

The Jamaica Philatelist



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE Jamaica Philatelic Society

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CIRCULATED FREE OF CHARGE.

EDITOR: MR. ASTLEY CLERK
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: MR. H. COOKE

VOLUME III.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, JUNE 1940.

No. 14

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

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

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Editorial Perfs

The War which broke out shortly after release of our last edition, and still continues, has been and necessarily is, the subject of deep interest and concern, not only to us of the Empire, but to all the world as well. During the period of apparent stalemate, September 1939 to May 1940, London stamp dealers declared that it had had but little or no effect on business. The trade generally was complacent, and urged colonial buyers to carry on as usual, and one firm at least agreed to accept the risk of loss at sea, on all approval lots going from or to them. The home trade had been greatly stimulated by the effects of the "black out" regulations, which enforced long evenings at home, behind darkly curtained windows. We have not seen a resumption of the present position, nor how the "blitzkrieg" which had ef-

fect last May, has changed the conditions, but one may readily believe it has caused some change, yet not disastrous in character, for the reason that one continues to receive the usual journals, which still carry large numbers of advertisements, news of auctions, and similar activity. The point is brought close home by the reference we have made on another page to the Jamaica Child Welfare stamps. The new and additional Income Tax rate of assessment, the Purchase Tax of 12 — 24%, and rise in the cost of living, must have its effect on the buying power of the English public, with probably particular effect on a commodity which is not in any sense an essential, such as stamps, so while we do not wish to be unduly pessimistic, there does seem to be the prospect that values will decline, a retrogression which proba-

bly will not be confined to England, but may be to the United States as well, where again heavy additional taxation is projected and is in being. At home in Jamaica, we have not been left undisturbed, we too have less money to spend, much heavier burden of taxation to bear, all with business prospects of very poor kind. The Island income has shrunk considerably, to less than half what it was a year ago, and while past savings no doubt will help us to carry on for a while, our outlook necessarily is gloomy.

On another page an article entitled "War Stamps", gives a recapitulation of current issues of that kind, with comparison of similar issues during the last great war. There is no news yet of any part of the Empire joining in that game, although there is in most parts including ours, heavily increased rates of postage, and we observe in some English journals, advocacy of special issues in aid of the Red Cross Society. If England begins, or some part of the Empire, Colonial of course, is allowed to start issues of that nature, one may be sure that all, or nearly all, will follow that lead.

The Centenary Exhibition is dealt with on another page, but since that was written, much more information has come to hand, which we will try to cover here. The Exhibition just escaped being blotted out altogether, like the Dutch commemoratives of which we have seen and heard nothing, but sundry others have been recorded. Bulgaria for instance brought out a special issue, its first or very early

type imposed on a modern design; Mexico copied the design of the 1d. black imposed on a longer upright rectangle, the space on which is used to designate the denomination, nationality, with dates 1840 and 1940. It is used as the excuse for issue of no less than ten stamps, in two sets of five each, one for general postal purpose, the other for Airmail, each stamp printed in different colours and of appropriate denomination. A souvenir issue of 6 poster stamps was issued in aid of the Lord Mayor of London's effort in aid of the Red Cross Society and St. John Fund. Each sheet of 6 consists of three designs; the upper two are of the Tower Bridge, with a small Red Cross in the right upper corner; the second two are reproductions of the 1d black, that on the left with "V.R." in the upper corners, each specimen having at left a perforated label which records the purpose of the issue; the lower two are of the statue of Boadicea in her chariot, with the Houses of Parliament in the background, again with a small red cross in the right upper corner. The designs and production are by Messrs. Waterloo and Sons, and are indicative of the very fine workmanship, excellence of design and subject which can be obtained in England, condemning out of hand the vapid, unpleasing, and almost derogatory things being used by the British Post Office in the current issues. The Souvenir sheets may be had in different colours at 6d per sheet.

The Exhibition was opened at 11 a.m. on 6th May by H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester, and on

Wednesday the 8th, was visited by Their Majesties the King and Queen. It will be remembered that Hitler's "blitzkrieg" began in all its ferocity, on the morning of the 10th, yet the exhibition was carried on for a day longer, to Sunday the 12th, than was originally intended.

The exhibits naturally centered very largely around the 1d. black, and to quote the "London Philatelist", "It is improbable that the embryology of the Penny Black, the first born of adhesive postage labels, will again be so completely illustrated as it was at this Exhibition where documents and pieces from the Royal Collection, the Post Office archives, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Royal Philatelic Society, and private hands, were co-ordinated to present a picture of the growing idea which came to a head in the great contribution made by our country to the postal evolution of the last century." For details of the exhibits, one must refer to the special catalogue obtainable at 2/6. Lectures were given by Sir John Wilson, Mr. Percy de Worms, and Mr. P. L. Pemberton. It is interesting and most gratifying to observe the tribute of thanks paid to Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, for the success which attended the efforts of himself and his band of workers for "yeoman service when there was work to be done", "selfless, and perhaps thankless work of the Stewards" under his charge, which contributed to "much of the success of the exhibition." While the Exhibition and related functions were in progress in England, colleagues in the United States

were not idle. A similar Exhibition was operated by the Collectors Club at New York, in the Club's rooms, from 6th to 11th May. One hundred and thirty stamp issuing countries were represented, in the chronological order of their participation in the use of stamps for the purposes of postage. Thus, Great Britain 6th May, 1840; Switzerland, 2nd March; Brazil, 1st July, 1843; etc. All those countries were represented by their stamps issued prior and up to 1870, very nearly complete. Mr. Alfred F. Lichtenstein was President of the Committee of twenty-five members and the result was a compact exhibition of stamps, displayed in one room, where a feast of philatelic delight was presented to the visitor. He was able to revel in and through all the classic issues of the first thirty years of philately, without the monotony of duplication, something which in itself was unique.

In all respects, the effort to commemorate the centenary of the "Mother of them all", while not as impressive as one would have wished to have seen it; something for which the existing conditions must be blamed; was not by any means unworthy, and in the circumstances, much better and successful than we had contemplated.

Obituaries: On another page we have recorded loss to the Society during the year, of several of its members by death. Since that was written, we have read with sympathetic appreciation, tribute to the late Chas. J. Phillips by "S. P." in the pages of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, but outstanding in all the volume of regret at the pass-

ing of that great philatelist, is the memorial record by his confreres of the Collectors Club of New York. We reproduce it here in conformity with expressed desire for the widest publicity, and to emphasise our appreciation of the personality to whom it refers:—

"Whereas Almighty Providence has taken from our midst our Friend and Councillor

CHARLES JAMES PHILLIPS

on Sunday June 2, 1940 in the seventy-eighth year of his long and brilliant career, and

WHEREAS during the eighteen years of his membership in the Collectors Club, he brought every available resource of his social and philatelic experience to bear in building up and strengthening that organization in its membership and character, and

WHEREAS his unflagging service and devotion as Chairman of the Membership Committee, the Programme Committee and the Library Committee together with his long experience as a Governor, set an unexcelled record of successful achievement, and

WHEREAS his long association and friendly personality has endeared him in the hearts of all the members of the Collectors Club and associates, and his loss leaves them sharing a common grief,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Governors of The Collectors Club hereby expresses its deep and sincere sorrow at the parting, which Fate has ordained in death of our beloved Friend and Associate

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be spread in full on the Minutes on a separate page, and that a certified copy be sent to Mrs. Irene Phillips, and that notice of this action be published in the Collectors Club Philatelist and other publications, and an embossed copy suitably framed be hung on the walls of our Club."

Appeal: We use the opportunity to remind members of the appeal made by the Secretary through the "Gleaner" response to the appeal made to him, by the Lord Mayor of London for donations of stamps to be sold at auction in London, in aid of the funds of the Red Cross and St. John.

Wanted: Life member, Paul A. Dorn of 1247 South La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, California, wishes to get a complete file of the "Jamaica Philatelist." He already has the last four numbers of the Magazine viz. Nos. 10, 11, 12 and 13. He is appealing through this medium to fellow members who may have copies of other numbers to spare to send them to him. In this connection Mr. Dorn writes to our Honorary Secretary as follows—

"Whenever I can get together a complete file I am going to do something with it that I do not think has ever been done before for a philatelic publication: I am going to reduce the complete file to microfilm, a specimen of which I enclose herewith. This specimen represents a negative of a complete page of the N.Y. Times, from which enlarged prints may be made as desired. You may readily see the

enormous saving in space effected but you may not so readily realize the extreme economy of this method of making a permanent and easily reproducible record. The complete file of *THE JAMAICA PHILATELIST* can be photographed on 35mm. motion picture film at a moderate cost from which negative, prints of any desired material may be readily and very inexpensively made. I think that will convince you of the many advantages of such an accomplishment—I hope so, at least. I am sure I can enlist your active co-operation in carrying out my project. Would it not be a signal honour for the Society to be the pioneers in the development of such a technique for philatelic publications? But my hands are tied until I can get hold of a complete file."

Mr. Dorn takes an active interest in the Philatelic Library of the Stamp Club of Los Angeles. It is claimed that this Library is the second largest of its kind in the United States and he has under-

taken to get for it a complete file of the "Jamaica Philatelist". We greatly appreciate this gesture but the journal is in great demand and no spare copies are even left on hand when the yearly number appears. We are therefore unable to help Mr. Dorn, but we strongly support his appeal and invite the active co-operation of fellow members. If Mr. Dorn is able to photograph our Magazine the publication will enjoy the distinction as he says, of being the first to be so recorded in complete form.

Mr. Arthur D. Pierce, "Old Point", Haddonfield, New Jersey, U.S.A., desires to collect Jamaican Metered Mail covers. As recorded elsewhere, apparently there are seven possibly more machines in use. Each machine its number as part of the impression made on the cover. Any member who has or can procure a complete set, or single covers with respective numbers, should correspond with Mr. Pierce.



Jamaicana

New issues 1938. In our last edition, we referred to the probable make up of the sheets of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. denominations. Since then we have had apparently positive proof, evidence if you will, that the plates are of 240 set. Each section of which of 60 subjects is given plate number, i.e., 1A and 1B to the two upper horizontal sections, 1C and 1D to the two lower. The printed sheets are cut into the familiar 120 subject size, showing the plate numbers on the lower margins, as we have previously described.

Georgians 1929-32. On another page an article by Mr. Arthur D. Pierce, Haddonfield, N.J., U.S.A., does much to clear up and solve the puzzle of these stamps printed in different widths, with perforations in different gauges. We thank Mr. Pierce for his, the only reply to the appeal and invitation made in our last edition.

Perforations. We observe that the Gibbons Jamaica list in their catalogue for 1940, changes the previous record of the 1929-32 Georgians. The stamps are now $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, not 14 as listed in their edition for 1939, that record apparently was all wrong and needed to be corrected in 1940. The Scott edition for 1940 is consistent with that for 1939, as it continues to recognise and list the stamps as existing with either $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ or 14 gauges. Those are the records we have been admonished to accept, and follow as infallible guides to govern our activities. There is however a question, which? . . . they contradict each other and themselves. We know that there are three perforations, viz., $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, $13\frac{1}{4} \times 14$, and 14.

Postmarks and franks. Official correspondence, which for several years past has been franked with impression of rubber as well as

steel handstamps, usually in design of a double lined horizontal oval, that indicated in words the office of origin, are now franked with impression, apparently from a rubber stamp, in the form of a double lined circle, showing centre inset a crown, the word "Official" in sans serif capitals arranged around the upper segment, the word "Free" similarly arranged around the lower. The office of origin is omitted. The impression may be found in inks of varied shades of purple or violet, as well as in black.

The Red Cross label is with us again. Those of us old enough to remember the last great war of 1914-18 will remember the similar item of that period. There is complete description of the label and its variations in "Jamaica". The present label is similar, viz., a Geneva cross with the word "Jamaica" above, "War Fund" below, set in a ruled frame, all printed in red on white wove paper, gummed and perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$. Like its predecessor it is used on covers with the regular postage stamps, may be found post-marked, but has no franking value, and in no sense is a postage stamp.

Meter franks have made some progress; we reported two in our last edition. We have seen impression from machine No. 3, but the cover did not indicate the name of the user. We have also seen impression from machine No. 7, in use by the Jamaica Telephone Company. Nos. 4, 5, and 6 have not come our way, and, as is usual, no local member has troubled to mention them for record.

Montego Bay has abandoned, apparently, the hand cancelling stamp, and is using an electrical machine which impresses the usual small circular town and date detail, a section of 7 bars, a rectangle with the words "Far

Famed Caribbean Sunshine Resort" arranged in four lines, followed by another section of bars.

Another label which has been used to frank correspondence is one for aid to the charity, which seeks to relieve the deaf and dumb. Printed in deep purple for the background on white paper, it is rectangular in shape and perforated. From a point low on the left, radiate white rays to the right which terminate in white globe, on which in the shade of purple of the background are the words and symbol "THE DEAF & DUMB" arranged in four lines. Set in the upper left section in white letters "We put the spotlight on", and across the lower part of the whole label "The Forgotten Folk". The label is connected with a local charitable effort on behalf of the Deaf and Dumb of Jamaica.

An addition to Mr. Nicholson's list of temporary postmarks appeared during 1939. The West Indies Sugar Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Messrs. Tate and Lyle, obtained the facility of a post office located at the site of their central factory, Frome, in Westmoreland. Previously they had been served by the office at Grange Hill, three or four miles away. The first temporary stamp used at Frome was rectangular, of rubber with "FROME" in the left upper section, a line through the middle with "19....." at the end, and "JAMAICA" below. The date of posting was inserted by hand. The dates we have observed are in Sept. 1939. A later stamp also of rubber has been brought into use. It is a horizontal oval double lined, showing "FROME" at the top, the date apparently from adjustable wheeled bands in the centre. The earliest date observed is 26th Jan., 1940.

