

Jamaica Philatelic Society's Quarterly Bulletin

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Editorial Perfs

"J. P." To some of our members, this edition of the Journal, will be a surprise, accustomed as each of us has been to receive the annual edition only. We hope the surprise will be pleasant, and welcomed as an earnest of the desire of the Committee to do all that it can to serve the interests of the members, for the reason that our magazine henceforth will be a quarterly journal. Three of four editions each year, will appear in leaflet form like the present, and the fourth as a booklet, in which we will try to maintain the tradition of our previous annual. With this extended effort to bring and keep members more closely in touch with the activities of the Society, the invitation to all members to use the columns of the magazine, is once again repeated. How may that be done? you ask. Contributions from you stating your difficulties, problems, questions of fact, opinion, or aught else, will provide matter for publication; replies from any who will help in solution, will have the same purpose; information that may come your way relative to current or obsolete varieties, oddities, postmarks old or new which may not be familiar to you, any and everything that concerns our postal history, postal arrangements, etc., no matter how trivial they may seem to you. There are several of our members interested in matters of the kind; information which you can give will be collated and published; you will be aiding and helping successful operation of the Society, and receive the appreciation of your fellow-members. We do not know what the business policy of the extended journal will be, but we believe and suggest that a "WANTS" column, to carry short, undisplayed advertisements at a small charge per insertion, should be made available to members to make known their special needs and desires. The charge is necessary for the reason that, the facility raises competition with, and probably will affect the revenue derived from, the Sales Packet. A new members list is being prepared for publication in the booklet edition, which will show the special activity of each member who replied with the necessary information, to the questionnaire recently sent to each. Should you desire to develop correspondence, with

the prospect of exchange with any one of them, send a postcard enquiring whether that will be agreeable. *DO NOT SEND ANY STAMPS* until you learn that your desired correspondent is agreeable to correspond. This writer assures you from his personal experience, that by that procedure contacts of the most pleasant and valuable kind, can be and have been developed into very real friendships, even though one never meets the correspondent.

J. P. S. Redivius. It is with the utmost gratification we record renewed activity of the Society. A meeting held in November last brought surprisingly good attendance, compared with those of many months previously, when they ceased altogether. Each monthly meeting succeeding November has seen increased attendance, and at that for March the number was large enough to envisage possible necessity in the near future for a larger hall for meetings, if attendance maintains its progressive increase of the past few months. There have been numbers of visitors, all of whom we have been glad to welcome, induced by the open invitation published in the *Gleaner*. Those who have visited have not all been residents; others but newly come to the Island or just passing through, have used the opportunity to "get together" with us on the question of stamps. Obviously, increased attendance indicates interest, and that the meetings have been found interesting. Positively, interest in stamp collecting exists here; definitely, it requires the means for expression, something which this Society has set itself to provide. It can and should make the effort successful and maintained, but that depends on you, and you, and you; your help, my help, the help of each and every member is necessary for that success; let us have it. Do as the stranger visitors have done, "get together" with us as we have asked. Our members not resident at Kingston, except for such rare occasions when they happen to be there co-incident with a meeting of the Society, cannot attend those meetings, and so miss personal contact with their fellows. The more frequent editions of the magazine, will take to them much of the meat of the meetings in the form of the papers read at them (some of which appear in the current edition,) but we would like to see them develop meetings on their own, where there is sufficiency of members resident in any given area, a number large enough to make the suggestion desirable and practicable. The idea is commended for consideration, and if you would like to develop it, but do not have in your area the number believed necessary for the purpose, do not let that deter you: it is simple, go out and recruit them. Any help which this writer may be able to render is yours in advance, and while he cannot pledge the aid of the Society as a whole, there is every reason to believe that such help would be readily given, unstintedly.

New Issues

Bahamas. A provisional issue, 3d. surcharged on 2½d. was made 28th November last. It is reported that 240,000 of 2½d were so treated at Nassau by the printers of the "City Press." Shortage of the 3d. denomination, developed by increase of the foreign postage rate from 2½d to 3d is said to have been responsible for the provisional. The quantity said to have been made available, precludes the probability of rarity, but it is a provisional, and for that reason specimens for one's collection should be obtained as early as possible.

