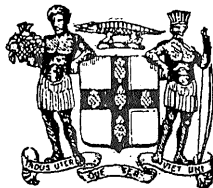


The Jamaica Philatelist



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE Jamaica Philatelic Society

(FOUNDED APRIL 14TH, 1920)
CIRCULATED FREE OF CHARGE

EDITOR: MR. H. COOKE

VOLUME III

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, JUNE, 1944

NUMBER 18

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JAMAICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Cash Account for Period 14th April, 1943, to 13th, April 1944

| 1943 | | £ | s | d |
|----------------|---------------------------------|------|----|----|
| April 14 | To Balance brought forward | | | |
| | In hand | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| | In bank | 42 | 3 | 0 |
| April 13, 1944 | | 46 | 6 | 11 |
| | " Cash received during the year | | | |
| | For Entrance Fees | 10 | 0 | |
| | " Subscriptions | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| | " Life Members' Subscriptions | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | " New Issues | | 11 | 12 |
| | " Albums & Accessories | | 3 | 10 |
| | " Commission on Packet Sales | | 11 | 5 |
| | " Stamp Catalogue | | 11 | 3 |
| | | £114 | 19 | 8½ |

| 1944 | | £ | s | d |
|----------|-------------------------|----|---|---|
| April 14 | To Balance brought down | 45 | 5 | 3 |

| 1944 | | £ | s | d |
|----------|--------------------------------------|------|----|----|
| April 13 | By Expenditure during the year | | | |
| | Printing Yearly Magazine and Mailing | 7 | 14 | 11 |
| | Printed Stationery | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| | New Issues | 41 | 16 | 2 |
| | Albums & Accessories | 13 | 5 | 3 |
| | Postage & Misc. Expense | 3 | 3 | 4½ |
| | Foreign Subscriptions | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Balance in hand | 3 | 3 | 11 |
| | Balance in Bank | 42 | 1 | 4 |
| | | 45 | 5 | 3 |
| | | £114 | 19 | 8½ |

G. C. GUNTER, *Hon. Treas.*
31st May, 1944

Lowe, Robson, 50 Pall Mall, SW 1, London, England.
Marshall, Wm., Belmont Castle, Meigle, Perth, Scotland.
Mayhew, F. G., 136 Queens Way, Bayswater, London W2, England.
Melhado, R. E. H., Oliver Road, Constant Spring, Jamaica.
Miller, Michael, Baltimore, Md., U. S. A.
Morris, G. W., Devon Street, Simon Town, South Africa.
Minigerade, Meade, 8 Little Point Street, Essex, Conn., U. S. A.
Murray, Dr. P. C., Stony Hill, Jamaica.
Murray, Mrs. Alex., San Jose, Costa Rica.
Nethersole, J. M., St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica.
Norona, Delf, 1002 Fifth Street, Moundsville, West Virginia, U. S. A.
Palmer, Mervin G. F., R. G. S., The Museum, Ilfracombe, Devon, England.
Pearson, G., The Hacienda, Exford Avenue, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex, England.
Pinto, Claude deS., 1 Liguanea Ave., Liguanea, Jamaica.
Pratt, Mrs. D. E.
Platt, Mrs. C. W., 186 Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Kent, England.
Reid, Ed. G., Montego Bay, Jamaica.
Roberts, R., 430 Strad, London WC2, Eng.
Ross, Mrs. F. M.
Ross-Shiells, H., 4 Eldon Street, London EC2, England.
Samuel, D. M., F. R. P. S. L., 131 Harbour Street, Kingston, Jamaica.
Selander, Carl O., 3414 Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colo., U. S. A.
Sessenwein, P. W., 7-2 Amsberry Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
Scudamore, C. G., Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Simms, Major A., Hope Road, Liguanea, Jamaica.
Snypp, John E., Route 2, Box 332, Bremerton, Wash., U. S. A.
Solomon, Dr. I. C., 116 Harbour Street, Kingston, Jamaica.
Spooner, Mrs. M. E., Constant Spring, Jamaica.
Stangebye, Dr. Thorlief, 1st National Bank Building, Mott, North Dakota, U. S. A.
Stewart, C. A. F., Woodfield, Walkers Wood, Jamaica.
Taylor, Capt. A. L., c/o Lloyds Bank, Cox and King's Branch, 6 Pall, London SW1, England.
Tucker, Douglas, Brown's Town, Jamaica.
Tucker, Geo. H., 28 Dublin Crescent, Henleaze, Bristol, England.
Turner, C. Brinkley, Stock Exchange Bldg., Philadelphia, Penn., U. S. A.
Urwick, Dr. R. H., Council House Court, Shrewsbury, England.
Valencia, Frank, c/o D. Finzi & Co., Kingston, Jamaica.
von Pohle, C. L., Mandeville, Jamaica.
Watkin, A. J., Factory A, Overton, Hants., England.
Westmoreland, Mrs. W. H. W., Blackstone-edge, Jamaica.
Whitley, Leonard, c/o Edible Products, Producers' Road, Kingston.
Whidden, Capt. C. W., c/o United Fruit Co., New York, U. S. A.
Woodward, K., 2501 Curtis Street, East Elmhurst, N. J., U. S. A.
Wright, Lt.-Col. H. H., Leith Fort, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Yarry, Dr. Irwin M., 3112 54th Street, Woodside, L. I., U. S. A.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Cooke, Herbert, 23 Haining Road, Cross Roads, Jamaica.
DeSouza, Claude, 28½ Deanery Road, Vineyard Pen, Jamaica.
Edwards, W. Buckland, 1 Vanburgh Park, London SE3, England.
Egley, Eugene, 25 Anciliffe Road, West Park, Leeds, England.
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Vallancey, F. Hugh, 15 St. Bridge Street, Ludgate Circus, London EC 4, England.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION STAMPS