At Kingston a new slogan postmark from an electric machine is in use. At left is a small circular town postmark with date, cancelling the postage stamp at right

are the words "BUY BRITISH GOODS", arranged as the upper segment of a circle, which surmounts an Imperial Crown. It appears to have been brought into use during 1940.

Changeling. There have been records at different times, relative to sundry of our stamps, one of the best known that of the "purple head" of the George V early printings of the 1/- denomination. The latest is another 1/- denomination, that of the Jubilee issue "in the colour of the 1d." We have seen one of them, a used copy the colour of which is neither as bright nor as dense as that of the 1d., but quite definitely it is not the purple of the shilling. That the specimen is a changeling does not admit of doubt or question, traces of the original purple are readily visible in the apparent red of the frame.

Pictorials. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. arranged a voting competition to decide popularity of existing pictorial sets of the several issues of the Empire. Falkland, Malta, British Solomons secured the first three places in the order given, British Honduras and Ceylon tied for eleventh, Trinidad secured the twelfth, Jamaica was thirteenth. Other West Indian Islands were far behind, even the crude things of Great Britain coming nineteenth in a list of fifty-three.

The Nicholson Collection. On another page Mr. Pierce makes what he terms a wholly incomprehensive attempt, to describe the items offered for sale. Time and space necessarily restricted his effort, a volume may easily have been written.

This writer had the privilege some years ago to see the collection as it then was, not near the comprehensive state to which it had been brought at the time it was sold. If memory serves aright, three volumes housed it then, each written up descriptively on each page, of the contents

of the page. As may be understood from Mr. Nicholson's literary work, postmarks were of particular interest, and the pages of his albums which displayed such specimens, in addition to written descriptive matter, were embellished with pen and ink drawings, reproductions of the postmarks themselves, enabling clear and precise understanding of the shape and form. Those who possess "Jamaica," will have observed for instance, the several types of "AOI" shown on those pages; each and all the others are from drawings made by Mr. or Mrs. Nicholson. The collection at that time indicated that it provided a large field for study, knowledge to be developed from the extant material, some of which Mr. Nicholson has passed on to us in his several writings. We never have been able to agree with claimed illegality of the use of British stamps in Jamaica after Aug. 1860, and before May 1852, but that difference of opinion in view of the facts, is rather more academic than decisive one way or the other. The stamps were used and passed as legal by the competent Government of Jamaica and nothing which may be said for or against that use can in any way alter the fact, nor the status of the stamps. That so far as we know, is the only subject on which we have had disagreement, and we acknowledged with fervour the debt we owe to him on behalf of Jamaican philately.

Having had the privilege to know something of the collection, it was with the greatest regret we learned of its imminent dispersal by sale at auction, we wondered why? Another war result perhaps? A personal letter from the owner answered the question, and called from us the sincerest sympathy and regret. We can and do understand what a wrench it must have been, to part with the reward of so many years of patient yet eager search, the material from which so much useful knowledge and in-

formation has been developed, the source of so many hours of pleasant relaxation. Like so many other irreplaceable treasures from the past, the present war in its magnitude of destruction, direct and indirect, has smashed a Jamaican collection, not merely of note but of outstanding eminence.

We learn that some of the items have passed to the possession of Mr. C. Brinkley Trurner, and of Mr. Arthur D. Pierce, both members of our Society, and will aid to bring to those collections, distinction added to that which they already possessed.

Child Welfare Stamps The "philatelic Journal of Great Britain" for June, informs that there is strong demand for this set, both in England and America, used and unused. After close on 17 years these stamps are coming into their own. In a recent edition, we republished the figures of the quantities printed, issued and destroyed. They made obvious that with any sort of demand, the then market values were extraordinarily low, and should have increased long ago. No doubt demand and supply then fixed that value, and as demand seems to have been stimulated, and supply has not increased, price is pushed upward.

"Daily Gleaner" has made sporadic attempts to revive in its weekly Saturday Edition, Stamp Collector's column. We read the first with appreciation, as while the subject matter did not interest, and was not likely to be of interest to local collectors, it was well arranged and written. The second attempt by another writer and previous contributor, was of the type which we have had reason to criticise; we found no improvement and agree entirely with abandonment of that effort. We observed no other. An article reprinted from the American "Aero-Post" magazine, was captioned "Of interest to Stamp Collectors." It described the Jamaican Red Cross Stamps of the last war in great

detail, their cause, origin and varieties, but the writer in the American magazine omitted to acknowledge the source of his information, which clearly was "Jamaica," the handbook published by this Society through Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., in 1929.

Paper Shortage? There has been probably still is, a shortage of the current 1½d stamp, required and used for local postage. We may begin to look for and find sundry varieties of paper used for printing our current stamps, just as there was during the last war. For the first time we have the real pleasure to admit indebtedness to a local member who submitted specimens of the current 1½d stamp on which difference is clearly noticeable, although not perhaps of importance. The specimens seen respectively were on paper quite white, and on paper tinted cream. As the war goes on, and sources of supply of pulp, or the ingredients, are changed because of conditions, we may find variations of thick and thin, hard and soft papers, perhaps shades of printing ink distinctive enough to rank as positive varieties. The same member also sent us specimen of a registered cover, which indicated shortage of the particular registration label, for which a rubber hand stamp was substituted, the number inserted by hand. The thoughtfulness of the member referred to, is very much appreciated, we welcome it as indication that at least one member is not philatelically as somnolent as all others seem to be. Remember re 1d stamps being in excess on a/c of change of sales.

Since the foregoing was written, new supplies of the 1½d have been observed, from which we note that plate 2A has been brought into use. That detail appears on the lower margin, the right of two horizontal panes each of 60 subjects, in the place previously oc-

cupied by plate 1. Sheets with plate number 2A, obviously are from new printing, distinguished from those from plate 1 by difference in shade, texture of paper which is lighter and thinner, gum which is quite white instead of yellow. The sheets suggest printing from a 240 set plate; at the lower corners are guide crosses in the colour of the stamp, something which in so far as our observation and information goes, was absent from sheets from plate 1. In the instances of the ½d. and 1d. where those guides exist, they served to guide the machine which, by cutting, separated the 240 set sheet into two each of 120 subjects. Presence of similar guides on sheets from the new plate, suggest similar purpose, and if they do there is probability that yet another plate exists, printings from which may very shortly be observed.

Street Pillar Boxes familiar sights at Kingston, Montego Bay and Port Antonio, we have known them as the caption describes, viz., about 4 feet high, round, capped with self closing slot for reception of letters, door opened with key placed low down on the side, the whole of iron painted red, with black tablet on the door, on which in white is shown the hours of clearance. Others of knapsack type, clamped to lamp standards or other fast object available to the public, also are known. The Postal Authorities intend to introduce another type, familiar to Canadians and Americans as the type used in their home towns. Rectangular in shape, its design is as shown in our frontispiece.

Air Mail opportunities have been reduced by a new schedule, to come into operation on 1st. September; two per week Northbound instead of three; and times of closing have been modified.

“Interest” Active or Dormant

On another page there is an open letter to our local members; that, together with an article relative to philatelic club meetings, which appeared in the “Philatelic Magazine,” 1st March, inspires this.

To obtain some grasp of the subject, it is necessary to determine in some way and to some extent, what “interest” really is, actually and generally. It is neither feasible, nor imperatively necessary, that the attempt here to effect that determination should mean enumeration and compilation of the many variations in form which “interest” may take, or into which it may be directed, but it is very necessary “to find a formula,” as the diplomats put it, which will express in generally acceptable terms, the meaning of the bond which holds our activity to its subject, viz., the postage stamp, and through it to fellow stamp collectors, wherever he or she may be, uninfluenced by the particular form of the individual or personal activity.

The effort to develop the subject, seems necessarily to be predicated on the question, “why do we collect stamps at all?” and to answer reasonably, with basis of known fact, retrospective regard of our very youthful days appears to be essential. Each of us can or should be able to remember when the inborn, naturally acquisitive desire began to be evident; parents tell us that it so begins with the very first glimmer of intelligence; manifested itself as an urge which needed to be controlled and directed into good and proper channels. Without exception each of us has experienced that urge to acquire, gather, collect something or things as our very own, to have them belong absolutely, our exclusive property, under our sole and personal control; marbles, cigarette pictures, toys of one kind or another, and sundry other things all came within

that range, and there was, as there always will be, keen competition with our fellows to own the larger and better lot. Thereby came association; with mutual desire to acquire and collect, and because of the incentive for competition to own the best or better, respective possessions developed values which may have been expressed in either material or sentimental terms, but whichever it may have been, the right to possess was eagerly sought. Envy, modest or immodest, caused longing eyes to be focussed on desirable, unpossessed things, kept alive and stimulated the desire to acquire. That longing sometimes was satisfied, temporarily no doubt, by participation in one or other game, in which the prize was a desired item, and we or they by better care, skill or prowess fairly acquired it; so we became aware of reward.

Thought for a moment will help realisation, that the factors referred to are dominant, permanent, are with us throughout our lives, there is no escape from them, they apply with varying tensivity to each and every phase of our waking hours.

Continuing our retrospect:—We know that as the years passed, association with our fellows went on, progressed, but the items which had held our interest, lost that charm, others of different kinds took their place, but each, whether they were strenuous, requiring strength, stamina, physical skill highly developed, such as field sports and games, or of more sedentary and studious nature, to attract at all, needed to have the elements of competition and reward, and note again that the factor of association with our fellows, necessarily also was present, followed closely with the prospect of acquisition. Field sports and

games cannot usually be indulged at night or in bad weather, occupation for those hours freed from exacting demands had to be found, something which at the same time would satisfy the human social desire, offer means for competition, with prospect of acquisition and reward; there we may state, "hence stamp Collecting," which fills all those requirements; it may be indulged or practised, alone or in association, at any time, and almost anywhere.

Paying regard to the points developed, it will be recognised that as in our early days, it is now; none of us found enjoyment in playing marbles by ourselves; we practised shooting at the ring, yes, but only with the idea of increased proficiency, to enhance such skill as we possessed, to better our chances of winning; none tried the hurdles, long or high jump alone, but to train for ability to go faster, farther and higher than our peers in open competition; none can become a passably good cricketer, football, tennis or polo player, except in association with the members of his team, and where there is team work, it is not the unit or part of the team that wins, it is the whole team that does. Obviously, while in some instances it is possible to practise alone, that effort is not productive of much, is of little value, unless the achieved result is shared in association with others of similar tastes and ideas, either in competition with or against them. Practice is the means to an end, viz., to meet and take part in competition, and the greater measure of skill, fitness, ability we thereby develop in ourselves, the greater is the service we render to the team in which we play, or to our associates in any activity, because of the high or higher standard of excellence we may be able to set, and the emulation inspired in our fellows.

That may be all very well, but where lies the suggested, or im-

plied analogy with stamp collecting? As stamp collectors, ask ourselves and answer honestly, what our interest really is? Does stamp collecting interest us in the normal manner, do we collect stamps because they please us, present pleasing, agreeable subjects for contemplation, thought and consideration, do they offer agreeable means for association with our fellows, for competition with them both in material and knowledge, do they provide us with enjoyable relaxation and recreation, whenever we may need either, do they offer prospect of desirable reward in the material sense? If we can and do answer "yes," the analogy seems to be complete, especially so if one thinks back over the years as we have induced.

The financial aspect of stamp collecting is a factor, which to many appears to be important. It is, and should aid to fix interest, give it permanence. In practically all hobbies, there is the limiting factor of expense; most are without prospect of remuneration, or even return of outlay. Stamp collecting pursued along reasonable lines, conducted with knowledge and care over the years when interest may be strong, absorbing and enthusiastic, may be relied on for return not only of the outlay, but profit on that as well. To pursue it intelligently, with knowledge and persistent care, to keep alive the interest necessary to do so, association with others similarly interested is essential, for development of that necessary knowledge by exchange of ideas, stimulation of interest by observation of what others have been able to accomplish, and how it has been done. Which other hobby is there that gives mental and physical recreation, is subject to easily controlled expense, and offers the prospects of stamp collecting?

We suggest the desired formula may be found in these words or others which may give similar meaning:—

"Stamp Collecting worthily and beneficially satisfies naturally inherent, impelling human desires for association, acquirement, competition, and reward. Therein is the reason or reasons by which it is

sought, practised, should be encouraged, stimulated; and its interests in common with the cited human interests pursued and conserved."



Notes on "The Nicholson" Specialized Collection of Jamaica at Auction

By Arthur D. Pierce

When a truly great collection comes upon the market there are two conflicting emotions in the heart of every real collector: first, the feeling of sadness, of regret that a labour of love and, often, a philatelic work of art must be sold, dispersed beyond recall; and, second, there is the eagerness to secure from that collection all that one's purse and the luck of the auction room will permit.

So it was with the collection of Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, of London, one of the greatest of Jamaica specialists, who knew Jamaica through philately alone. His collection contained many unique items, many extremely rare, and countless others which, while not rare, had been assembled with such care and diligence that the books which he wrote, based upon them, are models in their particular spheres of research.

