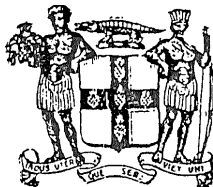


The Jamaica Philatelist



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EDITOR: MR. H. COOKE

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The Jamaica Philatelist

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Editorial Perfs

Cancelled to Order. A deal of correspondence in the English press, has been devoted to this subject. It appears that from some colonies, sheets of stamps clearly and cleanly cancelled with a regular post mark, are obtained, sent to London, there broken up and sold as "used" specimens. One writer euphemistically describes them as "philatelically used," in effort to distinguish them from "postally used" copies. They are recognisable only if and when the original gum is retained. Obviously, the trade procures them when it can, in order to satisfy a consistently maintained demand by collectors for "used" copies; "postally used" specimens are not precisely demanded, and if they were, in many instances there would not be nearly enough to go round. The postal authorities that supply them, clearly do so as a matter of business, i.e., selling something for which no service, other than the act of cancellation, is asked or expected of

them, and again i.e., acquiring the revenue fixed by them, for something that has paltry intrinsic value, very nearly nothing. The trend of the writers on the subject, the comment we refer to, is to condemn the practice as wrong, an encroachment on the ethics of philately and stamp collecting, but just how and why are not made clear; we wonder if it can be? We do not defend the practice complained of, but legally and ethically there is no more wrong about it than there is in the practice by the Crown Agents at London, of selling stamps there that never have been issued by a post office, but which are copies of stamps that have been and are being issued by the post office concerned. In both instances, the stamps that have not been passed through the regular, unchallengeable routine, are not distinguishable from those that have; the gum on "philatelically used" copies, is readily removable; so why the pother? If an individual in a

given colony, chooses to address a cover to himself, franked with a stamp which he desires to possess in used state, who or what is there to prevent him?, obviously the answer is no one and nothing, and if the argument be extended to apply to dozens of stamps on the same cover, to dozens, hundreds of covers, and individuals, is there any other answer?

Perforations. The stamp trade, the "dot" collector, and others of that ilk, are having a wonderful time. Varieties of perforation are being discovered by the hundred, not mere $\frac{1}{4}$ s and $\frac{1}{2}$ s but in fractions that need to be expressed in decimals. The common or garden perforation gauge, to which we have been accustomed for so long, no longer serves, a Vernier gauge has become necessary to implement it. Here is yet another of the arrant stupidities, that time and again are foisted on collectors, and which they seem avidly to accept and swallow. This particular stupidity has reached the phase, where even some of the dealers seem to begin to suffer from head aches. Gibbons in "GSM" December, 1942, deal with the subject. They tell us that for instance, Iraq 25F and 30F earlier printings gauged 13.1 x 13.5, which they recorded as 13 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. New printings gauge 13.3 x 13.5, which they propose to record as 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Neither of those recordings are correct, both are wrong, they are makeshifts. Messrs Gibbons deplore and complain of the existing conditions, and seek means to ameliorate them, inviting advanced philatelists, the "dot" collector, general and otherwise, catalogue publishers and traders to express their views, placing the pages of "GSM" at their disposal for the purpose, so that the catalogues may be placed "on a more logical

basis." We venture to suggest to them—suggest only—that that "logical basis," is a most desirable object, and will be rather better served, if their attention be given to what is, rather than diverted to minutiae of the smallest or no importance, the only real result of which will be, creation of new varieties of similar philatelic value; but then, of course, we are not in the trade, nor do we prepare price lists and advocacy of simplification, will not appeal to all Dealers.

New Head Die. Discovery of a new head die for the plate, Bahamas type, King George VI, is reported or suggested. The same design is used for the stamps of Bermuda and Leewards, high denominations. The distinguishing differences are said to be: an extra short line above the eyebrow; outline of the nose strengthened and straightened; shading of the face deepened. We have not seen the item, and pass on information stated from another source.

War Time Printings of colonial stamps, are reported to be showing obvious variations of paper, gum, etc., some of which may be observed on our stamps. This writer cannot state observation of any, and none have been advised by any of our members. The news we mention has been gleaned from the English press.

Watermark. A new type is reported. In the old type both legs of the letter "A" curve outward and turn up; the cross bar is set at a slight angle, the left arm is bent downwards, the right upwards; the loop of the letter "C" is short and wide. In the new type the right leg of "A" does not turn up; the cross bar is straight, has no bends; top

loop of "C" is taller and narrower.

"M. E. F." Has anyone seen current stamps of Great Britain with that overprint? They are reported as having been issued in the ex-Italian colony of Eritrea 3rd March, 1942. Apparently there have been two types of overprint, one applied at Cairo, the later in England.

No Stamps from England. We observe from "GSM", February, 1943, that export of stamps to the Dominions and colonies, protectorates and countries, the currencies of which are based on or tied to Sterling, now are forbidden. They are permitted to Dominions, such as Canada, and foreign countries. Obviously a war measure designed to foster and acquire foreign exchange. It denies to us and others the measure of facility, we used to employ to obtain this or that item, needed to complete a set or series, and as we cannot buy from any foreign country, this or that needed item must remain a need for the duration, unless we can acquire it locally or by exchange. So far as we now know, correspondence and exchange outside of the Island, is permissible, provided that the stamps sent out and/or brought in, are submitted to the censorship, through the regular channels of the postal service. We do not recommend the practice, and have given up all attempts at exchange by correspondence. We have had stamps damaged, destroyed, and in one instance some disappeared, all without redress. Current needs of newly issued items by sterling B.W.I. colonies, may be satisfied through the new issue; service operated by our Society.

Selling. The same edition of "GSM" advocates selling, "demand is keen, prices

are good." The publishers offer what they claim to be "the best cash" prices. *Do not* send any stamps without correspondence to offer what you have, arrange price and enable the buyer to obtain license to import from you. If you do not follow that procedure, i.e., send the stamps without previous arrangement, you commit a breach of the British regulations, and render your stamps liable to seizure and confiscation. Messrs Gibbons state that intending sellers should write to: Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., Buying Dept., 37 Southampton St., London, W.C.2., England.

Bahamas. In normal times, the philatelic event of the year would be the Columbus commemorative issue, made by this Colony 12th October, 1942, to remain on sale for six months, i.e. April, 1943. The issue is marred by the fact, that it does not consist of commemorative stamps in the accepted sense of that term, viz., stamps in special designs illustrative of the commemoration, but of the normal and current series, to which a paltry overprint "1492 Landfall of Columbus 1942" has been applied in black in five lines. The face value of the set ½d. to 20/ is 33/4½. There seems to be little doubt that idea for the issue was a very hurried one; that it was entirely speculative, designed to levy from stamp collectors the world over, tribute which is said to have reached the sum of £40,000 0. 0., and enabled balance of the Colonial Budget.

We have seen the issue viciously attacked, and through it, the local Government, in at least one English philatelic journal, with charges of scandal, improper, irregular procedures; speculators allowed to corner the issue, etc., etc., but such knowledge

as has reached us from other sources, provides nothing in support.

During 1932/33 there were no less than five genuinely commemorative issues made by British Colonies, Antigua, Caymans, Falklands, Monserrat, Sierra Leone; that taxed the collector with a total of 119/0 $\frac{3}{4}$ to pay for them at face value, and each who accepted the tax, cannot now regret his outlay.

We deprecate all such special issues, for the reason that each and every one, without any exception, has as reason for issue easy collection of extra money. None can have the reason of necessity, and any or all would serve the purposes of alleged commemorations, if issued as or parts of regular series for normal use, and kept on sale for as long that would be. Because of their bloated values, they are bound to act as deterrents, to probable recruits of limited means to the hobby, breaking as they do, between other issues, accessible to him.

A Famous Collection. It is only within the past few months, that the great accumulation gathered by the late Col. E. H. H. Green, has been placed on sale, although he died as long ago as 1937. Seven firms of auctioneers in the U.S.A. are carrying the sale, and although much has been disposed, there still is a large quantity of material yet to be sold. A wealthy and catholic collector, it is readily understandable that Col. Green, would possess an extremely large and valuable collection. For probate in 1937, its value was appraised at \$1,208,448.00, since then there has been substantial advance in prices generally; a present estimate suggests value of \$1,600,000. If the sales realise that much, or but little more, the collection will rival or surpass that of the late Baron von

Ferrary, which, it may be remembered realised just under £403,000 0. 0.

Col. Green achieved special fame in the philatelic world, as the purchaser of the sheet of U. S. 24c. airmail stamps, which was discovered with the centres inverted. Some of those stamps are said to have been sold at prices ranging from \$175.00 to \$650.00 each. The owner retained a large number for his collection, each of which according to Scott, is now worth \$4,500.00, about £1125 0. 0.

Centennaries, 1932-33. The latest auction figures observed in the English press are:—Antigua £10 0. 0., Caymans £15. 0. 0., Falklands £38. 0. 0., Monserrat £10 10. 0, Bahamas 1930 in blocks of four brought £30. 0. 0, St. Kitts-Nevis 1923, to the 10/- fetched £11. 0. 0. Caymans regular issue of 1935 realized £10 0. 0.

The St. Kitts figure suggests a drop in price, as we had seen previously a dealer's advertisement, that offered to buy the set for £31. 0. 0. If the short set to 10/- brought only £11. 0. 0., it seems improbable that the £, most valuable of the set though it be, would realise as much as £20 0. 0.

Question Mark ? A member writes asking for help to identify a stamp of Selangor, which he states is type one, i. e. No. 58 or 59 in type, but the colour is brown, not rose or orange as the catalogue lists. We do not possess any wide knowledge of the stamps of the Straits Settlements, but we can suggest a possible solution of his mystery. Orange is a colour susceptible to change; if and when exposed to some chemical fumes, it becomes oxidised, and then the colour does in some instances change to brown. Mail from the Straits Settlements would in the past, almost

certainly be carried by vessels which call at Indian ports on the way to England, and even though the vessel may have made her call, under quarantine conditions and regulations, that mail would be fumigated on arrival at destination. Some years ago, another member submitted for opinion a pair of the 1920 Jamaica pictorial orange 1/-, which with destination at Malta, had changed

colour to brown. Believing it to be an oxidised specimen, we treated one of the stamps with hydrogen peroxide, and developed the curiosity of a pair, one stamp of which was brown, the other restored to its normal colour, orange. Our correspondent may, if he will, try treating his specimen with hydrogen peroxide.

Jamaicana

Child Welfare. This set still attracts a deal of attention in England, in the press, market generally and at auction. In Journals that have recently reached us, we have observed that a dealer there offers to buy the mint set at 16/-, another offers the used set at 25/-, and at auction a used set has fetched 35/-. We have not seen any change in Gibbons figures advertised, since appearance of the 1942 edition of their catalogue, where the sets respectively mint and used, are offered at 19/- and 22/-

Jubilee Booklet. Few people seemed to have known that this item was on sale, at the time the stamps were on issue, and comparatively very few of the booklets appear to have been preserved. "J.P." No. 11 records that of 11,800 supplied, 5,000 are known to have been destroyed with the remainders of the stamps, and probably still others were similarly treated. We know that very shortly after stamps and booklets were withdrawn, a booklet changed hands for 20/-, ten times the face value, and all indications have been that there are none on the market. Despite that apparent measure of rarity, we have

been surprised to learn from the "Emco" Journal, published by the Marks Stamp Co of Canada, that they are offering a single booklet for sale priced at \$50.00.

