

# The Jamaica Philatelist



## OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE Jamaica Philatelic Society

(Founded April 14th, 1920)

CIRCULATED FREE OF CHARGE.

EDITOR: MR. ASTLEY CLERK

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: MR. H. COOKE

---

VOLUME III.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, JUNE 1939.

No. 13

---

### OFFICERS:

MRS. M. E. SPOONER	PRESIDENT
MR. D. M. SAMUEL	VICE-PRESIDENT
MR. G. C. GUNTER	HON. SECY. & TREAS.

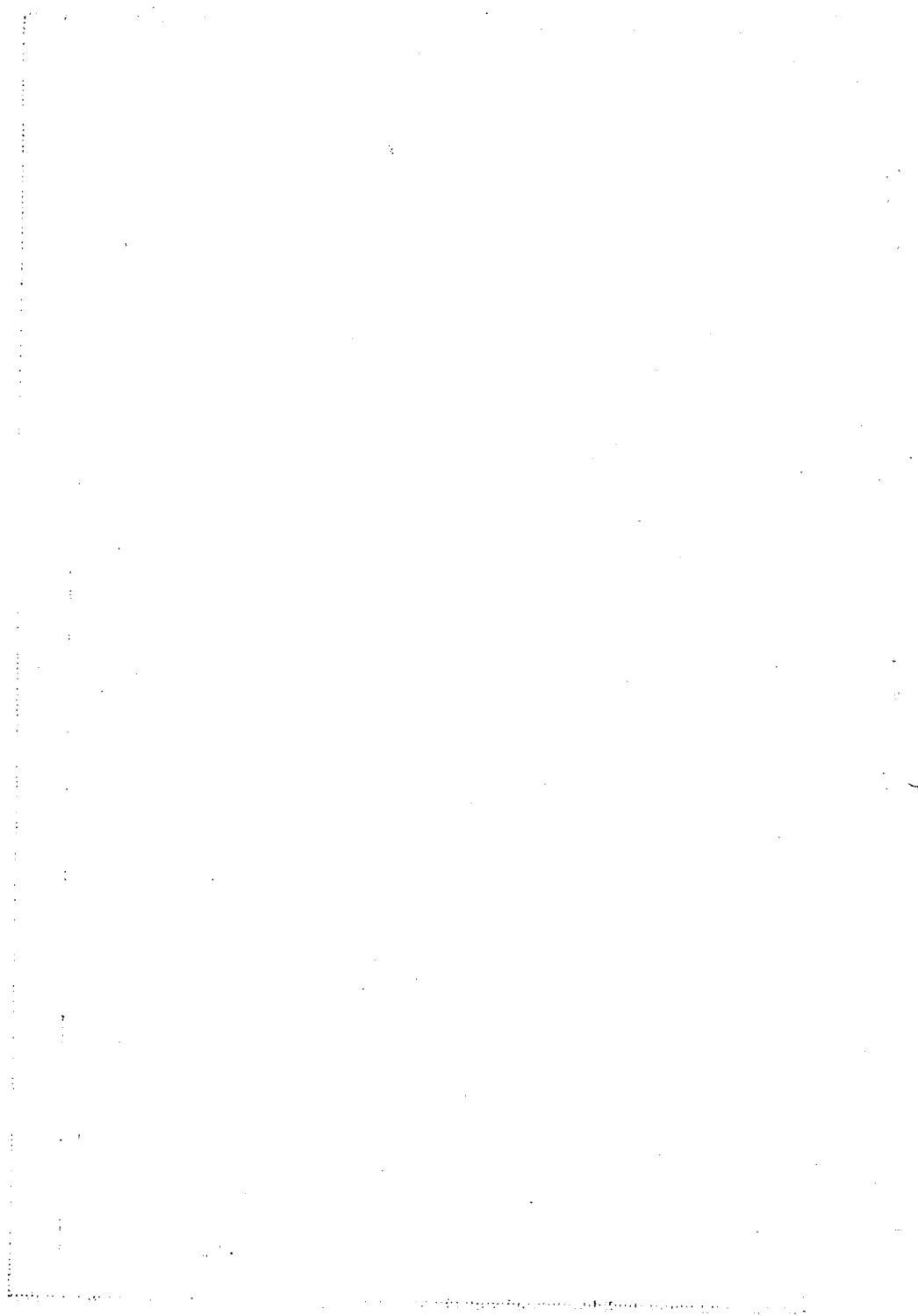
### COMMITTEE:

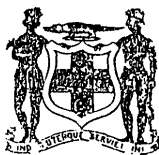
REV. G. T. ARMSTRONG	MR. A. W. PERKINS
MR. ASTLEY CLERK	MR. P. J. FERNANDEZ
MR. E. BENBOW-ROWE	

EXCHANGE SUPT.

MR. P. J. FERNANDEZ

P.O. BOX, 158, KINGSTON.





# The Jamaica Philatelist.

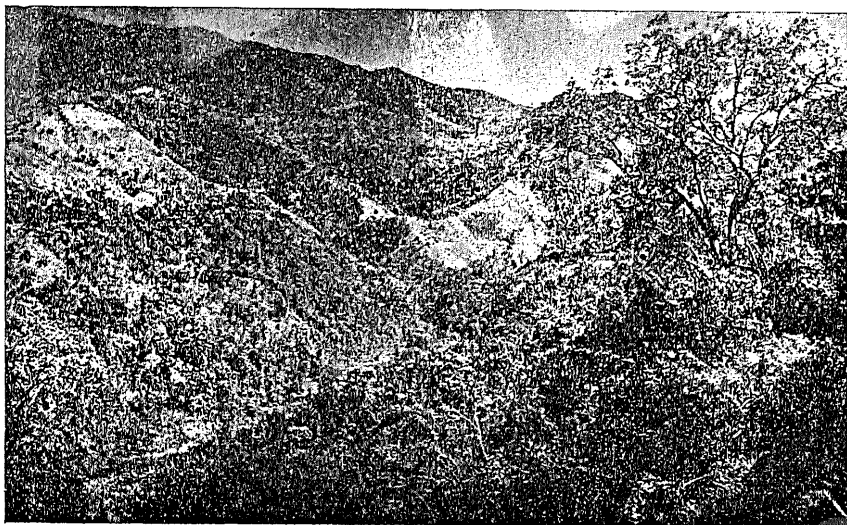
---

VOLUME III.

JUNE 1939.

NO. 13

---



ON THE ROAD TO NEWCASTLE.



## The Jamaica Philatelist.

The Annual Magazine of the Jamaica Philatelic Society—Circulated throughout the world free of charge.

<i>Editor:</i>	MR. ASTLEY CLERK,	Kingston, Jamaica.
<i>Associate Editor:</i>	MR. H. COOKE,	Kingston, Jamaica.
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	MR. G. C. GUNTER,	Kingston, Jamaica.

---

VOLUME III.

JUNE, 1939.

No. 13.

---

### Editorial Perfs

---

1940. During May, 6th-11th to be exact, the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the postage stamp, the 1d. Black of Great Britain, will be celebrated at London by the Stamp Centenary Exhibition, promoted by the Royal Philatelic Society. It will have the gracious and distinguished Patronage of His Majesty, the King, and the Postmaster General of Great Britain threatens on his own, to inflict us with four commemorative stamps to commemorate the event of the anniversary. We write "on his own" for the reason that we have not read nor heard of any faction, or factor which in any sense connects the effort of the Royal Philatelic Society with that of the Postmaster General, and we have no reason to think that any exists. We do know that there is controversy in England on the subject of the commemoratives, we have not read of any in regard to the Exhibition. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have open-

ed the pages of their journal to correspondence on the subject, and while we have no sort of liking for special commemorative issues, we are amazed at some of the reasons against, advanced by some of the correspondents. In general they seem almost rabid; one in particular declaims in emphatic language, that the postage stamp should be nothing more than an adhesive label, designed to show thereon only the sum paid or payable for postage; figures presumably. If postage stamps were confined or limited strictly to that purely utilitarian design, where would be the incentive to continue stamp collecting? It is very certain that stripped of its philatelic lure 'stamp collecting of necessity would rapidly decline, the financial interest would wane, and the world of present day collectors would lose one of, if not the most, attractive form of mental relaxation. On another page we have

tried to give the Exhibition, the local publicity we can, and incorporated an appeal to our readers for its support, which we hope will receive ready and liberal response.

**British Stamps.** One of the reasons advanced in England; with which wholly we are in agreement; against a special commemorative issue in 1940, is the adverse effect those stamps necessarily would have to advertise British Industry, and in support of the opinion, reference is made to the current stamps. Did we have any work of that kind to be done, never would it be entrusted to the perpetrators of those things. We know that excellent work can be done there, and where to get it done.

"What is a postage stamp?" is the title to a contributed article appearing elsewhere in this edition. We understand that controversy wages in England, born of the fact that a dealer published a price list of type set, or type cut impressions, applied by hand, to designate the postage chargeable, which he described as "Handstruck Postage Stamps". To us the controversy appears to be academic, rather than useful. Consideration of the respective meanings of the governing words "Postage" and "Stamp", will we think, disclose that the first means the sum of money payable to ensure conveyance of an article through the post. The second has wide and several meanings, governed by the context in which it is used, but for the present purpose must mean an impression that denotes the postage. Whether that stamp, i.e. impression of some kind printed, impressed in to the paper, applied by an instru-

ment of the hand, a machine, a label to be attached or affixed; technically whatever or whichever the form that is used, it is a postage stamp. For that reason we believe the dealer had the right to use the term he did, the term does not deceive, it is precisely descriptive of what the dealer offers for sale, the kind of postage stamp is stated, but he elected to ignore the current trend of the meaning of the language he used. We believe it is a generally accepted axiom, even in legal circles, that when there is lack of precise definition, two terms in much the same words, which may mean either of two things, custom is used to govern the interpretation, and there is little probability that successfully he can controvert the claim, that for many years past and present, the custom has been and is, to confine use of the term "Postage Stamp" to the adhesive label issued by the Post Office, even though it may be argued correctly that for purpose of postage, the Post Office does not confine itself to use of that label only, the machine impressed "Paid", as well as a similar hand impressed stamp, are both in use, and in addition there is the still more modern meter frank permitted by the postal authorities. Despite those conditions which challenge the claim of the adhesive label, to be the exclusive meaning of the term; to the trade and most individuals, "Postage Stamp" means the adhesive label and nothing else, unless the term be descriptively qualified to indicate that something else is meant, just as the dealer did, when he titled his price list "Handstruck Postage Stamps".

The "Propaganda Forgeries" is the

title to a most interesting little booklet, published by David Field, Ltd., 7 Vigo St., London, at the modest price of 1/-, which describes certain Austrian, Bavarian and German postage stamps, counterfeited it is said by order of the British Government during the War 1914-18, and used for the purpose of disseminating in enemy territory, propaganda introduced there in bulk. In other words the postal services of the enemy, were used to spread propaganda against itself. The booklet tells the story in a very interesting manner.

**Bond Street Auctions:** We acknowledge with thanks and appreciation, a brochure issued by Mr. H. R. Harmer, entitled "Resumé for the season 1937-38". A very attractive frontispiece is the first item of interest, it displays fourteen rare pieces in colour, which had been disposed of with the prices realised, from £44 0 0 to £1,350 0 0. A photograph of the auction room with the auctioneer at the microphone, tells of the sale of the unique Baron de Worms collection of Ceylon, which was broadcast, the first time that such an event was so treated. Several pages in informative matter follow, succeeded with illustrated, descriptive lists of sundry items that were sold, and the prices realised. The lesson one learns appears to be, that rare items are sound investments, for instance French China SG A178 catalogued £38 0 0, sold for £31 0 0; Gibraltar 35 cat in 1938 for £100 0 0 sold for £90 0 0; the 1939 list lifts the price to £110.

**Souvenir Club** comprises members interested in miniature sheets and souvenir issues generally. It is young and seems to have a roll of about

500, the majority in the United States where it has its home. "*Chacun a son gout*".

**The Roth Collection** was sold by Mr. Eugene Klein at auction at Philadelphia on 20th and 21st February, 1939. The sale apparently was important enough to induce some dealers from England to attend, and agents representing famous stamp collectors, President Roosevelt, King Carol of Roumania, King George Estate, Mr. Harold L. Ieckes, United States Secretary of the Interior, were known to be present. The collection was known to be rich in modern rarities, in the finest possible condition, double and inverted varieties of overprint, imperforate and part perforate varieties, rare airmail items and treasures of that kind. On another page we have given a resumé of the prices realised for some of the Jamaican items, and while some of those and yet others went for much under catalogue prices, the sum realised in total was rather more than half catalogue, from which it will be clear that a goodly proportion realised rather better than that proportion, some of which are neither listed nor priced in the catalogues. For instance Gibbons does not list the imperforate variety of their No. 165 Newfoundland, but it exists and a block of four sold for \$52.00, Scott lists the item unpriced as their No. 146a. Gibbons No. 145a listed for £50 0 0, Scott's No. 128a \$250.00, sold for \$250.00. Gibbons 95b unpriced, Scott's 87c priced \$50.00 per pair, was sold two pairs in block of 6 for \$300.00, six times the normal catalogued value, but of course it must be remembered that rarities in large pieces, are additionally rare, just as a block of four of some obsolete and

not common stamp, is worth rather more than 4 single specimens would be.

**Cigarette Cards.** We do not know that they have yet reached Jamaica, but smokers of "Ardath" cigarettes, whether they be stamp collectors or not, will have their interest in stamps stimulated or aroused by the cards now being packed in each carton of 10. The manufacturers in collaboration with Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have produced a series of 50 cards, which illustrate in colour "Stamps rare and interesting". We have not seen any, but from what we have read, the illustrations are very attractive, natural and of strong appeal. On the back of each card is a brief description, with reasons why the stamp or stamps were selected for the purpose. We think the idea excellent, it should be really good propaganda, and prove very useful to attract many to the existing number of collectors.

**The Royal visit to Canada.** Readers will have closely followed the incidents of that historic event, and most will have seen the three very effective stamps specially issued in commemoration, but probably few will have read of an informal and interesting presentation to His Majesty. After the Parliamentary dinner at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, the Postmaster General, Mr. Norman McLarty, on behalf of the Government, presented to the King, a specially and magnificently bound volume, containing 300 post Confederation Canadian stamps, i.e., the period covered by Gibbons from their No. 45 to date. His Majesty was graciously pleased to accept, and expressing His thanks, referred to the

famous collection formed by His illustrious Father, King George V, and stated His intention to carry it on. A silver salver, engraved with the Arms of Canada and the designs of the commemorative stamps, was presented to Her Majesty, the Queen, with two smaller ones, each with a book of stamps, one each for the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose.

#### Used blocks of 4.

There are not many members of this Society that collect only used blocks of 4 of Jamaica, but in Dr. Hubert Lyman Clark, of Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. we have a member who has shown his preference for this form of collecting, and as a result possesses a collection of used blocks of Jamaican Stamps in superb condition. His collection is complete except for a block of 4 each of the 2d rose of 1883, and 2/- of 1897. Dr. Clarke has asked us to say that as he is very anxious to get these blocks to complete his Jamaicans, price and condition are of secondary consideration. Any fellow-member, or reader, knowing of the existence of either of these blocks is asked to write to Dr. Clarke who will be very grateful for any assistance that may be given him in his effort to secure these two items.

**As we are seen abroad.** An esteemed correspondent in England writes us as follows about the work we are doing for philately.

"Your work is appreciated by the Press as you will see by the enclosed cutting taken from "The Stamp Collectors Fortnightly" of 5th November, 1938, which is really a review on the latest writings of Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, F.R.P.S.L. entitled

"Jamaica. Temporary Rubber Date Stamps 1881-1938", issued at 1/6d by Frank Godden, Ltd., 110-111 Strand, London, W.C.2., a copy of which every collector of Jamaican stamps should own.

"Some countries and colonies seem to get all the literary attention of the philatelic scribes and others get none. What, you may ask, has Jamaica done to get so much written about her stamps, not only in articles in the periodical press but in separate form? What too is there about Jamaican philately that makes its devotees so tremendously enthusiastic. *No British Colony has a more lively philatelic society*, and what is more none has a more zealous band of enthusiasts in London. One of the latter who absorbs everything Jamaican, and who imparts his philatelic knowledge of the colony is Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, whose latest brochure is now under notice. Although not terra incognita it is new ground that the author has covered in a very comprehensive way that will be much appreciated by all who study their Jamaicans.

**Jamaica in England.** We observe

that many Philatelic Societies in England during the past Season have featured Jamaica in their respective programmes. The services of Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, F.R.P.S.L. the eminent Jamaican Specialist, were in great demand and we read that he gave displays of his collection of Jamaican stamps, pre-stamp covers, and Postmarks, at the following Societies, Croydon, Reigate, Southend, Leicester, Leeds, Gerrards Leytonstone, Oxford, Duwich, Raynes Park, and Southgate. An excellent record and one we wish could be followed by some of our members in Jamaica.

Mr. Nicholson not only displays his stamps, but is always on the look out to protect Jamaica Philately. Recently when one of the spurious Jamaican Jubilee booklets was advertised to be sold at Auction, he insisted that the Auctioneer should investigate the origin of the booklet and withdraw it from the sale. Such action is appreciated and we feel that in Mr. Nicholson the Jamaica Philatelic Society, as well as all who are collectors of Jamaican stamps, can rely on a man who will spare no effort to keep Jamaica Philately clean.





# Jamaicana

**Our new series.** The event of local philatelic importance during the year, was issued in new designs of a complete series in the usual denominations. We refrain from comment here, as the subject is fully covered in two special articles, which appear elsewhere in this edition. We content ourselves in these notes, with comment on comment which has appeared in other journals of earlier publication than this. "Stamp Collecting" of 24th December, 1938, gives the series, or rather the Island, a very flattering write-up. The subjects of the designs are used for informative purposes, and we do wish the writer had erred on the side of conservatism. Jamaica is blessed with many natural attractions, and should not be hurt as she really is by exaggeration, something which pre-ordains disappointment. It is necessary to correct some of the statements made in the article. The 2½d. *does not show* any part of Castleton Gardens, it portrays the mountain scenery in which the Gardens are set; the house and prominent area seen is known as Brandon Hill. The 3d.: the centre of the Banana Trade is *not* at Port Antonio; it was up to about twenty years ago, but is now located at Kingston. The 6d.: "Priestman's River" is *not* "9½ miles from Port Morant in the Parish of Portland." Port Morant is in the Parish of St. Thomas; Priestman's River is about 13 miles from Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland. The 9d.: Kingston *does not possess* "miles of docks and warehouses," its harbour is *not* "one of the most important in the world," the harbour is *one of the best* in the world; of extensive area, it is large enough to provide anchorage for the largest fleet that can be assembled, and its safety is ensured by the fact that it is landlocked by the Palisadoes, all but a comparatively narrow channel which must be used to enter; it has been rated,

by presumably, competent authority, as "one of the seven best in the world." The 2/-: the people of Lacovia will be pleased to learn that they and their little village, comprise a "rising township." To us in Jamaica, Lacovia is noted for but one item, small and insignificant but delectable, production of the Cashew nut. The "Evening Herald" of Dublin appears to be hopelessly confused, in its effort to give information, and in the instance of the 1/- stamp we cannot blame the writer for all his mis-statements; he tells us that the stamp "shows sugar cane being cut (which it does not) and loaded into (should be 'onto') a bullock cart" (which it is not); we readily admit that the animals shown may be taken for almost any kind of draught animals except elephants, but just what does the writer mean by his statement, that "it is interesting to note the simpler designs of to-day as compared with those of 1932"; with reference to those of the 2d., 2½d., 6d., 5/-, and 10/- (we would have thought that introduction of His Majesty's Head tended to complicate them) "which include a picture of cocoa palms at Columbus Cove, Plantain Garden River, St. Thomas, and Priestman's River, Portland." We wonder, did he see the stamps, or only heard about them before writing? A fertile imagination appears to have been at work.

**En retrospecte** of some of the superceded stamps, causes consideration of the:

**Georgian ½d., 1927**, from which a very wide range of shades is or was collectible, as well as varieties of texture of the paper, from thin, translucent, to thick.

**Georgian 1d., 1929**, made its appearance during the year, still in Die 2 but from new plates, viz., 3A and 3B, in sheets of 120 set arranged in the usual horizontal panes

of 60 divided by a narrow gutter, surrounded by white margins, on the lower of which the plate number appeared below the fifth stamp of the last row, 3A on the left pane, 3B on the right.

A recent edition of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" deplored the fact that, philatelic writers in general appear to give more attention to cognate matters than to the genesis, the stamp itself. We entirely agree, and as this 1d. Georgian quite evidently has a story to tell, we appeal to all and sundry who may possess knowledge, or are able to obtain desirable information, to elaborate the points we have observed and here record. The Gibbons catalogue describes the stamp in both Dies 1 and 2, as existing perforated 14. Possibly it does, but we have not seen, nor found after search a single copy from Die 2 with that perforation; if the item does exist, it may be very rare indeed. Originally issued from Die 1, it was perforated 14, but later printings from that die have been observed to be perforated comb  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ . It possibly is pertinent just here to observe, that the stamp was printed and perforated by Messrs. Thos. De La Rue; that all Silver Jubilee (1935) and Coronation (1937) issues, similarly prepared by them, were comb perforated  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ . The first and early issues of the Jamaica 1d. Georgian from Die 2, plate 2, 1932, were observed to be of that perforation, but later issues were modified to  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ , including the last from plates 3A and 3B. Query: does any printing from Die 2 exist perforated 14; how and why was original perforation twice modified to  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$  and  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ ? The paper and gum of the several printings offer points of interest, varying in texture and from yellow brown to clear, water white. Have all our local members, during the ten years the stamp was available at the Post Office failed to observe the differences which have been recorded, as applicable to the commonest of our stamps?

Georgian 1½d. and 9d., 1929, like the 1d. were similarly prepared for use by Messrs. Thos. De La Rue, and when originally issued, were perforated 14 as recorded by Gibbons, but later printings were perforated  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ . We have not seen any with the intermediate perforation of  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ , recorded by us as existing on the 1d. If it does exist with that perforation, it may be rare, as even the 14 perforation is not common. Both stamps provide interesting shades of colour.

**Pictorial 1/-, 1920, with inverted frame.** "Stamp Collecting" of 14th January, 1939, in a short article by DBA, entitled "Twentieth Century Rarities," tells some of the story of this rarity, and adds "a keen local philatelist proceeded to scour the island in a motor car in quest of the other half sheet which he finally ran to earth and secured in its entirety." We believe that quotation conveys news of interest to our local fraternity, and again we appeal for elaboration, as that news does not fit the facts as we know them to be. The information we have is:

(1) The rarity was discovered at the Post Office at Manchioneal, to where a half sheet or 30 stamps had been despatched by the Main Office.

(2) Of that half sheet, a remainder of only 10 stamps was found. We saw that 10, examined them, talked with and heard the story of his discovery, personally from the discoverer.

(3) We know of three cancelled copies, said to have been taken from Post Office Savings cards originating at Manchioneal.

(4) A postally used copy, was submitted by an American correspondent, to us for opinion. We had it photographed to establish record, and the postmark is clearly observable as that of the double lined circle, the handstamp used at Kingston. the lettering confirms that it is.