Above are the designs of the stamps to be issued in commemoration of the granting of a New Constitution to Jamaica. See the descriptions in Mr. Gunter's article on page 30. This article is not to be reproduced without the permission of the author.



The Jamaica Philatelist

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throughout the world free of charge.

Editor: Mr. H. Cooke Cross Roads, Ja.
Business Manager Mr. G. C. Gunter Half-way Tree, Ja.

Volume III

June, 1944

Number 18

EDITORIAL PERFS

PRICES in England, as recorded by that philatelic press, appear to be "on the up and up," providing a market which seems to rise almost week by week. Significantly, sundry dealers offer to buy at stated prices, as well as to sell.

COMMEMORATIVES and other special issues, predominantly show the trend. We observed offers to buy Antigua, 1932, at £11.0.0, Bahamas 1930 at £3.0.0, Barbados Victory at £3.0.0, Bermuda 1920-21 both sets £5.0.0, British Guiana 1931 £1.15.0, Cayman 1932 £18.0.0, Falklands 1933 £40.0.0, Montserrat 1932 £11.0.0, St. Kitts 1923 £38.0.0. Sierra Leone, Wilberforce £38.0.0.

AUCTION PRICES support those buying prices, indicating that the market is firm, supply does not keep pace with demand. Falklands fetched £45.0.0, St. Kitts 5s. went for £3.10.0, 10s. for £11.10.0, £1 for £22.0.0, Wilberforce 10s. sold for £9.0.0, £1 for £20.0.0, the set for £30.0.0, Bahamas "Landfall" set sold for £2.10.0, Bermuda 1920-21 brought £5.0.0.

BAHAMAS LANDFALL is offered by dealers at £2.10.0, and the 1s. is reported with double impression of overprint.

FORGERIES. "Stamp Collecting" reports that in Germany, there is eagerness to convert other value into stamps, as easily portable property. The demand for valuable philatelic items, far exceeds any possible supply, and has stimulated a spate of forgeries, stamps of all kinds, not only those European issues, which for many years past have excited the cupidity of the forger, but any and all that have present value that is out of the ordinary, and those that promise increased reward. We are safe enough now from those machinations, but will not be when normal postal relations are resumed.

REPRINTS. For some time past that term had been used by the Crown Agents, with reference to current colonial stamps, new printings of which had been made and supplied. To the philatelic world, the word "reprint" in most respectable sense, meant some obsolete issue of a stamp or stamps, reprinted for some special purpose, the Royal reprint of the 1d. Black of Great Britain, 1864, for instance, but far more often and much more familiar to collectors generally, was its application to Central and South American issues, the infamous "Seebecks" for instance, supplies specially prepared, and/or reprinted

for speculators, sold by them for personal gain. Use of the term by the Crown Agents at London, with application to British Colonial stamps, tended to bring those stamps within the ambit of that disrepute, degraded them. At long last, those authorities have been persuaded to revert to the previous practice, to report "new printing."