No. 8b., the 1d. blue, type 1, CC, bisected and used on cover or piece. A member invites attention to omission of this item from the Jamaica list, in the 1942 edition of Gibbons catalogue, and kindly submits a letter from the publishers to him, which states that the omission is by deliberate deletion. "as this item is regarded as unofficial;" presumably by them. Our position is that we are not entitled to object, to find fault with anything Messrs Gibbons—correct or incorrect,—elect to include or exclude from *their* catalogue. They have stated to us that it is *their* trade price list, issued, one may understand, for the purposes of *their* business. Alternatively as they may choose, they have changed description, and labeled it "a great work of reference;" to them no doubt it is, again for purposes of their business. There we must leave it. It has been our experience, that effort to have *their* record changed, to what we may know it should be, is waste of time

and energy. Their editor publicly has proclaimed that he knows it all, hence any attempt to change anything for which he is responsible, is refused by that omniscient intelligence. The philatelist, specialist is able to take care of himself, to evaluate the worth to him of the "price list" or "great work of reference." We are concerned to help the common or garden collector, to anticipate and correct when and where we can, misapprehensions certainly awaiting him, if, as he is tempted to do, he accepts the catalogue for more than the publishers claim, gives to a trade "price list" precedence of an authoritative, comprehensive guide for his activity.

The reasons stated by Messrs Gibbons for this particular exclusion, may appear to be correct, based, as apparently it is, on the alleged dates of issue of the 1d. CC, viz., 20/8/73; that of the ½d claret CC, 29/10/72; withdrawal of authority to use the bisected 1d., 1/12/72. Clearly, issue of a ½d stamp, made the bisected 1d. unnecessary after that date, and as special authority was necessary for expedient use of the bisection, withdrawal of that authority, made subsequent use illegal as well. It should be just as clear, that legal or illegal use, i.e. use with or without official authority, can be determined only if the quoted dates are reliable and authentic. No doubt or question can or does arise, relative to the date of issue of the ½d claret; none in regard to the date of withdrawal of authority to use the bisected 1d.; in each instance the record is extant, reliable, authentic, but no record or authority remotely reliable or authentic, is known to exist by which the date of issue of the 1d CC may be fixed. The alleged date of 20/8/73 is a fiction, based perhaps on a known

dated copy.

The item was first included in the Jamaica list, published by Gibbons in 1917, where it appeared as No 8a. At that time and for some years since, early dates of issues of our stamps were unknown and or unrecorded. Research necessary to compile our book "Jamaica" published in 1928, did much to correct that, but in some instances precise record, or any record at all, could not be traced. Evidence of used dated copies, was accepted and applied in approximation. From such evidence "Jamaica" lists earliest known dates of the first CCs as:

1d. "*probably*" 1873; 2d. April 1870; 3d., we know now to be 17 Feb., 1870; 4d. "*probably*" 1872; 6d., October, 1871; 1/- Feb. 1872.

We possess no positive record on the subject; such as is available indicates that stamps on CC paper were introduced during 1863. A somewhat general, casual survey of colonial stamps of the period, suggests that the Colonial Office at that time had no comprehensive policy relative to watermarks in papers used for those stamps. Some colonies continued to issue stamps on unwatermarked paper, others used the CC paper, Jamaica used the Pine, Grenada, St. Vincent, the Star, etc. Existing stocks of paper to be used, may have influenced that apparent lack of policy; but Grenada used different types of stars to 1881, indicating manufacture of more than one lot of paper, or uses of papers intended for other places or uses. With reference to Jamaica, the possible inference seems to be, that stocks of Pine paper were prepared, large enough to last until 1873. Such a procedure is not readily credible, but it is only on that hypothesis of a paper stock for thirteen years, the suggested

date of 1873 for change to CC paper, can be supported. Ready at hand to defeat it, is the fact that the 1d. rose revenue, issued on Pine paper in 1860, appeared on CC. paper about 1863.

"Jamaica" informs us that local sales of stamps 1st March 1859 to 29th February 1860, and a requisition for supplies despatched about that time, comprised:

SOLD		REQUISITIONED	
1d. £696	8%	£496	8%
4d. £4342	52%	£3942	61%
6d. £2996	36%	£1896	29%
1/- £349	4%	£140	2%

Obviously the 4d stamp was the denomination most in demand. In a despatch to the Duke of Newcastle, dated 20th August, 1860. Governor Darling stated that, with transfer of the Post Office, 1st id., he had reduced the rate on letters between Kingston and Spanish Town, from 4d to 1d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, and at the same time a house to house delivery at Kingston, was established at the same rate. The year 1860-61 is recorded as showing sales of stamps £4450, and in 1869-70, similar sales amounted to £7457. It is necessary to bear in mind, give due weight to a rather more than probable fact, viz., that increased and increasing use of postal facilities, largely was responsible for that increase in revenue, and in doing so we may not ignore the reduced rate 4d to 1d.; restricted in area, of application though it was; as a material contributor to that increase, for the reason that it was within that area the bulk of postal exchanges were made, based on population, concentration of business, comparative frequency of service. It would be unreasonable to assert, that in the ten year period, the 1d with small volume in 1860, had replaced the 4d entirely,

with its very much larger volume, but it is unassailably reasonable deduction, that it had displaced it to some extent, and risen from proportion of 8% to a much larger figure, based on three facts, (1) demand and increased use in the services provided 1860 onwards, at the reduced rates in the area of greatest use, largest volume of use. (2) Shortage in 1865/66 of the 1d. revenue, when the 1d postage was used for those purposes. (3) extended and much increased use throughout the Island, Nov. 1861 to Dec. 1872; in bisected form as a $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp. Observe also that other comparable denominations, the 1/- in particular, used in smaller volume, are stated to have been replaced, Pine by CC, prior to the 1d., something that appeals as, and quite evidently was, very improbable.

The facts and detail cited are from our book "Jamaica," they have been available to any and everyone since publication fifteen years ago. Pondered and related as we have tried to treat them here, they present presumptive evidence, of the most convincing kind, that the 1d postage CC was introduced and used in the Island, much earlier than 1873. For that reason, we suggest Messrs Gibbons' action and stated reason are uninformed, have neither basis, substance nor reason in fact, or reasonable probability. Until they or anyone else can provide fact, or acceptable thesis to uphold 1873 as the year of issue, no unfounded, chimerical whim such as they have expressed, should be permitted to deprive the 1d. CC, bisected and used on piece or cover prior to December 1872, of its status as authentic and official. It remains wholly entitled to that recognition, if for no other reason than that, their capricious denial of some-

thing that exists, is so wholly extrinsic.

Shilling Pictorial, inverted frame. "Stamp Collecting," 17th October, 1942, gives us yet another story relating alleged discovery of "approximately 18 or 20" copies. It is said that an individual, writing from "a small town in Jamaica," sent a used copy on "a piece of brown paper," evidently used "on a parcel in the ordinary course of its postal duties," stating that he had discovered it. Here comes the curious part; "returning to the post office immediately after making his wonderful discovery, the fortunate man found approximately 18 or 20 copies still unsold which, of course he purchased." He offered the lot to the dealer to whom he sent the used copy, asking for a cabled bid. The deal went through. Something wrong, isn't there? If he discovered it on a parcel presumably received by him, the stamp obviously came from some post office away from him, yet he was able to return immediately to that post office, and purchase the remainder that he found. A previous story, also told in "S.C.," stated that another individual, scoured the Island in his motor car to locate half the sheet. According to the story, he did and disposed of his gain. If we are to have these romantic stories in connection with the stamp, we suggest to the authors that effort be made, to have their fiction agree to some small extent, with the established facts, which may be found in our book "Jamaica," published in 1928.

We have related the facts in these pages before, and as this writer directly was concerned, he is able to vouch for them. Half the sheet, 30 stamps, was supplied to the small post office at Manchioneal, where the discovery

was made by a now deceased Inspector on the staff of the General Post Office. He told this writer that he had secured ten copies only, showed them to him, the remainder had been used on telegrams, some on thrift cards, on which four fiscally used copies were discovered subsequently. The remaining half sheet evidently was sold by units at the window of the Kingston Post Office, for the reason that a used copy with that postmark, was submitted to this writer for opinion, by a collector in America; it was photographed and the plate is yet in his possession.

5/- Pictorial. In our last edition, we quoted an article from the "Philatelic Magazine" on this subject, commented on its unbroken series of erroneous and mis-statements, and at necessary length corrected them. The "P.M." in its edition 1st Jan., 1943, refers to our comment, is generous enough to admit but one error, i.e., that "a place in Jamaica called the Isle of Wood and Water" is wrong, thereby implying all the rest of the hopeless hodge podge nonsense in its published article is correct, as it should be; closes with a hoary music hall gibe at the name "Jamaica."

In our comment, we stated that a little knowledge can and does make a sad harsh of things. We perceive no cause to modify that statement, rather there is reason to re-iterate, amplify, emphasize it.

New Obliterator. "J. P." No. 15, June, 1941, described a new hand-stamp, and listed the Post Offices at which the type had been placed in use. The type that has now come to our attention, is similar, but there are differences of detail. The dimension and

general description of the first, are the same, but at the top centre of the inner circle, there is no star; the month, date, year, and name of the office are positioned as previously described, but the lower half of the double lined circle, is occupied by a curved bar, the name or word "Jamaica" is conspicuous by its absence. Just why that apparently necessary means of positive identification has been omitted, is obscure. What if Kingston-on-Thames; Kingston, Ont., Canada, elected to use the same type? The postage stamp on the cover, does not necessarily identify, we have possessed covers mailed in England, franked (1) with a Jamaica penny stamp, (2) with a penny Bahamas Staircase stamp, both in the days of the penny post, and both passed without taxation as unpaid. The offices now using the new hand stamp are: Faiths Pen, Gibraltar Camp, Linton Pen, Lydford, St. Pauls, Whitfield Town, Vineyard Town, all with first date of 12th March, 1943.

Obliterators of the old type, i.e., the closely set double lined circle, have developed disturbing sign of senility, they have lost—not their teeth, but the equivalent—the figures of the date that indicate the year. The trouble or disease seems not to be endemic, but epidemic. We have not seen one from any of the offices where they may be still in use, that shows any figures for the year, that space is quite blank. Covers sometimes are of importance in Courts of Law, to prove or not disputed date, by date stamp applied by the Post Office; current covers, or a large number of them, are useless for that purpose. The same type in use at Kingston similarly is defective, and that of the electric cancelling machine, shows for the figure

"3" of "43" what looks like a reversed "C," or an "O" damaged and broken at the left side. Post Office date stamps are of interest and importance not only and merely to Philately, but as well for business purposes, legal matters, and affairs of the Post Office itself. Use of any that are incomplete or defective, is a practice fraught with prospective trouble and dismay for many. Think what it may mean in future years, if, with a date in dispute before the Courts, a cover that is claimed to have been posted in 1943, is held, as it may very well be, from the electric date stamp now in use, to have been mailed in 1940.

Plate Numbers. Our current stamps appear to be prolific in plate numbers. We are trying to compile a list of them, and have listed some, but are certain that there are or must be others which have not come our way. Several times in the past, we have appealed to members for help in such matters as this, and in every instance, the appeal when not completely ignored by all members, brought response that was disappointingly small. We appeal again for help on this subject, our time and effort year by year have been spent in desire to be of some help to you; is it really too much to ask that you spare us a little of yours?