Bermuda issued a provisional, "Half Penny" in two lines on 1d, on 20th December last. The overprint includes X X over the original denomination, and Gibbons reported variation of spacing 12½ mm, 13½mm, 14mm between the tops of the correcting Xs and the lower parts of the letters in "PENNY." They also report a small dot like a period, above and to the right of X on the left of the stamp. We have heard of a more important variety, viz., "Y" missing in "Penny." It is said that necessity arose because of no stocks of the ½d stamp, supplies having been held up by delay to the Clipper plane at the Azores, and demand for that denomination for mailing Christmas cards. We have no information of the quantity available, but the circumstances indicate that it could not have been large. Again another provisional, with prospect of small quantity only, suggests that acquisitions should be made very promptly.

Jamaica. The 1½d has reached us from plates 1A and 1B. There is strong presumptive evidence that this denomination and from those plates, is being printed 240 set. The local rate as we all know is 1½d, and that necessitates a very large number of stamps of that denomination. When the local rate previously was at that figure, and the "Contingent" stamp for instance was in use, we know the large number of plates it was necessary to lay down, and that they were used several at the same time on different machines, to provide the large number of stamps required (*See "Jamaica," the handbook, for details*). Much the same conditions now exist, except that the present stamp, smaller in area, can be printed 240 set, while because of the size of the "Contingent" the set remained at 60. The current stamp exists in a number of shades; originally in the normal brown, it deepened to chocolate, and recently we have seen it in pale reddish brown. We had expected that change to have been made, and the stamp to have appeared, shortly after our local rates were increased to include 1½d as the international postcard rate, for the reason that by the rules of the Universal Postal Union, of which Jamaica is a member, the colour of the stamp for that purpose must be red. On the other hand the Empire colour scheme, requires that denomination to be in brown. Great Britain, where the international postcard rate for some years

has been 1½d., effected compromise between both schemes of colour, by printing the denomination in red-brown, especially obvious on the current 1½d of King George VI.

Harmers of Bond St. Apparently the difficulties and restrictions, relative to export and import of philatelic material in England, have proved strong enough to induce Mr H. R. Harmer to set up a similiar auction business in New York. Known as H. R. Harmer, Inc. of New York, the new firm's address is 32, 34 East 57th St., where we understand freed from the war time restrictions existing in England, auctions similar to those of Bond St., London, will be held.

J. W. Scott of 236 West 55 St., New York, is a brother our member, C. E. Scott, who also undertakes to sell at auction.

C. L. von Pohle. We acknowledge with thanks a number of bound volumes of the American magazine "*Stamps*," kindly presented to the Society.

Syllabus 1940/41

December,	Revd. H. U. Powell, "Excursions in Philately"
January	H. Cooke "Fugitive Inks"
February,	G. C. Gunter, "Bi-coloured Arms"
March	J. M. Nethersole, "Postal History"
April	A. W. Perkins, Display
May	H. Cooke, "Papers"
June	Revd. H. U. Powell
July	Major A. A. Simms Display
August	Mrs C. S. Brandon Display
September	J. M. Nethersole Display
October	G. Brandon Display
November	H. G. MacDonald Display Revd. G. T. Armstrong Display
December	H. Cooke

Fugitive Inks

BY H. COOKE

A recent conversation suggested that a little general information, such as we possess, offered in a sort of chit chat, by way of which we may refer in desultory fashion, to sundry related subjects as they may arise, may be useful to some members. True, those probable subjects, each and all of them, have been covered extensively by other writers more competent than we are, have explained them in detail, but as our ranks sometimes are added to with novitiate recruits, some of whom seem to need information relative to those matters, probably do not even know of them, this effort, couched through it is in rather general terms, may provide some of that needed information and help.

The term "fugitive" describes a kind of ink, sometimes used to print postage stamps. You will not find descriptive reference, nor word of warning in the catalogues, yet as will appear later here, both are very necessary to the junior stamp collector, to enable the care necessary which should be specially given to specimens so printed. You will find in some of the catalogue lists, some of the stamps described as printed in "aniline" ink, and listed each as a separate, collectible variety; others similarly printed are not mentioned; and if it be a philatelic necessity to record such items at all, it seems equally necessary to record all "aniline" and "fugitive" ink printings.