G. B. CURRENT 2½d. IN TETEBECHE PAIRS. A block of two pairs, has been reported from England, and appears to be unique, although if possible deduction to account for the variety be correct, it is practically certain that five such blocks had existence. The lucky purchaser found them in a booklet, two of the stamps probably being obtained free of charge. A pane of 60 stamps, prepared for binding into a booklet, is printed from a plate showing 30 subjects upright and inverted in relation to the remainder of 30. The reason seems to be that the margin of the sheet; used for binding into the booklet; of necessity must be on the left of the stamps, each block of six in two horizontal rows of three, and to have the margin there where it is required, it is necessary that the margin, which, in the pane or sheet, is on the right, may be turned round about to have it on the left, yet with the stamps of the block, in their normal, upright position. The printed pane was divided down the centre, giving two smaller panes of 30 stamps each, each of ten rows of three, and each broken up into five blocks of six, then ready for binding. Apparently the variety recorded, was derived from unequal vertical division of the original pane, so that one block at least, consisted of eight stamps instead of six, the outer vertical pair from that section of the pane, which had been printed inverted in relation to the remainder. Those two stamps folded back and under the six of the block, would pass unnoticed when bound into the booklet, and reached the purchaser in that way. Lucky purchaser; it is possible for similar variety to be found, in locally sold booklets of our stamps.

G. B. 1d., TYPE 119. From the same source, "The Philatelic Magazine," we learn of a vertical strip of four, sold and purchased in the usual manner at a Post Office in Yorkshire, which is imperforate between the stamps, the three lower members of which, are also imperforate vertically.

"PRINTED ON THE GUMMED SIDE." That is the description one sees at times of a variety. Subject to correction, we believe it to be wrong. The procedure as we understand it is, gumming is done *after* printing, and the correct description then would be "gummed on the printed side." We have seen one such variety, where the gum without any doubt, was superimposed on the printing, definitely not the other way about.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. Announcement is made in the English Press, that each of the dependencies, will have separate sets of stamps. That is the bald statement, whether it means stamps of different designs, the same designs in different colours or combinations of colours, or the current stamps overprinted for each island or group, is not clear. Writing from memory, the list would include South Georgia, South Orkneys, South Shetlands, Graham Land, East and West Falkland. There are many others, some of which may or may not be regarded as important enough, to have particular postage stamps.

THE RED CROSS. We appeal to all readers who have given, to give again; to those who may not have made any contribution, to make one NOW, if you do not have stamps to give, give money to the extent of your ability; it is a cause that matters, a cause that needs and merits your assistance, NOW and always. Our Hon. Treasurer will be glad to receive and forward your gift; send it to him NOW, the need is pressingly urgent.

UNFORTUNATE. The secretary to His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, who prepared his letter to Sir John Wilson, chairman of the Philatelic Section, Red Cross & St. John Fund, that has been published in

ASTLEY GUNTER CLERK

The duty has fallen to us; something which, because of our recognised inability properly to render it, we would willingly, readily surrender to some one else; to record the passing on 20th May last, of this much and highly esteemed member of our Society.

He was one of the pioneers of philately in Jamaica; we believe him to have been the most outstanding of that very small number, and is one of the last to leave us. His work for philately in general, and that of Jamaica in particular; much or most of it yet unpublished; is monumental, a fact which the present Society recognised, and sought to have widely recognised, by nominating him for enrolment on the British Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. That nomination was not accepted, by the Committee charged with such matters, and while a disappointment to us, it made no sort of difference to Astley Clerk, to him it was Philately that mattered, all else was and remained of smaller, incidental importance. Although burdened with years much beyond the allotted span, he remained up to the time of his sudden death, a devoted devotee; if one may use that term without tautology to impress.