Reasonable deduction from that data is, 30 stamps went to Manchioneal; the remainder of the sheet, viz., 30 stamps was sold at Kingston. We admit that that evidence is not

conclusive, but unless we know at which Post Office the half sheet "in its entirety" was found, the Kingston theory is more acceptable to us, for the reason that if so small an office as that of Manchioneal, had disposed of 20 stamps from its half sheet, it is improbable that any but as small or smaller an office, would have retained its supply intact, for the period between receipt, and the time the alleged finding was made. The copy which came to us from America, was on piece of cover, thick heavy manilla paper, apparently clipped from a large and heavy envelope, such as would be used by the local banks, offices of the Fruit Companies, in which to despatch quantity of documentary reports, commercial documents, and papers of that kind. That detail precludes the idea of postal cancellation, specially sought and obtained, suggests ordinary and common usage, all of which point to Kingston as the source of supply, for the stamp used to prepay postage, for the reason that the Head Offices of both Banks and Fruit Companies, are located at Kingston. We agree that we have developed no more than theory, but it appears to provide strong presumptive evidence, against the story quoted from "Stamp Collecting," especially so as that story has not at any time been current here, we had not before heard of it. If it be possible at all, it would be of great interest to learn just how many mint copies of the rarity actually exist, or have been known to exist, in excess of the 10 we have mentioned.

**"Columbus Cove" 2d., 1932, in vertical pairs, imperforate between, reported in our last edition:—a pair recently sold at auction at London, realised £35 0 0.**

**"Rodney Memorial," 2/-, 1922, was discovered by a member of this Society, at the Post Office at Spanish Town, the last row of the sheet imperforate between stamp and margin. Two copies had been disposed of, and the lucky finder secured the remainder of ten, which he took in vertical pairs, the upper**

member normally perforated of course.

**Jamaicans at auction.** On another page, we have mentioned sale of the Roth collection at Philadelphia, and it is to the Jamaicans in that collection to which we here refer. Like the collections of other countries, that of Jamaica was rich in rare items of modern issue; all of them were there except perhaps the 1½d. Contingent MCA, with partial double impression, and the 2/- "Rodney" with similar variety, neither of which is mentioned in the catalogue. It is conceivable that the 1½d., may not have been considered important enough to be mentioned, but we do not think that had the 2/- been among the lot, it would have been omitted from mention for any reason. We owe the information which has enabled us to develop these notes, to the kindness and courtesy of Mr. C. Brinkley Turner, one of our members and a keen enthusiast where Jamaica is concerned, who attended the sale and purchased some of the Jamaica items. Consideration of some of the prices realised, is tempered with the fact that the sale took place in America, where the Scott Catalogue is the standard criterion, and several of the items offered are not listed in that publication. That factor apparently had its influence in some instances, but not in all by any means, as the prices for others show that, absence of catalogue record of any kind did not deter the bidders from keen competition. The "Ser . . ets" in all the lower values in pairs, singles and blocks, with the ½d. mult., fetched but \$5.00, against the Gibbons value of £4. The 2½d. and ½d. mult. each in B9 mint, went for \$3.75 against Gibbons £3 8/-. The 5d. CA in vertical strip of 3 brought \$26.00, Gibbons £23 5/-; the mult. in a similar strip fetched \$62.50, Gibbons £34 12/-. The 2/- brown MCA brought \$10.00, Scott \$17.50, Gibbons £3, rather more than half catalogue. The \$ variety 1/- black on green in vertical pair, went for \$27.50, Gib-

bons £13 8/6; the same in vertical strip of 3 fetched \$26.00. The pictorial 1/- with inverted frame brought the very satisfactory price of \$1,000.00, Scott \$1,200.00, Gibbons £300. A lot of the pictorial scripts to the last previous 6d. with the Child Welfare set, and the 5/- and 10/- MCA, face value of about 40/- brought \$19.50, Scott's value \$28.22, i.e., more than two thirds of that catalogue value. We may be wrong, but are inclined to believe that the Child Welfare set, had something to do with that result, for the reason that most of the stamps in the lot, are but recently obsolete, and none appear to be in any great demand. Now that supplies of the Child Welfare lot in the hands of dealers, seem to be exhausted or nearly so, the value of that set is creeping up even though the dealers' catalogues do not yet show any advance in price. The "Slavery" 6d. without "Specimen" overprint, MCA watermark, brought \$675.00; the item is not listed by either Scott or Gibbons. With "Specimen" overprint the price obtained was \$26.00; it is offered by Gibbons, or rather said by them to be worth about £10. The script item without "Specimen" realised \$300.00, and with the overprint \$17.00.

#### WAR STAMP ITEMS.

The ½d. of 1916 single line, double overprint listed by Gibbons 90/- Scott at \$20.00, brought \$11.50. Another specimen went for \$10.50. The same with inverted overprint, Gibbons 70/- Scott \$20.00 fetched only \$5.00. In pair one with other without overprint, not listed by either Gibbons or Scott, sold for \$16.50. The 1½d. of 1916 "TAMP" in block of 4, Gibbons £5. Scott \$20.00, went for \$6.00. "S" inserted by hand in block of 4, Gibbons 80/- Scott \$20.00, sold for \$6.25. "R" inserted, Gibbons 200/- not listed by Scott, brought \$3.50, (a ridiculous figure), "R" omitted, Gibbons 240/-, not listed by Scott, sold for \$8.25. The 3d. "TAMP" in block of 6 Gibbons 240/-, Scott \$62.00, went for \$19.00,

the same on thick yellow paper, Gibbons 200/- not listed by Scott, sold for \$21.50 and \$21.00, two copies respectively. "S" inserted Gibbons 160/- listed by Scott \$50.00 two copies went for \$11.00 each; the same on thick yellow paper, Gibbons 240/- not listed by Scott, brought \$20.50. Inverted on lemon paper, not listed by either Scott or Gibbons, sold for \$20.50, on yellow paper \$16.00. The 1917 varieties of "stop inserted and 'P' impressed a second time," sold for ½d.-\$7.25, 1½d.-\$7.25, 3d.-\$6.25, ½d on back only fetched \$10.00, 1½d. double \$9.00 1½d. "WAP." \$7.50, 1½d. inverted \$8.50, 3d. inverted \$10.50, vertical in horizontal pair one without overprint \$28.00.

In general the prices realised for the War Stamps are disappointing, but we need to bear in mind that all War Stamps have been, and probably still are, under a cloud. The issues were very much overdone, and in not few instances, especially so in Europe, the evidence of exploitation was strong and definite. The issues of Jamaica, in themselves honest and clean, fell under the general ban applied by collectors of stamps the world over, and that ban seems more or less still to be in existence, even though rather more than twenty years have elapsed. The fact that some of the Jamaica items realised in the sale reported above, prices which cannot be regarded as altogether unreasonable, seems to suggest hope that the neglect of 20 years, is beginning to be remedied, and if that be so we may expect to see the market values of those stamps gradually strengthened.

**Jamaica Philatelist.** We have been gratified to receive several letters from correspondents abroad, which comment in complimentary terms on our last edition. Mr. Stanley Phillips of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., acknowledging the apology to his firm that appeared therein refers to the journal "as usual an excellent edition," but from our local friends we have received but one letter, the writer of which gives us no praise,

and "damns" us a whole lot. We do not object in the least, we are glad to have stirred the apathy which has existed, to even moderate action, though that may be at our expense, and we invite the writer to continue his criticism, applying it to this edition, we may please even him someday, sometime. He will of course readily understand, that even with our extraordinary ability, it is not possible to please everyone at all times, and at the same time ask him to accept our assurance, that it is our desire to please as many as we possibly can. If he will be so good as to make constructive criticism, as well as destructive, we shall appreciate both immensely. Now then, you others, go right ahead, and by letter give us all the h . . . . you think we should have, you will never get the journal just as you may wish to have it, unless you do; anyway, it is much easier to vent a grouse, than to give praise, isn't it? One of the objections taken by the gentleman to whom we have referred, was to the item in our last edition entitled "The Craze for Crazy Varieties." He is entirely correct to have identified it, as having reference to a similar article that appeared in another magazine. We wonder what his reaction will be after reading in this edition that entitled "Philatelic Fashions"?, does he still think after reading it, that the obvious stupidity of the writer whom we challenged in his statement to the effect that "collectors in their own interests, should conform to the ideas and opinions expressed by the leading dealers in their published price lists". should not have been attacked? , if he does, we ask him to re-read what the Editor of the Gibbons catalogue, states in expression of his opinions.

### CONGRATULATIONS.

**Mr. D. M. Samuel.** We have the pleasure to announce, that our Vice President has been invited to become and elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. His election took place at the February,

1939 meeting of the RPS Committee. We felicitate him on the honour he has received, and like to think that through him as our Vice President, the Society also is honoured. He is the second member, and of its officers, to have been elected to the honour of "Fellow." We announced in our 1936 edition, similar honour to Mr. G. C. Gunter, our Hon. Secretary. The Society now has two "Fellows" in its local membership, and some few in England, we are not sure just how many, and possibly others resident else where.

**Mr. C. Brinkley Turner,** one of our members resident in the United States, a keen enthusiast in our philately, received during last year at the National Stamp Exhibition at Philadelphia, the Grand Award for his collection of Jamaica. We have not seen his collection, but from correspondence and one or two articles with which he has favoured us for this journal, we know that it is or must be one of large merit. Since receiving the Grand Award, we know that the collection has been strengthened. He is interested in everything Jamaican of philatelic worth, from pre-stamp covers to modern postmarks.

**Mr. E. F. Hurt,** of Harpenden, a Life Member of this Society resident in England was awarded the Congress Cup for his paper entitled "The Local and Private Posts and their importance in Philately and Postal History," which he read at the 25th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, held at Cambridge, from the 21st to 24th June, 1938. This most interesting paper revealed information as to the number of countries and places that have issued local stamps for legitimate Postal purposes. This is the fourth time that the Congress Cup has been won by a member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society. We congratulate most heartily our fellow member whose paper is reproduced in this issue.

**Trans-Atlantic Air Mail.** Under date of 25th May, the Postmaster General of the United States, by letter received here 26th May, notified the local authorities of inaugura-

tion of a trans Atlantic air mail service, made available to the local administration under certain conditions. The service was scheduled to leave New York each Saturday at 2 p.m., via the Azores and Portugal to Marseille, France, where the plane would arrive at 2 p.m. on the following Monday. Our local Postmaster with commendable promptitude, worked out a schedule of rates, submitted the whole subject to His Excellency, the Governor, who in Privy Council approved on 30th May, and on 1st June the first trans Atlantic air mail from Jamaica was despatched by Pan American Airways Clipper plane to New York. It consisted of 310 letters, including 84 registered, connected with the flight from New York on Saturday 3rd June, and in the instance of those for England, should have been in the hands of the addressees, early on Tuesday 5th June, 4/5 days from time of despatch here. The letters each bore a special cachet, viz., a horizontal double lined oval, the respective diameters of which are 55mm horizontal, 39mm vertical. Around the curve of the upper section are the words "First Transatlantic," just above the major axis "AIR MAIL," below the axis "Jamaica to Europe," and along the curve of the lower section "June 1, 1939," all in sans serif capitals which vary in dimensions for each term. Under date of 9th June, a further letter from the Postmaster General of the United States, announced a new schedule of flights from New York via Botwood, Newfoundland; Foynes, Ireland; to Southampton, England; the service to be fortnightly on Saturdays from New York. Departure of the Marseille service changed to Wednesdays from New York, and retained as a weekly service.

The services ought to provide label collectors, with something new in the way of labels, as to most countries in Europe there are two methods of transportation by air, and as we go farther east, three, each with a different rate of postage. thus:—

**To Great Britain.** (1) By air to U.S.A., thence by steamer, the service with which we have been familiar for some time. (2) By air to U.S.A., thence by trans Atlantic air service.

**To Australia or New Zealand.**

(1) By air to U.S. Pacific port, thence by steamer to destination. (2) By air to U.S.A., trans Atlantic air service to England, thence by air to destination. (3) By air to U.S.A. trans Atlantic air service to England, thence by steamer to destination. (4) By air to U.S.A. steamer to England, air to destination.

The rates vary with each method employed, and it seems evident that application of the correct postage in stamps to letters, will not be enough to distinguish the service to be used, distinctive labels with correct prepayment of postage appear to be necessary.

**The Post Office.** Since our last edition was published, the Department lost a very valuable officer in Mr. R. H. Fletcher, the Postmaster, who, despite the fact that he shows not the smallest sign of senility or decrepity, was retired on the score of age. Jamaica Welfare Ltd., has succeeded to his ability, where we believe he finds agreeable employment of his talents. It is gratifying to observe that he has been succeeded by another efficient, courteous, hard-working Jamaican. in the person of Mr. W. A. Campbell, who, after 36 years service in the Department, has earned reward of the highest position it can offer. The Department will be in excellent hands, while he is permitted to guide its affairs. He has an enviable reputation; having passed through all the stages of the mill, he is intimate with all details of operation; he is known to and liked by the public, because of his unfailing courtesy, his helpfulness and obvious desire to smooth the way; and his efficiency has received well deserved official recognition. We congratulate him on his promotion, and hope for him a very successful administration.

**Georgians, 1929-32.** Since writing the previous paragraph on this subject, we have been able to take rather an incomplete study of the stamps, a stage farther and then have to abandon it, temporarily at least, because of the oppressive heat from which we have been suffering. We set out in the paragraph referred to, certain varieties of perforation which had been observed. It can be stated now, that all three denominations exist, each in three perforations viz., 14, 13½ X14, 13½X14. There may be others, as if the Gibbons record be consulted, relative to De La Rue printings over the past 10 years, a lengthy list of different perforations in varied combinations can be compiled, any of which it seems possible may be found on these stamps. The Jamaica Georgians in addition to the recorded varieties of perforation, and the re-engraved die for the 1d., suggest printings from re-engraved dies also for the 1½d. and 9d. The 14 gauge printings of each, 1d., 1½d. and 9d. measure 17½mm in width. The re-engraved die printings of the 1d. are 18mm wide, so are the later and last printings of the 1½d. and 9d. Confirmation of that finding, came unsolicited from a correspondent in America, asking to be supplied with the latter in the wider printing, but without mention of detail, differences in the designs, something which up to the time we laid the stamps aside, we had not found. Minor differences were discovered, but they are irregular, inconstant and for that reason may not be cited. We hope to be able to give precise information in our next edition, and with little hope of tangible result, invite any and all who may be interested enough to take up the study, to collaborate with us by exchange of information relative to results obtained.

**Metered Mail.** Some of our local commercial firms are keeping pace with the times. Two licenses we understand for use of the machines to replace postage stamps have been

issued, one to the B. & J. B. Machado Tobacco Co., Ltd., dated 7th December, 1938, the other to Messrs. T. Geddes Grant, Ltd., dated 30th May, 1939. The impression from the Machado Machine shows in red a circle 24½mm dia., the word "Kingston" around inside the top section, "Jamaica" curved in the lower, with curved lines respectively below and above the words, which are separated by short sectional lines at right and left. Through the centre the date is shown, the day and year in Arabic numerals, separated by the month in Roman figures. At right separated by space of 20mm, is an upright rectangle 24mm high by 22mm wide, the outside edges of which are waved suggesting teeth of perforation. In lined panels at top there is the word "Jamaica", at left "Postage", at right "Paid", at bottom left "N" and a numeral at right. The top corners of the inner rectangle show foliate ornaments with the Crown between them, below the letters "GviR" in script type, and below them the postage. The Geddes Grant Machine gives exactly similar impression, except for the numeral at right of the lower panel.

**Postal Obliterators.** Those of our our readers and members, who collect the postal markings of the Island, will be interested to learn that new obliterators with date stamp, are gradually replacing those of the type, which have been in common use for several years past, i.e., the double lined circle. The new hand stamps are similar in design to those used in England, from Birmingham for instance. At the time of writing they have been issued, 18th July, 1939, to the local Post Offices at

Alderston	Jackson Town
Balaclava	Lucky Hill
Boscobel	Middle Quarters
Brainerd	Mount Regale
Bushy Park	Pembroke Hall
Dalvey	Port Antonio
Devon	Southfield
Gordon Town	Thompson Town
Islington	Warsop

## 1940

Did we possess, we would give much to be in London during May next, to be present 6th-11th at the Stamp Centenary Exhibition, promoted by the Royal Philatelic Society, to be opened to the public on and between those dates. The purpose is to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Queen of them all, the Mother progenitor of all postage stamps, the 1d Black of Great Britain issued 6th May, 1940, than which no better, and we doubt that any as good in design, has been issued. That stamp of itself has a long and fascinating history, and when we consider the tremendous world wide volume of philatelic activity there is, to which it has given birth, intelligence is taxed to grasp it all. Figures reach astronomical proportions, which the human mind fails to grasp; the literature in all the languages of the nations, would probably consume a life time even to read; the technical phases of production, in the many methods employed in the past and present, would require long years of application and patient study, to master in detail; commerce is an extensive factor, and last but by no means least, facility of communication between people and peoples, has reached the highest efficiency; all from a simple British idea, simply and effectively applied for the convenience of mankind throughout the world.

The Stamp Centenary Exhibition and its purpose, arouses thought in that train, from which we develop the idea that we, as British subjects who enjoy all there is to enjoy in philately, ought to welcome this opportunity to show our appreciation of a British institution, by which we, together with the rest of the world, have benefited both materially and ethically, as well as in pleasant relaxation, which in turn has created many, many delightful

contacts between enthusiasts in our hobby.

Plans are well under way to make the Exhibition, a great International affair of worldwide interest. The preliminary prospectus informs that, His Majesty the King, has been graciously pleased to afford His Patronage, something not before given by any Sovereign to such an exhibition. We understand that from America, there is evidence of very cordial support; we have little doubt that from most countries, the effort will be as cordially supported and encouraged. In that respect, we must not let Jamaica lag, we can and must do our bit, at least by subscribing for a set of four (4) medals, i.e., one each of Gold, Silver-Gilt, Silver, and Bronze, to cost in total £21. It is not suggested nor expected that the funds of the Society should be made to bear that charge, we doubt that reasonably it could, and still retain financial ability to carry on as it should, its effort to stimulate and support local philately, and for that reason we suggest that a particular fund be raised, by popular appeal to our local fraternity. We are sure we shall not appeal in vain, to those who appreciate the hobby, we are confident that like ourselves, readily will they give that evidence of their appreciation. This writer gladly offers £1 1/- to 'the fund, and if each local member will give but 6/-, the Society should be able to find the money to donate not merely one, but two sets of medals. We beg you to snow under the Secretary with your letters and donations; give once, twice, thrice in small sums if you find that to be necessary; there is just about time enough to permit that; but begin to give NOW, and give liberally all that you can afford. Donate the sales from your sheets in the Sales Packet, make up and circulate special lots priced so



cheaply, that they must sell; the proceeds for this appeal, do it NOW; the Committee in England must be early apprised of what Jamaica intends to do, our Secretary cannot advise that until he hears from you, let him do so NOW.

Our appeal for funds is addressed principally to our local members, for the reason that some of those resident abroad, probably will give their help through other channels, but to any who may accept the appeal, and desire to subscribe through us, we cordially invite them to do so; in the Society's name we shall gratefully acknowledge and welcome their aid.

The prospectus is far too lengthy to be re-produced here in detail, any member may see it by application to our Secretary, and on request a copy can be supplied direct from London, but that request should not be made, unless the enquirer seriously intends to enter an exhibit. There are several classifications; each extended by division into groups, and those further extended into sections; which seem to cover practically every field of philatelic endeavour. Collections may be entered in toto, or by groups of countries, or by special issues as the prospectus indicates; studies of particular items, research, postal history, juniors, and sundry other sub-heads, so there is very wide field for any and all likely to be interested. Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, one of our members, is Hon. Treasurer to the Executive Committee. We cannot pledge his help to any local member who may be interested, but we are confident that it will be given on any matter of difficulty, which may be referred to him, provided that it does not unduly encroach on his already heavily taxed time and patience. Two other members of the JPS are on the Executive Committee, Messrs. Frank Godden and Stanley Phillips.

Those of us who have visited any large philatelic exhibition, will have experienced the monotony there was, to observe the same and very similar kinds of exhibits, shown al-

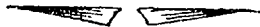
most interminably over extensive area in the frames. Those who are able to contemplate visit to the Stamp Centenary Exhibition, will be gratified to learn that it is planned on novel lines, to eliminate as far as that may be possible, any similar experience. The "Hanging Committee," will select and grant space to, wholly or in part, those exhibits which appeal to it as of the greatest interest, but that will not in any way affect the work of the jurors, who will judge each competing exhibit on merit only, even if those selected for award, may not be shown at all.

The "Philatelic Magazine" of 31st March, informs that in the House of Commons on March 27th, Major Tryon, the Postmaster General, stated that he proposed to issue four commemorative stamps, in 1940, to mark the centenary of the introduction of postage stamps in Great Britain, viz.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d denominations. The designs are being subjected to competition between about 30 artists, he proposed to ask the Royal Fine Arts Commission, and Council for Art in Industry, to advise him in judging the designs. Basing our comment on the current stamps, for which we understand the Royal Fine Arts Commission is largely responsible, we wonder why the Institute of Civil Engineers, the Royal College of Surgeons, and any similar body other than the Royal Philatelic Society, is not consulted? We believe the Royal Philatelic Society to be rather more competent than any, constructively to criticise, correct, if necessary create philatelic designs of attractive worth and appeal, but apparently it is consistently ignored in matters of the kind, and the Royal Fine Arts Commission as consistently employed, to inflict on an all too patient public, stamps in designs that are repellent. Those stamps may portray art of the highest standard, as art is understood by that Commission, but to us and we believe not few others, they are crudely cryptographic, something which we be-

lieve to be wholly obvious, if the results of the labours and efforts of that faculty, be compared with the subject of this Centenary.

Under dates of 23rd May and 15th June, Sir John Wilson, Chairman of the Executive Committee, invited him to, and our Hon. Secretary accepted, the position of Honorary Exhibition Commissioner in Jamaica; a personal honour to Mr.

Gunter; an honour for our Society, which enhances its prestige in the philatelic world; and an honour for our Island, to have it recorded in the roster of places, wherein it has been believed to be desirable to appoint a special Commissioner. All local communications on the subject of the Exhibition should be addressed to Mr. Gunter.



## Philatelic Fashions

We read with much interest an article in Gibbons "Stamp Monthly," February, 1939, in the form of reported interview; questions by the writer "Argus," replies by the catalogue Editor; on the subject of "Catalogue Varieties."

The article begins in a general way to deal with varieties that appear in the catalogue; "catalogue varieties" the writer terms them, placing the term in inverted commas. It is not clear why that was done, unless as is later developed, some of them possibly may be understood to be only quasi philatelic, condemned by the Editor himself; if that be the intention, we entirely agree with the distinction. The matter then passes to particularization by classes or groups, viz., paper, colour, watermark, overprint, surcharge, etc., how and why they are recognised and listed. Amazingly forthright and in conformity with observable practice, the premise is stated that "in determining what should be included in the catalogue, *logic does not always play its due part*," "each succeeding editor works along his own lines, in following which he may be influenced not only by the past, but by the changes in *philatelic fashion* which may be taking place to-day." We would readily understand and appreciate "Philatelic fashions," in the sense of popularity of some designs over others, diversified pictorials opposed to the monotony of stereotyped portraiture; a group of countries or a country over others, the British West Indies against Central America; but we do not think popularity in either instance, would be expressed or described, as one being more "fashionable" than the other. As it happens and is, we are not considering "fashion" in generally accepted fundamentals, but as applied to or in *alleged varieties not sponsored with "logic" or philatelic reason*.

Philately, as we seem to misunderstand the term, if it does nothing else, demands insistence on, with complete pressing necessity for, comprehensive accuracy, from which fully supported, unassailable fact of fixed security is developed. There seems to be little if any room there, for admission of the very wide range of vagaries associated with "fashions." That word means "mode or style of the moment," something which has its day, ceases to be a vogue, dies and passes to the limbo of forgotten things, and of necessity is potential of loss to all those whom, at some expense may have acquired the trimmings, but overstayed the time limit arranged or allowed by the leaders of "fashion."

