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Obliteration numbers on GB stamps (BWISC #1 / 1954 Apr)

'I am sure amongst all British West Indies collectors there is one favourite colony. I have chosen Jamaica whose obliteration numbers have always held my interest. I first acquired the knowledge through books, magazines and articles and I feel this is the best procedure with any other colony. The obliteration is always found across the stamp: A. O1 then A. 27 to A. 78 can be found on all Great Britain stamps although these are scarce; A . 01 and A. 27 to a long list of numbers can be found on Jamaican stamps. I am sure if you look through the Jamaican section of your collection you will see many such numbers and to add a few more will create further interest. There are about 107 different numbers and types and some are naturally scarce. There were many changes in the postal history of Jamaica and one finds Mile Gully A.54 becoming A.55 but there appears to be no way of ascertaining when A.54 was replaced by A.55. Apart from the obliteration numbers one finds English cancellations on Jamaican stamps but these are always scarce items. There is also found the Letters A,B,C,D & E framed in a barred oval and these are the forerunners of temporary Post Marks. A. was used at Milk River - B. was used at Duncans. C. D. E . So far it has not been discovered where these were used. Only two copies of D have been found and it is ranked as one of the rarest Jamaican Post Marks These were discontinued on the 1st April 1877 when Jamaica joined the Postal Union and no new obliterations were issued after 1878. There is still some mystery concerning certain numbers; some had a short life owing to being broken and are, therefore scarce. In my few notes it is impossible to give a list but any query I will certainly do my best to deal with if you write through the Secretary."

(Contributed by Mr. L.A. Courtney).

'A79' Type H (BWISC #2 / 1954 July)

JAMAICA was well represented and the surprise item for me was a copy -of the 2d. rose, having the Pine watermark and the rare Type H postmark "A79" exhibited by Mr. L.A. Courtney, one of our members who kindly loaned it to me for comparing with my 6d. Pine watermark with the same postmark. I found it corresponded in every respect and so far as I am aware this is the only other copy to have been discovered. The Type H postmark was damaged in use as shown by copies of the 3d and 6d CC watermark in my collection, in which the "7" is completely missing. It should be emphasized that two other postmarks of "A79" appeared later but they are very different from the rare Type H postmark with thin bars which was in use for a fairly long period.

There may be others still to be found in many collections - if you know what to look for - so I wish you all good hunting.

G. W. COLLETT,

Obliteration numbers on GB stamps (BWISC #8 / 1956 Jan)

One of our members has sent me a G.B. 1/- (S.G.73) with the obliterator A34 Claremont, Jamaica off cover. As most collectors of JAMAICA will know this A34 obliterator on any G.B. stamp is rare, and no copy of the 1/- has ever been recorded. I have no example in my collection on a G.B. stamp, but this A34 obliterator on Jamaica stamps is common and on comparison it was very evident that it was a clever fake. This 1/- G.B. stamp is catalogued at £15 and it beats me why any person can fake a stamp of this value with the hope of getting away with it. I feel I should warn collectors of JAMAICA to take the greatest care when purchasing these scarce G.B. used in Jamaica especially off cover..

G. W. COLLETT.

'C' Obliterator at Laughlands (BWISC #9/15 1956 Apr)

"I mentioned at the dinner of the discovery of a very rare Jamaican item; and on my return home I found it awaiting me to examine. It was found by our member Harvey O'Connor of the U.S.A. and is a 1d. blue postcard addressed to Justin McCarthy, Kingston. The stamp is clearly postmarked with the "C" obliterator and Kingston circle cancellation dated 26/2/1884. It also bears Type 1 T.R.D. mark in black dated Laughlands 25/2/1884: On the reverse there is the stamp of Cranbrook, Laughlands P.O., and was sent by one L. Townsend. This is the first and only copy found with the "C" obliterator, and we now have proof it was used at Laughlands. It is also the first record of the Type 1 T.R.D. for Laughlands P.O. which, incidentally, was opened 1/11/1883. To me this is the most remarkable find in Jamaican postmarks in recent years.

