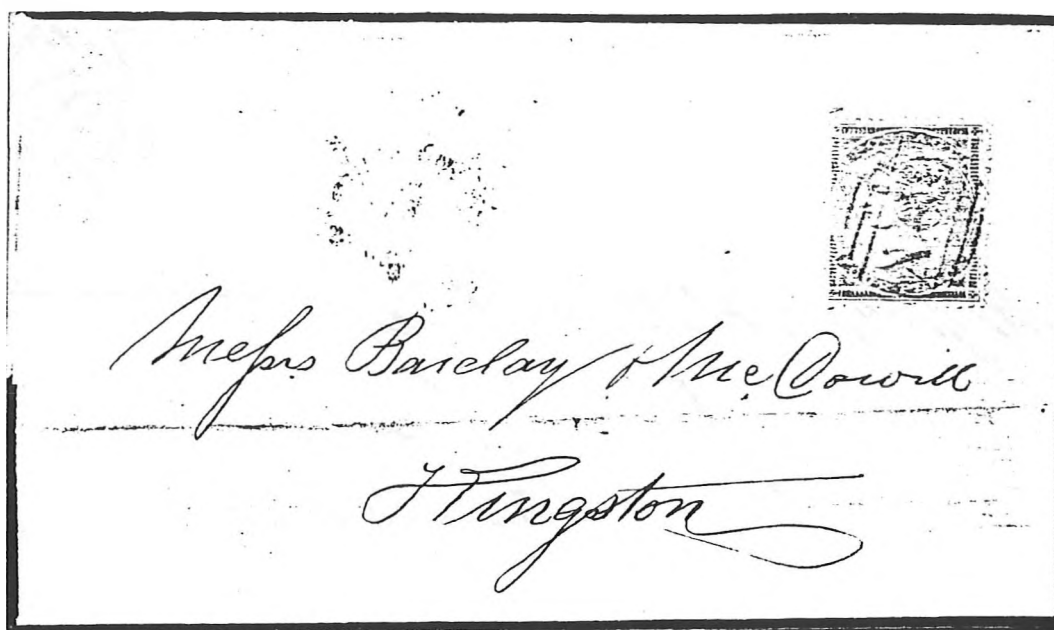
Five Post Roads served the post offices in the various parishes. Ocho Rios was one of 18 post offices on the Northside Road to Green Island, a total distance of 151 miles from Kingston.



A60 OCHO RIOS



A61 OLD HARBOUR



A60 OCHO RIOS

This entire shows an A60 obliterator on a 4d. Rose and addressed from Ocho Rios to Messrs. Barclay and McDowell, Kingston.

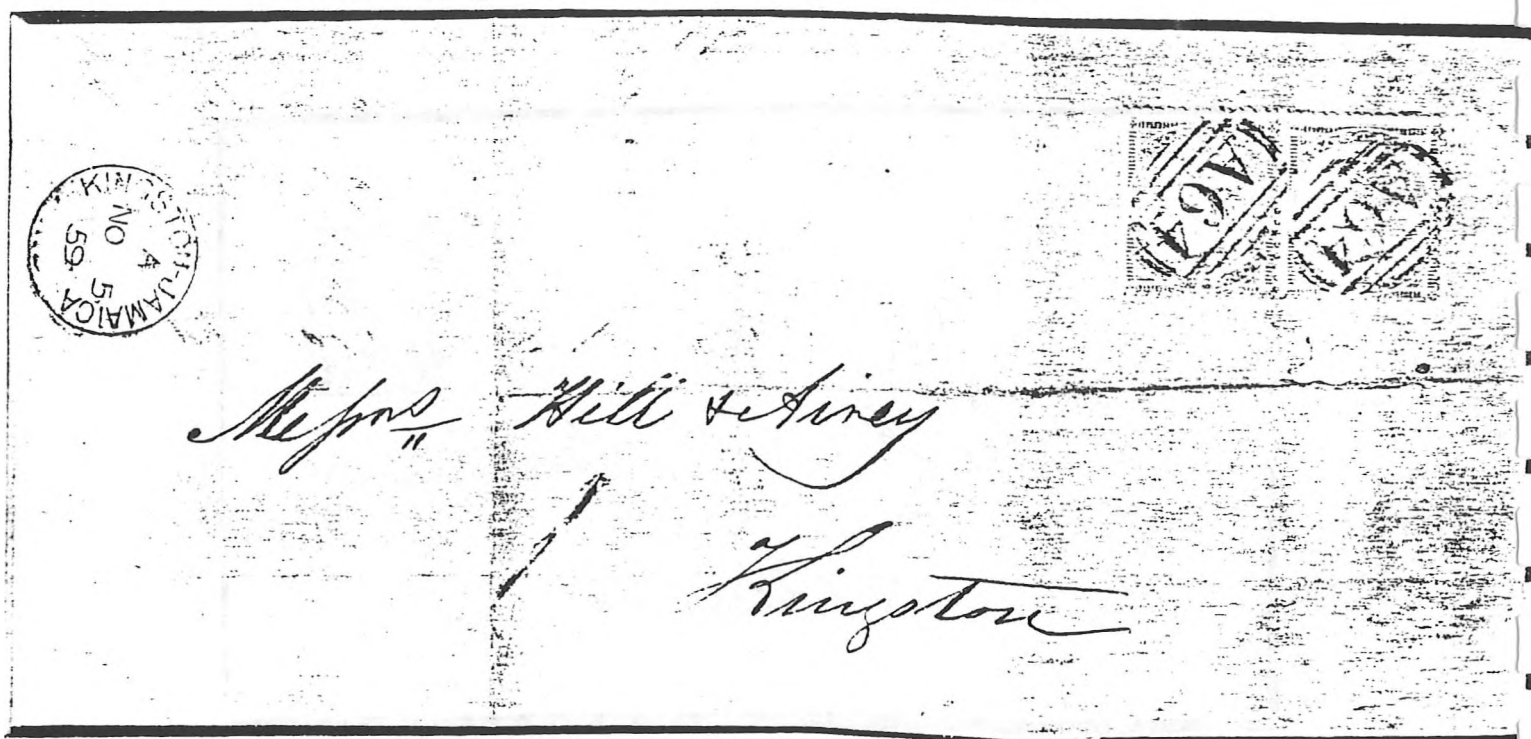
## G.B. used in JAMAICA

### Northside Road to Port Antonio

From Kingston this road went to Annotto Bay, Buff Bay, Hope Bay, and on to Port Antonio. The distance was 60 miles.



A64 PORT ANTONIO

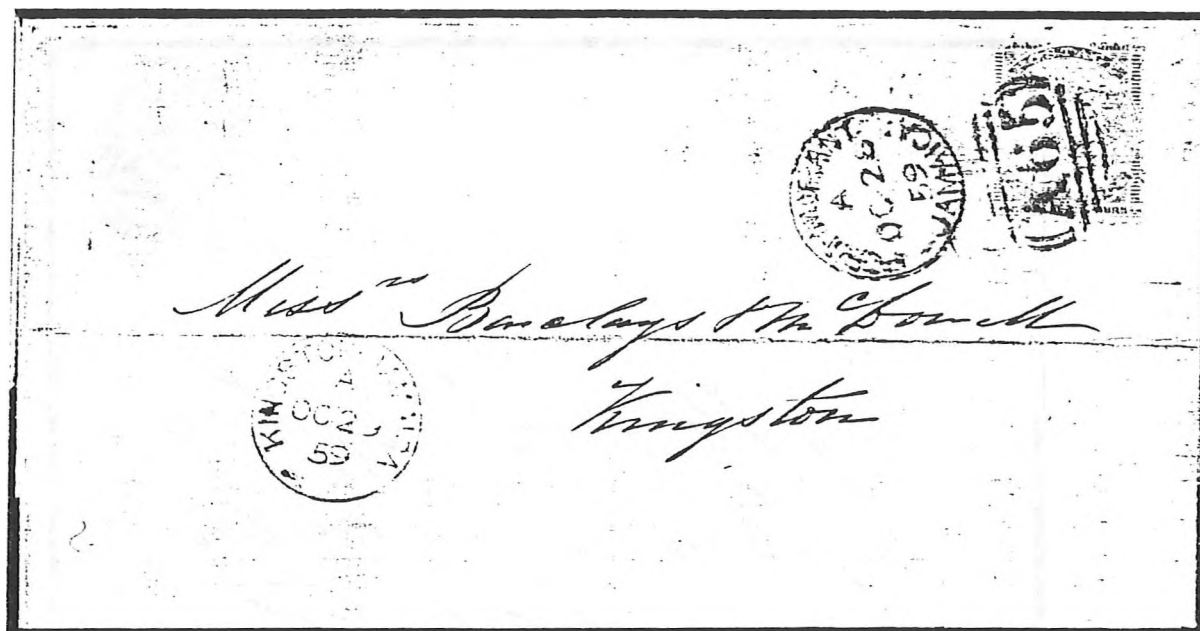


This entire with A64 obliterations from Port Antonio to Kingston shows two 4d. Great Britain stamps. The letter required an extra 4d. because it weighs more than 1/2 oz.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

### The Windward Road

Port Morant was on the Windward Road which ran from Kingston to Manchioneal, a total distance of 64 miles.



### A65 PORT MORANT

A Great Britain 4d. was used on this 28 OC 59 entire from Port Morant to Kingston with an A65 cancel and C.D.S. alongside.

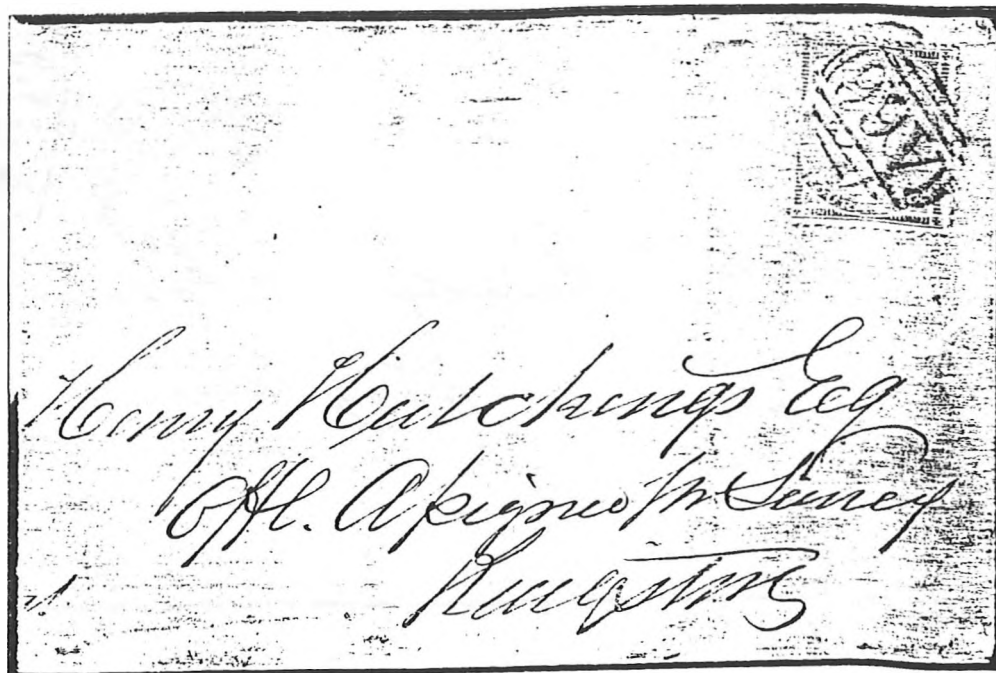
## G.B. used in JAMAICA

### Northside Road to Port Maria

This was the shortest road and covered only 42 miles. It went from Kingston to Highgate and then on to Port Maria.



A66 PORT MARIA



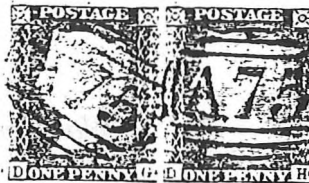
The entire letter from Port Maria shows a 4d. Rose with the A66 obliterator. It is backstamped with a Port Maria P3 cancel dated 14 JU 59.



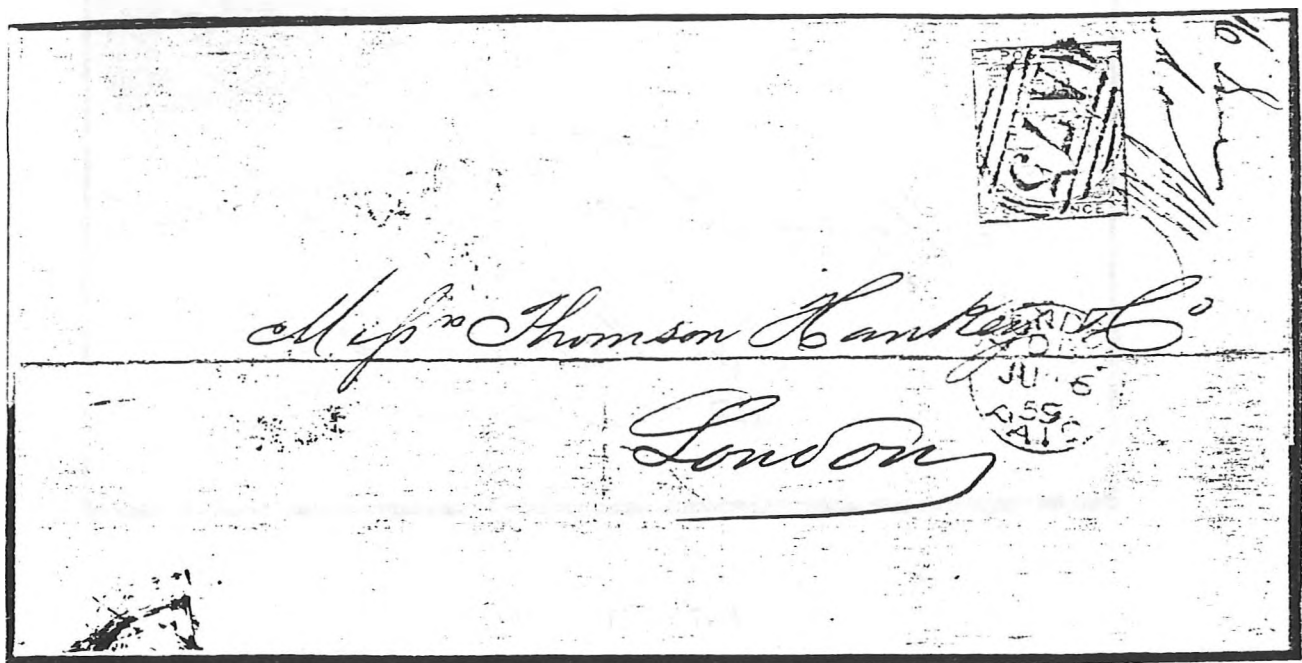
## G.B. used in JAMAICA

### The Leeward or Southside Road

Savannah La Mar was on the Leeward Road from Kingston to Grange Hill, a total distance of 133 miles.



A75 SAVANNAH LA MAR



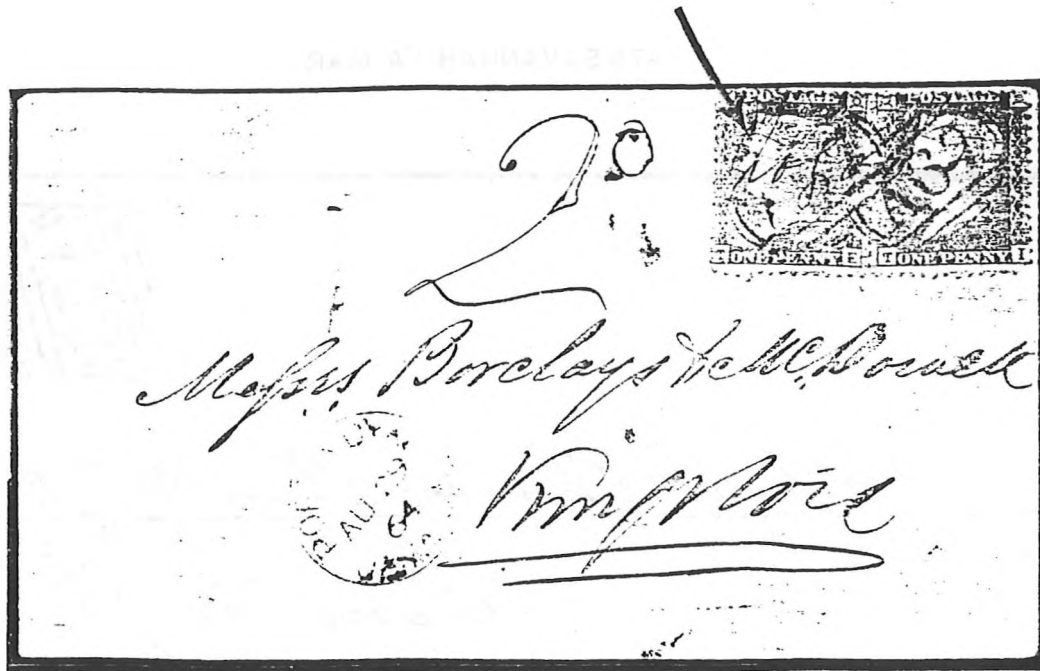
This entire from Savannah La Mar to London has an A75 obliterator and is backstamped with its C.D.S. type P2a dated 25 MY 59. It passed through Kingston as recorded by a type K8 C.D.S. dated 26 MY 59 reaching London on 6 JU 59 as shown by the red frontstamp.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

British stamps were not available for use after 1 August 1860, when postal affairs were transferred from the British Government to Jamaica. However, it was not until 20 March 1866 that the final notice to the public not to use British stamps was signed by the postmaster-general of Jamaica.

The cover below is one of an illusive few which illustrates how letters with British stamps were treated as Jamaica gradually transitioned to Jamaican postage stamps.

*"No Good"*



A67 PORT ROYAL

This letter from Port Royal to Kingston bears a pair of the 1d.\* G.B. obliterated A67. The letter has a Port Royal P11 cancel of 29 AU 64. The words *No Good* have been written in ink across both stamps and m/s "2d." (to pay) is inscribed beside them.

\* The 2d. rate came into force in 1861 for letters travelling within the same parish or a distance under 30 miles.

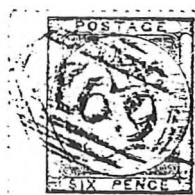
## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Although the exact value of British postage stamps used in Jamaica with obliterators will never be known, the value is estimated at approximately 10,000 pounds Sterling based on the "Return of Postage Stamps" issued from 1 March 1859 to 29 February 1860. This accounts for 12 of the 15 months they were used with obliterators.

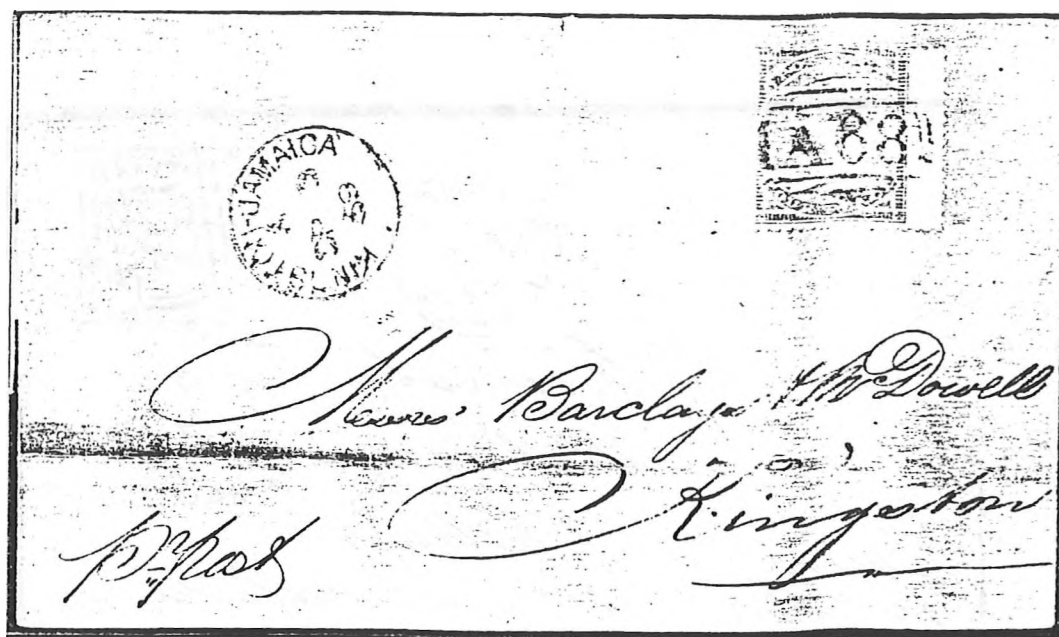
1d.	4d.	6d.	1/-	Total
£696	£4342	£2996	£340	£8374



A67 PORT ROYAL



A69 RAMBLE



A68 PORUS

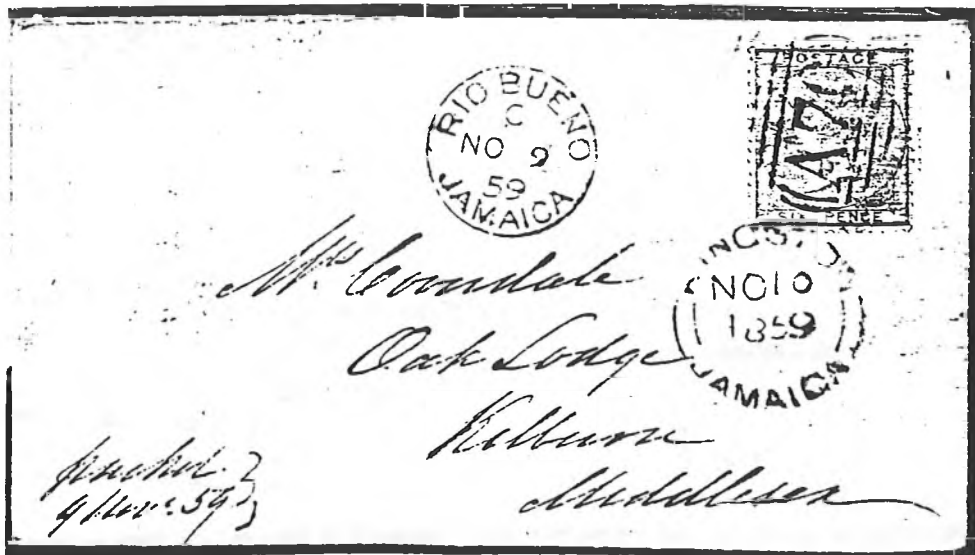
This single rate entire from Porus to Kingston shows the A68 obliterator on a 4d. Rose G.B. stamp.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

The census statistics of 1871 show the total population of Jamaica as 506,154. The returns of 1871 also show a total of 1,362,000 letters, papers, and book packets processed that year. This is an average of roughly three items per person per year.



A70 RIO BUENO



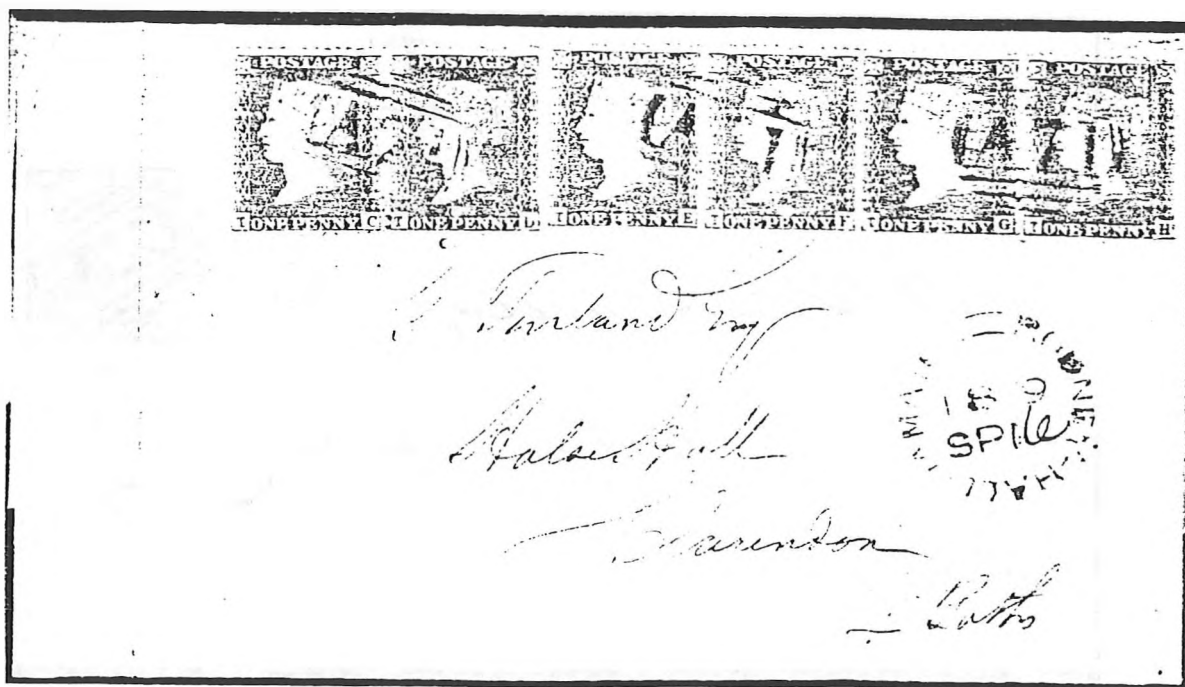
A single packet rate letter from Rio Bueno to Great Britain bearing a 6d. Lilac with an A70 obliterator, a Rio Bueno C.D.S. Type P11a 21.5 mm, and the Kingston Type K8 transit datestamps on the front.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Inland letters cost 6d. per half-ounce for distances between 60 and 100 miles. The entire below is the only recorded example of a letter from Rodney Hall to Clarendon costing 6d. since it was routed through Kingston, a total distance of 64 miles. Had it been routed through Spanish Town it would have cost only 4d. since the total distance was 51 miles.



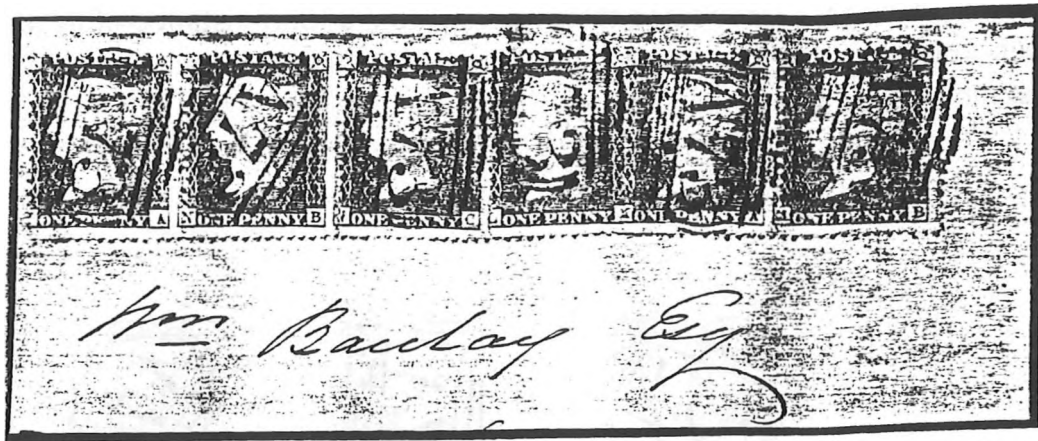
A71 RODNEY HALL



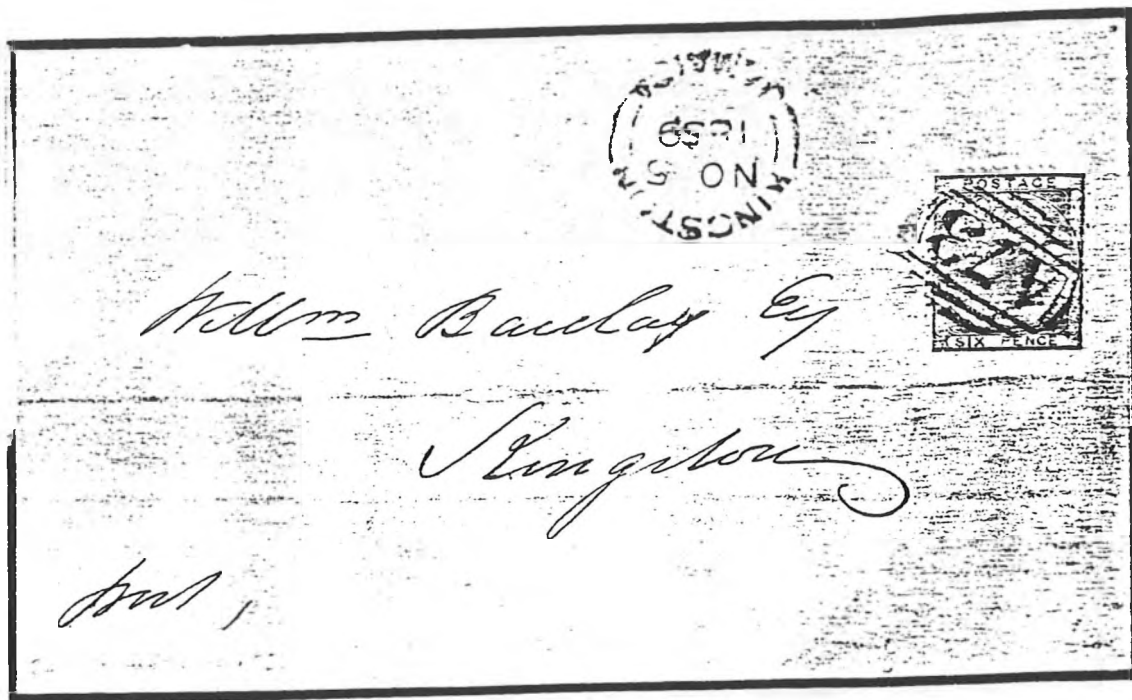
This entire from Rodney Hall to Clarendon bearing a pair and strip of four 1d. G.B. shows the A71 obliterator and the P6 date-stamp of Rodney Hall dated 16 SP 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

On 4 May 1494 Columbus first sighted the island of Xamayca, as it was called at that time. His landfall was at St. Anns Bay on the north coast of the island.



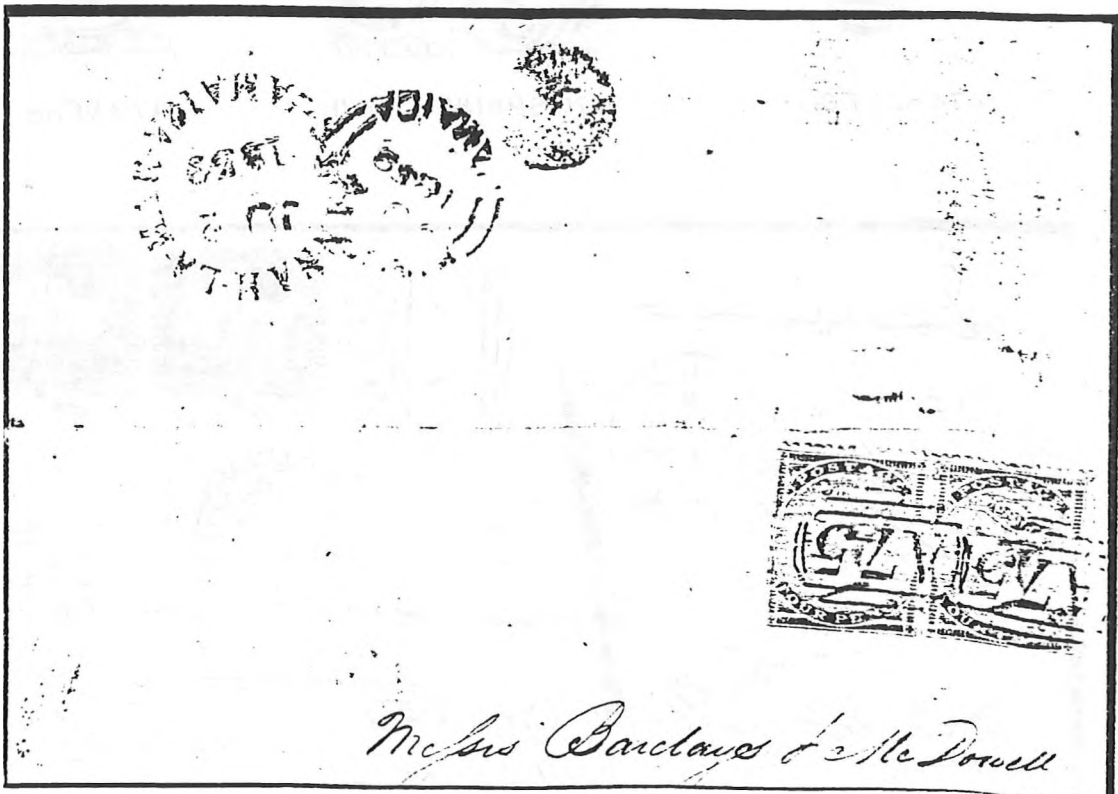
A73 ST. ANNS BAY



The entire from St. Anns Bay to Kingston shows a 6d. lilac G.B. stamp with the A73 obliterator and Kingston K8 dater of 5 NO 59.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

Savannah La Mar is the principal town of the parish of Westmoreland. It used the A75 type H obliterator which had a very short life. The obliterator was either lost, stolen, or strayed soon after the advent of the Pines issue, and was used from 1 March 1859 to about the end of 1860.



A75 SAVANNAH LA MAR

This part entire shows the A75 obliterator of type H with a Savannah La Mar type P2b dater of 2 JU 59 and was received at Kingston as shown by the type P8 dater of 4 JU 59.

## G. B. used in JAMAICA

Every type of postmark used in Jamaica was made in England and sent out by the G.P.O. in London. The only exception to this rigid rule was in the case of a temporary rubber datestamp issued to a new office until such time as it received its permanent steel datestamp from England.



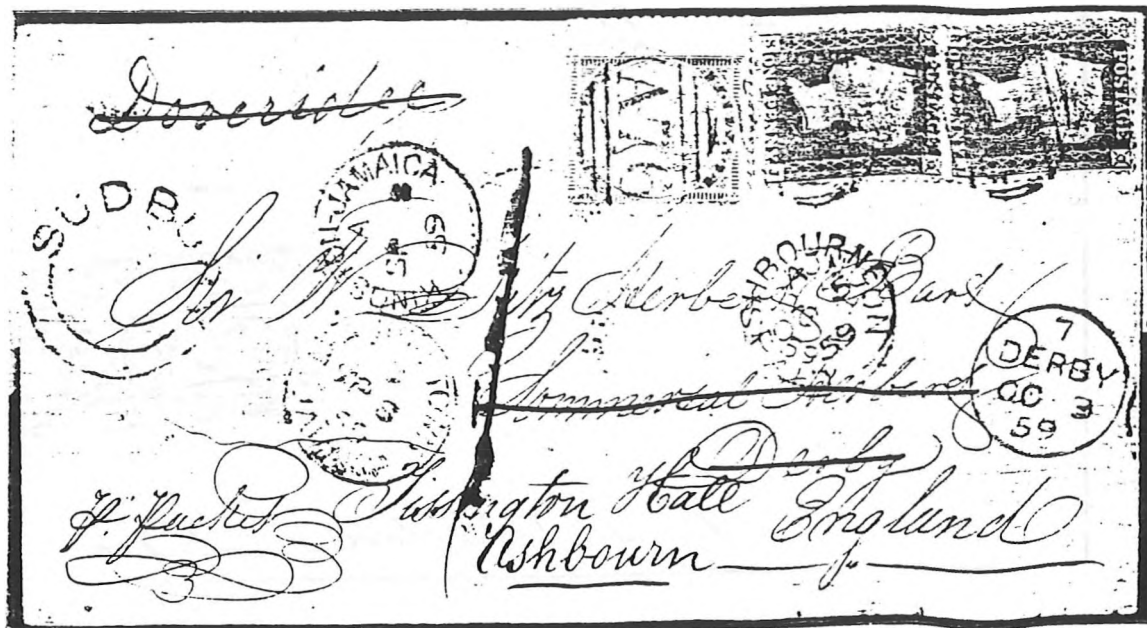
A74 SALT GUT



A76 SPANISH TOWN



A78 VERE



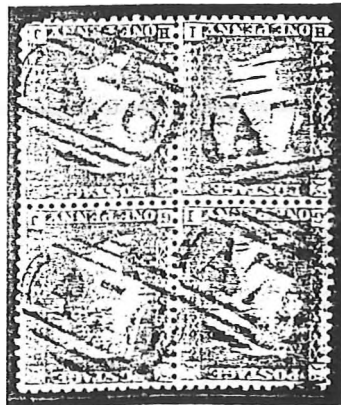
This entire from Spanish Town to Derby and readdressed to Ashbourne shows a 1d. pair and wing-margined 4d. G.B. stamp cancelled with an A76 obliterator together with several other C.D.S. cancellations from the various towns.



## G. B. used in JAMAICA

Spanish Town is the capital of Jamaica's largest parish, St. Catherine, and is just 13 miles west of Kingston. It was the Spanish capital of Jamaica for more than a century and the British capital for more than two centuries before the seat of government was moved to Kingston.

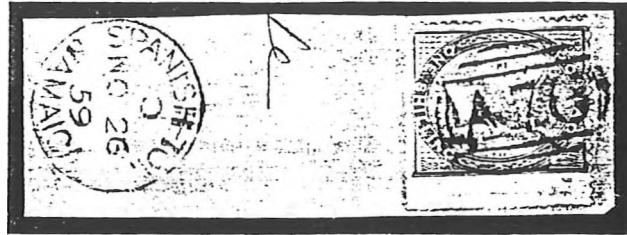
ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE  
OF A 1d. G. B. BLOCK OF FOUR  
USED IN JAMAICA



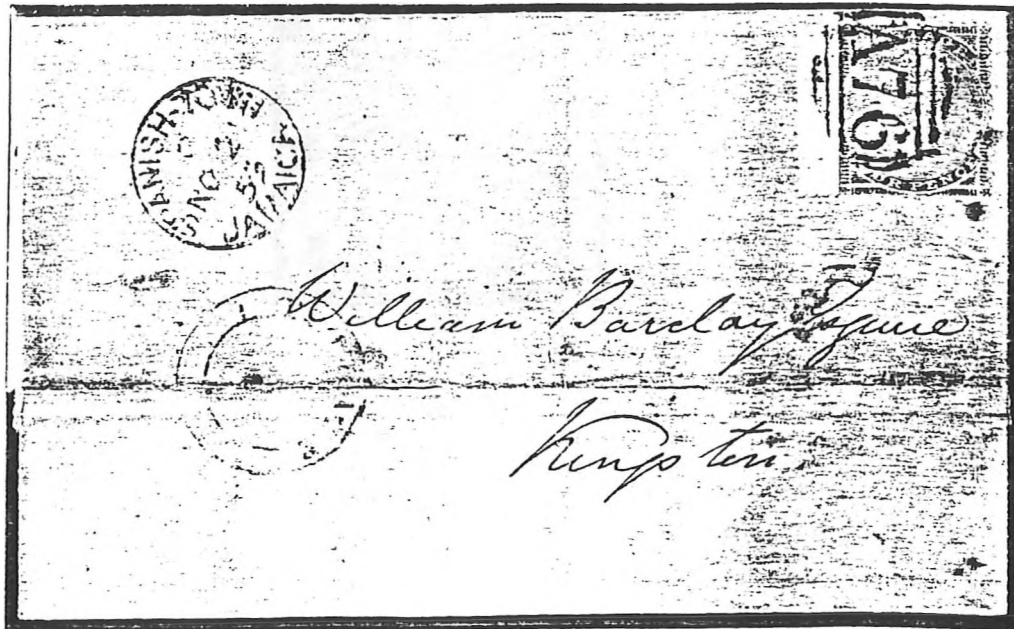
A76 SPANISH TOWN

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

With the transference of the capital to Kingston in 1870, post office receipts declined and with it the postmaster's salary which gradually descended from £159 to £100.