Pertinently we may ask, who are the leaders in "philatelic fashions," who discovers or introduces them, creates and stimulates demand for "fashionable" items? We know of course that in the instance of women's modes, it is the celebrated modistes who create "fashions," do so for gain and temporarily to satisfy woman's natural craving for change, but the large majority of stamp collectors are men, not readily influenced by change in "fashion" of hats, clothes, shoes, or almost anything else; not few strenuously resist such changes, demand and insist instead on styles to which they have been accustomed. It seems clear then, that there is little craving for change to be catered for, so little that it is reasonable to state where stamp collectors are concerned, desire of the kind is amply taken care of by normal changes of designs in the stamps they collect, and if that be so, it is equally reasonable to deduce, that "philatelic fashions" do not originate with and are not desired by them.

We suggest that application of the term "fashion" to philately,

without any sort of doubt is a profanity, debasement of reasonable and reasoning pursuit, to one largely influenced and governed by whim; degeneration from stable continuity to uncertainty and dubiety, developed by and with unreasoned, unreasonable, imponderable mutations, such as *varieties not so recognised because of "logic" or philatelic reason*, but are given prominence because of "fashion," which really means the whim or fancy of some person or persons. Such things originally philatelically stupid, insane, descend in degeneracy frequently to the level of bastard progeny of mongrel spawn, as perusal of advertisements in the philatelic press will readily indicate. Born of endeavour to create a "fashion" for purpose of business, those philatelically and intrinsically worthless things, speculatively are offered for sale and acquired by those unable to recognise them for what they are, ignorance is exploited by many to whom that dubious conduct is part of the game. For instance and recently, we quoted an advertisement that offered as collectible philatelic varieties "pimples" "chewed ears," "broken skulls"; to those sorts of things do "philatelic fashions" lead; but, we wonder, may not the variety of Holland, 1852, described as "horn on forehead" have been the inspiration for one or other of those particular things? Unfortunately there are some collectors of stamps. unbalanced enough avidly to follow that lead; to them each insignificant speck, the smallest and most meaningless imperfection visible only with aid of magnification, assiduously hunted for with wasted time and patience, is philatelic variety of great importance, entirely worthy to be made a "fashion," one of those that is not supported with "logic," and not infrequently has personal gain as the object.

It seems incredible that purveyors of those varieties have failed or are unable to realise the harm done; not only to the hobby from which they receive their revenue, and

therefore to themselves; by recognising and servicing pernicious sensation of that kind; pernicious obviously because of the lack of "logic" or philatelic reason. Both they and us, the common or garden collectors of stamps, may well give thought to how "fashion," in perhaps even its least indiscreet form, works in stamp collecting, and for the moment ponder just one of several instances, of the result of its application. On page 13 of our edition for 1937, we quoted from an article by Mr. J. R. W. Purvees on the stamps of Fiji, in which he adversely criticised certain catalogue lists. We added comment relative to the stamps of New Zealand, "varieties alleged or actual that are identified, or are identifiable only with the greatest difficulty, some of which seem to require of the effort very real powers of imagination." On page 66 of the same edition, again with reference to the stamps of New Zealand, we asked how can the alleged "distinctions between Waterlow paper, De La Rue paper, Cowan paper, Jones paper be justified"? "Those distinctions seem to be even more ridiculous than . . ." We trust we are not unduly optimistic, to quote from the article we are trying to review; and regard the quotation as unintended vindication of our comment; statement by the Editor; "look at the way collectors have been put off those fascinating New Zealand pictorials of 1898 onwards, by the inclusion of paper varieties. I was not to blame for that, but I **am** responsible for putting in the Jones, De La Rue and Cowan papers in the Georgian issues around 1924, and I've been kicking myself ever since." Presumably at that moment, the Editor was thinking of his catalogue, not so much as his firm's price list, but as a philatelic handbook of general information; apparently a "fashion" in those alleged varieties was set going, may have had its day, is dead and has been out of existence for some time. We believe it reasonable to infer from the Editor's remarks, that in

the cited instance of New Zealand, both the hobby and his interests suffered, because of a "fashion" in those items; that seems to have been the experience, yet despite that experience, we have his very modern assurance, that "catalogue varieties" are not always selected and listed because of philatelic reason, and are sometimes subjected to the whim of "fashion"; with that assurance, the mystery, the how and why, of some "catalogue varieties" begin to be explicable.

While we have learned that "logic," admittedly does not always govern recognition of "catalogue varieties," apparently it is also ignored to warrant exclusion. Having seen the harm that can be and is done, by positive application of the idea of "fashion," let us glance at the effect of negative operation, bringing it home to each of us interested in Jamaican stamps. We cannot think of any Jamaican variety, which has been made the subject of "fashion" in the sense developed here; unless it be that of the 1½d War Stamp, 1916, "inverted 'D' for 'P'"; not even to include several of unquestionable merit; we have a fairly long list of authentic philatelic varieties, none of which are "catalogue varieties." The latest additions to that list, are the perforation varieties of the 1d., 1½d., and 9d Georgians, 1929, described on another page. Like others excluded from the list of "catalogue varieties," we have no sort of doubt that to include them, "would unduly overload the list" hence omission, and while the Jamaica list possibly needs to be nursed and protected from overload, even though exclusive of listed varieties, it shows but 120 items in the 1939 edition, we wonder why Grenada, St. Lucia and Trinidad have been made to suffer; (by the same reasoning one is tempted to write injured); by addition of similar perforation varieties, of their 1934, 1936 and 1935 issues? ; exclusive of the George VI additions and listed varieties, Grenada has 151 major items in the list, St. Lucia 127, Tri-

nidad 245. We do not mean to suggest that the mentioned West Indian varieties of perforation, are unreasonable items, positively they are not, are properly collectible by any who may wish them, but our defective, probably abnormal train of thought, causes us to think that for precisely the same reason which gave them recognition and record, "logic" if applied would compel similar recognition and record of the Jamaican items, and by the same parity, denial of that recognition is not logical, necessarily is whimsical and unreasonable; why? , apparently exclusion by "fashion."

Clearly then friends, those of us who are not self reliant, do not trouble to know the stamps we elect to collect, depend on others for information, are apt to be caught coming and going by the whims of "fashion," that include and/or exclude indiscriminately, at times inducing us to accept unreasonable items as worthy varieties, or to reject or miss others of proper merit. If you have missed those Jamaican items, you will not have been saved the premium you will have to pay, if and when they become "fashionable" as they may, even though you may have subscribed consistently to the best books on "philatelic fashions." You too may feel like "kicking" yourself, but to little purpose then, unless you will have taken the lesson to heart.

Relative to coloured papers, the Editor tells us that "a lot of variations shown in the catalogue to-day are simply nonsense," then dilates on the changeling effect of climate and gum, responsible in some instances for the variety described as "toned", we regard each and every one of those items with the strongest suspicion. With reference to Georgian coloured papers, presumably especially those of the War years and immediately after, we learn that "the 'white backs' and 'emeralds' are easily distinguishable, but the 'yellows,' 'orange buffs,' and 'pale yellows' have caused a lot of confusion, and if I had to decide to-day I would not list them, but being in they must stop." We are

afraid that they do not stop, as they have appeared long after the War period; Dominica 3d. of 1927-33 is an example; and will continue to do so for as long as papers of those colours are used; yellow and green will always develop varieties of shade; but perhaps we have wilfully misunderstood, and what the Editor really means is, those varieties already listed in the catalogue, must stay there, they will not be taken out, and presumably there will be no additions, unless "fashion" beckons and prevails, as apparently it did in 1937 and caused Bahamas No. 140a to be recognised and listed, rather later than the cited instance of Dominica omitted. 'Fashion' friends, 'fashion'!! Incidentally, one wonders what is the respective status of the "buff" and "lemon yellow" papers? , why have they been omitted from comment and apparently from consideration? , they are listed varieties, "catalogue varieties," should one understand that they have been specially exempted from the suggested or expressed reproach applicable to the others?

Dealing with overprints, he tells us that the catalogue ignores varieties developed from misplacement, such as any that has the reading reversed; for instance, one of British Bechuanaland which shows "Bechuanaland" at the top, "British" at the bottom of the stamp, caused by indifferent register of the sheet in the press, so that at the top of each vertical row, the word "British" is printed on that margin, and the last stamp of the row receives "Bechuanaland" only; then with convincing proof of absence of "logic" states — "Having regard to the printer's intention, these stamps are as much 'errors' as 'inverteds' and 'doubles'." Extraordinary, isn't it?, at least so it seems to us. We believe that ethically and philatelically, it would be entirely correct, to regard at least the last stamp of each row, that with but one word printed thereon when there should be two, as of equal importance with, if not superior to, variety which is listed and described as stop, letter or figure missing, and give it proper place

described as "British" omitted. The Jamaica 1½d. War Stamp of 1916 exists in variety such as has been described; the first stamp of each vertical row shows the word "War" only, others in the sheet show three words "Stamp-War-Stamp.", yet others "Stamp War." The ½d. and 1½d. of 1917 exist with "Stamp War" and with "Stamp" only. The 3d. stamp of the last series exists with vertical overprint, and is listed by Gibbons. We have seen it and know that it has been sold at auction, in pair *se tennant* with unoverprinted companion, variety not listed by Gibbons. We have seen it with two vertical overprints, and that in pair *se tennant* with unoverprinted copy, neither of which is listed by Gibbons. The item with two overprints has been dismissed, as having misplaced overprint; we propose to examine the "logic" of that statement. It is necessary to make clear that in this instance, "two overprints" does not mean "double" in the sense that the sheet was passed twice through the press, off set printing, a "kiss," nor anything of that nature. A single stamp measures 21mm across the face, and is 25mm high. The length of each overprint including the stop, is 11mm, and laterally each is spaced 10mm from the next. Two subjects of the overprint therefore require 32mm in which to appear, and two stamps together provide 42mm in which to do so. Applying that detail to a pane of 60 stamps, it is found that the pane without margins is 255mm high and 130mm wide. Each lateral row is served with 6 overprints which require 116 mm in which to appear, and have 130mm in which to do so. Turn the pane around, the height becomes the breadth, the position necessary in which to have received the vertical overprint, and it is found that the total width of the 6 overprints, viz., 116mm, must be applied over 255 mm. Reducing consideration to a single stamp, there is 25mm in or over which two overprints 32mm wide must be applied, and obviously that 25mm. will, must absorb the greater part of the 32mm. In other words, it is clear that; except for the

stamp which begins or ends the line of 6 impressions in each row; those which receive impression at all, must have received the greater parts of two impressions, they cannot have received less, and others will not have received any impression nor any part of one, for the reason that in each row there were but 6 impressions to be applied to 10 stamps, indeed only 5 stamps can have received an imprint, the first or last of which will have received but one or less, leaving 5 imprints to be spread over 4 stamps, i.e., 5 impressions=95mm in length, 4 stamps=100mm. Having due "regard for the printer's intention," viz., to apply but one overprint to each stamp, that in error he fed the sheet or pane to the press, in manner which made that impossible, and so produced two impressions for one, we suggest that those two impressions are as much "doubles," as are those derived from the error of passing the sheet twice through the press, when it was intended to pass it but once. For the reasons given, we are of opinion that the term 'misplacement of overprint' applied to these stamps, is untenable, impossible of support with either fact or reason, and the stamps cannot properly and correctly be described other than as with "double vertical overprint."

Parenthetically, with apparently close relation, we may with interest consider certain "catalogue varieties," seemingly caused by misplacement of overprint, which do not possess the features stated by the Editor, as necessary to reach his standard, viz., they are not in pair with unoverprinted companion. We refer to the Indian 'NINE' and 'PIES'

NINE      PIES

varieties, Gibbons 192a and 192b. We have not seen the sheet from which they came, nor the varieties themselves, but have seen the normal item. Our effort to account for existence of the varieties, of necessity is reasoned theory, in the circumstances it cannot be more than that. Such evidence as we have suggests, that at least one line of subjects of the overprint, was incor-

rectly set to read "PIES" instead of "NINE"

NINE

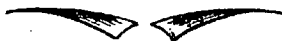
PIES, and had specimens so overprinted appeared by themselves, probably would have been regarded as items of "misplaced overprint" in the same sense as applied to the Bechuanaland,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d Jamaica War Stamps referred to in the previous paragraph. If all the subjects of the overprint had been correctly set, no possible misplacement in the press, could have produced the "NINE-NINE" and "PIES-PIES" varieties, but with the suggested incorrect setting, the word "PIES" would have been placed vertically next to the same word of the correct setting immediately above; similarly the word "NINE" next the same word in the setting below. With that position, misplacement of the sheet in the press, would have caused many or most of the stamps in the sheet, to have received reversed reading of the overprint, viz, 'PIES-NINE'; the subjects of the incorrect setting would retain the word "NINE" in addition receive the same word from the setting below. The subjects above the incorrect setting would retain the word "PIES", and receive the same word from the setting below. That seems to be a reasonable, perhaps the correct explanation, and if it is we have the curious situation of an error, itself not known in tangible existence; which even had it been, probably would not have been recognised as such, creating recognised and listed varieties of misplaced overprint, "catalogue varieties" of a type which the Editor deprecates, though he advances good and reasonable grounds for the status he denies in general practice.

Time and again, in and perhaps out of season, we have stressed necessity for individual effort, personal study of the stamps in which you claim to be interested; independence of thought and action in the making of your collection, based on intelligent application of that study; tried to demonstrate the danger there is in dependence on others, to allow interests not precisely analogous with yours to do your thinking

for you; pleaded for expression of your ideas and information, that we may compile and use them for the benefit of all, but still we lack that support.

The article reviewed here, appears to indicate that the Editor of the catalogue we use, has published recognition of some at least of its faults, has had the courage to state in print some of his ideas relative thereto, something I believe we should appreciate. He has told us that some of the varieties which now appear therein, would not be admitted did he have the task to re-compile the catalogue, has given us a lead to indicate what they are, but the value of that lead, if not entirely destroyed, is rendered highly speculative, by his statement to

the effect that, his selection of items for inclusion as varieties, is not always governed by philatelic reason or "logic", that the dictates of "fashion" are listened to sometimes, when making his decisions. For those reasons, the subject remains open to you, to us, the common or garden collectors of stamps with undiminished necessity for the effort we have tried to urge, the action stressed in the previous paragraph. We invite you now to prepare and send us a list of all Jamaican varieties known to you, which are not "catalogue varieties", we will compile and publish the combined result of your efforts in our next edition, and if your aid is given as we have asked, should so provide a literary item of large interest to each member interested in the stamps of Jamaica.





## Our New Stamps

The year 1938 is of some importance in our local philatelic history, for the reason that for the first time was there issued in the same calendar year, all the denominations of a new and complete series, and at that, two emissions were necessary to complete it.

For purpose of concise record, the data immediately following, are applicable to each denomination, or to groups of them as may be shown:—

**Denominations:**  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 9d., 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-.

**Dates of issue:**  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., by official notice dated 13th September, for effect 10th October. All others by similar notice dated 28th November, for effect 10th December.

**Paper:** White wove watermarked Crown and Script C A upright.

**Designs:**  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., alike in small conventional style and format, for the first time in our philately showing the Sovereign's Head in right profile. The 2d. to 5/- varied pictorial, with the Head introduced in the frame and facing right. The 10/- shows the central feature of the Head, facing right, set in an allegorical frame. The 2d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d., 5/- and 10/-, are re-drawn adaptations of the same denominations which preceded them. On all the higher denominations, 2d. to 5/-, the Crown is conspicuous by its absence, and the 10/- is the only one of the series that shows the hitherto usual legend "Postage" "Revenue".

**Plates and Printing:** produced from line engraved plates, recess printed. Single working plates for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 9d., 10/-; two plates for each other, respectively for the frame and vignette, printed bichrome.

**Perforation:**  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. by comb machine gauging  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ ; 2d. to 2/- by line machine gauging  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ; 5/- and 10/- by comb machine gauging  $13\frac{1}{2}$ .

**Printers:**  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 5/-, 10/- by Messrs De La Rue, all others 2d.

to 5/- by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons.

### Make Up of The Sheets

The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. are officially stated to be of 120 set, and that in fact is the size of the sheet sold by the Post Office, viz., two horizontal panes; each of 60 subjects arranged 6 horizontal by 10 vertical; divided by a narrow white gutter, the whole surrounded with white margins without lines. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. has been seen in such sheets showing the left pane with plate number 1A on the lower margin below the fifth stamp of the last row; the right pane with plate number 1B similarly placed. On each pane the printer's imprint; name and address; appears above the plate number, extending from the second to the fifth of the row. Sheets similarly printed have been seen, with plate numbers 1C and 1D. The 1d. exists in similar sheets, but with plate numbers 1C and 1D only; that is at the time of writing. It is reasonable assumption, that printing from plates 1A and 1B also exist, as they should because of alphabetical and numerical sequence, and the fact of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; no doubt they will eventually appear, especially so as the initial printings supplied to the Island arrived in four lots and comprise just under 5 million copies.\* We have reason to believe that despite official statement to the contrary, both those denominations are printed from plates in 240 set. We have seen the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in sheet of 120 from plates 1C and 1D legibly show those letters and figures on the top margin cut through, as well as on the bottom, and before us as we write there is a block of 24 of the 1d. taken from both panes of the sheet from the top, the right section of which shows plate number 1D obviously cut through but quite legible; in addition, there

\*Sheets with panes showing plate numbers 1A and 1B have since been seen.

is to be observed at the corners of the sheets of both denominations, small coloured crosses also cut through, which seem to be the guides for that separation. The 1½d. is of similar arrangement and printing, shows the printer's imprint on both panes, but with plate number 1 on the lower margin of the right pane only.

The 2d. and 2½d. of similarly large upright format, are each of 60 subjects in one pane, arranged 10 horizontal by 6 vertical, do not show plate numbers, but have the printer's imprint on the lower margin.

The 3d., 4d., 9d., and 1/- are each narrow horizontal rectangles, similar in area, in single panes of 60 subjects arranged 5 horizontal by 12 vertical, without plate numbers, but with the printer's imprint on the lower margin.

The 6d. of the same size as the 2d. and 2½d., is a horizontal rectangle 60 subjects arranged 10 horizontal by 6 vertical, is without plate number, but shows the printer's imprint. There is indication that the plate is of larger set than 60; specimens have been seen, taken from the top of the sheet with the margin from that side, which is *perforated on the outside edge*, i.e., a means of separation that suggests separation from others.

The 2/- is a narrow upright rectangle; similar in area to that of the 3d., 4d., 9d., and 1/-; in a single pane of 60 subjects arranged 10 vertical by 6 horizontal, is without plate number and shows the printer's imprint. Like the 6d., specimens have been seen with margin from the top of the sheet, with the outside edge of the margin perforated.

The 5/- like its predecessor in design is similar in shape, upright rectangular in format, in one pane of 30 subjects arranged 5 horizontal by 6 vertical, shows on the left of the lower margin plate number 1 in the colour of the vignette, and on the right the same number in the colour of the frame, the printer's imprint between.

The 10/- also like its predecessor is a horizontal rectangle of large format, in a single pane of 30 subjects arranged 5 horizontal by 6 ver-

tical, showing printer's imprint with plate number 1 at right.

## DESIGNS.

The ½d., 1d., and 1½d. are alike; printed respectively in deep green, carmine, brown; showing the medal-lioned Head of the King facing right, set in an ornate frame. The design shows marked deterioration from those preceding for the same denominations. It commits the crime of reducing and minimising the central and important feature, the Head of the King, economising therefrom to introduce meaningless, undesirable, unnecessary ornamentation. Compare it with the designs of the superceded 1d. and 1½d., and it should be obvious that our criticism is none too strong.

The 2d. printed in pale green (frame) and sepia (vignette) is a redrawn adaptation of its predecessor, but the colour shades are weak, and give the impression of poor imitation. Unlike its predecessor, one of the coconut palms it shows, is dead, there is just the trunk of the tree, no fronds; another is in process of "losing its head," wears its fronds at the side of the trunk, aping the fashion used by some giddy females; something that happens only to diseased trees.

The 2½d. printed in pale ultramarine and pale greenish blue, because of weak colour shades, evokes comment similar to that applied to the 2d., and in addition presents us with a most extraordinary bridge. Observe that the terminus on the right bank (that facing you) is in the top of a tree!; there is no observable means of descent therefrom, so users apparently are "tree'd." The preceding stamp shows the same scene, the bridge is clearly defined as resting on the right bank, and its natural continuation to the roadway is hidden, as it usually and nearly always is, by a bank of vegetation. On the present stamp, the flow of the river seems to be low, and at right is a shore devised from short lines across the face, which give the appearance of a stairway; at the water's edge are parallel lines, suggesting a railway

or tramway track which does not exist there. Compare the detail with that on the previous stamp; observe use of dots, dashes instead of lines, which give the impression of irregularity, a beach dotted with stones, rocks, hummocks and depressions which is the actual and natural condition.

The 3d. in green and pale violet, shows a land-seascape, apparently intended to suggest idea of growing, reaping and shipping of bananas. The frame shows at right foreground a clump of growing and bearing trees. The banana is not cultivated in clumps, it is in orderly rows; uncultivated clumps such as shown on the stamp, are grown in untilled peasant plots, backyards and in the wild, but are never seen on the plantation that cultivates for export. One of the trees in the clump that advertises Jamaica's chief industry, bears a stem of the fruit, obviously drawn by some one who has never seen a bearing tree. The thick or heavy part of the stem with the larger and longer fingers of fruit, is at the lower end, at the top of the stem, the part next the tree, the fingers there seem to be *growing down the stem*; both conditions precisely opposite to the natural; the stem is drawn from both ends, upside down. Bananas may grow that way at Kew, definitely they do not in Jamaica. Slightly to right of the centre foreground, a labourer is seen walking left with two stems of fruit on his head. The upper stem appears to be correctly drawn, the fingers of fruit pointing up the stem towards the thick end, but the lower is from quite another species, similar to that bearing in the clump. The labourer's path is over a grass verge that borders directly on the sea, the grass grows down to the water's edge, a phenomenon which we do not believe exists in any part of the world, it is not to be seen anywhere in Jamaica, there is always a sandy beach several yards in depth, bare of all vegetation, before any growth of that kind begins. The vignette is devoted to display of a ship in a bay or harbour, apparently idle at anchor, waiting to

be loaded with the impossible fruit, the labourer is carrying, but to get it on board the blighter must swim, there is no boat, lighter nor any such means of conveyance shore to ship. There is no sign of loading activity, time is being wasted, something which does not happen in actuality. Boats are ready loaded well ahead of expected arrival of the ship, she does not drop anchor before they are off to her, and from then on they ply back and forth, there is no let up, until all the fruit is taken on board. The vessel portrayed is not in design like any engaged in the Jamaica fruit trade, nor for that matter do we believe she is like any that may sail the seven seas, does not belong, is not seen, nor has existence on this planet. The navigating bridge is completely masked, by a superstructure on the foredeck; navigation is not necessary, or if it is, the crew is able to carry on without visibility of direction. The structure is reminiscent of non-obstructing stalls usually seen on cattle ships, never on the very good class passenger vessels operated by the United Fruit Co., Standard Fruit Co., Elders and Fyffes and Canadian National Steamships in the Jamaica Fruit Trade.

The 4d. printed in green and brown, tells us that it shows a "Citrus Grove," we would not have known it otherwise. The "Grove" is in the sere and yellow stage, trees all dead or dying and bearing pale, blighted fruit, some of them swollen to abnormal proportions. The fruit is being reaped by a lone and stalwart Jamaican woman; at least we presume she is or is meant to be, but we do not know of any quite so stalwart. She is reaching for the fruit with a gloved left hand, her right holds down a branch; with little effort be extended to the top of a tree, any part of it, and if that be not convincing enough, give a glance at the field boxes on the ground, in which she has placed some of the *plucked* fruit. Only a giantess of her stature and build is capable of lifting and moving those boxes from tree to tree, from one part of the field to another, but even she has a job of work on hand, alone

to reap all that fruit. His Majesty is seen gazing, we believe wonderingly, at some most unnatural fruit, unknown to him and to most of us, displayed in front of his face.