It was the war, as the writer understands it, which forced Mr. Nicholson to part with his collection, which was put under the hammer in two sales on four days, from May 12th to 15th inclusive. The first sale, of the British Used in Jamaica, the stamps and the specimens, was conducted by H. R. Harmer, on the first two days; the stampless covers, postmarks, ship letters and other items being sold by Robson Lowe, Ltd., on the other two days. In many cases excellent prices were realised, but in others there was disappointment, due, in part, no doubt, to several other recent sales in which Jamaican items had been featured, and, in part, to the fact of war itself. Yet again, the report that a large portion of the bids came from the United States probably suggests an unfortunate loss of Empire competition.

So packed was the Nicholson collection with treasures that it will be difficult to give a resume of the prices without reprinting the catalogues themselves. However, to the Harmer sale first.

Among the British stamps used in Jamaica from 1858 to 1860, the average price per lot was about 4 pounds,—a strip of four used on Morant Bay entire bringing 2 pounds; a fine group of five of the double AOI, including a pair of the 6d lilac, bringing 5 pounds, five shillings; a 6d lilac on entire from Goshen to Spanish Town realising 5 pounds, and a fine strip of 3 of the 4d rose, with Lucea cancellation, bringing 6 pounds six. Highlight of this group was the 4d rose used on entire from Spanish Town, Feb. 23rd, 1859, to Kingston, with the stamp precancelled " $\frac{1}{2}$," the only known cover of its kind—with the bid reaching 12 pounds ten shillings. Nine pounds was paid for two of the 6d lilac, on entire to India, postmarked AOI and dated Kingston, August 24, 1860,—latest known date for British stamps to have been passed for postage in Jamaica. Among the bargains, several AOI entires went for little more than a pound apiece.

Prices for the Specimens betokened brisk bidding for this type of material, suggesting that more and more collectors are awakening to the scarcity of Jamaica specimens and the fact that they are legitimate and official issues and rarer by far, in most cases, than the rare non-overprinted stamps. Two copies of the pineapple shilling with the specimen overprint in block capitals; but with one stamp showing a *DOUBLE PRINT OF THE STAMP* realised 6 pounds.

The 3d pineapple with the largest Specimen overprint—covering a pair of stamps—realised 4 pounds 4 shillings, with the same overprint in the shilling value bringing the identical price. The shilling imperf with overprint in serif capitals, a rare item, sold for 4 pounds, and a similar copy but with sans-serif capitals realised the same amount.

Among the scarce manuscript overprints a selection of six—two of the 1d, a 3d, and three of the 1/-, realised the modest sum of 5 pounds. Another lot of three,—Nicholson's Type 23—the 2d being the only copy known—went for £3 15/-, and the rare 6d gray-purple, in a pair from the lower left corner of the sheet, with full margins, netted £4 15/-.

Specimens of the CC issues averaged 3 pounds per lot, and a selection of eight of the CA specimens was sold for £12 6/-. The two sets of the pictorials went for 30 shillings, the coronation and jubilee sets for 35 shillings, and a collection including the child welfare set, the 1929 Georgians and 1932 pictorials netted a pound even.

Specimens of the Slavery stamp sold a bit off, the multiple C.A. bringing 4 pounds; the same with watermark reversed £4 4/-, and the script CA 4 pounds 7 shillings and sixpence. A selection of six postal fiscals, scarce items, sold for £2 5/-; two copies of the 1/- 1858 postal fiscal went for £1 10/- and the same sum was realised for a lot comprising the 1, 5 and 10 shilling specimens of the same issue.

As the hammer swung toward the section of issued stamps the bids rose to higher levels, for the first items were the collection of imperforates. While there are many who believe these to be proofs, not issued stamps, the prices showed no reluctance among the bidders. The 1d pine brought £3 12/6, the 2d, 4d, and 6d, four pounds, twelve shillings and sixpence each, and the 1/-, with mar-

gins showing portion of stamp adjoining at bottom, four pounds four shillings. Only known copy of the 1/- imperf with the "\$" variety realised 20 pounds, not a great deal considering the real rarity of this item. Seventeen pounds was given for an imperf pair of the 1/- pine, another grand piece.

Next came the bisects, and here the prices, with one exception, ran from a fourth to half of the Gibbons listing of 11 pounds. Best price in this group was for the 1d bisected in combination with the 2d rose, on an envelope from Black River to Spanish Town. It brought £7 7/-. A lovely cover with two bisects and two normals went for only £5 5/-,—to this writer's painful regret, since he neglected to bid on it. A unique circular, with two bisected copies and a normal, plus the cachet "Returned for 1½d Postage" passed for a mere 4 pounds, 15 shillings.

Among the dollar varieties in the pineapple issue, the yellow brown realised £4 4/-, the purple brown £3 5/- (slight crease) the dull brown 5 pounds, and the dull brown in a pair, slightly stained, 3 pounds ten. In the CC's, the dollar varieties were highlighted with a gorgeous used block of four, which sold for 11 pounds. A vertical pair sold for only 3 pounds, and singles for 3-12-6 and 2-10 respectively.

Came next the CA's, with still more immaculate imperforates. The 1d carmine brought £11 11/-, the 2d grey the same, and a copy of the 2/- venetian red £9 9/-. Another magnificent block of the dollar variety, an upper left corner block with reference number, went for 13 pounds, and a block of the 5/- lilac netted £4 4/-. The collection of 33 stamps on entries went to some fortunate bidder for a paltry £2 12/6.

Difficult to explain at least from a distance, are the prices on the 1890 provisionals. A complete top row of the first setting went for £3 5/-. A single of the double

surcharge brought £2 12/6, and a pair, one surcharge double, realized only 35 shillings. Finally, a collection of 17, including other varieties was knocked down for 4 pounds flat.

If you are, like the writer, among those who have searched piles of the first 1d Llandoverly for a copy of the double printing of the lower part of the stamp, you will be interested to know that the Nicholson copy, advertised as the "only known copy" went for 12 pounds ten. Scarcely a fat sum for a unique item.

Better, proportionately, was the price of the 5d, (1902-04) arms type with "ser. et" error, used at 13 pounds. Bidding also was brisk on a third beautiful block of the dollar variety, also with the reference number, this time the multiple CA in brown,—price 19 pounds.

The same block in green drew 13 pounds. A single of the dollar variety on the brown multiple shilling went for £7 10/-, one on the green paper for £7 7/-. A collection of 158 CA's went for £8 10/-, and a collection of 162 war stamps for £2 10/-.

Among the pictorials were partial double prints of the 2½d (mult) and 3d (ca), the two realising 2 pounds. The same "double" in the 3/- brought £5 5/-. A partial double print of the 10/- script brought £6 10/-, and a collection of the 1927 ½d green, including several "bow varieties," netted £3 15/-.

Surprising were the prices of 4 pounds for the Jubilee "flagstuffs," a lot which included the three values with that variety—1½d, 6d and 1/- in mint blocks, and used singles of each. More surprising still was the sale of the very rare Jubilee booklet for a pound flat. The writer knows several collectors who would top that bid substantially. A lot of the Child Welfare stamps, including blocks and prints taken from the original photos and three negative

prints of essays—all for 5 pounds.

Of the fine collection of Nicholson's postal fiscals, the unpriced 1d rose (pineapple) imperf, mint, sold for £3 5/-. The 1d rose CA, imperf, brought £4 15/-, the 1½d blue on blue, imperf, £3 5/-, and the pair of 3d purple on lilac, imperf, and used on entire, £4 15/-.

Rounding out the Harmer sale, a collection of 207 official stamps, including the "blind official," inverted overprint and other varieties went for only 5 pounds, five, and the collection of 174 pieces of postal stationery for five pounds even.

The total realisation of the Harmer sale was 814 pounds, 6 shillings.

Just as the Nicholson collection of Specimens was the basis for his book on that subject, so was his collection of stampless covers, which opened the Robson Lowe sale on Regent street, the basis of his invaluable pamphlet "Jamaica Stampless Covers." Here were the choice items used to illustrate that booklet (one luckily snared by the writer), and following the covers were those collections of the numbered postmarks which constituted the foundation for the chapter upon them in the Jamaica handbook. To see these items pass, after the vast labour done upon them and through them, into the far corners of the world philatelic, is not a subject to be dwelt upon. Better to seek refuge in the cold figures of the prices realised.

Starting off the sale was a collection of 39 stampless covers, including such rarities as the Port Antonio in blue, the "Commercial Rooms Kingston," fluerons, etc., all of which realised 12 pounds ten. A selection of Jamaican covers without handstruck stamps of origin averaged somewhat less than a pound each. A superb example of the first handstruck stamp (JI) fetched 2 pounds, an example not quite so fine, one pound. The fluerons ran from a pound and a half to two pounds, and a superb

copy of the mark "On Post Office Business—Free" (first recorded example) brought £3 10/-.

The bidding spurted on the 35th lot,—an envelope bearing two 4d adhesives, and addressed to England "per S.S. Bergenseren," with a label on the reverse, tied with date stamp, stating that the postal packet "was washed away in the Haughton River, near Annotto Bay, on the night of Tuesday the 18th, and subsequently recovered." This lovely piece brought 6 pounds. A 10 pound bid took the earliest known example of the "Ship Letter Jamaica," February 4, 1803. The Jamaica Ship Letter mark on cover—two lines horizontal [S3]—with a 3d pine, brought £5 10/-. A framed "Ship Letter" mark, on entire from Cienfuegos, Cuba, bearing adhesives from Cuba (1876 50c blue) and the Jamaica 6d CC, cancelled in Cuba, fetched 15 pounds. A similar item which included a British stamp along with Cuban and Jamaican stamps zoomed the bidding to 33 pounds.

A collection of paquebot cancellations (12 entires) brought £3 5/-, and a collection of railway cancellations (100 items) netted 5 pounds ten. Eleven exhibition cancellations realised £2 10/-, a collection of 31 parcel post stamps going for £1 17/-, and the lot of British cancellations on Jamaican stamps, £5 15/-.

Coming to the collection of post town cancellations, the sum of 2 pounds, two shillings captured the lovely cover, illustrated in the Nicholson pamphlet, which shows the postmarks of four towns on the same day—St. Ann's Bay, Dry Harbour, Brown's Town and Alexandria. A beautiful cover, cancelled in Bath, (1858) bearing a pair of 6d British stamps (with AOI) realised £4 15/-, and a similar cover with two singles, 4 pounds. A "Black River" stamp on a 1794 letter to Kingston sold at £2 10/-, and a cover from the same town, with British stamps, brought 4 pounds.

It is impossible to list all the prices of the post town cancellation lots, each a little collection in itself, some of the rarities having but one stamp in the lot yet with other lots running to 30 or 40 stamps some in sets by watermarks. One top flight item was a 1/- Great Britain on an 1859 front, with clear "A 45," "Grange Hill," cancellation. It sold for £11 10/-. Nine pounds was bid for a superb strip of four 1d British, with the "A 47," "Highgate," cancellations, on an 1859 letter.

Magnificent is the correct word for the Morant Bay date stamp, on a letter of 1773 addressed to Kingston. This specimen is the earliest known town stamp from any Jamaican post town, and was, it would seem well worth 10 pounds ten. That sum, plus a pound additional, was given for a fine 1859 entire, containing four superb copies of the G.B. 1d, neatly cancelled "A 64," i.e., Port Antonio.

A strip of three 1d on cover, from Port Morant, 1859, with a single 4d G.B. netted £10 10/-, while 13 pounds was paid for a reportedly unique cover of St. David's "A 72," with a pair and two singles of G.B. 1d—with "AOI" superimposed.

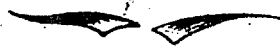
Close to the end of sale came the *piece de resistance*, an item which Mr. Nicholson himself regarded as the finest cover he had ever seen with British stamps used in Jamaica. It bears two of the 4d, a pair of 6d, and a single 1/-, G.B., dated 1859, and those are very clear impressions of "A 75," Savannah La Mar. Last of the major items was lot 491, a rare strip of four 1d G.B., on an 1859 cover postmarked "A 78," Vere.

Price lists are cold. But the prices listed above must be read in connection with the hours, days and long years of search and patience which made it possible for L. C. C. Nicholson to gather them together.

Another grand collection is now scattered to the four winds—and yet that in itself constitutes the

great regenerating force of philately. Its treasures are handed down not through the channels of dynasty, or to heirs unappreciative; rather, great stamps have a way of finding, sooner or later, a haven in

the albums of men qualified to understand, love and appreciate them. That much consolation at least remains for Mr. Nicholson, whose love for Jamaica, we know, is not dissipated along with his collection.



War Stamps

G. C. Gunter

Up to the time of writing, the War now raging in Europe and elsewhere, between Germany and Italy on the one hand, and the British Empire on the other, has produced very few War and other stamps, to mark occupied territory, by one or other of the belligerents, and cannot be compared with the issues that were put out during the World War of 1914-1918.

Although the whole of Western Europe, and the Scandinavian countries are now under German rule, the war is not by any means over, and it is difficult to forecast what may happen before the much wished-for ending of the unhappy affair is in sight. With the experience of the past to guide them, however, I do not think that the countries involved in this "total war" will find it necessary to issue a great many stamps to meet the necessity of raising postal rates. Such extra rates are easily levied by prescribing the use of higher value stamps of the regular postal issues. In the case of stamps for use in occupied territory, the issue of overprinted stamps is perhaps necessary, and these are usually introduced by suitable overprinting of stamps issued by the occupying power. Some of these latter stamps have already appeared and in view of the occupation of France by Germany we may reasonably expect more to follow.

In this article I have attempted to record in the following list all of the War stamps already issued. I do not claim the list to be complete, and will be grateful if omissions are pointed out so that the list may be adjusted in our next issue.

Belgium.—5-50 fr parcel post stamp overprinted M3 Fr. for use by Belgium's mobilized Army.