The Turner Collection. Elsewhere in this edition, we publish a report by Mr. Arthur D. Pierce, one of our members in USA, covering sale at auction there, of the outstanding collection of Jamaica, formed by Mr. C. Brinkley Turner, another of our members resident in the USA. The Turner collection was one of the most important, very comprehensive and

extensively complete in all the issues made by this Island, replete with most if not actually all of the rare items of which Jamaica may boast, British used in Jamaica, items of its postal history, and generally of its philately. Many of the rarer items are unique gems, gleaned at various times from other famous collections which, like this, had passed under the hammer at auction. We are always grieved to learn of the dispersal of a great collection, one prefers to know of them as intact, but what would you? satiety kills interest, misfortune or death intervenes, and in a few hours the monumental work of years, compiled with devoted care, skill and knowledge, is no more; it is the way of the world.

No. 8b. Our previous paragraph on this subject, was prepared for the press, some weeks prior to receipt of Mr. Pierce's report (*supra*). The information it conveys should be of wide interest, for us it is particularly opportune, as it mentions:—

a 1d. CC split (bisected) on cover dated 5th Oct., 1871 from Gayle to Montego Bay, which sold for \$19.00. Cheap, very cheap indeed. Our opinion would have placed its worth at \$100.00, £25.0.0. at least, but opinions are worth little against the hard fact of auction price, the market is governed by that.

The fortuitous information quoted from the report, removes from what we had previously written, the element of uncertainty, which of necessity is attached to presumptive evidence, such as we deduced; establishes fact instead. Beyond any quibble or doubt, the 1d postage CC is now known to have been in use in the Island during 1871; two years earlier than the Gibbons

record; ergo, use in bisected form was legal and *specimens of that use are not subject to question as to their status*, they have authority of the official notice of permission to use, dated 20th November, 1861, necessarily *are official and authentic*.

Will the Gibbons Editor now restore the item to his Jamaica list? We wonder!, very probably not. We do not propose to invite his attention to the matter, it is necessary for us to remember, that his catalogue is his "price-list," governed, as he would have us understand, by his stock in trade. The record made in this journal is for purpose of reliable reference.

The "Moore Town Mystery" mentioned in Mr. Pierce's report, is not a mystery, but an official curiosity, hence \$15.00 paid for it is fabulous. Some time ago Mr. Turner sent it to us with enquiry, and request for opinion. We were able to solve the problem and advise him. It is a cover made from blue batonne laid paper, such as was used for official correspondence. At the top right corner of the envelope, is a penny Jamaica Revenue stamp, embossed in red. The address is to some one at Port Antonio, and the revenue stamp is cancelled with the Moore Town post mark in black, i.e., impression of the regular hand cancelling stamp in use at that office. Solution of the "Mystery" is: At all rural collectorates and sub-collectorates throughout the Island, supplies are kept of revenue stamped paper, in varied denominations. The local public is able to buy, prepare and execute at once, sundry documents which by law are required to bear an impressed stamp, as distinguished from the adhesive. Without such supplies, small unimportant documents such as receipt for money paid, pro-

mis-sary note, acceptance, would need to be sent to the Stamp Office at Kingston to be stamped, accompanied with the necessary remittance, which would raise the cost of, a penny paper for instance, to many times that sum.

The Moore Town cover to us obviously was hand made, from a penny sheet of revenue stamped paper. The purchaser probably found that he did not need it for use as intended, and to obtain value for the money spent, converted it into an envelope for postal use, mailed it, and some one at the post office at Moore Town without authority and against it, accepted and transmitted it as properly prepaid. The post office at Port Antonio, was equally culpable, as the irregularity should have been detected there, and the letter taxed as unpaid.

It is not the only instance of irregular use that has been seen by us. We have a cover franked with a sixpenny stamp cut from a telegraph form, i.e. Gibbons type 14, printed in blue; another partly franked with a half penny stamp cut from a wrapper. It is against the regulations of the Post Office, to use any but adhesive stamps on postal matter, except of course, the postal stationery supplied by the Post Office, viz., wrappers, postcards, stamped envelopes.

Annual General Meeting—New Officers. The Annual General Meeting of the Society, was held on 3rd June. According to the Constitution, a part of its business was election of

officers, for the ensuing year. The almost usual and happy re-election of previous holders of office, could not be wholly repeated, as the Secretary read letters of resignation from the President and himself. Expressions of regret and tribute to both gentlemen, were numerous and apparently unanimous; the President's resignation because of continued ill health, and the Secretary's because of pressure of work entailed by certain public duties. Some measure of anxiety and concern on the Society's behalf, was relieved by the Secretary's consent to co-operate with his successor, until he could take hold; and arrangement, that he would continue in the position of Treasurer; and the ex-President's assurance that he would continue to serve the Society, in any way open to him, largely as editor and producer of the Society's publications.

The new panel of offices comprises
PRESIDENT: Mr. C. E. Scott, member No. 4. on the Society's roll.

VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Frank Valencia

HON. SECRETARY: Mr. Hugh Cox

HON. ASST. SECRETARY: Mr. F. L. Williamson

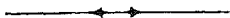
HON. TREASURER: Mr. G. C. Gunter

HON. EX. SUPT: Mr. P. J. Fernandez

COMMITTEE

Messrs. A. W. Perkins, C. de S. Pinto, P. J. Fernandez A. S. Briscoe, Miss G. M. MacPherson

We welcome both new and old officers, hoping for them a very satisfactory and successful period of administration.



Sale of the Turner Collection

ARTHUR D. PIERCE

The Jamaican collection built by C. Brinkley Turner, of Philadelphia, a valued member of the J.P.S., undoubtedly stood as the finest in America, and, after dispersal of the L. C. C. Nicholson collection, one of the foremost in the world.

Before discussing the sale of Mr. Turner's collection in New York last September, by H. R. Harmer, Inc., it seems only fitting first to offer a few words of appreciation, since the writer was privileged to view the collection on several occasions, publicly and at Mr. Turner's home. It contained, of course, virtually all the great rarities, including many which the Nicholson collection lacked; and yet equal attention was paid to the lesser items which determine, after all, the basic character of any stamp collection. Thus it was that the Turner Jamaicas ranged from the earliest known stampless cover, through the postal history as exemplified in postmarks, covers, etc., to platings of the 1890 provisional, and on through the many more byways of Jamaican philately.

To Brinkley Turner, needless to say, the collection was a labour of love, born of its owner's visit to the island some years ago, and, since put together with items from the Hind, Ferrari, Hopkinson, Trivett, Clutterbuck, Nicholson, and other collections—plus that patient search of dealers' counter books, stock sheets and miscellany whence come some of the most fruitful finds. The Turner collection was awarded a silver medal at TIPEX, the famous New York show where it ranked highest in its class, with many other awards and medals including

the Grand Award at the National Stamp Exhibition in Philadelphia, in 1938.

Mr. Turner's mounting was a combination of clear description, careful research and effective display. It was one of the pleasures of browsing through his albums to find, on one page, a bewildering showing of some familiar item, and then, on the next page to be left breathless by some gem new to the beholder's eye, often for the reason that it was unique. The collection of Turner covers was a rich assortment in every way—first, a wide choice of stampless items, including dozens of the post towns; an impressive array of British stamps used in Jamaica, covers as fascinating as they are hard to come by; pineapples, splits and even a Key Plate on cover used in the Cayman Islands.

Against this background, the auction of the Turner treasures was a mingled succession of surprises and disappointments. Prices were strongest in what one might call the "middle class" items, i. e., pieces in the \$5 to \$50 range; and prices were lowest, proportionately, in the rarity group. The latter situation was due in large extent to the fact that the British Empire market, in which most of these items were purchased, was closed to their resale, with the result that bidders in London and even Jamaica were excluded by the exchange restrictions. As a result, spirited bidding for the lesser gems contrasted with quite desultory interest in such star showpieces as the unique block of thirty of the penny pines, largest multiple piece

in existence.

It may be best to start at the beginning, at the hour of 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29, 1942, when Mr. H. R. Harmer himself called the auction to commencement. The Harmer auction rooms are on the seventh floor of the Rolls-Royce Building, on East 57th street, sunny and bright, and well-equipped. There were some 15 persons in the room, seated about a long, U-shaped table. Girls assisting Mr. Harmer would walk down the center of the U-table, showing each lot as its number came up, in case prospective bidders sought one final glance for yet one more bid. Mr. Harmer wielded the gavel, assisted by his invaluable lieutenant, Miss Barbara Falgar. Several members of the Jamaica Philatelic Society were present, including Mr. Harvey Green, of Merchantville, New Jersey; Dr. Kenneth Turner, of New York; the writer of this article; and, of course, Mr. Harmer himself. The "floor" included representatives of various dealers. Several other collectors had come from distant states to attend the sale.

One other feature of the sale was, at mid-point, the serving of tea or coffee, as one preferred, with crackers—a snack which served the double purpose of promoting geniality and keeping bidders fully awake to the proceedings.

First item to go under Mr. Harmer's gavel was "the earliest known letter" from Jamaica, dated 1752, valued by the auctioneer at \$10 and selling at \$11.50. Next came a group of "SHIP" letters with English markings, and two of the three brought in excess of their valuations. Then followed the early Jamaican postal markings, the "JAMAICA" types, of which there are

two, with broad and narrow "M." A copy of the second of these (Nicholson J3), valued at \$6, sold at \$4.50, but the writer was obliged to go to \$9.50 for another, dated 1774, valued at \$7, and the finest impression of this marking it has been his good fortune to see. Several other lots in this group were to be had quite cheaply, two fresh copies of the first and commoner type being knocked down at \$6, and another pair at \$6.50. The value of these items is to be appreciated when one sets out to find them in those long interim periods when Jamaican collections are missing from the auction lists.

The town datestamps showed a spurt in the bidding. One lot valued at \$10, containing a fine straight line Dry Harbour brought \$7.25; a lot of seven covers—including a straight-line Falmouth, and a U.S. letter with Jamaica postal markings—was valued at \$8 and fetched \$7.50. A straight-line May Hill brought \$11, a faint Commercial Buildings, Kingston \$3.50; a brighter copy, \$7.50. A collection of "SHIP" markings brought \$13, three over the estimated value, and the many lots of six, eight or more covers brought keen competition, many of them exceeding the auctioneer's estimates.

Closing this group was an unusual cover from Vere to London, mailed August 24, 1860, the day after the use of British stamps in Jamaica was discontinued. This item, valued at \$10, brought \$18.50. So, taken over all, the stampless group sold well—equal to expectations. There was, in fact more interest in this group than some had anticipated.

The second section of the sale included the covers with British stamps used in Jamaica. Four with A01 post-

marks sold for an average of \$7 per cover, above the estimates. Oddly, many of the post town covers, far scarcer, realised less than expected. One fine cover, Black River to Kingston, with a pair of the 1d, and single 4d, sold for only \$7.50, due no doubt to the fact that this cover, for all its scarcity, was damaged.