The 6d. in purple and grey, like the 2d., and 2½d., is an adaptation of its predecessor, the colour shades are weaker, but we think this combination is more pleasing.

The 9d. printed in deep mauve is entitled "Kingston Harbour," but does not show it. What is seen appears to be the commercial waterfront from the Government piers (centre background) West, to the Penitentiary (right foreground) East. The suggestion of a shipping port is given by vessels shown, but the whole is a view of an open roadstead, while Kingston's harbour is landlocked by the Palisadoes, with Port Royal at the point on the only channel that can be used to enter, the only channel that exists. The appearance of the stamp would be less objectionable, were the centre printed in grey and set in a less flamboyant frame. A rather more pleasing subject, similar in idea, would have been an aerial view of Kingston, against its natural back ground of mountains.

The 1/- printed in purple brown and green, attempts to depict yet another scene of agricultural industry, with as little success in accuracy. It shows reaping of the sugar cane, means of transporting it, with the sugar factory in the back ground. At left foreground is a bank of growing cane; from which a part has been cut; against it towards the centre is a locally made two wheeled vehicle, called a "dray," to which is harnessed two mules with the head of a third. The dray is partly loaded and being loaded by three men, two of whom are on it, the third is on the ground passing up the cut cane to the others. The man at the rear of the dray is standing on the load that is on it, but the growing cane behind him reaches above his head; wonderful stalks those, they must be grown in some part of the Island not known to the general public. The absurdity of the ensemble is deep-

ened, by comparison of the height of the man in white on the front of the dray, with that of the near mule. That animal measures 4mm at the withers, the man is 7mm tall, is nearly twice as tall as the mule. Assuming a mule of 14 hands, the man is 8' 2" tall, or assuming a man of normal height about 5' 9" the mule is 10 hands or 3' 4" at the withers. The Editor of Gibbons "Monthly Journal" commenting on this very point, suggests that the mules must be Shetland ponies. Either we breed giants as cane field workers, or we use impossibly small animals for the work of haulage. In the middle distance three tramway or railway cars are shown; a means of transportation also used on the plantations; but the box cars shown on the stamp definitely are not, they are not practicable, very nearly impossible of use for the purpose. The type used is flat and open, frame ends and removable stakes for sides, or of the regular cane car type, open top, frame ends with swinging, open sides. In the back ground is the sugar factory building, remarkable for the obvious lack of means to unload drays and cane cars, viz., the cane hoist, with its lofty mast and boom, which with the chimney stack, are the first objects seen from distance, long before the building can be.

The 2/- in purple brown and pale blue shows "Bamboo Walk", an entrancing stretch of roadside scenery near to Holland Estate in the Parish of St. Elizabeth, familiar to most travellers by road from Kingston to Montego Bay via Mandeville. The road for some considerable distance, is bordered on both sides by bamboo trees of such a great height that the tops lean towards and meet each other across the road, the vista giving impression of a vast Gothic nave in some great Cathedral, but the stamp promptly dispels the impression, by presenting a peasant woman walking towards us, carrying and easily balancing a basket on her head. Quite often pictures are given greater appeal, if there is presence of animal life in action, but in this instance the scene would have been

much more impressive, were there absence of that feature. Obviously from a photograph, the conceived idea is good, but execution and production are execrable. The woman is yet another giantess, her height entirely out of proportion with that of the trees, and we cannot conceive that anyone with the smallest regard for physical comfort, would contemplate with equanimity, a motor-ride over the terraced roadway that is shown. We hasten to assure our readers, that the stamp grossly libels the road; the ride may be taken and enjoyed in reasonable comfort, with no more risk of damage to the car, than there may be on any other road. The artist or engraver or both, by use of lines drawn across the face of the stamp, are responsible for that terraced effect. Lines drawn down the face of the stamp, with dots and dashes for effect of light and shade, would have presented the roadway more nearly as it really is, good and sound. The colour combination is most extraordinary, there are no "blue bamboos" in Jamaica, and we doubt existence in any part of the world, it is a conception that suggests origin similar to that responsible for green elephants, pink rats, and things of that kind. The natural colour in which to display those trees, is yellow green, colour and shade which is easily obtained and quite often used to print postage stamps; why this incredibly fanciful thing, indicative of a bad dream or something equally disagreeable?

The 5/- is a redrawn adaptation of its predecessor, in which it has gained nothing from the process, but while its shades are weaker, they are more pleasing than those of the last previous printings.

The 10/- is a similar adaptation of the preceding issue, to introduce the Head of His reigning Majesty. Comparison with its predecessor, shows weakened colour shades, and like others already mentioned, creates impression of poor imitation. The central feature suffers in comparison, is much less pleasing and impressive. The Head seems to be smaller, and if recent photographs of

His Majesty may be accepted as faithful reproductions, they do not support the obvious idea of elongated jaw and weak chin, portrayed on the stamp.

We do not know to whom we are indebted for this series, selection of the designs, execution of them, authority that approved and passed them for production and issue, but we do know that the series as a whole is most disappointing and unworthy. We have cited and commented on defects numerous and serious enough, to establish the fact that the authority concerned, was exercised with complete ignorance of the subject. Lack of familiarity with the subjects of the designs; lack of imagination properly to portray them; extreme carelessness in execution of the designs; incompetence to check and correct that carelessness; are so very evident, that we should not need to stress those points but it is a source of irritation to those of us, who have some real interest in the philately of our country, and possessed of some small knowledge of matters of this kind, that unpardonable carelessness and culpable incompetence, should be allowed to expose that philately to merited ridicule, invite outside criticism which can be and has been acridly adverse; criticism which we cannot attempt to controvert, which we are compelled to recognise is well deserved. None of the stamps is in any sense attractive; none, except those copied from their predecessors, in any real sense advertises Jamaica, except to her hurt and harm. Both in the English and local press, recent visitors to the Island, have expressed poor opinion of our roads. This writer knows that much of what has been stated, is exaggeration, that our main roads compare favourably with all but the main trunk routes in England and on the Continent of Europe, but that is not known to one and all, and in support of the criticism to which we have referred, the 2/- is issued showing one of the roads most travelled by visitors, with a terraced surface!! even if that condition were correctly represented, why publish it to the

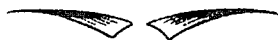
world?, surely it is not something to be proud of?

The "Daily Gleaner", edition of 11th March, published a reprinted article, entitled "The aesthetic characteristics of the Postage Stamp"; a lecture by Mons. Ouvre to the Paris Philatelic Club. The gentleman is a designer-engraver, and by his lecture one is convinced that he is an artist as well. We strongly recommend it to the attention of those responsible for the incongruities and travesties, which have been displayed on the new stamps; generally, they are what one would expect in puerile attempts at designing and drawing, but as we cannot conceive that children in any sense are responsible, the term "hostis sine gente" is more nearly correct. In the words Mons. Ouvre probably would use, we would remind them that "A l'oeuvre on connaît l'ouvrier"; in the instances of these stamps, the workmen have distinguished themselves with works which amply demonstrate, that they

are not remotely fit to have been entrusted with them.

The following table sets out figures we have been able to obtain, of the initial quantities of the new stamps printed, and the disposition made of them.

Denomination.	Received in the Island.	U. P. "Specimens".	Sold at London C. A.	Total.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d	4991392	408	25748	5017548
1d	4888568	408	19440	4908408
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d	2065806	408	14754	2080968
2d	96257	408	11743	108408
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	108805	408	11195	120408
3d	106055	408	10945	117408
4d	106823	408	10177	117408
6d	104263	408	9737	114408
9d	267293	408	9182	276838
1/-	41878	408	9127	51408
2/-	33319	408	4721	38448
5/-	11543	408	3457	15408
10/-	9491	408	2509	12408
T'tls.	12831485	5304	142735	12979524



## Drift

"Gibbons Stamp Monthly", January, 1939, published a timely, but incomplete article from the pen of Mr. John S. Scrutton, entitled "Back to the Postage Stamp". The May edition of the same journal published sundry letters from readers, expressing agreement, but with no attempt to argue or reason the writer's views and opinions.

The gist of the article is to the effect that, stamp collectors of their free will, have made stamp collecting too much complicated by diversification, to include such side issue items as registered covers, cachets, booklets, miniature sheets, meter stamps, specimens, "everything in fact except postage stamps", (the writer omitted or forgot to list first day covers, commemoratives, souvenirs) and suggests that desire for those out of the way things, is born of the fact that the modern collector is spoiled, too little is left to personal effort, collecting is made too easy for him by new issue services, and the efforts of hundreds of dealers, eager for the opportunity to satisfy his requirements: "gone is the thrill of finding a long desired specimen after years of search, gone is the hunting through various encyclopaedias, to discover the meaning of a stamp design, for full details can be seen in any stamp magazine new issue section. The stamp as a stamp has lost its charm, and collectors have looked for fresh grounds, but, I think, in the wrong direction."

There is much with which one can agree, but not little with which one does not. We wonder why in essays of the kind, seldom if ever is there effort to place the cause of drift, where largely, if not quite entirely, it belongs, viz., the commercialism to which the hobby is subjected. The dealer used to fill a very necessary place, in the structure of the hobby, but now, in this as in no other, it is the dealer and seller, not the collector and buyer, who sets the pace.

In our opinion, philatelic journals satisfy a great need, the information they supply is both desirable and useful. Not every collector has access to encyclopaedias, the journals provide what he needs, as he may need it, and the cost is so very much less. The thrill of finding is not lost by any means, it still happens. What probably has been affected is the desire, urge, necessity to look, search and know ones stamps. Although stamp collecting without frills, can be stated fairly to be neglected by some quasi devotees, for the side lines mentioned by the writer, there is a far greater, much larger number, to each of whom it remains the supreme attraction.

We agree that stamp collecting has been made much too complicated, that statement permits of little argument, but the writer's idea that development of the exiguous phases or branches, enumerated by him and added to by us, is responsible for that condition, does not appear to us to stand the test of examination. Consider them, does any present difficulty to understand? We cannot see that any does, singly or in group. They appear to us merely to extend the field of interest and possible activity; none is necessarily vital, few at any time have been traversed very usefully, and all are pursued rather more for sensation, than with philatelic object and understanding, but each and all may be appraised readily by the individual as desirable or not, to be indulged or rejected.

Not so with other factors, which in fact and in every sense do complicate. Possessed of; or given by seductive commercial advertisement; specious superficiality, they at least are as exiguous as are the phases listed by the writer, but their tenuity, greater perhaps, (in some instances definitely so) is not so readily obvious. They create complexity, and for many the uneasiness of perplexity. No rational human permits

if he can prevent, indefinite existence to conditions which disturb, and to that reasonably we believe, may be attributed drift from the postage stamp and the vargaries created for it, to other collectible items that have some relation, are free of those vargaries, obtainable at moderate cost, and possessed of a market.

What are those vargaries, those unreasonable conditions, which are complex and perplex? We suggest they may be found in the plethora of meaningless, philatelically worthless things, represented and exploited by some dealers as varieties of merit; the freakish, capricious inconsistency with which variety and alleged variety are treated by the same dealers.

Stamp collecting is a reasonable pursuit, and those who follow it seriously, of necessity must be and are reasonable, reasoning beings. The first is shorn by prevailing conditions of that status; the second cannot maintain the claim if those conditions are accepted. To point the statement, almost any type of variation, plausibly may be argued, as possessed of some measure of interest, great or infinitesimal for one or other group of collectors, e.g., one may ignore any but positively distinctive shades, to another each and every gradation faint or emphasised, is of importance, but if "shades" be admitted as a class or type of variety, applicable to any given group of stamps, it is reasonable to predicate that the same application, is logical for all other groups collected on the same basis. In other words, if variety "A" is of philatelic interest and worth, when it appears on the stamps of country "B", the same type of variety is of precisely the same merit when it appears on the stamps of country "C". That argument merely reiterates Euclid's simple axiom, "Things which are equal to the same thing are equal to one another." Conversely, variety which is not of interest here, cannot have that interest there. The possible, probable exceptions to those simple, axiomatic rules, fall within very narrow

limits, to the non-specialist they are not, cannot be of importance, and as the specialist, ultra-specialist, and micro-specialist exist only in infinitesimal minority, they need not be considered, especially so a they are quite competent and capable to take care of themselves, or should be.

To the vast, overwhelming majority of common or garden collectors, you and I, that detail would seem to make the issue clear cut, we would understand from it that all variation has interest for some or other of us, we may not be agreed on a standard of philatelic worth or merit, each may determine to set a standard for himself, and is entitled to do so; we would also understand that for any item to have financial value at all, it must primarily have philatelic worth, according to the standard we may have adopted, and that financial worth is governed by supply and demand. Having set our standard, observe the factual conditions, which by frequent example violate the rules we have cited, affront the reason of those who can and do reason, perplex those who may not. For instance, some published literature informs that some dealers pay no attention to variety of inverted watermark, positively implying that it is *not* of philatelic interest, but in price lists of stamps offered for sale, that variety under some countries, is listed at enhanced price, implying that it is of philatelic merit and of special commercial value; WHY? We find that presence or not of watermark is similarly treated, commercially valuable here, there it is ignored. Partial double impression on a stamp of one country, is a high priced variety of another of at least as great rarity with established market value, there is no readily available record. "Prepared for use but not issued", describes something which never has been a postage stamp, listed as variety of high price and great rarity among stamps of one country, but in the stamps of another where the variety has greater measure of rarity and established commercial value the record is scrappy and almost nonexistent. There is wide discrimina-



tion in price for perforation say 11 x 10, as variety of 10 x 11, but in others where the variation is say from 14 to 14 x 13½, the item is too trumpery for notice, a change of perforation here is given prominence at enhanced price, there it is ignored; overprint in ink that glistens, provides variety of specially alleged importance, and positive philatelic interest, over another on similar stamps in the same characters in ink that doesn't; a spaced letter or figure here is of importance, there it is not; a period or stop out of alignment on this stamp demands special attention and is worth more than the normal, on that one it is not worthy of mention. Impressively extensive lists of varieties of paper in texture, shade, and even of paper makers, are made of some issues of stamps, similar variations of definite existence in others are ignored. Those are but some of the irrational, philatelically irresponsible anomalies, introduced by stamp dealers, which the collector of today is asked and expected to swallow, hook, line and sinker, without murmur. To escape the obvious reproach, it has been stated by some, that *their lists are not logical*; the reasoning collector long since discovered that on his own, and freed himself of those trammels.

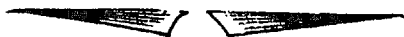
What can the average collector who reasons, make of that chaotic condition? There is but one conclusion open to him, viz., that true philately has no sort of place in the hands of dealers, it is betrayed and violated in every possible respect, for purpose of business gain at the expense of collectors; it is commerce and commercial interests, with all that that may mean, which are served for the benefit of dealers. That conclusion is made clear and positive, if he seeks to learn of the dealer "why" of any of those variegaries. He will be told that we list and price variety "A" on the stamps of "B", because a large number of collectors is interested, the demand is strong; we leave it alone where the stamps of "C" are concerned, because there is no demand, the stamps are not popular. That

being the position, it is easy to understand how and why, alleged variety of minute or no philatelic worth, is boosted for sale where the stamps of "B" are concerned. Inimical to the interests of the hobby, that procedure is not dishonest; it is usual business policy to create markets for this or that thing, and to exploit those markets, but it is most essential for the buyer of stamps and their varieties, to know, understand, be alive and on guard against conditions which are not precisely in his interests. The collector who thinks and reasons will be, but he who does not is apt to be caught every time. Relying on the advertised catch phrase, "we guarantee the stamps we sell", he is slow to realise that while the guarantee, sincerely may refer to authenticity of the stamps offered, it has no sort of reference to reliability of status for the variety advertised. An alleged variety of paper, for which high premium is asked and obtained, may prove to be a changeling; so may a shade; actually depreciated things but that is no sort of consolation to him who, relying on the dealers offer an apparent guarantee, has paid the price; he has no redress, intentionally or not he has been deceived by what, questionably one may describe as careless, ignorant, or too enthusiastic salesman-ship; questionable for the reason that, the urge is not by any means always the suggested impel; definitely not, if we are to credit the dealer with the deep, concerned interest in philately; precise, wide, all embracing knowledge of philately; which he claims possess and exercise; the facts point strongly and positively to dominance of commercial interest.

Confronted with those conditions, it is entirely understandable that some collectors become disgusted with them, refuse longer to be "mugs" as they describe themselves, decide to leave stamp collecting alone, abandon it altogether or transfer their interest to some other phase, where conditions are less doubtful. Others have strength of character and courage of their

opinions to carry on, apply intelligence that discriminates, refuse to accept the stupidities foisted on

them, resist those machinations on their pockets, and unfortunately not a few continue to be just "mugs."



## A Lost Opportunity

G. C. GUNTER

In the new series of pictorial stamps for Jamaica, only five new designs have been introduced, viz., the 2d., 4d., 1/-, and 2/-.

Like those of similar values of the last series they do not reflect any originality of thought, but merely follow what is now being regarded as the conventional, intended to demonstrate or advertise some of the natural attractions of the stamp issuing country, and its agricultural or industrial resources, from which is derived the wealth of the people.

It is apparent that an artist designer, has not been consulted in connection with the subjects of our new stamps, which are merely attempts to depict the industry and scenic beauty of Jamaica.

The neo-conventional idea of producing pictures on stamps for advertising purposes has been accepted and followed by Jamaica. It has served the purpose in the five new designs to show bananas, sugar cane, citrus fruit, the commercial waterfront of Kingston, and the beautiful bamboo-lined road near Lacovia in the parish of St. Elizabeth—a scene of unique natural beauty met with nowhere else in the Island, although the bamboo flourishes on the hill-side as luxuriantly as it does on the arid plains, or along the banks of refreshing streams.

But in producing these stamps, due consideration apparently has not been given to the importance of making them attractive instead of the labels with pictures and duty tablets that have been produced.

More thought should have been given to the selection of colours, and to better perspective. Instead of the trees in the citrus grove of the 4d stamp being coloured brown, and the bamboos of the 2/- stamps in blue, the central designs would have been more in keeping with Nature had they been shown in green. The frames and inset of the King's Head would have made a delight-

ful contrast if printed in red, purple or black.

But apart from this colour variation, it does seem a pity that the idea was followed to display citrus and sugar canes. Those products are common to several other countries, and but for the word "Jamaica" on the stamps that show those industries, the vignettes could very well have been used for Trinidad, British Honduras or Palestine, where the citrus fruit industry exists, for Barbados and other West Indian islands, that depend largely on the production of sugar for the livelihood of their people.

Not much imagination was necessary to suggest the banana, for the reason that the product is the main-stay in Jamaica, where more bananas are produced than in any other tropical country within, or outside of the British Empire.

What little artistic value there is in the stamps is completely discounted by the ridiculous proportions of the figures shown on them. On the 4d stamp the woman gathering the fruit, appears in giant proportion to the tree from which she plucks the oranges, and on the 1/- stamp the men loading the mule wagon with cane, make the mules appear like dwarfed animals. The bunches of bananas carried on the labourer's head, shown on the 3d stamp, are not drawn correctly. These faults would have been avoided had the designs been drawn by artists, and reduced from the original drawing to suit the engraver.

When the first complete issue of pictorial stamps was conceived for Jamaica by Governor Sir Leslie Probyn, he recognized the need for producing stamps that would combine Art and Commerce. In that issue there are at least two subjects that gave the Artist inspiration to conceive and illustrate His Excellency's ideas.

In the composite design of the 5/-

stamp, the vignette is a pictorial allegory, meant to convey the idea of the generally accepted meaning of the old Spanish name of the Island: "Xyamaca", to suggest to all who may see it, that Jamaica is a tropical island, blessed with wealth of beautiful scenery, lovely woods, delightful streams of sparkling water, and a climate in which all those natural attractions, may be appreciated and enjoyed to the full. The Vignette shows Aquarius, looking from his empyrean seat down upon one of many such sylvan scenes; a wooded, shaded glade, through which a stream from the distant hills, babbles on its way. The idea of sensuous enjoyment is provided, by presence of the woodland god Pan, who, seated on a rock beside the stream, is piping his call to unseen nymphs, summoning them perhaps to his Lupercalia. A brilliant idea, well conceived and expressed by the Artist designer illustrating Jamaica as she is with all parts of the design in acceptable perspective.

Another production from the Governor's artistic conception was the 10/- stamp of the same series, which, although of conventional design in that it shows the Head of Jamaica's King and Supreme Lord, reaches away from convention and introduces the two winged Cherubim that support the medallion in which the Head of the King is set, making the whole design unique and of artistic value.

Two other stamps of the series are also remarkable for their beauty and colouring, as well as for their historic value, namely, the 2/- Rodney Memorial in its gracefully handsome setting at Spanish Town, and the 3/- showing the statue of Sir Charles Metcalfe, placed on the shores of Kingston harbour, and facing the city.

No better selections than these two subjects for our postage stamps, could have been made, typical of our history, to remind our people and others, of the splendid qualities of the men portrayed who did so much for the island. But the stamps also serve to show, how the artist can make designs attractive, and

free them from that boring sense experienced when viewing pictures spoilt by poor perspective or unattractive colouring.

Rodney's Memorial was executed by Bacon. It is said to be one of his principal works, and how well the reproduction of this masterpiece on our 2/- stamp has been treated, has been made known by the volume of praise and appreciative comment that has been given to it, as a Jamaican stamp of outstanding merit.

The 3/- stamp which illustrates the Memorial, erected by grateful Jamaicans to a man who was one of Jamaica's best Governors, is made striking by the handsome colour combination used in its production, the purple of the central design blending in excellent harmony with the orange of the frame.

As a matter of interest, I suggest that those who can, should visit the locality of the statue, and see for themselves the inscription on the front upper pedestal and on the other faces, respectively the Arms of Jamaica, those of the house of Metcalfe; and truly emblematic of this great man; the figures of Justice and Mercy.

On the lower pedestal the Jamaica Institute in 1892 placed a tablet, which records that "12 feet west of the centre of the pedestal," Commander Green, U.S.N. in 1875 erected the longitude station of Kingston and found it to be 5h. 7m. 10.65.5. (76° 47' 39.8") West of Greenwich.

Philatelists in Jamaica and other parts of the British Empire, were pleased with the first pictorial series of the island's stamps, which have been described as being in the front rank of pictorial Colonial designs, and it is a pity that the opportunity given by the accession of His present Majesty was not used to produce a second pictorial series equal to, or surpassing the first in beauty, originality of design and historical value.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to the Bahamas, for its 8d. stamp showing Flamingoes in flight, Barbados for its Victory stamps, Bermuda for the historical issue of 1921, British Guiana for the 2c. Cen-

tenary picturing the Indian shooting fish with his primitive bow and arrow, and Cayman Islands for its 1d. of 1935 showing the Booby bird. Those stamps portray particulars,

that should stimulate thought for similar ideas when the next issues of postage stamp for Jamaica may be considered.



# A Day on a Banana Plantation in Jamaica.

By HERBERT CAREY.