A76 SPANISH TOWN



The single rate entire letter from Spanish Town to Kingston shows the A76 obliterator on a 4d. rose G.B. The letter also has a "Too Late" type TL5 and a Spanish Town P11a CDS dated 21 NO 59.

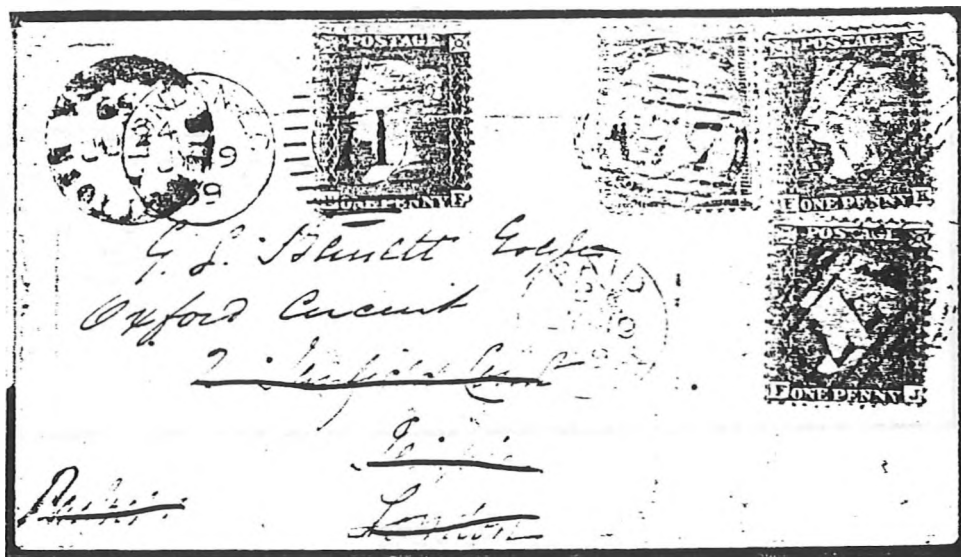
## G.B. used in JAMAICA

The letters conveyed to the various districts were wrapped in brown paper and packed in canvas bags which were then put into leather cases belonging to the post office. The cases were then strapped together with a light chain which was sealed. All post offices were supplied with seals bearing the name of the office.



A77 STEWART TOWN

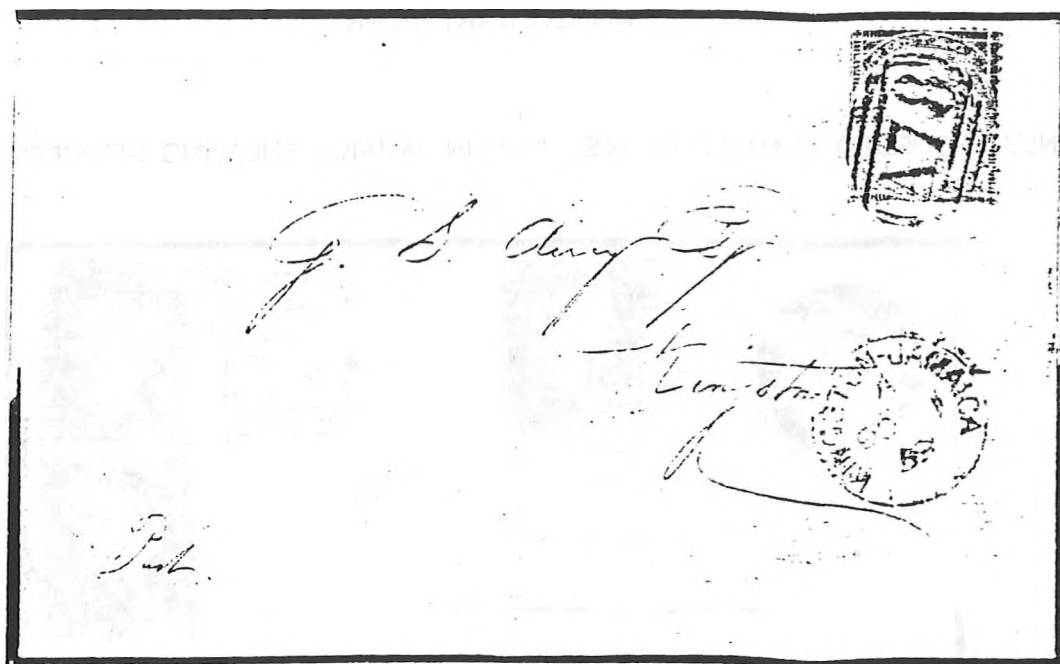
ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF G.B. USED IN JAMAICA SHOWING REDIRECTION FEE



A quadruple (2 oz.) rate letter-wrapper to Liverpool bearing two horizontal pairs of the 6d. Lilac all cancelled with the A01-A obliterator at Kingston. Shown alongside is the Goshen P2A dater of 25 JU 58.

## G.B. used in JAMAICA

It took almost five years from the initial request by the British Government dated 30 October 1855 before the government of Jamaica assumed control of its postal affairs. That occurred on 1 August 1860. Jamaica's reluctance was due to the annual deficit of about £700 based on the cost of running the post office in 1855.

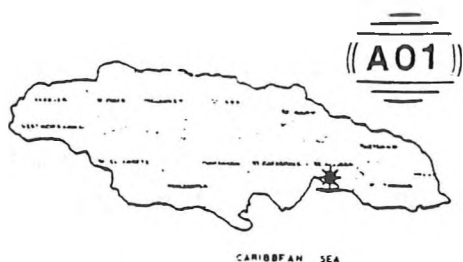


A78 VERE

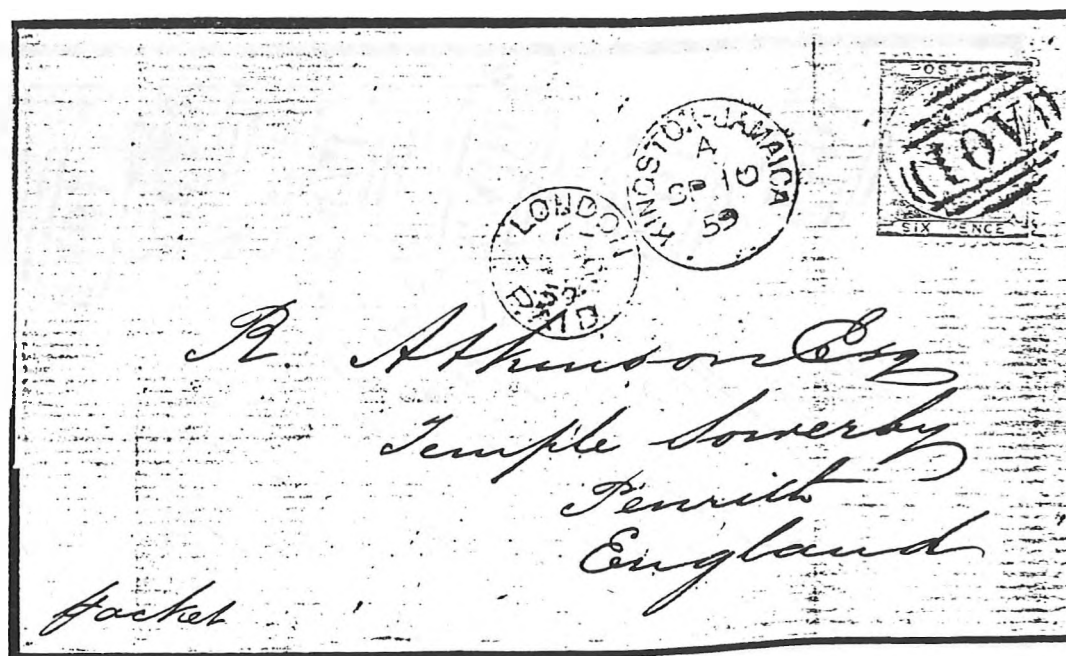
The entire from Vere to Kingston shows a 4d. rose G.B. stamp with the A78 obliterator. It is backstamped with a Vere type P2a dater of 30 SP 59.

# KINGSTON

A01-A

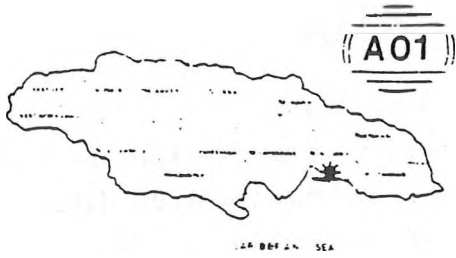


The first obliterator of type A01-A was sent out from London to Jamaica on 14 April 1858. Two further examples were sent two weeks later. This type went out of use within six years.



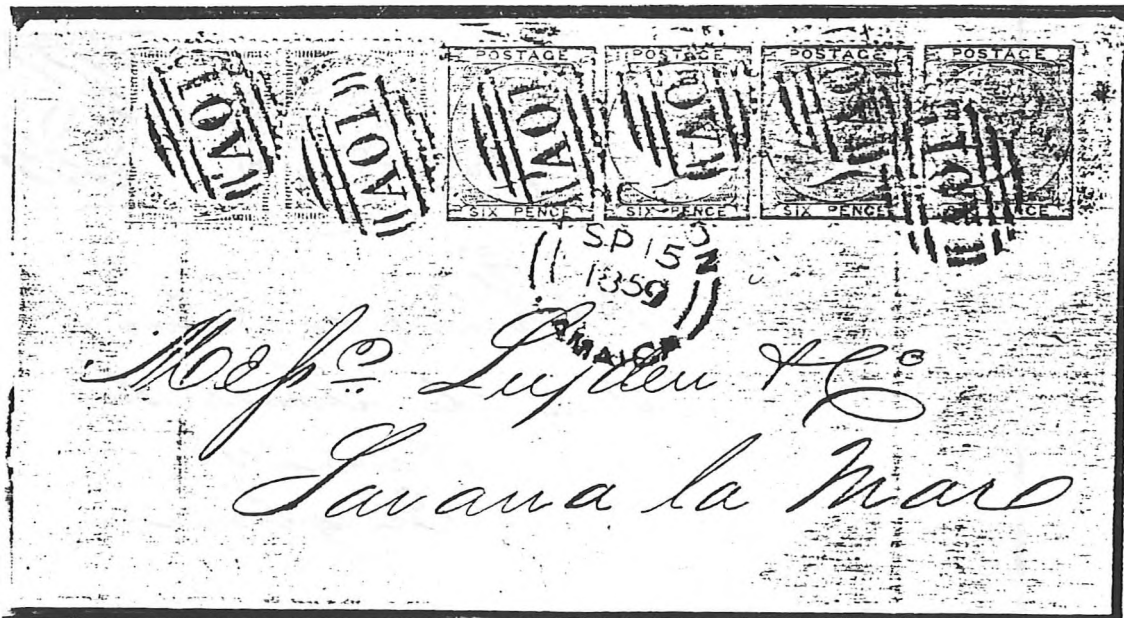
This entire from Kingston to England shows an A01 type A obliterator. Datestamps for each city are shown on the front.

# KINGSTON



A01-A

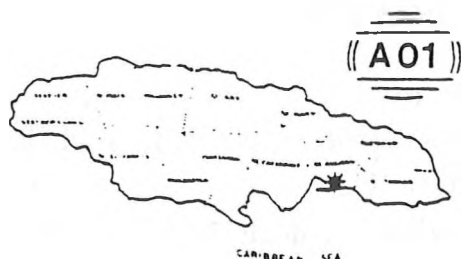
Inland letters to addresses over 100 miles from Kingston were at the rate of 8d. per 1/2 oz. The entire letter from Kingston to Savanna La Mar shows a quadruple rate (2 oz.) of 2/8d.



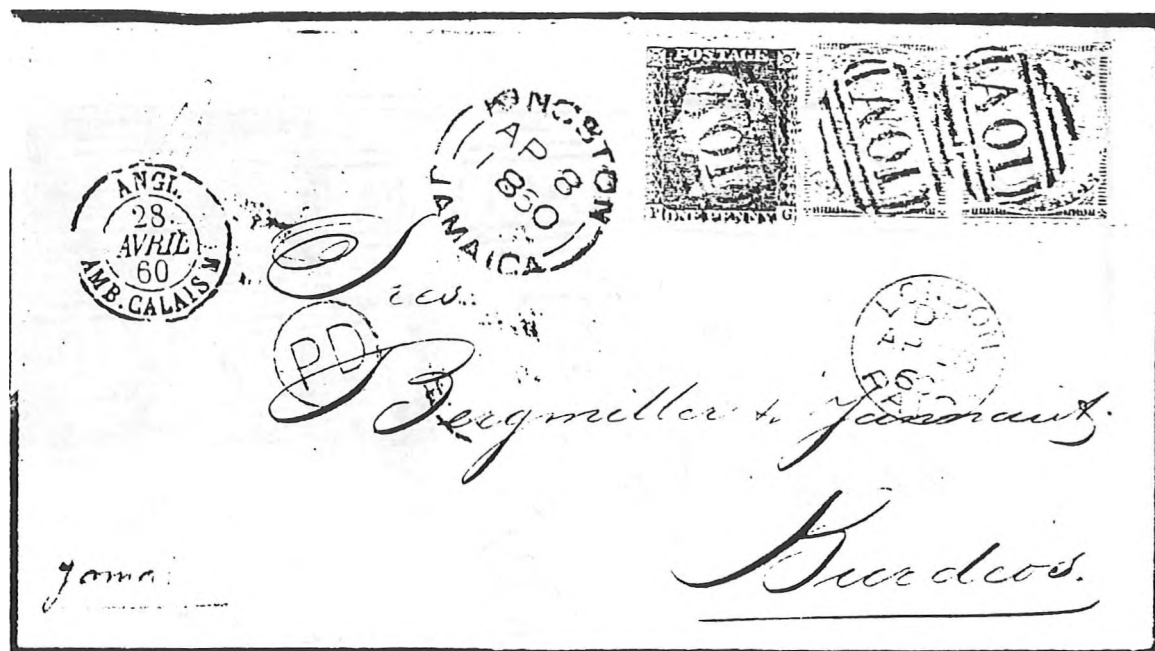
The entire letter from Kingston to Savanna La Mar shows four 6d. lilac and two 4d. rose G.B. stamps each with an A01-A obliterator and a Kingston K8 dater of 15 SP 59.

# KINGSTON

A01-A



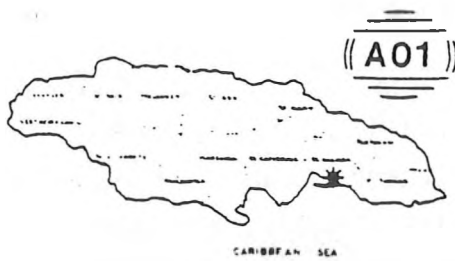
The letter below from Santa Marta, Columbia, dated 30 March 1860 is addressed to Bordeaux and shows a seldom seen 9d. rate. It travelled via Kingston where the circular date stamp was applied on April 8, 1860, and the G.B. stamps were cancelled with the A01-A obliterator.



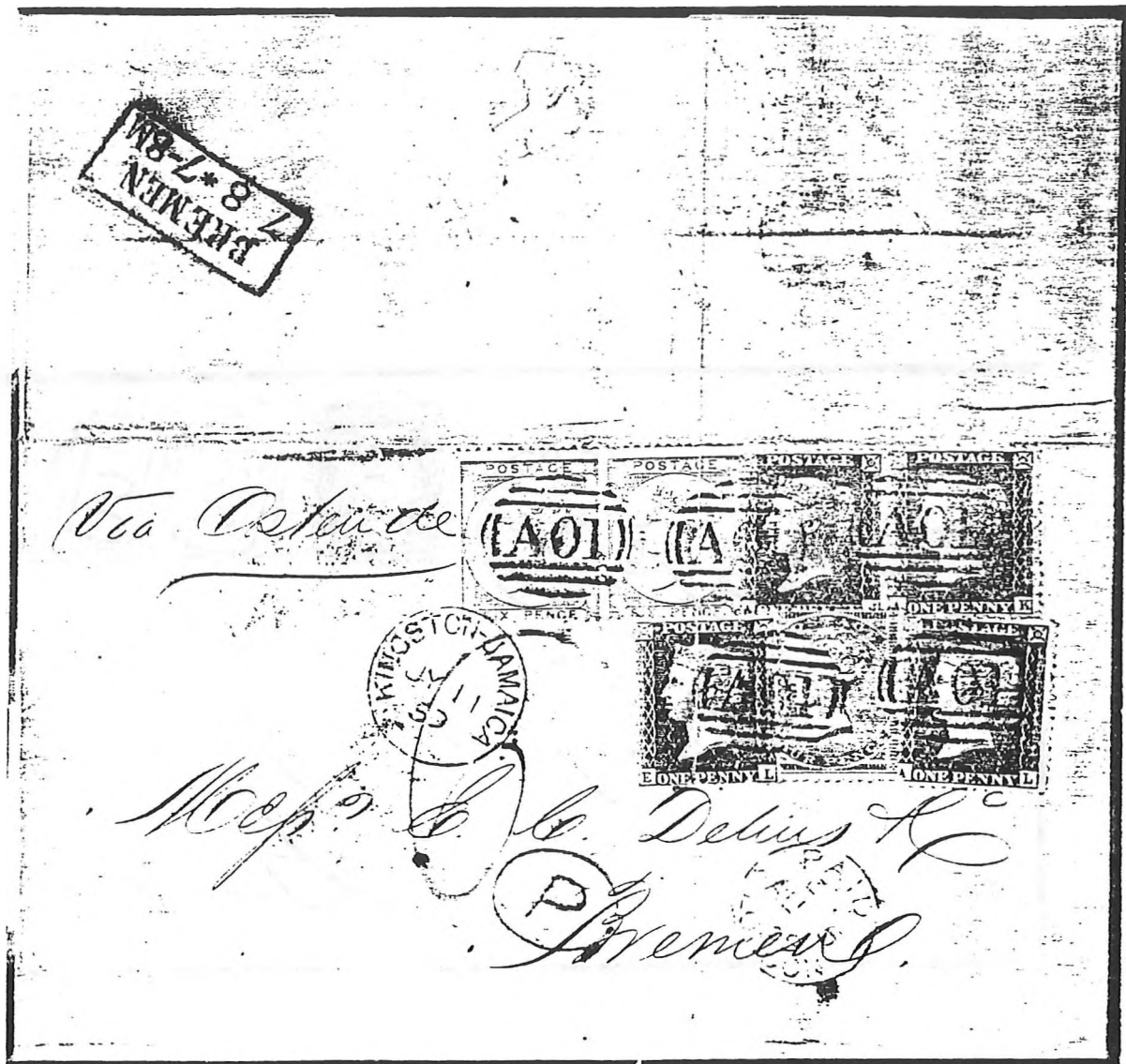
The letter shows a "London Paid" stamp for April 28, 1860, and the French Calais transit stamp of the same date. It is backstamped with a Paris transit mark of the next day and the Bordeaux arrival stamp of 30 AP 60. It is believed that the 1d. G.B. stamp may be in respect of the Captain's gratuity.

# KINGSTON

A01-A



The entire below is one of three recorded examples of correspondence with G.B. used in Jamaica addressed to Germany. The rate to Bremen was 1/2d. which is depicted by the top row of G.B. stamps. The bottom row of a 4d. rose and two 1d. red G.B. is believed to be in payment of a 6d. late fee corresponding to the manuscript "6" in red, alongside.

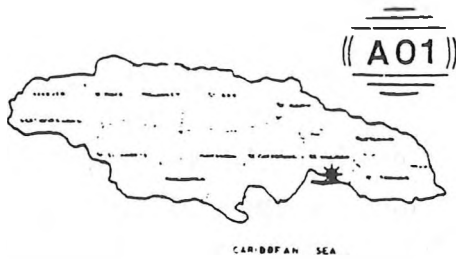


The entire from Kingston to Bremen shows the A01-A obliterator together with a Kingston K9a dater of 11 JY 59, and transit and receipt marks in London and Bremen, respectively.

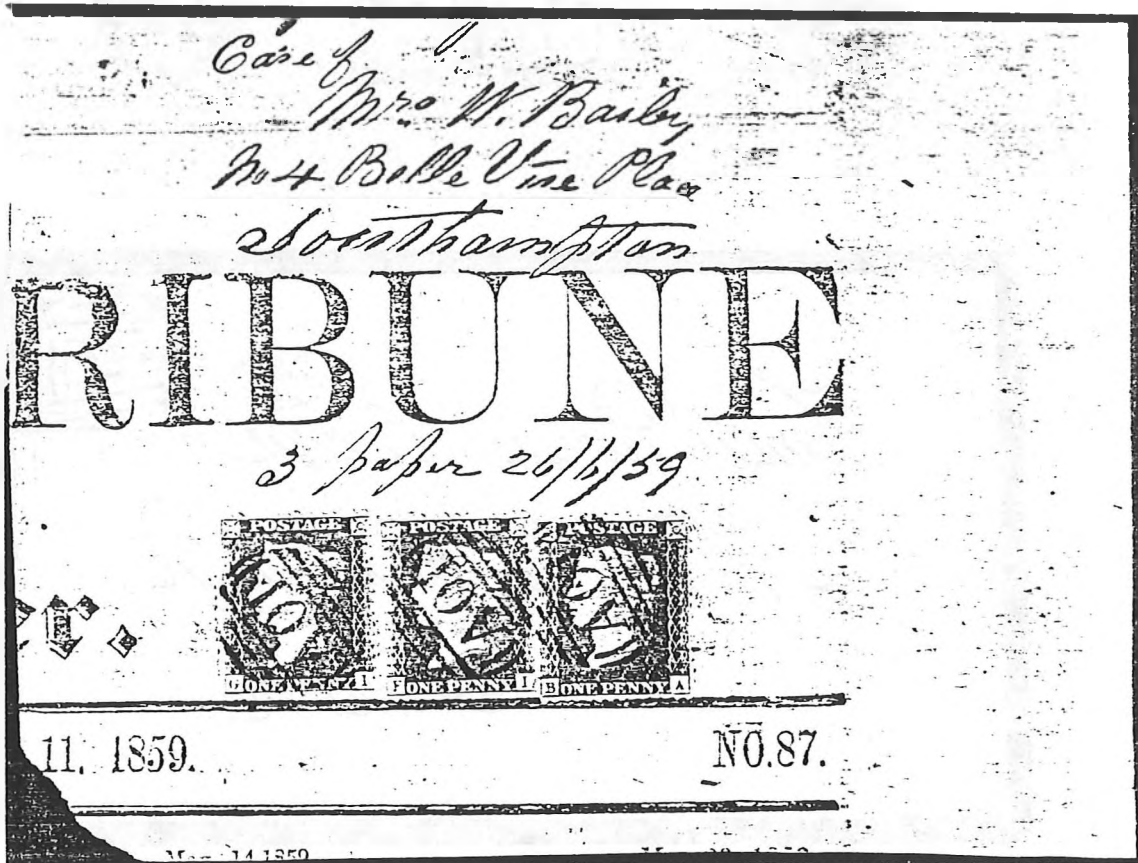


# KINGSTON

A01-A



This unusual item shows the address on the front of one of three newspapers sent from Kingston to Southampton, England. Each newspaper was charged at the rate of 1d.



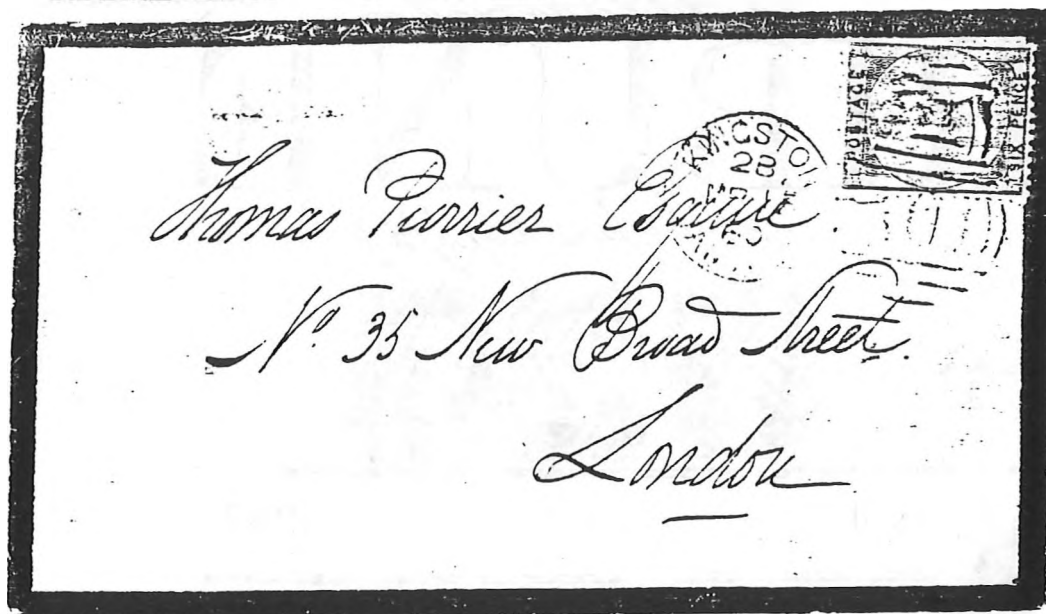
The newspaper clipping shows three 1d. red G.B. each with an A01-A obliterator.

# KINGSTON



A01-B

Two duplex obliterators of this type were sent to the colony on 30 April 1859. They were in continuous use for nearly twelve years, until the end of 1870. It was very popular with postal clerks since the inclusion of a date stamp saved them from stamping every letter twice—once for the obliterator and once for the date.



The mourning letter is addressed from Kingston to London and is dated 15 MR 60. It was received in London on 12 AP 60 as shown by the backstamp.

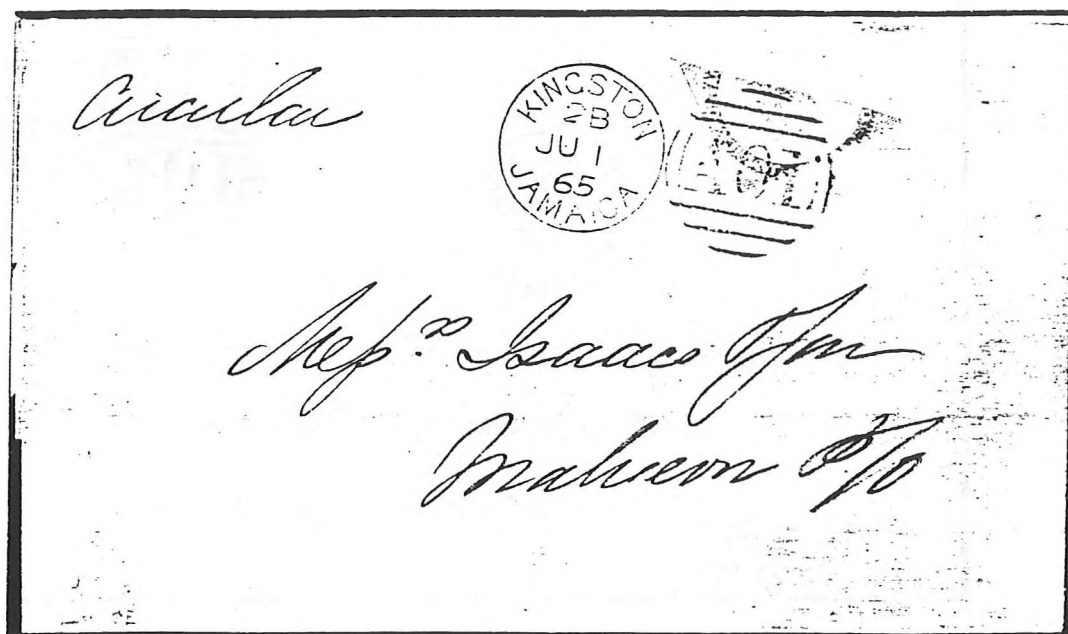
# KINGSTON



A01-B



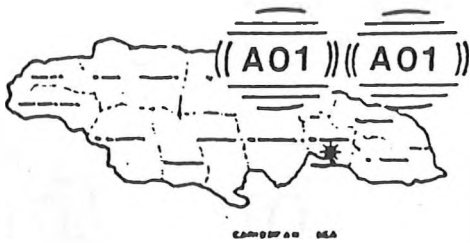
The bisected 1d. Pine stamp was authorized for use on 20 November 1861 "by persons availing themselves of the facilities afforded by the book post, and for the prepayment of newspapers forwarded within the Colony." This example from Kingston to Malvern, dated 1 JU 65, shows an A01-B obliterator on a 1d. bisect.



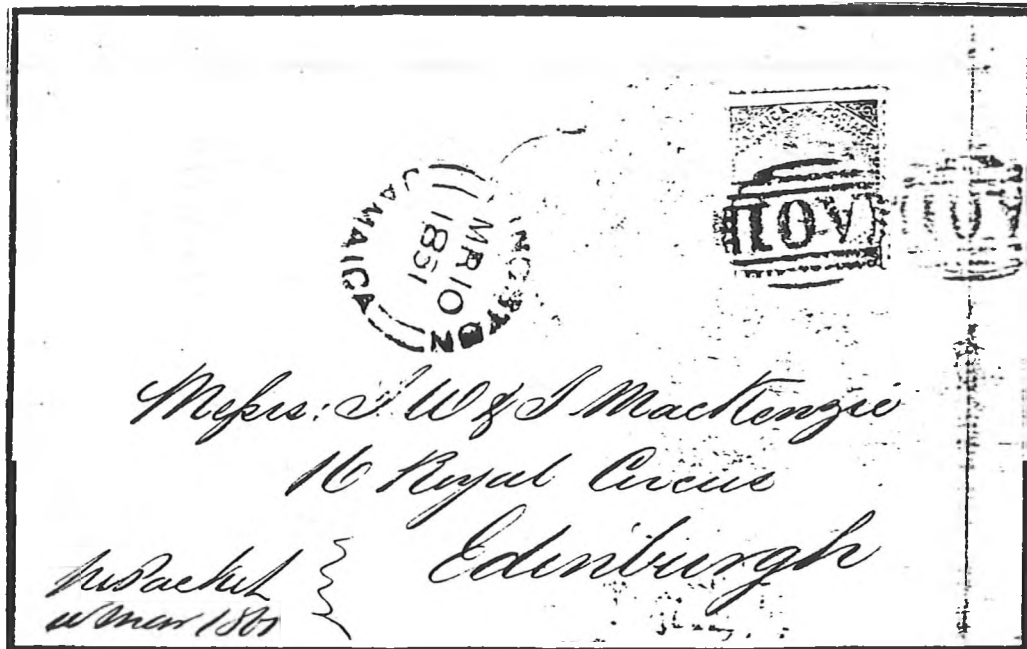
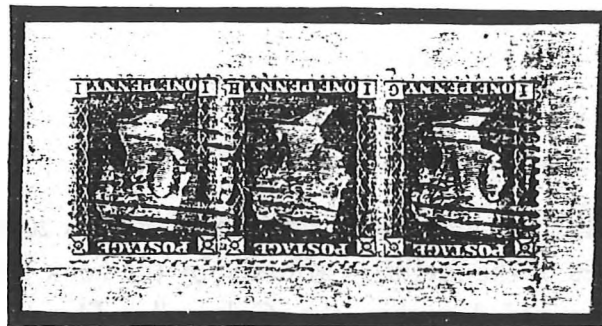
The bisected 1d. Pine

# KINGSTON

A01-C



One obliterator of this type was sent to Jamaica on 30 April 1859. It was seldom used since it required the use of an additional date stamp. It is very difficult to distinguish with certainty on single stamps not on original paper.



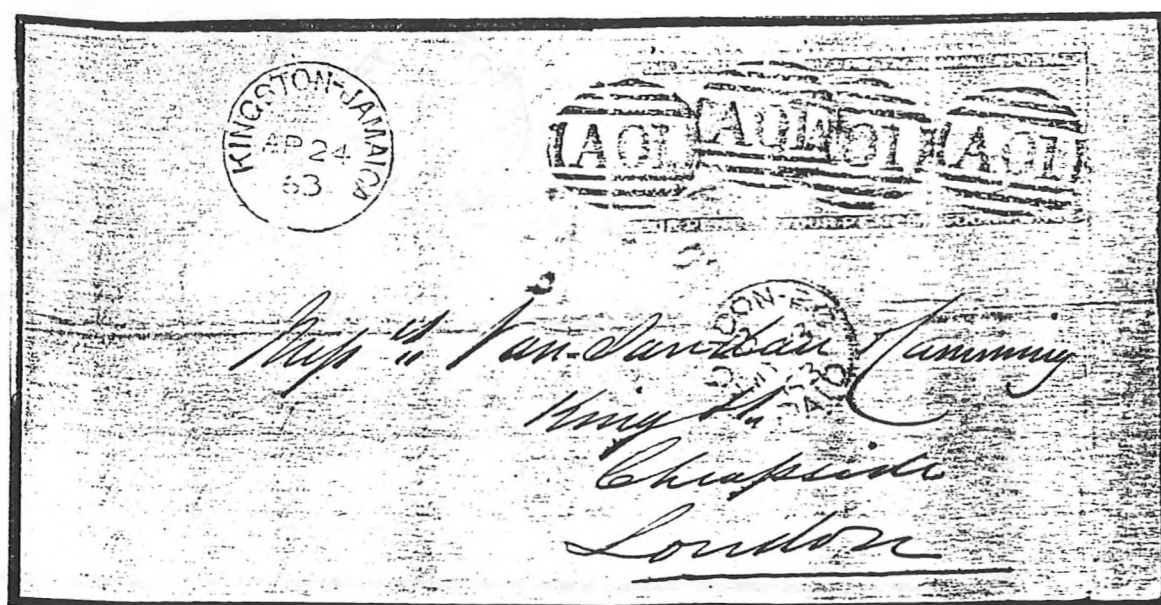
This entire shows the A01 type C obliterator used on a 6d. Pine from Kingston to Edinburgh. This example is one of two recorded on Jamaican stamps.

# KINGSTON

A01-D



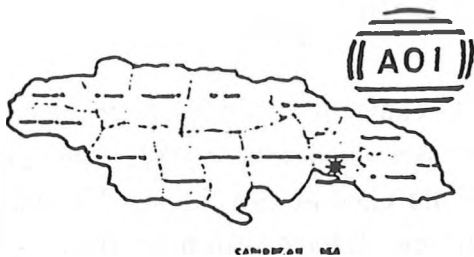
Type A01-D came into use early in 1863. It was still being used in January, 1875, becoming very heavy and blotched at the finish. Unlike types A, B, and C which all have thin bars above and below the A01, type D has thick bars.



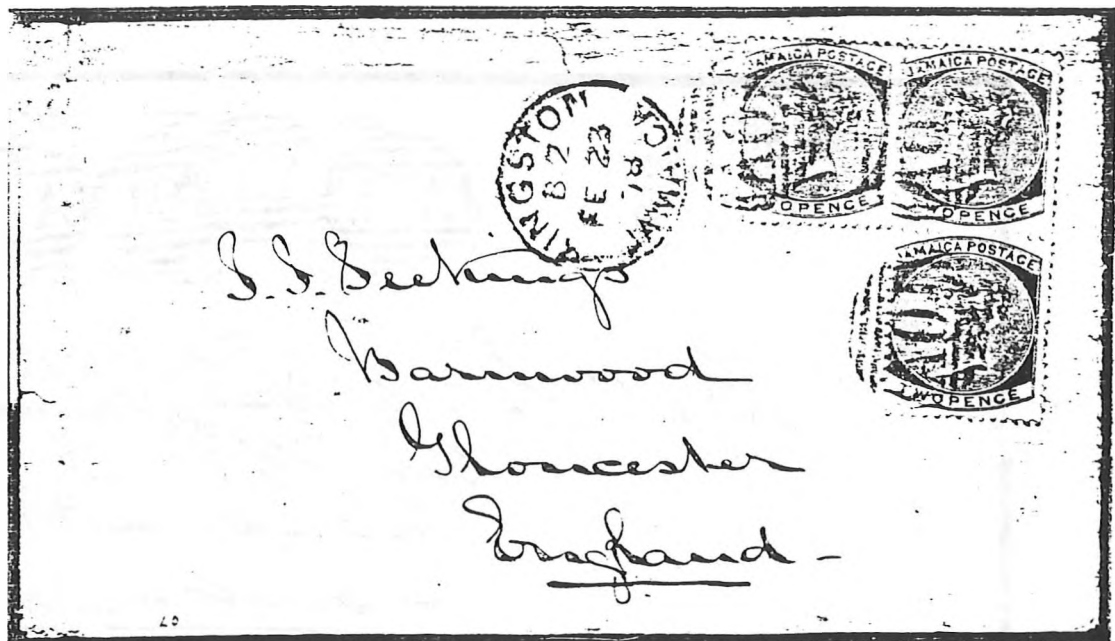
The part entire above shows early usage of the A01-D obliterator on a strip of three 4d. Pines. The Kingston C.D.S. alongside shows it was sent on 24 AP 63 and London C.D.S. below in red shows receipt on 13 MY 63.

# KINGSTON

A01-E



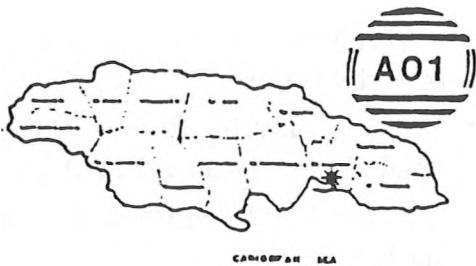
Type A01-E came into use about the middle of 1871 and lasted until about 1884. The size of the A01-E is somewhat similar to type A01-C but was much heavier.