Danzig.—Fourteen Danzig stamps have been overprinted by Germany to denote the occupation of that country.

Danzig.—A second issue of 14 stamps have been overprinted as before. These however differ very slightly in detail to the previous issue and it is doubtful if they will be given separate catalogue distinction.

Germany.—Two stamps to commemorate the unity of Danzig with the German Reich.

Germany.—Two special newspaper stamps to be used on newspapers or mailed by the publishers to places outside Germany.

Lithuania.—Four stamps overprinted to mark the re-acquisition of Vilna.

New Zealand.—The 1939 health stamps $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values will each be doubled by overprinting the stamps 1d. and 2d. respectively. The amount surcharged by this means is to be used for war purposes.

Newfoundland.—Two provisional stamps issued by overprinting the "Royal Visit" commemorative of June 1939 with 2c and 4c. This was necessary because of shortage of supplies from England as a result of the war.

Algeria.—Four semi-postals to raise funds for families of troops.

French Colonies.—Eighteen of these Colonies have either added new values, or printed old values in new colours to meet increases in postal rates. The extra number of stamps thus caused is 52.

Monaco.—Fifteen items of the current "Monument" set are to be overprinted with a red

cross and surcharged with new values to raise money for ambulances for France.

Poland.—Thirteen of Germany's 1933-36—Von Hindenberg—have been overprinted in Polish currency values for use in German occupied Poland.

The above list shows that 125 stamps have been issued directly as a result of the War. Others are reported to be in prospect.

It has been already foreshadowed that a Soviet series to commemorate the "Russianization" of eastern Poland will very soon be issued, and Germany is also to follow suit with a complete new set of stamps to mark the conquest of the country.

Although the war has already brought about heavy increases in the postal rates in the British and French Colonial Empires it does not appear that the British Colonial authorities will issue special War Stamps, or surcharge existing values, but it was on the cards that France contemplated doing so. Whether this is so or not, the French Colonial Empire is as it were, in the melting pot, and in view of France's surrender to Germany it is reasonable to conclude that changes may be looked for in what we have known philatelically as the "French Colonies."

During the World War of 1914-1918 many thousands of major and minor stamp varieties were produced. In the four years of its duration more than 800 occupation stamps were issued to mark the capture of colonies from the Central Powers and their Allies. After the Armistice more "war" stamps were issued and these actually continued up to and including 1923.

In 1919 alone 740 special stamps were put on sale and between then and 1923 the number of occupation stamps listed was in the neighbourhood of 2,150.

Red Cross and semi-postal stamps also appeared as a direct result of the war. Nearly all of the French colonial possessions, a few

British, Dutch, Belgian, as well as other Governments, overprinted their regular stamps with a Cross, red or black, some of them also with the words "Red Cross" added. In some instances these stamps were issued to supplement the usual postage rates of the issuing country. Military stamps were also issued, probably as many as 200; and stamps were overprinted with the words "War," "War Tax," or "War Stamp." This was done chiefly in the British and French Dominions and Colonies.

The extra revenue collected by the sale of such stamps was chiefly used to assist in meeting the expenses of raising and maintaining troops for war service overseas.

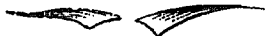
Plebiscite papers, issued in the years 1920-1922, required the use of special plebiscite stamps, and about 450 of such stamps were issued.

The present war has not yet seen the issue of any official red cross, plebiscite or special War Stamps, but postage rates have been generally increased. The overprinting of stamps as in 1914-1920 will not be necessary as the experience of those years should be sufficient for the Governments concerned to realize that the levy of extra postage rates does not necessarily require the issue of special stamps for the purpose. Stamp collectors appreciate that fact and are relieved to think that their Albums may not be burdened by a number of unnecessary stamps.

In the meantime we must expect that what has so unexpectedly happened in Europe will cause the issue of many more special occupation stamps by the Germans. France and the French Empire, as we know it today, may also require new sets of stamps to indicate new conditions and governments of the respective territories under German domination, which although hateful to many millions of French people must, in the present circumstances, be accepted. These stamps will be interesting, if studied after the War, especially when France

is liberated from the present unnatural situation in which she finds herself, by Great Britain aided also by her own sailors and sol-

diers who, faithful to the cause of their beloved France, are fighting to free her from the German conqueror.



Size Varieties in Recent Jamaican Issues

By Arthur D. Pierce

Usually we are slowest to discern change in the friends we know best. So is it that we often fail to observe differences in the stamps we know best whilst we go chasing after the fleshpots of recognized rarities.

These notes are intended to call attention to the varieties in size of no less than five Jamaican stamps, all recent and all relatively common. Three, indeed, are the 1929 Georgians, whose perforation varieties already have been chronicled by Mr. H. Cooke. The other two are the 2d. "King's House" pictorial (on script paper) and the sixpenny "Port Royal," which was issued in lieu of the abandoned "Slavery Stamp."

The significance of the varieties in these stamps—and the reader may find others the writer has missed—is that the later issues are definitely fatter. The size of the 2d. pictorial was increased 0.35mm. in width, and the size of the "Port Royal" and the Georgians all by a full half millimetre.

My first belief was that these size variations all were due to a single cause. Investigation, however, shows otherwise. The major cause which might at first seem common to these stamps was a change in printing process by the Messrs. De La Rue and Co., a shift from the wet printing process to a dry printing process. This change, which affected numerous other British Colonial stamps, took place late in 1932 or early in 1933, at least in respect to the actual issuance of the wider stamps. My conclusions, which show this to be the cause of the fattening of the Jamaica Georgians, are confirmed by a thorough study of the similar size changes in the Bermuda "carnaval type" issues, and also by cor-

respondence with collectors in London.

It is significant that all the stamps which gained a half millimetre at that period were printed by De La Rue. It is obvious, too, that wet printing shrinks paper while dry printing would eliminate or at least substantially reduce the shrinkage, thus creating a size difference. Unfortunately direct confirmation can not be had from the printers themselves, inquiries having been met with polite refusals to divulge information. But thanks to a major re-entry on the master plate from which most of the Bermuda ship-type stamps were produced, it is possible to clinch the matter with the discovery that the re-entry occurs on both the wide stamps and narrow stamps, which would not have been the case had a new die been engraved. I have sheets of various values in both sizes which have borne out my conclusions.

Now to the size changes in the Georgians, which I am convinced were the result of the change in printing method. The earlier and narrower stamps are 17½ mm. wide, the later and fatter stamps 18 mm. wide. Dated copies of the stamps have, so far, narrowed the change to early '33, but others may be able to fix it more closely.

However, in keeping the Georgian varieties clear, it is necessary to remember that the 1d. comes in two dies—with two widths of the second die; and that while the narrower stamps come in all three perforations listed by Mr. Cooke (14x14; 13½x14; 13½x14), the wider stamps I have found only in the 13½x14. So it may be of value to tabulate these issues. So with A as the 14x14 perf., B the 13½x14 perf., C the 13½x14 perf., we have this summary:

	Narrow (17½ mm.)			Wide (18 mm.)		
Perf.	A	B	C	A	B	C
Die I	1d	1d				
Die II (Pl. 2)		1d				
Die II (Pl. 3)				1d		
	1½d	1½d	1½d	1½d		
	9d	9d	9d	9d		

In the wider stamps the engraving seems slightly clearer, but close examination, on the writer's part anyway, has failed to disclose any other major characteristics. Nor have I been able to detect paper differences of moment. Placed side by side, however, the differences between the narrow and wide stamps are quite apparent to the naked eye. They certainly would seem to constitute real varieties, especially since they also denote a change in the production method of the printers and a technical development in stamp manufacture.

Width variations in the 4d. and 6d. pictorials, however, tell a different story. Both these changes in size long antedate the year 1932, the change in De La Rue's process, and the fattening not only of the Jamaican Georgians but also stamps of Barbados, British Guiana, Ceylon, etc.

First as to the 2d. "King's House." The size difference here is a scant 0.35 mm. and noticeably less than the other size changes. I have traced it back to 1928, and it probably goes even further, which leads me to believe it to be the second plate of that stamp, whose production already is noted in the Jamaica handbook, but without any note of a change in size. The engraving of the larger stamp is sharper, and the printing definitely better. It is nothing new, of course, for slight size variations to occur through replating and that seems to be responsible for the slight enlargement of the King's House.

The 6d. "Port Royal," I am convinced, was re-engraved. The size change here is a full half millimetre—from 41 to 41.5 mm. in width. Whereas the narrower stamps are darker, the engraving less definite and the details rough

and almost ragged in spots, the wider stamps—in a softer blue colour—show the engraving sharp and clear and the details firm and fine. Since I have not had entire sheets of each type for direct comparison, I cannot report on whether there are any major varieties or engraving differences in specific stamps. From the stamps available, however, I can note that in addition to the change in width and in the general appearance of these sixpennys, there are two other noticeable and general differences:

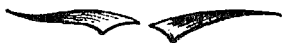
1.—The clouds in the narrow stamp are thicker and heavier; those in the wide stamps not only are softer, they also vary in outline from the earlier specimens;

2.—At the ends of the descriptive tablet inset "Town and Harbour of Port Royal (About 1850)," there are small arrow points. In the wider stamps these arrow points are smaller than in the narrow stamps.

Expansion of Port Royal's harbour also took place well in advance of 1932-33 and the general fattening of colonial stamps at that time. I have a copy dated December 1930, but have reasons to believe the re-engraving was made at least two years before that. Placed side by side, the Port Royal stamps are, in my opinion, as clear-cut varieties as one could ask. My copy with the Specimen overprint, I might add, is the narrow stamp with all the mentioned characteristics.

These notes are not put forward with any spirit of finality but with the hope that they will spur others to hunt further and report their findings, either in agreement or otherwise. There is, I believe, abundant room for further research in Jamaican issues for those who have the facilities, and I only wish for the chance to get at the printer's record so that the whole story could be brought to light. For example, I have long suspected that a new die, or at least a new plate was made for the 1d. pictorial (script) showing the Arawak wo-

man. But I haven't been able to prove anything yet. Still, no game is fascinating if the quarry can be bagged at will.



Obituaries

Fred. J. Melville was an honorary member of this Society. It is with the greatest regret, we have to record his death. Born in 1882, he was just under 58 years old. His achievements in philatelic study, literature of the hobby, and work for its permanence and advancement, are too well known for record here, indeed a lengthy bibliography would be necessary to cover his sustained, useful effort of many years, something which can be and we believe has been compiled, much more efficiently and completely, than we could ever hope to do it, and the merit of the effort together with appreciation it has received, is evidenced by the demand for his works, and the fact that some of them have had to be issued in rather more languages than that of his and our native tongue.

As a writer he began at the early age of 13, a schoolboy who had developed devotion to stamps at the still earlier age of 8 years, so in reality his philatelic urge entered its 50 year jubilee in 1940, when its light was extinguished early in January of that year. Truly the hobby has suffered loss, loss of one of the greatest of its exponents, but we are fortunate that he has left an extensive legacy, vast in the wealth it has of all that is of use and aid to practise and appreciate the hobby, at the worth it really has.

We were privileged to know him personally. On occasions in what now seems to us the dim and distant past, when we had the good fortune to visit London, we met several times. We experienced and gratefully acknowledge his hospitality, received in the privacy of his home presided over by his gracious Mother, and elsewhere. At his invitation, we were the privileged guest at meetings of the Junior Philatelic Society, held at

Caxton Hall under his presidency.

The topic of most of our conversations, was the subject of our mutual interest, and on most points we were the beneficiary. A patient and genial personality, he made it a most pleasant experience.

His place in the front rank of philatelists, may be estimated from the fact of his presence on the juries of almost all, national and international exhibitions of importance, for many years past.

We extend to his surviving relatives, sympathy and regret on behalf of this Society, and our personal regret.

Chas. J. Phillips, another of our honorary members has passed to the "Great Beyond". He died on 3rd. June at New York at the age of 77.

His philatelic effort combined business with pleasure, there are several authoritative monographs contributed by him to the literature of the hobby. During 1890 he acquired the business of E. S. Gibbons, when it became known as Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. Originally capitalised at £25,000 under his management and control, the capital value increased nearly four-fold in fourteen years, i.e., in 1904 the value was £91,500. In 1922 he sold out his interests and went to New York, where he continued as a dealer, but only in rare and valuable items, principally of the eighteenth century in the "classic" class. He was well known to, popular with, and highly respected by the fraternity there.

He visited this Island some years ago, when we had the very great pleasure to meet him, and collaborated in effort by this Society to entertain his wife and self. Again a most genial personality, we found his stay here too short. He contributed to the pages of this magazine, an article that appeared in our edition of 1929, which des-

cribes the foundation of the firm of E. S. Gibbons at 13 Treville St., Plymouth, the purchase of the famous sackfull of Cape Triangulars, "thousands and thousands of them, woodblocks and Perkins Bacon printings all mixed up."

He was an active member of the Collectors Club of New York, the Club in America which corresponds with that of the Royal in England; and we are sure that his fellow members there, like ourselves, will greatly miss an eminent philatelic personality, mourn the loss of one, memory of whom will always exist because of presence of many factors, contributed by him to their Club in mutual interest in the common cause of philately. In the precincts of that Club, "C. J. P." was a familiar figure, a hard and diligent worker, a mine of information, a distinguished philatelist, an excellent companion, and a splendid organizer, whose services were freely and readily given. We too have our memory of a most pleasant evening spent with him, in the rooms of the Club, during the period of the Third International Philatelic Exhibition at New York in 1936.