ED. NOTE. *The following story does not possess direct philatelic value, but it is informative and possibly will have some interest for readers, for the reason that in connection with the new stamps, extensively dealt with in this edition, the banana of necessity is one of the main features. The damage by Panama Disease referred to by the writer, has been dwarfed in recent years by the much more formidable and rapid "Leaf Spot," also known as Sigatoka or Cercospora Musae.*

"Bushal, Bushal!, cow in a de banana walk, sah!!". Loud rapping at my door wakens me to hear that statement. Translated into normal English, it means that steers have broken or leapt a fence, into a section of growing bananas. They must not be left there, as in very short time they can and will do large damage. These animals pastured on a banana plantation, develop quite a liking for the fruit in any stage of maturity, and left to themselves are canny enough to select from bearing trees, only those with well matured fruit. A steer will place his forehead against a tree, push it over and partially eat the stem of fruit brought down with it, tire of that, select and treat another in like fashion; as much or more is destroyed as is eaten. If the section be of young trees without fruit, he will tear off, not crop, the leaves and by tearing, dragging at the leaves, perhaps bring down the tree, damage it seriously, probably beyond recovery, so these steers must be driven out 'pronto', and if found necessary, the fence, to the particular section repaired at once.

Lighting my kerosene lamp, my watch tells me it is 3.05 o'clock of a Monday morning. Yawning vigorously and pulling on my clothes I am aware of rain beating on the roof of corrugated iron, and swearing none too gently at my rotten luck, having to turn out at such an hour in such beastly weather, the door is opened, I meet the man who has called me, learn in which section

the damage is being done, lead the way to the store room, get out lanterns, whips and my saddle, thence to the stables, saddle and mount my mule. Off we go in the pelting rain to stop the damage, on the way calling out two other resident labourers. Arrived at the spot, we can see nothing, but we can and do hear falling and pulling down of trees. Three animals at least, probably four or five are at work and responsible for that noise. The section must be closely and completely searched, all the animals found driven out. As a section may be anything from 20 to 50 acres in extent, filled with banana trees planted 11 feet each way apart, the task in the dark and rain promises to be long and tiresome. One by one we discover and drive out four steers, and being certain that there are no more, the fences are examined by riding or walking right around them, and found in good order. Some wretched idiot must have left a pasture gate open or unfastened, but to think of enquiry to place the blame, is a waste of time, no one ever leaves a gate open, though they are sometimes found so. At odd times, very oddly, the animals are able most mysteriously to open the gate; they never seem able to do so when the fastening has been seen to by myself or other responsible employee; but that is the story I am expected to believe, and unless the culprit is caught in the very act, it is useless to try to trace him or her.

Our job done, back we go to the barracks. It is now after five o'clock, day is breaking, the rain has ceased, and at what seems racing speed there comes a gorgeous sunrise, such as only the tropics produce. The greyness of dawn gives place to a rich, roseate hue, rapidly followed by a bright sheen of gold, and with a burst of brilliant light the sun is above the

horizon. The trees in radiant verdure, are shedding diamonds of rain drops that sparkle and scintillate in the light, the distant mountains are in an alluring shade of pastel blue, with here and there a feather of fog, really many feet in height and some yards in width, that rising is being dissipated by the sun, the air is without chill, cool and bracing, and one feels that it is good to be alive. At my digs, a bath and change of clothes is followed by breakfast of eggs and bacon or ham, roasted breadfruit, bread and butter, sundry cups of coffee, enough for three ordinary men. About 7 o'clock, having ascertained that the waggon drivers are getting their teams ready, some with mules others with steers; two of the latter the very rogues responsible for my extra early rising; again I mount my mule and am off to arrange work that is to be done, inspect and supervise work that is under way or should be. An order received on the previous Saturday, for fruit to be shipped by rail to connect with a vessel due to load that Monday night, needs sustained attention. The sections to be cut or harvested had been decided then, and riding through them with a headman, a general selection of the fruit to be cut is made. About an hour later we are back at the starting point, where the waggons have begun to load, the fruit that is being brought out is seen, the general run ascertained to be of the standard required, viz., full or matured fruit for America, three quarters matured for Canada or England. In one of the sections a case of Panama disease was discovered, it must be dealt with at once. A waggon is despatched to the barracks for barbed wire, staples and tools; labourers are called from other work, posts are cut, brought to the spot, holes dug and a fence is built around the legal area, to take in the diseased tree and its neighbours. It is a legal requirement with penalty of a heavy fine, that each case of known or suspected Panama Disease be placed in quarantine at once, to prevent progress through

the infected area, by people, animals, or use of tools or implements of any kind. If that be permitted, the fungoid spores of the disease are readily and rapidly circulated, eventually to the destruction of the entire plantation. In diseased areas the trees must be cut down and cut up, the whole area fenced in and treated with quicklime and/or crude oil to destroy all vegetation within it, and prevent recovery for an indefinite period. The area is said to be lost for all time, in so far as cultivation of bananas is concerned, but is available for other crops that are immune to the disease.

That done, new sections being prepared for cultivation are visited. Woodland must be cleared of trees and undergrowth, stumps taken out, usually by burning; cleared lands ploughed and harrowed; ploughed and harrowed land fenced and planted; planted land kept free of weeds and lightly harrowed. Most of this work is done with American machines and implements, but the "Gyrotiller," has been introduced and is unapproached for the sub-soil, heavy ploughing that it does. American tractors, ploughs, harrows are largely used for the lighter work.

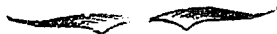
Riding back by way of the sections under harvest, more is seen of the fruit that is being harvested, and I learn how many stems have been brought out, what sections are still to be cut, when probably they will be finished, whether the transportation provided will get all the fruit to the railway in time, as the train must be despatched to permit of arrival at shipping point for unloading, check, inspection and if considered necessary, regrading, all without delay to the loading and despatch of the vessel, as she must leave to make arrival at destination on a given date and time, in order to take advantage of market conditions. Fruit that has been rejected from the field is inspected to learn why, and if, as sometimes happens, any is, due to immaturity of the fruit, the responsible individual hears about it on the spot. It is now well after twelve o'clock, noon,

and I need my lunch.

After lunch office work is attended to, the case of Panama disease is reported to the Government Inspector, who requires assurance that the regulations have been complied with, and arranges to call and supervise treatment of the diseased or infected area, or to inspect and approve or not, the treatment that we may have given. The mail is gone through, returns for the previous week are scrutinised, criticised, signed and posted; telephone calls are made and answered, a further visit is made to the harvested area, and if matters are moving smoothly there or are about concluded, the day's field work may be said to be over, but one is not always quite so fortunate, as harvesting and loading of fruit may extend into the dark. It sometimes occurs that one of the other points from which fruit is being sent, goes short of its estimate, and during that Monday afternoon I may have received a message increasing my order, when work must be speeded up and press-

ed to comply with the total requirement. A cup of tea, and if I have been lucky, relaxation for an hour or so, dinner and I am back in the office to have a fight with figures, spending an hour or two or three or four to get out any special information that may be required, prepare estimates of costs of production under sundry heads of detail, modify or increase them as changing conditions may suggest, all with explanatory notes showing the why and wherefore, yield being the important factor, as if that increases or decreases, costs go down or up. There is regular routine of office work to be covered, and field work of one kind and another to be supervised, inspected, checked and taken over, all from day to day, and watch kept over expense.

Taken all together it is interesting work and a healthy life, from which the usual amenities are not excluded. social teas, dancing, tennis, cricket, golf, bridge are all available when time permits, and if distance is not beyond one's compass.





## Commemoratives.

Recently we were given pleasant and much appreciated opportunity, to read correspondence of 46 years ago, that passed between Mr. Arthur S. Finzi of "Emmaville," South Camp Road, Kingston, and the then Colonial Secretary. Mr. Finzi, quick to accept the idea of commemorative stamps, first practised by the United States of America, by its issue of stamps 2nd January, 1893, commemorative of Columbus, by letter dated 28th January of the same year, advocated emulation by the Government of Jamaica, for action during 1894, to commemorate discovery of the Island by Columbus in 1494. His suggested series to mark the quarter centenary, judged by modern standards, was very modest, only the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. denominations were mentioned for the series, and he added a new and special denomination, for issue in special design, viz.  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d., for the combined rate of over seas postage  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and registration fee of 4d., adding that the issue should be current for one year only. His advocacy of the idea was based primarily on the free advertisement the Island would receive in sundry different languages, through the philatelic journals in the several countries of the world; certainty of reimbursement of the cost, of profit on the venture, through sales of the stamps to collectors the world over. The suggestion was refused, as the "Governor did not think any good purpose would be effected" by adopting the suggestion.

Somewhat tardily by comparison, the Jamaica Philatelic Society of that day, forwarded in April, 1894, a petition signed by nine of its members with F. R. Barker as Hon. Secretary, addressed to Sir Neale Porter, the Colonial Secretary, for submission to His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Arthur Blake), praying that a commemorative series of stamps be issued to mark, the four hundredth anniversary

of discovery of the Island by Columbus. The submissions in support of the prayer, were much on the lines offered by Mr. Finzi, and the suggested series also was modest, the denominations mentioned were  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 5d. The file of papers does not disclose reply from the Colonial Secretary, but history indicates that if there was one, it probably was in terms similar to those used in reply to Mr. Finzi, as we know that the suggested series did not materialise. Sundry press clippings of the period, found with the papers, indicate that the Society inspired a press campaign in support of its plea. Success of the United States Columbus issue was stressed, the volume of sales quoted, estimated profit stated, enhanced financial value of the stamps, and prospect of farther advance displayed, to emphasize desirability for the local issue, all without avail.

Jamaica escaped then we firmly believe, only because the petitioners were about three years too late. Sir Henry Blake but very recently, had been made aware of the final figures relative to his venture, the Jamaica Exhibition of 1891, and with that knowledge we doubt that he would have been at all inclined to embark on any other venture, which had the smallest element of speculation, but we are sure that had the suggestion for a special issue of stamps, designed to advertise the Island and the Exhibition, been made in time for that purpose, the stamps without doubt would have been added to our list of issues.

Last year, 1938, there was suggestion by the then Mayor of Kingston and others, that there should be a commemorative series, to mark the hundredth anniversary of emancipation from slavery in this Island. The Mayor made no secret, he was quite unashamed of his advocacy, which was strictly utilitarian, the proceeds to be used to build a new Court House in the corporate area.

He was certain that no loss of revenue to the Government would accrue, as stamp collectors would buy the issue in very large amounts. A writer in the "Daily Gleaner," "Meddler II," claimed the idea as his originally, that it was an opportunity not to be missed, by which several thousands of pounds could be raised, without any hardship on local people, and supported the Mayor in his proposal to take the matter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in effort to have him over-ride the Governor's veto. Most of us having been subject to the late Governor's (Sir Edward Denham) doctrine of "tax mindedness," and his penchant for finding and imposing new and additional forms of taxation, will we think attribute his veto to the proposed issue of stamps, as having been firmly inspired by Mr. Ormsby Gore, who was then Secretary of State for the Colonies. (now Lord Harlech).

We now learn of yet another effort to inflict a commemorative stamp or stamps on Jamaica, in connection with the projected Scout's Jamboree, to be held here during 1940. We trust it will have as much good fortune, as did the others to which we have referred, just that much and no more.

"WHY" commemoratives?, "WHY NOT" commemoratives?" what are the arguments for and against such issues? Those who advocate them, usually argue that as stamp collectors, they like to have items in their collections, which portray historical events, matters of importance are recorded pictorially and permanently in easily visible and portable form, there is no necessity to re-read lengthy, probably dry and uninteresting history; if that can be done to appeal to adults, it should be excellent for purpose of teaching the young; on the kindergarten principle we suppose; for the reason that stamp collecting has strong attraction for them. Incidentally, such special issues, create a source of additional revenue for the Government, should help to keep direct taxation down, and the stamps are claimed to advertise the country.

More or less those are the arguments, or themes for arguments, advanced by the advocates of special commemorative issues. Without exception, we find them shallow, unconvincing and based on false premise. We apply this test; let someone with more money than sense, ascertain the designs advocated, get them out in the most attractive form as poster stamps, and try to sell them to those who are so keen to have them in their albums as postage stamps; would he succeed to sell them or would he lose the money he had ventured? We do not think there is any sort of doubt of the answer, even though the poster stamps satisfy all but one of the desires of the advocates of special postal emissions; assuredly he would lose the money he had invested, for the one and only reason that there is not, and not likely to be a rising market for the poster items. There is but one reason and only one object for special postal commemoratives, it is to make easy money, first by the government that issues them, next by those who invest in them to sell at a profit.

Each and every one of the desires openly expressed by the advocates for, is capable of satisfaction by issue of stamps in the desired designs, in the regular, normal series. Stamps in that series which commemorate historical incidents, portray the industry, flora, fauna, scenery of the country concerned, are of particular interest and serve the philately of the country. If they can be and are issued in the normal series, what possible necessity can there be to remove them from that emission, and make special items of them? From the general point of view, there is none; from that of the philatelist there is none; from that of efficient operation of the postal service, which is the prime consideration, there is none.

The reason for the effort made here in 1893 to commemorate discovery of the Island by Columbus, with issue of special stamps in appropriated designs, was satisfied in 1921 by issue of the first pictorial 3d., but it was not a special issue,

just one of the regular series, and therefore was not eagerly, gushingly received, even though all but one of the desires, of those who previously had strongly advocated it, pressed for it as a special issue of 28 years before, were satisfied. The history it portrays, has been held before the public and stamp collectors, for upwards of 17 years, but we have not seen any special publicity given to that fact nor to the subject of the design. What became of the keen interest displayed in the same subject in 1893?, evaporated, vanished because the stamp was not a special commemorative.

The efforts made by misguided stamp collectors, have developed a condition in which few governments need to be prompted or pressed, to issue special stamps based on the flimsiest excuses as commemoratives of this or that thing. A history of all such issues probably would make a hefty volume, which if compiled impartially, should make excellent reading for our advocates, those of them who retain any balance at all. Mention of but one only of the most recent, should demonstrate to what excess the abuse can be and is taken. There was a motor exhibition in Germany Feb.-Mar. 1938, and on 17th Feby. the Government issued a special set of

three commemorative stamps, to commemorate the event. Each visitor to the exhibition was permitted to purchase but two sets. One may reasonably forecaste that, as soon as the collectors of stamps who take those things, have pushed up the price by their demand, aided of course by the pretence of scarcity, someone in Germany will be discovered who will have a number of sets for sale; oh yes, but at a considerable premium over the face value. Obviously just another ramp, the victims of which will be precisely those collectors who simply will have asked, begged for that exploitation, by importunate advocacy of commemorative issues, made specially for them. That practice is an exceedingly dangerous one to introduce in any country; there never is nor can be any guarantee that, the authority at any time in power will not exploit it, the tempting results possible in the initial stages usually are too strong to be resisted; and for that reason collectors of stamps would be well advised to leave well alone, they advocate those issues to their potential, ostensible harm, deterioration in the market values of their collections, which is precisely the opposite of what, by their advocacy, they hope and expect to achieve.



*The Text of a Paper read at Cambridge at the Morning Session of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Friday, 24th June, 1938 by E. F. Hurt, Esq., Reproduced from the Congress Year Book for 1938.*

## The Local and Private Posts and Their Importance in Philately and Postal History

When I read a paper at the last Bath Congress on the "Importance of Postal History" I stressed the fact that the study of adhesive stamps and the collection of such represented only a very small portion of the vast field of Postal History, and that collectors who confined themselves to these were only dabbling on the fringe of our hobby. I said that in neglecting the study of postmarks, rates and means of transport they were not only depriving themselves of much that was of far greater interest, but that they were also neglecting information which would lead them to put a higher value on their stamps and which might prevent them in many cases from falling into errors and being at financial loss.

I think I may say that the points raised in my paper were supported by the great majority of those who attended that Congress. There were certain speakers, however, who while they did not seem able actually to disagree with the points that I raised, still evidently counted themselves among the diehards, and confessed that to them "the stamp was the thing", and maintained that they intended their collections to start and end with the stamp as such.

I do not wish to-day to raise another storm by stressing that side of postal history which is concerned with the pre-stamp period or which embraces the study of postal rates and postmarks, so that those who were among the "Noes" at Bath can sit tight with the assurance that old wounds will not be opened. On the other hand I think possibly the title of my paper will warn them that I am likely to open fresh wounds and send them away with the feeling that I am incorrigible. If not with honourable scars of conflict.

Those of you whose philatelic religion is bound up in the covers of Gibbons' *Catalogue*, or in fact in any of the other standard catalogues, are sure to raise a cry of "heresy!" when I say at the outset that what are so often dubbed — quite erroneously — as "Local" stamps, are not only of just as much interest as the issues catalogued to-day by our old friend Gibbons, but, in the majority of cases, have been of considerably more importance and had a far better reason for their postal status than many government issues and certainly than any stamps which can be classed as "commemoratives".

In order that those collectors who were fed on the catalogue after being weaned from the bottle — by this, please note I mean *milk* bottle, because I fully realise that many philatelists to-day would hate to be denied any other form of sustenance which is obtained by the drawing of a cork may not at this juncture rise *en masse* and invade the platform, thinking I am about to slander a catalogue which has for so long been the mainstay of collectors in Great Britain and the Colonies, let me say at once that, while I look with some disfavour on the present composition of Gibbons' *Catalogue*, I realise that it is only a trade list, and therefore the publishers have every right to include or omit at their option. But let me add here and now, that while Gibbons' at one time did their best to form a catalogue representative of the legitimate stamp issues of the world, it is they themselves who have fallen from grace since the end of the last century.

Up to 1899 Gibbons' *Catalogue* of adhesive stamps consisted of three parts — British, Foreign and Local — but in 1900 they decided perhaps

that the "Local" section of their catalogue was on a similar footing to the Apocrypha. They differed, however, from the compilers of the Bible in that instead of recognising their "Local" catalogue as a supplement of interest at least to students, they ceased to allow it to be printed altogether.

I imagine if my good friend the editor were consulted, he would state that the reason for the suppression of the "Local" catalogue was that Gibbons had decided no longer to trade in these stamps for economic reasons, and therefore the reason for this section also ceased to exist. In this they are fully within their rights. But I do quibble with them on one head, and that is that they have not been consistent.

If the present Gibbons is supposed to contain only stamps issued by the postal authorities of the different governments, and not stamps of private companies, why then do they still include such things as the "Lady McLeod" stamp of Trinidad, the stamps of the Suez Canal Co., or the one and only stamp of Tierra del Fuego? The "Lady McLeod" stamp remains in the catalogue, I presume, because it is a rarity and has always fetched a high price, although I doubt if one could order this stamp from Gibbons at any given date with any assurance of being supplied with it. However, apart from the fact that the "Lady McLeod" is not the rarest of what I term "Local" or "Private" issues, the very fact that certain private stamps are included in this catalogue is surely a reason why other private stamps of a similar nature should be considered of just as great an importance, if not by those who compile catalogues, at least by all serious collectors.

Fortunately many collectors in the past, and possibly still more today, are interested in these private issues, and realise both their interest, importance and value.

While there is no catalogue to-day which includes all these issues, we can get information on many of them if we consult the various standard catalogues of the world, by which I mean Gibbons', Yvert, Michel and

Scott and, in so far as the private issues of certain countries are concerned, we have separate specialised catalogues for them. The stamps of the Treaty Ports of China—including some which are certainly of doubtful necessary status—are to be found studied in great detail not only in certain handbooks but in the very excellent catalogue of Pappadopoulos. The hotel posts of Switzerland are very fully catalogued by Zumstein. I do not think that there is a better listing of the Scandinavian locals, except in regard to those of Denmark, than that contained in Gibbons' *Catalogue* of 1899.

Here are the private and local posts listed in three standard world catalogues:—

*Gibbons:*

Bonelli's Electric Telegraph Company.

British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company.

The British Telegraph Company.

Submarine Telegraph Company.

United Kingdom Telegraph Company.

National Telephone Company.

Mafeking Siege Stamps.

Suez Canal Company.

Samoan Express Company (Agar, 1877-81).

Davis' Post, Samoa, 1887-93.

Fiji "Times" Post.

Lady McLeod.

Tierra del Fuego.

Thurn & Taxis.

Pacific Steam Navigation Company (Peru).

Duro and Castell stamps of Spain.

Russian Navigation Co., 1865-68.

Uganda Missionaries.

b. Scinde Dawk.

You will see that I have not included Government or Municipal Locals such as the Locals of Stockholm or the Swiss Cantonals, nor the Postmasters stamps, the U.S. semi-official Carriers stamps, the Uruguay Diligencias or the revolutionary issues and so forth, many of which are on the border line but are not "private" posts within my category.

Possibly the British Consular Mail of Madagascar and the British In-

land Mail and the issues of Sarawak to 1888 and the stamps of Shanghai might be included.

In *Yvert*, and not in *Gibbons*:—

- b Amiens.
- Turkish Admiralty S.S. Co.
- R.M.S. Co.
- La Guaira and Porto Cabello Ship Stamps.
- Hamburg America Line.
- Enterprise Lianos Posts of Turkey.
- Scadta Air Posts.
- b Valenciennes.

In *Michel*, but not in *Gibbons* or *Yvert*:—

- Danube Steam Navigation Co.
- b Insurgent stamps of Valona.
- b Locals of Warsaw and Polish Cities.
- b Greenland Mails 1905-30 (under Government direction).
- German Submarine Stamps of the Deutsche Ozean-Reederei.
- Bialystok issue of German Army Kommando, 1916.
- b Sultanate of Swaheli (German East Africa).
- b Reval Locals.
- b Principality of Samos.

Those marked "b" are perhaps hardly "private", but they are definitely local or restricted issues and would not be included by the so-called "purist".

If one considers the Zemstvos stamps of Russia as Locals, we have the excellent catalogue in English issued by the Russian Philatelic Bureau, and anyone who wishes to study these in greater detail has only to obtain the definitely rare but monumental work by Schmidt.

The local posts of the U.S.A. are, of course, dealt with in a separate volume by Scott, and have been much studied in other handbooks and publications.

In other words, those who wish to study the stamps of which we are speaking are really quite well catered for if they will make enquiries as to where the information can be obtained.

Before discussing the studies of the various private issues it might

perhaps be as well to say a few words on what constitutes a "Local" stamp. It is a well-known fact that up to the date of the Postal Union practically all the stamps of the world were "Locals" in so far as they only paid postage within the confines of their own countries. Even the 1d. black was only a local in one sense of the word, if we remember that it was only for postage in Great Britain. However, I am not concerned as to these postal usages. I am referring, as you will have realised, to the stamps issued by private companies who acted as carriers of mail either where no service existed, or under special additional contracts to certain governments.

I myself, as a collector of these stamps of the private posts, realising that I must put a boundary on the scope of my collection, have ruled out the stamps of the Russian Zemstvos. In other words, my collection stops where local stamps were issued for special services under a government decree. The Zemstvos stamps of Russia come into this latter category, their history being as follows:—In a vast country like Russia, over 20 times the area of Great Britain, where railways are few and far between, towns and settlements in many cases widely scattered and lying often hundreds of miles from the nearest rail, and where, in view of the illiteracy of the population, mail was often very scarce, it was obviously uneconomical for a government post to run a regular service to every town and village throughout so vast and scattered an empire. The Government posts were therefore organised regularly between the large cities, but apart from that they were confined entirely to those places on the rail heads. As far back as 1805, however, there had been village posts in Russia.

In order to cope with the remainder of the country, a decree was signed by the Tsar in 1864 ordering and authorising the local governments to organise any necessary postal services within their boundaries, and also to collect and deliver mail from the rail depots. They were also authorised to issue stamps as a

means of collecting the dues of such outward and inward mail carried by their services. This means that the stamps of the Russian Empire proper did not pay postage beyond the confines of the government mail service, and the additional fees, whether for collection from the railroad depot and delivery to the addressee within the Zemstvos or for transit to the rail head, became an extra charge payable to the Zemstvo post shown by a franking with the Zemstvo stamp.