Fugitive, doubly fugitive, and aniline inks; each is derived from coal tar, but unlike others with similar derivation, they are not fast; instead are sensitive to moisture, are soluble in water. Fugitive and doubly fugitive inks, respectively are sensitive and very sensitive to moisture of any kind; from the breath, fingers and hands, the air; they react promptly, the doubly fugitive extensively, to those conditions. No stamp known or suspected to be printed in any of the three inks mentioned, should be immersed in water, if it be, the colours will be destroyed, dissolved, the white unprinted spaces stained, the specimen rendered worthless for stamp collecting. If such a specimen needs to be removed from adhering paper, use a small tray; cut three or four pieces of white blotting paper to fit and set in the tray, pour on water until the paper is quite wet, pour off the surplus water, lay the stamp face up on the moist blotting paper, leave it there for a few minutes, long enough to enable the moisture from the blotting paper to penetrate the adhering paper, loosen the gum, when the stamp may be easily removed without having had contact with water. The stamp and its adhering paper must not be left long enough for the moisture to get at the paper on which the stamp is printed; if that happens, precisely the same effect as immersion in water, destruction of colour, will occur.

So much by way of warning; it may be of interest to know why inks of such peculiar properties have been used to print postage stamps. We have no evidence that for some specific reason aniline inks were intentionally used; we rather think that such use was made merely to try out for that purpose, something that in the '80s was new, perhaps cheaper than that which was then being used, and apparently would be as serviceable. Fugitive inks were intentionally used with specific purpose. Most of us have learned or heard of; some have seen and possessed; stamps which had been legitimately used for their intended purpose, and cancelled in that usage. They were then "cleaned" of the marks of cancellation and offered for sale anew as "unused" copies. The cancellation marks removed by one or other process, the stamps apparently are usable again, and in many instances are known to have been used again, thereby defrauding the revenue of the country concerned. Pen marked cancellations, lend themselves readily to fraudulent action of that kind, for the reason that writing ink does not contain fat or oil, the ink remains on the surface, does not penetrate the paper on which the stamp is printed, except for such abrasions as are made by the pen, under the pressure exercised by the writer. A stamp in "cleaned" copies which has some familiarity for collectors of Jamaican specimens is the 1d rose revenue, or postal fiscal of 1860-73. Offered as "unused," if there be reason to suspect the item, test it by placing a small drop of water on the surface. If it be a "cleaned" specimen, the paper should absorb the water almost as quickly as would a bit of blotting paper, for the reason that, acid treatment to which it most probably was subjected to remove the cancellation marks, also destroys the size of the paper, rendering it absorbent. That test however is not conclusive, as the drop of water may be applied to a spot not affected by acid, with the size intact, and if that be so, absorption of the water will be prolonged. If offered with gum as genuine mint, examine the teeth, of the perforation; if gum is seen between the teeth, the specimen has been regummed. Finally hold the specimen to the light, as you would to look for a watermark; traces of the cancellation, if it had been cancelled, will be seen as if they formed a watermark. Obviously, while some instances of the fraud indicated, would be discovered and perhaps punished many others even if detected would remain unpunished, and the surest method to protect the revenue, is by prevention of the fraud. Effort in that direction was developed in two ways, viz., by coating the paper to be used with a deposit of chalk; such a surface being friable, parts of it come away with little effort, are readily disturbed, and with them come parts of the design printed on that surface, causing the damage to be very obvious; and by printing the design in one or other ink which promptly re-acts to moisture, again providing positive evidence of damage.

We need to digress still farther, in order to explain as best we can, what chalk surfaced papers are. The earliest use of chalk surfaced paper for the stamps of Jamaica, is found on ½d, Arms type, bi-chrome, multiple watermark, 1905, and sundry succeeding issues to the ½d and 1d Pictorials, script watermark, 1932. Among those issues are the "White backs" of the Georgian (V) 1912 era. They are explained by a story, that the mill which supplied the Crown Agents with coloured papers for printing postage stamps, was destroyed by fire and an emergency shortage of supply was thereby created. The printers of the stamps, Messers de la Rue, were able to overcome it, because of their experience and machinery to manufacture playing cards. They used existing stock of Crown Agents' white paper, coated that with a deposit of chalk in the desired colour, then printed the stamps on that. The same process is applied to obtain white chalk surfaced papers, such as the 6d. of the same Georgian period. The first point likely to appeal to the average collector, in his effort to identify stamps printed on chalk surfaced papers, is that those papers seem to be thicker than printings on ordinary paper. They are, but that fact is not by any means conclusive, as some stamps and some varieties of them are printed on thick but ordinary paper; you will find some thick paper varieties listed in the catalogue, but again, not all by any means. Possessed of a reasonably good magnifier, and by observation with it, the collector should be able to discover for himself, that chalk surfaced papers present a surface that is pasty in appearance, pitted with a number of small holes that vary in size, as compared with ordinary paper which shows a vast number of small fibres, matted or felted together.