We offer to the Club our most sincere sympathy, because of the loss it has suffered; condolence to his surviving relatives, and regret our complete inability to have made the tribute we have sought to pay, more worthy of so eminent and estimable personality, worthiness which we do not fail to recognise, but which we have failed worthily to express.

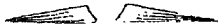
David Aarons was elected a life member in August 1937. His activity was limited to modern issues of the B.W.I., with particular interest in all issues of Jamaica. He was known to several of the philatelic auctioneers, both in England and America, where by letter and cable he bid for and secured a number of the better class and more expensive varieties of Jamaica. A very quiet and unassuming personality, he appreciated his stamps and the

hobby he sought to follow, his keenness resulted in a very representative and desirable lot, got together in comparatively short time. His death was not wholly unexpected, as he had been under the weather for some time, but as he was able to continue attention to his business, it had been hoped that he would successfully weather the storm, but it was not to be, and our Society numbered one less of its members.

Fred H. Morrice was admitted to practise as a Solicitor in the Supreme Court of Jamaica in March 1927, and/or some years was a partner with Mr. J. H. Allwood, O.B.E., a prominent Solicitor practising in the Parish of St. Ann. Mr. Morrice became a life member of our Society in February, 1936. His activity as a collector, was influenced by his training as a lawyer, he was not ready to accept items on their alleged value or interest, he wanted to know how and why, and so perhaps unconsciously and involuntarily, really began as a philatelist. That early care and search for information relative to the stamps he sought to collect, helped to develop the urge, to increase and maintain interest, enabling increasing appreciation and enjoyment of the hobby, from the many possible angles which time and experience open to the systematic student. Failing health compelled him to seek medical aid in England, where he went in 1938, but it was not to be, as news of his death was cabled to Jamaica on 10th. July.

C. G. Daley was elected a member in April 1935. Residing for many years in Montego Bay, we had not the opportunity of meeting him often, but his regular support of the Society's Exchange Packets revealed his active interest in the hobby. While on a visit to his family at Montego Bay on March 30th he was the victim of a motor accident in which he was instantly killed. He leaves a widow and young children.

Our Society regrets the loss of these active and valued members and offer to their respective relatives its most sincere condolence.



Bits of Jamaica's past, as gleaned from the contents of some of my pre-stamp covers

A. D. P.

Oct. 31, 1776—From George Coutts of Kingston, telling of the disturbed conditions on the island and declaration of martial law. He notes: "This dreadful American rebellion will settle Edward Manning's long intricate affairs."

Sept. 28, 1781—Letter from Thomas Campbell of Kingston, to Messrs Branch and Lindsay, of London, reporting on the cargo of the brig "Charming Nancy"—one of 29 ships driven ashore by a hurricane in August 1781.

May 6, 1794—Bridgeman and Hall, agents, in Kingston, to Messrs Dutilh & Wachsmuth, Phila., Pa.: "Our market continues very favourable.....Flour is as high as 24 dollars per barrel and very scarce."

July 10, 1802—Charles Graff to Stephen Dutilh, of Phila. Pa: "I arrived here (Kingston) after a disagreeable voyage of 41 days from Havana. Flour is very dull here and will scarcely command 8 dollars a barrel. Several vessels which left Havana after me have arrived here and completely glutted the market. Our passage was greatly lengthened by the inactivity and want of exertion on the part of Captain Monk, who was very reluctant to come to this port in consequence of some debts he contracted on a former voyage."

January 9, 1832—From Walter Dendy, abolitionist leader, on his arrival at Montego Bay, to Rev. John Dyer, London. "At length, through the goodness of a kind and indulgent providence, we have reached Jamaica. We found the island

in a very disturbed state. The last day of the Christmas holidays (Dec. 27) an insurrection took place. On the evening of the insurrection eleven or twelve estates were seen in flames from the bay. Since that period many have taken placeThe number of estates destroyed exceeds one hundred. The estimated damage of buildings alone is a million and a half; the military are on duty; several skirmishes..... have taken place and many of the negroes have been killed and several taken prisoners.

A very unpleasant part remains for me to relate. Our dear friends Messrs Knibb, Whitehorne and Abbot were taken up at Falmouth and brought in a boat to Montego Bay, it is said upon a charge of refusing to serve in the militia. I have since heard they were bearing arms in the militia. The true charge I cannot learn. Montego Bay chapel is used as a military station. Salter's Hill and Shepherd's Hall chapels are both burnt down. We are remaining on board the Garland Grove as it was judged advisable for safety....."

May 25, 1841—Henry Laidlaw of Montego Bay to John Gibson, Jr., of Edinburgh:

"I am happy to say that since the commencement of the administration of our present Governor, Sir Charles Metcalfe, affairs have been going on very prosperously in the island and the great experiment of emancipation promises to work out both as regards the happiness of the people,

and the ultimate interest of the proprietors themselves."

December 22, 1844—Wm. Teall, Port Maria, to Rev. J. Angus, London. It is a bitter protest "that I should be discarded by the Society (for Propagation of the Gospel) as soon as I land upon a foreign shore. It is not to be imagined that I would leave my home and friends to be placed at the disposal of one man and he a stranger. You told me that most likely he would raise my salary in the churches under his care.....You are not to suppose, dear Brother, that I am writing for money. Neither are you to imagine that I regret coming to Jamaica. I love Jamaica, and sooner than leave it I would become a squatter in a mud hut and subsist on yam and salt."

Nov. 24, 1853—Samuel Jones, Annotto Bay, to Frederick Tres-trail, London.

"The wet weather has made the roads in many places almost impassable. The roads are always bad in this parish when it is wet, but they are worse this year than usual and nothing at all has been done to them since 1852 in consequence of the rupture between the Council and the House of Assembly. The great flood of January 25 last took away all the bridges which had been left of former floods, and now for 15 miles to the west of us and 28 miles to the east of us there is not a bridge to be found over a river anywhere. In this distance there are some 23 rivers small and great..... This is one reason why our congregations have not been as large as in the past."



The Story of the Discovery of

The 24c. Air Mail, 1918, with Inverted Center

as told by W. T. ROBEY, the actual finder.

(This article was written for, and originally appeared in the February 19, 1938, issue of the Weekly Philatelic Gossip, Holton, Kansas (subscription price \$1.00 year.)

For years the newspapers and the philatelic press of this and foreign countries have told many stories of the discovery of the sheet of one hundred (100) 24c. air mail stamps, with inverted center. At the present time, this stamp is considered to be one of the rarest items ever issued by the United States or foreign countries. The latest price seen by me for this stamp is \$3,900.00 for a single copy. In all the years that have passed since I bought these stamps, I do not recall having seen an article giving all the details connected with the purchase and sale of the sheet.

I have often thought I would like to write all these details so that the present and all future generations of philatelists may know the facts, and at the request of "Gossip" I have decided to acquaint the philatelic world with the details.

Nearly twenty years have elapsed since that memorable Tuesday, May 14, 1918, when the sheet of one hundred of the 24c. air mail stamp, with inverted center, was passed through the window to me here in Washington, D.C.

About two years previously, through the efforts of a fellow worker in the office of W. B. Hibbs and Co., stock brokers and bankers, where I was at that time employed, I became interested in the collection of postage stamps, especially those of the United States. At that time there were only about three stamp dealers in Washington, the

most well known being the late H. F. Colman, whose office was in the Second National Bank Building. Here was wont to gather nearly everyone interested in collecting stamps. Among these were the late Jos. B. Leavy, the first curator of the Government exhibit in the Smithsonian Institute, and the present curator, Mrs. Catherine Manning, who at that time was a clerk in Mr. Colman's office, and known to everyone as "Miss Kate."

In those days the issue of a new stamp was a rare occasion, and the cause of much comment in philatelic circles. It had been announced that the new stamp (24c. air mail) would be in two colors, and the possibility of an invert was the subject of much discussion. Just a short while previous to this, the famous 5c. red error had been discovered and the possibility of an invert slipping past the watchful eyes of the inspectors in both the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the Post Office Department led us collectors to believe that such a possibility was greater than ever. The country at the time, was in the World War and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was working twenty-four hours a day printing Liberty Bonds and new currency, in addition to stamps.

Through correspondence I had made arrangements with collectors in New York and Philadelphia for the exchange of first flight covers. New York, Philadelphia and Washington were the only stops on this, the first authorised air mail route. Early on the morning of May 14th. I went to the branch Post Office nearest my employers' office, to purchase some of the new 24c. air mail stamps to be used on covers to my friends in New York

and Philadelphia. This post office was located at 1317 New York Avenue, N.Y., and was known as the New York Avenue Branch. The official notice relative to placing these stamps on sale read in part —“The stamps for mail service will be on sale at the main office and the New York Avenue, “F” Street, Eleventh Street, and the Pennsylvania Avenue stations.”

On asking for these stamps the clerk on duty told me that he had only a few of them, but was expecting another consignment about noon that day. I examined the stamps he had on hand, but due to the poor centering, decided to wait until noon before making my purchase. Promptly at noon I returned to the post office with \$30.00, which I had previously withdrawn from the bank. The same clerk was on duty at the stamp window, and upon inquiring as to whether he had received any additional sheets of the air mail stamps, he reached down under the counter and brought forth a full sheet. My heart stood still. It was a sheet of inverts. It was, what you might call, the thrill that comes once in a lifetime. Without any comment, I paid for the sheet, and then asked if he had any more sheets. He again reached under the counter and brought up three other sheets, which he said were all he had. An examination showed these sheets to be normal. Had they been otherwise, I wonder how I would have paid for them with only \$6.00 in my pocket. I handed these three sheets back to the clerk, and then showed him the sheet I had purchased, and drew his attention to the fact that the airplane was upside down. Without comment he left the window and ran for a telephone. Needless to say, I left the post office in a hurry with my sheet of inverts tucked safely under my arm.

The thought then occurred to me that possibly there might be more of these inverts in some other branch office, and I hurried to the Eleventh Street branch, about six

blocks away. An examination of all the stock on hand failed to reveal any inverts.

Feeling highly elated, I returned to my office to show my fellow worker and collector what I had discovered. He immediately left to make a search of the other branch offices. Then telegrams were sent to friends in both New York and Philadelphia appraising them of my find and giving them the plate number of the sheet (8493). Next I called the office of Mr. Colman on the telephone. He was not in, so I told Mrs. Manning what I had found, but for some reason, she would not believe me.

In all the conversations I had with the clerks in the different post offices, I never gave my name; yet, within an hour after my return to work, two postal inspectors called to see me. Upon investigation, I found that my fellow worker had given my name and address during his visits to the different branch offices.

The visit of the postal inspectors proved to be very interesting. They wanted to know if I had bought a sheet of the 24c. air mail stamp with inverted center. Upon informing them that I had, they asked to see it, which I refused to do. From then on, the conversation was hot and furious, and ended in their stating that the Government would confiscate the sheet. This did not intimidate me, and I informed them, they had said enough. Also, that before they tried to confiscate the sheet which I had bought at face value from the post office, they had better start confiscating the 1869 inverts, the Pan American inverts, and all the 5c. red errors. A novice might have been frightened into relinquishing the sheet.

Later that afternoon Mr. Colman came to my office to see the sheet, and offered me \$500 for it. I refused to sell, and he said, he didn't blame me. After work, I took my precious sheet to Mr. Colman's office. Present at the time were Mrs. Manning, Mr. Colman, Mr.

Leavy, and other collectors. All examined the sheet, but no one would place a possible value on it. Mr. Leavy stated that as the stamps were printed in sheets of 400 subjects, it was apparent there were at least three other similar sheets. History tells us that three more sheets of these stamps were found in the Bureau and promptly destroyed. (Note by HEH. This is incorrect; the stamps were printed in sheets of 100, and issued in sheets of that size. The story that three sheets were found at the Bureau is not generally accepted, according to Johl.)

At that time, the late Percy Mann of Philadelphia, was conducting the new issue column of Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News. A telegram was sent him about the find, requesting him to give proper notice in his column.

The next day, a reply was received from Mr. Mann, stating that he was coming to Washington that day, and would call on me that evening. After examining the sheet, Mr. Mann stated he was prepared to offer me \$10,000 for it, and would I accept that sum? I told him I had made up my mind to go to New York and see what I might possibly get for the sheet there. He then requested that if in the event his offer was equalled or bettered by anyone in New York, that I inform him of such either by telephone or telegraph, and give him the opportunity to make a further bid for the sheet. This I promised to do. During the course of my conversation with Mr. Mann, I learned that the sale of these stamps was stopped in both New York and Philadelphia, for over two hours, on the previous day, and that collectors and dealers were at a loss to understand the reason why. After the receipt of my telegram, he said he readily understood why the sale had been temporarily stopped.

The next day was Friday, and as previously arranged, I left for New York that afternoon, arriving about 9 p.m. Awaiting me at my

hotel were Percy Doane, the well known dealer, and Elliott Perry "Himself". My fame had preceded me, and naturally, they wished to see the sheet. I was asked by them if any offer had been made, and I informed them that I had refused \$10,000.00.

Bright and early the next morning, I started out to try my luck, in disposing of the sheet. My first stop was at the office of the ultimate buyer, Colonel E. H. R. Green at 111 Broadway, where I was informed that he was out of the city. Next, I went to the office of Stanley Gibbons, which was at that time managed by Eustace B. Power, who has frequently condemned all 20th century issues of stamps. At that time, Mr. Power was a great humorist. Imagine him offering \$250. for \$24. face value of "20th. century trash." He also stated that he knew of three other sheets of these stamps, and was negotiating for the purchase of them at that time. I wonder why he never bought them? Later, I went to the office of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., who only wanted to dispose of the sheet on a commission basis, refusing to make a cash offer.

