

Jamaica Philatelic Society's Quarterly Bulletin

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DECEMBER, 1941

NUMBER 3

Editorial Perfs

The New Year. We wish and hope for all our readers, a better year than the last; that sooner than later again may we experience the calmness of peace, with the blessings in its train, promised by Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt, in their Atlantic Charter.

Supplies. Contrary to experience in the last war, the London market appears to be short of supplies. Every comment that reaches us, refers to the dearth there is of any but the very cheap and common stuff. We have mentioned in previous editions that colonial stamps, except the low value denominations, are bringing exceptionally good prices there, and the rise in market value is of course due to sustained demand and lack of supplies. Australia and New Zealand items, are likely to become even more elusive than some of them have been, and some of the Malay States, federated and unfederated, North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei may reach such prominence as had not before been experienced.

Annual Catalogues. An interesting controversy relative to the necessity or not for those editions, has been started in the "Philatelic Magazine." The point is made against the annual edition that, additions to the respective lists, and current changes in prices, occupy but comparatively few pages. By far the most of the catalogue consists of pages on which no movement of any kind is shown, and which existed in that condition, for two or three previous editions, perhaps and probably rather longer. The result is that considerable time, labour, and paper is expended to provide information, which the catalogue buyer already has, for which he is made to pay a second, third or fourth time. The suggestion to correct that is, make the catalogue a triennial publication, supplemented with lists of additions and changes in price, published every three or six months. The correspondence on the subject that has been published, shows unanimous opinion against the annual publication. What is your opinion?

The New "Gibbons, Part I." is referred to in the November edition of the "Monthly," where it is stated that it has not been possible to *start work on it until now*, as an official decision in regard to the type and blocks, damaged by enemy action, had to be awaited. The work is in progress, i.e., re-setting all the type, remaking all the blocks; a task of considerable magnitude, that is hampered by shortage of workers in the printing trade, and it is improbable that the book will be ready for sale before the late Spring of 1942.

Jubilees. West Indian issues generally and some in particular, have moved up considerably, Montserrat for instance is now listed by Gibbons at 41/9 and 46/- respectively the mint and used sets. Barbadoes of all the BWI shows the least difference between mint and used sets, i.e., 21/9, 22/9. Jamaica rather lags behind with prices of 11/10 and 15/- but that is better than some others.

Bahamas. Gibbons records the new 1d grey and 2d scarlet as issued.

British Somaliland is stated by Gibbons to be using stamps of Aden without overprint, and its postal services are being administered by that Colony. Such stamps can be identified of course, only by the postmark, and collectors of British Colonials may find it worth while to keep an eye open for them. We do not know what the position is in regard to ex-Italian Somaliland or Eritrea but it is possible that the first is also using stamps of Aden, and the second those of Soudan.

Syllabus 1942. The following is the programme for the current year:

January	Mr. G. C. Gunter	The Parcels Post of Jamaica.
February	Messrs A. W. Perkins F. L. Williamson C. E. Scott G. V. Brandon	} 10 minutes } displays
March	Mr. H. Cooke,	A paper.
April	" J. M. Nethersole	do
May	" F. Valencia,	display
June	" G. C. Gunter	A paper
July to September	No meetings	
October	Mr. C. M. MacGregor	A paper
November	" C. Pinto	do
December	" H. Cooke	do

Jamaicana

Child Welfare Stamps are now advertised by Gibbons @ 20/- the mint set, 22/6 used. Yet another catalogue lists the used @ 25/-. We have commented before that that discrimination in price between mint and used is not nearly wide enough, and still hold that opinion, based as it is on definite knowledge, but of course the factors of supply and demand control the subject.

Pictorial 1/- Inverted Frame. A copy of this rarity has been presented to the Philatelic Committee of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Societies, for sale at the next auction of such gifts, to raise funds for the Societies, and it is expected to realize at least £200. 0. 0.* We do not know the name of the donor, and it has been stated that the item was the very best of all in his collection. Again we appeal, echoing and emphasizing that already made by the secretary, for assistance to this fund in every and any way open to you. The Red Cross Society needs £10,000.0.0. every day for its operations and to enable it to carry them on. Its work is in the interest and aid of suffering humanity everywhere. All that we give, and more than we give, will come back to us some day when we may be in dire need. What we give is therefore not a gift, but a loan repayable with heavy interest, to this community when and if it needs that aid. The aid for others is needed now; do not deny it, lest it be denied to you when you may need it most.