It is interesting to note that these Zemstvo posts, of which the last ceased in 1918, were not run with an eye to profit. In fact 90 per cent. ran at a loss. They were largely subsidised by the wealthy landowners for the benefit of the rural population, and so long as the postal employees were paid the matter was considered satisfactory.

The above stamps therefore, of course, can be included in the heading of "Local" stamps, or even of "Private" posts.

"Private" posts are best defined as those inaugurated and maintained by companies or private parties carrying mail for which they made a charge, whether such mail was carried under contract to a government or not. Outstanding examples of these latter services are those of the stamps used between Porto Cabello, La Guaiara and St. Thomas; the stamps of the Coolgardie and Lake Lefroy Goldfields and West Australia; the stamps of Wei-hai-wei; and those of their steamship companies such as the Hamburg-America line, the R.M.S.P. (both successors to the La Guaiara-St Thomas Services of Todd and Jezurun), the Asia Minor Steamship Co., the Danube and Black Sea Line, and the Danube Steam Navigation Co. I have only mentioned a few of these interesting services.

While everyone is at liberty to collect what he likes, the general collector misses much of interest whether from the point of view of philatelic study, postal history, or finance in neglecting these private issues. On the other hand, those who specialise in a certain country or group

to the extent of making their collection representative of the postal services of that country must certainly include the private services connected with the carrying of its mail if they are to be in any way complete.

Let us take an example. Who can collect and specialise in the study of the stamps and postal services of Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia, or even Russia (for this mail boat service extended to Odessa), and the other countries adjoining the Danube, without including in his collection stamps and covers of the Danube Steam Navigation Co.? Over a period of nearly 40 years practically all mail between these countries was carried along the Danube, and that mail was borne by the Danube Steam Navigation Co., acting under special decrees from and on behalf of the Austrian postal service, and in connection with the postal services of the other countries through which the Danube flows.

The Danube Steam Navigation Company, or, to give it its full title, "The First Royal Imperial Private Danube Steamship Navigation Company", commenced, in 1834, as a shipping company and began to open up agencies as far away as Turkey and Turkey-in-Asia. Shortly after its inception it began to carry mail, and as early as 1838 we find it using its own "Port Paye" frank on letters from its agency in Trebizonde. At that period the company was known as the "Compagnie Imperiale Royale Poste du Danube", and the French title was doubtless a gesture to Turkey where French was the official language. In 1841 it had an agency handling mail in Smyrna, and from now on the "frank" bore the Germanised title of the D.D.S.G. By 1843 further mail agencies were in being in Constantinople and at Ibraila in Roumania.

There is no doubt that the D.D.S.G. had connections with other mail boat companies, both at this and later dates, such as the Austrian Lloyd, Asia Minor Steamship Co., Morton's Danube and Black Sea Line and the Italian owned "Piros-

cafi Ottomani", which latter appears to have commenced as a mail carrier in 1840.

In 1850 the D.D.S.G. was authorised to carry mails from Vienna to Buda, and this was extended in 1851 via Pest to the Hungarian frontier at the Iron Gate at Alt-Orsova. In 1852 the Austrian Government allowed the company to take over the service into Bulgaria and Roumania as far as Ismaila, while Odessa was made a Black Sea terminus in 1866.

By this time the inwards and outwards mail from Austria, as well as between ports, was carried by the D.D.S.G. from every port, large or small, on the Danube.

Letters crossing the frontier at Orsova were there checked by the Austrian Post Office, and as the rates charged by the D.D.S.G. only applied to the postage between places east of Orsova and as such were the receipts of the company, any extra charge from the frontier into Austria-Hungary was marked on the letter by the official in charge here. The receipts from letters in Austria-Hungary or for that portion of the distance on such letters brought in from outside the frontier belonged to the Austrian Post Office, the D.D.S.G. being under a contract within Austrian territory. But so closely was the D.D.S.G. bound up with the Austrian Post Office and such trusted servants were they, that it was the D.D.S.G. who actually collected the postage dues for the Post Office.

Adhesive stamps were first issued by the D.D.S.G. in 1866, and these, of which the first issue was a 17 kreuzer value, paid postage between any one place and any other outside the Austrian boundary. In 1866, to agree with the rates of the Postal Union, a new issue was made of a stamp of 10 kreuzer value.

The D.D.S.G. still runs, but its mail services ceased about the end of 1878, when the railway services provided a quicker means of transit up and down the Danubian provinces.

It is not my intention to keep you listening to the history of the Danube Steam Navigation Co., absorbing

though it can be, but I think the little I have said is sufficient to show the importance of a stamp-issuing company which plays a very large part in the history of the posts of Eastern Europe, and which has been somewhat neglected by collectors outside Austria and Germany. Unfortunately, apart from the specialised Austrian catalogue, these stamps are only listed in Michel.

The stamps of the D.D.S.G. are well worth study, as there were many interesting prints in the four main issues, commencing with the erasure of the values of the 17 kreuzer on the stones in order to patch up by hand every stamp on the stone with a portion of new transfer to make use of the original stone for printing the 10 kreuzer values.

Needless to say, a company that runs posts over some 40 years and has some 60 postal agencies can also produce a wealth of material for those interested in postal markings.

A further example. While in November, 1863, Venezuela already had a more or less organised postal service within her boundaries, she had no proper connection with the outside world by sea. It was to meet this deficiency that the contract was given to a Scot, Robert Todd, to carry mails as from July 1864, from the ports of Porto Cabello and La Guaira on the mainland to the island of St. Thomas, to connect up there with the British, French and Danish mail-boat services which joined up Europe with the West Indian islands and the whole continent of America. Actually, Todd sold his contract to a group of merchants in Curacao, together with the boat, the "Robert Todd", which had been specially built in Liverpool for the purpose of the mail contract. It was for this service that the centavo values, and the later issues of which the value was in reales, were prepared, and at a somewhat later date the service was taken over and continued by Jezurun & Zoon. This service was fostered in every way by the Venezuelan Government which actually acted as agents for the service, using Caracas (about 8



miles inland) and Porto Cabello as the collecting and distributing points respectively for the Eastern and Western districts of Venezuela. This accounts for there being no charge for postage between Caracas and Le Guaira on mail carried by this service.

That the mail carried by this service was a heavy one, due to the patronage of the merchants, is shown by its stamp issues. Although stamps of the reales values were ordered from Waterlow for delivery in 1864 for the inception of the service, the Venezuelan Government were so keen to get a start that a temporary issue was printed locally—the centavos values—probably by the printer of the Venezuelan stamps, Felix Rasco, and used till the delivery of Waterlow's supplies in July. Although Waterlow made at least three, and possibly four or five printings and deliveries, the supply of stamps did not meet the demand, and before Jezurun & Zoon took over and issued their own stamps in 1869, it had been necessary to have stamps again printed locally, and of these several printings from no less than three stones. Yet we see comparatively few used copies of any of these stamps, and covers are exceedingly rare.

The La Guaira packet service is a very good example of what I call the importance of these private posts, because it was the outcome of necessity to fulfil a regular mail service which the Venezuelan Government were unable at that time to handle, for the benefit of the traders in that country.

In just the same way, though perhaps even to a greater extent, the Cycle Posts of the goldfields of Coolgardie and Lake Lefroy were the outcome of sheer necessity, and the issue of their stamps was actually the only way of collecting postal charges. If only this could be said of many Commemorative issues, and particularly of those modern abominations, the Souvenir blocks and so-called "Miniature Sheets"!

A gold strike means a rush of not only prospectors, but thousands of camp followers and traders, who

naturally must be provided with some means of communication with the outside world. The two gold strikes above-mentioned were many miles from a rail head and right outside the services of the Western Australia Post Office. There was therefore nothing to stop the instigator of these Cycle Services from instigating a means of carrying mail until such time as the Western Australia Government were able to organise a proper postal service. The service of the Coolgardie goldfields ultimately became so heavy that it had to be carried by camel.

The "Turkish Admiralty" stamp listed by Yvert as Turkey No. 1, was issued by the "Turkish Admiralty Steamship Co.," a company under Italian management which, in 1864, was the official Turkish Mail Boat service running chiefly between Constantinople and Broussa. While a "local" service from the point of view of restricted service and the stamp, a private one, from another point of view, this issue, which had only a life of some six months, is as of just as great an importance postally as any other issue of Turkey and of considerably greater rarity than most.

What collection of the British West Indies can be called complete which does not include the stamps of the Royal Mail Steam Packet? It has been put to me by a collector of one of the Islands in the West Indian group that these stamps could not be included "because their usage was too general, being concerned with all the islands and not any one in particular." My reply is that so were the definite issues of the Leeward Islands. Yet a specialist of Antigua includes the Leeward stamps used there. But the R.M.S.P. had the Mail contracts from the islands for many years and were also the successors of the La Guaira-St. Thomas service of Jezurun & Zoon, and their stamps paid the overseas postage. Without the R.M.S.P. correspondence abroad would have been sadly hampered. Thus these are just as much issues of the West Indian Postal Services as are the stamps of any one island, since the actual mail

service of this Company was for a very long period ingrafted into West Indian Postal history and an essential part thereof.

What have "stamp" collectors to say to the stamps of the Mount Currie Express of Griqualand East? Messrs. Ballance and Goodliffe issued this stamp in 1874 to frank the mail carried by native runners, and the Government allowed its use! This service was an essential part of the early posts of South Africa. To the philatelist it is also of interest on account of the three types in the little sheet of 12. May I also commend it to the collectors of miniature sheets!

I do not think I should pass over the stamps of the Hotel Posts of Switzerland — the Rigi-Kulm, the Rigi-Kaltbad, the Rigi-Scheideck, Belalp and Maderanerthal—nor that of the Hoherinne Kurhaus of Hungary. As to the need for these services—imagine yourself in a hotel 7 to 10 miles from a post office and with no collection or delivery of letters! Naturally you would not wish to do that journey to post a letter so your first thought is to employ the hall porter, to whom, if in Switzerland you could hardly offer less than a 2s. tip for the service. But now turn to the case of the hotel keeper himself. It would take at least three hours to take a letter 7 miles and return by mountain railway—much longer if no such means of transport was available. This time is lost to the proprietor, so that it is he who should be recompensed for the time of his employee. Therefore he has every right to make a charge, and when we reflect that this charge was never more than 15 centimes, it is a very reasonable one.

For the stamps themselves—even if we consider that the proprietor had the advertising value of these when stuck on letters going abroad, it surely is the easiest way to ensure payment and to keep his accounts—at least that is the way that the British Post Office in 1840, and every other post office since, has looked at it, and what is a sound method for a Government is surely good enough for a hotel proprietor. While we

know that these posts were allowed until 1883 in the case of Switzerland and are still necessary and allowed to-day at Hoherinne, it is amazing how very rare covers are. The few that appear in auction readily fetch £5 to £10 each. Even the Mint stamps, not all of which were remaindered, the majority being used up as "stickers" after the posts ceased, are of philatelic interest from several points of view.

Probably we all know the stamps of the F.H.B. Express Company of the South African Republic of 1886. Of these we see four — the ½d. for Nylstroom in blue, the 1d. for Marabstad, the 1d. for Pretoria in rose and the ½d. "postage due" on white. These stamps are common, as there were undoubtedly remainders, but I doubt if the majority of those here, to-day have ever seen one used on cover, in which condition they are extremely rare and of considerable interest to collectors or students of the South African Postal Services.

I think possibly in this very brief sketch, I have said enough to show that not only are these private services historical facts, but that they have considerable significance and interest to the collector and student, and are just as worthy of inclusion in our albums, whether catalogued or not, as other issues to which more attention is paid due to the publicity given them by dealers—a publicity to which every assistance is lent by the collecting flock who follow their leader in the darkness, whether the way leads to Olympus or a wayside ditch.

In conclusion, I append a list, which I do not propose to read, of other interesting private posts which are not included in the history I have already given of services mentioned in this paper.

The group of U.S.A. Private and Express Posts, including Wells Fargo and Dietz and Nelson, etc.

Barnard's Cariboo Express.

McGreelys Express.

Australian New Hebrides Co. and its French counterpart.

The Finnish Mail Boat Companies.

Morton's Danube and Black Sea Line.

The Asia Minor Steamship Co.  
 The Franco-American Steamship Co.  
 The British Circular Delivery Companies.  
 The Belgian "Courrier Provisoire".  
 The local posts of Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.  
 The Local Posts of the Chinese Treaty Ports.  
 Popper's Service from the Gold-fields of Tierra del Fuego.  
 The Cycle Mails of Coolgardie and Lake Lefroy.  
 Burdell's Express.  
 The San Francisco-Fresno Cycle Mail.  
 The African locals of Vryburg.  
 The Tiflis Post which produced the first stamp of Russia.  
 The private Diligencia and later Express Companies of South America.  
 The Diligencia Posts of Italy, both

private and those of the communes.  
 The stamps of the Posts of Formosa.  
 The Norwegian Mission Post, British Consular and British Inland Mails of Madagascar.  
 The Mail Boat Service to Greenland.  
 The Posts of Spitzbergen.  
 The St Lucia Steam Navigation Co.  
 The Turkish Services of the Enterprise Lianos and the Kustandje Railway Co.  
 The Caye Service of Cuthbert Bros. of British Honduras.  
 The Express Company of Melbourne, Australia.  
 The Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post Services.  
 Maury's services in Paris during the Commune, and indeed many others.

## What is a Postage Stamp?

By W. BUCKLAND EDWARDS.

The craze for pre-stamp covers and postal marks continues, and one begins to wonder whether the high prices being paid for many of these stamps will hold. As in all crazes, prices depend upon an increasing demand, and when this slackens, either through loss of interest or fulfilment, there is naturally a decline. Any Stock Exchange broker will tell you that people do not buy shares on a falling market, but always on a rising one and usually when the rise is well on its way. Pre-stamp covers and the like are very interesting, but their actual value can hardly be ascertained when we do not know how many of a sort are in existence.

The publication of a catalogue of "Handstruck" Postage Stamps" has again led to correspondence as to the precise meaning of the term "postage stamp." A metal or rubber instrument used to impress a

mark upon paper is usually described as a stamp; and if such a stamp denotes a postal rate paid or to be paid, we may not be wrong in calling it a "postage stamp." But words have a way of changing their meaning in the course of years, the classic example being the word "presently," which once meant "at present," or "immediately," but now means "shortly, or some future but near time. Therefore by common consent, a postage stamp means today the adhesive printed piece of paper of known value, used for the prepayment of letters or parcels &c., and a better term for the impressed or hand-struck "postage-stamps," would be postal marks. The current number of the Stamp Lover (March), contains a review by Mr. Fred Melville, of some recent publications, including the one mentioned above. He says, "it is not acceptable.

It is not acceptable to the older school of Philately to have postmarks classed as "postage stamps" in confusion with the postage stamps the public knows and buys, and keeps in readiness for use in his correspondence. It is one of those distempers born of enthusiasm that ascribes to one thing the attractions of an opposite. Call a postmark a stamp or a pillar a post; it does not change either article. Our distinguished member, Mr. J. B. Seymour, lately wrote me:

"You will be interested to know that in view of the misuse of the term 'Postage Stamp,' I addressed an inquiry to the Controller of the G.P.O. and enclosed a typical example of an impressed 'Id. Postage Paid' mark.

"I am officially informed that the

impression in question is regarded as a postal mark denoting that postage has been paid."

The classic experience of the necessity of distinguishing between stamp applied before posting and the mark struck upon a letter on or after posting has long been established in the matter of the Postmasters' stamped envelopes of the U.S.A., and more especially of the Confederate States of America. A brief definition from Mr. August Dietz's catalogue states the difference concisely:

"Thus a Handstamped 'Paid' represents an act providing for an immediate requirement—not a provisional act performed for an anticipated need, as in the case of the Postmasters' Provisionals."

## A "Cinderella" of Philately.

By J. BENSON.

Some stamps are born "celebrities" whilst others lead a normal existence yet amongst the latter are stamps which for some unknown reason are not recognised as even being on the fringe of the "elite."

This state of affairs is known to the specialist but to the general collector who does not delve deeply into the subject they are an unknown quantity and therefore not fully appreciated.

To emphasise the point it will be necessary to bring in that bugbear to the average reader, namely, figures. These as a rule make dull reading, but there are times when one is compelled to resort to them and perhaps the fault will be overlooked on this occasion.

As is well known there are millions of stamp collectors in the world, but for the sake of argument we will estimate the number at four millions. Of that figure we will again underestimate and say

one-third of them collect British colonials.

Now, when stamps are issued and later withdrawn and the remainders destroyed it is possible on many occasions to obtain particulars of the numbers printed, the numbers sold and the numbers withdrawn and destroyed. With those statistics available one can ascertain the approximate numbers likely to be in existence and therefore gain an idea of the value of the particular item.

To go back in our tracks for a moment amongst the stamps which apparently lead a normal existence are some which appear and depart "unheard and unsung," and this article will deal with one of those "cinderella's"—the Child Welfare issue of Jamaica, which was really intended to act as a fairy godmother to the children of Jamaica, but for some reason was boycotted and therefore did not prove the

success anticipated, but that is another story.

This set which consisted of three values  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., was issued for three months annually (November to January) from 1923 to 1927 and a premium of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. was charged on each value making the total cost 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each set which could only be purchased across the Post Office counter.

In 1927 after the unsold-remainders were destroyed the figures published showed that only some 30,595 sets could possibly be in existence, and taking the intervening years and calculating for "wear and tear" it would be reasonable to say that there are now less than 30,000 sets.

Of our figure of one and a third million collectors of British Colonials, therefore, approximately only one in every forty-five could possibly obtain a set, that is provided only one set was to be given to each lucky individual, so that when this fact is realised it must be admitted that even if there are 30,000 sets in existence, which is extremely doubtful, the child welfare set is a very desirable item to be included in every British Colonial collec-

tion and that no such collection is complete without it.

In view of what has been stated it will be agreed that the present price quotation is below what it should be and it is therefore up to every British Colonial collector who has not got a set to obtain one, if he can, at the earliest opportunity as this "Cinderella of Philately" will not long remain such, once the fact is realised that only a comparatively small issue is available, but will blossom into a "celebrity" and take its place if not in the front rank, at least in close proximity to the leaders where it really ought to be.

Ed. We republish the figures.

			Ed.	1d.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
1st	Printing	'23-24	10080	30000	20040
2nd	do	'24-25	24000	22800	9600
3rd	do	'25-26	73680		9600
Total			107760	52800	30240

#### SALES

1923-24	....	13073	16629	8230
1924-25	....	12423	11611	9676
1925-26	....	10026	9482	7397
1926-27	....	7637	6879	5283
Total		43159	44401	30595
Remainders destroyed		64601	8309	8645

## Correspondence.

The Editor,

Sir,—My article in the last number of this magazine under the caption of "Syntenosis" (which was not mine, and does not appear in the dictionary) sought to find reasons why a collector "should subsequently take up a "particular country for special attention." It might be equally desirable and interesting to discuss the reasons why a collector ignores certain countries, or regards them as unsuitable for specialization; if indeed there is any country at all which is not so favoured by someone or other. Now it is a remarkable fact that those countries which began their issues by overprinting the stamps of a neighbouring country are more or less suffering from neglect today, whatever was their appeal at first. South-west Africa is a case in point. In great demand at one time, both here and in South Africa, these stamps may be bought at a quarter catalogue to-day. Two reading minor changes in the overprint, in actual type, in the distance between the wording, also tend to put collectors off. British Somaliland, Togoland, Palestine, Trans-Jordania and Zanzibar, are among the countries neglected for the same reason. It is not easy to say why this should be the case, for overprinting nearly always leads to varieties, which if not too numerous, induce interest in the true collector. Perhaps the question of forgery arises, or the difficulty of getting anything like a complete collection on account of the expense (see the early issues of Zanzibar for instance) as a matter of fact, surcharges which denote provisional use are a favourite field for speculators and if the numbers issued are known to be small, they usually make money: but here again it is possible to overdo a good thing, and disappointment results. The middle issues of Ceylon and Seychelles are certainly not in favour, and who cares for the 21 varieties

in Sierra Leone (S.G. 34 to 71)? This is probably due to the high-priced departures from the normal surcharges. Malta, once in high favour both here and on the Continent provides a lesson. The "self-government" overprint was all right, but when the "Postage and Revenue" stamp of 1922 were overprinted "Postage," and the "Postage" stamps of 1926 were overprinted "Postage and Revenue," collectors became suspicious, and the country lost caste. Today, many of these stamps do not fetch their face-value on the market. Malta issued too many stamps in too short a time, and while variety is the spice of life, I repeat that it is possible to overdo a good thing. We are having plenty of examples of this stupidity today in Italy and France, the general over-issue of commemoratives for every conceivable object, and worst of all, miniature sheets! There is no reason whatever for these things, they simply would not exist but for collectors; and while they continue to buy them, so long will they be supplied. Even Egypt, a popular country, has fallen from grace in like manner, with three special issues in one month, and protests have appeared in print. What good they will have remains to be seen, but speculation in Egypt itself is largely responsible for the trouble. There are other reasons for the neglect of the stamps of certain countries which I need only mention. The sale of remainders, print or postmarked to order, often leaving the original from behind: contract with printers who can dispose of stamps in lieu of payment: retention of obsolete issues of sale to future collectors: reprints with or without overprint devoting their characters. But stamp-collecting goes on all the same, and will continue to do so.

Yours etc.,

W. B. EDWARDS.

\* Ed. Our contributor requested us to supply title for his contribution. We regret that we chose one, "which does not appear in the dictionary" he uses, but must disclaim any credit or discredit there may be, for having "coined" the word "Synthenosis." The credit or blame belongs to Messrs. J. M. Parrish, M.A., (Oxon), and John R. Crossland, F.R.G.S., who with "the specialised assistance of a body of experts in pronunciation, etymology, definition and modern vocabulary," compiled; and Odhams Press, Ltd., London, which published; the dictionary we use and in which the word is found. It means "connection of bones by tendons?" and we believe is appropriately descriptive of the sense of our contributor's article. Its derivation is from the same source, as that of several other English words that begin with "SYN," viz., the Greek "SUN" meaning "union."

We reproduce the following letter received by the Society from the President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

The Royal Society, London,  
41 Devonshire Place,  
London, W.I., 20 Mar. 1939.

Sir,

The Penny Black was the first adhesive postage stamp and to-day it holds the foremost place in the hearts of a very wide circle of enthusiasts.

The work of organising the celebration of its Centenary naturally developed on the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and the Society believes that its position in the world of philately is not unworthy of the grand old lady who is to be a centenarian next May.

By its constitution the Royal Philatelic Society cannot officially share the pleasure and burden of its task, but that does not mean that the Exhibition, and the arrangements in connection with it, are to be devoted to the honour and glory of the Penny Black and the Society alone.

Indeed, the very contrary is true; the whole world and, in particular, the whole world of organised philately should share in doing justice to the Centenary and the opportunity must not be allowed to pass without every attempt being made to strengthen the popularity of the cult, the influence of every organised body of collectors and the enthusiasm of individual collectors in every country.

And so this Exhibition is being organised on a principle which has so far been untried. The Executive Committee believe that the initial approach should be directed to the Societies. Entry by an exhibitor to represent his or her Society and to do honour to it by proof of philatelic achievement is a far greater tribute to philately and far more valuable in spreading the influence of the hobby than entry by the individual for his own honour and hope of reward.

We are asking, therefore, for the utmost support of every Philatelic Society. In the first place we ask for an early assurance of your co-operation as we hope to publish the names of supporting Societies in future Prospectuses. In the second place, as may be seen from our Advance Prospectus—which you will receive very shortly and which we trust will be very carefully studied—we are asking for assistance in getting the strongest possible body of entries.

The success of the whole Exhibition depends upon this and the selective process which we indicate in the Prospectus can only be successfully operated if an immediate effort is made to give us a full statement of all the collections which may be available to provide the best display.