G. W. COLLETT`.

'AO1' Type B Obliterator (BWISC #23 / 1959 Oct)

Can any member supply information about the Jamaican Obliterator AO1 Type B? First I would like to know how many different dies were used. I have one lettered 2C which is new to me. Secondly, I would like to know the earliest date of use of any or all of the AO1 Type B obliterated. The earliest I have is 23 May, 1859 for the 2B variety. If anyone can throw some light on the method of lettering that would produce a 2C or has other examples of this obliterator, I would be grateful.

(Contributed by Mr. Robert Topaz.)

The AO1 type B obliterator according to Nicholson was sent out in duplicate 30/4/1859 with the index No's 1B 2B and was out of use in 1870. Personally, I have No 2 without any letter, also 2A and 2B - 1 have never heard of, or seen a 2C. I have notes of the E.K. date for 1B as 23/5/59 and of the E.K. date for 2B as 26/5/59.

I have in my collection, covers or pieces with the full date etc., as follows: -

- 2 without any letter 15/8/59 12/12/59 8/1/64
- 2A 6/11/69
- 2B 15/3/70

This is all the information I can give you and I hope that it will be of some help to Mr. Topaz!

(Contributed by Mr. G. W. Collett, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.)

'AO1' Type B Obliterator (BWISC #25 / Apr 1960)

AO1 Type B Obliterator. Further to my previous note regarding the AOI Type B Obliterator of Jamaica with the index 2C (Bulletin No. 23 page 66), I have seen in the "Watts" auction, a cover bearing this postmark, dated July 8th, 1866. I am interested in hearing about dates of use. Has anyone else any of these?

Robert Topaz.

Mr. Topaz and Mr. Collett in Bulletin No. 23 re Jamaica AO1 Type B duplex, I have:-

- 1B, 2B, and a 3d. Pine with centrally placed C only, dated 1870.
- Also, four copies of "2" only. These are off-centre and obviously the letter has not been put in the date-stamp.
- Also two copies of 2C, dated 9th July, 1869, and 9th July, 1870, both on 1d. pines on cover. This would seem to have been used at latest date of use of Type B.

A01 (Type D) obliterator (BWISC #138 / 1988 Sept)

I have just purchased a pair of GB 4d. rose used in Jamaica. The stamps are tied by a Foster Type 8 dated Sep 15 1859. The AOI obliterator is Nicholson's Type D. This pair predates Nicholson who states that Type D did not arrive in the colony until 1863. The stamps and markings have been declared genuine by the BWISC.

S.J. Belcher

'E' obliterator used on QV 2d Crown CA (BWISC #165 / 1995 Jun)

Included in a lot of various Obliterators that I acquired recently is the "E" on QV 2d Crown CA (Watermark confirmed by using a Signoscope).



This is not listed by L.C.C. Nicholson who states "The letter "E" is only known on CC stamps and is not at all common" and is also supported by R.A. Gibson's listing in Everard Aguilar's Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica Vol.2 Section 2.

Can anyone throw further light on this matter?

Mike Wilton-Steer

F01 killer on 4d Jamaica stamp (BWISC #183 / 1999 Dec)



Please look again. It is not F81.

No reason, I suppose, why a Jamaican 4d stamp should not end up in an English town that happened to be using an F01 killer. Yet why put this on a stamp that already has a perfectly good Kingston date stamp? And what if the Kingston date stamp comes on top?

If I were a researcher (which you all know I am not) rather than a dabbler, I would by now have looked up the allocation of F01, and made enquiries to see what is known of its English life span. Preferring to leave the task to one of our real Jamaica students, I simply pose two questions, which will no doubt trigger off more:

- (1) Was F01 still in use in England in 1889?
- (2) Is there a Jamaican post office whose history would fit with the allocation of that numeral after E58 and before F80?

Over to you!

Simon Goldblatt

A79(H) missing '7' used 1875 as emergency killer at Mount Charles (BWISC #200 / 2004 Mar)

by Michael Hamilton

The 'A79' (type H) obliterator (Figure 1) was allocated to the Richmond Post Office on its opening date of 1st November 1863. Examples on loose 2d, 3d, and 6d Pine watermark issues are very rare and were priced at £320 each in the 1981 Topaz pricing guide (published by the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal). Only one cover with the 'A79' (type H) postmark is currently recorded for FE 2 1866 with 6d pine backstamped Richmond cds to Ontario, Canada (as illustrated in Ian Woodward's 'Exploring Jamaica Through Obliterators' handbook).