The reader will have gathered that stamps printed on chalk surfaced papers are more delicate than those printed on ordinary paper, and more care is necessary to preserve them in reasonably good condition. We have seen specimens, in otherwise mint condition, with the lines of the design badly lurred, rubbed into bald spots, developed by no more than the friction between the leaves of the album. That of course, if it does not quite destroy the specimen from the collectors' point of view, renders it of very little value, and makes clear that such stamps must be protected from the danger. Interleaving the album with perfectly smooth, soft, silky tissue is very necessary; cellophane probably is the most likely aid to be available locally.

To return to our original subject, fugitive inks; how can we recognize and identify them? There is no rule, no readily obvious and positive indications, by which there may be easy visual recognition, except perhaps in the instance of aniline ink. Most specimens printed in that ink show stain at the back of the stamp, in the shade of the colour used on the face, or of one of the ingredients of that colour. Jamaican stamps printed in aniline ink are:--

Some printings of the Pictorial 2½d Contingent, script, 1922, the 3d of the same series. The printings of the 2½d show a greenish blue stain on the back over the area of central design. Another shows the same area stained in tint of pink; most printings were in ordinary ink, the back showing the whole area quite white. The 3d shows similar greenish blue stain, perhaps a more pronounced shade of green, on the back over the area of the central design. The 1/- of the same series provided a printing in which the area of the frame at the back is stained in shade of pink; another with similar stain over the area of the centre; another with the stain over both areas, i.e., that of the whole stamp. It is well to note that the stained specimens are found with printing on the face, only in the shade of the reddish orange of the first and early issues (some of which are not stained), and not in later issues which appear in shade of brownish or russet orange. We have seen specimens of the 1d Georgian (V) 1912, used copies which suggest by stain, printing in aniline ink; but as a mint copy has not come our way, we cannot affirm that it is. Similar comment is applicable to the ½d Arms, bi-chrome both CA and multiple watermarks. If we go a little further afield for stamps printed in aniline ink, they may be found in our collections of BWI stamps; Bermuda, the 1d Queen of 1886; the 1d George V of Bahamas; printed in red and listed as a separate, collectible variety, at the same price in the catalogue; each provides excellent and readily obtainable specimens of printings in aniline ink.

Fugitive inks may be recognized rather more than less by experience. If, for instance, we know that certain denominations and issues of Jamaican stamps, were printed in fugitive or doubly fugitive inks, it may be accepted almost with certainty that similar denominations of other colonies, issued at about the same time in point of years, were printed in similar manner. That comment applies in point of time, to the Edward VII and George V periods, and while the Jamaican denominations affected are Georgians above 2½d in face value, in the instances of other colonies bi-chrome Edwardians from ½d may be concerned as well as Georgians which, like Jamaica, are above 2½d face. Stamps in fugitive inks usually are printed in red, purple, black, green, blue, or in combinations and shades of those colours. As we have warned, moisture from the breath, fingers and hands, the air can and will adversely affect them. When the first Jamaican Georgian (V) 1/-, 1912 appeared, and up to the period of the "white back," 1915, used copies came to light with the head in a deep shade of purple, and were believed to be positive varieties of printing. It was suggested that two printings, one of 6d and another of the 1/-, had been mixed somehow in the process, that in error the head intended for the 6d had been printed into the frame of the 1/-. The reasoning seemed to be plausible, as both stamps had to be

printed each in two operations, one for the head, another for the frame. The possibility of error was present, and in other instances error of that kind had been known to occur. Existence of mint copies with the "purple head" became known, and that appeared definitely to support the theory of error in printing. The first point against it was, the "purple head" was known on both green and "white back" papers. The error may have occurred on either in printing, but probably on both, because of the wide difference in time, 1912 and 1915, when the green and white papers respectively were used. Speculation was set at rest by demonstration, that the "purple head" could be and was manufactured by dipping the stamp in water. Similar comment is applicable to spurious varieties, created in like manner of the stamps of sundry other colonies of the same period printed in similar ink on similar papers, traced as far back as the Edwardian (VII) 45 cents Straits Settlements, 1911.