In the third place we are asking the Societies whether they would like to be represented in the Exhibition by non-competitive loan exhibits by their members, one frame per Society. If such exhibits would appeal to Societies, we are prepared to consider setting aside a portion of our space for them and we should like their early views on the matter.

We ask for your help in drawing the attention of your members to the urgent financial appeal appearing in the Prospectus.

Finally, we indicate points which will be dealt with a little later to prepare the Societies for the request for their further co-operation:—

1. Souvenir Labels.
2. Season Tickets.

3. There will be a request for the names of volunteers for assistance in assembling the exhibits in the frames, for stewarding the Exhibition, for sub-committees on reception of visitors and many other activities at or near the time of the Exhibition.
4. Making the Exhibition generally known and circulating information as it becomes available as widely as possible.

The Executive Committee confidently hope that you will do all in your power to prove that an appeal to the Philatelic Societies will evoke the full assistance and co-operation of world philately.

Yours very truly,

JOHN WILSON.

Chairman, Exhibition Executive Committee.

President Royal Philatelic Society, London.

#### AN APPEAL.

Dear Fellow Member,

On the 6th of May 1940, the Centenary Philatelic Exhibition promoted by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, will be opened in London, and continue until the 11th of May.

The purpose of the Exhibition is to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the issue of the one penny Black of Great Britain.

Plans are well under way to make the Exhibition a great International affair, of world-wide interest, and very cordial support is being given by Empire countries, European States, the United States of America and other countries.

This Society has already sent a donation to the Exhibition Funds, and as it is felt that individual members would also like to contribute towards the expenses of such a great undertaking as this Exhibition is intended to be, I take this opportunity of inviting you to send a subscription through me to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Exhibition Executive Committee, Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, who is also the Society's representative in England.

It is hoped that every member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society will give something towards this Exhibition and I assure you that the smallest Contribution will be acceptable. The occasion is unique and the opportunity to support it should not be lost.

The Royal Philatelic Society has issued its prospectus for the Exhibition in which is a special appeal to individual stamp collectors and Stamp Societies who may wish to contribute the necessary amount for striking the Official Medal in Gold, (£12) Silver-Gold, (£5) Silver, (£3) Bronze. (£1) — a complete set costing £21.

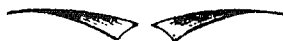
I therefore suggest that if each member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society would subscribe according to his financial ability, we should be able as a Society to send to the Royal Philatelic Society sufficient funds to pay for a gold medal.

I am glad to say that already promises of donations have reached me and I shall be pleased to get your contribution as early as possible.

Yours very truly,

G. C. GUNTER,

Hon. Secretary & Treasurer.





# 25th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

## Cambridge

21 — 24 JUNE, 1938.

By L. C. C. NICHOLSON, F.R.P.S.L. — A Delegate for Jamaica.

The annual Philatelic Congress was held at Cambridge this year at the invitation of the Cambridge Philatelic Society, under the Chairmanship of their President, Mr. W. Nalder Williams, M.A.

There was no hotel large enough to accommodate all the Delegates so they stayed at various hotels in the Town.

The headquarters was at the University Arms Hotel.

I stayed (with many old friends, including our other two Jamaican delegates, Mr. G. H. Tucker and Mr. W. Buckland Edwards) at the Blue Boar Hotel. Quite comfortable, but very old fashioned. They actually locked the front door at 10.30 p.m. every night. However, the Night Porter had a busy time opening it again every half hour or so up to about 1 a.m. The Congress started on Tuesday evening, 21st June, with a Reception at the University Arms Hotel by the Mayor and Mayoress of Cambridge, and the President (with his wife) of the Cambridge Philatelic Society. This took place at 8.45 p.m., and dancing went on until midnight.

These annual Receptions on the first night afford an excellent opportunity for Delegates to meet each other and have informal chats. The real business of the Congress began the next morning (Wed. 22nd June). All the sessions were held in the Hall of the University Union Society, which, although not very large, is very comfortable, and being built for debates suited us well.

After the usual opening business, the first paper was read by Mr. Samuel Graveson (Hon. Treasurer of the Postal History Society). The title was "The Pedigree of the Postage

Stamp." This dealt entirely with pre-stamp covers up to 1840.

To my mind, excellent as it was, this paper was more suited to a Philatelic meeting than a Congress, as the only point it opened up for discussion was the now well worn one of "What is a Postage Stamp?"

Many collectors of Pre-stamp covers advocate that the marks stamped on the old covers to denote payment of postage (or exemption from payment) are Postage Stamps in the literal sense of the words. Personally, although I have a large collection of these items, I always associate the words with an adhesive label.

An official photograph of the Delegates was taken immediately after the session, in the grounds outside the Hall.

In the afternoon, we went for a delightful motor tour to Ely, where we went all over the fine old Cathedral, which dates back to the year 1083, and had tea in a quaint old tea-house garden. We came home via the well known "Fens".

As an alternative, some Delegates went for a conducted tour of the Colleges (along the River Cam); some to the University Library; and others to the Polar Research Institute and Fitzwilliam Museum. In the evening, three Study circles held meetings in separate rooms at the University Arms Hotel.

Mr. J. B. Seymour conducted Great Britain; Miss W. Penn-Gaskell, Air Mails; and Mr. F. T. K. Carøe—Denmark, D.W.I., and Scandinavia.

For those not interested there was a film shown by the Post Office at the Arts Theatre

There was also (unconnected with Congress) a local fair just outside

the Town, and many delegates spent the evening there. Judging by the noise when they returned in the early hours of the next day, they all had a very good time!

Thursday's session was the occasion of a paper entitled "Study Circles" by Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E. (Past President of the Herts. Philatelic Society and Chairman of The Egypt Study Circle).

In this paper he attempted to define a Study Circle and also to enquire whether such Circles were needed and likely to last.

This opened up a lot of discussion, which boiled down to the fact that Study Circles meeting regularly like Philatelic Societies, were not much use to the average collector unless they published the results of their research work.

This was quite a good paper.

After lunch, the three alternative tours of Wednesday afternoon were repeated, so that Delegates who had been to Ely could participate in them.

Personally, I went by invitation with Mr. G. W. Collett and others, to have lunch with the Revd. C. S. Morton, M.A., in his old rooms at Peterhouse College. He showed us all over the College afterwards. A most interesting tour, as it is the oldest college in Cambridge, having been founded by the Bishop of Ely in the year 1257. At 3.45 p.m. a Garden Party was held in the Gardens of Magdalene College. These are very beautiful, being on the banks of the River Cam. Here again, one was able to indulge in informal chats with many famous collectors and others.

In the evening, three more Study Circles met at the University Arms Hotel.

Dr. W. Byam conducted Egypt; Mr. Robson Lowe—Postal History, and your humble servant—Jamaica.

We had a small but select circle of Jamaican specialists, and saw some very fine items displayed by our old friends E. Egly, of Leeds; G. H. Tucker, of Bristol; G. W. Collett, of Croydon, and others.

My new book on "Jamaican Temporary Rubber Date Stamps" had

just been published, and was received by all as a welcome addition to Jamaican Philately.

Friday morning's session started with the election of the Permanent Executive Committee. All the previous members were re-elected after a ballot.

Mr. E. F. Hurt of Harpenden (a Life Member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society) then read the third and last paper entitled "The Local & Private Posts and their importance in Philately and Postal History."

This was an exceedingly interesting paper and I, for one, was surprised at the number of countries and places that have issued Local stamps for legitimate Postal purposes. Of course, the Oxford and Cambridge College stamps are a well known example, and a very fine collection of the Cambridge ones was on show in an upper portion of the building.

Most of the Delegates agreed with Mr. Hurt that many of these issues were better entitled to a place in the catalogue than a vast number of the modern "Commemoratives."

This paper was awarded the Congress Cup, which for the fourth time in the last six years has been won by a member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society.

Following this paper an important resolution was put to Congress by Mr. J. B. Seymour on behalf of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, namely—That this Society suggests "that in the interests of Philately, collective action should be taken by this Congress on the question of unnecessary and speculative Commemorative Issues 'created' mainly for the exploitation of stamp collectors. The issue of stamps which are not required for legitimate postal service, except in very special cases, is regarded as a menace by all serious philatelists."

This resolution was the result of a communication which the Royal Philatelic Society received from the Swedish Philatelic Society, and provoked a lengthy discussion. Congress strongly condemned the practice and the resolution was carried.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Congress met officially for the last session, at which Letters of Thanks are presented to the Distinguished Philatelists who have been elected and then the ceremony of signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists takes place.

Two names had been chosen this year—

Miss W. Penn-Gaskell  
and

Mr. Samuel Chapman.

Only the former was able to attend and she signed the Roll.

Mr. Chapman has been an invalid for many years, so it was arranged that the Roll should be taken to his house at a later date for him to sign.

The closing address was given by our Life Member, Capt. L. J. Gilbert Lodge (Hon. Sec. of the Royal Philatelic Society, London).

At 7.30 p.m. the Congress Banquet was held in the Dining Hall of Trinity College by kind permission of the Master and Fellows.

This is a great honour afforded to few non-Collegiates. I had the privilege, however, of dining there

once before with my late Father, (a member of the Senate), in the year 1911.

It was a very fine meal and with the portraits of all the old Masters of Trinity looking down on you from the walls of this ancient Hall in the dim light, it created an impression never to be forgotten.

The Congress Cup was presented to the winner, Mr. E. F. Hurt, and we listened to some short but very witty speeches by the Mayor of Bath (Capt. A. E. Hopkins, M.C.), the Mayor of Cambridge (Major E. Saville Peck) and others.

Thus ended the 25th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, and our thanks are due, not only to the Cambridge Philatelic Society for arranging such a delightful programme, but also to those two very hard working members of the Jamaica Philatelic Society, the Revd. C. S. Morton and Mr. G. W. Collett, who are the joint Hon. Secretaries of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

L. C. C. NICHOLSON.  
31/8/1938.



# Report on the 26th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

HELD AT SOUTHPORT FROM THE 13th. TO 16th. JUNE 1939.

The twenty-sixth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held at Southport from 13th-16th June 1939 at the joint invitation of the Liverpool Philatelic Society and the Liverpool Junior Philatelic Society, under the Chairmanship of Mr. E.A. G.Caroo.

It is perhaps unnecessary to mention that it rained nearly the whole time, as we Londoners associate Lancashire with wet days. Nevertheless, we had a most enjoyable time.

The headquarters at the Prince of Wales Hotel was an excellent venue, and the hospitality extended to us all left nothing to be desired.

Congress opened on Tuesday evening (13th June) with a Reception by the Mayor and Mayor-ess of Southport (Councillor and Mrs. Geldard) and the President of the two Liverpool Societies, after which refreshments were served and dancing went on until a late hour.

This first evening at Congress is always a great opportunity to meet old friends and renew old acquaintances. It is also a "test" night as to whether the hotel can stand the strain on the liquid refreshment department without calling on the reserves!

Wednesday morning was the first business session, and after the usual Welcome by the Chairman, followed by announcements, reports and correspondence, the first paper was read by Dr. J.P.T. Musson, F.R.P.S.L. This was entitled "Philately versus Numismatics." An exceedingly interesting paper to read with much useful information in it, but one which hardly lent itself to any discussion.

The usual official photograph was taken afterwards on the lawn in front of the Hotel, in a lull between the storms of rain.

After lunch Motor tours left for the Mersey Tunnel and Liverpool Cathedral, or the former and a visit to the Cunard White Star Liner "ANDANIA". Going with the latter party I found that the journey through Dockland was the most interesting part. The liner was only a small one, and the weather too atrocious to see much of her above deck.

To those who had not previously been through the Mersey Tunnel the experience was an eye opener on the achievement of modern engineering. We all had tea together in a Liverpool Cafe, and returned to Southport wet and tired.

It was very pleasant to be able to spend a quiet evening looking at the wonderful film of last year's Congress at Cambridge given by Mr. H.C. Green, F.R.P.S.L. It is really marvellous how Mr. and Mrs. Green produce this film between them every year, and the pains they take to record as many Congress events as possible together with little sidelines on the lighter side of Congress. For amateurs I think their show must be one of the best going, and members and delegates alike, not to mention visitors, always throng to see this annual event.

Thursday was a busy day. Two papers were read in the morning. The first by Mr. Alfred Birch was entitled "The Paper and the Stamp," and the second by Mr. Harold T. Graham (Hon. Organising Secretary of the Congress) on "The survival of Mediaeval Watermarks in Philately."

It seemed to me that the second paper was really a continuation of the first one, and there again in each instance, the papers were very interesting, but left practically no openings for discussion.

Mr. F. T. K. Caroe of Cambridge

caused a mild sensation by referring to the stamps on postcards as being printed on "Rough tough buff stuff!" Very true, but a quaint way of expressing it.

The afternoon was spent on a long motor tour through the Ribble and Hodder valleys, calling at Mitton Church en route. This quaint little edifice slopes down from the West end to the High Altar, a thing I have never seen in any Church before. We finally reached the Moorcock Inn where an excellent tea was served in this lovely little spot. When we left Southport it was merely raining, but by the time we got to the Moorcock Inn the weather was giving us every known type of watermark (and a few unknown ones as well). The view must be excellent on a fine day, but we saw nothing of it. It was rather a relief on our return to change into dry things and spend the evening at one or other of the various Study Circles.

Friday, the last day of Congress, and the first one on which we saw the sun, opened with the usual ballot for the election of the Permanent Executive Committee of Congress. This resulted in a re-election of all the previous Committee members, with the vacancy caused by the resignation of Capt. H. R. Oldfield being filled by Mr. John Ireland of Brighton, one of the four new nominations. Capt. Oldfield resigned on account of advancing age.

The fourth and last paper was then read by Mr. W. H. Wosencroft entitled "Philately and the Ordinary Listener". This dealt chiefly with Broadcasting, and several delegates and Members of Congress expressed their views on the lack of support given to Philately by the B.B.C.

None of the four papers read during Congress produced much discussion, and it remained for the two motions which followed to liven up the proceedings. The first by Mr. E. F. Hurt was to the effect that the copyright of a paper read at Congress remained the property of the author. Unfortunately he tried to amend his own motion, which completely spoiled a situation that was

just getting interesting, and the Chairman ruled him out of order.

The second by Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson came as a bombshell to most of those present. It was a suggestion to the Board of Election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists that for the future they should select the names of prominent British Philatelists only until the list of British nominations had been considerably reduced. This practically amounted to a vote of censure on the Board of Election, and by the time Mr. Nicholson had finished speaking, the whole room was on its toes. Some of the remarks he made were extremely personal, but his argument that the Roll was instituted by a British Congress and that British Philatelists should have preference over foreigners received a fair amount of support. The motion was lost on a show of hands, but it was noticeable that very few members and delegates were present and many abstained from voting. It is a pity that motions are not taken on the first day of Congress when there is nearly always a full house. Anyhow, Mr. Nicholson has given Congress something to think about during the next twelve months.

The ceremony of "Signing the Roll" had to be abandoned as neither of the newly elected R. D. P.'s was able to be present.

In the evening the banquet was held at which the Congress Cup was presented to Mr. Harold T. Graham for his paper on "Watermarks" (surely an apt one for the weather conditions). In the speeches that followed both he (as Hon. Organising Secretary) and Mr. Samuel Lord (as Hon. Treasurer) received the thanks they well deserved for having carried through such a successful Congress under such appalling weather conditions.

How Mr. Green found time to write his paper and run the Congress as well is best known to himself, but he must have burned much midnight oil over the two tasks, and in carrying off the Cup as well he achieved a wonderful record.

To quote from the concluding speech at the banquet "Liverpool

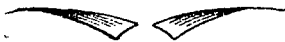
Congress has closed down, carry on London."

Next year's Congress is being held in London at the invitation of the Postal History Society. The date has been provisionally fixed for June

12th to 14th, and the meeting place will be the Lecture Hall of the Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue.

L.C.C.N.

10.7.1939.



“ . . . - - - . . . ; . . . - - - . . . ; . . . - - - . . . ; ”  
**from a collector in distress**

ANON.

If you are not acquainted with the Morse Code, and the above presents difficulty in deciphering, please ask for help from the nearest Boy Scout or, more suitable for a Collector, from your Postmistress.

- (1) “..The difficulty is that the”  
 “average collector has to buy”  
 “his own experience; and”  
 “very often dearly at that,”  
 “since disinterested and con-”  
 “sistent advice by those who”  
 “have learnt their lesson is”  
 “conspicuously lacking in”  
 “philatelic literature.”
- (2) “The beginner who wishes”  
 “his initiation to be as pain-”  
 “less as possible would be”  
 “well advised to join a So-”  
 “ciety. . . the contact mem-”  
 “bership gives with older and”  
 “more experienced collectors”  
 “and the chance of seeing”  
 “other people’s methods and”  
 “hearing their opinions is”  
 “well worth the money spent”  
 “—also, the preparation of a”  
 “display from one’s own col-”  
 “lection is the best way . to”  
 “open one’s eyes to the true”  
 “merit of what is possessed.”

The foregoing are excerpts from an article by J. L. Grumbridge in the July issue of the “Philatelist”—the house-journal of the Regent Stamp Co. I would ask members to put the following question to themselves:—

“Do these circumstances apply to us Jamaica collectors, and/or to the J.P.S.?”

Can it be fairly said that our beginners get a sound start? Are there available to them the “chair-legs” and “table-edges” i.e. the helping hands of the better-informed to save them from the bruises of face and limb when learning to walk in the hobby?

Do our “advanced” guide the steps of the beginner—to medium who has bought (literally) at least one cup of “experience-water” to the avoidance of demi-johns of the stuff?

I am at that hobbledehoy stage, the beginner-medium—how I wish that I had been able to avoid the spending of many, many shillings wasted in acquiring off-centre, discoloured, and otherwise poor stamps—not, mind you, that I had not read of this pitfall, but how much more effective the warning would have been had it been accompanied by the display of even a small, well-mounted collection of perfect adhesives shown in contrast with a conglomeration of what should be regarded as unacceptable? Such a display, of course, backed up by a short talk on the “Why” the “How” and more important of all, the “Whither”.

Again, having appreciated the value of a Society, and the advantages likely to accrue from membership, do our members realize their expectations? True, there is the Annual publication, the New Issue Service, and the circulated Approval Booklets, but can the officers of the J.P.S. say that there might not be a considerable improvement in the existing conditions? Might there not be lectures, talks, displays, all tending to more opportunities for members to meet and know each other? I do not propose to suggest answers to these almost rhetorical questions, but it is only fair to put some others, perhaps in mitigation:—Do our beginners evince any great desire to learn? Do they welcome the helping hand? Or do they set out on the road with that fatal virus of mistrust (generating from that popular fallacy that any stamp, however common, will prove on expert examination to be a rarity of astronomical value. the signs, however, being only readable by the man who knows).

Do our beginners start from a real interest in stamps or spurred on by the idea that any sort of a collection will eventually realize what the "Hind" or "Ferrari" did?

Can our medium collectors say that they show themselves keen enough to "go out" for the information and learning which should be available to them from our advanced enthusiasts?

Can our advanced say that they try to arouse in our "mediums" that enthusiasm which makes a philatelist out of a mere collector?

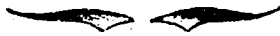
Speaking as perhaps "medium", even I met with an instance of that odd mistrust the other day)—I was looking for shade varieties of a quite common recent issue, and asked a beginner who had some three or four hundred off paper to let me look through them; I was met by a knowing leer and a murmur of some vague "variety unlisted by S/G" "as so often happens (sic)" I was not enlightened on the point and gracefully retired, heaping, however, coals of fire on his head by pointing out to him a one-line War O/Print with the minute stop which was in a batch he was trying to sell. Believe it or not. Mr. Ripley!!!

My own personal experience, with at least three of our leading collectors, could not be bettered: the patience they have exhibited, even writing letters to reply to my jejune questions, their opinions on stamps submitted, their advice on methods on obtaining needed stamps, suggestions of items for mild investment, and other paragraphs of valuable information could not have been more satisfactory to me, nor more readily provided. I offer no prize

for a correct guess of their identity from their initials:— H.C., G.C.G., G.A.G.

In conclusion, may I submit for general consideration, that a little less insularity (selfishness?), a little more enthusiasm, would of themselves beget reactions beneficial to us all, beginners, medium, and advanced collectors.

Ed. We have read the foregoing with considerable interest. The writer is known to us as a recent recruit to the hobby and member of this Society. We are gratified indeed to welcome him as a contributor to these pages, and hope we may rely on him to contribute to them regularly. His contribution breathes the ardour of the true, keen philatelist, a challenging, ardent "seeker after truth", and is a pleasant change from the regular, routine effort to impart information on some philatelic subject, in that it seeks information, knowledge and co-operation. His comment is very pertinent, trenchant, and we believe amply justified from experience. It is our regret that our experience positively supports some of his statements. Time and again we have offered our services generally, to give any help of which we may be capable. We have offered advice on current subjects, that seemed to present difficulty, but not until now has any use been made of those offers, and then only by the writer of this article. We have no sort of quarrel with those, who have not found use for our proffered aid, we must assume that each and all are advanced philatelists, too efficient to need it, while we in our humble way have long since realised, that the more we learned, the more there seemed to be learned; the faith attributed to d'Annunzio in large measure has guided us, "so much to do, so little done". We do have a quarrel with our local self sufficient coterie, because of the absolute indifference there is and has been, to the many appeals made for their co-operation, to enable dissemination of their knowledge, for the benefit of others not quite so fortunately placed as they are, who need and seek, as our contributor does, help in that direction over various matters of concern and importance to them.





# Why I collect the stamps of the British West Indies and of Jamaica in particular

By J. B.

Why is it that the West Indies is so popular? The outstanding question which always requires an answer is that provoking word "why". The originators of this competition have decided to ask "why" in the hope of receiving an answer sufficiently interesting to satisfy their curiosity, and being of a helpful disposition, and in case no others should decide to answer "why", the writer has taken it upon himself to offer the following in the hope that it will show that the old saying of try, try again is still essential even in the world of stamps, if one wants to get anywhere with them and that, as in real life, one must start at the "bottom of the ladder."

The reader may well ask what's all this about, but pray read on and hear the story of a collector who started at the beginning and still is gradually climbing the philatelic ladder, with the assured knowledge that he will have no sleepless nights so far as his collection goes, that is so far as useless issues are concerned, as the country in question will not stand for superfluous stamps, and therefore is what one would or should term a collector's paradise; however, on with the motley—I mean the story.

Some thirty odd years ago a schoolboy observing a few of his classmates pouring over a small book and being imbued with the inquisitiveness of youth proceeded to satisfy his curiosity as to the reason for the discussions which were taking place. On getting into close proximity of the cotery he found the classmates were engaged in the bartering of stamps. After studying the book and listening to their conversation the schoolboy in question decided to join this small fraternity and by means of his

"weekly allowance" and the assistance of his companions gradually got together a few hundred stamps. Then as the numbers rose so it developed into a race as to who could collect the most stamps and many a penny went into the cashbox of the local newsagent who stocked penny packets—and many a "rarity" was discovered. Condition did not count for much in those days, the stamp being the thing.

Later as experience developed, "Father Christmas" was asked for an album and so the schoolboy in question reached the real "stamp collecting" stage.

On leaving school all trace was lost of the classmates and the ex-schoolboy became through compulsion and not desire what is termed a "lone collector," but this did not dull his enthusiasm. On starting business he found through a non-collecting friend an introduction to a real live philatelist. The latter, alas now deceased, far from turning up his nose at the young general collector took him in hand and by discussions and the loan of books gradually initiated him into the finer arts of the hobby. When the time was ripe the youthful general collector was duly proposed and elected a member of the local philatelic society and was now full of pride having at last come into his kingdom. All this time the old album was being filled until it reached bursting point.