A foundation member of this Society; the present Jamaica Philatelic Society; he had already borne with just one or two others, the disappointing labour of endeavour to operate and carry on, more than one or two predecessors, each of which had gone out of existence, because of lack of support. He found; as we have found; that except for a dire paucity of numbers, there is willingness to receive, accept and take all that one may be able to give; that lack of co-operative effort for benefit of the whole, prevails in large or small measure, and always is important enough to bear heavily on individual enthusiasm, to discourage. He did not permit that condition to diminish or destroy his keenness; for years when alone, he worked alone, satisfying his personal, individual urge. We believe the present Society provided a measure of satisfaction to him; we know it disappointed in many ways, largely because of that lack of co-operation to which we have referred. He dearly longed and wished to see the Society operated, carried on, enthusiastically supported, with an ever increasing number of younger persons, taking their full share of responsibility, widening its activity, "only in that way can its continued existence be assured. The present team is of men well on in life, what will happen if and when they may, have to, give up?" We ask the same question.

We mourn his loss, we have our measure of satisfaction, in the experience of pleasant, cordial association spread over many years, and honour him as the eminent Jamaican philatelist of his time.

We have written of him as a philatelist and member of our Society. Tributes have been paid to his achievements as a musician, a composer poet, churchman, a generous donor of his time, ability, and of his purse to its possible limit, by several religious denominations and in the lay press. We do not need to repeat them here, we do take saddened leave of one who, in quiet, unspectacular fashion, was a great Jamaican, a pride, example, a stimulus to us all.

EUGENE KLEIN

It is with great regret that we learn of the death of Mr. Eugene Klein, an honorary member of this Society. We have no particulars of his passing, but have heard of his demise through one of his local correspondents.

Mr. Klein was elected an honorary member of the Society many years ago, and had always been interested in its affairs. He was a well-known stamp dealer and autioneer and as such was one of the philatelic giants of the United States. His philatelic activities extended beyond his business interests. As a past President of the American Philatelic Society he was known to a great many collectors as a keen student of stamps. He had a very fine collection, the outstanding section being the stamps issued by private steamship companies. His contribution to philatelic literature was not small; his last composition was the "United States Waterway Packetmarks," on intensive study of which enabled him to write with convincing authority on the subject. He was a familiar figure in London and other philatelic cities of Europe, where as a member of the jury on international exhibitions his opinion received due respect, and his genial presence will be sadly missed when again after the war, stamp collectors and stamp societies will be in active pursuit of the hobby. Mr. Klein and his family visited Jamaica a little over 20 years ago and the writer has very pleasant recollections of a genial companion, who became a friend and was a valued correspondent until his passing on the 30th of April, 1944.

The Society shall miss Mr. Klein. This opportunity is taken to extend deep sympathy to Mrs. Klein and daughter.

G. G. WALCOTT

G. G. Walcott, who was elected to the Society on the 30th September, 1937, passed to rest after a very sudden and short illness. A retired Civil Servant, of the engineering staff of the Public Works Department, he pursued his hobby with characteristic thoroughness. Although not classified as an advanced collector, his collection bore evidence of a well-trained mind. Those of his fellow members who were privileged of know him well will greatly miss a quiet and genial personality. The writer pays tribute to a friend, a fine man and an affectionate husband and father.

the philatelic press, appears to have been guilty of an unfortunate *faux pas*. The letter is one of thanks for the aid given by the philatelic section to the fund; of which His Royal Highness is president; and states in

the third paragraph: "I realise that the drain on the collections and stocks of stamps in the country becomes severer as time goes on," bearing the inference that "the country," Great Britain, has been the sole source of

that support. We know that support has been given by sundry parts of the Empire, one of them Jamaica, and while individual acknowledgements have been sent by Sir John Wilson, to the respective contributors, it seems most unfortunate that a public, general acknowledgement, attributed to His Royal Highness, should have pointedly omitted all reference

to Empire support, especially so, as publication of that letter is accompanied with an appeal for more contributions. We make this comment, not with any resentment; the incident shall not make any difference where we are concerned; but because it may have done harm to the fund, and we appeal to all readers to take the same view of the matter.

ASTLEY CLERK—AN APPRECIATION

In the early hours of Saturday, May 21, 1944, member No. 1 of the Jamaica Philatelic Society passed into eternity. Jamaica had lost one of her distinguished musicians, welfare worker, poet, writer of local history and patriot, and the Jamaica Philatelic Society one of its chief corner stones. The writer sorrowfully adds his tribute to Astley Gunter Clerk, whose death leaves a gap in Jamaican Philately that may never be filled.