Jamaican stamps known to the writer as printed in fugitive inks are, and begin with the 2d green, Queen's Head key plate issue of 1887. All printings of that stamp were not printed in that ink, few of them appear to have been, and those in this writer's experience are very uncommon, perhaps rare. The particular printing or printings are in very deep shade of green, which is very easily and promptly destroyed by moisture. The issues of 1905-11, 6d and 5/- Arms, Queen's Head 3d purple on yellow, 6d purple, 2/- purple on blue, Georgians (V) 1912-19, 3d on all papers including the War Stamps, 4d on all papers, 6d, 1/- on green and white papers, but not on the pale green paper, 5/- on all papers.

If we have learned something about some of the stamps of Jamaica we may extend our field a bit, and take in at least one nearby country, not of the British Empire, but which because of its proximity, and interest in its issues of stamps, may come within the activity of one or more of our members. Anyone interested in the stamps of Suriname, or Dutch Guiana, needs to be extra careful in regard to the stamps of the middle denominations 10-30 cents issues of 1913. They are printed in ink that really seems to be a water colour, as if they are immersed in water, they are not merely destroyed, they disappear altogether leaving the paper only on which they are printed.

Ed. Note: The foregoing was read at the meeting 8th January, and was illustrated with specimens of most of the stamps in the conditions mentioned. It was brought out in discussion, that a special instrument is offered by some dealers, to test chalky papers. Others suggested that the same result can be obtained, by use of a silver coin. Both statements are correct, but in both instances the test leaves a mark on the white edge of the stamp. That can be avoided by following the suggestion in this paper, how chalky paper may be identified, without additional expense to the collector, and without in any way marking the specimen tested.

Excursions in Philately

REV. H. A. U. POWELL

My excursion in Philately began while sojourning on Crusoe's Island. Tobago was then little known lying as it did out of the track of Trans-atlantic steamers. Its name brought to mind the desolateness of a lonely island and the palm-fringed sands of a rocky coast. It is in reality a beautiful island with a sturdy independent but lovable people. Here I found an ardent philatelist, an ordinary islander with no pretensions to wealth—certainly a man who knew his stamps and loved them. He assured me that they were dearer to him than his wife! The stamps were mounted in singles and massed on the page as was common at that time. They were beautiful copies all perfect and brilliant. The issues were nearly complete and showed a meticulous care in the process of collecting. He was the only collector in Tobago. A number of other people accumulated stamps, but only with the purpose of selling them at a profit as Tobago had just lost its individual existence and become a ward of Trinidad. Then, as now, rare stamps were regarded as a gold mine.

It seems strange that these stamps have not considerably advanced in price. Some are very rare, and in used condition almost impossible to get. The only reasonable explanation is that collectors lose interest in stamps of a country that has no separate existence and ceases to issue its own stamps.

My next excursion was in the States. Those were the days of Tuttle and Wolsieffer. They have passed on. It was easy then to buy stamps that you wanted and to sell your surplus duplicates. The market was not flooded with new issues and the condition crauk had not yet emerged. Some of the stamps of that period common enough then, are now unobtainable. The dollar values of the Columbus issue 1893 which were offered me by Negreen at face, are now catalogued in blocks of four at \$300, \$600, and as high as \$1000. A few good things have come my way, among them the one cent blue 1861, horizontal laid paper. U.S. several values cancelled in Shanghai by the United States postal agency, blued papers of 1909 and a block of 24 cent purple 1870, of which a dealer assured me that there were not more than six in existence.