There was brisk bidding for what probably was the choicest cover in this group—a Falmouth "A39," on a beautiful strip of four of the 1d G. B., with superb impressions. This item had sold for £5 in the Nicholson sale in London, and now realised \$22, the same price, allowing for the exchange. Another choice Falmouth cover, ex-Trivett, with a pair of 6d G.B., brought \$18. A superb Grange Hill "A45," with a pair of the 4d went to a mail bid for \$14. (This was a bargain, as the Gibbons catalogue value was £12.) Another stellar item in this group, a May Hill "A45," with a pair of 1d and single 4d sold for \$15.50 (another ex-Trivett item valued at \$25).

A fine pair of 4d postmarked "A57" Montego Bay, on cover of course, sold for a dollar over the \$7 estimate a Port Morant cover, with the 6d G B. stamp tied by the Port Morant date stamp, realised only \$4.50, due no doubt to the condition of this item. This G. B. group closed with the sale of a very pretty cover bearing a 4d postmarked "A60," for St. Ann's Bay, the winning bid being \$11.

All these items varied so in quality that it is difficult to describe them adequately in relation to their realisations. Yet judging by the pace set on the superb pieces, the results were, to put it briefly, disappointing. There were some real bargains in these British used in Jamaica, and yet the tempo of the bidding also suggested

that had the competition been keener, the prices would not have stopped where they did. I am almost certain that three-fourths of these lots could not have been had by topping the sale bid once, twice or even thrice.

Next we come to the group of covers bearing Jamaican stamps, and starting off with the famous pineapple bisects. Here prices were at their best for the sale. A bisect postmarked at Mandeville, with the stamp somewhat rubbed, brought \$22, better than half catalogue. Another split brought \$20.50, though this cover was damaged, and yet another brought \$20, or half Scott. Spirited bidding here, by the way.

Followed a group of pineapples on cover. A neat, small cover with a pair of the 1d, a 3d and 6d, cancelled "A42," valued at \$7.50, brought \$11. A similar cover to Bengal, but not so fine, brought \$5.50. A star item from the Nicholson collection—3d pine on small cover, with "JAMAICA SHIP LETTER" in two lines, and "1½" in red, and other markings, sold for \$19, slightly less than it brought in London in 1940.

Two covers, one with 4d pine tied with the U.S. "STEAMSHIP 10" in a circle; and a pair of the 1/-, brought \$9.50—\$2.50 above the valuation. Four covers with various values of the pines were knocked down at \$13, though estimated at \$8. Further evidence of the great interest in covers came when a miscellaneous lot of 48, valued at \$11, sold for \$20.

Next came a CC split, used on a front from Gayle to Montego Bay, dated October 5, 1871. The valuation was \$15, the realisation \$19. A 1½d Postal Fiscal on cover to Turks Island brought \$6; another used locally from

Spanish Town to Kingston sold for \$6.50; a 5/- on a large registered cover brought \$8.50, and another 5/- on piece \$6. A 1d receipt stamp, revenue paper made into a cover, and postmarked Moore Town—called the “Moore Town Mystery”—was valued at \$10 and brought \$15, closing this section of the sale with consistent and, to the writer's mind anyway, conspicuous success.

By comparison, the next group, British stamps used in Jamaica—but off cover—realised an average 25 per cent under estimates. The items included a superb 1/- G.B. tied to piece, with a very clear “A01,” and another lot which contained a 4d British stamp with the Montego Bay date stamp. A £1 green G.B. (Scott 124), tied to piece, with a circular Kingston date stamp, brought \$15.50. This last item was from the famous E. E. Yates collection.

It was in the next section of the sale—the pineapples in multiple pieces etc.—that real massacre occurred. First off was a block of 30 of the 1d—six by five—the largest block known—ex-Trivett—cataloguing \$180, and knocked down at \$85. (Robson Lowe's Regent catalogue estimates the value of these blocks of pines at from eight to twelve times the normal stamp.) Yet a block of four, which followed the block of thirty, sold for \$15.50—which means that it brought considerably more, proportionately, than the far rarer, unique item. If the block of 30 had sold only at the same rate as the block of four, it would have realised \$116.25, instead of \$85.

A block of the 2d pine, mint, catalogued by Scott at \$36, brought only \$15.50; a mint block of the 3d (cat. \$40) realised \$17; and a block of 24 of the 3d, with part of the margin with

imprint sold for \$77.50, although its catalogue value was more than three times that—\$240. A mint block of 4d pines, cataloguing \$80, brought \$27, a margin block of 6d—catalogue \$100—sold for \$30. Best of the group was a block of the shilling value, which sold a little over half Scott, \$41. A thinned copy of the \$ variety, estimated value \$8, sold for \$7; another fine copy for \$10.50. The final pine item, an imperf shilling, realised \$9.

It seems safe to say that in normal times, with the world market open, the bidding for these pineapple blocks would have sent them all skyrocketing far above catalogue valuation. There was a definite lack of interest in them at this sale.

The pace quickened with the CC issues, also in blocks. Here the prices averaged two-thirds of catalogue or more, as evident from these figures; all for mint blocks: 1d CC, \$14.50; 2d block of six, cat. \$30, realisation \$21; 3d block of four, cat. \$24, realisation \$14.50; 1d block of four, cat. \$16, realisation \$16; a block of four of the 1/-, cat. \$12.00, realization, \$8.50. Next, a block of nine of the shilling, with the \$ variety, sold cheap at \$21, and a complete pane of sixty of the 1/-, with \$ variety (ex-Clutterbuck) brought \$51, against an estimated \$75.

An imperf copy of the ½d of 1872, soiled and creased, sold at \$4, and a very fine copy of the imperf 2/- of 1875 brought \$8. A block of six of the 1875 five shilling, cataloguing \$60, went for a mere \$15.50.

The Provisional Issue of 1890, next in order, offered among other lots, complete reconstructions of Setting I and Setting II—the first selling for \$10.50, about a third catalogue, the Setting II for \$31, as against \$57 catalogue. A block of eight showing the two errors

—"PFNNY," and "PFNNK" with the K broken—went under the hammer at \$18, as against the Scott listing of \$45.

A copy of the 1/- value of 1897, lightly postmarked, with the \$ variety sold at \$23; a block of four of the 5/- of the same year netting but a fourth Scott, i. e., \$7. Then followed several collections of 19th century issues, which realised from a fourth to a third Scott.

Why the Ser.et errors do not sell well in the United States deponent knoweth not. But it was so in the Roth sale, and so again this time, even though Mr. Turner boasted most of the Ser.ets surrounded by full panes. In the 1903-04 issue, a full pane of the ½d, with the error, sold for a paltry \$5; a pane of the 1d for \$4; a pane of the 2½d for \$6.25 — sheer slaughter, if frankness may be pardoned here. Better prices, to be sure, for the rare 5d value, a pair bringing \$31, a complete pane with margins \$60, and a pane without margins \$41. What price margins!

In the Multiple Crown and CA issue a pair of the 5d Ser.et (only 50 copies) realised \$46 (imagine what a U.S. stamp of only 50 known copies would bring!). A vertical pair of the 1/- of the 1905-11 group sold for \$26, not a bad figure, but a block of 80 of the 3d violet on yellow, cataloguing \$60, sold for \$8. Other items, mostly grouped from these issues, realised about a fourth Scott. And a complete sheet of 120 of the 1911 King Edward 2d, cataloguing \$60, went for \$8.

Now we come to the 1919 pictorials—and the high spots of the sale. The catalogue disclosed that Mr. Turner paid only \$500 for the 1/- with the inverted frame, a beautiful copy by the

way. So the realisation of \$625 netted a small profit. But the copy of the Slavery Stamp without the "Specimen" overprint is stated in the catalogue to have cost £110, so the sale price of \$355 represents a substantial loss. This item, by the bye, was on script watermarked paper. Another copy, on MCA paper, with corner margins, sold, if I remember correctly, for only \$170, at a sale of Mr. Eugene Klein, in Philadelphia, two or three years ago. In the Roth sale, however, some time previous, prices for these items were above the \$500 mark, all of which indicates an uncertain attitude towards the status of these items by those collectors with the funds to compete for their possession. The rarity of the Slavery stamps, however, cannot be disputed, so it may be that here again the shutout of the British Empire market served to hold down the realisations.

Other items in the pictorial group included one of the eight known vertical pairs of the 2/ with imperforate margin at the bottom, which sold for \$41; and a two shilling with a very clear double impression of the lower portion of the frame. This beautiful item was a bargain at \$100. A block of the 10/- 1921-23 issue sold, by the bye, for \$9.50, below face value at the time of issue.

Among the later issues were many items of interest. A Jubilee booklet sold for \$18.50, compared with \$4 in the Nicholson sale. The set of "double flagpole" varieties of the Jubilees, in blocks, went for a mere \$7, and the Coronations in sheets at \$6. Popularity of the Child Welfare issue was evident first in the sale of a lot of 36, with blocks of four with first day postmarks, valued at \$7 and bringing \$11.50, and the photos from which the vignettes

were made selling for \$5.

Interest in the War Tax varieties varied in direct ratio with the clarity of the varieties. A strip of six of the first $\frac{1}{2}$ d war stamp, showing progressing doubling of the overprint, sold for \$20, a single copy of the double \$7.25, and inverted overprint of the same stamp \$9.25. The "TAMP" error on the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d went for \$4, the "R" inserted by hand for \$8.50 in a pair with normal. The 3d "TAMP" error brought \$26, and the same with "S" inserted by hand only \$4. Inverted overprints on the same 3d (1916) realised \$25 for the yellow paper, \$18 for the lemon.

An extremely pretty item—a block of four of the 1917 $\frac{1}{2}$ d with the overprint on the back—sold for a mere \$7.50, against \$60 catalogue. A block of four of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d with overprint inverted realised \$26—with the catalogue value being \$200, little more than a tenth. Better prices were paid for the 3d with vertical overprint. One copy sold for \$24, another for \$23, and a pair, one without overprint, for \$36. A complete sheet of the 3d, showing various varieties cataloguing \$51 sold for \$5.50, though, oddly enough, a collection estimated to bring \$20 sold for \$31.

There was considerable interest in the Officials. A block of 12 of Type I sold for \$10.50, a pair with one "blind official" and an inverted overprint, one stained and the other thin, selling at \$7, a price which would have been much higher had the condition been better.

Among the selection of proofs—and a wide selection it was—a die proof of the vignette of the arms type brought \$15.50, above the estimate, and four die proofs of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d pictorial went for

\$25.50. A lovely artists' model of the issued 2/- pictorial, with a photographic vignette in sepia, hand-coloured and mounted on countersunk card, brought \$31, against an estimate of \$25, the undersigned being the purchaser. A die proof of the frame of the same stamp sold for \$10.50, and a vignette of the 6d Port Royal, in blue, for \$10.50. A block of four of the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d 29 Georgian, Type I, in blue, only block known, sold for \$36.

The mysterious proofs overprinted "Specimen," sometimes called colour trials, and listed by Robson Lowe as "printer's samples," and rejected by L. C. C. Nicholson as "Specimens," brought an average of \$2 each, one soaring to the dizzy (?) height of \$4.25.

Among the Specimen stamps, rare as they are among the pines, there was scant interest. The unique block of eight of the 1d pine, with Specimen in mss., ex-Trivett, went begging at \$31; a strip of six of the 2d pine, with imprint below "Price 2d per label," was valued at \$60 and also went begging at \$21. A pair of 3d pine Specimens with small serif capitals sold for \$9.50, and the block capitals on the pines ranged from \$2.25 to \$3.50.