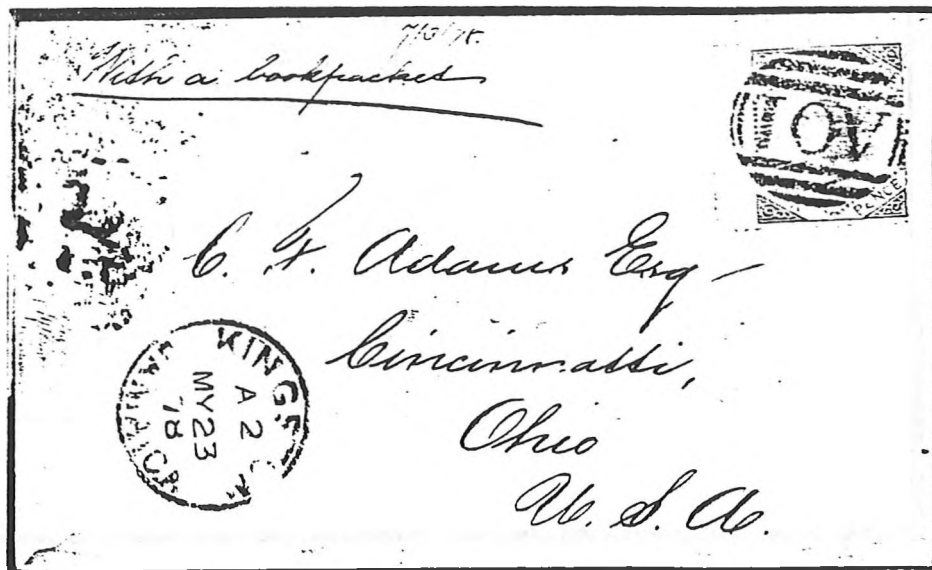
This 1878 cover from Kingston to England is franked with three 2d. Rose, crown & CC watermark, cancelled with the A01-E obliterator and with the Kingston C.D.S. alongside.

# KINGSTON

A01-F



The A01-F obliterator came into use about 1874 until Kingston ceased to use the A01 in January, 1885. Type F is the largest of all the A01 obliterations.



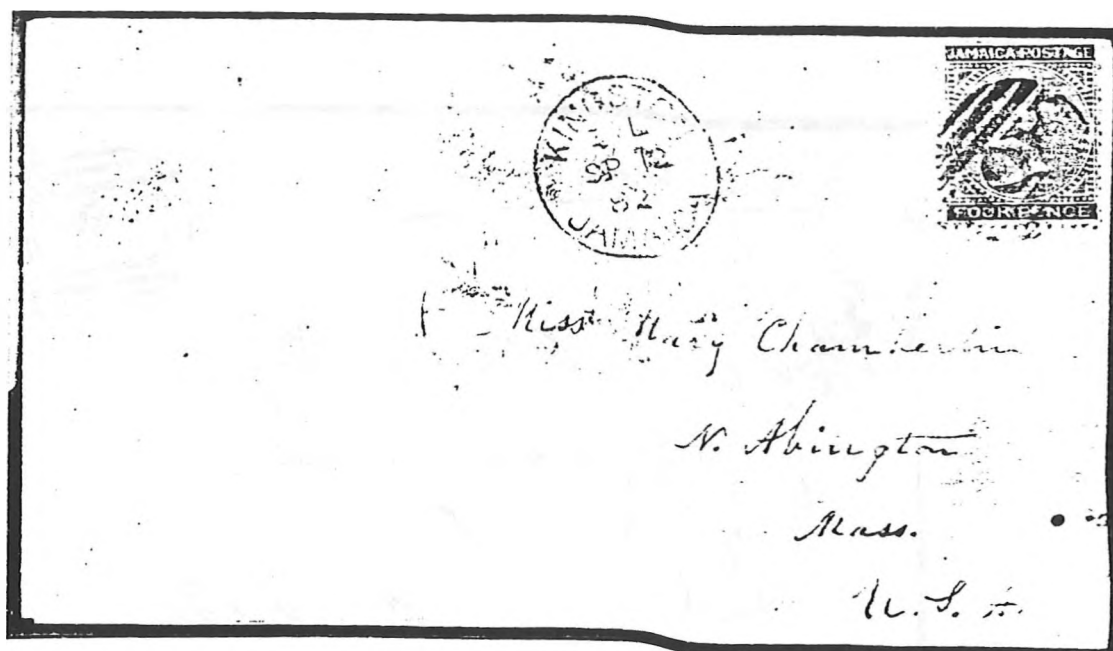
This cover from Kingston to the U.S.A. shows an A01-F obliterator on a 6d. crown & CC watermark and the Kingston C.D.S. alongside.

# KINGSTON

## A01-G



The A01-G obliterator was used concurrently with type F from 1874 to January, 1885. The last recorded date of use of an A01 obliterator is 9 JA 85—of type G—and the earliest recorded date of the Kingston "Squared Circle" date stamp which succeeded the A01 is 24 JA 85.



This cover from Kingston to the U.S.A. has an A01 type G obliterator and is frontstamped with a Kingston C.D.S. single ring 23.5 mm dated 12 SP 82, and received in New York on 20 SP 82 as indicated by the backstamp.



CORNWALL



# OBLITERATOR NUMBERS

Used On "Jamaican Issues"



1860-63 Watermarked Pineapple



1870-75 Wmkd. Crown & C.C.

1883-90 Wmkd. Crown & C.A.



1889-91 Key Plates

1890-91 Officials



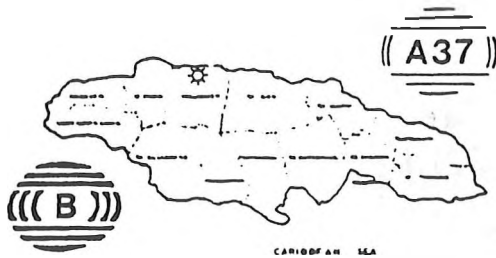
1903-04 'Arms'

1900-01 Llandovery Falls

1858-74 Fiscals

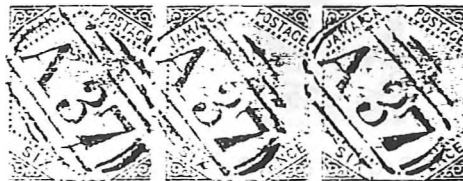
Obliterators were first used on certain Queen Victoria stamps of Great Britain. They were also used on the various Jamaican issues illustrated here. Only a few specimens of the "Arms of Jamaica" issue are also known to exist, since most of the obliterators had been retired by the time that issue was introduced.

# DUNCANS

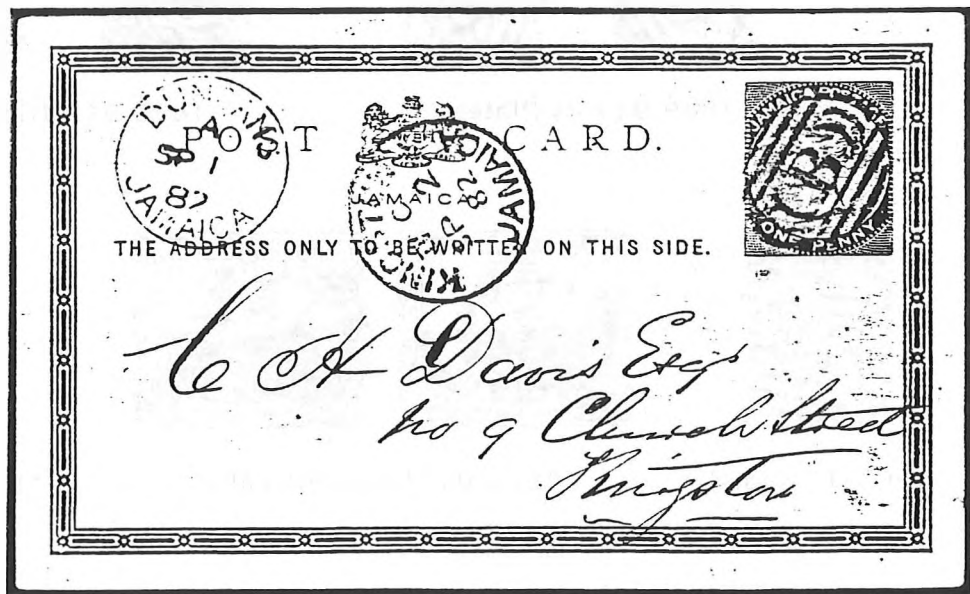


Duncans is situated in Trelawny parish and derived its name from the owner of a nearby estate. The post office was opened before 1849. Duncans used the A37 obliterator of normal type H from March 1859 to about 1880, and the letter B thereafter until the end of 1895.

- ▶ A37—The earliest recorded date is 25 March 1859; the latest recorded date is 11 June 1873.

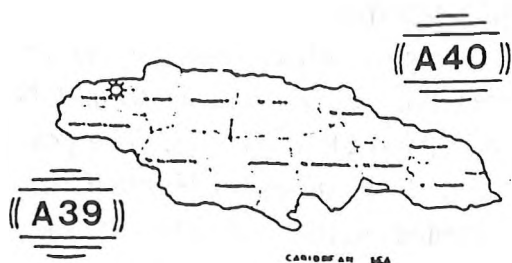


- ▶ B—The earliest recorded date is 7 June 1880; the latest recorded date is 26 October 1891.



This postcard from Duncans to Kingston shows a B obliterator and is frontstamped with the C.D.S. of Duncans type P11b index A 22 mm dated 1 SP 82 and received at Kingston the following day.

# FLINT RIVER



Flint River is half-way between Montego Bay and Lucea in the parish of Hanover. The post office used two obliterated, A40 and then A39, both of normal type H.

- ▶ A40 from March 1859 to about November 1862.

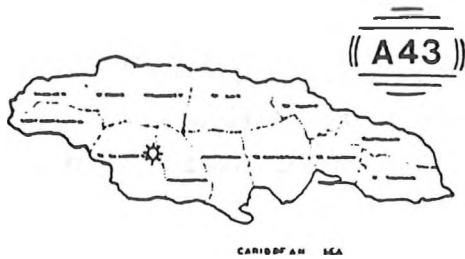


- ▶ A39 from November 1862 until about 1893.

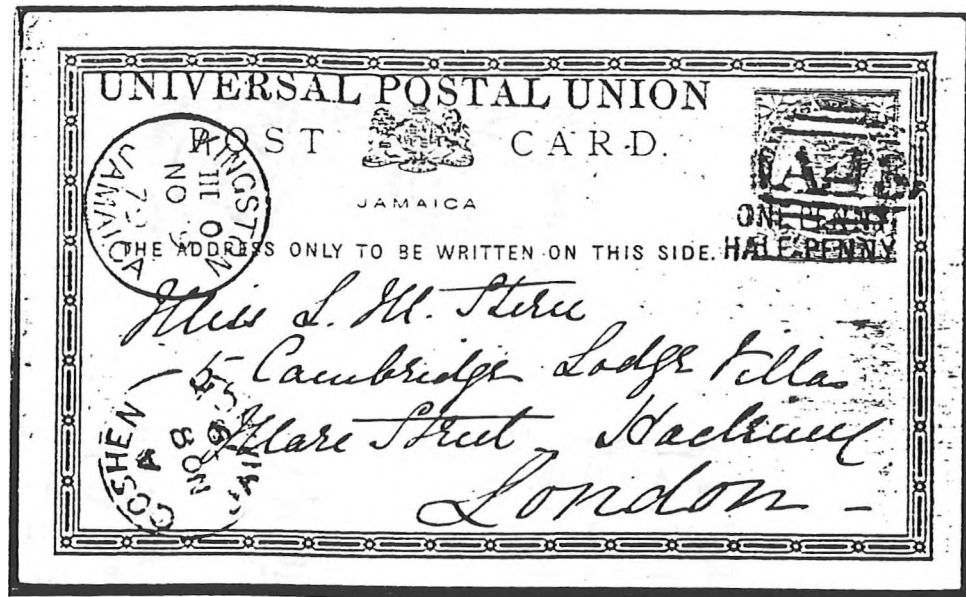


The earliest date is unrecorded; the latest recorded date is an 1892 cover bearing a 1d. key plate stamp.

# GOSHEN

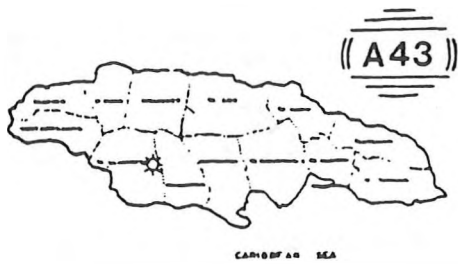


Goshen was a thriving estate in St. Elizabeth parish. The post office opened before 1788. Goshen used the A43 obliterator from 1 November 1862 until about October 1883. The post office was then moved six miles to Santa Cruz. The earliest recorded date is 8 AU 79; the latest recorded date is 23 MY 83.

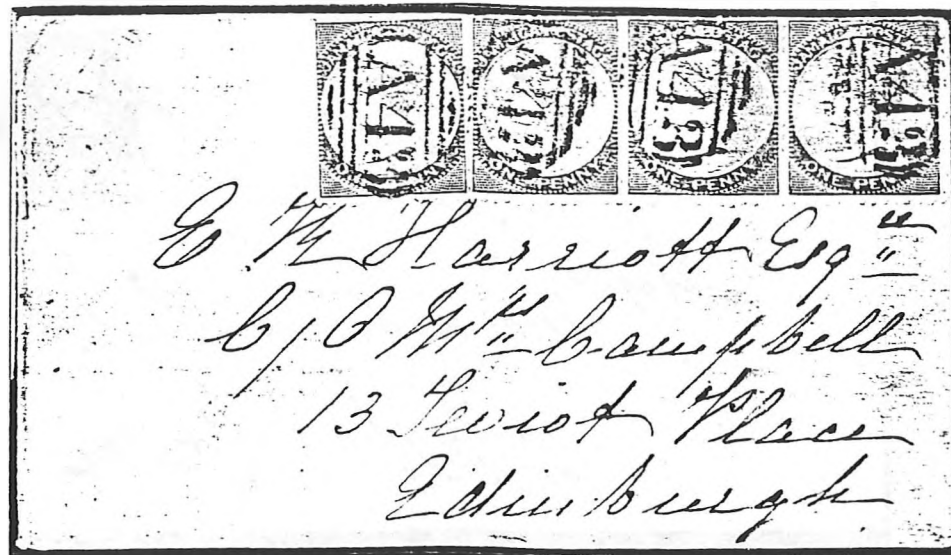


Jamaica joined the Universal Postal Union on 1 April 1877 and the first overprinted provisional postcard used the 3d. De La Rue postcard of 1877. This card was locally surcharged as shown above and made available for use on 1 AP 79. The exhibit shows usage at Goshen bearing an A43 obliterator.

# SANTA CRUZ



The post office was moved six miles from Goshen to Santa Cruz in October 1883, and used the A43 obliterator for ten years at Santa Cruz until 1893. The earliest recorded date is 7 NO 84; the latest recorded date is 18 MR 92.



This 1889 envelope addressed to Edinburgh bears a horizontal strip of four of the 1d. rose CA cancelled A43. The cover is back-stamped at Santa Cruz, Kingston, and "Carlisle Sorting Tender."

# LILLIPUT



(( A48 ))



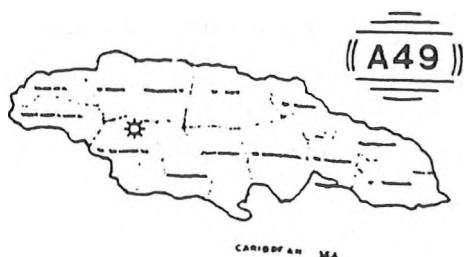
The A48 type H obliterator was used at Lilliput from 1862 to 1874, as mentioned on the previous page. The earliest recorded date is 8 NO 62; the latest recorded date is 28 JU 69.



This letter bearing an A48 obliterator was sent from Lilliput to England. It shows the Lilliput P9 C.D.S. alongside dated 23 FE 64 together with the Kingston transit marking and the London cancel. On the back appears a small 16 MR 64 receiving mark of South Molton.



# LILLIPUT

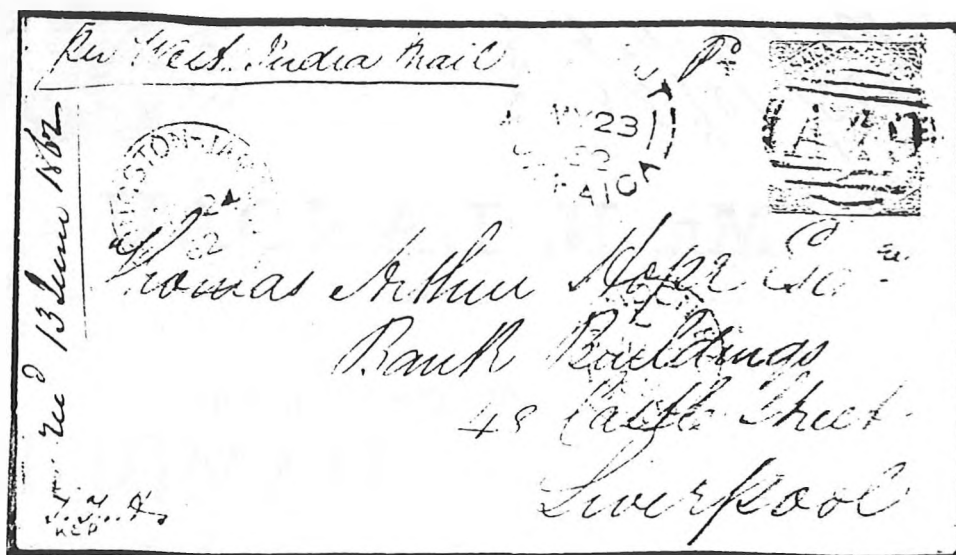


(( A49 ))

Lilliput, above the Nassau mountains of St. Elizabeth parish, was opened on 16 November 1857. It was a busy post office during the short time it was open. It used the A49 type H obliterator from 1859 to 1862, then the A48 type H from 1862 to 1874 when it was closed and moved to nearby Balaclava, situated on the railway between Montego Bay and Kingston.

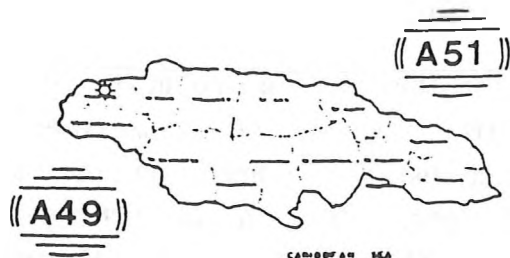


## LATEST RECORDED DATE



This 1862 cover to England is franked with a 6d. lilac watermark Pine, cancelled with the A49 type H obliterator and with the Lilliput type P9 C.D.S. alongside. The date of 23 MY 62 is the latest recorded date for the A49 obliterator at Lilliput.

# LUCEA



Situated on the northern coast of the island, Lucea is the chief town of the parish of Hanover. Lucea used two obliterations: A51 from 1859 to 1862, and A49 from 1862 to about 1890.

- ▶ A51—Earliest recorded date is 10 MY 59; latest recorded date is 23 MR 62.



- ▶ A49—Earliest recorded date is 4 MR 68; latest recorded date is 19 NO 89.

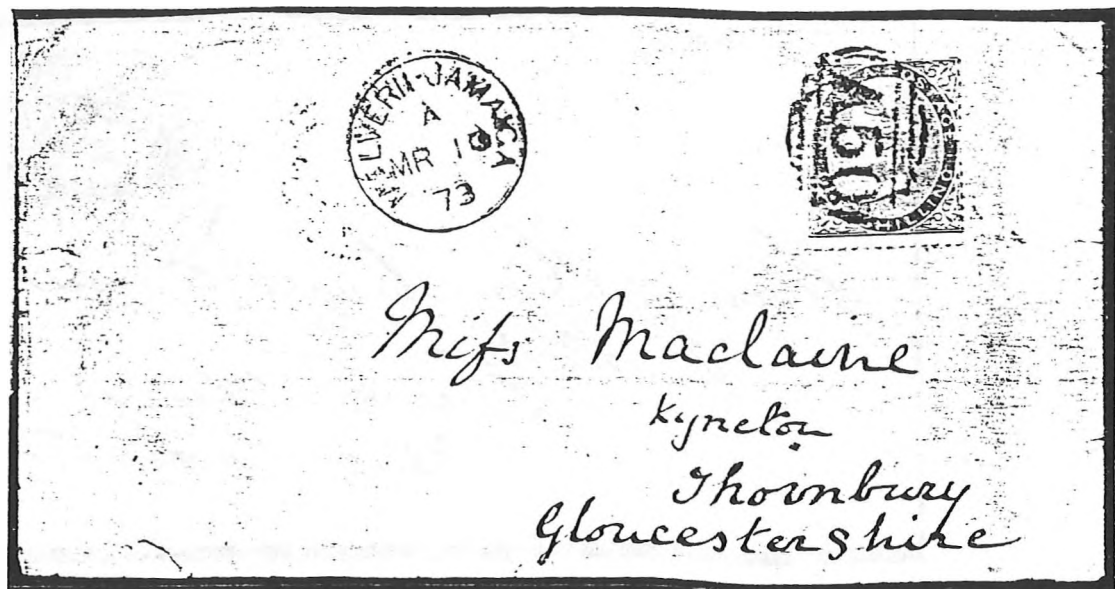


The cover from Lucea to Hamburg shows the A49 obliterator.

# MALVERN



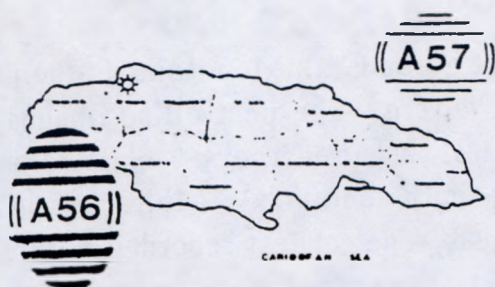
High up in the Santa Cruz Mountains is the little hill-town of Malvern. The post office opened on 1 November 1862 and used the A50 obliterator of normal type H until about 1893. Malvern is in St. Elizabeth parish. The earliest recorded date is 11 FE 68; the latest recorded date is 12 DE 87.



This cover addressed from Malvern to Gloucestershire in England shows an A50 obliterator and a Malvern C. D. S. single ring 22.5 mm index A dated 10 MR 73.



# MONTEGO BAY

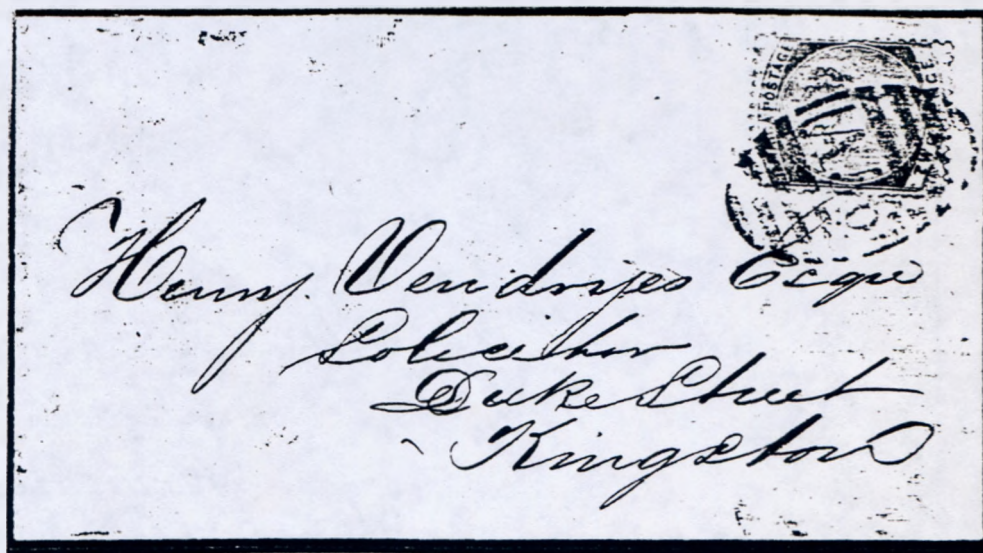


The second largest town in Jamaica is Montego Bay, the administrative and commercial center of the parish of St. James. It is internationally famous as a resort. The post office opened before 1774 and used three different oblitters: A57 and A56 type H, and A56 type K.

► A57 normal type H, from 1 March 1859 to mid-1862.



► A56 type K, from about 1876 to the end of 1885.



This cover from Montego Bay to Kingston, with a Montego Bay C.D.S. single ring 26 mm (no index) dated 10 AU 83 on the back, shows an A56 type K obliterator on a 2d. crown & C.C. watermarked stamp.

## MONTEGO BAY

Montego Bay used the A56 obliterator of normal type H from 1862 to about 1876 in addition to the A57 normal type H and the A56 type K shown on the previous page.

The "dollar" variety  
with A56-H obliterator



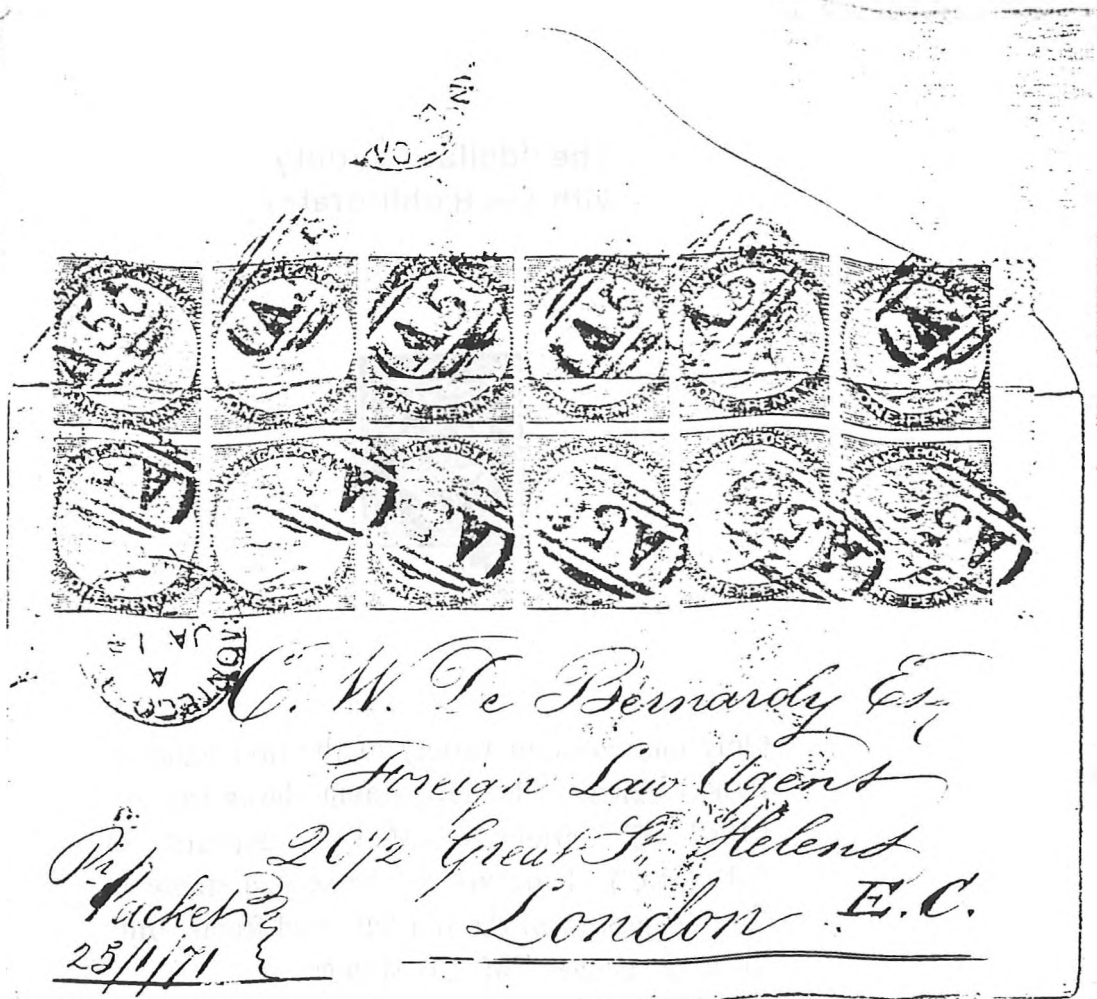
Only one constant variety of the first issue of 1860-63 exists. The 1sh. stamp shows the so-called '\$' variety ('SHILLING' appears as 'SHILLING'). It occurs on the second stamp in the second row of the top left-hand frame, only once in a sheet of 240 stamps.



# MONTEGO BAY

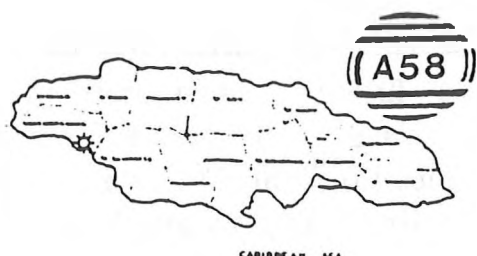


Montego Bay used the A56 obliterator of normal type H from 1862 to about 1876 in addition to the A57 normal type H and the A56 type K shown on the previous page.

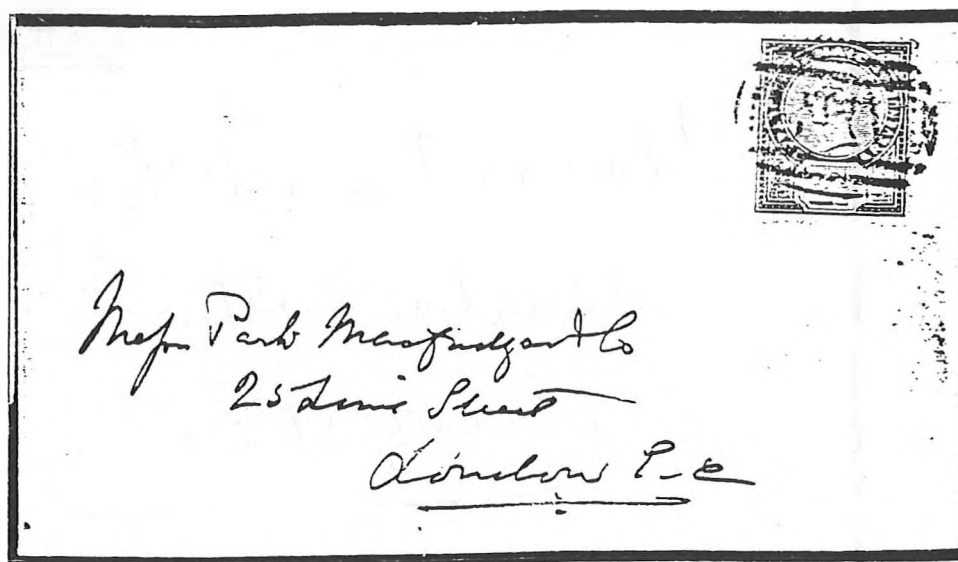


This letter was sent on 19 JA 71 from Montego Bay and cancelled with the A56 type H obliterator. The block of twelve one penny stamps paid the shilling rate to England for a letter over 1/2 ounce.

# BLUEFIELDS

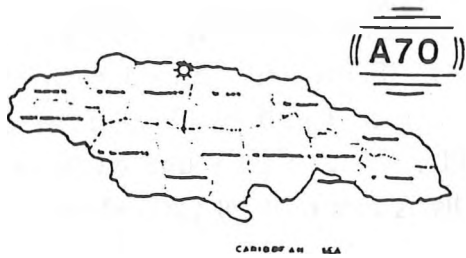


Bluefields is on the coast in Westmoreland parish. The post office opened on 1 January 1866 and used the A58 type J obliterator until at least 1901. This obliterator can be found on both the Llandovery Falls issues of 1900 (below) and 1901.

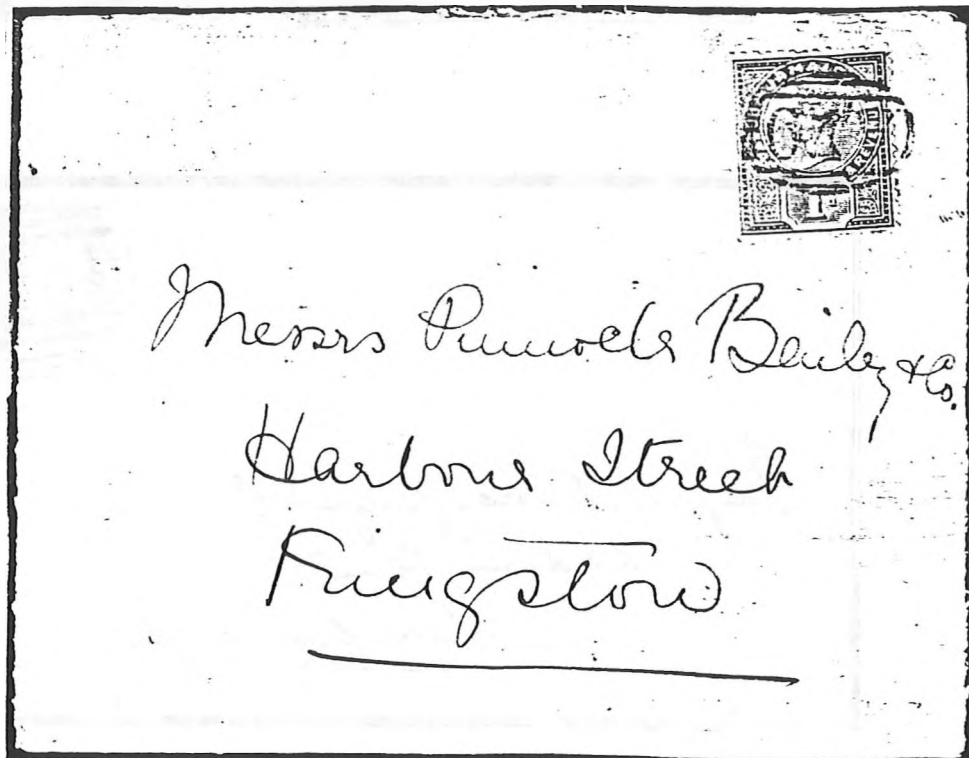


This envelope from Bluefields to London via Kingston shows an A58 type J obliterator and backstamped with a Bluefields C.D.S. single ring 23 mm dated 29 AP 95. It also shows a Kingston single ring index 1F dated 30 AP 95 and received in London on 15 MY 96 as recorded by an 'east end' cancel in red.

## RIO BUENO



Rio Bueno, in Trelawny parish, was the place where Columbus first watered his ships when he discovered the island. The post office opened before 1774 and used the A70 obliterator of normal type H from 1 March 1859 to about 1893. The earliest recorded date is 29 MR 60; the latest recorded date is 30 MY 92.



This letter from Rio Bueno to Kingston shows an A70 obliterator and is backstamped with a Rio Bueno C.D.S. single ring 23.5 mm dated 23 MY 92 and a Kingston squared circle index 3D dated 24 MY 92.



# SAVANNA-LA-MAR



Savanna-La-Mar is the principal town of the parish of Westmoreland. It was founded in 1703, but subsequently destroyed several times by hurricanes. Savanna-La-Mar used the A75 obliterator of two types, H and L.

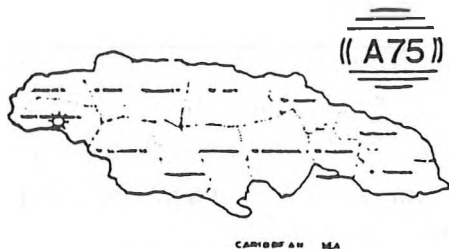
ONLY TWO EXAMPLES  
RECORDED ON JAMAICAN STAMPS



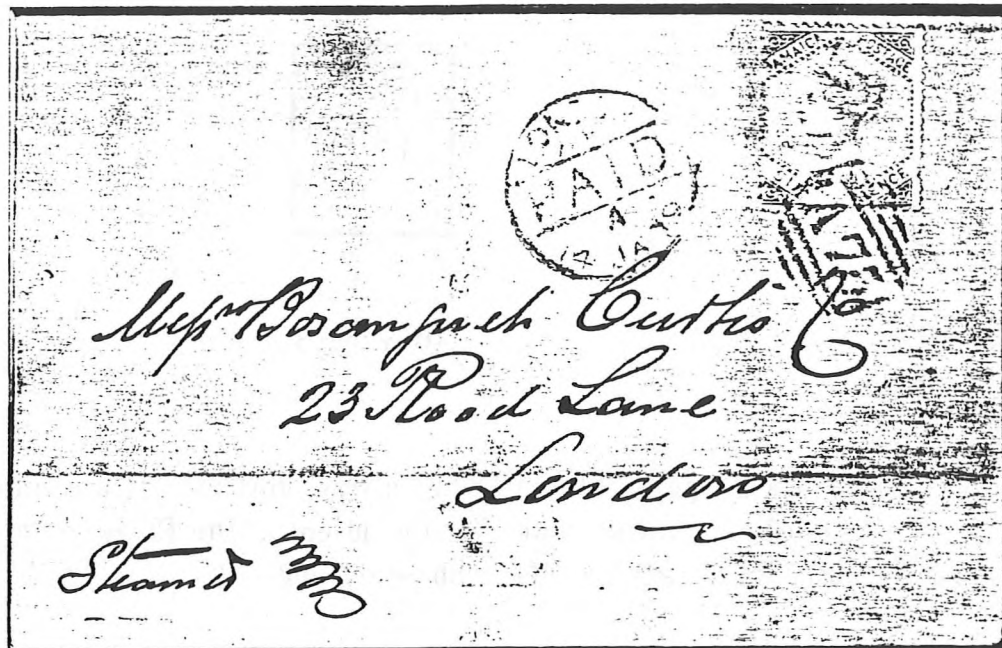
4d. PINES

The A75 type H obliterator had a very short life. It was either lost, stolen, or strayed soon after the advent of the Pines issue. It was used from 1 March 1859 to about the end of 1860.

# SAVANNA-LA-MAR



Savanna-La-Mar also used the A75 type L obliterator from about the end of 1861 to the middle of 1892. There is only one other obliterator of this type, the A36L. The earliest recorded date is 5 OC 65; the latest recorded date is 7 JA 90.



The entire shows the A75 type L obliterator. It is backstamped with a Savanna-La-Mar C.D.S. dated 23 DE 78 and arrived at Kingston on 24 DE 78. It reached its final destination in London on 14 JA 79.