Then came the day when after seeing a display by a visiting specialist the youth pondered over his album and decided it was time it was discarded and a new loose leaf album obtained, but what to collect required consideration. The catalogue was brought out and perused. On reaching the letter "J" he discovered the country which seemed familiar and brought back memories

as it were of some bygone day, although to his knowledge he had never been there. It seemed so like an old friend that he knew he had found his country and his search therefore was at an end-Jamaica the land of his dreams. He closed the catalogue, brought out his old album, removed the stamps of Jamaica from the page, mounted them in his new loose-leaf album and so another specialist was born.

His next difficulty was to obtain a supply of stamps from the island or correspondents there. Many a letter was sent out to addresses found in books but no replies were forthcoming; however, the youth having faith in Jamaica persevered and with the aid of fellow collectors and friendly dealers eventually got a fairly representative collection together. The World War by this time was drawing to an end when one day he obtained a valued correspondent in Jamaica but alas after a time when things looked rosy, this friend failed him.

Nothing daunted he continued his search until owing to business he had to leave the scenes of his youth and proceed to London. Now with the metropolis at his feet he felt sure his Jamaica would reach greater heights. He obtained an introduction to the greatest authority of Jamaica in the country, namely, our old friend Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, and with his aid, which from that day to this has never been refused, made such strides as he had never thought possible. Eventually he became a life member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society, obtained correspondents and got the stamps he had always desired.

One may well ask "why pick on Jamaica?" You see this annoying "why" crops up again. Well apart from the reason already mentioned just take a look at the handbook issued by the Jamaica Philatelic Society's Committee and after having done so and perused it thoroughly there you will obtain

the answer to the "why"; but again just remember that whilst the information contained therein seems to be complete, yet there are many "avenues" still left for the "explorer" to map out if he cares to take a little time and trouble. The handbook in question was not in existence at the time but the youth of this story knew of the fascination of Jamaica long before it was gathered together in the form of the book and even now feels that with the additional knowledge available and still to be gleaned, another book could be written but there will always be the feeling-"is it the last word" to which the answer is "no". This should be enough to satisfy even the most rabid enthusiast and is as it should be.

The Postal history of the island is a joy to a specialist, what with the prestamp era, the G. B's, the early obliterators, the temporary rubber cancellations as well as the railway postmarks, whilst the stamps themselves are all within reach of the average collector, and there are plenty of varieties to look for. The Jamaica postal authorities have not made a practice of issuing superfluous sets to catch the collector. Not many islands can point to only one provisional adhesive stamp issue (excepting the war stamps of course) in a period extending over eighty years-a record to be justifiably proud of, which Jamaica can claim. And now with the new reign, new issues, the latest being very fine and a worthy addition to any collection.

So that schoolboy of thirty odd years ago, who incidentally, need I add, is myself, remembering the difficulties he had to overcome in the days of his youth finds it gives him the greatest interest to help the Juniors of today with their collections, in the hope that they too may follow on, and who will deny that they will say in years to come, as I say now, that I collect the stamps of Jamaica for the interest and pleasure they give me-what more can one say than that.

# 19th Annual Report of the Jamaica Philatelic Society --- Year ending 13th April 1939.

The year under review has not been remarkable for any outstanding occurrence in the Society, but it is satisfactory to report that interest has been maintained in the Society's affairs and membership has increased to 171.

(2) The increase in numbers has not been as satisfactory as last year when the increase numbered 13. The committee would like to see more local stamp collectors joining the Society so that our services and the advantages of membership in the Society may further advance their knowledge of the hobby. We now have 76 members resident abroad and 95 resident in Jamaica, nearly all of the latter living away from Kingston and therefore, are not always able to join our meetings which are invariably held in the Corporate Area.

(3) The following table shows that the growth in the membership since 1920—1921—26 members.

1924—53	"
1927—70	"
1931—109	"
1939—171	"

(4) The committee regrets to record the death of Mr. Verron K. Melhado who passed on at his home in Bethlehem, Pennas, U.S.A. Mr. Melhado was a son of our much respected fellow citizen Mr. R. E. H. Melhado. He settled in America many years ago and leaves a widow and a family of young children. We shall miss him not only because of his keen interest in the stamps of Jamaica, of which he had a fine collection, but for his happy nature, his readiness at all times to support the work of this Society. To his sorrowing relatives we extend the Society's deep sympathy.

(5) There have been no offers from members during the past year to read papers or give displays at our meetings, neither did we receive

any entries to the competitions authorised by the Society as set out on page 48 of the Jamaica Philatelist for 1938.

(6) The Exchange Branch under the excellent management of Mr. Fernandez continued its good work. Packets were regularly circulated and the average number of members seeing them was well maintained.

(7) The distribution of new issues of the stamps of the British West Indies to those members who asked for them, resulted in much extra work to the Hon. Secretary who, for lack of help, was called upon to undertake this extra work after Mr. Fernandez had been, at his urgent request, relieved of this section of the Society's activities.

(8) During the year Jamaica issued a complete set of stamps. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. values were gazetted on the 15th Sept. 1938, and the other values, 2d. to 10/1; on the 1st Dec. 1938. The three low values were put into circulation on the 10th October and the other denominations on the 10th December, 1938.

(9) The Jamaica Philatelist for 1938 was distributed to members during July 1938, and in the succeeding weeks several hundred copies were distributed throughout the world, free of cost to Philatelic Societies and individual philatelists who wrote for copies. We are indebted to the Editor of the "American Philatelist" for his continued kind reference to the magazine.

(10) Your committee again appeals to members for support of the magazine. Contributions of original articles, or items of Philatelic interest, would be very much welcomed by Mr. H. Cooke the Associate Editor, to whose hard work and keen interest the continuance of our Journal is due. We take this

opportunity of recording the committee's appreciation of, and thanks for his work.

(11) The Magazine was entered at the Prague International Exhibition in 1938 and was awarded a bronze medal. The Society also received the thanks of the Exhibition Committee for a silver medal presented for competition, and which was awarded to Mr. B. H. Homan, Jr. of 116 Nassau Street, New York, U.S.A., for his exhibit of the stamps of St. Lucia.

(12) It is appropriate that reference should be made here to the forthcoming Centenary Philatelic Exhibition opening in London, England, on May 6, 1940, the organization of which is in the hands of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. The Secretary of our Society has been appointed the honorary Exhibition Commission in Jamaica. He has broadcast a written appeal for financial support and your committee hopes that his efforts in this direction will receive the practical

support of our members from whom we expect loyal participation in such an outstanding celebration.

(13) **Finance**—The year opened with a credit balance of £60 7/7 and closed with a credit of £28 1/2½. The reduced balance is chiefly due to advances made for the purchase of new issues, which have not yet been fully distributed.

(14) Our thanks are due, and are hereby tendered, to Philatelic Societies and Editors of Philatelic Magazines for literature so kindly sent us during the year and for kindly references in their publications to this Society. We particularly desire to thank the Scott Stamp Co. of New York for sending us their excellent Stamp Monthly which is much appreciated.

M. E. SPOONER,  
President.

G. C. GUNTER,  
Hon. Secty.

30th June, 1939.

# JAMAICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Cash Account for Year Ended 13th April, 1939.

1938 14th. April.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	1939 13th. April.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in Bank	58	6	1				By payments for:—			
" " hand	2	1	6	60	7	7	Printing		0	12 6
							Postage & Stationery		4	10 0½
1939							Congress Fees		1	10 0
13th.							Purchase of Catalogues			
April.							and books		0	18 6
To Cash received							Foreign subscriptions		4	5 9
during the year							Albums and Accessories			
For Entrance Fees	1	3	0				purchased for members ..	5	19	11
" Subscriptions	9	12	9				New Issues	103	6	0
" Life Members' fees	4	4	0				Cost of printing Jamaica			
" Advertisements—							Philatelist		14	0 0
Ja. Philatelist	3	1	0				Donations for use of Hall		1	11 6
" Albums and Philatelic Accessories	7	17	4½				Donations to 1940 Exhibition Committee	3	3	0
" Sale of New Issues	78	6	10½				Entrance fee to Prague Exhibition		0	6 9
" Commission on							Medal to Prague Exhibition		0	16 0
Packet Sales	3	19	4				Balance in Bank £24 7 3			
" Bank Interest	0	8	7				" " hand	3	13 11½	28 1 2½
" Refund for Postage	0	0	8	108	13	7				
				£169	1	2				£169 1 2

G. C. GUNTER,  
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer.  
Date: 16th June, 1939.

# List of Members.

NAME	ADDRESS	NAME	ADDRESS
Angrove, J. W. ....	16 West Heath Vil- las, Bodmin, Corn- Wall, Eng.	Elliott, George ....	6103 Brynhurst Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., U.S.A.
Armstrong, Rev. G. T ....	The Rectory, Pen- rith Rd., Cross Rds., Ja.	Field, F. J. ....	Sutton Coldfield, Eng.
Bicknell, Mrs. L. B.	Rosebank, Retire- ment Crescent, Cross Roads, Ja.	Fletcher, R. H. ....	Jamaica Welfare, Kingston, Ja.
Bland, Escott C. ....	Crossbrook, Marl- borough Rd., Park- stone, Dorset, Eng.	Fox, J. M. ....	202 L. A. Railway Bldg., Los Angeles California
Brandon, E. Ban- croft ....	9 Vincent Street, Kingston, Ja.	Forrest, G. L. ....	Ailsa, Black River, Ja.
Brandon, G. D. ....	44 Orange St., King- ston, Ja.	Foster, Mrs. A. ....	Montego Bay, Ja.
Brissett, Vincent L.	Cornwall College, Montego Bay, Ja.	Fraser, Miss J. Ina	Montego Bay, Ja.
Carberry, J. E. D. ...	2a Oxford Road, Cross Roads, Ja.	Gauntlett, H. G. ....	Lake Ville, Cross Roads, Ja.
Cassidy, Miss H. ....	11 Ripon Rd., Cross Rds., Ja.	Green, H. B. ....	18 Wedgewood Walk, Merchantville, N. J., U.S.A.
Clark Egbert C. ....	5 East Ave., Swfield., Cross Rds., Ja.	Harris, H. N. ....	Canadian Bank of Commerce, Dun- can, B.C., Canada
Clark, Eric ....	99 Harbour Street, Kingston, Ja.	Harrison, Lady V. M. ....	Prospect Estate, Morant Bay, Ja.
Clossy, P. J. ....	P.O. Box, 158, King- ston, Ja.	Harvey, Mrs. Lena	Chapelton, Ja.
Condell, E. E. ....	Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Ja.	Hitt, Henry C. ....	Box 863 Bremerton, Washington, U.S.A.
Cole, E. E. ....	62 Violet Lane, Croy- don, Eng.	Holman, W. M. ....	F.R.P.S.L. 41 Park- side, Eltham, Lon- don, S.E. 9 Eng.
Coxe, H. Keith ....	Claremont, Ja.	Kingdon, Miss E. ..	Manhattan, Cross Rds., Ja.
Cruchley, Dr. F. H.	Lucea, Ja.	Litteljohn, H. T. ..	Orange Bay, Ja.
Daley, C. G. ....	U. F. Co., Montego Bay, Ja.	Livingston, G. C. ..	Jamaica Mutual Bldg., Kingston, Ja.
DeMercado, H. ....	90 Hanover St., Kgn., Ja.	Macks, K. Frank- ford ....	C/o Hotel Carlton, Cambridge Wai- kato, N.Z.
Derby, N. Leslie ....	Montego Bay, Ja.	Marshall, Wm. ....	Belmont Castle, Meigle, Perthshire, Scotland
Dorn, Paul A. ....	Redlands, Calif., U.S.A.	Macdnoald, Her- bert G. ....	188 Harbour St., Kingston, Ja.
Duffus, W. A. ....	Morant Bay, Ja.	MacGregor, C. M. ..	Highgate, Ja.
Dumont, S. L. ....	C/o Machado's Park Lodge, Kingston, Ja.	MacPherson, Miss G. M. ....	99 Maxfield Ave., H.W. Tree, Jam.
Dunn, E. G. ....	Nathan & Co., Ltd., Kingston, Ja.		
Duncan, R. J. ....	P.O. Box 340 Arm- strong, B. C., Canada		

## LIST OF MEMBERS—(Continued).

NAME	ADDRESS	NAME	ADDRESS
Melhado, Clifford ..	Orange Street, Kingston, Ja.	Reid, Ed. G. ....	Montego Bay, Ja.
Moon, Rev. G. H. ..	Montego Bay, Ja.	Rolston, S. Jnr. ....	Tarana Road, Levin, N.Z.
Myers, Thomas ....	10 Temple Lane, Kingston, Ja.	Rowe, E. S. B. ....	98 Tower Street, Kingston, Ja.
Myers, Mrs. A. E. C. ....	Mandeville, Ja.	Rowe, Mrs. E. S. B.	98 Tower Street, Kingston, Ja.
Nethersole, J. M. ..	Spanish Town, Ja.	Scott, Mrs. Mat-thew ....	U. F. Co., Bowden, Ja.
Nixon, Mrs. Douglas ....	7 Holborn Rd., Half-way Tree, Ja.	Scherer, C. A. ....	3608 W. 27th Street, Milwaukee, U.S.A.
Palmer, Col. Geo. (S.A.) ....	Salvation Army Hdqrs., Kingston, Ja.	Simpson, Dr. Wm.	The Ives, 3 Adelaide Rd., Andover, Hants, England
Pearce, Trevor D. ..	Barclays Bank (D. C. & O.), Port Maria, Ja.	Smith, Mrs. M. Lucie ....	46 Lady Musgrave Rd., Half-way Tree, Ja.
Perkins, A. W. ....	Govt. Audit Office, Kingston, Ja.	Vermont, A. E. H.	Blackstonedge, Ja.
Pierce, Arthur D. ..	1027 Greenmount Road, Haddonfield, New Jersey, U.S.A.	Whittemore, Edgar	5539 Pershing, Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.
Pilliner, H. ....	C/o United Fruit Co., Kingston, Ja.	Williamson, F. L. ....	44 Orange Street, Kingston, Ja.
Pohle, C. L. Von ..	Mandeville, Ja.	Woodbridge, W. Norman ....	14 Cossington Road, Westclif-on-Sea, Essex, Eng.
Powell, Rev. H. A. U. ....		Whiting, W. J. ....	Barclays Bank (D. C. & O.), Kingston, Ja.
Poyser, Mrs. J. ....	Charlottenburgh, Highgate, Ja.	Walcott, G. G. ....	1a Oxford Road, Cross Rds., Ja.
Platt, Mrs. D. E. ....	4 Up Park Camp, Cross Rds., Ja.		
Quin, H. A. ....	P.W.D. Montego Bay, Ja.		

## LIFE MEMBERS.

Aarons, Miss C. ....	C/o Lewis Ashenheim, Esq., Kingston, Ja.	Benson, J. ....	Failte, Top Street Way, Harpenden, Herts., Eng.
Aarons, David ....	24 King Street, Kingston, Ja.	Bellman, Capt. J. F.	R.A.P.C., England
Alcock, R. C. ....	11 Regent St., Cheltenham, Glos. Eng.	Berry, D. A. ....	19 Corporation St., Manchester, England
Allen, Thos. ....	Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, Eng.	Bourke, A. W. ....	Harvey & Bourke, Kingston, Ja.
Aguiar, E. ....	11 West King's House Rd., Half-way Tree, Ja.	Brandon, Mrs. Chas. ....	41 Hope Road, Kingston, Ja.
Baker, Mrs. Joshua	Port Antonio, Ja.	Braun, Richard ....	
Bartlett, Rev. S. H.	P.O. Box 69, Lancaster, Ohio, U.S.A.	Bricker, I. C. ....	Elora, Ontario, Canada

## LIST OF MEMBERS—(Continued).

NAME	ADDRESS	ADDRESS	NAME
Brigham, C. Pliny	75 E 55th Street, New York	Hine, Mrs. R.	3780-64th Street, Woodside L.I., U.S.A.
Bruce, Dr. H. B.	Collaroy Beach, Syd- ney, N.S.W., Aus- tralia	Hudson, Miss Gwen	New Hope, Little London, Ja.
Campbell, Miss Jean	Elstow, 5 Vic., Cres- cent, Glasgow, W2, Scotland	Hurt, E. F.	"Winfield", Dal- keith Road, Har- penden, Herts., Eng.
Carman, B. E.	Reading, Ja.	Jackson, Norman S.	Cornwall College, Montego Bay, Ja.
Cargill, J. H.	Kingston, Ja.	Jensen, Mrs. C. H.	15 Hopefield Ave., Half-way Tree, Ja.
Clark, Dr. H. Ly- man	Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.	Kunz, John G.	Miranda, Oriente, Cuba
Clark, D. S. M.	St. Ann's Bay, Ja.	Linden, G. H.	11 Cairn Ave., Ealing London, W.5. Eng.
Clerk, Astley G.	Kingston, Ja.	Lodge, L. J. Gil- bert, F.R.P.S.L.	C/o The Royal Phil- atelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1., Eng.
Coles, Miss Julla W.	Colescroft, Glen Cove, Long Island, N.Y. U.S.A.	Lowe, Robson	96 Regent Street, London, W. 1, Eng.
Collett, G. W.	84 Jermyn Street, London, S.W., I. England	Lewis, Mrs. A. M.	Brumalia, Mande- ville, Jamaica
Collins, Lieut. T. F. J.	Ashdon Hall, Saffron Walden, Essex, England	Mayhew, F. G.	136 Queens Way, Bayswater, Lon- don, W.2, Eng.
Ernandez, L. C.	Spanish Town, Ja.	Morrice, F. H.	Brown's Town, Ja.
Fernandez, P. J.	P.O. Box 158, King- ston, Ja.	Morris, G. W.	Devon Street, Sim- mons Town, South Africa
Finzi, Eugene	Reka Dom, Half-way Tree, Ja.	Murray, Dr. P. C.	Public Hospital, Kingston, Ja.
Fojo, Eugenio	Asua, (Biscay), Spain	Murray, Mrs. Alexr.	San Jose, Costa Rica
French, Edgar	603 South, 14th St., Newcastle, Indiana, U.S.A.	Norona, Delf	1002-5th Street, Moundsville, W. Virginia, U.S.A.
Gobault, Geo. A.	Kingston, Ja.	Palmer, Mervin G.	(F.R.G.S.) The Spin- nery, Addington, Surrey, Eng.
Goffe, Mrs. Lesline	Oxford, Port Maria, Ja.	Pearson, G.	The Hacienda, Ex- ford Ave., Westcliff-on-sea, Essex, Eng.
Godden, Frank	110-111 Strand W.C.2 London, Eng.	Phillips, Stanley	Managing Director, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand London, W.C.2, Eng.
Gunter, G. C., F. R. P. S. L.	Ja. Govt. Railway, Kingston, Ja.	Pinto, Claude deS.	45 Barry Street, Kingston, Ja.
Hall, C. Lyon	Spring, Garden, Buff Bay, Ja.		
Harmer, H. R.	131-137 New Bond St., London, W.1., Eng.		
Heron, Mrs. E. E. W.	Shooters Hill P.O.		

## LIST OF MEMBERS—(Continued).

NAME	ADDRESS	NAME	ADDRESS
Pratt, C. W. ....	186 Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Kent, England	Tucker, Douglas ..	Brown's Town, Ja.
Roberts, R. ....	430 Strand, London, W.C.2, Eng.	Tucker, Geo. H. ....	23 Dublin Crescent, Henleaze, Bristol, Eng.
Ross, Mrs. F. M. ....		Turner, C. Brinkley	Stock Ex. Bldg., Philadelphia, U.S.A.
Ross-Shiells, H. ....	4 Eldon Street, Lon- don, E.C.2, Eng.	Turner, Dr. Ken- neth B. ....	620W 168 St., N. Y. City, U.S.A
Samuel, D. M., F.R.P.S.L. ....	131 Harbour St., Kingston, Ja.	Urwick, Dr. R. H. ..	Council House Court, Shrews- bury, Eng.
Sessenwein, P. W.	7—2 Amesberry Ave., Montreal, Quebec, Canada	Watkin, A. J. ....	20 Heathgate, Lon- don N.W. 11, Eng.
Scudamore, C. G. ..	Montego Bay, Ja.	Westmorland, Mrs. W. H. W. ....	Blackstonedge, Ja.
Simms, Major H. ..	Liguanea P.O., Ja.	Whitley, Leonard ..	Passley Gardens, Pt. Antonio, Ja.
Snypp, John E. ....	Rt. 2 Box 332 Brem- erton, Wash., U.S.A.	Whidden, Capt. C. W. ....	C/o U. F. Co., Ja.
Solomon, Dr. I. C.	116 Harbour Street, Kingston, Ja.	Woodward, K. ....	2501 Curtis St., East Elmhurst, N.Y., U.S.A.
Spooner Mrs. M. E. ....	Constant Spring, Ja.	Wright, Lt. Col. H. H. ....	Leith Fort, Edin- burgh, Scotland
Stewart, C. A. F. ..	Woodfield, Walkers Wood, Ja.	Valencia, Frank ....	30 Pt. Royal Street, Kingston, Ja.
Taylor, Capt. A. L.	C/o Lloyds Bank, Cox and King's Branch 6 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, Eng.		

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

DeSouza, Claude ....	Kingston, Jamaica	Melville, Fred J. ..	10a Ardbeg Road, Herne Hill, Lon- don, S.E. 24., Eng.
Edwards, W. Buck- land ....	1 Vanbrugh Park London, S.E.3 Eng.	Morton, Rev. C. S. F.R.P.S.L. ....	136 Brooke Road, Stoke Newington, London, N.16, Eng.
Egly, Eugene ....	25 Arncliffe Road, West Park, Leeds, Eng.	Nicholson, L. C. C. F.R.P.S.L., ....	26 South Grove, Peckham, London: S.E., 15, Eng.
Huber, Harry E. ....	5913 Rippey Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., U.S.A.	Phillips, Chas. J. ....	10 West 86th St., New York, U.S.A.
Klein, Eugene ....	200 South 13th St., Phila., U.S.A.	Taylor, Dr. Stanley	C/o Westminster Bank, Ltd., Iron Gate, Derby, Eng.
Lichtenstein, Al- fred F. ....	P.O. Box 994 City Hall Station, N.Y., U.S.A.	Vallancey, F. Hugh	15 St. Bride Street, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C., 4, Eng.



# HARMER'S of BOND STREET, LONDON

## The World's Premier Stamp Auctioneers,

will be pleased to send the following publications, without charge, to all philatelists in Jamaica interested in buying or selling fine and rare postage Stamps through the Bond Street Stamp Auctions:

### "Resume for the Season, 1937-38".

A magnificent 48-page full-art production, detailing all the major realisations of last Season with illustrations of many of the items, and containing in addition a number of articles on various philatelic subjects and a full page of rarities in natural colours.

### "Selling Stamps by Auction".

An interesting leaflet, explaining the simplicity and security of selling through the Bond Street Stamp Auctions. Full particulars of charges, insurance, advances, etc., are included.

### Fully illustrated Auction Catalogues.

These fully illustrated auction catalogues, accurately described by the finest staff of experts of any stamp firm in the World, are published every week throughout the Season. The completeness and absolute fairness of the descriptions permit the long-distance buyer equal facilities to the "man in the room".

MAY WE SEND YOU ANY OR ALL OF THESE PUBLICATIONS?

## H. R. HARMER

Auctioneer of the £140,000 "Hind" Collection  
131-137, New Bond Street, London, W.I. England

Cables: Phistamsel, London.

LATEST GREAT COLLECTION FOR THE BOND STREET  
STAMP AUCTIONS:

The "Tracey Woodward" Collection of JAPAN,

by far the greatest collection of this country ever formed.

Auction date: June 26th, 27th and 28th.