

# Introduction

The preparation of this reprint of *The Jamaica Philatelist* follows the successful reprint of the early volumes of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. All 24 numbers have been reprinted plus the 4 numbers of the Quarterly Bulletin which were published in 1941-44. The Editors of *The Jamaica Philatelist* were

Astley Clerk	1927-40
Herbert Cooke	1941-44
Clint von Pohle	1945
E. Aguilar	1946-47
J. M. Nethersole	1949-50.

The Index was originally prepared as a private project by von Pohle.

*The Jamaica Philatelist* was originally printed in small numbers to supply the few members of the Jamaica Philatelic Society and, until this reprint, complete sets must have existed only in very small numbers. The journal contained news and comment on the current activities of the Society but also much serious research on Caribbean philately, with an obvious emphasis on Jamaica. And it is for that reason that a reprint was felt to be worthwhile.

In these pages you will find news of the preparation and publication in 1928 of the Jamaica Handbook edited by Collett, Buckland Edwards, Morton and Nicholson. And in subsequent pages there are articles updating and continuing their research into the postal history, postage stamps, and postmarks of Jamaica. Other authors contribute to the story, including E. Aguilar, H. Cooke, G. Gunter, and J. M. Nethersole while Harry Huber and Arthur Pierce contribute studies that cover other Caribbean islands. For much of their research they had the advantage of being able to examine complete post office sheets and were therefore able to report and plate varieties as they appeared. There are also contemporary reports of events such as the first Jamaican air mails, descriptions that capture the excitement of the events and make them still worthwhile reading.

Bert Crow kindly lent us his copies of *The Jamaica Philatelist* for the preparation of this reprint. They were originally owned by L. C. C. Nicholson and his meticulous corrections will be found on a number of

pages, especially his own articles on Jamaican specimen stamps. Because of the original methods of printing and binding, and the effect of time on staples and glue they had to be disassembled for copying and were then rebound with the assistance of Bob Swarbrick. The work of preparing the pages for modern reprographic methods onto A4 paper has involved enlarging the original print by 10%, disguising as far as possible rust stains and toning, and trying to correct errors of alignment and inking mishaps. Sadly the original illustrations were not suitable for reproduction to a reasonable standard, but they are mostly non-philatelic. To retain something of the flavour of the original publication the advertisements have been retained, including two in colour.

The British Caribbean Study Group, through their UK publications fund, have supported this project, with additional support from the Ed Addiss Memorial Fund.

This has been a longer and more complex task than I envisaged when the idea first came to me while reading the copies in the British Library, but some of the time was used in stopping to read the articles! I trust you will find this record of the work of the Jamaican Philatelic Society equally fascinating to read and an important source of philatelic information.

Michael Vokins  
July, 1995

# JAMAICANA

*References are to year and page; QB. means Quarterly Bulletin.*

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