# OBLITERATOR NUMBERS

## Relative Ranking

Obliterator numbers like the D and A58 type H are very elusive and world famous. Others such as A01F and A38H are frequently recorded. Until lately it was impossible to establish the relative ranking among all the 112 obliterator numbers (including variations such as "blue inks")\*. In 1968 the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group published the composite statistics of the recordings of every known obliterated stamp in the collections of 20 Jamaica specialists in the group. *From this information this exhibitor established the relative ranking in sequence of the obliterator numbers, as shown in this table:*

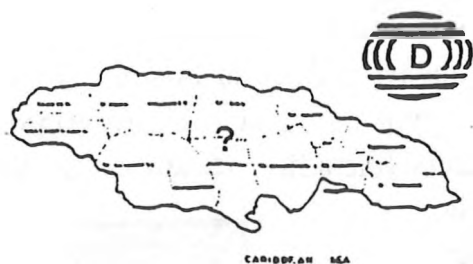


the "D"

D	615	622	A45	A38N	201	A51	A01D
A58H	598	F80	647	A60M	A47	A59	A56K
A36H	A80 Sm.	A58J	F98	A79K	A65	A35	A52
A01C	A79J	A63	F96	F81	193	A66	A75L
A75H	C	E58	A53 RE	A40	B	A33	640
A79H	F97	A41	A27	A82M	A43	A32	A76O
A79H-7	A39	E06	A36L	A46	A55	A28H	A73
A80 Lg.	642	A70	A48	A61	A67	A71	A01E
A	A60H	A72	A64blue	A37	F95	A64	A56H
A40blue	196	A44	E	A31	A34	A49	A01B
A41vio.	A81k	G15	G16	A28M	A76H	A62	A01G
A36 Ms.	A83M	G14	E30	A29	A50	A57	A01A
A54H	199	A53 OR	A74	A77	A68	A78	A01F
631	G13	A54J	A69	617	A42	A30	A38H

\* Note that some post offices used more than one obliterator. This happened when three post offices were closed around 1 November 1862 and obliterator numbers A38 to A59 were re-allocated to other post towns in alphabetical sequence.

# EMERGENCY OBLITERATORS



Five emergency obliterators were sent from London in 1873 to be used as needed. They were lettered A through E. They differed in format from regular obliterators by having three arcs on each side of the letters rather than two. No official records have been found which assigned these marks to specific offices, but covers have proven the usage of A at Milk River, B at Duncans, and C at Laughlands. No covers bearing a D or an E obliterator have been recorded.

ONLY THREE RECORDED EXAMPLES



the "D"

# UNKNOWN TOWN



One of the few remaining mysteries of Jamaican Obliterator Postal History is the determination of where the "E" obliterator was used. Like A, B, C, and D it was used in emergencies or at a new office until it received its proper number from England. However, no records or covers showing the strike have come to light over the past century.



The "E" obliterator has been observed only on CC watermarked stamps.

# BALACLAVA



BalACLava is 43 miles from Montego Bay on the railway which follows the course of the Black river through the sugar canefields. It is close to the Nassau Mountains in St. Elizabeth parish and south-east of the Cock Pit country. The post office was opened in 1875 when nearby Lilliput was closed.

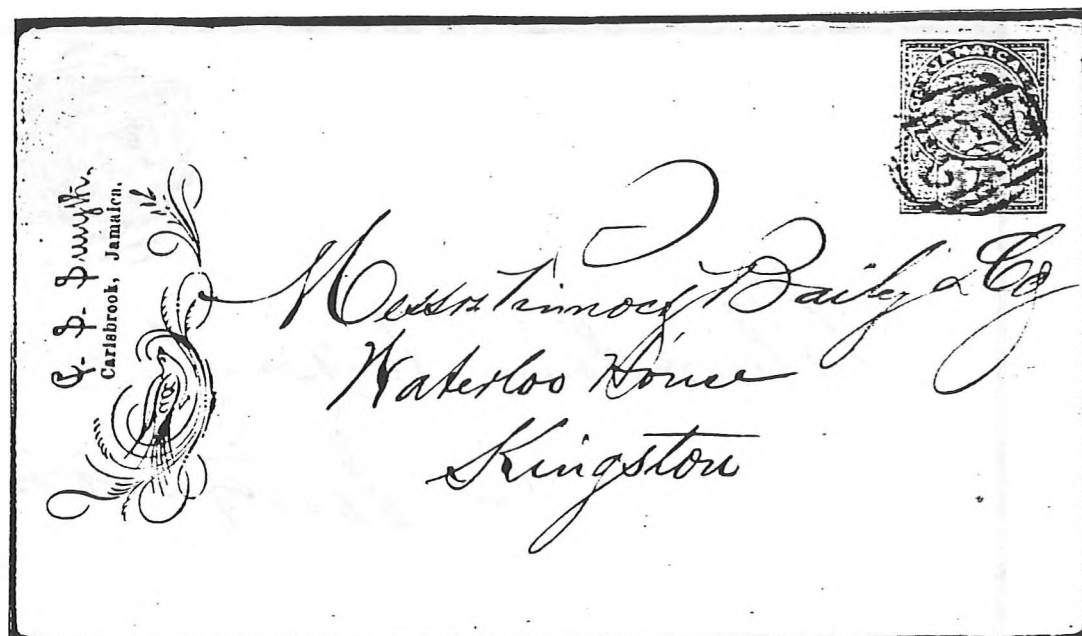


The A79 type K obliterator was used from 1876 to about 1895.

## MIDDLE QUARTERS

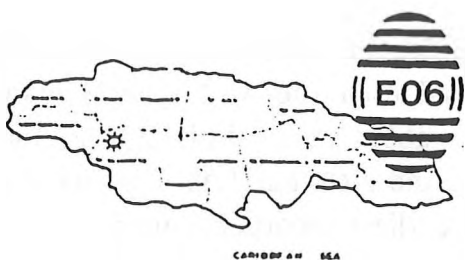


The post office at Middle Quarters opened in May 1876 and used the A.82 type M obliterator from 1876 to about 1894. This type is similar to that of A.28. and A.60. but has only one dot after the A. The earliest recorded date is 30 JU 82; the latest recorded date is 6 JY 92.



This 1891 cover from Middle Quarters to Kingston shows an A82 obliterator. It is backstamped with a Middle Quarters C.D.S. single ring 22 mm index AC dated 25 NO 91, and a Kingston squared circle showing receipt the next day.

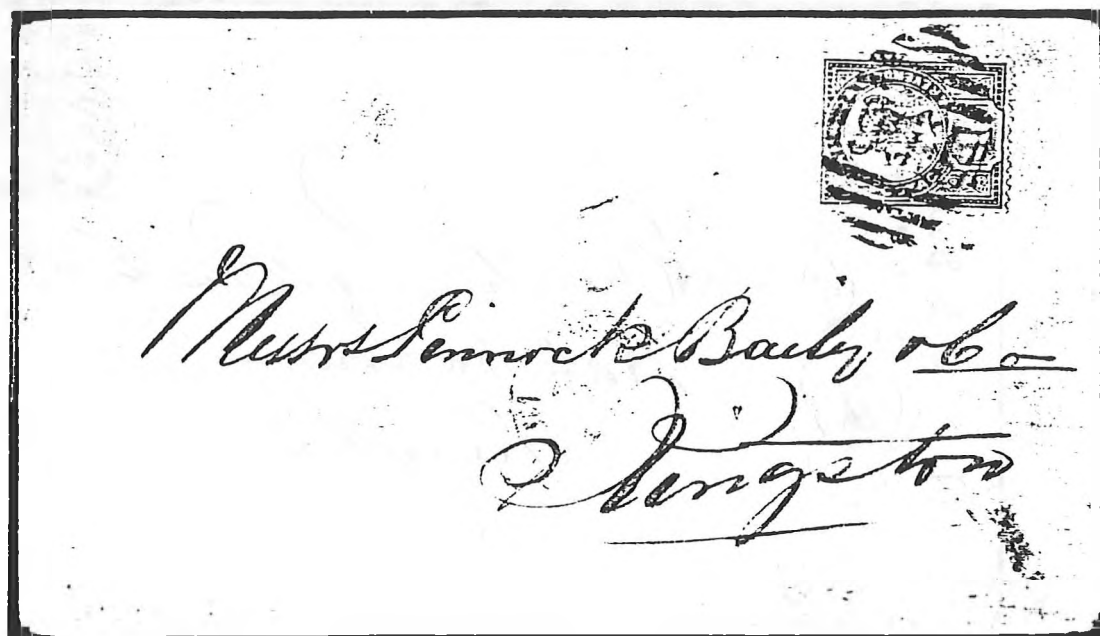
# NEWMARKET



Newmarket is a small market town in St. Elizabeth parish about ten miles north of Black River. The post office opened in February, 1869, and used the E06 obliterator type K from January 1869 until the middle 1890's. The earliest recorded date is 9 MY 76; the latest recorded date is 18 NO 91.



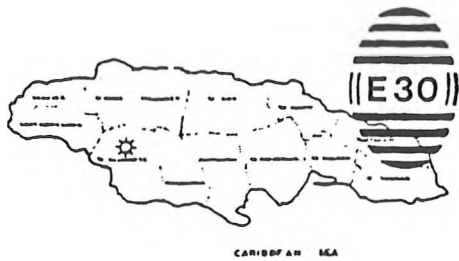
LATEST RECORDED DATE



This cover shows the latest recorded date on the reverse and is from Newmarket to Kingston with an E06 obliterator on the front.

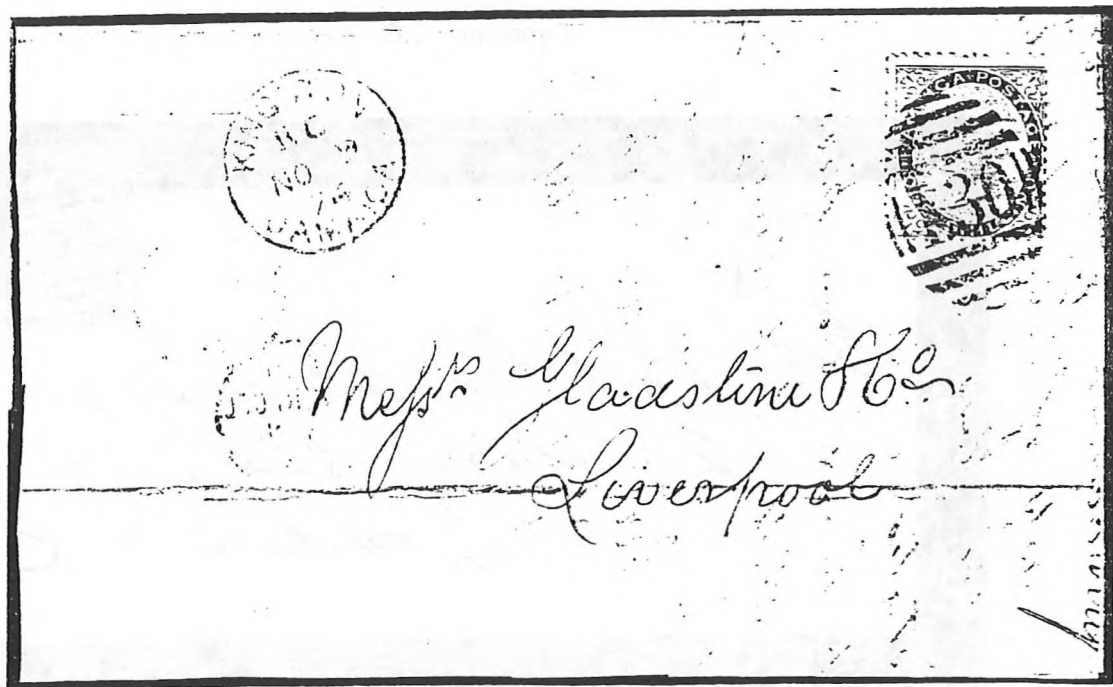


# LACOVIA



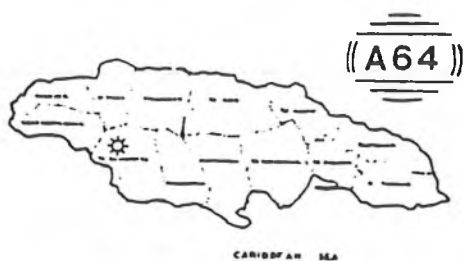
Lacovia is a direct corruption of the Spanish name La Aqua Via, meaning "by the way of the lake." Lacovia is situated in St. Elizabeth parish. The post office was opened in 1771 and it used the E30 obliterator of type K (sent from London on 17 March 1869) until about 1890. The earliest recorded date is 8 NO 74; the latest recorded date is 3 SP 88.

## EARLIEST RECORDED DATE



This cover was sent from the village of Lacovia to Liverpool. There is a clear strike of the E30 obliterator. It also has an 8 November 1874 Lacovia backstamp. The Kingston transit mark is on the front, the Liverpool receipt mark is on the back. (The shilling stamp is watermarked crown & C.C.)

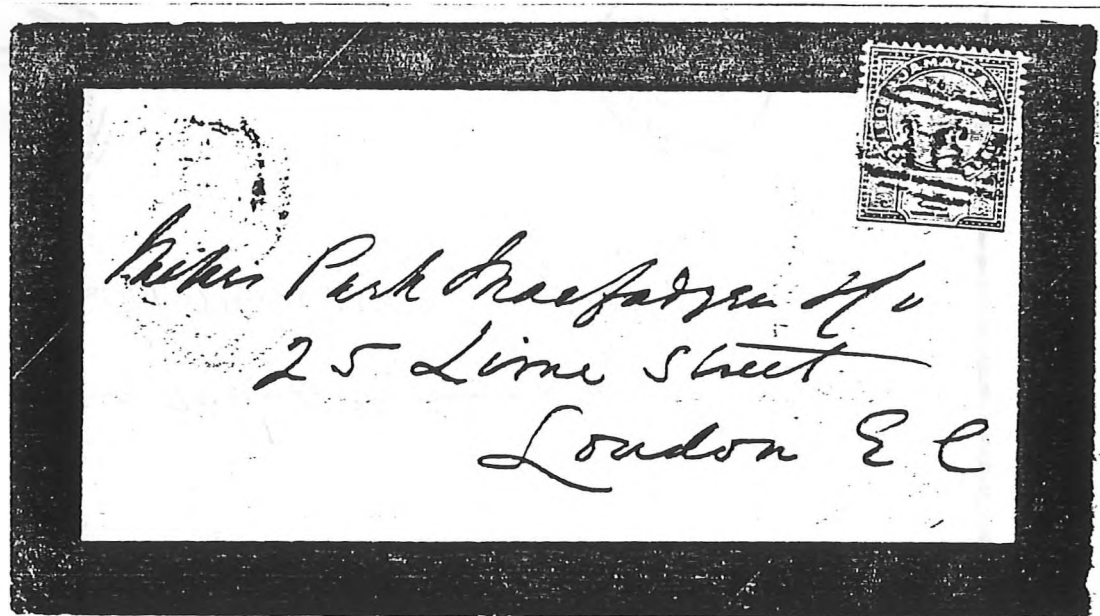
# LACOVIA



In addition to using the E30 type K obliterator, Lacovia also used the A64 type H obliterator from 1891 to about 1896.

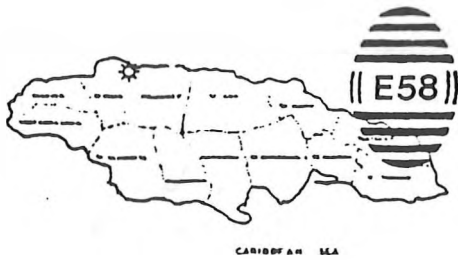


Inverted "Official"  
Overprint - S.G. 01e

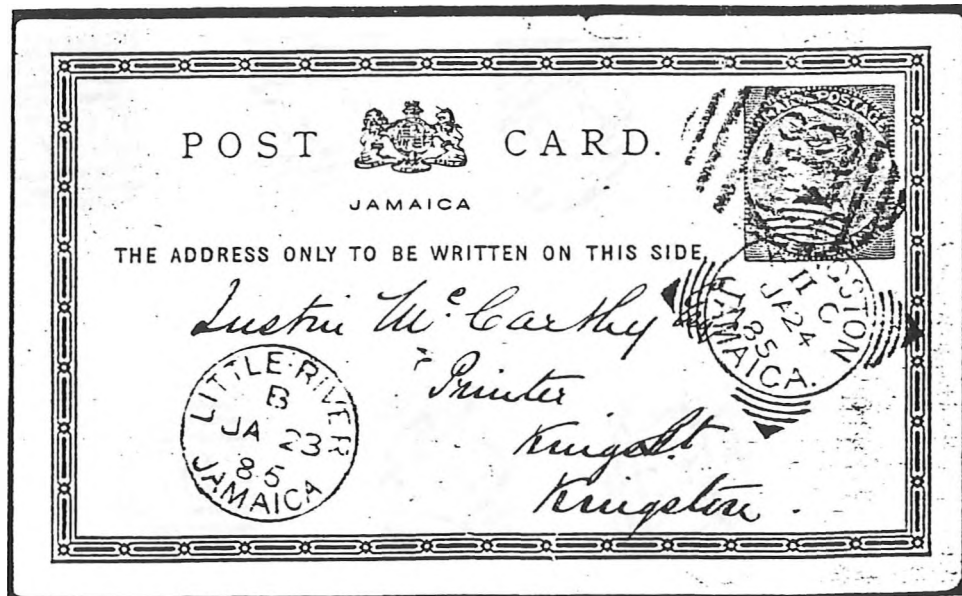


The mourning letter shows an A64 obliterator and is backstamped with a Lacovia single ring datestamp of 24 JU 95. It transited through Kingston the following day and arrived in London on 10 JY 95.

# LITTLE RIVER

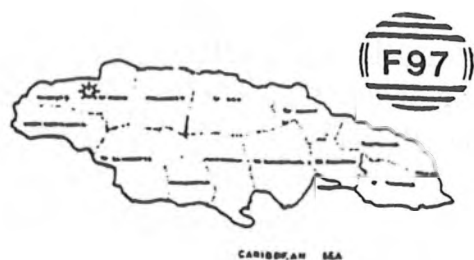


The river used to mark the boundary between two great landowning families: "The Barretts took from the Little River to Falmouth and the Lawrences from the Little River to Montego Bay." Close by is Cinnamon Hill, former property of the Barrett family which produced the poetess, Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861). The post office opened at Little River in 1810.



The E58 type K obliterator was used from 1869 to about 1894. This type is the largest of those used in Jamaica. Because of its size, it is impossible to obtain a complete 'strike' on a single stamp, which is shown on the postcard dated 23 JA 85 above.

# COPSE

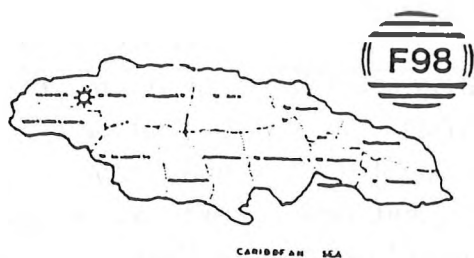


The old estate house at Copse, five miles south of Montego Bay, has a room built into the outside staircase and was used as a slave cell. The post office opened in February 1873, closed on 28 February 1899, and reopened again on 21 March 1947.

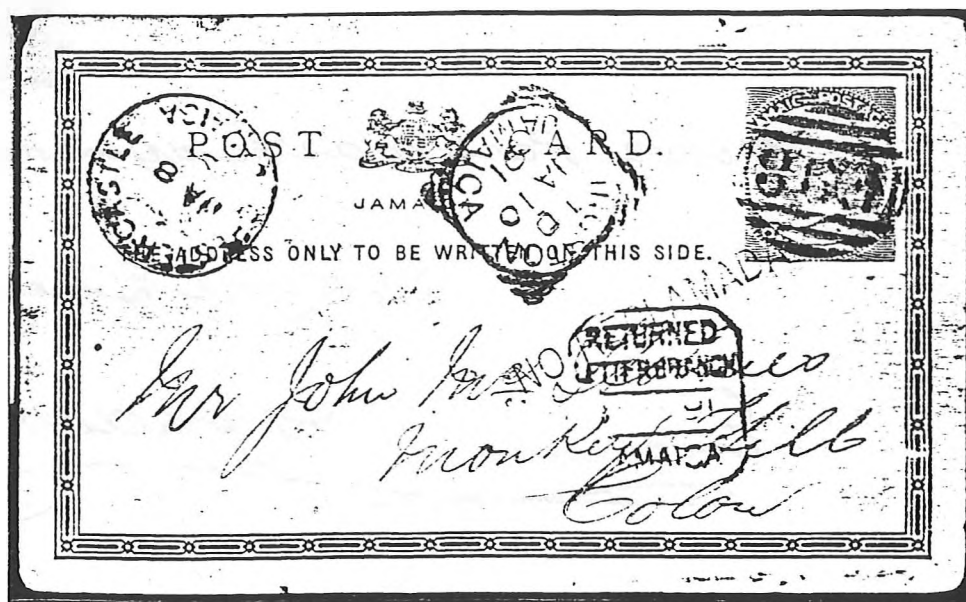


Copse used the F97 obliterator of type O from 1873 to 1891. It is known on the 2-1/2d. key plate issue of February 1891 as shown above. This confirms its use in that year.

# CHESTER CASTLE



Chester Castle is a small village 20 miles south of Montego Bay in Hanover parish. The post office was opened in February 1872 and used the F98 type O obliterator from October 1872 to about 1894. It is an illusive item to obtain on Cover since the earliest date is not recorded; the latest recorded date is 7 SP 92.

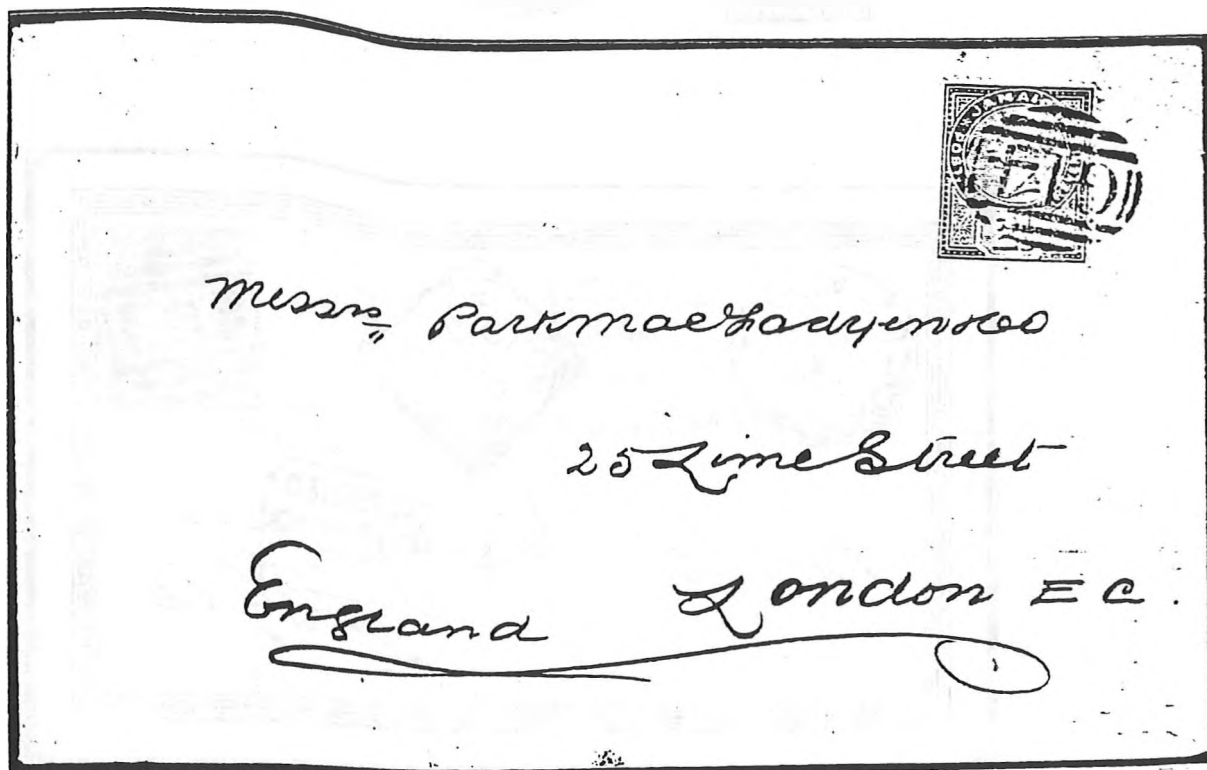


This postcard shows the F98 obliterator and a Chester Castle C.D.S. dated 8 JA 91. It was unclaimed in Colon as indicated by the "No Reclamada" cancel. It was then returned to Kingston and stamped with the M42 Returned Letter Branch cancellation.

# HAMPDEN

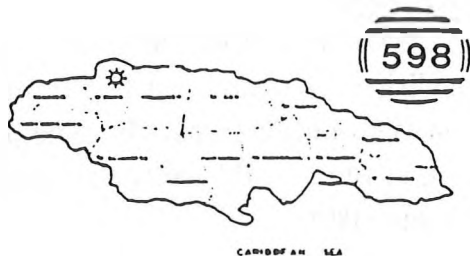


This is one of several northside estates in Trelawny parish specializing in the manufacture of a highly prized rum. The post office opened in June 1873 and used the G14 obliterator of type O from 1873 to about 1903. It was one of the last numbers to be retired. The earliest recorded date is 20 JY 89; the Latest recorded date is 15 DE 02.



In 1875 the Universal Postal Union rate of 2-1/2d. came into operation. This letter from Hampden to London shows a 2-1/2d. key plate issue with a G14 obliterator. It is backstamped with a C.D.S. single ring Hampden cancel 235 mm index B and dated 10 MY 97. It was received in London on 27 MY 97.

# ADELPHI



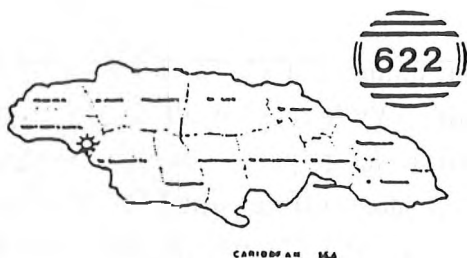
(598)

Adelphi is in St. James parish to the west of the Queen of Spain's Valley—one of those fertile valleys used over long years for sugar cane cultivation. The post office opened in 1876 at about the same time the 598 obliterator was sent from London. The impression of this obliterator number is usually faint.



598 was used very late and not retired until 1901. It can be found on the red Llandoverly Falls Issue of 1900.

# KINGS



The area between Bluefields and Kings (renamed Whitehouse in 1892) is noted for its sugar production established by early settlers around 1667. Kings is in Westmoreland parish. The post office at Kings used the 622 obliterator of type O from 1876 to about 1892.



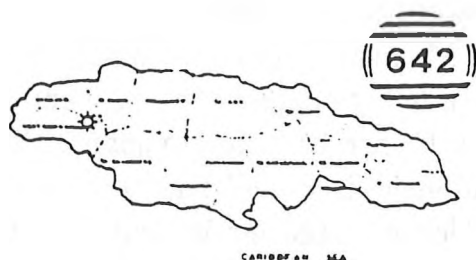
LATEST RECORDED DATE



The postcard shows the "Returned Letter Branch" and "Unclaimed" postmarks of types M42 and M46, respectively. It is backstamped with a Kingston squared circle dated 10 FEB 91, and is frontstamped with a similar postmark a month later.

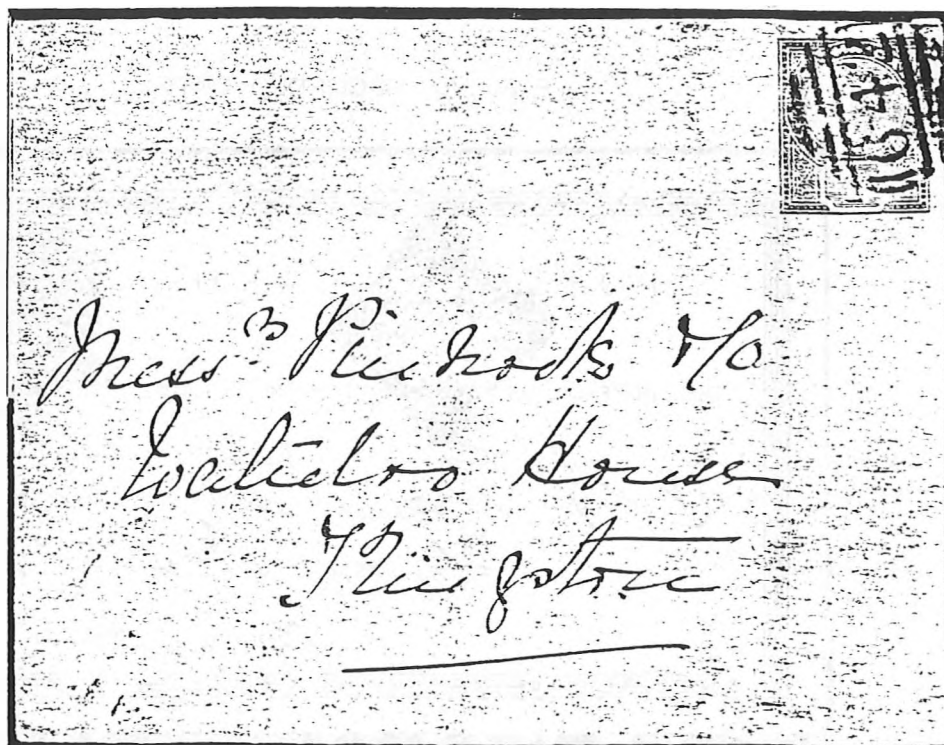


# PETERSFIELD



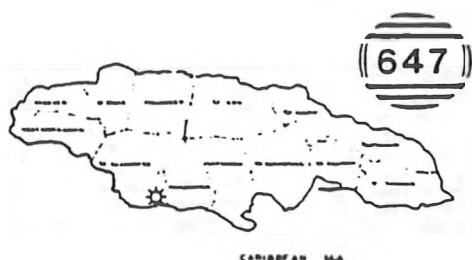
Petersfield is a very small village in the parish of Westmoreland, about six miles from Savanna La Mar. The post office opened in 1875 using the 642 obliterator type O from about 1876 to about 1896. The earliest recorded date is 1 AP 91; the latest recorded date is 13 JY 92.

## LATEST RECORDED DATE



This cover shows the 642 obliterator used at the village of Petersfield in 1892.

# SOUTHFIELD

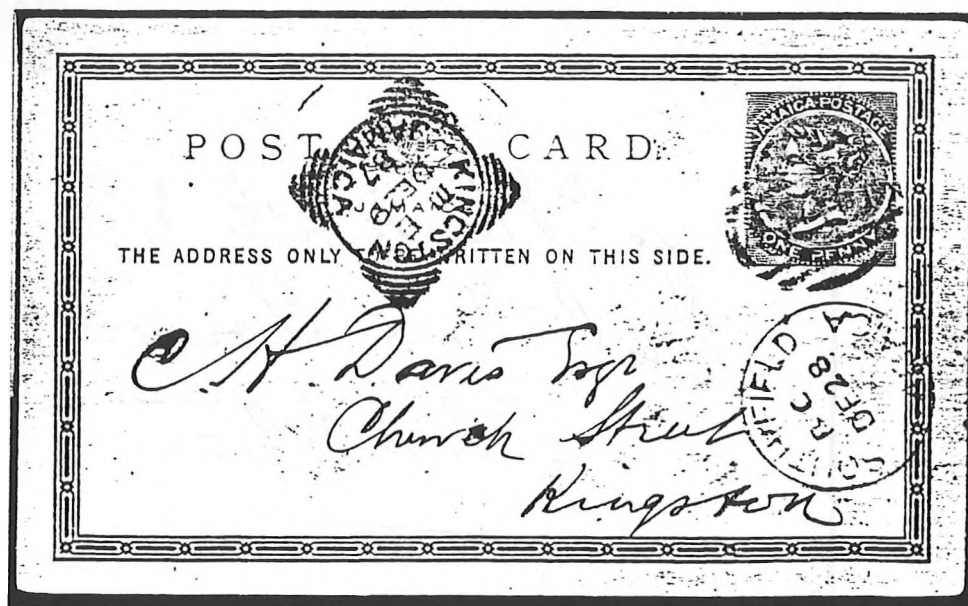


Southfield is located at the southern-most tip of the Santa Cruz Mountains just five miles from Port Kaizer which today handles the shipment of ore mined by the Kaizer Bauxite Company. To the east of Southfield is the district known as 'Bull Savana' which is noted for its cattle. The

post office in St. Elizabeth parish opened about August 1875 and used the 647 obliterator from about 1876 to the late 1890's.



## EARLIEST RECORDED DATE



This postcard from Southfield to Kingston has a Southfield's C.D.S. single ring 24 mm index BC dated 28 DE (87) and a Kingston squared circle confirming receipt the next day, 29 DE 87. It is also cancelled with a 647 obliterator.

MIDDLESEX (north)



# OBLITERATOR NUMBERS

## Stamp Ranking

In addition to the Obliterator Ranking shown on a previous frame, the Stamp Ranking was also established from the same information published by the British Caribbean Study Group. The ranking of the Jamaican Issues, Scott numbers 1 through 27 (excluding 14, 15, and 23), are shown in this table. The index shows that the 2-1/2d. overprint is the highest ranked issue. The 2d. crown & C.C. is the lowest.



2-1/2d. O'print



3d. Crown & C.A.



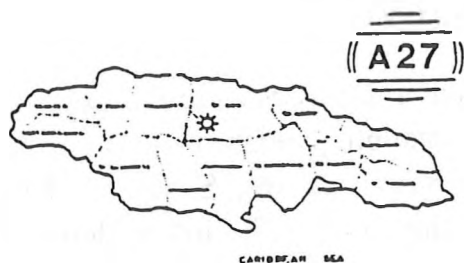
1d. Key Plate



2d. Crown & C.C.

Rank	Scott #	Description	Color
1	27	2½d. Overprint	Orange
2	21	3d. Crown & C.A.	Green
3	26	2½d. Key Plate	Lilac & Ultramarine
4	12	1sh. Crown & C.C.	Brown
5	9	3d. Crown & C.C.	Green
6	17	1d. Crown & C.A.	Blue
7	2	2d. Pineapple	Red
8	19	2d. Crown & C.A.	Red
9	4	4d. Pineapple	Orange
10	3	3d. Pineapple	Green
11	10	4d. Crown & C.C.	Orange
12	25	2d. Key Plate	Green
13	11	6d. Crown & C.C.	Purple
14	5	6d. Pineapple	Purple
15	6	1sh. Pineapple	Brown
16	22	4d. Crown & C.A.	Orange-Brown
17	16	½d. Crown & C.A.	Green
18	13	½d. Crown & C.C.	Claret
19	1	1d. Pineapple	Blue
20	18	1d. Crown & C.A.	Red
21	20	2d. Crown & C.A.	Grey
22	7	1d. Crown & C.C.	Blue
23	24	1d. Key Plate	Lilac & Red-violet
24	8	2d. Crown & C.C.	Red

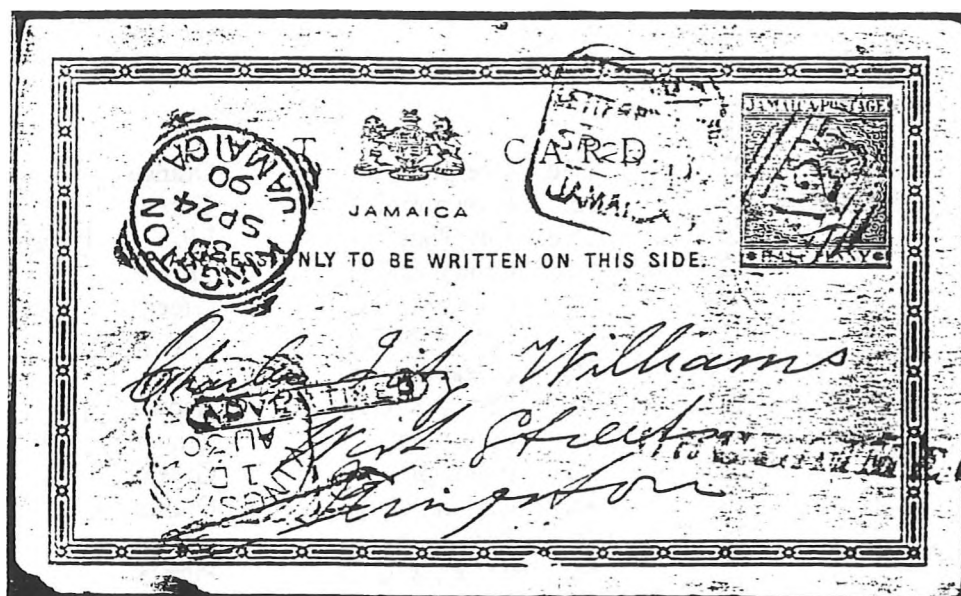
# ALEXANDRIA



(A27)

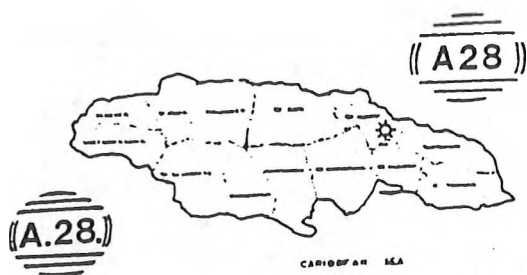


Alexandria is a crossroads village in St. Ann parish. It owes its name to an early nineteenth century Scottish planter called John Alexander. The A27 obliterator, type H, was used from June 1859 to mid-1891.



The postcard with A27 obliterator from Alexandria shows the "Returned Letter Branch," "Unclaimed" and "Advertised" postmarks of types M42, M45, and M46 respectively (reference: 1928 Jamaica Handbook, page 239).

# ANNOTTO BAY

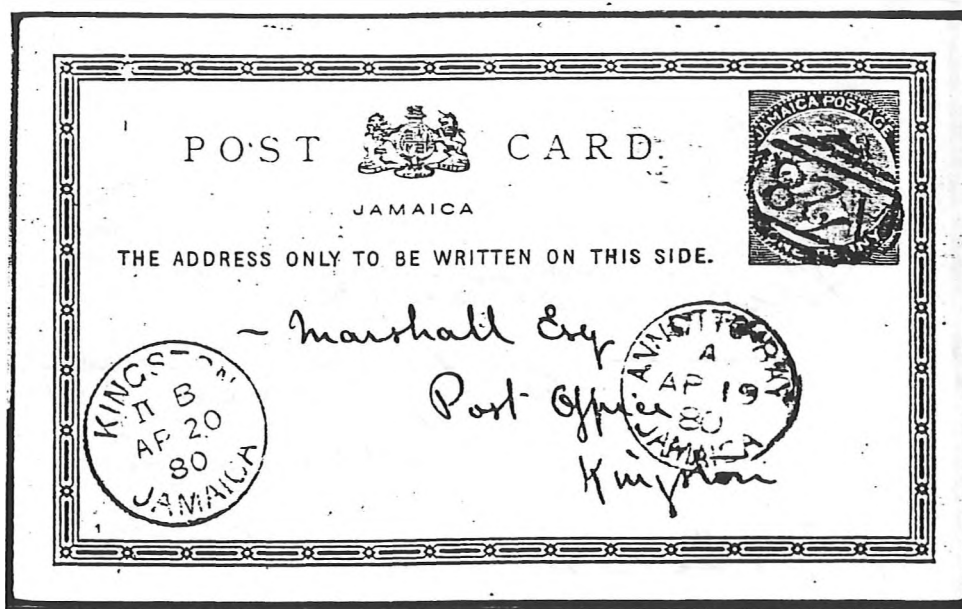


Annotto Bay took its name from a small berry that grew in the region around the bay. It produced a bright yellow dye used for coloring butter, cheese, and other foods. Annotto Bay used two obliterations, A28 types H and M. The type M is similar to the Ocho Rios A.60.