Jamaica has always of course occupied the first place in my thought and enquiry. However limited the issues of a country, there is always the possibility of exploring a corner that has been passed over by the besom of an expert. The Jamaica Handbook has been considered exhaustive, yet now and again varieties appear that are not chronicled therein. Some years past a ten shilling No. 89 was sent me by a correspondent, with perforation 12 by 14 or 11 by 14, I forget which. At the time I was not interested in varieties of the Colony,

and I sent it on to another collector; an act I afterwards regretted, as I would have liked to determine its genuineness and to trace its history. I have a copy of a 3d No. 62 in which a double entry is clear.

I have been informed that a variety of No. 44 exists with 3 leaves instead of 4 to the right of half-penny. 'Although I have examined many copies, I have not yet discovered the variety. Does it really exist or was my informant mistaken?

An interesting phase of philately has confronted me throughout years of buying and exchanging. I have found that the enthusiasm of the hobby sometimes runs away with the discretion, good judgment and honesty. I recall sitting through an auction sale at Tuttle's on Nassau Street. Before him was an album. At the height of the bidding someone asked a question. Mr. Tuttle turned his head to give an answer and in a flash a man who was sitting near him removed a stamp from the album. Mr. Tuttle knew his stamps, and on looking on the album as he turned back noticed that a stamp was gone. "Put that stamp back," he said quietly to the man, "and save trouble." Now this man was a good wage earner, and known as honest, yet here in the public gaze he ran the risk of being caught as a common thief. Sometime past a young man wrote from Australia and requested me to enter into exchange relations with him. He wrote very pleasingly and quoted scripture freely in support of his religious belief and practice. In good faith I sent him a very fine collection of stamps, but up to this moment I have not had a line of acknowledgment from him. I should have acted more wisely as I have learnt to avoid people who in any business transaction are too anxious to talk of their religious affiliations and beliefs. I recall visiting a man in jail who quoted scripture to me as expressive of his religious mindedness. On leaving, the trusty who conducted me said, "Father, you have heard that man speak so glibly of scripture; do you know that he is in there for murdering his wife?"

Many years ago a friend in old Austria begged me to get in touch with a stamp collector on this side who had sent him some fiscally used stamps in exchange for a fine lot of stamps he had sent him on approval. It was a case of getting something for nothing. Even dealers are not without blame. Some years past a reputable London firm sent me a large selection of stamps. I bought several at fair prices. Later I found on submission to an expert that a few of the stamps had been fraudulently treated to seem genuine. One was regummed, another, a block of four, had been skilfully put together to appear as a genuinely issued block. I decided never to buy from that firm again.

The layman who has watched the gyrations of stamp collectors has given his judgment that strict honesty is excluded from philately. This is of course a snap judgment and absurd. One thing must be borne in mind—that the value of stamps is not real. It is based not on

the quality of the work done to produce it nor on its artistic beauty that would place it among treasures of art. Some of the most valuable specimens today are devoid of any beauty and are cheap and ordinary productions of the printer. Some stamps really have value only in the eyes of the individual collector. By others they would be marked down as little better than junk. In fact the young collector in his exuberance of spirit and with money to spend needs to keep in mind the warning "Caveat Emptor." This reminds me that in Jamaica there are no Junior Clubs to direct the juniors in the art of stamp collecting. In Kingston and other towns in the island there are many young collectors who need instruction and advice, and their number is increasing. Probably the Society could open a branch in connection with the activities of the Junior Centre. Returning to the thought on philatelic honesty the fact remains that to the philatelist stamps have a certain and definite value, and this he ought to bear in mind in his dealings with others, and be frank as to their value in his mind and judgment.

In a small community that has no conception of the ramifications of the art of stamp collecting stamps are stamps, and a bag full of rubbish seems like a bag of gold. This presents a serious difficulty in most transactions here. But so great are the heights which philately has reached today including among its ranks some of the finest men and women of all nations that it will be well for us to bear in mind how much lies upon us to add to its glory and make it ever an honourable avocation.

Ed. Read at the meeting 5th December, 1940. There are sundry other unlisted Jamaican varieties, that of the re-entry of the 3d Georgian No 62 mentioned by the writer of this paper, may also be found on the white back, No 62a. Sometime ago we appealed to members to send us a list of all those known to them; never has there been reply. We re-open the subject here and again appeal for the information in order to compile a comprehensive list; we cannot imagine any subject of greater interest to all members and collectors of Jamaican stamps, than a list of authentic varieties of philatelic interest and importance, items which the dealers have elected to ignore in their published price lists, much vaunted "Catalogues."