Feeling rather low and disgusted with my failure to secure a decent offer for the sheet, I returned to my hotel, and found there waiting for me Mr. John I. Klemann, who after examining the sheet offered me \$2,500 for it. When I told him I had already refused \$10,000 for it, he said I was crazy, and anyone offering such a price was also crazy.

That evening I telephoned Mr. Mann in Philadelphia, and told him that I was returning to Washington the next day—that while his price had not been equalled in New York, I had decided not to sell the sheet at that time. He asked me if, on my return to Washington, I would mind stopping off at Philadelphia, and have a further talk with him. This I agreed to do.

On my arrival in Philadelphia, I

was met at the station by Mr. Mann and was immediately taken to the home of Mr. Eugene Klein. Mr. Klein, after looking at the sheet, asked me to set a price on it, and I said I would not accept less than \$15,000 for it. After a consultation with Mr. Mann, Mr. Klein requested me to give him an option on it at \$15,000 until 3 p.m. Monday, which was the next day. To this I agreed, and then left for home.

Bright and early the next morning I received a telephone call from Mr. Colman, who asked me if I would accept \$18,000 for the sheet. I told him I had given Mr. Klein an option on it until 3 p.m., and if he did not exercise the option by that time, I would get in touch with him (Mr. Colman). Shortly before the expiration of the option, I received a telephone call from Mr. Klein, agreeing to purchase the sheet at the agreed price, i.e. \$15,000. He asked me to deliver it to his office as soon as possible.

Promptly at noon the next day, Tuesday, the sheet was delivered to Mr. Klein, at his office, in Philadelphia, and I received a certified check in payment. Thus within one week, stamps that originally cost \$24 were sold for a profit of \$14,976.00

Later, the entire sheet was sold to Col. E. H. R. Green, the first party I tried to contact in New York, for \$20,000, who at the request of Mr. Klein decided to have compassion on his fellow stamp collectors, and give them an opportunity to obtain some of these stamps. He realised that by keeping the entire sheet, it would probably never be worth much more than he had paid for it. He further realised that breaking sheet would enhance the value of the stamps, and that he would be able to get his money out of it in time. Col. Green kept a block of eight with plate number at the bottom. This is the largest block in existence. He also kept the center line block,

and the two arrow blocks,—20 stamps in all.

From the time I sold the sheet until this past summer, I had never seen one of these stamps. Then Mrs. Ethel B. Stewart, a well-known collector from Newton, N.J., who owns a block of four, was in Washington and I had the pleasure of meeting her. Mrs. Stewart had her stamps with her, and once again, I had in my hands, part of the original sheet for which I had paid \$24.00.

The Collectors Club, of which I am a member, was having a meeting that evening, and I invited Mrs. Stewart to accompany me to the meeting. She accepted, and took her stamps with her. Mrs. Stewart very graciously exhibited these stamps, and many were present that evening who had never before seen any of the stamps.

In conclusion, I would like to set at rest some of the many rumours existing about these stamps.

The first, that a man in line ahead of me turned the stamps back to the clerk at the window because the stamps were not perfect. This is false, for at the time I made my purchase, there was no line, and no one was ahead of me at the window. Can you imagine the post office trying to resell a sheet of stamps that had previously been refused on account of being imperfect in having the airplane upside down?

Next, that this sheet was not a full sheet, as nineteen of the stamps had already been purchased by another collector. This is also not true, as the sheet was intact when I sold it to Mr. Klein.

Thus after nearly 20 years I have found time to write in detail all my experiences in connection with the purchase and sale of one of the rarest of philatelic gems. I sincerely trust the present and future generations of stamp collectors will find much of interest in this the only true and authentic history of the 24c. air mail stamp, with inverted center.

The following note to the above article by Mr. H. G. Huber in the Bulletin of the Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh No. 47, December 6, 1939 will be of interest.

Note by HEH.—The sheet of inverts was without the top and right sheet margins (Plate numbers on normal sheets appeared only in the top margin). The plate number 8493, in blue, appeared inverted in the lower margin. Only left — and bottom arrow blocks exist of the error.

UNITED STATES, 24c. RED AND BLUE
AIR MAIL—1918 SERIES.

May 13, 1918. 24c. carmine rose (frame) and blue (center). Army airplane. Unwatermarked, perforated 11 x 11.

Office of the Third Asst. Postmaster Genl.,
Washington, D.C.,
May 9, 1918.

1. Postmasters and other officers and employees of the Postal Service are notified that the Department is preparing to issue a new postage stamp of 24c. denomination. It is intended primarily for the new aeroplane mail service, but will be valid for all purposes for which postage stamps of the regular issue are used.

2. A description follows: The stamp is rectangular in shape, about $7/8$ " x $3/4$ " high. The central design is a mail aeroplane in flight. Above in a curved line of Roman capital letters, are the words "U.S. Postage". Triangular ornaments appear in the two upper corners. Below the aeroplane, in a straight line of Roman capital letters, is the word "Cents" with the numerals "24" within circles in the two lower corners. The border design is red, and the aeroplane is blue.

A. M. DOCKERY,
Third Asst. Postmaster General.

Designer: C. A. Huston.
Engravers: vignette, J. Eissler, frame and lettering, E. M. Hall.
Die proof approved, May 11, 1918.

Recess printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, of the Treasury Dept., Washington, D.C. on unwatermarked paper, and perforated 11 x 11. Printed from flat plates (frame and vignette) of 100 subjects, and issued to the Post Offices in sheets of that size. Two sides of each sheet straight edged. Plate numbers: Frame 8492; first sent to press May 10, 1918.

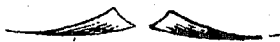
Vignette 8493; first sent to press May 11, 1918.

First placed on sale at Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pa., and New York City, N.Y.—May 13, 1918. Air Mail service between Washington, D.C. and New York City, via Philadelphia, inaugurated in both directions on May 15, 1918. Rate—24c. per ounce, including special delivery.

The sheet of 100 stamps was divided into blocks of 25 by means of horizontal and vertical guide lines (part of the frame plate impression) with terminating arrow heads in all four margins. As issued, two margins were always cut off; i.e. top and either side; or bottom and either side. Later, the practice was standardised and the right and bottom margins were removed.

Plate numbers in upper margins only: vignette (blue) 8493 over the 4th. vertical row, and frame (red) 8492 over the 7th. vertical row. After the invert was found, the word TOP was added to the vignette plate, and this appeared over the 3rd vertical row in blue still later TOP was added to the frame plate, and this appeared over the 8th. vertical row in red.

Total quantity issued—3,095,955.



The Centenary

The plan and arrangements for a great International Exhibition at London 6th-11th May, were abandoned last September, because of the outbreak of war, but a number of individuals refused to allow their enthusiasm to wane because of war, and pressed almost in the terms of the slogan, familiar to many of us during the last great war of 1914-18, for "stamp collecting" and/or "philately as usual." The Postal History Society was particularly energetic in that respect. The result was that London and England, had a pretty well filled fortnight, 19th April-11th May, of publicised philatelic activity.

Going back to the slogan "Business as usual," The International Stamp Dealers Bourse; sponsored by the "Philatelic Magazine," and under the Presidency of Mr. P. L. Pemberton, was operated for three days 29th April-1st May, at the Holborn Restaurant. On 3rd May this year's session of Congress opened at Bournemouth, with venue at the Royal Bath Hotel. The Postal History Society, host to the Congress, promoted and operated an Exhibition 6th-11th May, the proceeds for the Red Cross.

On the same date 6th May, the Royal Philatelic Society opened an Exhibition at the London Museum, Lancaster House, which was supported with items of the greatest interest from the collections of His late Majesty, King George V, and from other great collections in the country. There was similar effort at more than twenty varied points throughout the country from Brighton to Edinburgh.

On the same date the Post Office issued a special set of commemorative stamps in the denominations of ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d. in the conventional shades of the current series, all in the same design, printed monochrome by photogravure. Horizontal rectangular in

shape, the design shows the head of Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria at left, the head of His reigning Majesty, King George VI, at right both in left profile. Reproduction of the diademed head of the late Queen, obviously has been made from the design used for the original 1d. black, and appears to have lost nothing or but little of its distinguished beauty, but is it not possible to obtain better representation of our present King? In the current series of stamps, he is given an unnatural and unnecessarily long neck, in this representation he appears with a swollen jaw, what is it, mumps perhaps? Both representations are said to be the work of an eminent artist, distinguished by other work that he has done, but if the pictures mentioned are the best he can do, is it not time that his particular work should be extinguished from the stamps of the country? Above the twin portraits respectively are the names "Victoria," "George" separated by the Crown, and below also respectively, the dates "1840", "1940" separated by the figure of the denomination. At left and right, again respectively, appear "Postage," "Revenue." The set reached us from our good friend, Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, to whom we express thanks for remembering us. It was on a cover specially prepared and issued by the Royal Philatelic Society. Made of pale grey paper it measures approximately 220x130 mm; at left is an upright rectangle with rounded corners, printed in grey blue 97x68 mm, within which printed in black are the Royal Arms surmounting a horizontal oval, inset a picture of Lancaster House, so described in script type, with the word "London" added. Occupying the rim of the oval in the upper half section, are the words "Royal Philatelic Society," and placed similarly in the lower section

"Stamp Centenary Exhibition," all in Roman serif capitals. Below the oval in similar but larger type "In aid of the Red Cross and St. John Fund May 6th-14th 1940."

The stamps are cancelled with a special obliteration; a hand stamp impressed in red; a double lined circle, the outer 39 mm, the inner 26 mm, in diameter. Between the lines of the circles are the words; "London" at top, "Stamp Centenary (Red Cross) Exhibn." Within the inner circle is a Geneva cross with date "6th May," "1940" in two lines below. At the back of the cover on the flap is reproduction of the 1d. black, set in a double lined circle both of fine lines, and the whole arranged within what may be meant to be two acanthus leaves, which rise from the bottom on both sides almost to the top of the circle. The effect is restrained, in good taste, nothing like the blatant things we so frequently see, as special covers commemorative of this or that important or unimportant event.

The Centenary was celebrated in other parts of the world and Empire, even Soviet Russia is reported by the London "Times," as having operated an Exhibition in the Central Museum of Communications at Leningrad. Australia and Canada of Empire countries, did not neglect the event, and from America there is news of fairly

wide activity in that respect. The "Times" tells us that a special stamp or stamps, were to be issued in commemoration, but representation by Hitler that the act would be considered unneutral, caused the idea to be abandoned. The Collectors Club of New York organized an exhibition among its members; the Philadelphia Chapter 18 of the American Philatelic Society arranged a "Stamp Centenary Exhibition" at the Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, 4th-12th May, where exhibits of "Early Jamaica" were shown in frame 33, by Mr. H. B. Green of Merchantville, N.J., and a specialized collection of our issues in frames 56 and 57 by Mr. C. Brinkley Turner, whom you will recognise as one of our members. At the World's Fair, New York, the British Government has allotted 20,000 square feet in its pavilion, for the purpose of another Centenary Exhibition there. Mr. Turner advises that he will be showing part of his collection in five frames, and Mr. Arthur D. Pierce, another of our members, also will exhibit part of his collection of Jamaica. This exhibition promises to attract many of the famous collections in America, and among the most famous pieces to be seen, is the 1856 1c of British Guiana, from the collection of the late Arthur Hind, insured for the large sum of \$100,000.00.



Report by Delegate G. H. TUCKER on the

27th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Bournemouth

The 27th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held at Bournemouth at the invitation of the Postal History Society from 3rd-6th May 1940 under the chairmanship of Capt. A. Hopkins M.C.

The headquarters was at the Royal Bath Hotel; delegates representing the Jamaica Society being E. Egly, L. C. C. Nicholson and Geo. H. Tucker. The Congress started on Friday evening May 3rd with a reception at the Pavilion by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth. Refreshments were provided and dancing went on until a late hour.

The first business session was on Saturday morning when Mr. P. L. Pemberton's paper on "The Production of Line Engraved Stamps" and Col. G. R. Crouch's M.C. paper "The History of the British Army Post Office" were much appreciated this being followed by the usual Official Photographs on the Hotel Lawn.

In the afternoon a Lantern Lecture in the Pavilion, "A Hundred Years of Postage Stamps" by Dr. W. Byam O.B.E., this being most suitable for the centenary of the Postage Stamps.

Col. H. W. Hill C.M.G., D.S.O., grandson of Sir R. Hill gave a short account of the introduction of the first stamps.

In the Evening Congress was the guests of the Postal History Society at the theatre. On Sunday morning for the first time members were invited to attend a Philatelic service at St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth, conducted by Rev. Canon H. Burrows, the

preacher being Rev. C. S. Morton M.A. This service was very largely attended. In the afternoon a motor tour through the New Forest, visiting Beaulieu and Lyndhurst where tea was provided for the members of Congress being the guests of the Bournemouth Philatelic Society, who helped in many ways to make the visit a great success, and in the evening members attended a concert at the Pavilion as guests of the Bournemouth Borough Council.

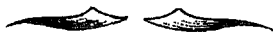
On Monday a very interesting paper was read by Mr. L. R. Ray on "Congress and the War" which contained many suggestions well worth the consideration of the Executive.

At noon the opening ceremony of the Exhibition in the Pavilion to commemorate the centenary of the adhesive Postage Stamps was performed by Col. H. W. Hill C.M.G., D.S.O. The proceeds from the show were devoted to the Red Cross, and St. John Societies. In the afternoon the ceremony of Signing the Roll of the Distinguished Philatelists took place. Two names were chosen this year. Mr. B. S. H. Grant and Sir N. Waterhouse, but only the former was able to attend and he signed the Roll.