- ▶ A28 type H was used from 1 March 1859 to about 1876.

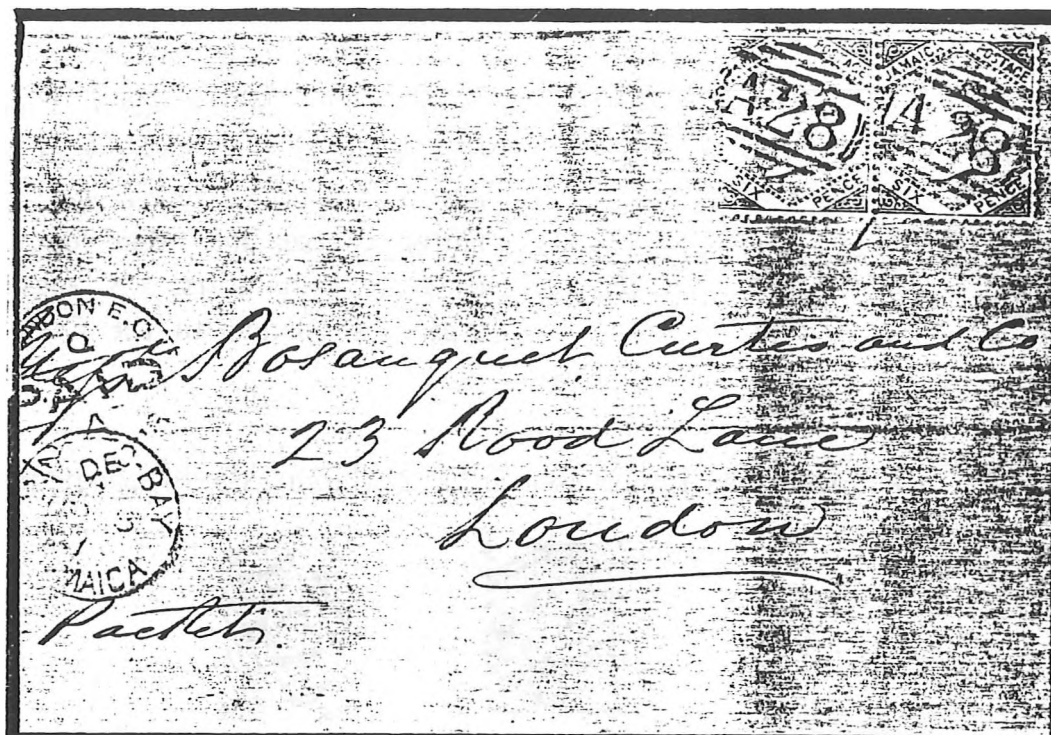


- ▶ A.28. type M was used from about 1876 to early 1885. With this type the A is narrow and has very short serifs. There are periods after the A and after the number as shown on this postcard:

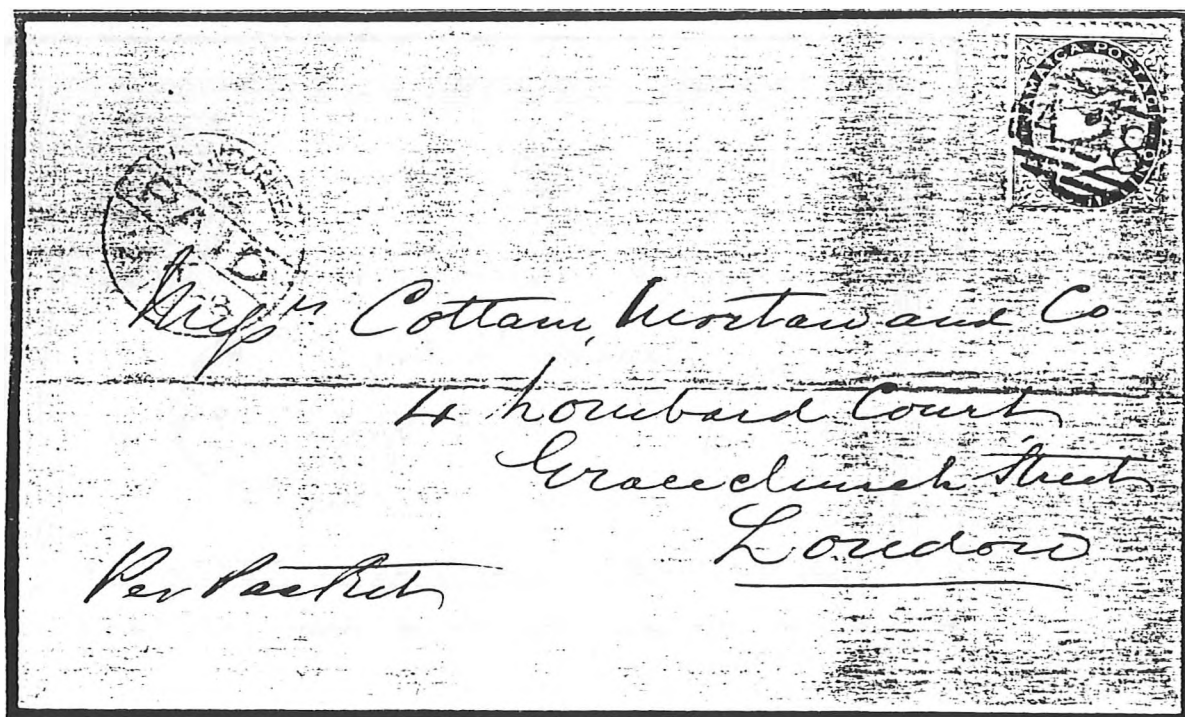




# ANNOTTO BAY

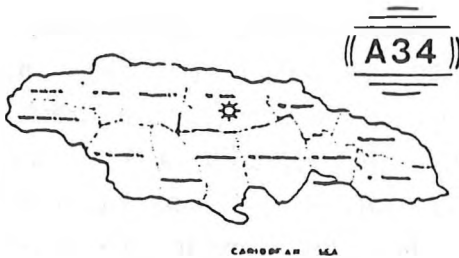


Here are two entires from Annotto Bay with A.28. type M obliterations to London. Note the similar handwriting (particularly the word "Packet") suggesting the same correspondent wrote to different addresses in the same year, five months apart.





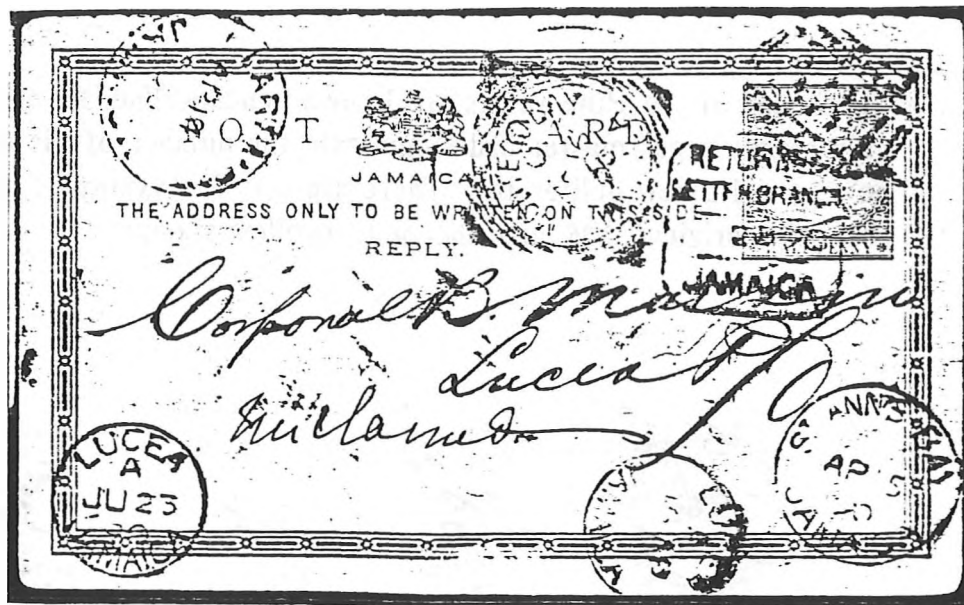
# CLAREMONT



Postmaster's Salary—\$25/Year

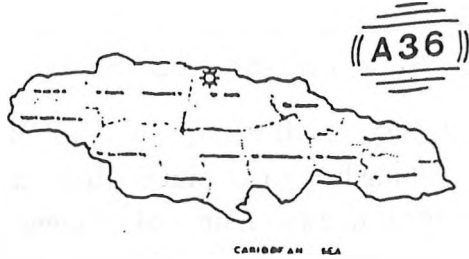
Claremont, a very small post office in St. Ann parish, was established at a place which had the curious and inexplicable name of 'Finger Post.'

The first postmaster, Robert Robinson, was paid a salary of six pounds, nine pence per annum. This was approximately \$25 per year using an exchange rate of \$4 to the Pound which existed at that time.



The post office was opened in 1851 and used the A34 obliterator of normal type H from 1 March 1859 to about 1890. This postcard from Claremont to Lucea shows some interesting marks including "Returned Letter Branch" and "Unclaimed" written in script.

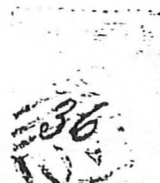
# DRY HARBOUR



On leaving Santa Gloria (St. Ann's Bay) Columbus sailed west and entered a bay which he called Dry Harbour since he found no fresh water there. The A36 obliterator, like A75 (normal type H), had a very short life. It was either broken, damaged, or lost just about the time the watermark pineapple issue came out in November, 1860.

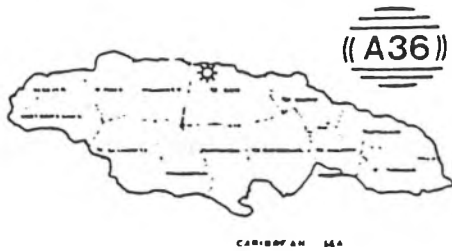


Specimens of the Pine values are known pencancelled 36, evidently the only means a postmaster had to indicate the number of his office until he received a new obliterator. There are very few examples recorded of both the original A36 and the pencancelled stamps.



The Pencancelled "36"

# 



The second obliterator used at Dry Harbour was of type L. It is the smallest of the obliterators used in Jamaica and is usually indistinct. There is only one other obliterator of this type, an A75 type L used at Savanna La Mar. The A36L was used from about the end of 1861 to 1892.



The name of this postoffice was changed to Discovery Bay on 19 July 1948.

# DRY HARBOUR

Postmaster "Goofed"—then corrected his error!

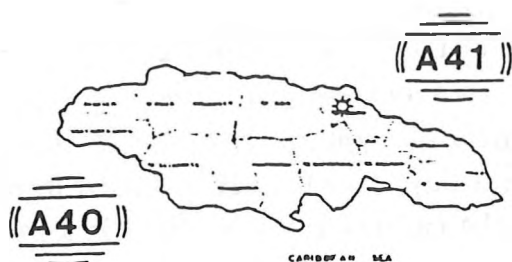
Postcards were first introduced in Jamaica on 1 April 1877. This Nicholson #8 has an interesting story to tell.



At first glance the pen mark in the Duncans single ring cancel looks like a "+". But on closer examination, it appears the postmaster realized he had not advanced the date of his date stamp and corrected his error. He changed the "1" into a "4" to show receipt at Duncans as 24 JA 83. This is evident as the date written by the originator shows the previous day, as reproduced below:

*Dry Harbour*  
*23-July 1881*

# GAYLE



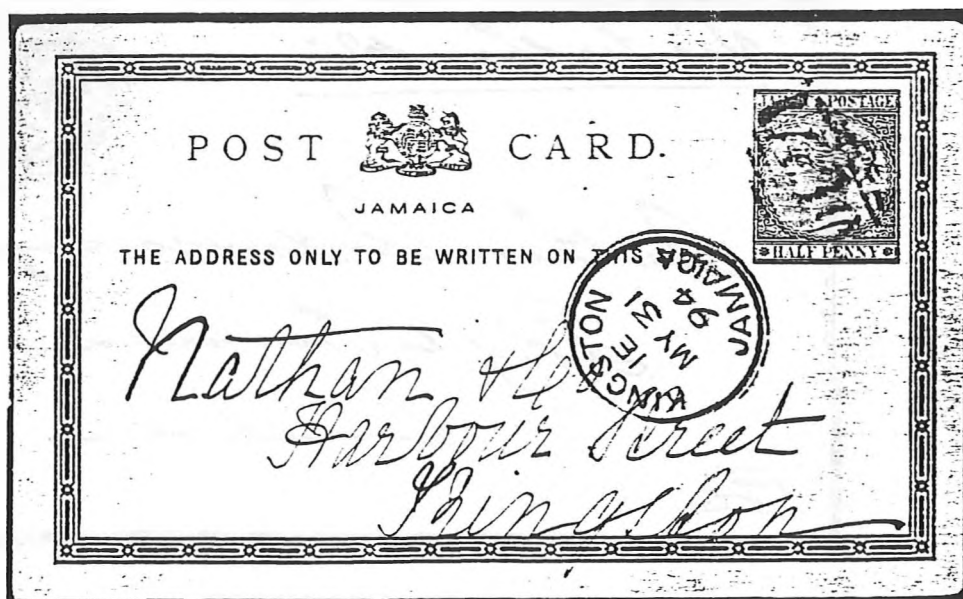
The post office at Gayle opened in June 1857 and its first postmaster was L. Phillpots. The village was established on an estate of that name. Gayle used two oblitters, both of normal type H.

► A41 from 1859 to about November 1862.



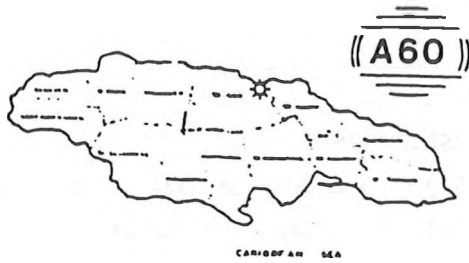
► A40 from 1862 to about mid-1894.

LATEST RECORDED DATE



Earliest recorded date is 2 JY 67 and latest recorded date is 30 MY 94, as shown by the above postcard which is backstamped with a type P11b 22 mm Gayle C.D.S.

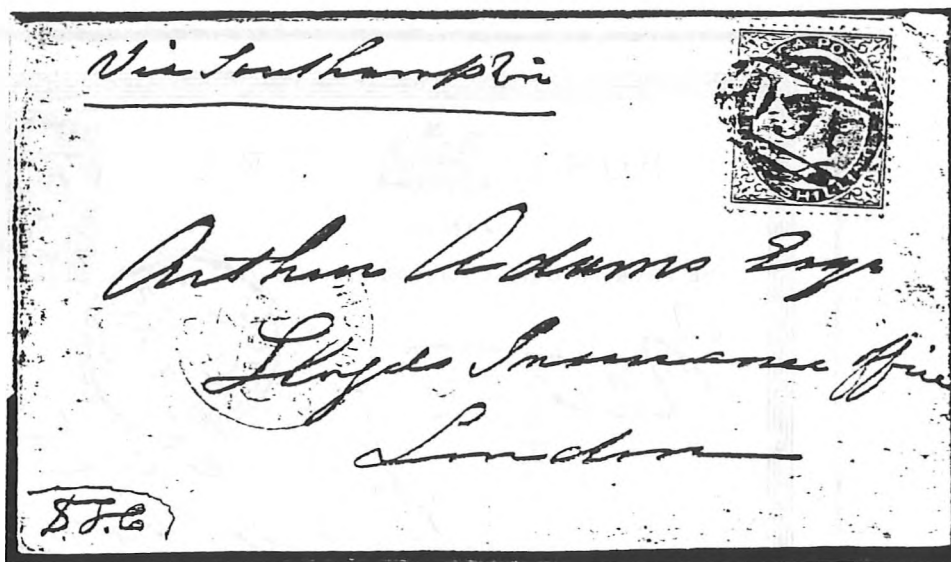
# OCHO RIOS



Ocho Rios is a small cross-roads village and is today the land of the holiday-makers. The post office was opened about 1812 and used two types of the A60 obliterator, types H and M, similar to those of Annotto Bay. A60 type H was used from 1859 to 1876. The earliest recorded date is 8 MR 59; the latest recorded date is 22 OC 73.



LATEST RECORDED DATE



This cover with an A60 type H obliterator on a 1sh. stamp is back-stamped with an Ocho Rios C.D.S. single ring dated 22 OC 73, which is the latest recorded date for this number. A Kingston C.D.S. single ring dated 24 OC 73 is also on the back. Both are reproduced above.

# RICHMOND



opened on 1 November 1863. Only seven examples of this cancellation are recorded—watermarked pineapple.

Richmond is a village on the railway in St. Mary's parish, 31 miles southeast of Ocho Rios. The A79 obliterator is a mystery awaiting solution. The original type H was sent from London on 1 February 1859 and was, as far as we know, given to Richmond when the post office

opened on 1 November 1863. Only seven examples of this cancellation are recorded—watermarked pineapple.



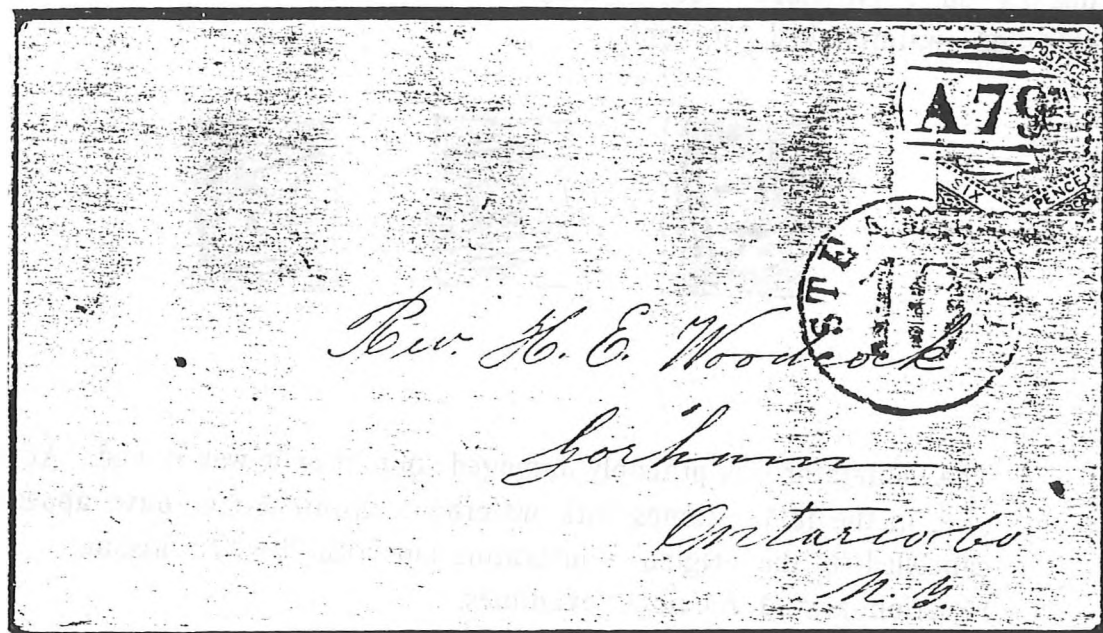
The obliterator was probably damaged soon after it was issued. At any rate, in the 1870's stamps with watermark crown & C.C. have appeared cancelled by the original obliterator, but with the "7" missing. This variation has 12 recorded examples.



the "Missing 7"

# RICHMOND

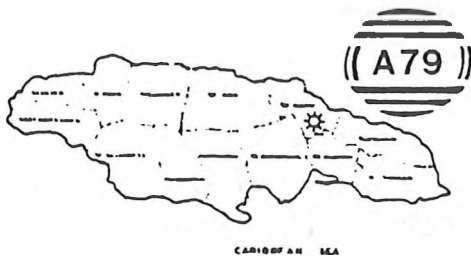
ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE ON COVER



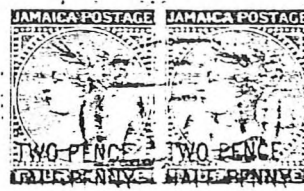
This cover from Richmond to Ontario Co. NY, shows the A79 type H obliterator on a 6d. Pine and tied by the steamship marking. It is backstamped with a Richmond single ring C.D.S. dated 2 FE 66.



# RICHMOND

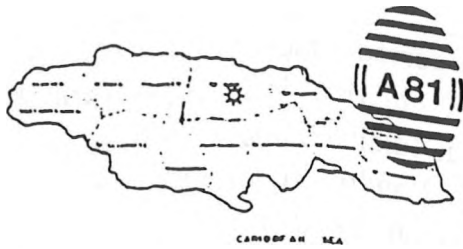


A second obliterator used at Richmond was the A79 type J. Note that it is larger than the A79 type H and has thicker horizontal bars. This type was sent from London about 1865 and was out of use at Richmond by 1896.

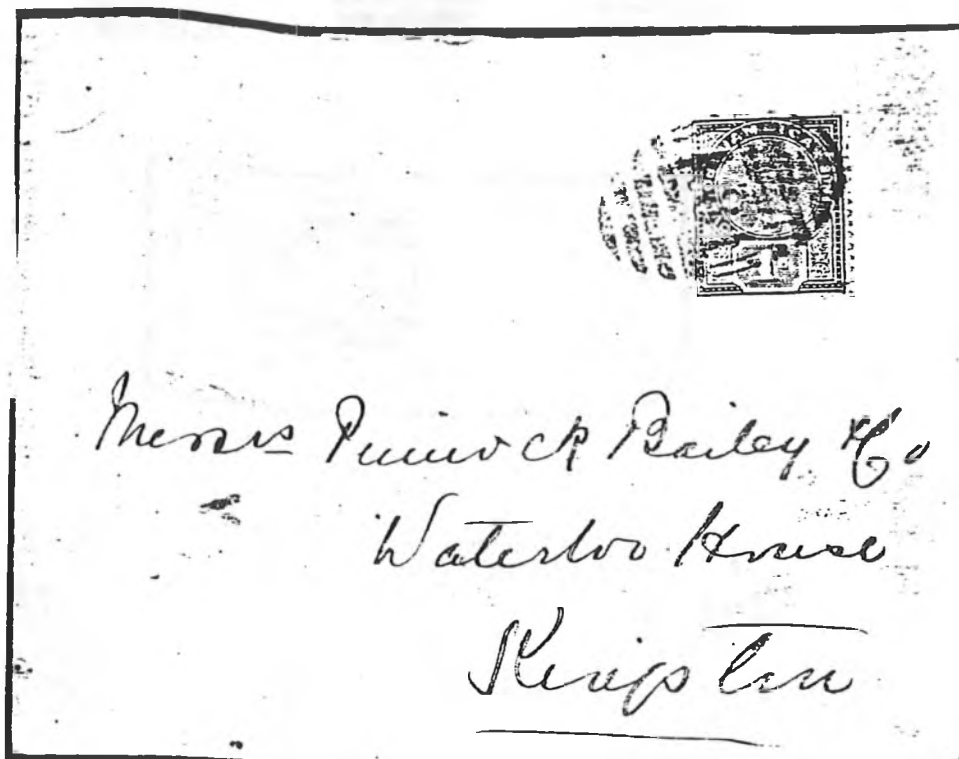


The earliest recorded date is 7 AU 66; the latest recorded date is 3 MY 92.

## PEDRO

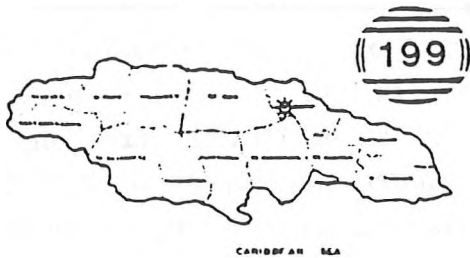


Pedro is a village in the lovely hill country of the parish of St. Ann. It is close to Edinburgh Castle, the home of a Lewis Hutchinson, the best known murderer in Jamaican history. The A81 type K obliterator was used at Pedro from 1876 until the early 1890's. The earliest recorded date is 17 DE 89; the latest recorded date is 7 MR 92.



This cover from Pedro to Kingston shows the A81 type K obliterator and is backstamped with a Pedro single ring 24.5 mm C.D.S. dated 9 DE 91, and also a Kingston squared circle showing receipt the following day.

# GUY'S HILL



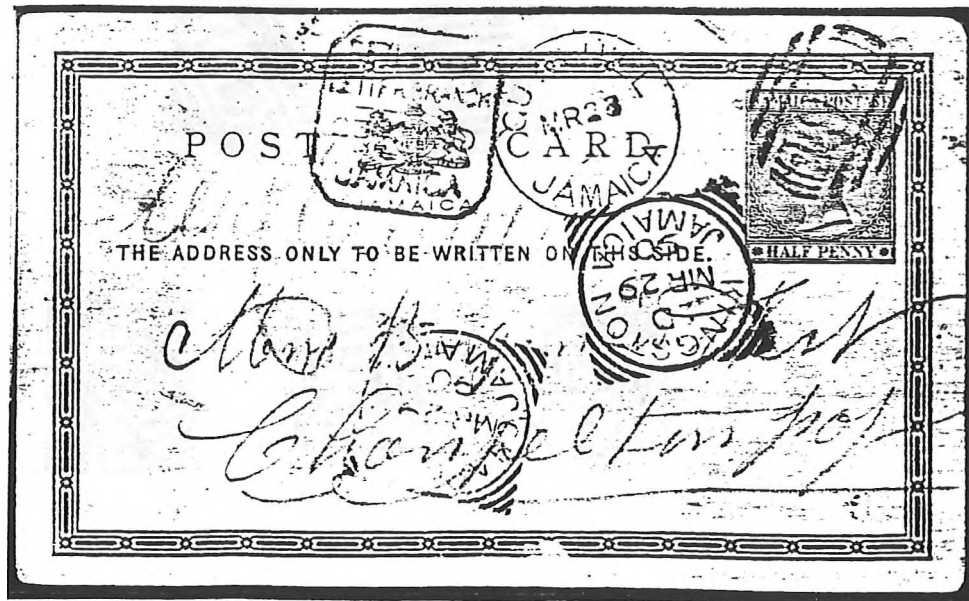
CARIBBEAN SEA



Guy's Hill is in St. Mary's parish and is very close to the boundary of St. Catherine parish. The 199 obliterator type O was sent from London at the end of September, 1874, and was used to about 1898. The postoffice was opened on 1 January 1874.



ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE ON COVER



This postcard is the only recorded example of the 199 obliterator and establishes its use at Guy's Hill as shown by the single ring C.D.S. dated 28 MR 90.

# LAUGHLANDS



Laughlands (pronounced Lawlands) used the obliterator C of type P. The letter C—like A, B, D, and E—has three chevrons on each side. All other Jamaican obliterations have only two. All lettered obliterations appear to have been sent from London in 1873 for use in an emergency.

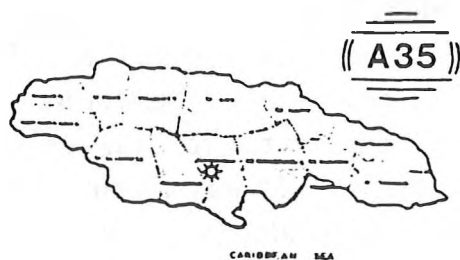


At Laughlands an old brick and timber house opposite the post office was a tavern 'frequented by gentlemen of the legal profession journeying to and from the Cornwall Assizes' in Montego Bay.

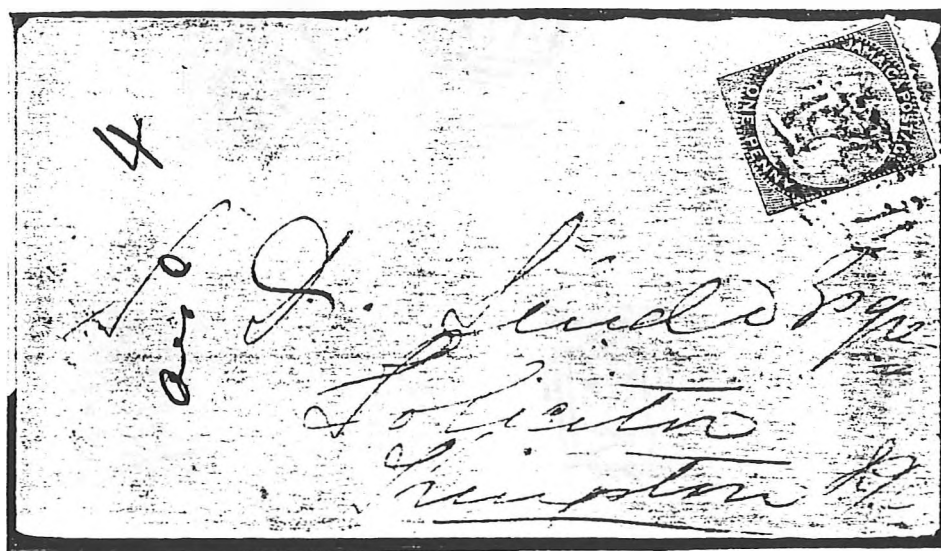
MIDDLESEX (south)



# CLARENDON and FOUR PATHS

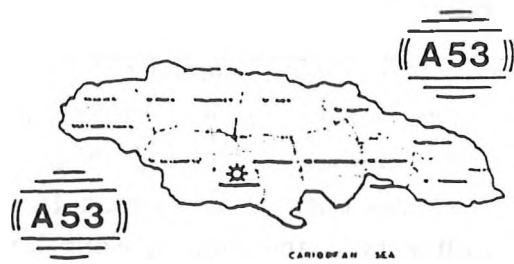


The post office at Clarendon opened before 1810, but was moved seven miles to the nearby village of Four Paths in June, 1876. The A35 obliterator of normal type H was used at Clarendon from 1 March 1859 to June 1876, and then at Four Paths until 1893.



The cover addressed to Kingston from Four Paths shows an A35 obliterator and is back-stamped with a Four Paths C.D.S. single-ring 23.5 mm dated 9 MY 88. It was received in Kingston that same day as indicated by a squared circle cancel index 1 H.

# SPUR TREE



The post office at Spur Tree was opened on 2 March 1885 at the same time that May Hill was closed. Two types of A53 obliterator were used at Spur Tree—original and renewal—as they are called. The original A53 was undoubtedly mislaid and discovered years later (possibly when the post office was moved from May Hill to Spur Tree).

## ▶ A53 original (normal type H)



## ▶ A53 renewal (see below)

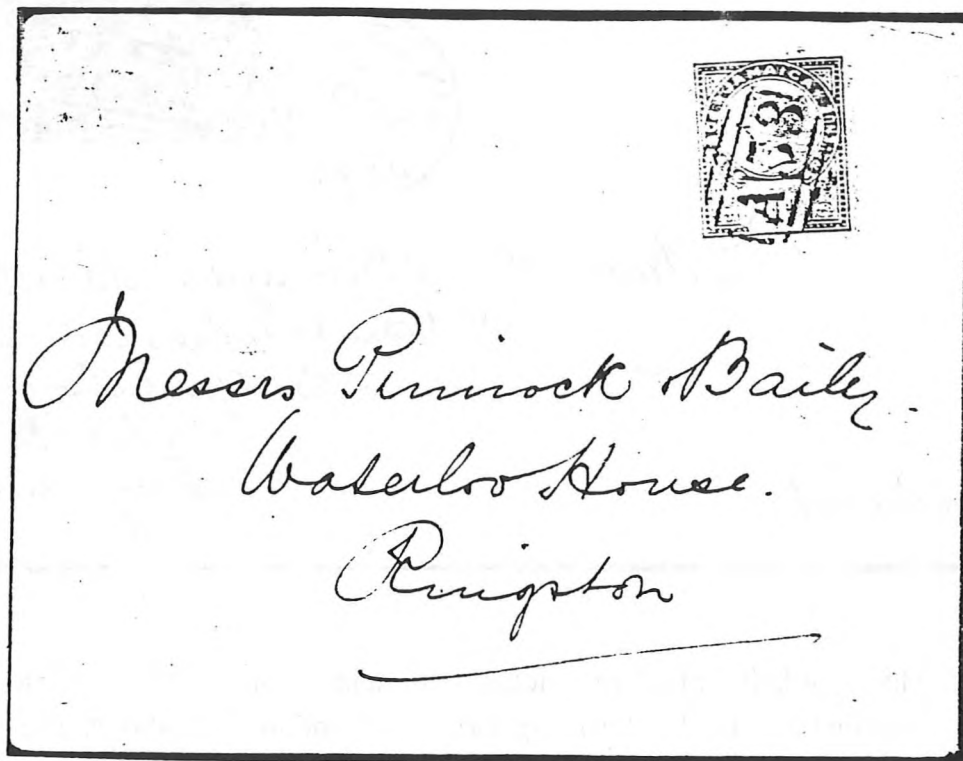
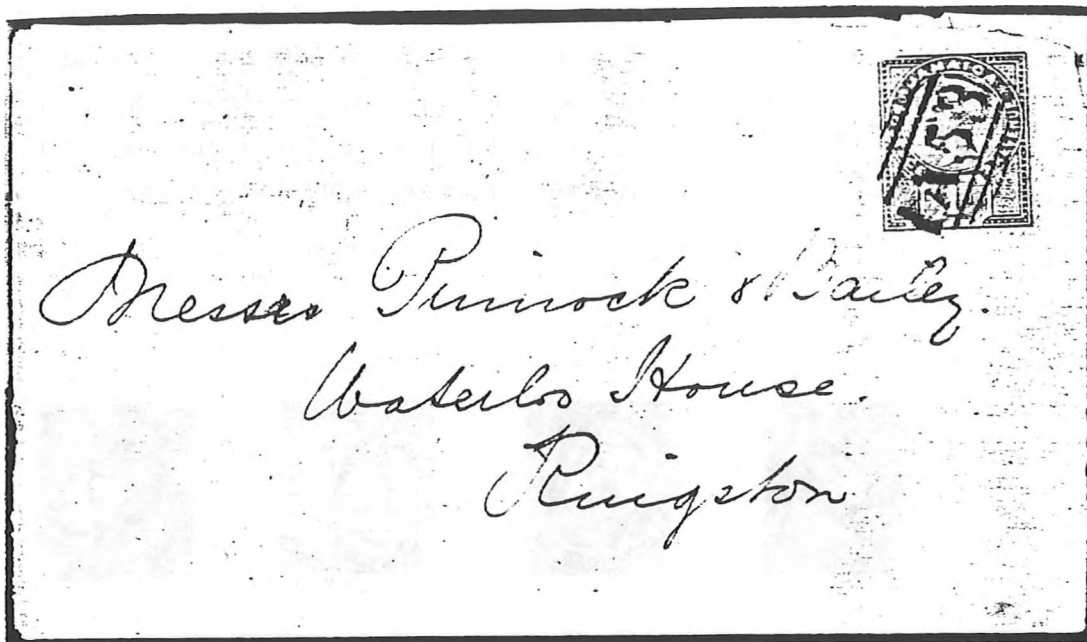


The differences are easily discernable. In the original the 'A' and the two numerals are 5.5 mm high; in the renewal they are 6.5 mm. In the original the ball of the '5' protrudes beyond the upright; in the renewal it is level with the upright. The '3' is also wider in the renewal.



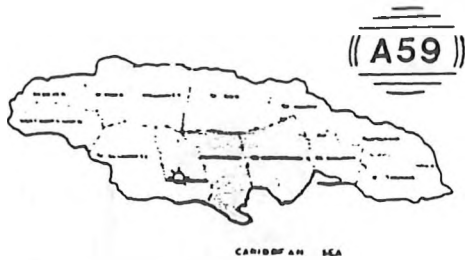
## SPUR TREE

A53 Type H—Two covers, same correspondent, same address

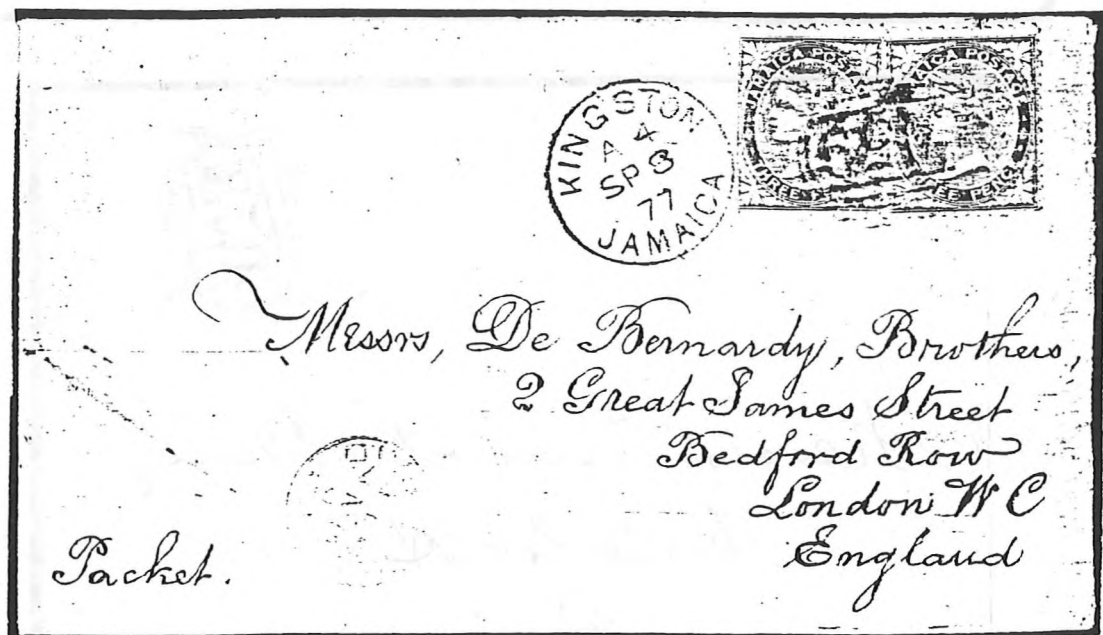


These two covers addressed to Messrs. Pinnock & Bailey of Kingston were both written by the same correspondent from Spur Tree two weeks apart as shown by the back-stamps reproduced alongside the envelopes. Each has an A53 Original obliterator.

# NEWPORT



Newport, in the parish of Manchester, is almost equidistant from Mandeville and Alligator's Pond. Newport used the A59 obliterator of normal type H from November 1862 to about 1892. The earliest recorded date is 2 AU 1871 and the latest recorded date is sometime in 1879.