Prolepsis

BY "ST. JAGO DE LA VEGA"

A fellow-member recently passed on to me some copies of "The Australian Stamp Monthly" in which appeared the answer by the Director-General of Postal Services to the many critics of the 4d. "Koala" issue (S. G. 169)[With such a number, (13 by 13), the stamp was bound to be unlucky!!!] The paper also reproduced some of the criticisms, these were strongly reminiscent of our (J. P. S.) editor's unqualified handling of our Jamaica 1939 Pictorials.

From articles appearing in the English journals it would seem that the current Great Britain designs did not meet with the universal approval of British philatelists.

It would be impertinence for a tyro like myself to presume to agree or disagree with these pronouncements, but recollection of the criticisms led my thoughts into a complementary channel; led me to ask myself: "What are the stamps you like most in your album?" I expect to bring on my head the Editorial jorum of water, temperature one degree Fahrenheit, but I console myself with the thought that even Hind or Ferrari must at some early date, have had similarly jejune enthusiasms.

I like ALL the key-plate B. W. I. Edwardians. There seems in these to be such poise to H/M's head giving a quiet dignity to the stamp, which so many of subsequent issues entirely lack.

I exclude from this list all the "Classic" Victorians and the various "Centenary" issues.

Of the Georgians, easily first comes the 1921-26 Caymans (S. G. 60-63.) and next come those issues of British Guiana, British Honduras, St. Lucia, and Jamaica of the "Nyassaland" design.

Of the pre-George VI pictorials, I select as most pleasing to the eye (not necessarily in order of merit) Caymans 3d, 2/-, and 10/-; Turks Island "Ship-types"; Bahamas "Staircases"; the 2/- and 3/- (S. G. 137 and 138); 8d "Flamingoes"; Barbados, "Olive Blossom"; 2/- and 3/- "Large Seal," the "Victory" 3d, the 1921 "Small Seal" set, the 2½d of the 1933 set; British Guiana, the 1897 2 cent, the 6 cent blue and 72 cent of the Georgian pictorials; Dominica, the 1903 3d, and 6d. Grenada, the 1898 "La Concepcion," the 1903-08 set, and the 1/- to 5/- of the 1922-29 Script C. A. St. Kitts and Nevis, the 1903 2/6 (S. G. 9.) St. Lucia's Georgian pictorials, the 3d., 2d., and 1/-; St. Vincent's "Pax et Justitia" designs, and Trinidad's full 1935 set.

Of the George VI issues the ½d Grenada is supremely dignified, and the Virgin Islands set, with its delightful shades ranks with the Edwardians in my estimation.

Of the latest Pictorials, I like the 1d. and 2½d Caymans, the Antigua 3d., the British Guiana 4 cent and the British Honduras 4 cent, the Monserrat 6d. and 1/-; the St. Lucia 10/- is outstanding; the St. Vincent 6d. and the Trinidad 1c. and 8c.

Some of the recent South American productions are also very beautiful, e.g. the Costa Rica Islas de Cocos, the 1937 1c Nacional Exposition, the Guatemala 2c "Monja Blanca," 30c (Air) Maya Altar, and 3c Quetzal; attractive too, are the Venezuela 30c and Bl. 95 Air Mails.

Reference to the following British Empire issues is not to be considered exhaustive. The Newfoundland "Gilbert" set, South Africa 1939 3d "Voortrekker;" Canada 1935 \$1. 00; 1938 13c, New Zealand 1d "Victory," and the 4d., 5d., 6d., and 8d., pictorials, the current Malta set, and of South Rhodesia the 3d "Large Falls" and the 1940 Jubilee set.

All this concentrated attractiveness makes me wish that I could afford to be a General Collector!!! Have you the ice-bucket handy Mr Editor??

Ed. Our contributor possibly will be surprised to learn that we agree with much of what he has written, but in stamp collecting as in most other matters, "Chacun a son gout" applies with the right of each to think for him or herself. We will be glad to hear from readers, of their particular likes and dislikes, and why. Look your collection through, use your catalogue, and tell us your choice