Officials. Some very interesting information has come our way, relative to both the local and London overprints, as well as some forgeries. We are endeavouring to develop the detail, and hope to have it for the annual edition.

Demonetized. The article on this subject that appeared in our annual edition, indicated that the legislation had rather wider and more serious implications than casual reading of the proclamation would suggest. The subject has been and still is being explored. We expect to be able to compile a resumen for publication, that will have interest in the philatelic sense for our members and readers, and also have value to them in other matters of material concern.

Red Cross & St. John's Fund. In our Annual Magazine, No. 15, issued in June 1941 we referred to the auction sale of stamps that took place on April 30th in aid of this fund. Another stamp sale has taken place, the result of which we have not yet heard. Our Secre-

*£330 0. 0. was actually realized.

tary has received a letter from Mr. Cuthbert Greig which we have pleasure in publishing. In answer to the appeal for stamps issued by the Secretary of this Society, we are glad to say that there were 55 donors. It was impossible to acknowledge each gift separately, but this was done through the "Gleaner," the names of the donors being published. This opportunity is taken publicly to thank the management of the "Gleaner" for the kind help so readily given.

THE LETTER

5th December, 1941.

G. C. Gunter, Esq., F. R. P. S. L.,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer,
Jamaica Philatelic Society,
6 East Kings House Road,
Half Way Tree,
Jamaica.

Dear Mr. Gunter,

I really must thank you, on behalf of the Philatelic Section of the Red Cross & St. John's Fund, for the very keen interest you have shown in collecting items of philatelic interest for the sale.

As I am also the Secretary of the British Philatelic Association there will be no difficulty in making sure that that Organization passes the stamps through to the Red Cross on arrival here.

I am sure the kind donors of the stamps previously sent will be glad to know that we have succeeded in raising £141 . 10/ by the sale of the same, which I think you will agree is an extremely good price.

The firm who purchased them are keeping a careful account of their own of the sales from this material, and should it so happen that the sales exceed the price that they paid, they have promised to make an addition to the fund to the extent of the excess.

I am sure that we shall secure the best possible price for the stamps you are now sending.

I am afraid it is not possible at this time to send an individual letter of thanks to each of the donors you mention in your letter of the 4th November as we are more than restricted with clerical staff and until the sale is over we are kept in a complete rush. We will, however, at some future date, be communicating with each of your donors, but if you would, in the meantime, make them understand how deeply appreciative we are, we should be extremely grateful.

With all good wishes and again many sincere thanks,

Yours very truly,

C. Greig,
Hon. Secretary.

Perforations

By H. COOKE

Perforations and variations of them applied to postage stamps, are recognized by philately as factors of interest in the material composition of the stamps, and in some instances are of importance in the history, not only of the stamp concerned, but in the history of philately itself; the Archer perforations of Great Britain for instance; and for those reasons as well as others probable, it is of very real importance that philatelists and stamp collectors in general, in their personal interests, should be able to identify the perforations of the stamps they collect.

To many while in the noviate stage, the subject is a headache perhaps more than one, yet there is no real difficulty to measure perforations, even without a gauge, if the general principle that governs, is understood and applied.

First let us understand what the perforation is, why it is, and the purpose it serves. We should remember that postage stamps are printed on a large sheet of paper, from a plate that may consist of as many as 400 subjects, each of which is meant to be used singly, by itself. To enable that individual use, each stamp must be separated from its neighbours in the sheet. Separations used to be accomplished with a pair of shears or scissors, a knife or other instrument, to cut between the stamps, and predicates necessity for the cutting instrument to be ready at hand when needed. Quite often it was not, as some early imperfs show, they were creased and torn apart by hand; even when cut a large number of others bear evidence that the operation was clumsy, and obviously whatever may have been the means used, the method was most inconvenient.