"Specimen" surcharged copies of the Slavery stamp sold as follows: an MCA copy, very fine, \$15.50; a creased copy with watermark reversed, \$11.50; a 6d script copy, very fine, \$14.50, and a proof, in lilac and green, at \$10.50.

Spirited bidding involved the Turner collection of postmarks, which included the numbered obliterators, the temporary date stamps, ship postmarks and other items of interest, including a French anchor cancellation. Even

while the sale was in progress a bid on this collection was received by telegraph, which boosted the previous book bid from \$175 to \$180 (the estimated value was \$125). The collection finally was knocked down the writer of this account for \$185. It was a worthwhile purchase.

Trailing at the end of the sale were such items as a lot of judicial stamps which sold for \$4.25; a collection of Red Cross labels which realised \$8.50, a lot of Postal Fiscals at \$15, various collections, a photostat of the postoffice at Kingston in 1860, and, finally, Queen Victoria's autograph on a lieutenant's commission, estimated at \$5, realising \$9.

By the writer's calculation, the total realisation for the sale, from the list of prices, was approximately \$4400--which is not by any means what one would have expected from such a rich collection of scarce, unusual and rare material.

We can, of course, blame it on the war, a habit nowadays. But the fact remains that a magnificent collection has been dispersed, beyond recall, the labour of years dissipated, with much less competition for the treasures than there should have been when the stamps of Jamaica admittedly enjoy such wide popularity, especially in this hemisphere. The answer, I do not pretend to give. But Mr. Turner, who has not lost his love for Jamaica, and who is reportedly building a new postmark collection, has the satisfaction of

having put together a philatelic monument of which the Jamaica Philatelic Society may well be proud, for a fellow-member.

Those collectors who may feel discouraged over some of the realisations, even as they gaze at their own collections, may dissipate their gloom by a closer analysis—which shows that the major slumps were, as pointed out before, in the rarity class items, in the pineapple blocks, the inverted frame, etc., whereas many of the medium range items, especially covers which most of us are more likely to possess—found a brisk demand and a rising price level.

True, we do not, most of us, collect on a price tag basis, for that is one sure means to philatelic boredom and disappointment; yet we do like to know that our gatherings through toil and travail have held the values we ourselves recognized at time of purchase; and for the average collector the Turner sale suggests the increasing trend and interest in postal history items, postmarks, covers and most of the items most of us dare to dream of owning.

If I had paid \$1000 for a copy of the shilling with inverted frame as someone did a few years back, I admit I'd have a sinking feeling when I came to that page in the album. As it is, a photograph is mounted in that spot, and is proof against loss, since it cost nothing in the first place. There are times when such a humble substitute has its points.

Used or "Postmarked to Order."

By J. BENSON

I gave a display of the stamps of Jamaica at a society meeting recently and, during the course of the proceedings, a point was raised that where my used blocks of four had only received one cancellation i.e. in the centre of the block, they had been postmarked to order.

What constitutes "postmarked to order"? I presume that what was inferred was that all the used blocks had received favoured treatment through courtesy of the persons in charge of the post offices where the stamps had been cancelled and that in most cases they had performed no postal duty. What was also inferred was that each stamp should have been postmarked separately. I therefore take it that the more cancellations which appear on the block the more evidence there is that the said block has legally done postal duty and, therefore, has not been postmarked to order. There might be a grain of truth in the latter suggestion but on the other hand to take it as fact would, of course, be absurd.

Consider for a moment the fact that you desire a certain stamp in used block of four and you are fortunate enough to have the choice of three blocks. The first is priced at three-quarters catalogue, and is "superb" with one postmark in the centre of the block; the second has two postmarks, one of which is smudged giving two of the stamps a somewhat dirty appearance and is priced at one-half catalogue, whilst the third block priced at one-third catalogue has four postmarks and suffers from the "navvy-boot" effect. You are a specialist of the country in question, which block would you purchase, al-

ways keeping in mind that perhaps one day you may wish to sell? I do not think there is any doubt which block would be taken.

I always remember advice I had drummed into me in my younger days by a great collector friend of mine. He emphasised the point that you should always aim at superb condition and be prepared to pay up to full catalogue for items in such condition, anything less than "superb" was dear at any price. The latter part of his advice no doubt seems very drastic, but I knew what he meant when saw I his collection of Hong Kong. I have seen larger collections of that country but due to the care my friend had taken to include only "superb" items in his collection it realised a very high figure when he sold it some time before his death.

Let us go the other end of the scale and take a collection of average condition, the owner of which took more or less anything that came his way, paying about a fourth to a third catalogue, and a fair number of the items were of the "navvy-boot" type of postmark. The owner for some reason or other decides sell. He goes to a dealer and after examining the collection what does "Mr. Dealer" say. I can assure you his remarks do not please "Mr. Seller" who having failed to appreciate the "condition" question while amassing his collection now thinks that "Mr. Dealer" is trying to rob him, but if "Mr. Seller" desires the cash he has to be content to sell at a loss.

Study dealers' lists and auctioneers' catalogues and besides noting the remarks such as "superb" and "connoisseurs' piece", look at the prices asked

or those realised for such items at auction—they speak for themselves.

I know all this sounds very much like "finance" instead of "philately" but nevertheless most collectors who put money into their collections hope that one day, if they should have to sell, they will realise a profit, or at least not sell at a loss.

You will appreciate by this time, having read so far, that I have been brought up in the "superb condition school." My collection has been built up over the last thirty years and I must admit I am what is termed "one of those condition cranks", but my collection is pleasing to look at and from the "average collector's" point of view I can appreciate the doubt raised at the meeting when it was suggested that most of the items were "postmarked to order". If the latter remark was true then I must be one of "fortune's favourites", and every postmaster and postmistress in practically every post office in Jamaica unknown to them and to me have been cancelling stamps, specially for me, in "superb" condition. Some items I only recently acquired after waiting some twenty years whilst there are still some I am searching for, but in any case I take it as a compliment to my judgment of superb condition, the suggestion that the used blocks in my collection are in such a condition as to be regarded as "postmarked to order." I have no doubt that if the said used blocks had been broken up, no question would have been raised regarding the superb condition of the single copies.

Had the blocks all been cancelled at one post office I agree there would have been grounds for suspicion, but the fact is they were postmarked at a large number of post offices in differ-

ent parts of the Island, which only goes to prove, at least I consider it so, that the instructions to cancel each (in the case of blocks) is old fashioned and out of date, and that the post office officials realise the advertising possibilities of the postage stamp, besides the saving in time, ink and energy required to apply a postmark in the centre of each block, which is all that is necessary to ensure that the four stamps in the block received some portion of the postmark.

Ed. Prior to receipt of this item from Mr. Benson, we had dealt with the subject from a slightly different angle, and as a matter of current interest. That comment will be found on another page. If we understand Mr. Benson aright, his fellow members gave him no credit for care in selection, instead explicitly or implicitly accused him of improper solicitation, to have obtained what he has. Why, may we ask, are some collectors of stamps so obviously thoughtless, unthinking, to allow their thinking to be done for them by others, who distinguish themselves with incapability to think for anyone? Collectors of stamps should be capable of reasoned thought, stamp collecting should teach them that, but time and again, we see them stampeded, as in this instance, into some insane action or inaction. Mr. Benson's fellows, with the current trend observed in the English press, ignore the fact that superb used specimens can be, and are found, that have passed through the post in the ordinary, usual, regular manner. The stand they take adumbrates the absurd proposition that, all "superb" used copies are tainted. They refuse to recognise, that when and where such specimens can be identified, as having been obtained by complaisance, nothing legally wrong is or was done to obtain them in that condition. They can do nothing to prevent or identify them with certainty, hence they must be accepted. The pundit attitude implying that "superb" copies, create suspicion that the ethics of stamp collecting have been smirched, is merely ridiculous, if, as one must, the existing standard of these ethics be considered. What have the pundits to say about the first day cover?

Double Impressions?

A correspondent offered for exchange, a copy of the 2½d. pictorial on MCA. paper, "Return of a Contingent," which he described as "a double transfer" variety. Casual observation probably would suggest to some, that claim and description are supported by the condition of the stamp itself, but closer observation should indicate that duplication of lines, necessary to earn that description, is not present. What is visible is wide, blurred outline of some parts of the design.

The specimen so interested us, that we have been tempted to write it up, especially so for the reasons that, sundry similar things at different times have come our way for observation, and probably there are some of our readers student and interested enough, possibly possessors of specimens of the kind, who may desire to learn how they have existence, why they are not classed as rarity, and why there is no record of them.

First: a description of the stamp. It a shade variety, i.e. ultramarine and deep blue centre, instead of blue and deep blue or indigo, as we are more or less accustomed to see. The value or denomination tablet at top left, the figures of value, the word "Postage," lower left, the bottom line of the frame throughout its length, all show wide outline of the respective conformations, in pale blue.

Next: let us consider what the term "double transfer" means? (Reference to our last edition, the article "Printing," should aid understanding.) It is used with reference to the design, transferred from the roller to the printing plate. That transfer is effected under pressure; the roller is rocked to and fro, so that the lines of the design may bite, and be sunk deeply enough into the plate to hold the ink, if recess printing is to be done. Obviously, if there be lateral movement of either plate or roller, after the initial impression is made, the lines of the design begin to register anew, a second set is developed, and if the plate be used for printing, both sets of lines will

appear printed in that particular subject of the sheet of stamps. It has happened that one or other subject on a plate, had been found to be faulty, and to avoid waste of time and material, it was burnished away. When that appeared to have been accomplished, the plate and that subject again were placed under the roller, and a new impression laid down, but the printed result quite often gave that away, showing traces of the first impression. With each such imperfect printing, what became known to the philatelic world as "re-entry," came into existence. In the printed effect, "double transfer" and "re-entry" mean much the same thing, i.e., duplication usually in part, of some of the lines of the design, but whichever may be the origin, the source of necessity is defect on the printing plate, so again of necessity, both original and duplicated lines, are printed in the same colour and shade of ink, and must so appear on each and every sheet of stamps printed from that plate. Such varieties are recognized, and in philatelic phraseology are stated to be "constant."

In our book "Jamaica", the chapter on Pictorials 1919/21, it is stated with particular reference to the 2½d of the series, that there have been various claims for varieties with double impression, but none are known to be constant. That comment stands; there has been no known reason to modify it; and is applicable to this specimen of which we write. Provided with sheet margins, its position was readily identified as from a corner of the sheet. Comparison with existing sheets, corner blocks and strips, established inconstancy; for that reason and the fact that so far as is known, only one plate was used to print supplies of the stamp on MCA paper it seems clear that the variety was not created by either "double transfer" or "re entry."

Every stamp collector who desires to know his stamps, whether tyro or philatelist, is not satisfied merely with knowledge, that this or that exists; he desires to know why it does, how it

came into existence; and when that evidence is not self evident, searches to find it. With experience and developed knowledge, he is able to weigh that evidence, to decide for himself whether or not it conforms with reasonable, accepted standards, discard the trivial, and give proper place to the really important. In this present instance, an effect is presented which, without any sort of argument, is a variation from the normal, but before there can be acceptance of it, as something that reasonably may be collected and placed in the collection as worthwhile, it is necessary to apply the test of philatelic reason, to reconcile it if we can, with the standards known to exist, which have been applied to the stamps we have collected.