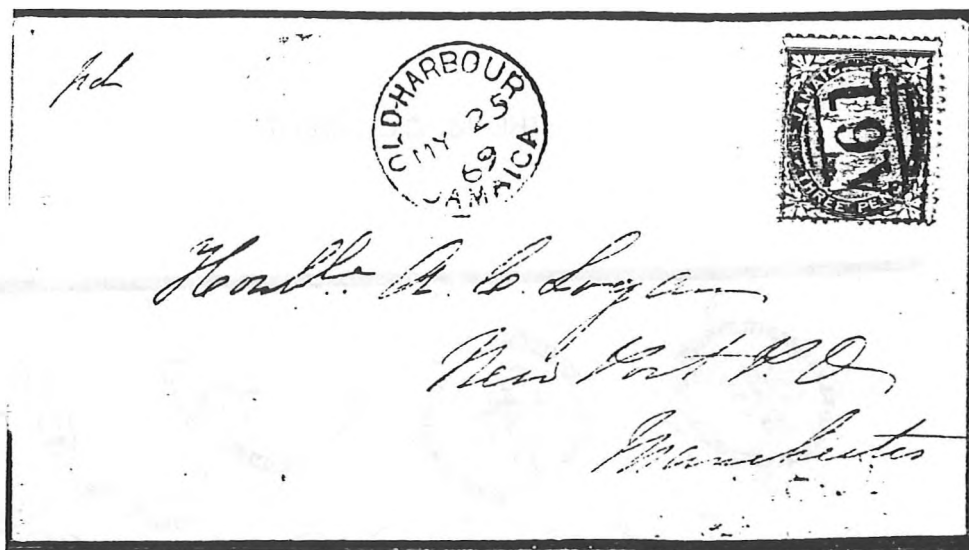
This one-half ounce rate letter was sent from the tiny village of Newport to the DeBernardy Bros. in London and shows the A59 obliterator. The letter was sent from Newport on 7 SP 77 as backstamped by a Newport type P12 C.D.S.

# OLD HARBOUR



This was a small town built alongside the bay of the same name and called by the Spaniards, Puerto Esquivel after their first governor. A61 normal type H was used at Old Harbour from 1 March 1859 to about the end of 1876, so is therefore not seen on the crown & C.A. issue

which was introduced in 1883. The earliest recorded date is 6 JU 59; the latest recorded date is 24 JY 76.



*Honble. A. C. Logan*

*My dear Father,*

*Old Harbour -  
Tuesday 25 May 69*

*Yours affly.  
Susan Martin*

A short letter inside this cover written to the Honorable A. C. Logan indicates that it was written by his daughter, Mrs. Susan Martin, on 25 May 1869. It was posted that same day from Old Harbour, cancelled with an A61 obliterator, and a C.D.S. single ring 22 mm (no index). Relevant portions of the letter are reproduced above.

## OLD HARBOUR

The 1d. Watermark Pine issue bisected diagonally for use as a 1/2d. stamp was authorized by official notice in the *Gazette of Jamaica*, 20 November 1861. Authority for the bisection of the 1d. stamp was withdrawn on 1 December 1872 since the 1/2d. C.C. issue was put into service for this very purpose.

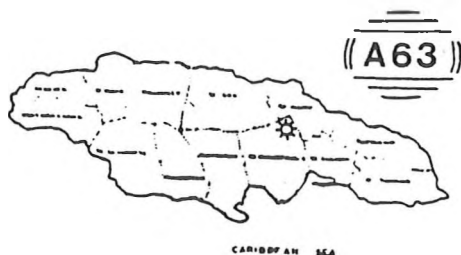
There are very few bisections of other denominations known and postally used. Such instances were not authorized and have no legal or official status. One such example is shown here:

THE 1d. C.C. BISECT



This entire was mailed from Old Harbour to Genoa, Italy, on 24 July 1876. One stamp bears the A61 of Old Harbour; the Kingston mark is a transit marking. The actual bisect is tied with a faint impression of the Old Harbour C.D.S. Note also the "More to Pay" (type M47) marking.

# PEAR TREE GROVE



(( A63 ))

This was a tiny village in the foothills of the central mountain ridge. It was one of three post offices opened in 1833 (Port Royal and St. Davids were the others). Pear Tree Grove used the A63 obliterator of normal type H from March 1859 to about 1900. Because of its late use, it can be

found on the 1d. Red Llandovery Falls Issue, as exhibited below.



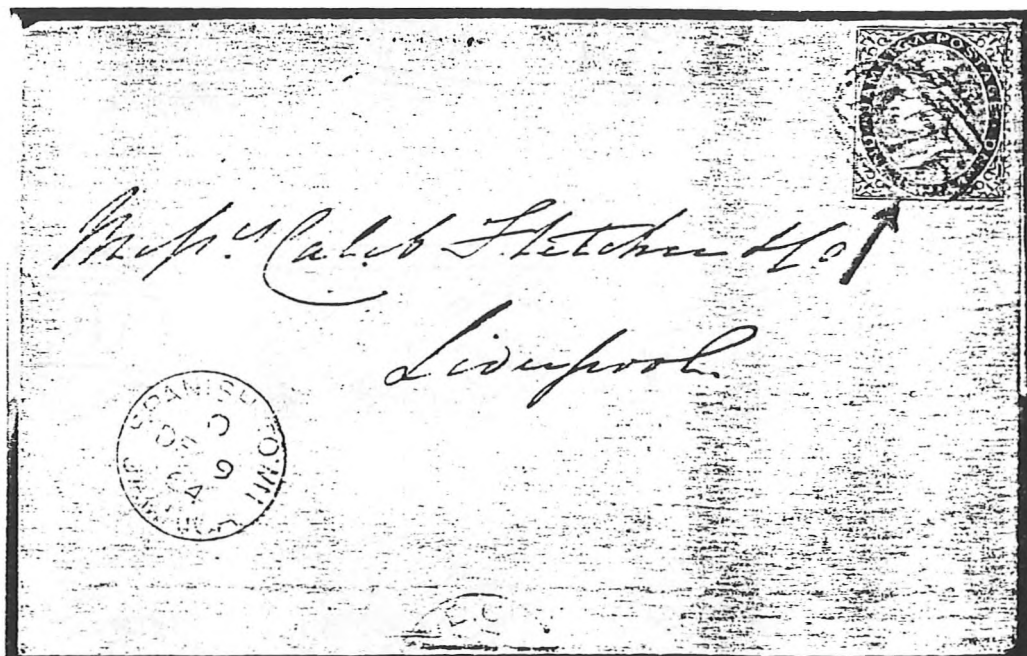
This 'strike' is one of the most distinct found on Jamaican stamps.

## SPANISH TOWN

Only one constant variety of the first issue of 1860-63 exists. The 1sh. stamp shows the so-called "s" variety (SHILLING instead of SHILLING). It occurs on the second stamp in the second row of the top left-hand frame, only once in a sheet of 240 stamps.

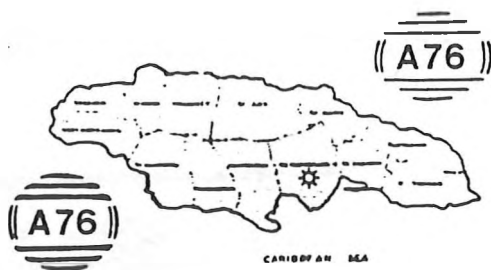


The "dollar" variety  
with A76-H obliterator



This cover from Spanish Town to Liverpool England shows the A76 obliterator on a 1sh. Pine stamp with the "s" error. The Spanish Town single ring P11a C.D.S. is dated 9 DE 64. It is backstamped by a Kingston transit mark of the same date and received in Liverpool on 1 JA 65.

# SPANISH TOWN



Spanish Town was the capital and chief town of the island at the time of the conquest and was known to the Spaniards as St. Jago de la Vega (St. James in the Valley). Two types of A76, H and O, were used.

- ▶ In type H there is a space between the foot of the 'A' and the '7'; the '7' has a long serif. A76 type H was used from 1859 to about 1874.



- ▶ In type O the foot of the 'A' is joined onto the '7' and the '7' has a short serif. The three bars, above and below, are very thick. A76 type O was used from about 1874 to the end of 1892.

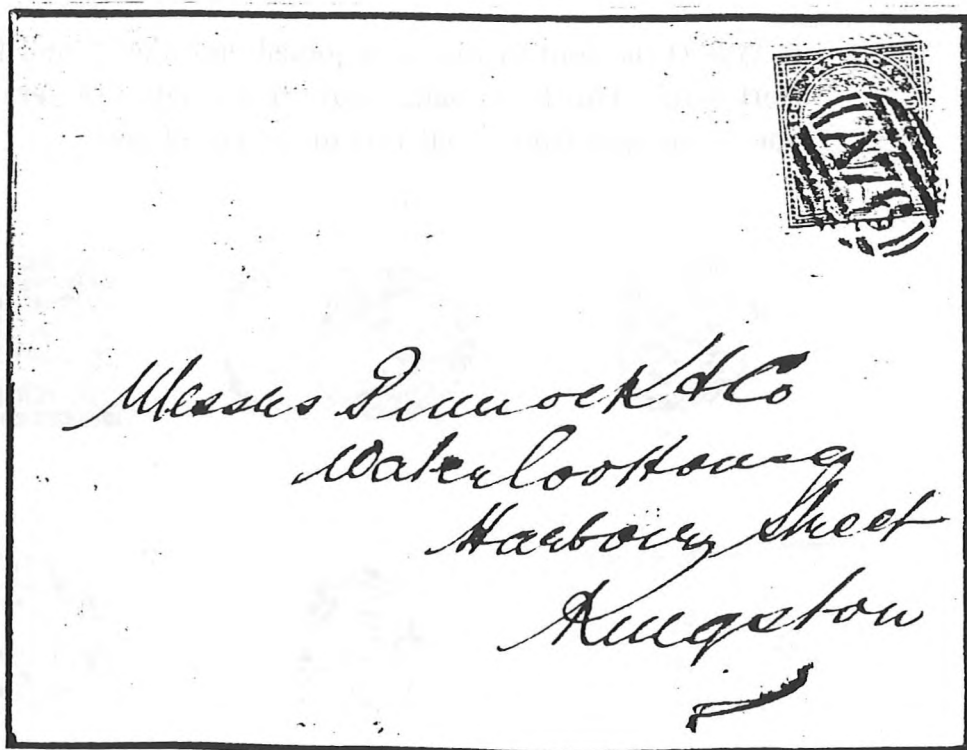
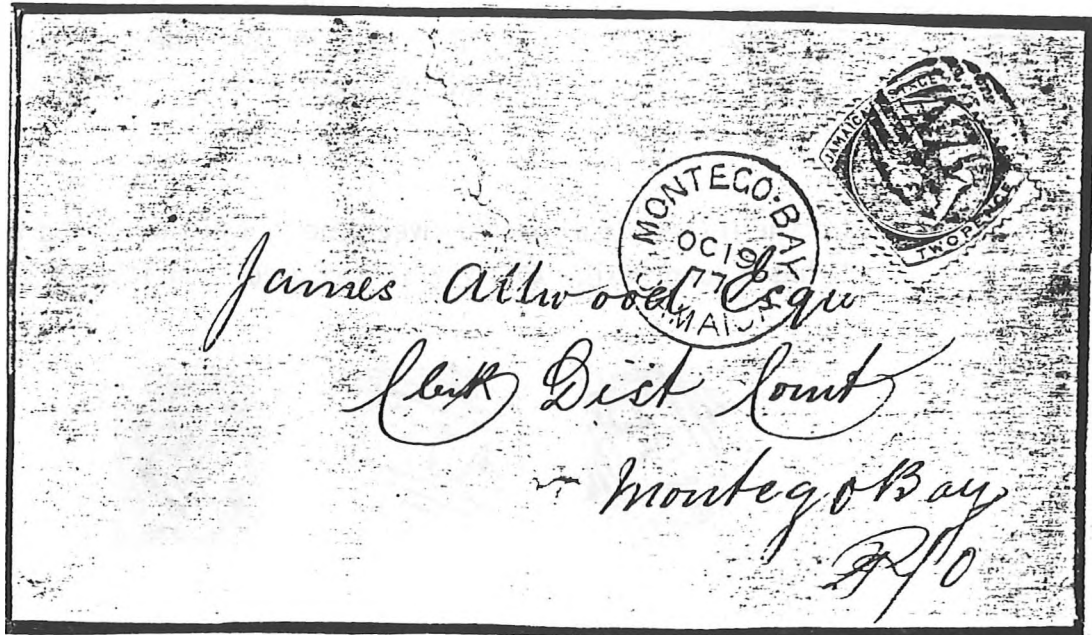




# SPANISH TOWN

## A76 Type O—Earliest and Latest Recorded Dates

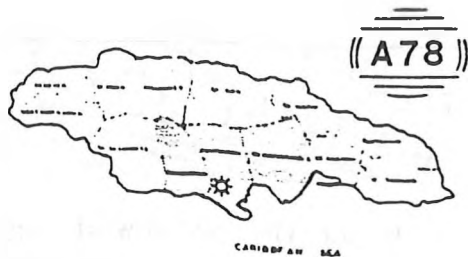
This cover from Spanish Town to Montego Bay has an A76 type O obliterator backstamped with a Spanish Town single ring C.D.S. 25 mm index B dated 18 OC (1877)—the earliest recorded date.



This cover from Spanish Town to Kingston is backstamped Spanish Town C.D.S. double ring (no index) dated 1 AU 92—the latest recorded date.



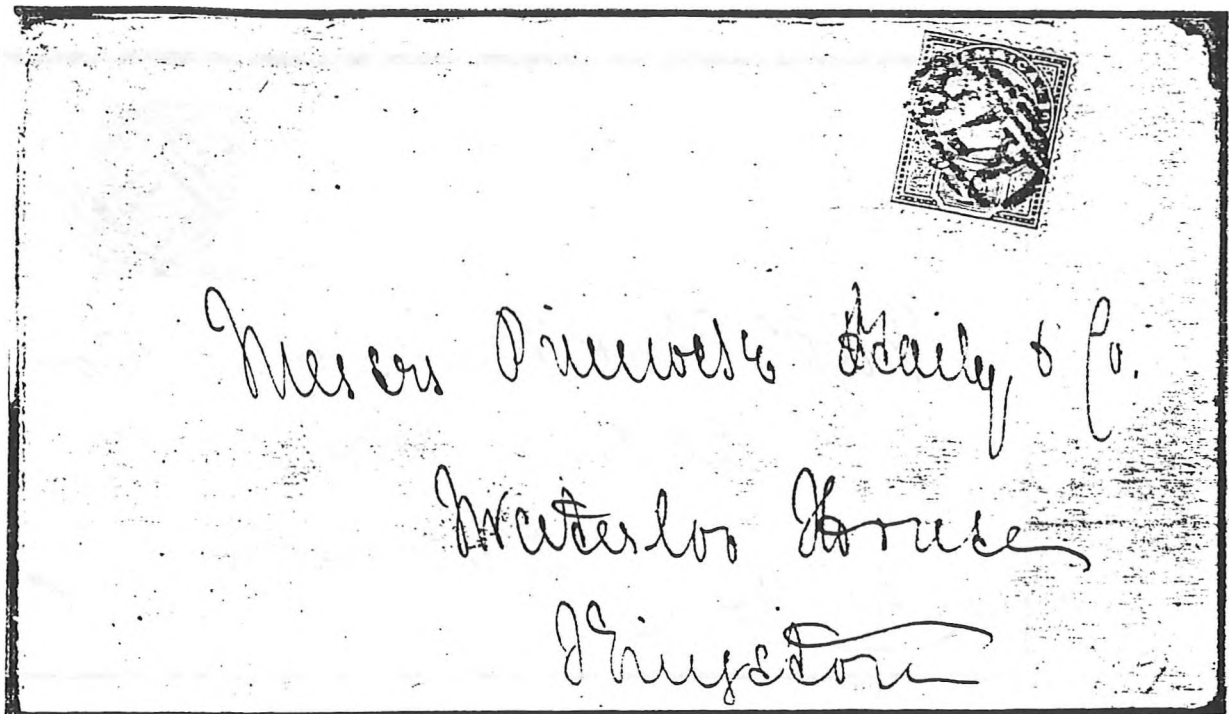
# ALLEY (VERE)



Prior to 1875 Alley was known as Vere. The A78 obliterator of normal type H was used from March 1859 to 1895. The earliest recorded date is 16 SP 59; the latest recorded date is 10 FE 92.

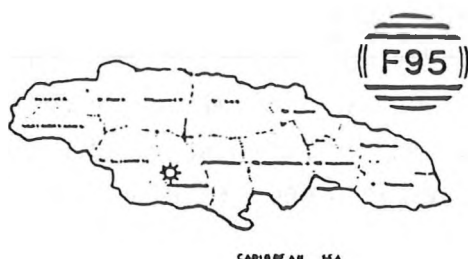


LATEST RECORDED DATE

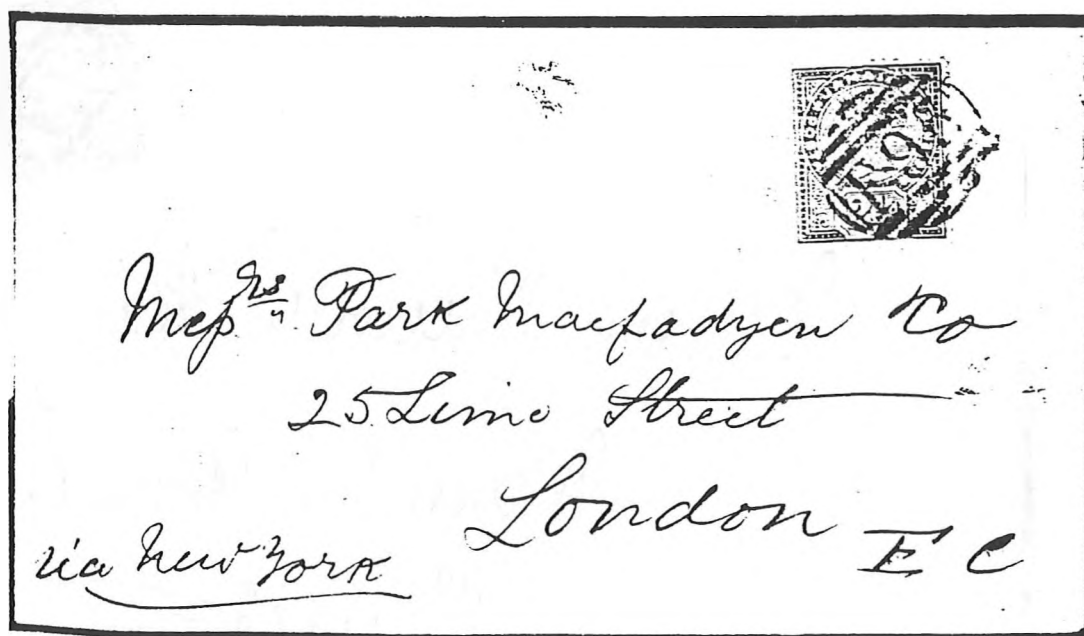


This cover from Alley to Kingston with A78 normal type H obliterator is back-stamped with Alley C.D.S. single ring 21 mm 10 FE [1892], no year date, but Kingston squared circle index '3F' shows receipt on 11 FE 92.

# WATSON'S HILL

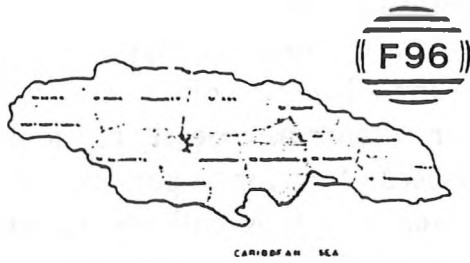


Watson's Hill is on the south-west side of Manchester parish only five miles from Alligator Pond, a large coastal fishing village. The post office was opened in 1872 and used the F95 obliterator of type O until the early 1900's. The earliest recorded date is 23 MY 82; the latest recorded date is 9 MY 00.

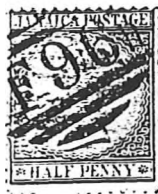


On 1 January 1891 the postal rates between Great Britain and the Colonies were reduced to 2-1/2d. per half ounce. This cover from Watson's Hill to London has an F95 obliterator and shows the correct rate. It is backstamped with a type P11 Watson's Hill 23.5 mm C.D.S., 22 JY 96.

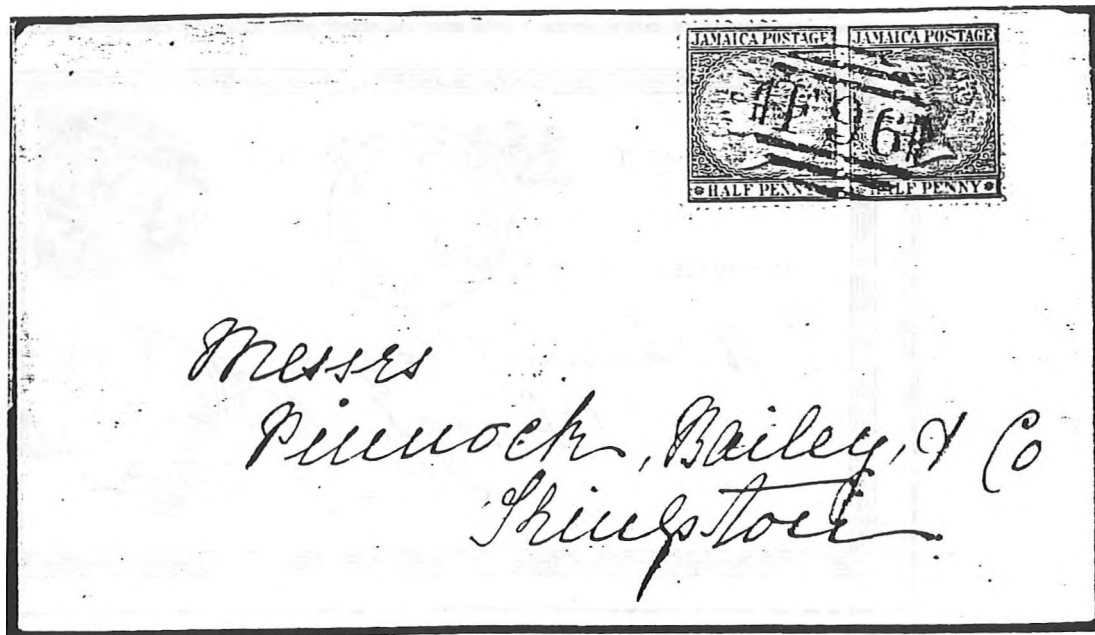
# SHOOTER'S HILL



Shooter's Hill, in Manchester parish, is the site of the small Pickapeppa Factory where Jamaican sauces are made today. The post office opened on 5 February 1873. The F96 obliterator of type O was sent from London on 16 October 1872 and used at Shooter's Hill from the time the post office opened until at least late 1891.

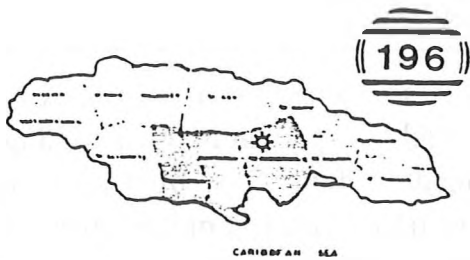


LATEST RECORDED DATE



The earliest recorded date is 23 FE 74; the latest recorded date is 24 NO 91. This cover shows the latest recorded date on the reverse and is from Shooter's Hill to Kingston with an F96 obliterator on the front.

# EWARTON

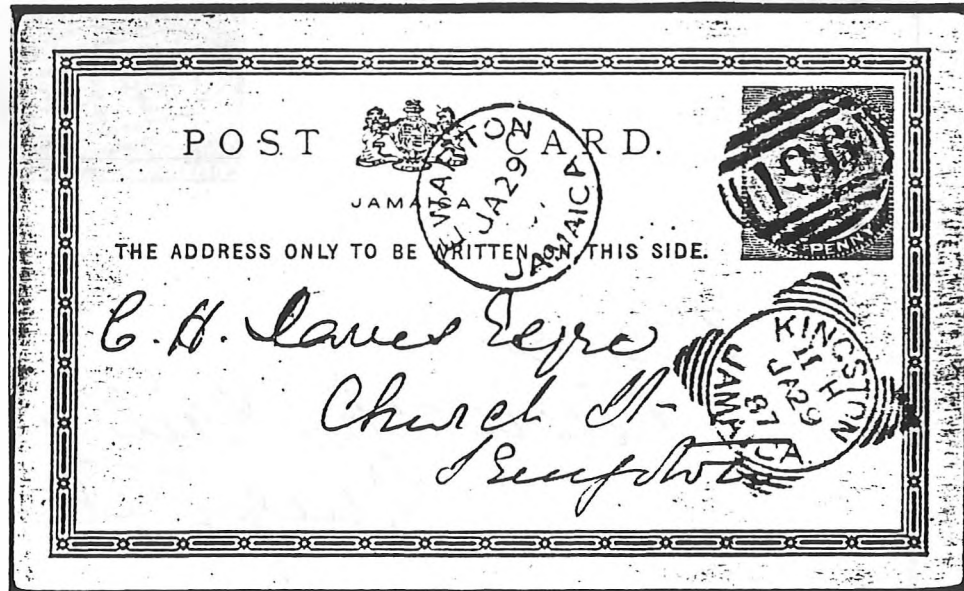


Ewarton, in St. Catherine parish, is a corruption of the name Ewart Town and appears on early maps in that form. The post office was issued the A38 obliterator of normal type H, but as it was constantly closed for long periods of time between 1856 and 1873, it is unlikely this number

was ever used there. When the post office reopened on 5 December 1873, Ewarton used the 196 obliterator of type O to about 1898.

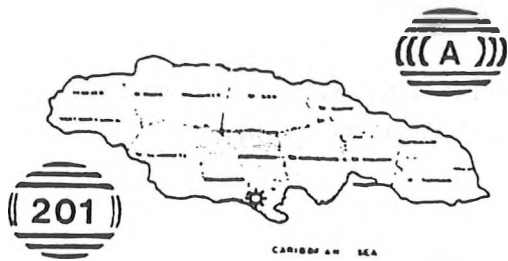


LATEST RECORDED DATE



The latest recorded date is 29 JA 87 as shown on this postcard. It has an Ewarton single ring 24 mm cancellation together with the 196 obliterator.

# MILK RIVER



The Milk River post office, located in Clarendon parish, was opened in September, 1873. Milk River Bath (close-by) is near the river mouth and has Jamaica's largest spa. It is noted for its mineral baths whose hot springs are said to have highly valuable curative properties. Milk River used two obliterations:

- The letter A which was sent from London in 1873.



- The 201 obliterator sent from London in September, 1874, and used to about 1895.

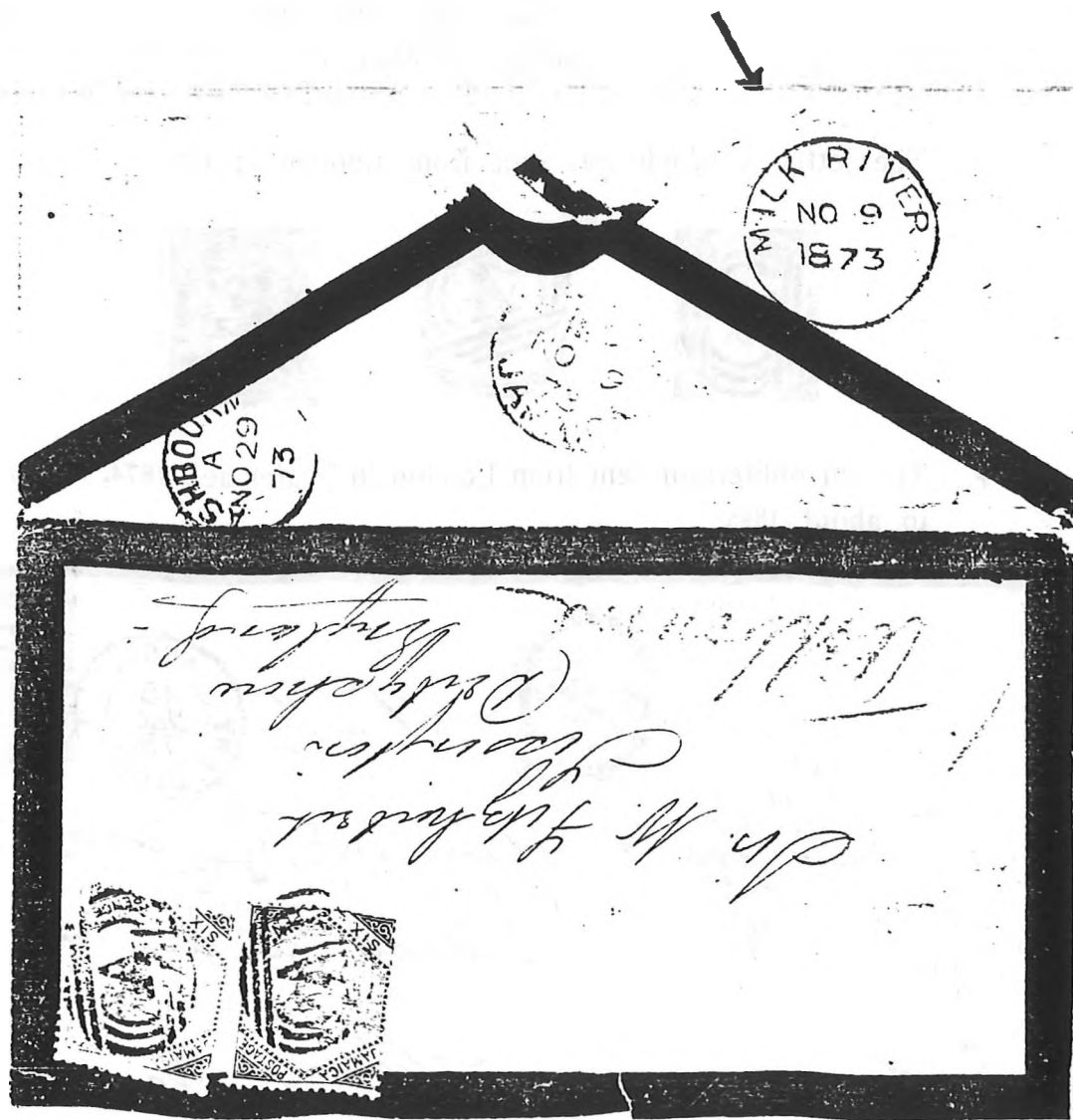


The earliest recorded date is 12 NO 75 as shown on the cover above; the latest recorded date is 9 DE 91.

## MILK RIVER

The post office at Milk River opened in September, 1873. It was given a rather unique date stamp consisting of a 24 mm single ring with the office name in plain capital letters, but no sign of a colony name.

This mark was used in conjunction with the A obliterator which was used to cancel the stamps. The single ring mark served to datestamp the cover only.

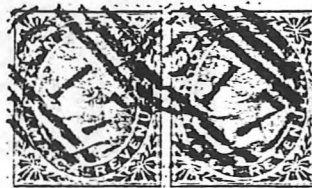


ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE ON COVER

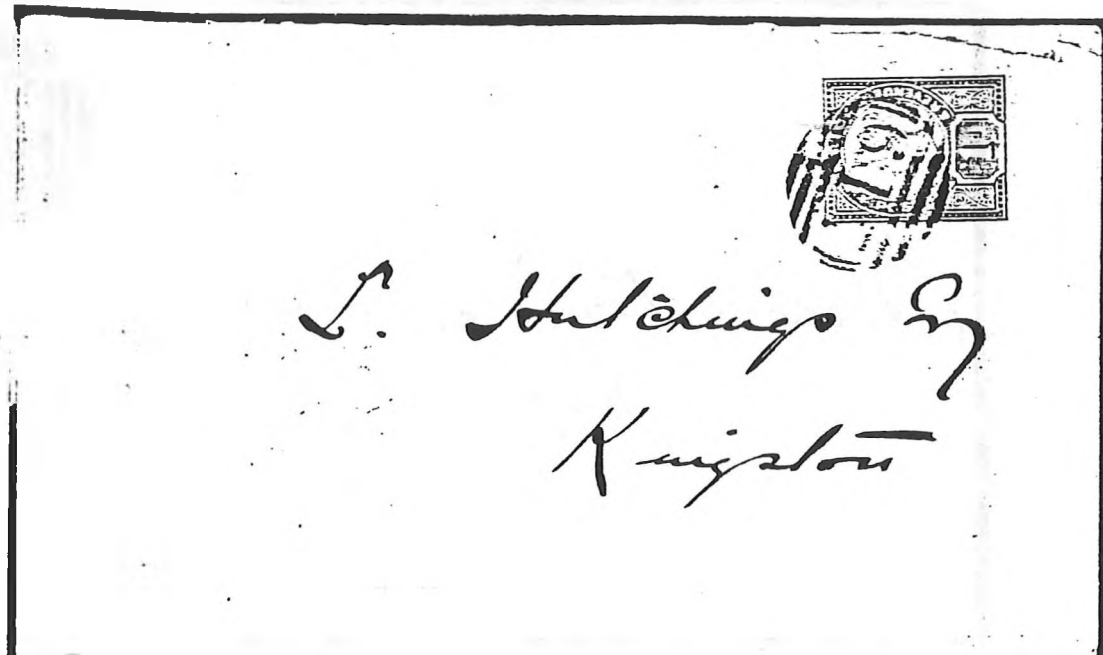
# HAYES



Hayes is a small village in the south of Clarendon parish almost equidistant from Milk River, May Pen, and Old Harbour. This general area is highly cultivated and includes three sugar factories, two major tobacco plantations, and a large citrus-processing plant. The 617 obliterator was used at Hayes from 1876 to the end of 1899.



LATEST RECORDED DATE

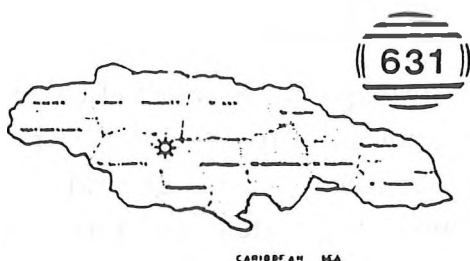


This cover from Hayes to Kingston shows the 617 obliterator on a 1d. key plate and is backstamped with a Hayes C.D.S. (no index) 23.5 mm dated 24 NO 99, the latest recorded date for this obliterator.



# MAIDSTONE

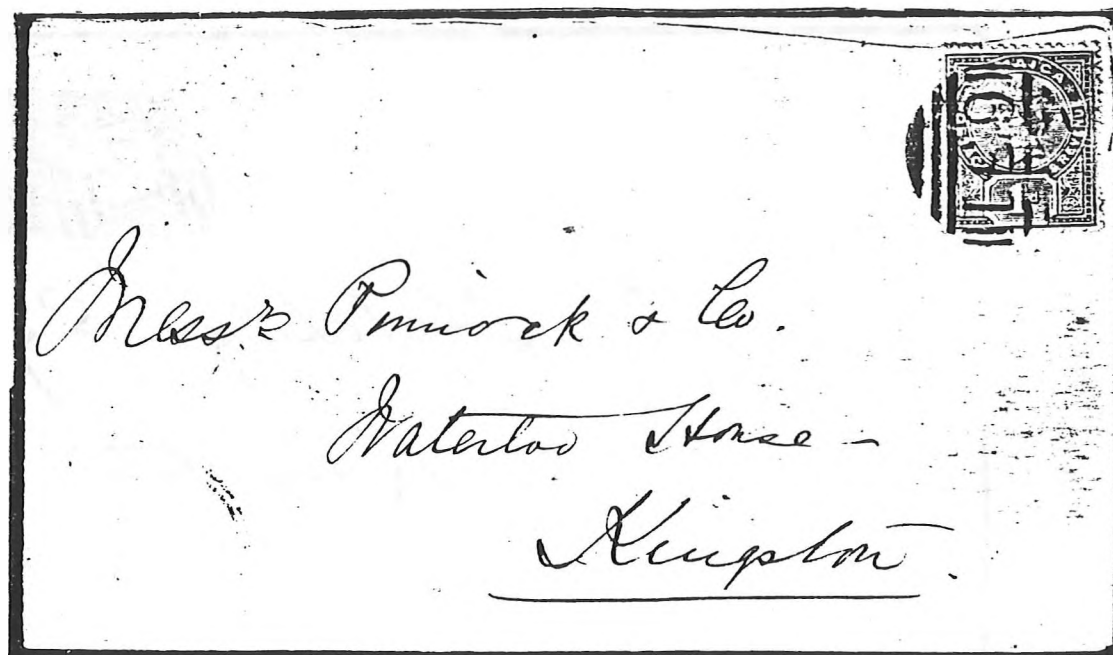
[MEDINA]



The 631 obliterator of type O was first used at Medina in Manchester parish. It was sent from London about 1876 and used at Medina until 5 May 1891. The post office was then moved two miles to Maidstone and the 631 obliterator was used there until late 1892. The earliest date is not recorded. The latest recorded date is 14 SP 92.



LATEST RECORDED DATE



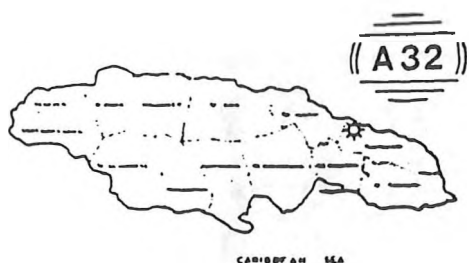
This cover shows the 631 obliterator backstamped with a Maidstone double ring 26 mm cancel showing the latest recorded date of 14 SP 92, and a Kingston double ring receiving mark dated 15 SP 92.