During 1848 a less inconvenient method was devised, viz., rouletting, followed in 1850 by perforation more or less as we know it today. Rouletting is very little used, but it has been used, now and again it pops up on some special issue, hence the necessity to be able to recognize it. In general it serves the same purpose as perforation, but with the difference that it does not remove any paper in the process. If you push a pin through paper, you do not remove any, but separation is begun, and if a line of such holes of separation be made, complete separation along that line is made easy, with little risk of divergence and tearing into the body of the paper; that is what the rouletting machine does. Perforation is effected by a number of small steel punches, each punching out a small disc of paper leaving a hole.

What is meant when it is stated that of some stamp, the per-

foration is $12\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$, 14, or 16? Definitely it does not mean there are that many holes of perforation on each side of it. If it did our current 3d and 4d stamps would measure about 25 on two sides, 15 on the other two, while in fact it measures on all sides $12\frac{1}{2}$. That measurement means that there are $12\frac{1}{2}$ holes of perforation in 20 millimeters or 2 centimeters of length. That is the standard by which one is guided and the measure determined. It does not matter whether the stamp is wider or narrower, longer or shorter than 20 mm, that is the standard by which to measure. Rulers scaled in inches and fractions on one edge, millimeters and centimeters on the other, are not uncommon; if possessed of one, place the perforated side of a stamp against the metered edge, count the number of holes there are in 20mm of length; the result is the measure.

A stamp that is narrower or shorter than 20 mm; the $\frac{1}{2}$ d GB of 1870, for instance, offers apparent difficulty to the novice, but that very useful and essential little gadget, the stamp collector's perforation gauge, relieves him of perplexity, is something which no collector can afford to be without, that he or she should know how to use and with use develop facility of use that will solve most problems of perforation that may arise.

The perforation gauge usually is printed on card or good bristol board. It is a column of two parallel lines set 20mm apart. At top and bottom, about 4mm high and the width of the column, are placed heavy black bars. From the lower end of the column it is scaled upwards spaced regularly, with lines of black dots, each line differing from that below it in the size and number of dots, and at right or left of each line is a figure that indicates the measure, say from 7 to 17. The black bars set at top and bottom may be used in much the same way as has been suggested; the metered edge of a ruler can be used, but one does not wish consistently to endure the tedium, of having to count the number of holes, and with the gauge it is a simple matter to slide the stamp from one line of dots to another, until all the holes of perforation co-incide with all the dots of one or other line, always bearing in mind the 20mm rule, viz., the end of the side of the stamp that is being measured, must be set on the left vertical line of the column, so that actually and precisely, 20mm of the length of the stamp is brought within the lines of the column.

Looking at the first line of dots at the bottom of the scale, the novice may be puzzled by the fact that the line shows 8 dots, and the figure 7 appears at left as the measure. Look again and observe that of the first and eighth dots, only half of each fall within the vertical lines, i. e. the 20 mm width of the column. Moving upwards similar apparent discrepancy may be observed, each of which is explained in

the same manner. Perforation gauges are usually scaled in halves, 10½, 11, 11½, etc., but they can be obtained scaled in quarters, 12, 12¼, 12½, 12¾, 13, etc. Because many modern stamps are perforated in quarters, some of which are valuable varieties; Nigeria 3d of 1936 for example; it is advisable to use a gauge capable of that measure. Whether in that or the other type, no large expense is involved, ability to use and use of it, will repay the trifling expense many times over.

Several different terms are used to describe perforations that differ in one way or another, with each of which the collector should be familiar. What for instance is meant by "*Single line*" or "*line*" perforation? It is applied by a machine that operates one line of punches, say across the sheet of stamps. When all those lines have been treated, the sheet is turned half way round, and the vertical lines are perforated. Readily to recognize it, a block of four stamps is required. Where the vertical and horizontal lines of perforation cross, the hole at the intersection is larger than the others, for the reason that punching of a second hole at that spot, seldom or never registers precisely in the first, more paper is punched away creating enlargement of the hole, giving it irregular shape. The corner tooth of one or more of the stamps may be so diminished as to give appearance of damage, especially so if the gauge of the punch be heavy, say from 10 to 12. Usually all margins of the sheet are perforated.