In order to understand some of the terms it will be necessary to use, to explain the procedure we will endeavour to describe, again we suggest reference to our last edition, the article by Mr. Watkin, descriptive of the double impression of overprint, on the 2d. War Stamp of April, 1916; his description of the press used, in particular preparation of the roller that held the sheets to be printed; bear in mind however, that he described a typographic process, while we are considering the 2½d "Contingent," produced by recess printing.

Printers endeavour to obtain a true flat, level surface both of the printing plate and of the paper to be printed, so that all parts of each meet all parts of the other, at precisely the same moment. If the respective surfaces do not meet in that manner, some parts of one reach the corresponding parts of the other in advance of the remainder, the printed result in that area is blurred, i.e., there is an indistinct initial impression that merges into another better and normally defined. Conversely, if the meeting of some parts be delayed; there is unevenness present and responsible for lack of complete contact. The printed result may be faint, indistinct, partial. Those effects may be observed at times, in places on the printed sheets of newspapers, magazines, books, etc. There is nothing

mysterious about the cause and effects, they need but little thought and reason to be understood and appreciated.

The material used in the printers effort for uniform surface, as well as the effort itself, is called "make ready," and that means as Mr. Watkin explains, padding of the roller of his theoretical machine, with flexible material to obtain the desired even printing surface, or eventually and quickly to create that condition, for the reason that flexibility of the padding material used, enables pressure exerted by the press, to iron and smooth out irregularities that may continue to exist after "make ready" has been completed, so that all parts of plate and paper meet each other as they should, and printing proceeds with normal result. Before that condition is reached, while evenness of surface is yet imperfect, parts of the sheet to be printed may reach corresponding parts of the printing plate, in advance of the remainder, receive an initial lightly inked impression, which, as the pressure of the press is exerted to its tension, flattens out the paper to the limit of its area; becomes blurred and spreads in the process, to merge into the well inked, normally defined lines of the design. The same happening does not follow with the next or other sheets, at least not to the same extent or degree of intensity, for the reason that the flexible "make ready" will have yielded to the pressure of the press, and the respective surfaces of plate and paper are, with each operation, brought more readily into complete contact at the same moment; hence inconstancy of variety, and the fact that if and when two or more are known to exist, no two are or can be precisely alike, each is a variant of the other.

A print from a "double transfer" or "re-entry," should not show a blurred impression, but it may because of excessive inking. Should it do that, positive duplication of some of the lines of the design, distinguish it from the "make ready" item.

So much for the origin of "make ready" items, and how they may be recognized; let us get back to the par-

ticular specimen, the base of this effort to explain them. It shows still another feature not yet mentioned, and which may have had some influence in its creation. It has, for stamp collector, a very serious defect, i.e., what looks like a crease, but really is a tiny double fold in the paper, that crosses it from about 10 to 4 o'clock, from N. W. to S. E. How did that happen and what may be deduced from it?

It is essential to remember that (1) the stamp is recess printed, (2) the sheet of paper of which it was a part when fed to the press was damp, drying and shrinking. Printers will affirm that sheets of paper when being handled for printing, will do the most extraordinary, inexplicable things; apparently natural activity which necessarily would be stimulated when, as in this instance, the factors of drying, shrinking, tendency to twist and curl are added, all of which reasonably may be assumed to have been present at the time this particular sheet was printed. It is conceivable that with those conditions, the paper developed a ridge or gutter in the area of the specimen, which caused advanced meeting of parts of paper and plate in that area, and so an initial

lightly inked impression was made ensuing pressure by the press crushed the ridge into the fold described, and merged that impression into a completed printing of the whole design in normal well defined lines.

Summing up our investigation, the result may be set out thus:

(1) Such varieties cannot be accounted for as derived from reasonable source, they come from freakish, unstable conditions.

(2) No two impression; taken under the same conditions from the same subject, are alike, each varies from the other.

(3) Actually they are poorly printed, smudged copies, inconstant and unreliable in production.

(4) There is not and cannot be enough of any, to create competition for ownership, hence there is no general market, and no record of them for any philatelic purpose is necessary.

It will then be understood that because of triviality of origin, none is or can be possessed of philatelic interest or importance, even though as a group they do excite some measure of that interest, negative in character and merely to explain the fact of existence.

Jamaica S. G. 107a.

BY J. BENSON

Search as you may, you will not find the above in the catalogue, which raises the question, when does a variety qualify for catalogue status and what probationary period does this entail? From the position of a "minor," what "good conduct marks" must it obtain whilst passing through the period of transition until it receives "promotion" and is given a number in "the book of words?"

Naturally, if I knew the answers to these questions this article would not be taking up the valuable space which it is occupying in this magazine.

The article has arisen from the fact that during a period of "off duty,"

and with the intention of getting away for a short time from the everyday strain which exists in these strenuous times through which we are passing, I picked up a volume from my collection. Whilst browsing over it I came to the page containing a short study I had made of the "bow" variety, which set me wondering whether it would ever reach catalogue status and if not, why.

As is known, this variety occurred on the 1d green King George V stamp of 1927 (S.G. 107), and was brought about by the accidental dropping of a tool on the plate. This resulted in damage to the ornament situated to

the right of the final "A." of the word Jamaica. Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson wrote two very interesting articles in "Godden's Gazette" in 1935-36, giving full details of this variety. He explained that the damaged plate was not corrected immediately, but that some nine printings were made between July 1930 and July 1934, before the defect was put right by the engraver. A very fine job was made of the correction but if you are fortunate enough to obtain the portion of the sheet containing it you will observe that a certain thickness of the branch still remains.

It is considered that some 60,000 sheets were printed off before the correction was made, but the variety was not "discovered" until 1932, two years after the first printings of the flaw had been issued. How many copies now exist can only be surmised, as being the lowest value, many would be consigned to the wastepaper basket where they would eventually "pass on" to their final "resting place" beyond the reach of collectors.

In spite of the fact that some 60,000 copies of the variety saw the light of day, it is certainly a very scarce item, as you will find if you set out to track it down. Do not, however, let this deter you as every copy found will be well worth the time and trouble taken in searching for it.

A used copy I saw in a dealer's stockbook was priced at 5/-, which should be considered reasonable, in view of the unknown quantity and the great probability that a large number have "gone forever."

I have seen the "bow" referred to

as a minor variety, while in the same paragraph it is compared with the "dollar" and "ser. et" errors. If it is referred to in the same breath as the "dollar" and "ser. ets" surely it has gone beyond the stage of the "minor" and should not continue in the same category as the "pimple" and "fly-spot." It is in fact no "colour scheme" variety but one constant in each sheet and in every sense an example entitled to catalogue status.

In an article written in a previous issue of this magazine, on the subject of the Child Welfare set, I mentioned that it was up to every colonial collector to see that he had a set in his collection. I am sure that those who took my advice at that time do not now regret having done so. I repeat the same advice regarding the "bow" variety. In spite of the number reckoned to have been issued it is scarce and has all the necessary qualifications to take its rightful place in the catalogue. Do not put off; otherwise if, and when, it receives "recognition," you will probably have to call in "Mr. Dealer" to assist you to obtain a copy—at a price!

Whilst reading the various issues of the JAMAICA PHILATELIST I have noticed that the Editor, on many occasions, has complained of the lack of articles from "local" members. Here is an opportunity for the "local" members, particularly those who have never written anything for the magazine, to air their views on this subject and say whether they agree or disagree with me, in that I consider that the "bow" variety should be given catalogue status.

Some Jamaican Postmark 'Discoveries'

BY ARTHUR D. PIERCE

Quotation marks around the word "discoveries," in the caption for these notes, is dictated by the knowledge that what one person may believe is a discovery can be familiar ground to another. These notes do offer summarized information on various postal

markings which the writer has not found recorded in any of the philatelic publications available to him.

It is often a matter of wonder that new postal marking can be turned up at this late date, especially markings of the last century, but that is due to

doubt to the limited interest in such items until later years, when the marks had long since ceased to be current, and when information about their issuance was not available at the source. The studies of Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson are the proof of this, and naturally, with the material in the Jamaica Handbook, produced by the Jamaica Philatelic Society, form the foundation for any new exploration or deductions.

There is, in fact, much mystery about certain of the obliterations yet to be cleared up, and it would be interesting, too, if one could make a sort of census of Jamaican postmark collections to see how the various obliterations rank in their relative scarcity. That, of course, is a major project and is mentioned here merely to show the possibilities for future exploration. As it is, other collectors may have encountered the markings listed herewith, and, if so, the writer will welcome correspondence concerning them.

My first exhibit is a curious item which reached me through my friend Herman Herst, Jr., of New York, which came from a group of covers he purchased at the famous Knapp auction sale. The mark on this cover is:

KINGSTON T

The date of the cover is 1808. It was sent from London, or at least it bears a "London Paid" stamp, in red, and was addressed to Mr. John Rensett, Lyssoms Estate, St. Thos's in Ye East, Jamaica. The letter itself is without date, and the London marking mentioned is faint at the lower part bearing the date, but the month appears to be February, the day date being indecipherable. The recipient, however, has noted, in mss., "Received April 25, 1808."

No mark remotely resembling this is recorded either in the notes of Mr. Nicholson or in the handbook, or is known to any of the Jamaican collectors with whom I have corresponded with respect to it. There was, of course, the possibility that it might have been some other Kingston, but the course of the letter rules against this, and so do other factors noted below.

That this mark is an early "postage due" or "to pay" stamp is suggested not only by the "T," but also by the fact that while the rate on the face is marked 1/10 in red mss., on the back there is, in black ink, unlike any other ink on the cover, and in a very different hand, the mss. marking "P 2/8" indicating that this extra charge was made upon the recipient.

The overall length of this marking is 45 mm., the height 4 mm., and the type is similar to that of the "TOO LATE" marking listed in the Jamaica Handbook as Type M34. The imprint on this cover is full and clear.

My next stampless "discovery" is a forwarders' mark which popped up in a recent auction in New York. It may be quite familiar to others, but I have found no record of it—a narrow rectangle with blunted corners, with this inscription:

FORWARDED BY
J. A. GARCIA DEL RIO
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

This mark appears upon a cover sent from Vera Cruz, or at least dated there, May 6, 1851. The addressee is Mr. Wm. Geo. Stewart, New York. No more address than that. The forwarding mark is brilliant and clear, and directly above it in a fine hand, apparently put there by the forwarder, is "Received May 14, 1851." The letter, in Spanish, bears the notation "Received June 3, 1851."

Other forwarders' markings were noted in the sale of the Nicholson collection by Messrs. Robson Lowe (lot 114 "Forwarded by Barclay & Co., / Kingston / Jamaica"), and a similar, or perhaps the same cover of Barclay & Co., in the sale of the Brinkley Turner collection.

It would be interesting and useful if collectors possessing other forwarders' markings would, in turn, "forward" the information to the Jamaica Philatelic Society so that a compilation of these scarce and interesting items could be made.

My next exhibit does not offer a "new" postal marking, but an unusual combination of old ones, and since its

story interested me I pass it on. It is what I call a "stamped stampless cover."

It was dated at Kingston March 12, 1858, a month before the use of British stamps began in Jamaica. The date is found in the circular "Kingston Jamaica / Paid" handstamp, in red. Addressed to London, this cover was received there on April 3; as evidenced by a "London / Paid" circular marking on the face, in red.