The Congress Banquet was held at the Headquarters, The Royal Bath Hotel which was well attended.

Thus ended the 27th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, which was a great success, and if circumstances permit the next one (1941) will be held at Brighton.

G. H. TUCKER.



Open Letter to Our Local Members

Dear Colleagues:—

An article entitled "Commemoratives" in a recent edition of this journal indicated that there had been local philatelic activity over the past fifty years at least. Apparently the hobby had drawn from the generations of the period its quota of devotees, genuine and quasi, even as it does to-day. There is other evidence that the hobby in Jamaica is older than has been suggested, and there is evidence also that it passed through many vicissitudes, by reason of the number of clubs and societies which successively had their day and passed out of existence, but the same evidence infers that the urge always has been here, dormant at times, resurgent at others when it sought and found means of expression, through the members of the several clubs in the form of their recognised activity.

We would like to state that this letter has been inspired wholly and solely by the writer's concern, anxiety to see the vicissitudes known in the past, avoided in the present, and is an endeavour to arouse effort to preserve that which is, in order that continued existence of philately may be ensured within the confines of the island. One is constrained to think seriously of the future of the present organisation; if heed be given to signs which seem to be ominous, that future appears to be endangered.

Apparently the longest lived of the several local clubs and societies is the present Jamaica Philatelic Society. Born in 1920, it is just over twenty years old, adolescent in point of time, but by service rendered generally to the hobby, and to Jamaican philately in particular, emerged long since from adolescence, reached maturity, and in useful life has not

had need to fear comparison with any similar colonial society, is in advance of most, and there are but few in any of the Dominions possessed of the numerical and financial advantages that location may mean, which reasonably can claim better record. Its achievements have been eulogised by distinguished philatelists in England, America and elsewhere; its reputation is high; throughout the philatelic world it is referred to with esteem, and that not infrequently.

Here then is a society of genuine worth, of steady, exemplary growth over a long period of years, an organisation of which each and every collector of stamps in Jamaica has ample reason to be proud, to regard membership therein as a philatelic asset of real value, two factors which should be enough to inspire eagerness to maintain its prestige, effort not merely to preserve, but to enhance it, and work to ensure still longer, much longer tenure of useful life.

We do not think any member will hesitate to endorse what we have written, and with agreement some may be tempted to ask "why the concern, what is all the fuss about?" We cannot treat the matter quite so casually, and will endeavour to answer the question with citation of facts which disturb us, facts which should be known to most members, matters which do not seem to have been given thought, and apparently have not received attention for correction. If they are weighed, as we trust they will be weighed, after this presentation of them, we hope necessity for correction will be so obvious that action in that respect will be taken speedily.

We do not believe we invite argument with the statement that the success and status reached by the society in very large measure has

been due to sustained effort by two members, both of whom have aged in its service. We refer to Messrs. Astley Clerk and G. C. Gunter. We are ready and willing to admit and agree that they could not have done it all on their own, that they have received some help on special occasions, but the brunt, the steady grind to hold matters together, to have them run smoothly, to direct and expand them, with the additional work expansion meant, has been borne rather much more than less by the last named. It is no exaggeration to state and claim that without his devoted attention it is much more than probable the Society would have foundered long ago, and that precisely is the fate we are anxiously concerned to prevent.

It has been mentioned at different times by members to this writer that

(1) No meetings have been held for some considerable time; the stated reason, there is no attendance. We know that that condition is not novel, nor it is peculiar to this Society; it is a malaise common to most philatelic societies, but it is not one to be allowed to continue indefinitely. Usually it is due to dreariness, dullness, boredom at previous meetings; nobody has anything to say, no comment to make, and those who endured them were relieved to be able to leave, left with feeling of frustration, of time wasted, of which each and everyone believed rather better use could have been made. Of course it could, but no member present at any of those meetings blamed him or herself for the boredom inflicted on all, yet each and everyone so present individually and collectively was responsible. The Society does not maintain paid troupes of mimes or jesters to provide entertainment for its members, yet each member when he attends expects to be provided with entertainment, is disappointed if he is not, and

makes little if any attempt to contribute to that entertainment he expects to receive from others. None appears to realise that the Society exists purely and solely on the basis of mutuality; that the hobby provides endless themes ready for use by any member to provide in his or her turn entertainment for self and others. It is a matter for each member to consider seriously and honestly, what he or she can do to contribute for the benefit of his fellows and offer to do so. Even ignorance of any given subject can and should be made the subject of entertainment, not in the sense of levity, but by questions of those who should or do have knowledge to impart.

Lack of contact due to failure of meetings means lack of cohesion, and that in turn means disintegration. Members who try selfishly to carry on by themselves deny to themselves and fellows knowledge and information of probable value and use to each. None of us can know it all, each can and should be of some service to the other, and it is for that purpose the Society exists, to provide for meetings of its members, where and when through the personal contact possible then, there is brought into play that very desirable, free and easy interchange of mutual and complementary interests. It is in that way the Society functions as it should, its meetings used as they should be used, but there is nothing to be used if no meetings are held. How many of you when requested, invited, begged, persuaded, urged, have responded with any sort of effort to help make a meeting pleasant, attractive, useful for your fellows? We wonder!

(2) The Secretary needs help, has not been able to obtain it, each member approached on the subject had other use for his spare time. Perhaps knowledge of the need and of the appeal did not reach some one willing to help; here is your opportunity to set

the matter right by making that willingness known.

(3) Competitions open to all members, and some confined to local members, have been offered time and again in the pages of this magazine. Never has there been a single entry from any local member.

(4) Appeals of one kind or another for information, help in some direction with news for instance, frequently have appeared in these pages. Never has there been response from any local member.

(5) Offers of help by this writer have been made, generally and in regard to some particular subject; no local member ever has had need of it.

(6) Requests for suggestions to improve the magazine, expression of desire for some particular subject to be written up, dealt with in its pages, have fallen on deaf ears, each and all have been ignored by local members, we have heard from none.

(7) Invitations to submit questions of general interest for published reply; comment on the value of the magazine to any; its usefulness generally; similarly have been ignored, so that one wonders whether the magazine can or does have, any possible local use?

That is the tale as we know it, probably it is incomplete, but we put it to you as it is; do you wonder that effort tires when exercised under those conditions of detachment, indifference? Your failure to respond, evident lack of interest, definitely is not encouragement, conversely has the depressing effect and suggestion that time, effort and energy are wastefully expended in attempt to serve you.

No organisation of this nor of any other kind, can have continuity of existence, paralleled with continuity of neglect. Usually existence succumbs. It is deplorable, is it not, that your colleagues

abroad, evince infinitely more interest in the Society, than is displayed locally. It is humiliating, or should be, to realise as by the facts we must, that Jamaican philately is virile abroad, while philately in Jamaica appears to be stricken with malady, the symptoms of which, lassitude, somnolence, stolid indifference have close resemblance to those familiar to us locally, as associated with that vile product of loathsome conditions, the hook worm. We have learned that it preys on the vitals, impoverishes the blood, reduces mental and physical stature, wastes and shrinks them to distortion, eventually completes destruction with death; but it is curable. Action taken in time and of the proper kind, arrests and enables resistance to the otherwise progressively destructive anaemia; the patient passes back from weakness, returns to energy, health and strength; but if there be "laissez faire" the patient dies, killed because of neglect.

We beg of you to take necessary action where this Society is concerned, and if we may, suggest the following on which it may be based:—

(1) Restore the lost contact among members by resumption of the monthly meetings. Each member determine that he or she will help to make them attractive and agreeable to all; think of, decide what he or she will do to banish the boredom of those past, submit the suggestion to the Secretary, who will then be able from the material offered, to plan and arrange agendas, programmes for months ahead. Do not for a moment believe that your effort to contribute to the entertainment of your fellows necessarily must be based on some abstruse philatelic subject, perhaps beyond the ken of many; simple things told simply and intelligently can be and are interesting. For instance, all or nearly all of the British West Indian Islands, the group of popu-

lar interest to most local collectors, have issued individual series of pictorial stamps. Each subject so portrayed has a story, which you can interpret and tell if you only will. The Jamaica Tourist Bureau almost certainly has literature for distribution, descriptive of some of those subjects the B.W.I., British Guiana and British Honduras have used as designs for their stamps; without doubt you will find in that literature information of value relative to your chosen subject. Trinidad has located at Port of Spain a similar Bureau with similar literature for distribution. At hand in Kingston the shelves of the Institute of Jamaica are loaded with books which serve similar purpose; perusal of any may be had for the asking, there is no fee nor charge to be paid. If a given number of members each choose one of the B.W.I. for the purpose suggested, entertainment for at least a year of monthly meetings will be provided, and based on the idea which brought the Society into existence, viz., mutuality, each will have contributed thereto.

Writing from the collective point of view, the word "entertainment" suggests pleasurable benefit for those entertained, but what of each member who contributes thereto? Will he or she not have acquired something of value in the knowledge developed in the effort to entertain? How much do any of us know about the other B.W.I.? How many of us know anything of the subjects of the designs of their stamps? We are sure replies to those questions are "very few" and "very little", yet this writer is able to assure you, based on his very limited knowledge, that large interest can and will be found in the histories of the subjects of those designs. If you have read any of Sabatini's adventures of "Captain Blood", and have some small knowledge of the West Indies generally, you will have realised how very much more

absorbing, that knowledge made those greatly interesting tales.

At your meetings would it not be possible to give up 15—30 minutes before business to run an auction? To do that there must be support by both sellers and buyers, otherwise you operate a flop with corresponding disappointment. What of a bourse over similar period of time, during which members would arrange for and exchange their duplicates? You have material desires to be satisfied, and attempts in that direction may have good effect in directing attention to the subject of the intellectual course to follow. At the latter, relation of "Experiences I have had", the good luck that has come your way, when you found this or that item and procured it at bargain value, may stimulate others to be as keen in their examination of specimens which they have the option to buy or take in exchange.

(2) Apart from, but in addition to, any question of help, it should be obvious to all who really are interested in the welfare of the Society, and incidentally have their individual philatelic benefit in mind and in view, that the Secretary should have an understudy able, ready and willing to act for him when necessary. He has sought that aid, it should not be denied him, anything that can be done to ease his burden, should be done. He has given long years of excellent service to members generally, has he not? We know from some of the members themselves, that he has helped many individually, personally and particularly; is it too much to ask that he be helped now? Is that help too much to give, even as appreciation of the services rendered by him? It is reasonable to conceive that often during the years which have passed, how at times of an evening after a trying, strenuous business day, he very probably would have been glad, perhaps longed to relax into complete

rest, but there was work for the Society to be done, work probably overdue which did not permit of greater delay, and the longed for rest was sacrificed to the need of the Society, something which need not have happened, had he had necessary and desired help. We are reluctant to believe, and refuse to believe, that the Society individually and collectively, ungenerously will continue to deny that aid, until you demonstrate that we must.

What is your conception of the Society, of its relation to you as a member, and yours to it as part of the unit; for what purpose did you join and retain your membership? Self propound and answer those questions in order to have reasonably clear idea of its place in your philatelic activity, of what you think and should do to retain it in that position, provided of course that you find it useful, but realise it cannot be that unless by aiding in its operation, you help to make it so. We do not think the herd instinct has any place in consideration of those questions and attempts to answer them, but rather that each member hopes and expects some benefit through association with others of similar tastes and ideas. That fact, expectation by each to derive benefit from the others, makes plain the basic idea of mutuality already mentioned, and obviously none will receive unless there are some able and willing to give, and in order to be fair one to the other, each and every one must be prepared to give in whatever way he or she can, no matter how humble the offer may be, if each and all are to receive. There can be little doubt that one tires of giving always, never receiving, in precisely the same way that some tire of paying subscriptions, if no tangible benefit be received. That fact admitted, association in meeting provides common ground for exchange of ideas, dissemination of knowledge and information, all

of which is of benefit to those who participate, for the reason that existing knowledge is developed, enlarged and made of greater value, wider use. There is no object in, no reason for existence of any Society or Club which does not make that provision. If members do not meet, there is no active exchange, development and enlargement cannot ensue, the club or society forfeits right to existence, the object of that existence is defeated by the members themselves.

The club or society in being, it is necessary beyond possible dispute that each member who desires to keep it there must give active support, not only with financial contribution, necessary to pay operating expenses, but also by participation in those phases of its operation which make it a club or society; that is a prime necessity to enable it to function as it should and as may be desired. Refusal, disinclination actively to participate, really means that the reticent member fails in that duty to his fellows, does not support the society, and in fact is a drag on those who by their participation and the measure of it, carry the burden of the organisation. It is neither fair nor quite honest to persist in receiving and give nothing in return, yet that precisely the consistently reticent member practises. None of those who give service, actively participate in the amenities of the society, receive tangible reward, do they?, and as you receive service from them you are indebted, are you not?, and if so, how do you propose to discharge the debt? There is only one way in which you can, by yourself giving service in some form open to you, from which they too as members and parts of the unit may receive the benefit intended, even though it may not be of personal, direct benefit to each or any. We have indicated that the veriest tyro can and should attempt to render that

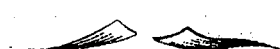
service or help. Do not miss the point that in giving help or service you aid the Society, and that means yourself and all its members. There is nothing substantial, nor even wholly true, in the excuses so often heard, "what I may know is already known", "I do not know enough to be able to impart anything". Have you never looked through a junior collection and found, as this writer has found more than once, some item of rather more than ordinary interest which had not before come your way? After the same idea of the unusual, found in quite unexpected place, lack of precise and comprehensive information on any given subject is neither bar nor barrier to exchange of ideas thereon. The same informative knowledge treated by different people from different, even slightly divergent angles, may arouse interest, stimulate investigation perhaps with important result. For that reason alone let no junior fear or hesitate to give expression to his thoughts and ideas, even if he be wholly and completely mistaken, there are but few seniors with adequate knowledge, not possessed of patience, readiness and willingness to set him right. Reticence in philatelic matters is not helpful to anyone, least of all to those who may practise it.