Born in Montego Bay in May 1868, Astley Clerk came to Kingston a young lad, and received his education at the Kingston Collegiate School. He started work in a firm of prominent music dealers where he gained much popularity and the well-deserved esteem of the general public, whom he never ceased to serve until he passed away. In 1912 he established his own business until his retirement from active work in 1940.

Mr. Clerk was a man of outstanding genius. He loved to write in song about his island home, one of his favourite songs being "Hail to Jamaica the Island of Springs," which is now frequently sung in England by West Indians. As a musician his many musical compositions bear eloquent evidence of his ability and as Editor of the "Musical Monthly" he gained the admiration of the music loving people of the island.

His love for art was shown in the many art exhibitions he organized. He was an outstanding conchologist and gave evidence of this in a beautiful exhibition of shells in 1928. The Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica awarded him in 1937, the Musgrave Medal for

his effort in development of music and to maintain interest in the folklore of Jamaica.

As a Philatelist, Astley Clerk did notable work for the hobby. This is the opinion of the best judges in Jamaica and elsewhere. His philatelic compositions in the local press over a period of many years, and his work for the committee that compiled the book "Jamaica," give silent but abundant evidence of his work for Philately. He once truly wrote of himself that he was "a stamp collector, and to put it squarely a Philatelist, that is to say a stamp student."

The present Jamaica Philatelic Society owes its origin chiefly to him, but long before the year 1920, in which the Society was formed, Astley Clerk had laid the foundation of earlier Stamp Societies, which alas! have all passed away. These "passings" were sad experiences for him who loved the hobby, and studied it as no other man in Jamaica had done; but he never lost faith in his ability to place Philately on a sound footing in Jamaica and his work in doing this was a pleasurable experience for him. He loved the Jamaican Philatelic Society and nothing was too much for him to accomplish in its behalf. The Society's yearly magazine "The Jamaica Philatelist," was started by him, first as a monthly magazine issued in manuscript form, and later in its present form, with him as its editor until 1939, when on account of his failing health he retired from the position.

So concerned was he for the ad-

vancement of the study of Philately in Jamaica that he made many unsuccessful efforts to form a junior stamp club but eventually his efforts took shape in 1942. He was in close contact with the "juniors" up to the time of his passing.

Of Astley Clerk's local Philatelic writings the most popular was the "Stamp Album," published weekly in one of the Jamaica daily papers. The writer is fortunate in having many of these weekly articles which provide evidence of his wide philatelic knowledge. He was fond of controversy and always believed in giving the "other man", fair opportunity to air his views, but he never gave ground, holding to his opinion, and in most cases proving himself correct. His glossary of philatelic terms was not compiled in the conventional style, but in a manner peculiar to himself. This glossary has never been published, nor can I say where it is now, but of its value I cannot speak too highly. It contains references to philatelic subjects which, although common to the most elementary collector, give new meaning to the study of such subjects.

Of Astley Clerk's generosity there can be no doubt. Many a young collector has started a collection with abundant material freely given from his large assortment of duplicates. This writer has pleasant recollections of his unselfish nature. It was shortly after the Jamaica Philatelic Society had started, and I had exchanged the position of President for that of Honorary Secretary, that Astley Clerk after reading a paper on the Arms Stamps of Jamaica requested the new President to present me with a block, of nine Jamaica 5d., arms stamps, with multiple watermark the middle stamp showing the Ser.et error. This was typical of his nature, and I know of many other generous acts which gave him pleasure while proving beneficial to the recipients.

His faith in the value of Jamaica stamps could not be shaken and he was often heard to declare that he would not part with certain of his Jamaican stamps at the catalogue price. His desire to see Jamaican

history commemorated through her stamp issues was very strong, and it was chiefly on account of his importance in this respect that Governor Probyn decided to issue a set of stamps which is known to Philatelists as "The Pictorials of 1919-1921." The Jamaican Government did not issue this set of stamps as a commemorative set and Mr. Clerk was disappointed; nevertheless he was happy in the knowledge that he could write into the description of the stamps a great deal of Jamaican history, reminiscent of the times when such subjects were current.