SURREY

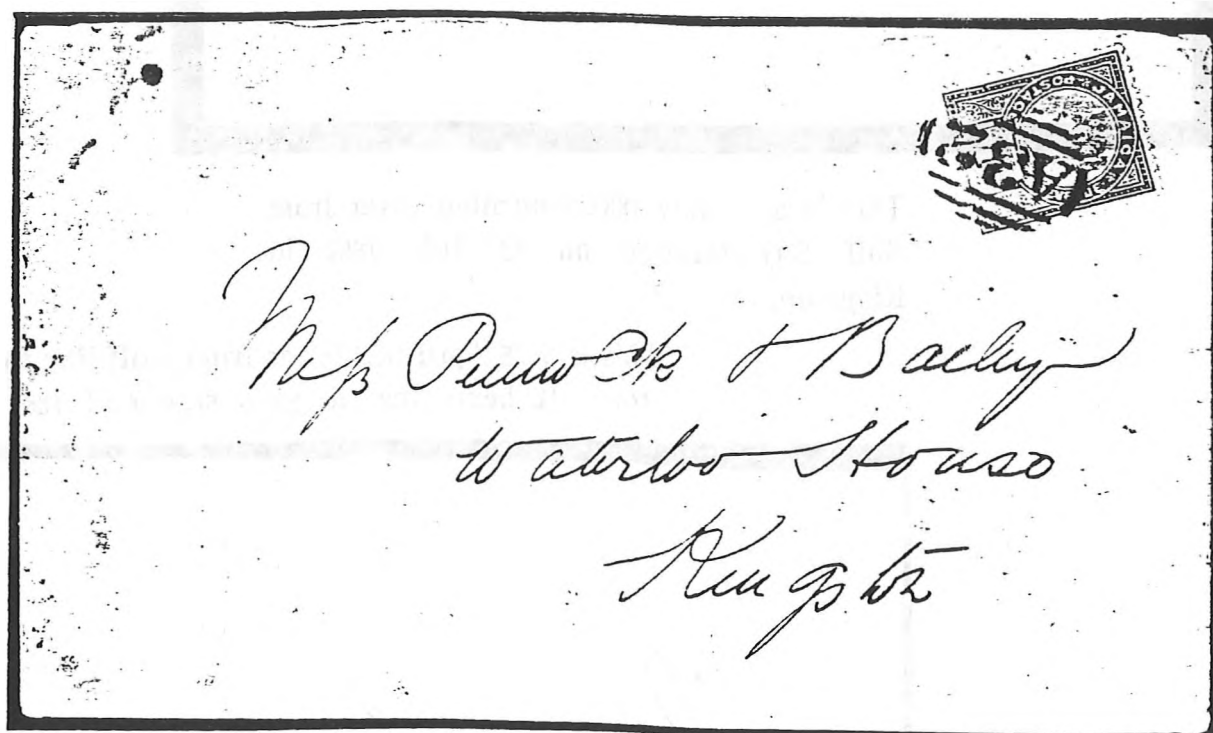


# BUFF BAY



Buff Bay is a little village in Portland parish along the north coast. The post office opened in 1788 and used the A32 obliterator of normal type H from 1 March 1859 to at least 14 March 1892, illustrated by this cover:

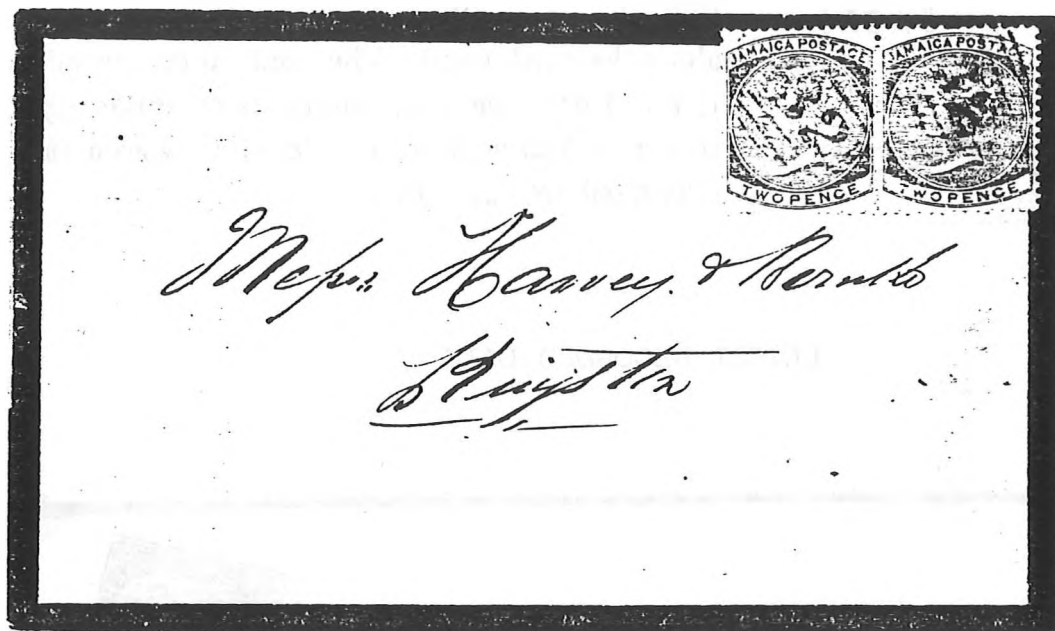
LATEST RECORDED DATE



This letter is backstamped with a Buff Bay C.D.S. single ring 24 mm dated 14 MR 92 and received in Kingston the following day as recorded by a squared circle cancel dated 15 MR 92. This confirms that the A32 obliterator was still in use in 1892 and is the latest recorded date.

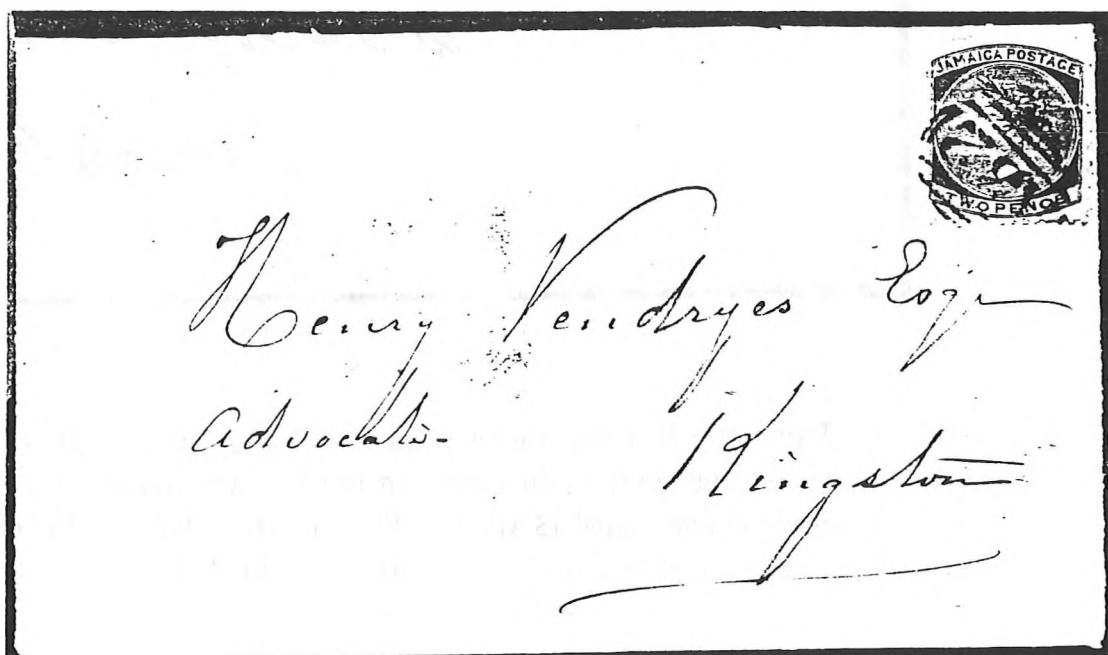
# BUFF BAY

## Mourning Letter

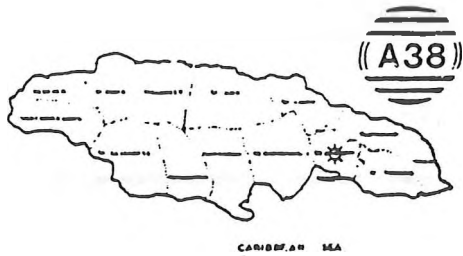


This is a 12 July 1882 mourning cover from Buff Bay received on 13 July 1882 in Kingston.

This is a 25 April 1887 letter from Buff Bay to Kingston. It bears the 2d. gray stamp of 1885 issue.



# UP PARK CAMP



Up Park Camp was a British military base just north of Kingston. The A38 type N obliterator was one of the last to be sent from London in 1878. It was used for about five years, first at Falmouth and then at Up Park Camp. The post office at Up Park Camp was opened on 29 April 1884 and used the A38-N obliterator until April 1885.

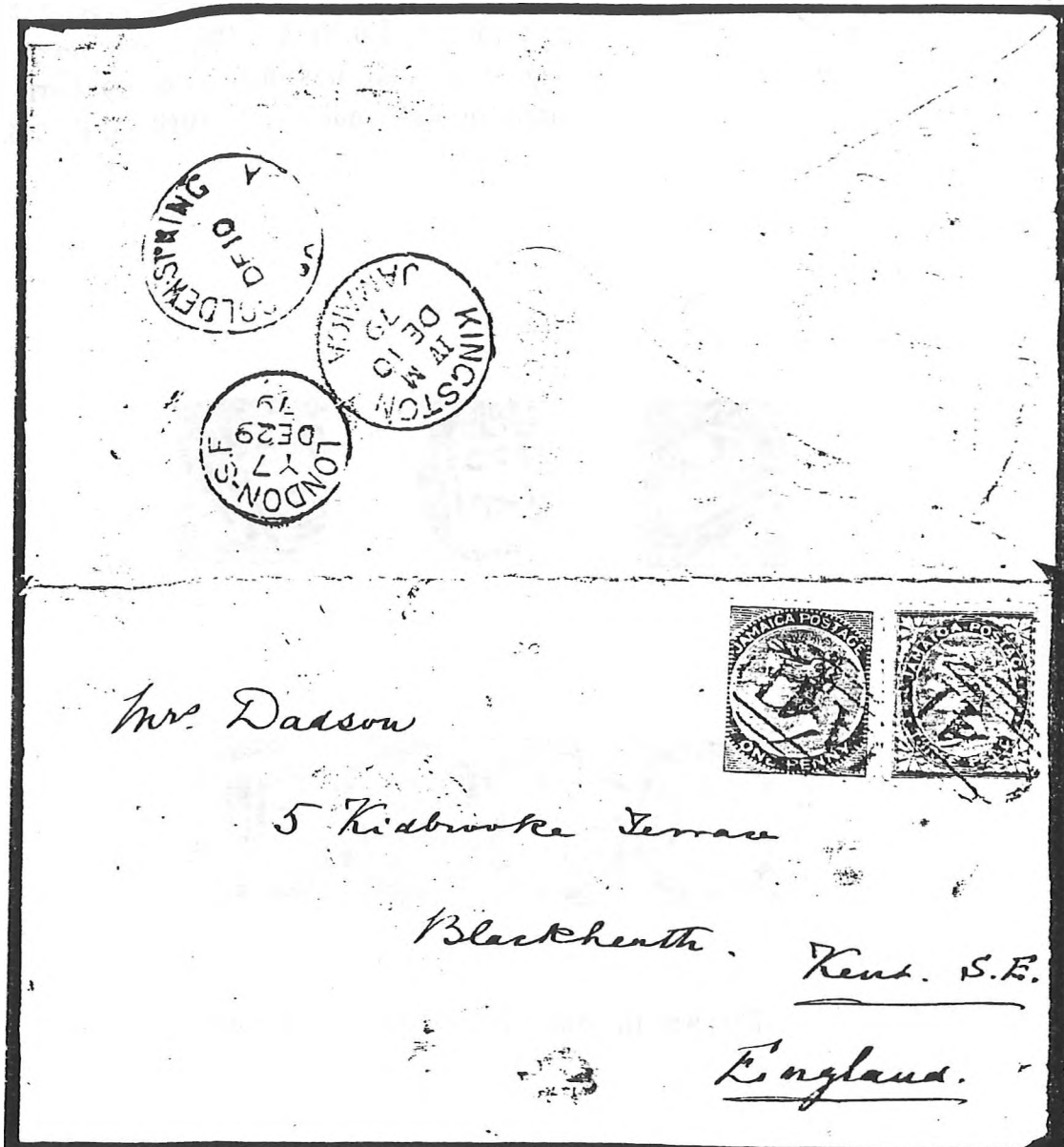


This was the only "type N" used in Jamaica.

# GOLDEN SPRING

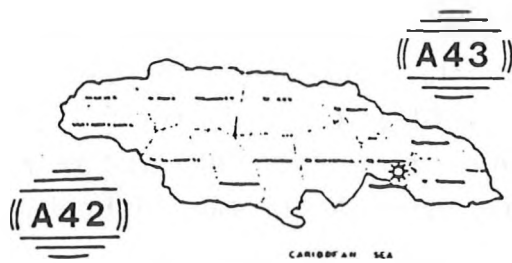
Golden Spring in St. Andrew parish used the A41 obliterator from about 1 November 1862 to about July 1885. The post office was moved two miles to Stony Hill on 5 June 1890.

LATEST RECORDED DATE



This opened-out cover from Golden Spring to England has two important postal history characteristics. It is the latest recorded date for an A41 obliterator used at Golden Spring. It is also the earliest recorded date for the P11b 23.5 mm C.D.S. of Golden Spring dated 10 DE 79.

# GORDON TOWN



This was originally an estate owned by the family of Colonel William Gordon who died in 1731. The town is ten miles northeast of Kingston and a similar distance from the Grand Ridge of the Blue Mountains further to the north. The post office opened in May, 1851. Gordon Town used two obliterators, A43 and A42 normal type H, during the following periods:

► A43 from 1 March 1859 to 1862.



► A42 from 1862 to about 1893.

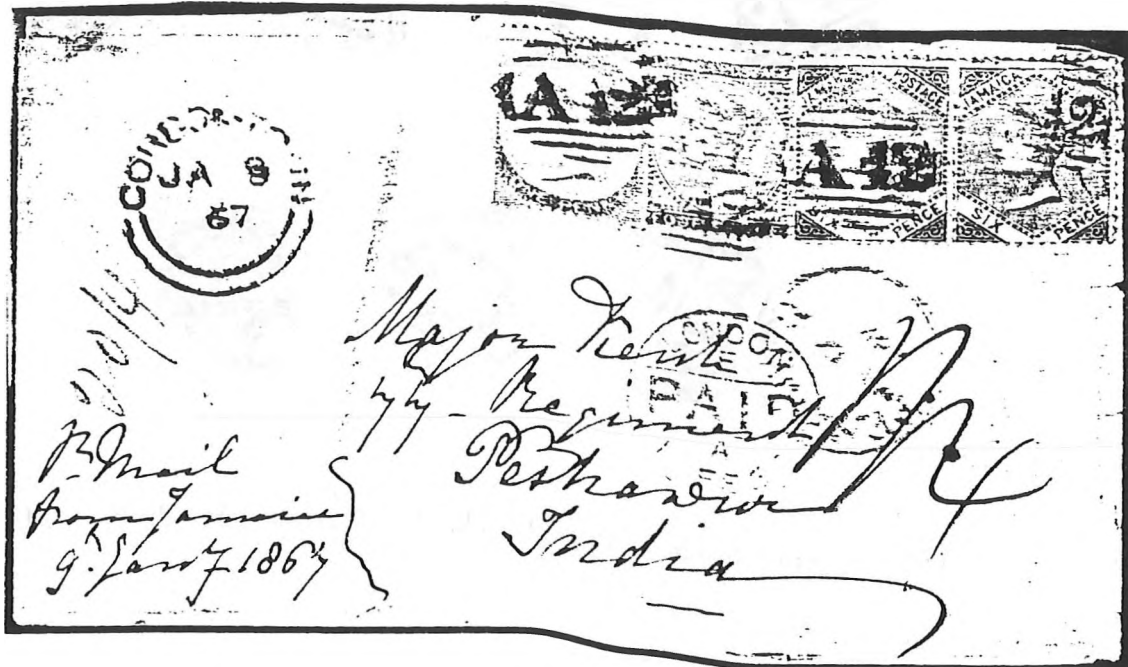


The earliest recorded date is 9 DE 71; the latest recorded date is 2 AU 92.

# GORDON TOWN

## Major Kent Correspondence

These Major Kent covers show that Gordon Town used both the A43 and A42 obliterations. The top cover with the A43 obliterator shows a 1d. accountancy handstamp in red indicating that 1d. was to be credited to the Jamaican Postal Authorities and the balance to the General Post Office in London. Note that by 1867 an additional 5d. was required for letters to India above the 1/- rate to England.





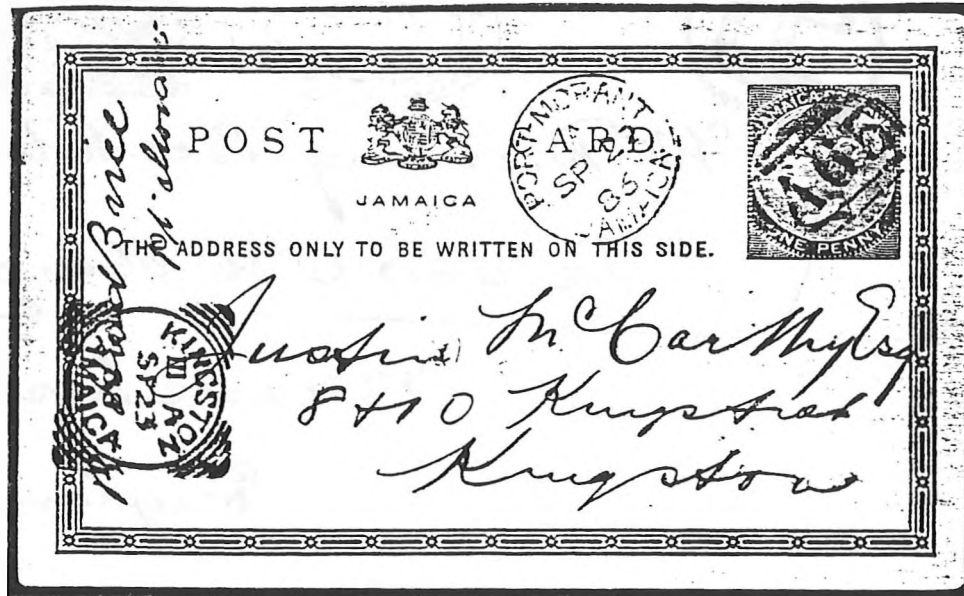
# PORT MORANT



Port Morant is located on the southeast coast in St. Thomas parish. The post office was opened before 1774. It used the A65 obliterator of normal type H from 1859 to 1890. The earliest recorded date is 12 DE 62; the latest recorded date is 22 SP 86.

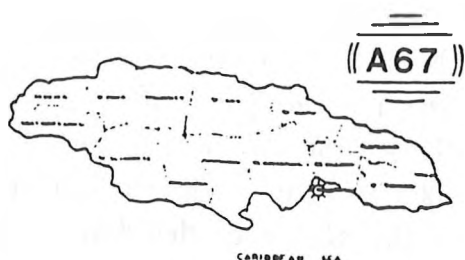


LATEST RECORDED DATE



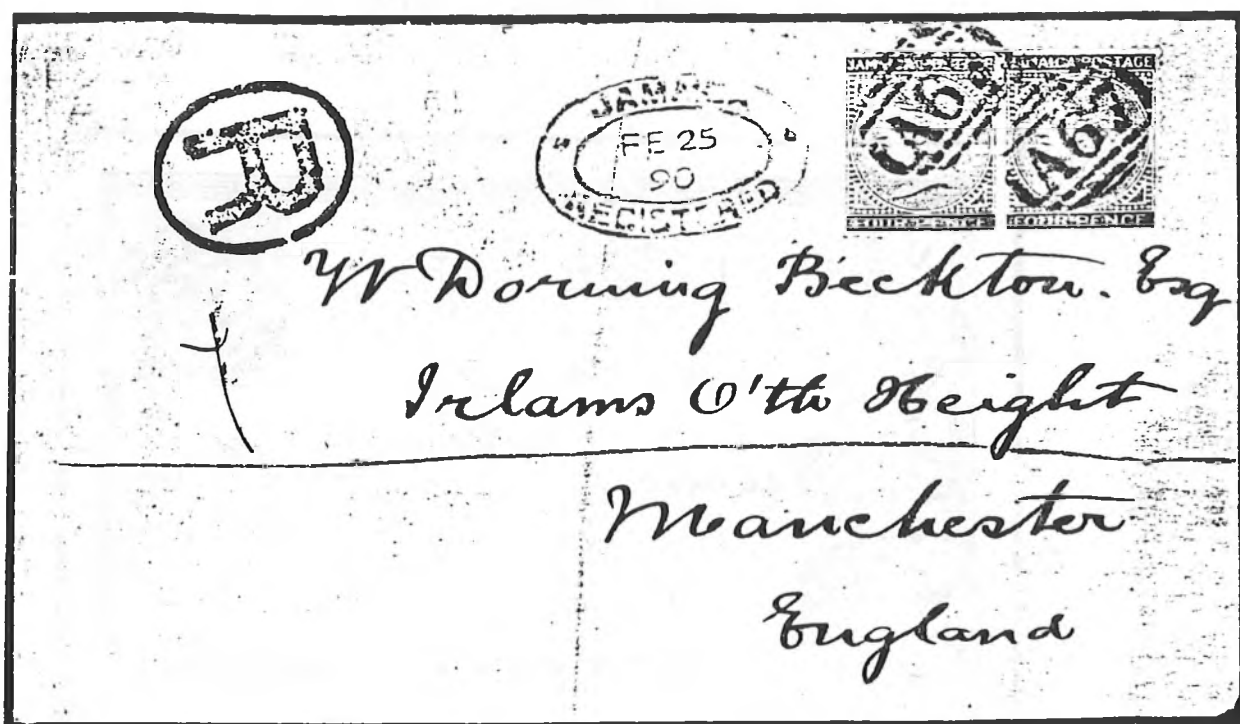
This postcard shows the A65 obliterator used at Port Morant together with the P11b C.D.S. 22 mm index A and the Kingston squared circle both shown on the front. The postmark of 22 SP 86 is the latest recorded date.

# PORT ROYAL



"The Wickedest City in the World"

In the late seventeenth century Port Royal grew quickly in both trade and notoriety. Treasure from the sacked Spanish cities and goods from plundered ships found a ready market here. Buccaneers were reputed to have spent more than 2,000 pieces of eight in one night! On 6 June 1692 an earthquake reduced the town to ruins and Port Royal lost its proud title of the "Wickedest City in the World."



The post office was opened before 7 February 1833. The A67 obliterator of normal type H was used from 1 March 1859 to about 1895. The earliest recorded date is 18 DE 66; the latest recorded date is 2 JU 91. This cover from Port Royal to England has a type R1 registered cancel dated 25 FE 90 and the letter R in oval type R12 with A67 obl iterators.

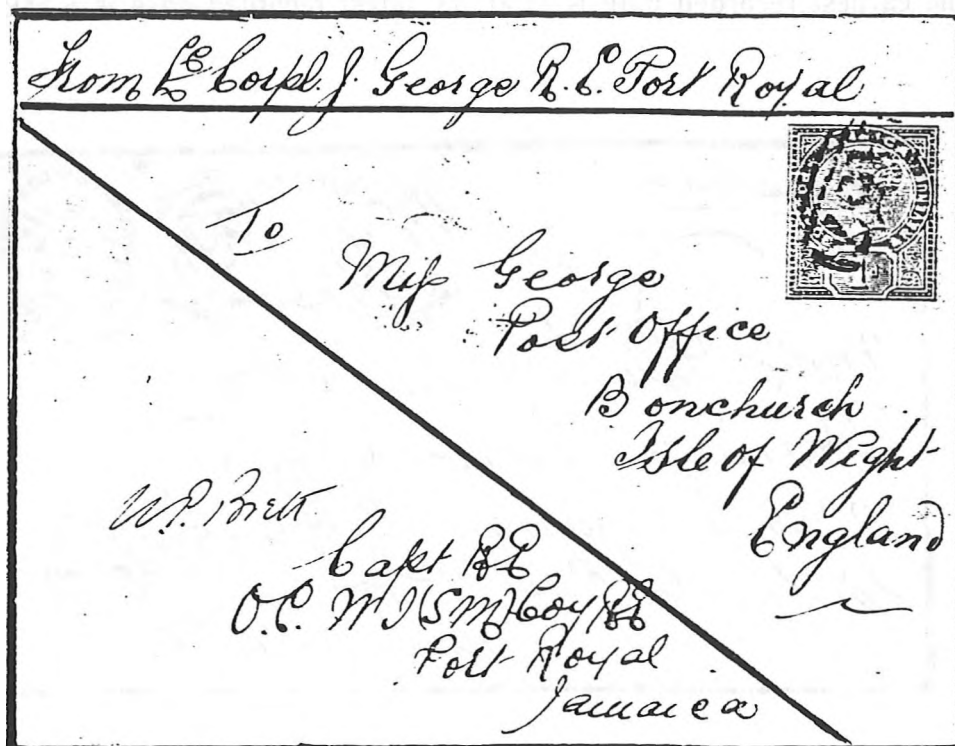
## PORT ROYAL

Heavy postal charges levied during the late 18th century caused great hardships to many soldiers, sailors, and their dependents.

In 1795 the government authorized a privilege rate of 1d. The act permitted any non-commissioned officer, seaman, or private soldier to send and receive letters subject to certain regulations of which the following are most pertinent:

1. The letter must not weigh more than 1/2 ounce.
2. The letter must relate entirely to private concerns.
3. The letter must comply with a specific format and bear a full name, rank, and regiment together with the signature of the commanding officer.

### SOLDIER'S LETTER



1891 Soldier's Letter from a Lance-Corporal at Port Royal.

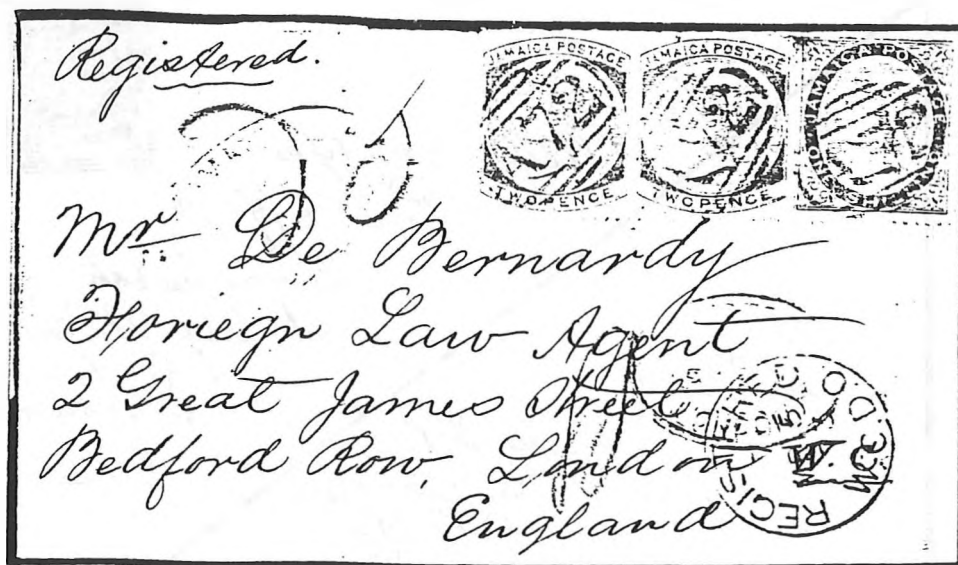
# ST. DAVID



This is the area of the thriving coffee estates of 150 years ago, all now gone at least as private estates. The name of the post office was Yallahs before 1833, then was changed to St. David until 1902. At that time it reverted back to Yallahs. St. David used the A72 obliterator of normal type H from 1 March 1859 to about 1890.



The earliest recorded date is 23 FE 73; latest recorded date is 6 MR 86.



This 1873 registered envelope to London bearing a 2d. pair and 1/- cancelled A72 at St. David is backstamped with a single ring 22 mm cancel showing the earliest recorded date of 23 FE 73, and the registered London receiving marks on the front.

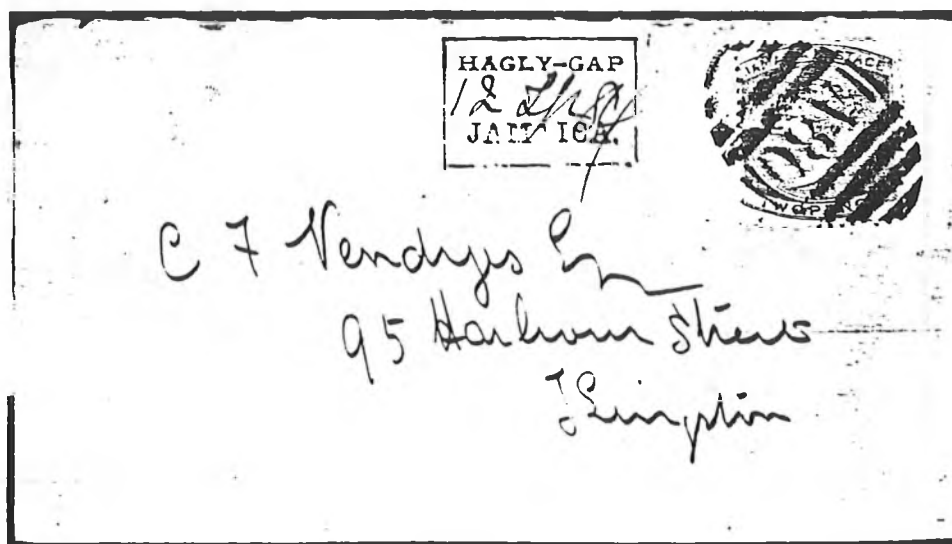
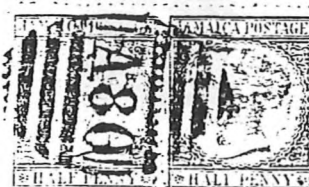
# MOUNT CHARLES & HAGLY GAP



CARIBBEAN SEA

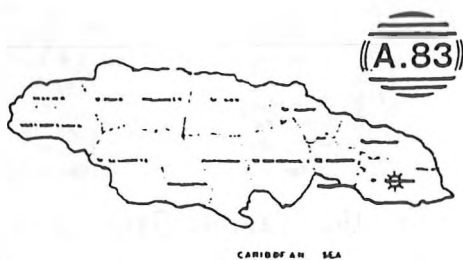


Mount Charles, on the Yallahs River, used the A80 type K obliterator with large figures from 1876 to 1 June 1884 when the post office was moved two miles to Hagly Gap. This post office used the A80-K obliterator with small figures from 1884 to early in 1885.



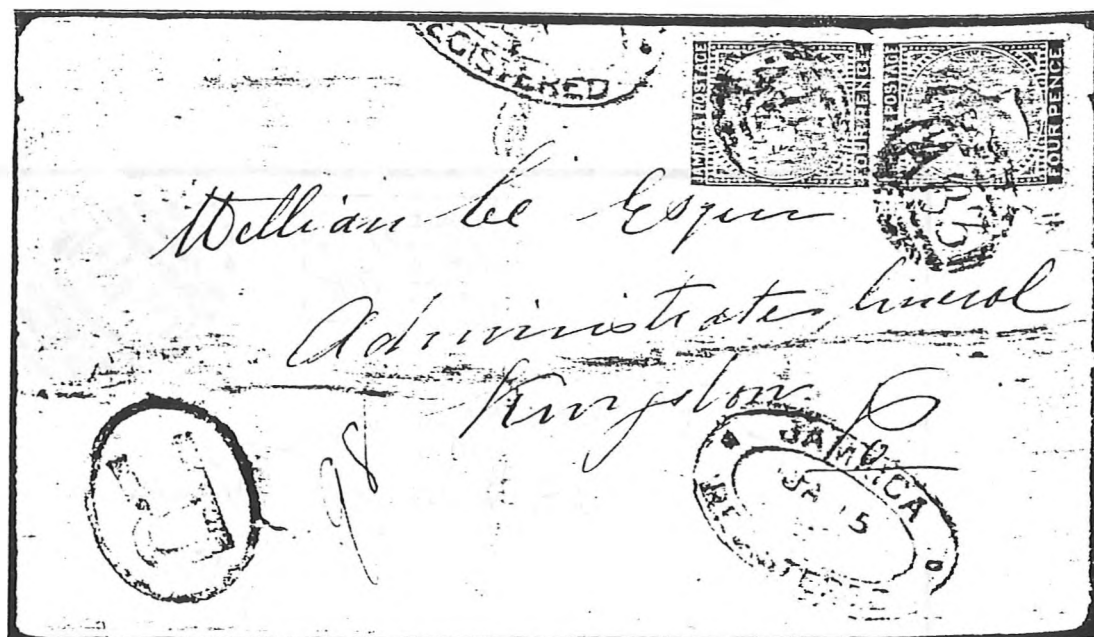
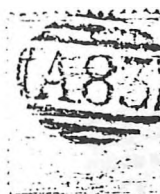
This cover from Hagly Gap to Kingston is dated 12 September 1884 and has a 2d. rose cancelled with an A80 obliterator and with the oblong temporary rubber date stamp alongside. This date stamp was in use from 2 June 1884 to 9 May 1885.

# TRINITYVILLE



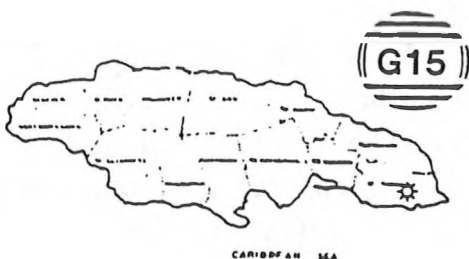
Trinityville is a very small village on the Negro river. The post office was opened in 1878 and used the A83 obliterator of type M until about 1898. This obliterator is similar to those of A28, A60, and A82 type M, but has a faint dot after the A only, and none after the 3. This was the last

number to be sent to Jamaica from London. The earliest recorded date is 9 MY 80; the latest recorded date is 15 JA 87.

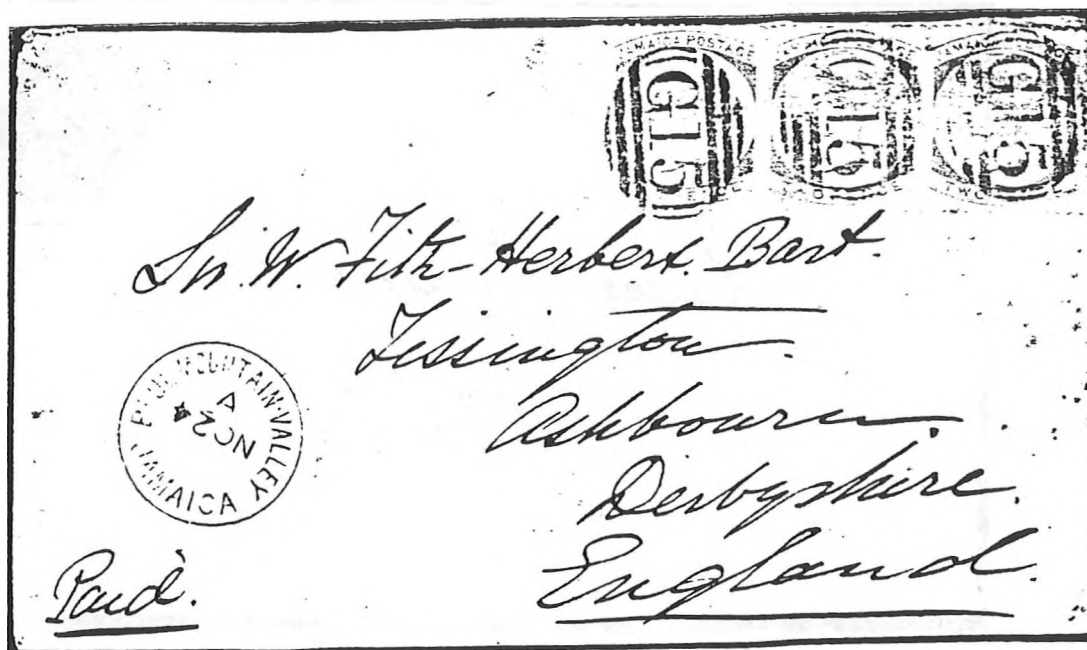


This cover has a registered cancel, type R1 (see Nicholson, page 220) dated 15 JA 87; it also has the letter R in oval, type R12 (Nicholson, page 223) which came into use in mid-1886.

# BLUE MOUNTAIN VALLEY



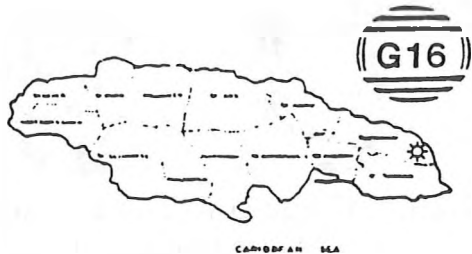
The G15 obliterator of type O was used from late 1873 to about 1898. Blue Mountain Valley is situated in St. Thomas parish and gets its name from the neighboring Blue Mountains, that enchanted "land of wood and water."



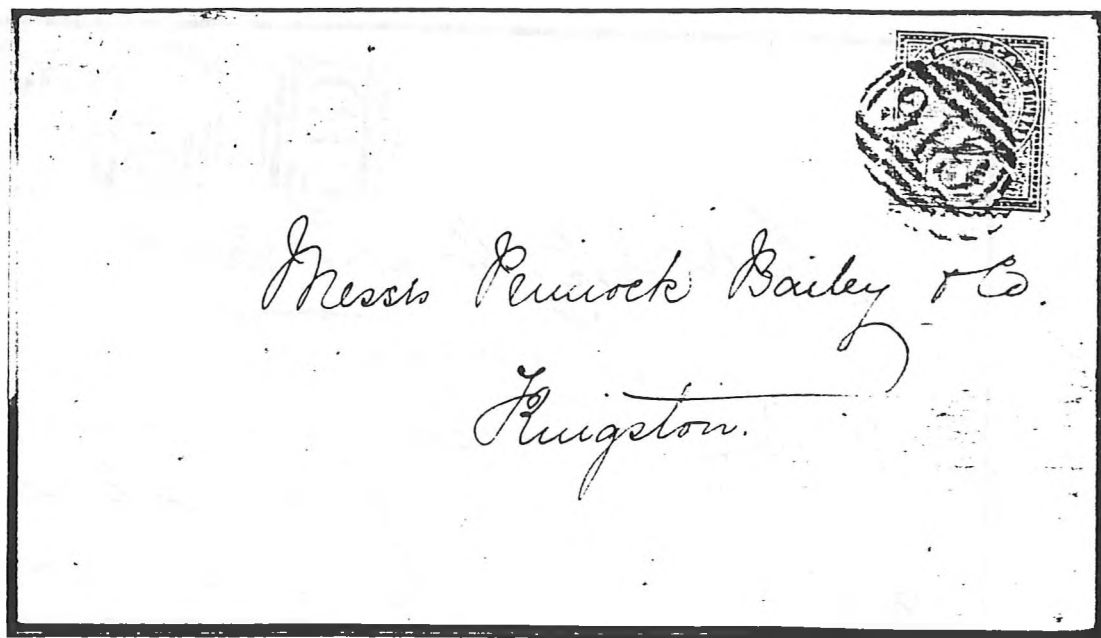
The post office was opened in August, 1873. The earliest recorded date is 18 AU 84; the latest date is not recorded.



