

JAMAICA POSTAL STATIONERY

by Thomas Foster

The purpose of these check lists is to work up material for a proposed new handbook, covering Jamaican stamps and postal stationery. The list numbers in the final work will almost certainly differ slightly from those given here as further facts come to light. Type numbers in the first column are my reference. Numbers in second column are Higgins & Gage Catalogue numbers. Prices quoted are those seen by me at various sources in England.

c = Still current as of October 1970 when this list was drafted; dd = Nominal value of a few pence.

REGISTERED ENVELOPES

Registration of both inland and overseas mail in Jamaica has been possible since the 18th Century, but it was not until 1881 that the first special security envelopes of the types to be described were issued for this service.

Most of the different issues comprised envelopes issued in the following sizes:-

Size F = 133 x 83 mm, Size G = 156 x 96 mm, Size H = 202 x 107 mm.

1 JANUARY 1881 FIRST DEFINITIVE UNSTAMPED ENVELOPE.

White Wove linen-lined paper envelopes with the flap opening at back on the left.

Envelopes bear the imprint McCORQUODALE AND CO. LIMITED - PATENT REGISTERED ENVELOPE under the flap. All the wording, crossed blue lines and rectangular lined space for insertion of the adhesive stamps are typographed in Pale Blue ink by the same firm.

As this envelope was also issued to other colonies at the same time, there is no way of establishing mint examples as having been issued in Jamaica, however, these have a place in a reference collection. Used examples must bear stamp or stamps to cover the current 4d Registration rate plus postage fee.

		MINT	USED
RE1	- No value, Size G	?	50/-
1a	- Variety:- Printing omitted from front of envelope.	?	?
RE2	- No value, Size H	?	£4

Size G envelopes cost ½d to purchase from post offices, and Size H 3/4d, and to this had to be added the cost of the adhesives affixed.

c. 1885 ? SECOND DEFINITIVE UNSTAMPED ENVELOPE.

As first issue but flap is now at the back on the right. The imprint under the flap reads McCORQUODALE AND CO. LIMITED - CONTRACTORS, and there is a large letter "R" in an upright oval on the front. All of the wording and lines are typographed in Dark Blue ink.

This is also a general colonial issue, and only used items give proof of having been used in Jamaica. Two different Registration rates were in effect during the life of this issue, 4d and 2d, and these are considered to merit separate listings

The 4d Registration Rate. Used envelopes must bear adhesives paying the normal rate of postage, plus the 4d Registration Fee.

RE3	- No value, Size G	?	£2
RE4	- No value, Size H	?	£4

The 2d Registration Rate. Used envelopes must bear adhesives paying the normal rate of postage, plus the 2d Registration Fee.

RE5	-	No value, Size G	?	30/-
RE6	-	No value, Size H	?	£4

The new 2d Registration Rate came into operation on 1 June 1893. The price of this issue of envelopes was the same as for the first issue.

The unstamped envelopes were in use until 1913, when the first Stamped Registration Envelopes appeared. The author would be pleased to hear from anyone having examples differing from those quoted, as he has no doubt that different printings exist.

27 JANUARY 1913 - 1927 THE KING GEORGE V DEFINITIVE ENVELOPE.

Envelopes of cream linen-lined paper with flap opening on front to right. Printed and manufactured by De La Rue & Co. Ltd., whose imprint THOS. DE LA RUE & CO., LTD., PATENT appears under the flap in block capitals. The words REGISTERED LETTER on the front of the envelope measure 52 mm in length.

All instructions are typographed in shades of Deep Blue ink, but the oval Dark Brown stamp is embossed on the top of the flap, and is inscribed with the Registration Fee paid and the lowest rate of Inland Postage, plus the name of the colony.

A die proof of the embossed stamp as issued is known, struck in orange vermillion on thin white card with a raised border, the card measuring 33 x 40 mm. It is believed that only one example exists.