In the present Jamaica Philatelic Society its members possess a really good, first-class Society in actual being. In the immediate

past it has shown ability to function as it should, but as this writer sees and understands the prevailing conditions, it is being neglected to its harm, that of philately in Jamaica, Jamaican collectors, and Jamaican reputation. We plead with you to check and correct those conditions; we can conceive of no acceptable reason that they should be allowed to continue, nor do we accept as fast and unalterable, the apathy and inertia which seems to exist, and is responsible for them. The remedy is in your hands; we beg you to use it.

At the times in the past when philately in Jamaica became dormant, it seemed from the fact of its repeated resurgence, that a cry of non-despair from it went echoing through the intervening years, which may be expressed in the Latin phrase "*Reddar Tenebris*" ("I shall return"), as return it did and has. Please, please accept that now as your axiom, your guide for pressing, urgent, immediate action; do not permit the Society again to reach the stage of hibernation, and using the term in its fullest sense as your inspiration, lift the Society from the rut into which it is endangered, return it to the eminence it has had and should have, so that all of us interested in philately in Jamaica may have reason to join with you and again cheer "*Floreat Societatem Jamaicensis*".

H. Cooke.



Stamps As A Hobby

From the monthly Hobby page of the "Jamaica Times" of August 24, 1940.

Flowers and stamps are the hobbies of Mr. G. C. Gunter who says that his affections are equally divided between the two interests which fill much of his leisure time, since his retirement from the Government Service.

It was in 1890, when Mr. Gunter was eleven years old, that he began his first stamp collection with juvenile enthusiasm and added to his treasure store for seventeen years before selling it to a firm in New York. Once separated from his stamps however, Mr. Gunter began to feel sorry and as if there were a void in his life, so he started to collect again and has kept on ever since.

When asked what was the urge which made him begin collecting as a boy, Mr. Gunter confessed that it was because of an acquisitive instinct, but that this was gradually superseded by the interest in the stamps themselves, touching as they did geographical, and historical subjects and also such intricacies as colour production paper, methods of printing and perforations. It will thus be seen that proper stamp collecting demands intensive study and that is why so many people abandon it in later years, because they have neither the time nor the inclination. Children start with enthusiasm through acquisitiveness but drop the hobby when it demands thought and concentration.

But to the retired gentleman, the invalid or shut-in, and the dweller in remote places, stamp collecting is a tremendous boon. Not only is there delight in studying colour, form, and geography but there is the human touch which comes from exchanging stamps with correspondents in far-away countries.

As a young boy, Mr. Gunter exchanged stamps with other boys in Jamaica and then, as he grew older, expanded his field to other countries by corresponding with boys abroad and later on with men. In some cases he wrote to people for ten or fifteen years before meeting them, but when he did meet them they were friends through their common bond of interest.

During the War of 1914-18, Mr. Gunter, by means of the Belgian Consul in Jamaica, got into correspondence with a Belgian soldier who was, in civil life, a jeweller in Brussels. This man was so gripped with enthusiasm for stamp collecting that he carried it on even at the front amid shot and shell. Once he wrote to Mr. Gunter while seated behind his anti-aircraft gun in a ditch. At the same time trees in the vicinity were being uprooted by shells, but his stamps were helping him to forget the dangers and ennui of war.

In fact a doctor, who is a stamp collector, and an enthusiastic advocate of the hobby says, "All restful pleasures that are economically possible are at all times, but especially in times of stress, to be regarded as national assets and amongst those which offer the greatest mental rest—that is diversion without undue strain or boredom—is that of stamp collecting."

In the long evenings of black-out in Great Britain doubtless many a collector has found peace while poring over his stamps and has managed to forget bombs and boredom.

Stamp collecting has the charm of good investment among its other delights. As an example, Mr. Gunter, tells of buying a lot

of Jamaica stamps which were not yet catalogued but which, from his knowledge of the postal history of Jamaica, made him realize that they would shortly be in great demand. Mr. Gunter secured all that he could find in Jamaica and then introduced them to English collectors at a very substantial gain. What was sold in 1917 for 20/- now bring between £7 to £20, according to its rarity.

One of these stamps, which Mr. Gunter gave to a friend in London, was recently sold at an auction in London and had increased in value twenty times.

During all his years of collecting, Mr. Gunter confesses to only two disappointments because of correspondents who were not honest.

One was a Frenchman in Paris who sent stamps catalogued at hundreds of francs in exchange for some sent, and after taking these in good faith, Mr. Gunter discovered, years after, that the stamps had been cancelled by forged post marks.

The second disappointment was caused by a German correspondent in America who claimed to be a woman. Immediately after America entered the war of 1914-1918, a letter which Mr. Gunter sent to this correspondent was returned by the postal department with the remark: "Not known at address." On investigating through the New York post office to find the new address, Mr. Gunter was informed that his correspondent was

really a man and had left the country without giving his address. Mr. Gunter's suspicions were then aroused, and on carefully examining some of the stamps which this German had sent him, he discovered many forgeries.

These two experiences go to prove that only study will prevent you from being fooled by dishonest correspondents.

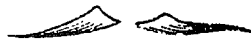
In 1929 Mr. Gunter was elected a member of the Royal Philatelic Society in London and there met Sir E. D. Bacon, Curator of the Collection of his late Majesty King George the Fifth, and was invited to Buckingham Palace to see the Jamaica Section of the King's Collection.

Mr. Gunter has been Secretary of the Jamaica Philatelic Society since 1920.

The Society gets out a yearly magazine which it distributes all over the world, free of cost, to those interested in philately and the postal history of Jamaica.

At present Mr. Gunter is interested in getting stamps for the Lord Mayor of London's fund for the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance. Stamps donated will be disposed of by a series of auctions in London and names of the donors will be printed in the auction catalogue.

Mr. Gunter's address is 6 East Kings House Road, Half-way Tree, and he will be glad to receive donations of stamps and postal stationery of any description for forwarding to the Lord Mayor's Fund.



20th Annual Report of the Jamaica Philatelic Society -- Year ended 13th April 1940

The 20th year of the Society's life cannot be regarded as an active year; nevertheless the services of the Society's Officers were constantly available, and although local interest was very much below the customary standard, much correspondence was carried on with the members overseas, whose numerous demands for local philatelic material were in nearly all cases satisfied. A few local members, especially those who have joined the Society recently, were in close touch with the Secretary who was able to give them much needed help and advice.

The Jamaica Philatelist was published and the issue was of the usual standard. We received the commendation of many Philatelists from different parts of the world. The demand for the magazine grows, due no doubt to the notice given to it, by the Philatelic Press, chiefly by the Editor of the American Philatelist, whose comprehensive reference to the Magazine brings us each year a flood of applications for copies which we are pleased to distribute free of cost so long as the supply lasts.

The year opened with 171 members of whom 3 have died, 3 have not paid their dues and have been removed from membership and 1 resigned. Four new members have joined leaving a balance of 168 at the close of the year, viz, 75 ordinary, 83 life, and 11 hon. life members.

We regret to report the death of Messrs Fred H. Morrice, Chas. J. Phillips, C. G. Daley, David Aarons and Fred J. Melville. Mr. Morrice passed away in England where he had gone for the benefit of his health. Mr. Daley was instantly killed on the 30th March, 1940, in a motor accident at Montego Bay. He joined

the Society in April 1935 and was a regular supporter of the Sales Packets. Mr. Aarons who was elected a Life Member in August 1937 was a keen collector specializing in the stamps of his island home. Mr. Fred Melville, whose death is mourned by us and philatelists all over the world, was elected an Hon. Life Member in September 1921, just six months after the Society was formed. Several officers of this Society have experienced the pleasure of personal contact with Mr. Melville who extended hospitality to them on the occasions of their several visits to England. He was even ready to advance the interests of this Society and we shall, in common with other kindred Societies miss him. Mr. Phillips whose death occurred in New York was elected an Hon. Life Member in 1929 and kept in constant touch with the Society. To the relatives of these three gentlemen the Society extends its deepest sympathy. Our sympathy is also extended to the Junior Philatelic Society of which Mr. Melville was the founder and first President, which position he held up to the date of his passing.

The Society looked forward, during the early part of the year with much pleasurable anticipation, to the Philatelic Exhibition, planned by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the issue of Great Britain's 1d. adhesive postage stamp. Now we have to mourn with Philatelic Societies throughout the world, the dreadful catastrophe which caused the cancellation of the plans for the Exhibition. Our sympathies go out to the "Royal" and our other friends in England in this time of great anxiety and sorrow. We join in the wish that peace, and the hap-

piness of the suffering peoples will soon be restored.

The Exchange Branch, under the able management of Mr. P. J. Fernandez continued its activity and members received at regular intervals packets of stamps, the general quality of which was excellent.

The value of Packets circulated was £240, the sales from which averaged 35 per cent. Stamps of the British Colonies and some of the Dominions are readily bought if condition and price are satisfactory.

The distribution of the King George VI new issues of West Indian stamps was concluded during the year. The total value of stamps distributed amounted to £136, the sets for the most part being up to the 1/ values, although some members asked for sets up to the £1 issues.

In the current issue of the Jamaica Philatelist an appeal is addressed to our local members. Its object is to revive their interest in the Society. The Hon. Secretary again offers his services to the Society, which for the past 20 years he has given unsparingly. It is impossible however, for the Society to continue its accustomed activity unless the members who reside in, and near Kingston, take their part in doing the Society's work. The Society records its thanks to the Exchange Superintendent for his unstinted work in maintaining the regular circulation of Exchange Packets. This service has been appreciated by local members who have made use of it both as buyers and sellers. Some of our overseas members have also used the Service as a safe and easy means of disposing of their stamps at good prices.

Finance: The year opened with a credit balance of £28 1/2½d. and closed with a credit of £56 6/8. The increase is not real however, as last year's small balance was occasioned by advances made for the purchase of New Issue stamps which were only distributed during the current year.

The President wishes through this medium, on behalf of the Society, to record her thanks and those of the officers for the work done by the Hon. Secretary. He has done a great deal to keep the Society intact and up to date during the present difficult conditions.

Our thanks are due, and are hereby tendered to Editors of Philatelic Magazines for literature so kindly sent us, and for their kind references to our Magazine in their publications, and to Philatelic Societies for their repeated references to our Society and its work for Philately. We particularly wish to thank the Scott Stamp Company of New York for so regularly sending us their excellent and informative stamp monthly; the Editor of the "American Philatelist" for his notice of our Magazine which has brought us many new readers.

We record our deep appreciation to Mr. H. Cooke, the Associate Editor of the "Jamaica Philatelist" for his able work. In the continued and regrettable absence of Mr. Clerk, the Editor, Mr. Cooke almost single handed produces the magazine with amazing regularity and maintains its high standard.

(Sgd). M. E. SPOONER,
President.

G. C. GUNTER,
Hon. Secty. & Treasurer

JAMAICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Cash Account for period 14th April, 1939 to 13th April, 1940.

April 14, 1940.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	1940, April, 13	£	s.	d.
To Balance of Cash at Bank	28	1	2½				By Expenditure during the year			
April 13							For Printing	0	18	3
To Cash received during the year							„ New Issues	0	5	8
For Entrance Fees	0	6	0				„ Albums & Accessories	8	16	7
„ Subscriptions	6	12	0				„ Commission on foreign re- mittances	0	2	1½
„ Life Members' Sub.	1	1	0				„ Foreign Subscriptions	2	17	3
„ New Issues	32	16	4				„ Subs. to Congress	1	10	0
„ Albums & Accessories	6	15	3				„ Envelopes	0	5	7½
„ Contribs. for the Centenary Exhibition	6	18	10				„ Postage of Magazine & Mail	2	17	6½
„ Refund of Post- age	0	3	10				„ Catalogues	0	18	6
„ Commission on Sales Packets	7	10	10				„ Printing Ja. Philatelist	15	15	0
„ Bank Interest	0	8	11				„ Addressing Magazines & Mail	0	1	0
	£90	14	2½				„ Balance at Bank 54 19 1			
							„ „ in hand 1 7 7	56	6	8
								£90	14	2½

G. C. GUNTER,
Treasurer,
2/5/40.

List of Members

NAME	ADDRESS	NAME	ADDRESS
Armstrong, Rev. G. T.	The Rectory, Penrith Rd., Cross Rds., Ja.	Fox, J. M.	202 L. A. Railway Bldg., Los Angeles California
Bicknell, Mrs. R.	Cross Roads, Ja.	Forrest, G. L.	Ailsa, Black River, Ja.
Brandon, E. Bancroft	9 Vincent Street, Kingston, Ja.	Foster, Mrs. A.	Montego Bay, Ja.
Brandon, G. D.	44 Orange St., Kingston, Ja.	Fraser, Miss J. Ina	Montego Bay, Ja.
Brissett, Vincent L.	Cornwall College, Montego Bay, Ja.	Gauntlett, H. G.	Lake Ville, Cross Roads, Ja.
Browning, Peter	Spanish Town, Ja.	Gore, D. D.	10 Duke Street, Kingston, Ja.
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