Presumably the addressee, one W. T. Wade, 17 Sergeants Inn, had moved or gone on vacation, for the letter is readdressed to him at "Disnamow, Essex," or what appears to be that. To pay for the forwarding a 1d red British stamp was affixed. This is cancelled with the London duplex, same date as the paid stamp—April 3, 1858, with the killer "WC 9." The London mark ties the stamp, and also ties the Jamaica Paid marking. Thus, an unusual "combination cover." Best of all, I found this tucked in a cheap auction lot of "British" covers purchased several years ago in London. Apparently no one had noticed the Jamaica marking—which is the clue telling how the cover started out as a stampless, and ended the other way round.

Now, to the obliterations.

First, some supplementary information on "A 79" (Type J, as given in the handbook). Mr. Nicholson's notes, based on the available information at the time, read as follows:

"This type of A 79 is seldom seen on any stamp. This type was sent out about 1865, but it is not known used at Richmond until 1892 and was out of use there in 1896."

I have a copy of this on the 1d Key Plate, but also copies on the early and late shades of the 6d CC. If that is not conclusive evidence of the use of A 79 long before 1892, there is proof positive in a copy-on-piece in the possession of Mr. Harvey Green, of Merchantville, N. J., a member of the Society. This piece bears the Type J on a pair, with the piece showing the clear date stamp: "Richmond, May 31, 1880." It would be interesting to know if any JPS members have covers or other evidence of still earlier use of this elusive obliterator.

Next to "A 76," Spanish Town.

Some months ago I came upon an A 76 which I firmly believed was a type different from either of the two now listed. The impression, on a 4d pine, was not quite sharp enough, however, to make me positive on the point. Recently, in a dealers' stock book in New York, a perfect copy of this same type literally "hit me in the eye." It is on a 3d pine, so clear as to be unmistakable.

From measurements, I am convinced that the type now listed for A 76 as Type H should be given, another designation, and that the type I have found is earlier, and identical with my copy of this mark since obtained on a 4d British stamp used in Jamaica.

Here are the differences in the three types as I find them, subject, of course, to correction from others who may have ploughed this field ahead of me.

Type H—Found on G. B., also on two pines; letters are in the fairly thin type of most H obliterations; the inner killer bars a full 9.5 mm. apart, the downstroke of the "7" being thin, and the right end of the serif of the "A" 2.5 mm. from the base of the "7."

Type "X" (now listed apparently as Type H)—The figures are much heavier, with heavy wedged serifs. The downstroke of the 7 is thick at the bottom and the letters generally thicker also; the right end of the serif of the "A" is 1 mm. from the base of the "7." Distance between inner killer bars 8.5 mm.

Type C—Quickly distinguished, as the handbook states, by the fact that the serif of the "A" joins the base of the "7," while the figures are slightly smaller, slightly thinner, and with the distance 8.5 mm. (as in Type "X").

Laid side by side on an album page, these three types are so clearly different as to be unmistakable, and the fact that what I call Type H appears also on the G. B. stamp indicates that it was the real "H" and the first A 76 obliterator issued. Presumably Type "X," issued later, had an even shorter life than Type "H," if the latter was superseded by Type O in 1874.

In the comparative notes, by the bye, I should have mentioned that the killer bars themselves are thin on my

Type H, thicker on Type X, and thicker still on Type O.

My next observations concern the "T. P. O." circular postmarks.

I find what seem to be three distinct types of these, something which many on the ground in Jamaica probably observed long since. But as the facts have not been recorded, so far as I can learn, here goes anyway.

Type I: The T.P.O. is in a single-lined circle 28 mm. in diameter. This is the mark listed in the handbook, as dating from September, 1913.

Type II: The T.P.O. is in a double-lined circle with an outer diameter of 28 mm., as before. The two circles—the outer thick and the inner thin—are so close to each other that often they appear as one thick circle. The earliest dated copy I have of this is June 27, 1927, and the latest May 4, 1937. As with Type I, it contains the "T.P.O." at the top, date in center, and "Jamaica" at bottom, but in Type II the word "Jamaica" is in more condensed letters than Type I.

Type III: The T.P.O. is in a double-lined circle, whose outer diameter is 30 mm. The inner and outer circles are a full millimetre apart. This type is very clear and sharp, no smudging of the two circles to suggest they might be one.

In Type III, in addition to the "T. P. O.," date, and "Jamaica," there is a number above the date. I have this with Nos. 2 and 3, and have seen a copy with No. 1. I have not seen a copy of Type III without a number above the date.

The earliest dated copy I have of Type III is December 15, 1937. As my latest dated copy of Type II is June 19, 1937, the probability is that Type III was put into use during the last half of 1937.

There are, I find, also two types of the Port Antonio "Street Letter Box" cancellation, a fact which eluded me until very recently.

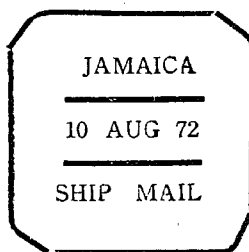
Type I is the familiar date stamp listed in the handbook, with the diameter of the inner circle 25 mm., and small sans-serif letters.

Type II is larger. The diameter of

the inner circle is 26 mm., and the letters are larger, both in height and thickness. Whereas there was a comma after the word "BOX" in Type I, there is a dash between "BOX" and "PORT" in Type II.

I can give little suggestion as to the date when the types were changed as I have few copies to go by. My latest Type I is dated November 24, 1926, and my earliest Type II is April 26, 1939—which leaves a paltry dozen years to play around in.

My final exhibit is an item which came to me in a batch of covers which had been tucked away in a trunk somewhere in Philadelphia ever since their arrival from Kingston, during the years from 1871 to 1874. The item is a box cancellation as follows:



The enclosing box is square, 21.5 mm. by 21.5 mm.—with the corners of the box cut, the bevel-edge being 1.5 mm. The mark is very similar in format and lettering to the "Returned Letter Branch" mark (type M42 in the handbook).

It appears on a cover with a pair of 1d pines, and a 3d CC, with wing margin. The killer is A01, there is a circular "N. Y. Steamship 10," "Per Rising Star" in mss., a Kingston backstamp dated August 10, 1872, and a Philadelphia backstamp in blue for August 18.

My researches have been unable to locate anyone who ever saw such a marking, and further information about it would be deeply appreciated by the writer. Why it was applied to this particular cover, and not to other covers in the same correspondence about the same time and under appar-

ently identical mailing circumstances—that is a mystery indeed. But mystery, after all, is one of the basic at-

tractions of philatelic research, and philatelic detection a sport worthy of the great Sherlock himself.

Our Current Stamps

The present series, ill conceived and execrably executed in its design, when issued, was severely criticized by us in these pages, certainly not more, perhaps much less, than it deserved. Existing conditions provide excellent reason, and best of precedents to be rid of it.

All its denominations, 2d. to 10/-, were prepared in large format for pictorial designs intended to advertise to probable visitors, some of the Island's attractions, economic and scenic, and portraying in profile the head of His Reigning Majesty, King George VI. It succeeded yet another pictorial series, which had been issued with similar reason. That reason cannot be claimed still to exist, and the proximate probabilities are, or seem to indicate, that a deal of time, years perhaps, must and will elapse, before there can be hope that it may be revived. If that position be conceded, it is obvious that continued appeal at present, to probable visitors by means of postage stamps, is wasted effort, is neither necessary nor useful.

A cogent, pressing reason that demands consideration of the subject, is acute world shortage of paper. In Great Britain, greatest economy of use, with penalties for infringement, is demanded, and salvage of the used severely is enforced, also with penalties. From America, influence of the shortage is seen in the reduced size of popular publications, and posters brought here from there, to advert the movies, are about one-sixth the usual size. Those factors seem to compel understanding, that it is not pecuniary economy in control, but the much more exacting economy of non-availability. All of our local publications similarly have been influenced and are controlled in diminished size or volume.

A very wealthy Dominion, the Union of South Africa, as a measure of war economy, has reduced the size of its

postage stamps, from medium large format to the conventional small size, i. e., that of our local $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Australia uses the same small format for 12 of 15 denominations, has but three, 5/-, 10/-, 20/- in the large, about the size of our 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Great Britain has precisely the same practice, 12 small and three large. In that company, Jamaica is distinguished by exact reversal of practice, we reserve the small format for the three lowest denominations ten are in large format that serves no useful purpose, which cannot adequately be served by stamps in the smaller.

That highly wasteful and completely unnecessary extravagance, cannot possibly be justified in the present circumstances and conditions, and it sets an example of waste in official matters, that is observable by any and obvious to many. The civilian has it dinned in his ears, that by waste he helps Hitler and his gang; helps to sabotage the war effort; the oil that provides light he is said to waste, costs men's lives to bring it here, etc. Is he expected to take those statements seriously, when, as he deals with incoming and outgoing mail, he sees an airmail letter franked with a shilling stamp, three times the paper necessary; a locally registered letter franked with one 4d and one $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp, four times the necessary paper, or with a 2d and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, six times the necessary paper?

What can be offered in extenuation of the practice, and excuse for those responsible for its continuance? It may be argued in defence, the cost of new dies and plates necessary to print new stamps, at the moment is prohibitive, that dies and plates will use steel required for purposes of the war. Even if cost be high, we contend that the money should be spent, large sums are being expended on less worthy objects. Steel is a closely controlled

item, it may not be used for commercial and civilian products, those must be given up, we must do without them, but, while we regard those arguments, applied to the present necessity, as rather more sophistry than anything else; we ask the question, Are new dies and plates needed at all?

It appeals to us that they are not. A new head die portraying his reigning Majesty, was provided some time ago, has been and is being used in combination with old frame or duty plates, to print "postage" and "revenue" stamps, which are then overprinted with the word "Judicial", supplied to the Island, and used in the service of the Courts. The stamps are in small format, save paper, and without the overprint are usable for postal and revenue purposes. The old frame or duty plates used for the stamps of the reign of His late Majesty, King George V. provide denominations inclusive from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5/-,

and are of the same size as those for the "Judicial" stamps. A similar plate, denomination 7/6 was used exclusively for "Judicial" stamps. We do not know whether any for 10/- existed, if it did, it can be used without the overprint; if not, the 7/6 plate minus overprint, conveniently can be used to replace the 10/-. In that way, the whole series $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 10/-, or 7/6, without the 9d., (not a vitally necessary denomination) can be provided at no additional cost or expense, and at immense saving of paper, the real object of this effort.

We hope we have shown and made clear, that no valid reason for inaction exists; that there is the strongest of reasons for prompt, corrective action; that there is room for very adverse criticism of the present practice; that the waste it entails should be eliminated, and that as early as may be possible; that it can be eliminated without cost or inconvenience.

The 23rd. Annual Meeting of the Jamaica Philatelic Society

The 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Philatelic Society was held at the Woman's Club Rooms, 51 Half-way Tree Road, St. Andrew, on the 3rd June, 1943.

Before the election of officers and committee was proceeded with, letters from Mr. H. Cooke, president, and Mr. G. C. Gunter, honorary secretary, resigning their respective offices, were read.

It was noted with much regret that the president's resignation was caused by the state of his health, and his inability to get to the Society's meetings. Mr. Gunter sought relief from the duties of secretary after 22 years of continuous service in that office. He however offered to continue as the Society's treasurer.