# PRIESTMANS RIVER



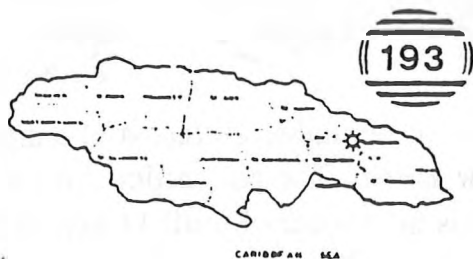
This village is about eight miles east of Port Antonio on the northeast coast in Portland parish. Inland from here the range of the John Crow Mountains run north and south to join the Blue Mountains. The post office at Priestmans River was opened in August, 1873. The G16 obliterator of type O was used from late 1873 to 1898.



The earliest recorded date is 25 MY 84; the latest recorded date is 21 SP 92.



## COLD SPRING

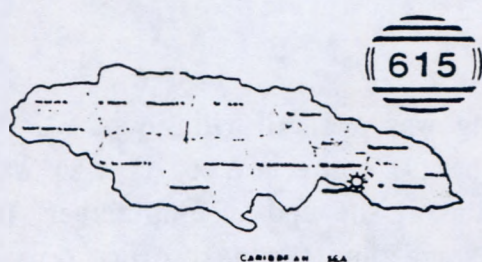


Cold Spring was a small village in St. Andrew parish. The 193 obliterator of type O was sent from London at the end of September, 1874, at about the same time the post office opened. It was used until about 1897. The type O obliterator is slightly larger than the normal type H and has heavier horizontal bars.

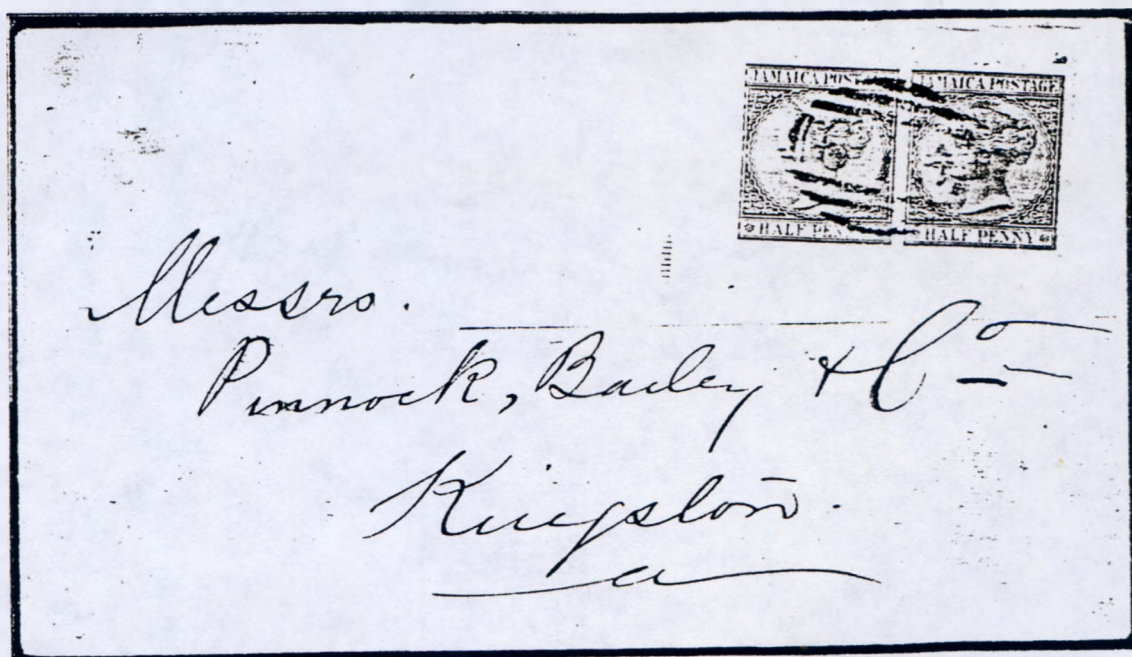


This is one of the few numbers which can be found on the 6d. orange-yellow stamp issued in 1890, watermarked crown & C.A.

# BULL BAY



Bull Bay is about ten miles southeast of Kingston in St. Andrew parish. The post office was opened in August, 1857, then closed soon afterward. It was not reopened until 14 August 1875. The 615 obliterator type O was used from 1876 to the early 1900's. Since the Llandoverly Falls stamps were not issued until 1900-01, there are very few obliterator numbers recorded on them since most had been retired by that time. Strikes are recorded with A58J, A63, F95, G14, 598, and 615. These obl iterators were the last to be retired in the early 1900's.



This cover shows the 615 obliterator frontstamped on two 1/2d. crown & C.A. stamps and backstamped with a Bull Bay single ring C.D.S. dated 5 AP 92 and a Kingston squared circle receiving mark showing the same date.



EXPLORING JAMAICA

Needing Journals End



# EXPLORING JAMAICA

## Nearing Journey's End

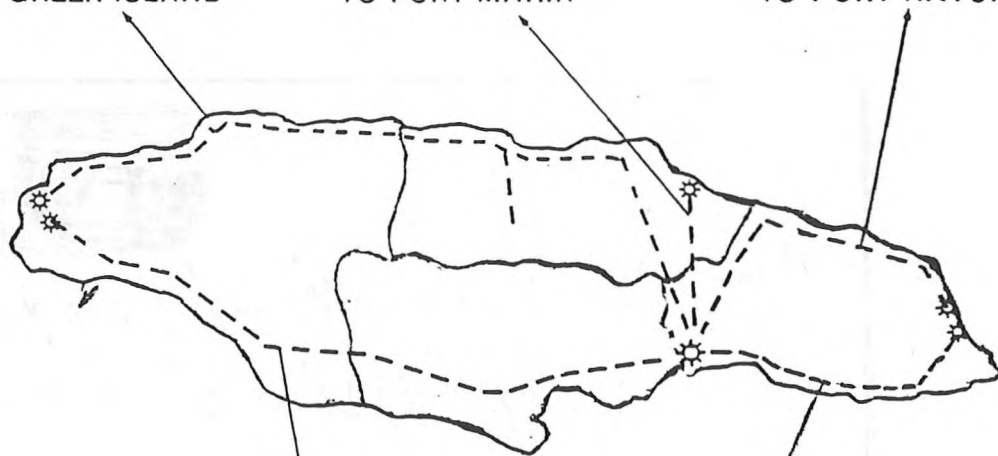
No exploration of Jamaican obliterations would be complete without mention of the Post Roads used for the inland delivery in the outlying parts of the island. In 1840, the post offices served the various parishes through the medium of five Post Roads. The routes taken by these roads and their names are shown on the map below, all commencing from Kingston, the capital of Jamaica.



THE NORTHSIDE ROAD  
TO GREEN ISLAND

THE NORTHSIDE ROAD  
TO PORT MARIA

THE NORTHSIDE ROAD  
TO PORT ANTONIO

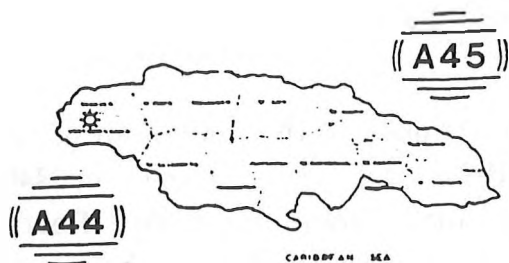


THE LEEWARD ROAD  
TO GRANGE HILL



THE WINDWARD ROAD  
TO MANCHIONEAL

# GRANGE HILL



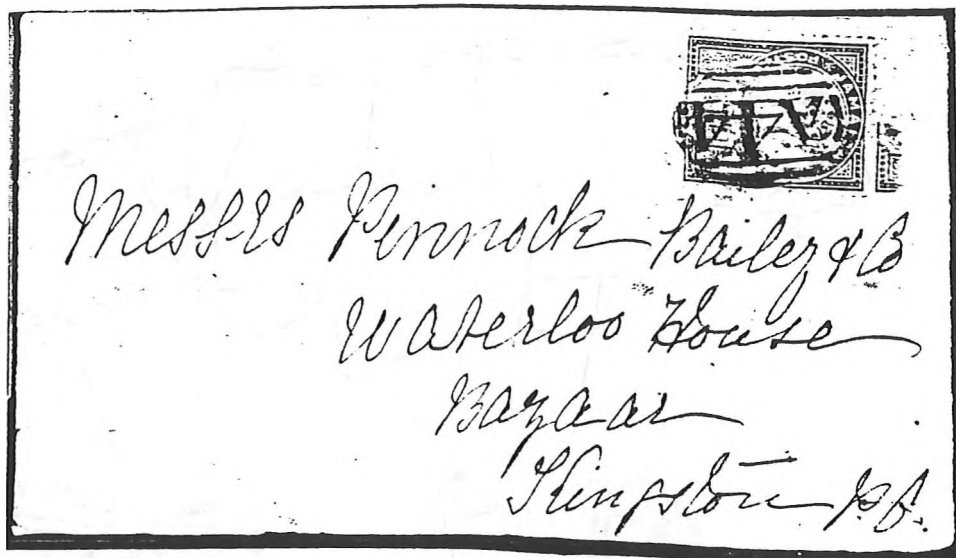
Grange Hill was the last post office on the Leeward or Southside Road, linked to Savana-La-Mar and several other post offices along the route to Kingston — a total distance of 133 miles. The mail to distant post offices was conveyed by pack mule, and the postman covered an average

distance of 70 miles each day. Grange Hill opened before April 1839 and used two obliterations, both normal type H.

► A45 was used from 1 March 1859 to 1862:



► A44 was used from 1862 to late 1893.

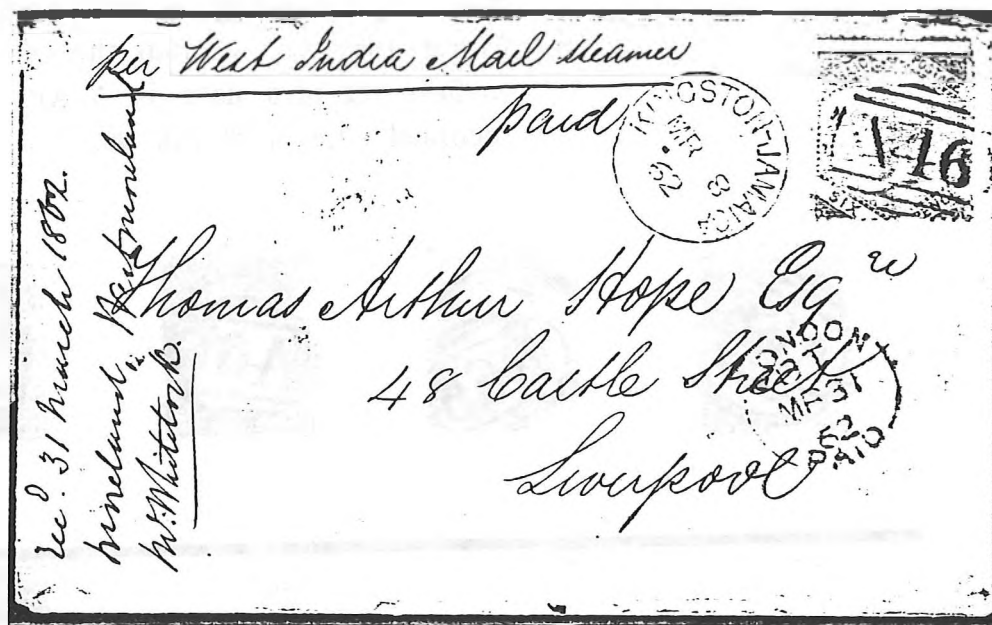


The cover from Grange Hill to Kingston shows an A44 obliterator and is backstamped with a C.D.S. single ring Grange Hill 24.5 mm no index, and dated 18 NO 91 (see Foster page 96, type P11b).

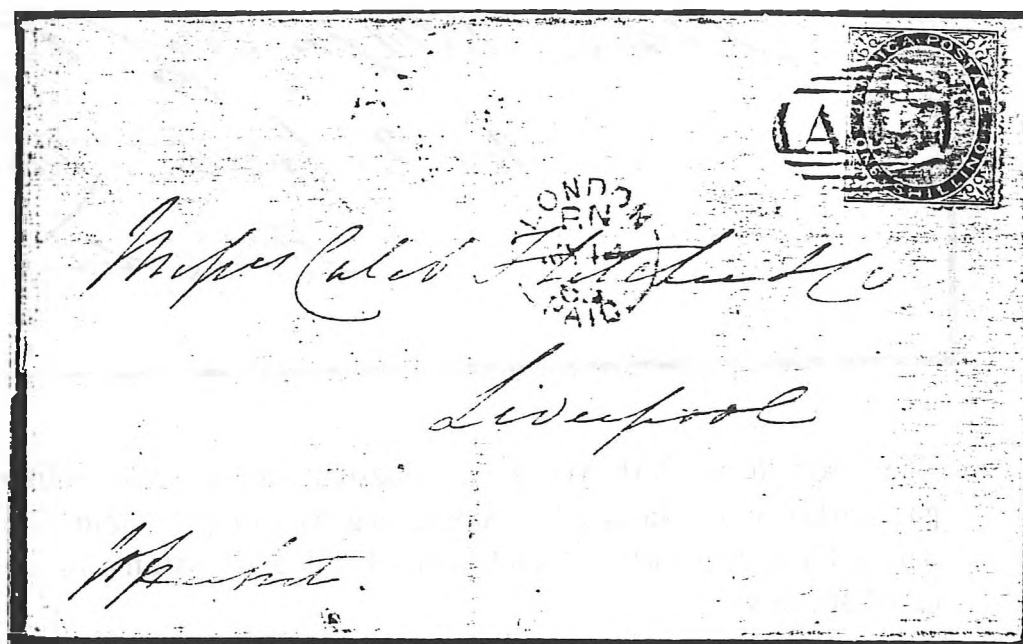
# GREEN ISLAND

EARLIEST AND LATEST RECORDED DATE

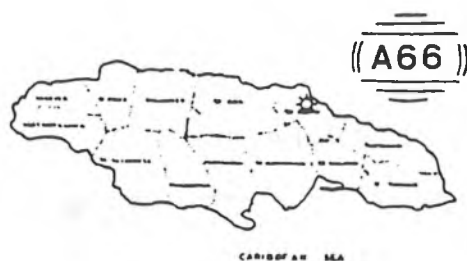
► A46—Latest recorded date is 6 MR 62 per cover below:



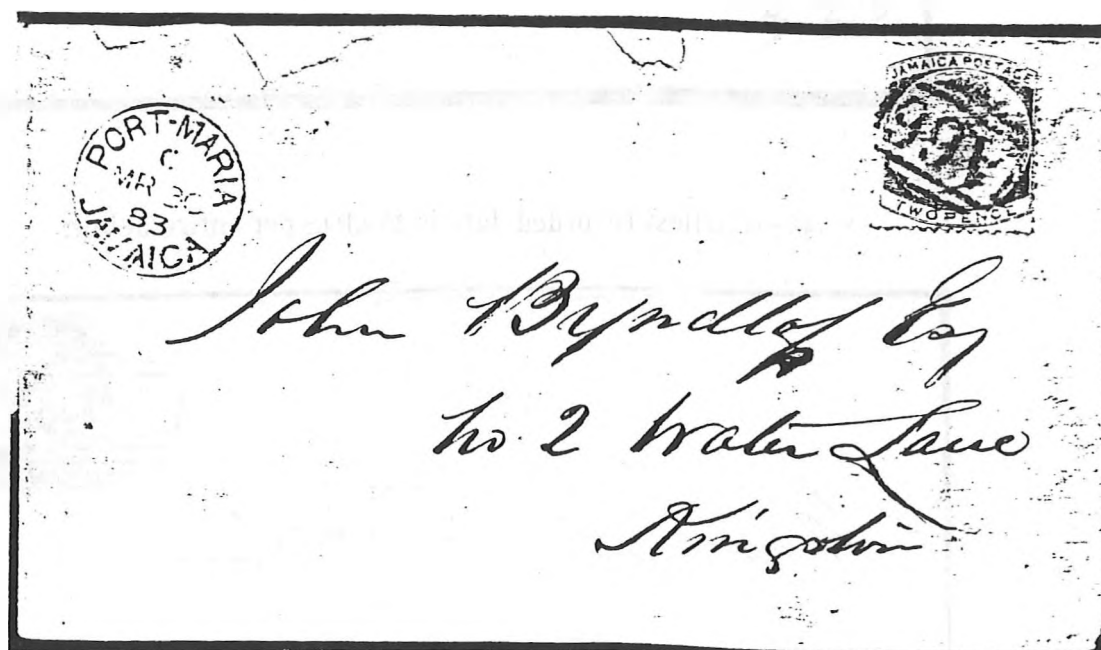
► A45—Earliest recorded date is 23 AP 65 per entire below:



# PORT MARIA



This is the capital of the parish of St. Mary which along with Portland on the west, were the banana parishes of the island due to the fertile soil. The A66 type H obliterator was used at Port Maria from 1859 to about the end of 1895. The earliest recorded date is 5 AP 59; the latest recorded date is 28 MR 90.



The cover from Port Maria to Kingston has an A66 obliterator and postmarked Port Maria C.D.S. single ring type P13, 225 mm diameter, "C" index, dated 30 MR 83, and backstamped with a Kingston single ring C.D.S. dated 31 MR 83.



# ST. ANN'S BAY



Land in Sight!

On 4 May 1494, Columbus first sighted the island of Xamayca, as it was called at that time. His landfall was at St. Ann's Bay, on the north coast of the island. He called it Santa Gloria . . . "on account of the great beauty of the country" . . . "the fairest island that eyes have beheld." A73, normal type H, was used from March 1859 to 1892.



LATEST RECORDED DATE



The post office was opened about 1774. Earliest recorded date is 9 AP 59; latest recorded date is 17 DE 89, as shown by the Cover above, with A73 obliterator and redirection mark Crowned R in red.

# SALT GUT



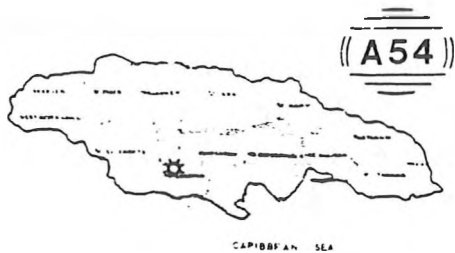
Salt Gut is a small village near the port of Oracabessa in the parish of St. Mary. The A74 type H obliterator was used at Salt Gut from 1859 to the middle of 1892. The post office then closed and was moved a short distance to Retreat. However, it is highly improbable that Retreat ever used this or any other obliterator since the double ring datestamp was issued to Retreat in 1892.



ONLY RECORDED A74  
STRIKE ON "OFFICIAL"

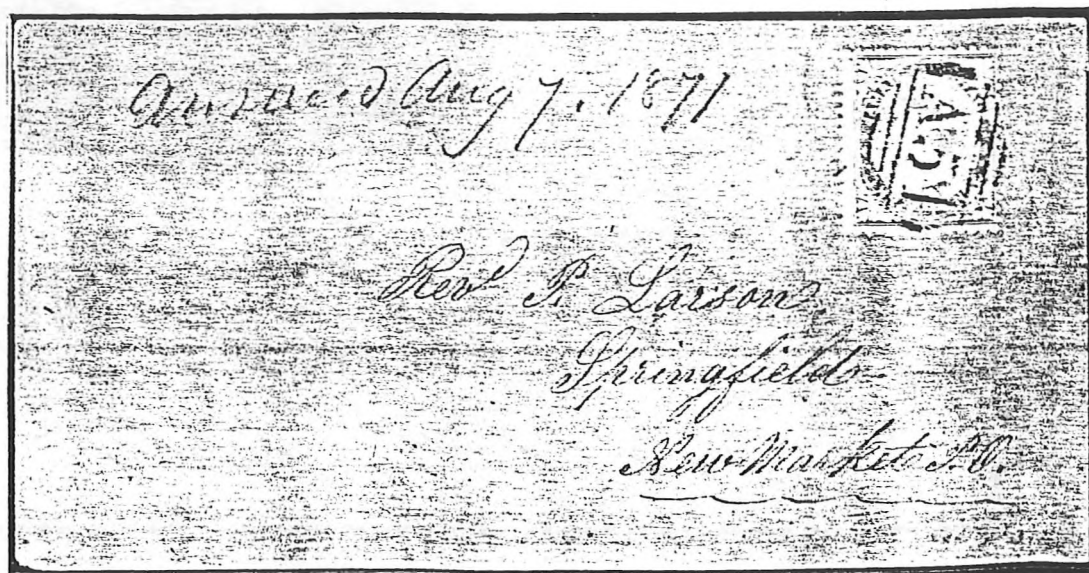
The earliest recorded date is 15 AP 59; latest date is unrecorded.

# MAY HILL



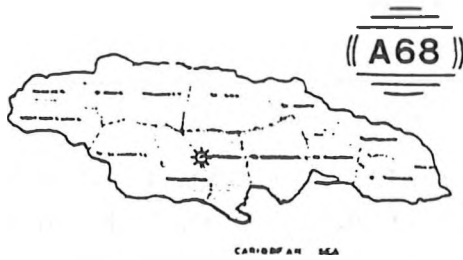
## One Mystery Solved!

May Hill was close to Newport in the parish of Manchester. One of the mysteries of Jamaican philately has been the absence of covers from Mile Gully with an A54 type H obliterator. The Postmaster at May Hill was told to send his A54 type H obliterator to Mile Gully about 1 November 1862. The cover below indicates that the May Hill postmaster simply failed to send the obliterator over to Mile Gully, and instead continued to use it occasionally at May Hill.



The cover, bearing an A54 type H obliterator, was sent on 3 AU 71 from May Hill to New Market as shown by their respective backstamps, reproduced alongside.

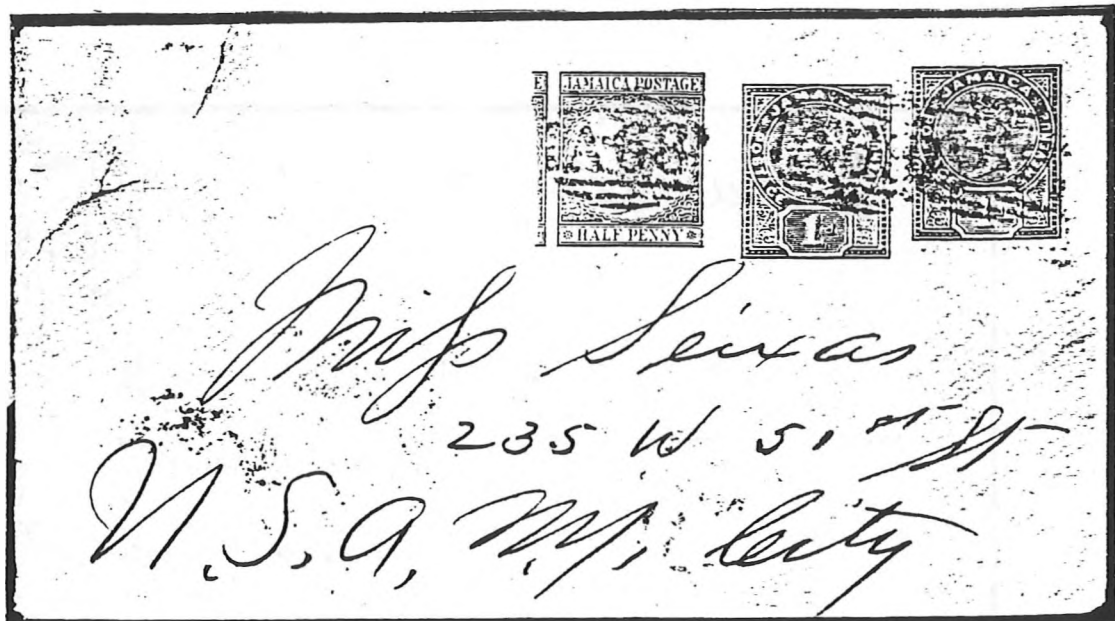
# PORUS



Porus is in Manchester parish on the railway almost equidistant between Montego Bay and Kingston. It signals the first stretch of dry and dusty logwood country. The post office opened in October, 1846, and used the A68 obliterator from 1 March 1859 to early 1892.

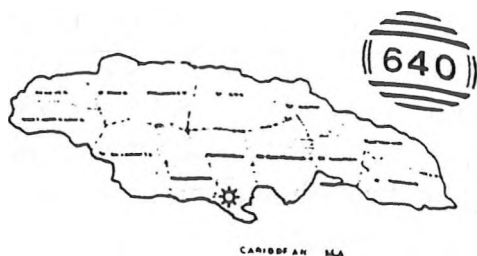


The earliest recorded date is 2 DE 59; the latest recorded date is 24 FE 91.



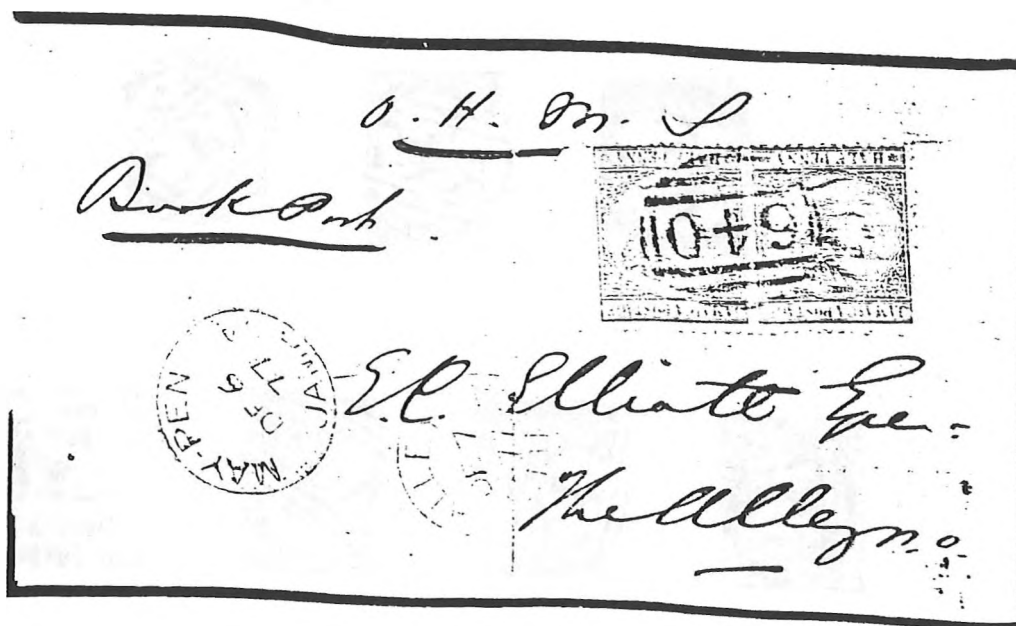
This letter from Porus to New York has A68 obliterations and back-stamped with a Porus C.D.S. single ring 23.5 mm dated 27 OC 90 via Kingston with a squared circle cancel dated 28 OC 90. It was received in New York on 6 NO 90.

# MAY PEN



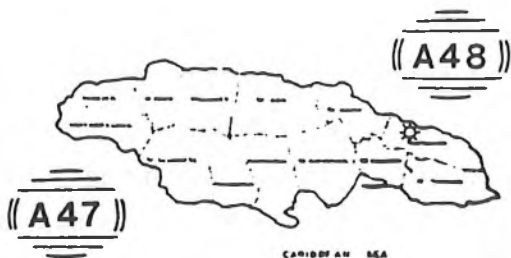
This is the fourth largest town in Jamaica and an important commercial center. It is 12 miles from Old Harbour in the parish of Clarendon and there are large sugar plantations and bauxite mines in the region. The 640 type O obliterator was used at May Pen from 1876 to about the end of 1898.

The earliest recorded date is 8 NO 77 and the latest recorded date is 27 MA 92.



The entire from May Pen to Alley shows the '640' obliterator and the C.D.S. single ring postmarks dated 6 DE 77 and 7 DE 77 at May Pen and Alley, respectively. "O.H.M.S." represented the term "On Her Majesty's Service," since the entire was a court circular.

# HOPE BAY

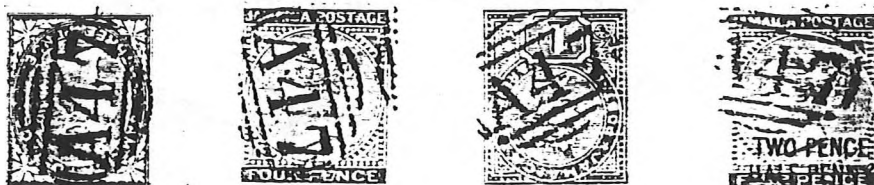


Ten miles to the east of Buff Bay lies Hope Bay, which took its name from an officer of the Commonwealth Army, who settled there after the conquest. The post office was opened in 1810. Hope Bay used two obliterated both of which were of normal type H.

► A48 from March 1859 to 1862.



► A47 from 1862 to about 1893.



# PLANTAIN GARDEN RIVER



Plantain Garden River is on the east coast in St. Thomas parish. The river flows close to Bath, a neighboring town which in flood time may be marooned. The post office was opened in May, 1850, and was eventually moved to Golden Grove (close by) in 1905. The A62 obliterator of normal type H was used from 1 March 1859 to early in 1894.



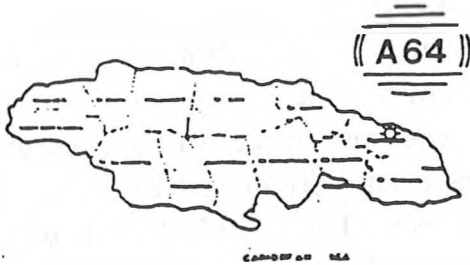
The earliest recorded date is 30 AP 59; latest recorded date is 21 MR 93.



This cover shows the A62 obliterator used at Plantain Garden River and is backstamped with a single-ring P11 datestamp of 1 AP 92, and received at Kingston as recorded by a squared circle dater of 2 AP 92.



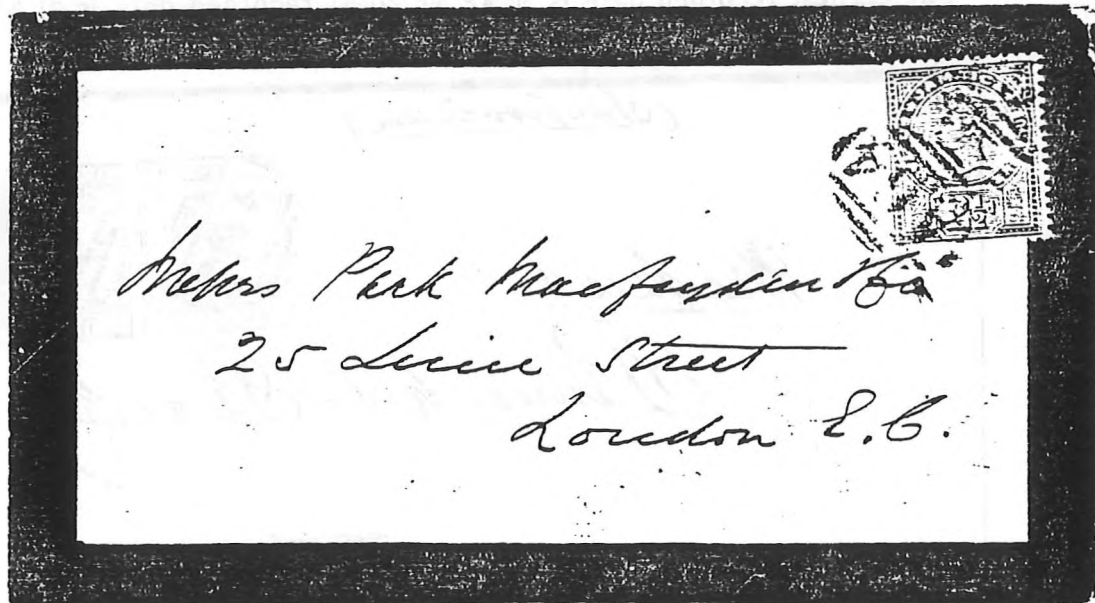
# PORT ANTONIO



The A64 obliterator of normal type H was used from 1859 to 1896. Port Antonio is an old Spanish port situated on the northeast coast. Captain Bligh, of Mutiny on the Bounty fame, landed here.

## Mourning Letter

LATEST RECORDED DATE



The Mourning letter was posted from Port Antonio on 20 JY 96, and forwarded to London via Kingston as back-stamped by a C.D.S. double ring cancel dated 21 JY 96. This is the latest recorded date for the A64 obliterator. The earliest recorded date is 23 JA 63.

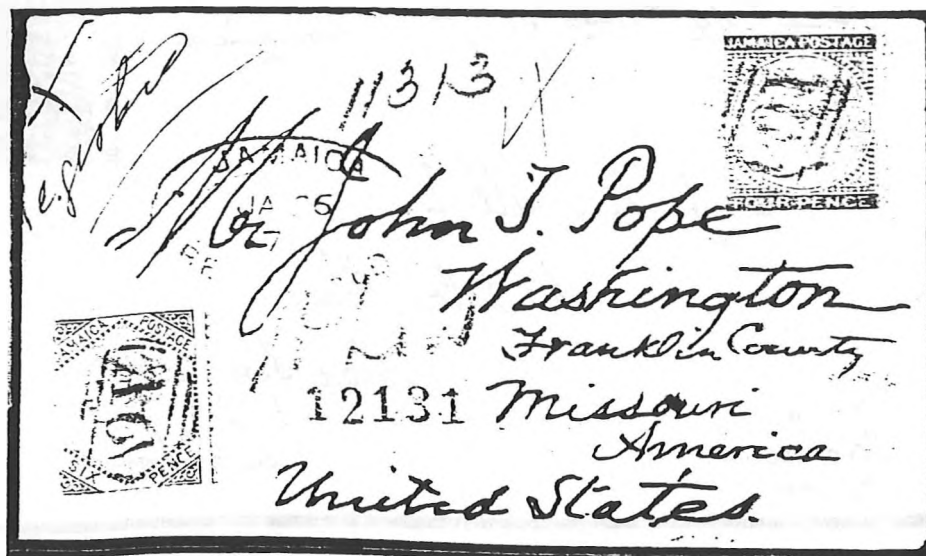
# PORT ANTONIO

## Blue Ink

The special stamping ink used from 1857 onward was supplied by Shackell, Edwards & Co. Ltd., of Red Lion Passage, London. Jamaican postmarks are sometimes found in blue ink, due probably to a temporary shortage of the special black ink.



ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE ON COVER WITH BLUE INK



The cover shows two strikes of the A64 obliterator in blue ink, and is backstamped with a Port Antonio single ring cancel dated 25 JA 78, also in blue ink.

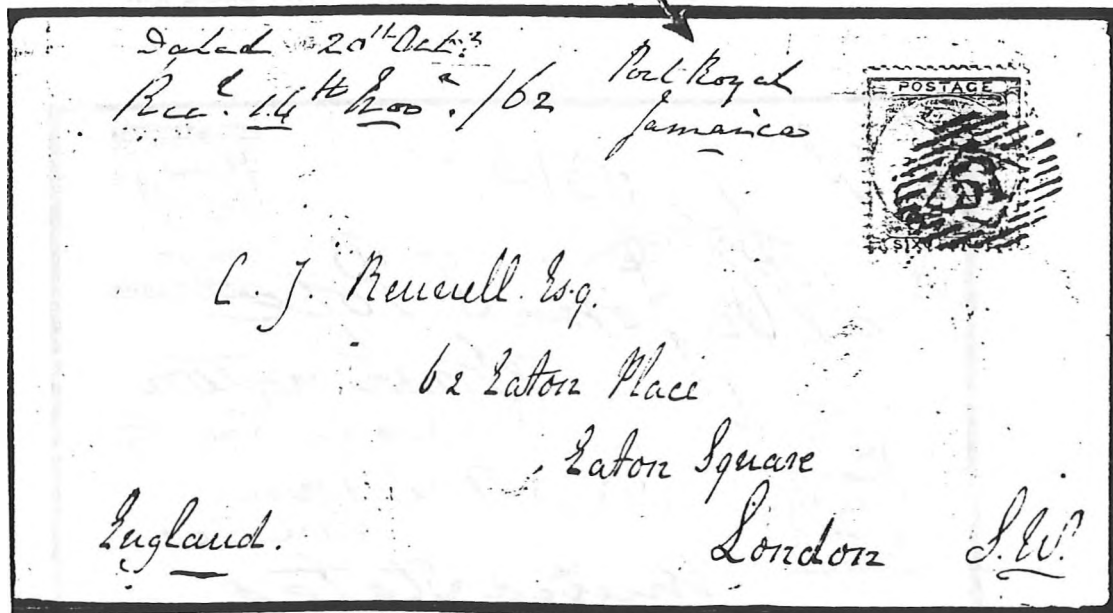
# PORT ROYAL HARBOUR

## Ship Letter

Here is a loose letter written on board ship in Port Royal Harbour and given to the Purser or Captain to be put with the mail for London. This letter was written and stamped on board and not on the Island.

If the letter had been written on shore and handed in as a loose letter, it would have borne a Jamaica 6d. stamp with a Pine watermark, and would have been stamped with the '51' mark on arrival in London.

ON BOARD SHIP



This item cannot be considered as a British stamp used in Jamaica since British stamps were forbidden to be used in the Island after 1 August 1860, over two years before the date of this letter — 20 October 1862. (See Foster, pages 155 to 159.)

## JAMAICAN STAMPS USED ABROAD

Jamaican stamps can sometimes be found with English, Colonial, or Foreign obliteration numbers. They are all illusive items and are desirable in any postal history collection. The examples shown below are with English cancels.



The number '723' in a type K obliterator. This was a later type of Southampton's number.



The numbers '50' and '51' in a square-shaped diamond, surrounded by horizontal lines forming a circle. These were London marks.

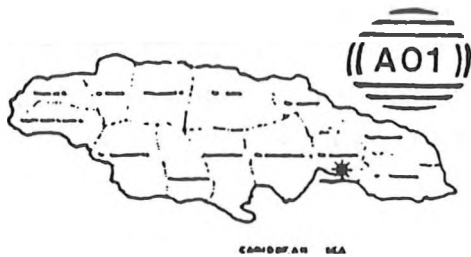


The obliterator 'B16' types H and K. This was the number of the Plymouth and Bristol T.P.O.



The numeral '11' and letter 'P' in a diamond which are surrounded by an oval of horizontal bars. These were London City types.

## KINGSTON (A01-E)



Type A01-E came into use about the middle of 1871 and lasted until about 1884. The 'A01-E' is somewhat similar to 'A01-C,' but is much heavier.



### Farewell:

After touring the various Post Towns around the island of Jamaica, it is appropriate to end this exploration with the A01 type E obliterator. It is the only Jamaican obliterator to have been used in England when all the obl iterators themselves were retired. We have therefore made the full circle and bid you farewell.

### A01-E used in England



The A01-E obliterator was apparently returned to London when it went out of use in Jamaica. It was probably used to cancel stamps which had escaped being obliterated at the office of origin. The one pound King Edward VII Great Britain stamp shown above is one such example.