RE7	1	2d Registration & 1d Postage, Dark Brown (shades), Size F	£1	7/6d
	7a	- Overprinted SPECIMEN diagonally	£5	-
RE8	1a	2d Registration & 1d Postage, Dark Brown (shades), Size G, (issued 1927)	25/-	10/-
RE9	1b	2d Registration & 1d Postage, Dark Brown (shades), Size H	£3	£1

SPECIMEN items of Sizes G and H almost certainly exist, and will be listed as RE8a & RE9a, respectively, if confirmed. On the imprint of RE9, the initial letter of each word is larger than the rest. It is possible that the Size H envelope exists having the original imprint, and that conversely, the Sizes F and G exist with this amended imprint. If these are found, it will be necessary to renumber this listing.

These envelopes were sold for 3½d each at the post office. Your EKD's of Types RE8 and RE9 would be appreciated.

On April 1st 1916, a temporary change in postal rates occurred, when a system of War Tax on all correspondence was levied. All letters had to pay a War Tax of ½d, which can be found paid by means of the specially overprinted stamps available, or by the normal adhesives. Registration envelopes are by no means common in this condition, but they do constitute a further serial.

1 APRIL 1916 CURRENT REGISTRATION & POSTAGE RATES, PLUS ½D WAR TAX.

RE10	-	2d Registration & 1d Postage, Dark Brown, Size F, plus ½d adhesive War Tax stamp or normal issue	£5
RE11	-	2d Registration & 1d Postage, Dark Brown, Size H, plus ½d adhesive War Tax stamp or normal issue	£6

1938 FIRST KING GEORGE VI DEFINITIVE ENVELOPE.

Similar to 1913 issue, but embossed stamp has the head of the new King. The imprint reads THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. PATENT. in block capitals, and the words REGISTERED LETTER still measure 52 mm. Your EKD's and LKD's would be appreciated.

RE12	2	2d Registration & 1d Postage, Dark Brown, Size F	£2	5/-
12a	-	Overprinted SPECIMEN diagonally in block capitals measuring 41 x 4 mm.	£5	-
12b	-	Variety:- Stamp doubly embossed	?	?
RE13	2a	2d Registration & 1d Postage, Dark Brown, Size G	£5	£1
13a	-	Overprinted SPECIMEN diagonally as 12a	£10	-
RE14	-	2d Registration & 1d Postage, Dark Brown, Size H	£3	£1
14a	-	Overprinted SPECIMEN diagonally as 12a	£7	-

These items cost 3½d each to purchase from the post office.

An increase in the Registration Fee from 2d to 3d, and in the minimum Inland Postage Rate from 1d to 1½d, necessitated a new series of King George VI envelopes. Pending their arrival payment of the extra charge was made by means of adhesive stamps. The author would be pleased to see examples of such use, and hear from specialists their thoughts as to whether they should be given independent listing.

19?? SECOND KING GEORGE VI DEFINITIVE ENVELOPE.

As the previous issue, but the embossed stamp reads 3d Registration and 1½d Postage. Your EKD's and LKD's of each envelope will be appreciated.

RE15	3	3d Registration & 1½d Postage, Dark Brown, Size F	£1	5/-
15a	-	Overprinted SPECIMEN diagonally as 12a	£5	-
RE16	-	3d Registration & 1½d Postage, Dark Brown, Size G	£3	£1
16a	-	Overprinted SPECIMEN diagonally as 12a	£10	-
RE17	3a	3d Registration & 1½d Postage, Dark Brown, Size H	£7	£1
17a	-	Overprinted SPECIMEN diagonally as 12a	£7	-

RE15 and RE16 cost 5½d each, while RE17 cost 6½d to purchase from the post office.

19?? THIRD KING GEORGE VI DEFINITIVE ENVELOPE.

As the previous issue but the words REGISTERED LETTER are 46 mm long and the imprint reads THOS. DE LA RUE & CO., LTD. in block capitals. Your EKD's and LKD's would be appreciated.