Shortly after 2 FE 1866 it would seem certain that this 'A79' instrument became damaged as later strikes are found as 'A 9' with the figure '7' missing. Strikes of the damaged 'A 9' would therefore be expected to be found on loose Pine watermark stamps but none have ever been recorded. Instead these missing '7' strikes are only found on 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/- Crown CC issues (Topaz valuation £270 each) issued period 1870-72 being a minimum of four years later than anticipated.

As no examples of 'A 9' are found on loose Pine adhesive it would seem plausible that the damaged instrument was immediately forwarded to the G.P.O., Kingston for replacement.

The Richmond Post Office was re-supplied with a further new 'A79' obliterator (type J) in a differing format (Figure 2). Nicholson states that this instrument was sent out in 1865, and if correct, it proved to be a convenient coincidence that 'A79' (H) was replaced by 'A79' (J). The earliest positive use of 'A79' (J) is on cover dated 27 FE 1866 (Ex Hart collection) but both the Derek Sutcliffe files and Ian Potter handbook supply 7 AU 1866 as the earliest date of use (only five months later than the intact FE 2 1866 'A79' (H) cover). This 7 AU 1866 cover has not been seen by me but the date would seem to be correct as strikes of the 'A79' (J) are recorded on loose 1d, 6d, 1/- Pine watermarked stamps.

A recent acquisition shows the damaged 'A 9' cancelling 2 x 1d CC watermark on cover (Figure 3) to N.G. Prideaux in Four Paths.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 3

Details of the Prideaux correspondence can be accessed via the internet. This cover shows 'Kingston C3/MR 11 75' transit cds on face and is backstamped very poor Four Paths 'MR 15 75' receiving cds. The flap has contemporary manuscript endorsement of 'Mt Charles 11 Mar 1875' (Figure 4).

The Mount Charles Post Office was opened in September 1874 and the earliest date of use of its Type P11 cds is given as 27 JY 1877 (per Potter). It is known that the 'A80' (type K) obliterator was employed at Mount Charles as this is recorded on one cover only dated 24 FE 1884 bearing 4 x 1d blue addressed to Tenbury (Hooton Mitchell and Nat Surtees (lot 152) collections).

The manuscript endorsement of 'Mt Charles 11 Mar 1875' would indicate that the office was without despatch cds and presumably without its own obliterator in its first months of activity.

My conclusions are that 'A79' (H) suffered damage shortly after 2 FE 1866 and on its return to Kingston was left in a drawer for eight years until it was required as an emergency temporary re-allocation measure at the Mount Charles office which opened without both killer numeral and despatch cds. If the damaged 'A 9' was used just once or twice prior return to Kingston we would have two periods of use being Richmond (1866) and Mount Charles (1874-75). But if the damaged 'A 9' (H) was not used at Richmond we are left wondering how the office cancelled its mail until the replacement 'A79' (J) was to hand.

This extraordinary incidence of a damaged killer being pressed into service certainly takes us into virgin territory and gives us hope that a proving entire for the even rarer 'D' emergency obliterator may turn up in the not too distant future.

If anyone has a damaged 'A 9' on PINE, please let the Editor or Mike Hamilton know.

A01 Type 03 (or C) on GB 4d (1859) (BWISC #205 / Jun 2005)

By Kenneth Gordon

I obtained the following interesting cover, which appears to be previously unrecorded –



Cover of 1859 sent locally from Montego Bay to Kingston bearing a pair of GB 1857 4d. rose paying the single letter rate (8d. per ½oz) for inland letters to/from addresses more than 100 miles from Kingston.

The GB stamps have been cancelled on arrival at Kingston with the double A01 obliterator which had been sent out to Jamaica on 30 April 1859. This obliterator was very rarely used since, unlike the A01 duplex sent out at the same time, it required the use of a separate datestamp. Consequently, very few examples are known (Topaz only records 7 on GBU stamps and Jarvis only records 3 others on cover).

On the reverse is the MONTEGO BAY despatch c.d.s. (Foster Type P2a) for 27 June 1859, and the KINGSTON receipt cds. is dated 29 June 1859.

It is most unusual for the G.B. adhesives to be left uncanceled until arrival at Kingston, as the District Offices had already begun using their own numeral obl iterators (Montego Bay was allocated A57) on 1 March 1859.