COMB PERFORATION is effected by a machine with a long bar of punches, long enough to extend across the sheet, and from it at right angles, several shorter bars extend; like the teeth of a comb, hence the name: spaced the width of the stamp and in length of the height of the stamp, One stroke from this machine perforates the top and sides of each stamp in the first row across the sheet. The sheet is moved up the height of one stamp, and the next stroke perforates the bottom of the first row, the tops and sides of the second. When the last row of stamps is perforated, the sheet must be moved yet again so that the bottom of the stamps may be treated, and that entails perforation of that margin, as you may have observed. Note that lines of perforation do not cross each other, as they do when the single line machine is used.

In the United States a rotary machine is used, that perforates in one passage of the sheet through the machine, all the lines to be perforated in one direction, that done and the sheet given a half turn and another passage, all the lines in the other direction are perforated. The effect is similiar to that described as applicable to the "single line" machine, because of the intersection of perforated lines.

HARROW perforations are from a machine with bars of punches

so arranged, that at one stroke all the lines on a sheet of stamps are perforated at once. Apparently it did not satisfy all stamp manufacturers, as seldom has it been seen, few countries have used it, Switzerland more than any other.

WHAT IS A COMPOUND PERFORATION? Quite often it is found that the perforation at the top and bottom of a stamp, differs from that on the sides. Our 1d., 1½d., and 9d. of 1929-32 are instances. You may find the 1d to measure 14 x 14, 13½ x 14, 13¾ x 14, the 1½d and 9d with similar measurements, and the common stamps of Great Britain George V, also provide specimens that measure 15 at top and bottom, 14 at the sides. Compound perforations seem to suggest use of two machines; in some instances yes, but not necessarily so in all; both the mentioned examples in Jamaica stamps and those of Great Britain, were effected by a comb machine. The question may be asked why is it used at all? The reply may set out in any instance, answer that will differ from another. In the instance of the G.B. Georgians; we know that some of the preceding Edwardians, had been changed from 14 to 15 x 14, and the reason given was that the paper did not yield readily to separation, so another punch was added to the 14 at top and bottom. We know of no particular reason in the Jamaica examples, to account for variation from 14 to 13½ x 14, and again to 13¾ x 14. Note that in compound perforations, the top is always stated first, the remainder in clock wise order, i. e., top, right, bottom, left; in some rare instances all four sides differ in measure of perforation.

What is meant by the distinction "clean cut" as opposed to "rough" perforations, used with reference to some stamps, even when both "clean cut" and "rough" perforations measure alike?; the Samoan overprinted New Zealands, 1914-31, 2/ to £ 1.0.0. for instance. The terms explain themselves. "Clean cut" means that the holes are punched out cleanly, rough means that the holes were punched with dull punches, so that not all the tiny discs of paper were cut out, some adhered, partly cut through, and when separation was effected, the teeth had frayed edges, some of the discs remained, and the whole had a ragged appearance.

What is meant by "mixed perforation" as found on some stamps of the very early issues? The machines used did not have their punches set with precise regularity, the spaces between each were irregular, so that the perforations do not and cannot measure with precision. Part of the 20 mm. stretch will measure one gauge, and part another, some holes are larger than others.

So much for perforations, we need to give some attention to ROULETTE, which as has been stated serves the same purpose, i.e. to effect separation. The form of roulette most often seen is termed the

“normal,” and frequently is used where some particular paper is attached to a stub or coupon, yet must be detached when required; usually like this -----

The “LOZENGE” roulette is similar, except that the dashes are thicker and shorter.

OBLIQUE is like this but the strokes are smaller and shorter///.

PIN is a series of tiny holes, such as would be made with the sharp point of a pin. Quite incorrectly, it is often referred to as “pin perforation.” Obviously wrong for the reason that perforation as has been stated, is effected with a punch.

SAW OR SAW TOOTH is self descriptive.

SERPENTINE is really a wavy line, and may be confused by the uninitiate with “saw”. The differences are, Saw Tooth has the lines set at an angle from the right, they are close to each other. Serpentine shows the top of the wave vertical, the lines are spaced apart.

ZIG ZAG is very like Serpentine but is smaller, the lines are more closely spaced, with the angles between wider than Saw.

ARC is a series of small half circles.