Resolutions of appreciation for the services rendered to the Society by both these members were moved and unanimously carried, after which the election of officers and committee was

proceeded with, resulting as follows:
 President Mr. Chas. E. Scott
 Vice President Mr. Frank Valencia
 Hon. Secretary Mr. Hugh Cox
 Hon. Treasurer Mr. G. C. Gunter
 Hon. Asst. Secy. Mr. F. L. Williamson
 Committee: Messrs. A. W. Perkins, A. S. Briscoe, Claude deS. Pinto, P. J. Fernandez, Miss G. M. MacPherson.
 Hon. Exchange Supt. Mr. P. J. Fernandez.

The following is the Annual Report and Cash Statement for the year:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The forecast made in the Annual Report for last year regarding the continued prosperity of the Society has been amply justified. In every one of its several branches interest has been sustained and the usefulness of the Society to its members has been well maintained throughout the year.

Although the number of new members joining the Society has not been as large as last year, the committee

feels that in view of the conditions brought about by the war there is good reason to be satisfied. It is, however, a matter for regret that 11 members have been removed for arrears of subscription, which, although only 3/- per annum, has not been paid over a period of between 3 and 4 years by those concerned. The committee has been assured by the secretary that several applications for payment had been made by him but no notice was taken of his communications.

The year ended with a total membership of 182, three less than at the close of last year. Of these, 80 are ordinary members, 92 life members, and 10 honorary members.

The annual magazine, the JAMAICA PHILATELIST, was issued in June, 1942, but the issue of the Quarterly Bulletin had to be abandoned as a license for its continued publication was refused by the Competent Authority because of the shortage of paper. The committee takes this opportunity to thank Mr. Cooke for his continued interest in the magazine and also expresses to him the great regret felt by all the members of the Society at the state of his health, which in these days of difficult transportation facilities, has made it impossible for him to attend the Society's monthly meetings. It is, however, a matter for pleasing record that although handicapped in this respect, Mr. Cooke has been able to entertain the members by his philatelic writings. To other members, who have so readily helped with articles for the Society's journal, and papers and displays for the monthly meetings, the committee also records its thanks.

Papers were read and displays given as follows:

May 1942, Paper by Mr. J. M. Nethersole.

June, Display—Jamaica and other British West Indies by Mr. Frank Valencia.

October, Display—New Zealand and Island Dependencies, by Mr. G. C. Gunter.

November, Paper by Mr. H. Cooke.

February, 1943; Display—Athletic Stamps, by Mr. H. MacDonald, and the King George VI Stamps of the

British West Indies, by Mr. Hugh Coxé and Mr. Williamson.

March, Display—George V and VI issues of the British West Indies, with other items of interest, by Mr. Chas. E. Scott.

April, Display — George V and VI Stamps used and unused in singles, pairs and blocks, showing variety of shades and paper, by Mr. Chas. E. Scott.

During the year the committee brought to the notice of the Postmaster General of Jamaica, and the Chief Imperial Censor, the destruction of stamps being caused by their respective departments, the former by the careless and stupid use of blue pencil markings on registered letters by some district post offices; the latter by the covering up of valuable stamps by censor labels placed on the envelopes. The representation made to the Chief Censor was not acknowledged, which treatment was not expected from an Imperial Government officer stationed in the colony. We conclude, however, that our letter has had the desired effect since censored letters are now opened on the side of the envelope where the placing of the censor's label does not harm the stamps.

The new issue service continued to function satisfactorily. A large quantity of the British West Indies Stamps was imported for members who took advantage of the service. Many of our members do not get the new issues through the Society, but continue to get them through other agencies. This is contrary to what the committee expects, and members are asked to support their own service and so bring more revenue to the Society.

The Jamaica Post Office Department did not introduce any new issues of stamps during the year under review, but representations were made by the Society, without result, that a 4½d stamp is now necessary, as in view of the changed postal rates there is now no rate which requires the use of a 4d stamp. The absence of a 4½ stamp makes it necessary for the public to use two stamps where one could be applied, but apparently such inconvenience is of no account to the Government.

During the year Mr. Astley Clerk advised the Society that he had started a Junior Stamp Club which met at the Jamaica Institute rooms on the Half-way Tree Road. At an early meeting of this young club the secretary of this Society delivered an address to its members and took the opportunity of recommending certain lines to follow in order to ensure the success of their club.

The finances of the Society are in a good state as will be seen from the treasurer's cash statement. This, however, does not reveal the amount of subscriptions owing to the Society. The treasurer appeals through this medium to members who owe subscriptions to pay their current dues and arrears.

The committee uses this opportunity to thank all members who have helped to sustain interest in the Society. Their support has been an inspiration to the secretary. The committee also thanks Mr. Fernandez for carrying on the Exchange Branch. This work is always difficult, even un-

der the best conditions, but it is rendered more so in these tragic days of enemy action, and censorship restrictions which combined have made it necessary for our members residing overseas to discontinue their support of the Branch.

Although not within the period covered by this report the committee regrets to report that both the President and Honorary Secretary have tendered their resignations to take effect on the day of the annual meeting. The President's resignation is due to his state of health, while the Secretary seeks retirement after 22 years of continuous service, and in the hope that a younger member may succeed him. The committee has been assured by Mr. Gunter that he will continue in the position of Treasurer if elected to that office.

(Signed) A. W. PERKINS
Vice President
G. C. GUNTER,
Hon. Secy.
2/6/43

List of Members

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Allsopp, Rev. E. G., Alley, Jamaica | Duncan, R. J., P. O. Box 340, Armstrong, B. C., Canada |
| Armstrong, Rev. G. T., The Rectory, Penrith Road, Cross Roads, Jamaica | Elliott, George, 88 Constant Spring Road, Half-way Tree, Jamaica |
| Bicknell, Mrs. R., 6 Ivy Green Road, Cross Roads, Jamaica | Escoffery, Dr. George, M. O. H., Malvern, Jamaica |
| Bourke, W. Jr., 19 Duke Street, Kingston, Jamaica | Field, F. J., Sutton, Coldfield, England. |
| Brandon, G. D., 44 Orange Street, Kingston, Jamaica | Fletcher, R. H., Jamaica Welfare Ltd., Kingston, Jamaica |
| Briscoe, A. S., Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Jamaica | Forrest, G. L., Ailsa, Black River, Jamaica |
| Brissett, Vincent L., Cornwall College, Montego Bay, Jamaica | Foster, Mrs. A., Montego Bay, Jamaica |
| Clarke, Egbert C., 5 East Ave., Swfield., Cross Roads, Jamaica | Fraser, Miss J. Ina, Montego Bay, Jamaica |
| Clark, Eric, 99 Harbour Street, Kingston, Jamaica | Gauntlett, H. G., Lake Ville, Cross Roads, Jamaica |
| Clossy, P. J., P. O. Box 158, Kingston, Ja. | Gore, D. D., 10 Duke Street, Kingston, Ja. |
| Cole, E. E., 62 Violet Lane, Croyden, Eng. | Harris, S. C., c/o Gleaner Co., Kingston, Jamaica |
| Coxe, H. Keith, Claremont, Jamaica | Harrison, Lady V. M., Prospect Estate, Morant Bay, Jamaica |
| Coxe, Hugh, 4 Eastwood Ave., Half-way Tree, Jamaica | Hart, Dr. Ken, 4 Dilcoosha Ave., Half-way Tree, Jamaica |
| Cruchley, Dr. F. H., May Pen, Jamaica | Heffernon, Dr. George A. |
| Duffus, W. A., Morant Bay, Jamaica | Heffernon, Mrs. G. A. |
| Dun, Jerrard, L., 98 Tower Street, Kingston, Jamaica | Hitt, Henry C., F.R.P.S.L., Box 863, Brentford, Washington, U.S.A. |
| Dunn, E. G., Nathan & Co. Ltd., Kingston, Jamaica | Holmon, W. M., F.R.P.S.L., 41 Parkside, Eltham, London SE9, England |

JAMAICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Cash Account for Period 14th April, 1942, to April 13th, 1943

1942		1943	
April 14.		April 13	
	£ s d		£ s d
To Balance in Bank	47 7 3½	By Expenditure during the year.	
April 13 1943		„ Printing & stationery	2 13 6
Cash received during the year		„ Printing the "Ja. Philatelist"	
To Entrance fees.	1 10 0	including Block & Postage	8 7 11
„ Subscriptions	9 9 6	„ Printing the "Bulletin"	3 14 11
„ Life Members Subs.	2 2 0	„ Purchase of Catalogues	3 6 3
„ New Issues	48 3 10	„ do of Albums & Accessories	4 19 2
„ Packet Sales	8 3 6½	„ New Issues Purchased	47 8 3
„ Albums & Accessories	5 16 8	„ Postage	4 0 1
„ Catalogues sold	3 18 9	„ Rent of Club Room.	2 10 0
„ Bank Interest	0 8 0	„ Subs. to foreign Magazines	2 14 6
„ Profit on U. S. Currency	0 2 2	„ Miscellaneous Expenditure	1 0 2
	<u>£127 1 8</u>	„ Bal. in hand £ 4 3 11	
		„ do in Bank 42 3 0	<u>46 6 11</u>
			<u>£127 1 8</u>

G. C. GUNTER *Hon. Treasurer*
14th May 1943

Jeffs, Capt. P. M. C., Georges Plain, Jamaica

Judah, Douglas, 11 Duke Street, Kingston

Knollys, J. C., Abbydore, Mandeville, Ja.

Kroneker, Louis, Kingston, Jamaica

Levy, Aston, c/o Livingston & Alexander,
Kingston, Jamaica

Livingston, G. C., Jamaica Mutual Bldg.,
Kingston, Jamaica

Macdonald, Herbert G., 188 Harbour St.,
Kingston, Jamaica

MacGregor, C. M., Spanish Town, Ja.

MacPherson, Miss G. M., c/o Transport
Board, Kingston, Jamaica

Marshall, Louis, Spur Tree, Jamaica

Melhado, Clifford, Orange Street, Kings-
ton, Jamaica

Myers, Thomas, 10 Temple Lane, Kingston,
Jamaica

Myers, Mrs. A. E. C., Mandeville, Jamaica

Nixon, Mrs. Douglass, 10 Richings Ave.,
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Palmer, Col. George, Salvation Army Head-
quarters, Kingston, Jamaica

Perkins, A. W., Government Audit Office,
Kingston, Jamaica

Pierce, Arthur D., 1027 Greenmount Road,
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Pilliner, H., c/o United Fruit Co., Kingston,
Jamaica

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Jamaica

Robinson, J. C., Bank of Nova Scotia, Sav-
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Hill, Jamaica

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- Baker, Mrs. Joshua, Port Antonio, Jamaica
- Bartlett, Rev. S. H.
- Bellman, Capt. J. F., R. A. P. C., England
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- Berry, D. A., 19 Corporation Street, Manchester, England
- Bourke, A. W., Harvey and Bourke, Kingston, Jamaica
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- Bricker, I. C., Elora, Ontario, Canada
- Brigham, C. Pliny, "The Beverley," 125 East 16th Street, New York, U.S.A.
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- Clark, D. S. M., Bank of Nova Scotia, Mandeville, Jamaica
- Clerk, Astley, 2½ Elgin Road, Cross Roads, Jamaica
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- Yarry, Dr. Irwin M., 3112 54th Street, Woodside, L. I., U. S. A.

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- Cooke, Herbert, 23 Haining Road, Cross Roads, Jamaica
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