RE18	-	3d Registration & 1½d Postage, Light Brown, Size F	£1	5/-
RE19	-	3d Registration & 1½d Postage, Light Brown, Size G	£2	£1
RE20	-	3d Registration & 1½d Postage, Light Brown, Size H	30/-	10/-

SPECIMEN envelopes do not exist of this issue.

19?? FOURTH KING GEORGE VI DEFINITIVE ENVELOPE.

As the previous issue, but imprint now reading THOMAS DE LA RUE & COMPANY LIMITED in thin serif capitals. Again your EKD's and LKD's would be appreciated.

RE21	-	3d Registration & 1½d Postage, Light Brown, Size F	£1	5/-
RE22	-	3d Registration & 1½d Postage, Light Brown, Size H	30/-	10/-

SPECIMEN envelopes of this issue do not exist. The author is of the opinion that no Size G envelopes were produced as a part of this issue.

The Registration Fee was further increased from 3d to 4d (date confirmation requested), and a little later, a corresponding increase in the minimum Inland Postage Rate from 1½d to 2d took place. These changes resulted in a new issue of envelopes, but they were late in arriving, and in the meantime the previous issues were used by the addition of adhesives. AS THE TWO RATES CONCERNED WERE CHANGED AT DIFFERENT TIMES, TWO TYPES OF ENVELOPE WITH ADHESIVE ADDITIONS CAN BE FOUND. The first only carried adhesives to cover the increased Registration Fee while the second carried adhesives to cover the increased postage as well. The author would be pleased to receive your opinion as to whether to give these uses separate ranking.

19?? FIFTH KING GEORGE VI DEFINITIVE ENVELOPE.

As previous issue but with embossed stamp reading 4d Registration and 2d Postage. A report of EKD's and LKD's would be appreciated.

RE23	4	4d Registration & 2d Postage, Reddish Brown, Size F	5/-	5/-
		(my EKD is 13 October 1953).		
RE24	4a	4d Registration & 2d Postage, Reddish Brown, Size H	£1	5/-

As far as is known, Size G envelopes of this issue were not made, and there were not any SPECIMEN overprints. The issued items cost 7d and 8d, respectively.

1953 ? THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II DEFINITIVE ENVELOPE.

As the previous issue but with the embossed stamp showing the head of the Queen.

RE25	5	4d Registration & 2d Postage, Light Brown, Size F	5/-	2/6
RE26	5a	4d Registration & 2d Postage, Light Brown, Size H	10/-	5/-

Size G envelopes did not form a part of this issue. Cost again was 7d and 8d. The author has never seen any SPECIMEN envelopes of this issue, and doubts that any were issued as by now the Crown Agents no longer distributed specially overprinted stamps or postal stationery for this purpose.

Yet another increase in the Registration Fee from 4d to 6d and a rise in the minimum Inland Postage Rate occurred before Independence and the last issue exists with this increase covered by additional adhesives. Should these items be listed separately?

196? INDEPENDENCE DEFINITIVE STERLING ENVELOPE.

This was a newly designed security envelope made of White linen-lined paper, and was manufactured and printed by McCorquodale, with imprint MCCORQUODALE & CO. LTD. under the flap. The embossed stamp shows the new Arms of Jamaica and is inscribed 6d Registration, 3d Postage.

RE27	6	6d Registration & 3d Postage, Brown (shades), Size F	dd	dd
RE28	6a	6d Registration & 3d Postage, Brown (shades), Size H	dd	dd

Size G envelopes were not manufactured. The envelopes cost 10d and 11d, each.

8 SEPTEMBER 1969 THE FIRST DECIMAL ENVELOPE.

As last issue but embossed stamp reads Registration Fee 8c and Postage 3c.

RE29	?	8c Registration & 3c Postage, Brown, Size F	c	c
RE30	?	8c Registration & 3c Postage, Brown, Size H	c	c

Size G envelopes were not included in this issue, so it would appear that a decision has been reached to drop this size. The author is not at all certain whether or not the Size F envelope was available on 8th September. According to his information it was not issued until 11 November 1967. Can anyone confirm this?