When any of the mentioned types are used, the paper in most instances is not cut through, but most of the fibers in its composition, at the points where the roulette is impressed are broken, so separation is made easy. The roulette may be printed in the color of the stamp, early issues of Luxembourg for instance on which the “Normal” was used, or it may be quite white impressed from a clean instrument, such as is found on the stamps of Saudi-Arabia or the Hedjaz, issues of 1916 and 1917 on which respectively Saw Tooth and Zig-Zag roulettes were used.

Roulettes are measured in precisely the same way as are perforations, but again the novice is sure to be puzzled. How possibly can one measure points that are not holes, by means of dots meant to fit into holes? One can't, but if your perforation gauge is of the right type, you will observe that each dot on each line of the scale has a line passing through the centre, or it may have an additional scale set around the edges, to enable measurement of a stamp that is mounted, without having to unmount it, and the dots in that scale will have the lines through them. The lines are meant to meet the need to measure roulettes, and should be used for that purpose in the same way as dots are used to measure perforations.

The 1d. Arawak Stamp of Jamaica

By G. C. GUNTER

Recently two young correspondents, from different parts of the world, have written to ask me to tell them about the Jamaica 1d stamp with the Arawak woman seated on the ground, in front of her hut "making Cassava"—What does "making Cassava" mean asks one of these lads, while the other wants to know what are the ornaments at the sides and bottom of the frame of the stamp.

Most people in Jamaica, certainly all the stamp collectors, should know everything about these stamps, but should there be by chance someone of us who has not had the opportunity of becoming familiar with the details of the design, and the reason for the legend under the design, or what the frame ornaments are meant to represent, may I, in as few words as possible, give you the particulars about the stamp which I sent to my young friends across the seas.

The stamp, which is listed in Gibbons Catalogue as number 79 was put into circulation on the 3rd October 1921. The colours were described in the Jamaica Gazette of the 29th September 1921 as "light red set in a frame of orange with a white border." Gibbons, however, ignores this official description of the colour scheme, and describes it as "Carmine and orange" omitting to point out that many shades of the stamp exist. The white border, referred to in the official Government notice is of course merely the uncoloured margin of paper around the stamp itself and may well have been omitted from the description. The format is larger than the conventional shape of the previous issues of the stamps of Jamaica, which measured 28 by 22 mm. The subject is treated in upright rectangular style, the perforation is 14 by comb machine, the watermark being sideways to the left. There were two issues of this stamp, the M. C. A. issue appearing without the words "Postage and Revenue" and the second, Gibbons No. 92, on script waterwark paper, having the words printed in the bottom of the frame and taking the place of the ornaments which are shown in that position in the first printing.

This later issue was given official notice, the Jamaica Gazette of 23rd Nov. 1922 announcing the waterwark as "script" and that the stamp would be available to the public on the 5th December 1922. Of the issue on M. C. A. paper 22,388 sheets were printed consisting of 3,582,080 stamps. There is no available record of the quantity printed on the script paper, the sale of which lasted through seven years.

At the time when the stamp appeared Mr. Astley Clerk, a highly respected member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society, No. 1 on the

register of members who is often correctly referred to as the Doyen of stamp collectors in Jamaica, was writing weekly articles for the "Daily Gleaner" entitled "The Stamp Album." In his number 19 appearing on the 3rd October 1921, Mr Clerk said "I bought at the Kingston Post Office this morning, and I understand I was the first purchaser, a new 1d stamp, "Arawak Making Cassava." There is one fault I have to find with it and that is if you are perspiring while handling the stamps the ink with which they have been printed will be left on your hand in quantity." This is only too true, and Mr. Clerk may have added that the face of the stamps is easily "rubbed" necessitating great care in the mounting of them in one's stock books or albums. In washing the paper from the stamps, they should not be soaked for longer than 6 to 8 minutes as the colour fades when the stamps are over soaked. I have noticed that when these stamps are cleaned and packed away in hundreds, no matter how carefully done, many of them are destroyed by an insect, which I have not yet been able to locate. The destruction takes the form of an eating away of the edges of the paper on the gummed side resulting in thinning around the perforation. This damage is not easily noticed however, until the stamp is held to the light, when a distinct transparency is observed. If the cleaned stamps are not made up into packs, the destruction is reduced by about 90 per cent, and so many stamps may be saved. On account of this insect destruction, and the soluble nature of the printing ink, many hundreds of thousands of these stamps have been destroyed and although printings of the two issues amounted to millions they are not as common as one would in the circumstances expect them to be. I will now try to answer the questions put to me taking them in the order referred to above.

(1) What does "making cassava" mean? This question is not easily answered without the risk of controversy. I would, however, say that "cassava" is a plant native to the Guianas, Brazil, Peru, and other places of tropical America, including the West Indies. The plant produces bulb-like tubers which grow, and come to maturity under the ground. From the tubers is obtained not only meal and flour for making bread, but there is also manufactured by fermentation an intoxicating drink called "piucarr" (not known in Jamaica). It contains much starch and other nourishing matter such as tapioca, well known as a light and easily digested article of diet for children and invalids. There are two varieties of the plant one known as "bitter" Cassava, which is very poisonous under certain conditions and the other "sweet" Cassava, a wholesome article of food when cooked by boiling. Immediately the stamp appeared in Jamaica

much criticism was levelled at the legend "Arawak making Cassava." One writer, in the local newspaper, said "the legend was incorrect. As Cassava is a vegetable growth which no human can make, and the legend should rather be "Arawak making Cassava Starch." Why starch! I am at a loss to say since many other things can be made from the Cassava.

This criticism brought a rejoinder from Mr. Frank Cundall, the then Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, to the effect that 'Murray's New English Dictionary' gives Cassava as the 'nutritious starch, or flour obtained from the roots of the mandioc by grating them, and pressing out the juice; bread is made from this flour'. Mr. Cundall further explained that the use of cassava in this sense is as old as the year 1577—when it was referred to as a kind of bread made of roots. "Purchas in 1613 says 'bread of a great root called Yuca which they name Cacavi'."

Mr. Cundall was responsible for the selection of the design of the stamp and any one who knew him would be sure that he had in mind the particulars mentioned above when he suggested the legend "making Cassava". Tapioca is also a product of the Cassava plant, and as it is made by human agency, so also is "Cassava" the result of human manufacture. Mrs. Fray, another writer on the subject, points this out as she makes the following observation on the controversy— "Cassava flour is quite a different thing to Cassava starch, and I do not think Mrs. Arawak had any use for starch, having no garments that needed starching. She must have been "making Cassava"—the words come quite naturally to me and are undoubtedly idiomatic—they are used daily in this district (Spring Plain—Clarendon Park) "doing Cassava," "making Cassava" meaning the thick cakes that are a staple food of our peasantry." Mrs. Fray may truthfully have added that these delicious cakes are much enjoyed by town dwellers and others in the island as well as in England, America, Canada, and elsewhere. Mrs. Fray was an expert in the manufacture of these delicious cakes, as well as the popular tea-time delicacy—Cassava wafers, and therefore her observation on the subject must have been sufficiently convincing to end the controversy, as I can find no further letters on the subject in the newspapers of the period. The "ornaments" in the frames of the stamps are the stone and shell impliments, images, and utensils which the Arawak aborigines of Jamaica used and worshipped. The stone impliments consisted of celts, chisels, axes, and mealing-stones. The Armlets and Calcidony beads were ornaments for the women, and the image of marble was an object of Arawak worship. The shell impliments were really roughly formed dishes made from the shell of the giant Konch. The utensils are pots made

of clay, some of which were baked while others only dried. These were found in what is known as Kitchen-Middens, or refuse heaps. They consisted of layers of shells mingled with pottery, more or less broken, a few small bones, and sometimes a stone-hatchet, other impliments, ornaments of stone and a fine gray-blue ash. Most of the bones are those of the Indian Coney, which with fish from the rivers and the sea, formed a great part of the diet of the Arawaks. In some Kitchen-Middens there have been found bones of the turtle, crab claws, and many kinds of shells. In at least one midden a phial evidently of European origin was found at a depth of 18 inches and so old as to be partially devitrified.

I trust that the reading of this paper will prove as interesting to you as it has been to the two lads, who in writing their thanks for the trouble I took to give them such detailed information, assured me that my trouble was not in vain, since they have used much of the particulars for writing up the album pages on which the two varieties of the stamps are mounted.