Mr. Clerk was much against the issue of speculative stamps. I can recall his indignation at the time when Jamaica wanted a theatre for Kingston and neither Government nor Parochial Funds, were available for building same, and a visitor to the island suggested, in a letter to the local news papers, the raising of the necessary money for the purpose, by the issue of a special set of stamps from ½d. to 4s., and to turn the issue over to a special committee to be sold by them to philatelists all over the world. Astley Clerk retorted, that he would protest most emphatically if the suggestion were ever entertained. He, however, took the opportunity to score the Jamaica Post Office on keeping the stamp issues too long without a change, but he preferred an over-used issue to a speculative one, and concluded in summing up his love for philately, which showed his character, in the following words, "I am a Jamaican philatelist and proud of the clean name that my island has ever presented to the philatelic world, and I desire to see that name kept clean all through."

Astley Clerk was a great patriot in the true sense of the word. From his boyhood days he studied the habits and interests of the people of Jamaica whom he loved so well. He was a fountain of knowledge of every phase of Jamaica life. His poetical writings told the story of Jamaica's old homes, her flowers, fruit, rivers, shells and wonderful moonlight; her traditional history of the men and women who had done something for Jamaica. He wrote about the abori-

gines, the Arawaks, and of the birds of Jamaica. In fact everything Jamaican was his subject; and we of the Jamaica Philatelic Society shall miss a man who was loved and respected, not only for his personal

worth but as one who worked unselfishly for the advancement of his fellow countrymen and who was an inspiring example to others.

G. C. GUNTER.

"TRAPS FOR THE UNWARY"

Under that caption in the March, 1944, edition of "GSM", its editor published sundry dangers he has reason to believe threaten us; you and I, the common or garden collectors of stamps; if and when we accept and treat as reliable, trustworthy, advertisements by some dealers, in the English philatelic press. No names are stated, they cannot be without serious risk of libel, but one needs to bear in mind, that he writes as a dealer who, usually unsought, receives information that cannot be passed on in detail, certainly not printed and published. He recognises, states that there are corrupt practices by other dealers, by which the public is victimised. We believe there are but few collectors, who cannot support him with incidents, within personal, individual experiences. This writer very definitely, positively does.

The "Gibbons" article was made the subject of comment by Mr. Albert H. Harris, Editor and proprietor of the "Philatelic Magazine," and of Harris Publications, Ltd., in his edition of 10th March, 1944. We cannot quote the article in full, but give some of the salient points. He states he believes every advertiser from whom he accepts an advertisement for the "Philatelic Magazine," to be honest and trustworthy. Is mere "belief" enough, is it not practicable to have some measure of assurance to that effect? He displays in large type, knowledge of a dozen "who would not be allowed" to use his space; we presume he really means "are not" allowed; and so infers that as advertisers, they do have use of other advertising space.

He states that the British Philatelic Association should act, not leave the "Philatelic Magazine" alone in that field of endeavour: with all of which we agree, and commend him for the stand taken. He seeks improvement, correction of conditions known to exist, that clearly need correction; he invites comment from the Gibbons Editor, which will serve that purpose, and we have construed that to mean, no objection to similar comment from anyone else, will be entertained.

We believe the subject to be of concern to our readers and members, and for that reason propose to ventilate it here, by way of invitation for attention, from those who may not have seen the Gibbons article. We do not think anyone will accuse us, of being prejudiced in favour of the Gibbons Editor; indeed he, by correspondence, has accused us in no uncertain terms, of being improperly prejudiced against him. The statements and comment we propose to make, should not be construed as prejudiced for or against anyone, they are made in support of the Gibbons article, and are intended to be factual elaboration of that warning, for the benefit of potential victims resident overseas, away from the scene of fraud.

Yet another of Mr. Harris' statements is "jealous as much of our good name with readers as with advertisers, and in the interests of both, we probe the matter immediately to the bottom, and decide where the blame lies. Perhaps we are particularly immune because we know who to decline." We have no sort of doubt

that he does consider the interests of his advertisers, he should for every obvious reason, and our concern naturally is with the application to "readers." We have been a subscriber-reader for about 25 years. During that time it has been our experience that, despite the care exercised in selecting advertisers for the "Philatelic Magazine," some "wrong 'uns" have at times been admitted to its pages. That experience has not been confined to just one or two instances, there have been several, admittedly infrequent, and the loss suffered usually was trivial, or at worst not large, hence we never complained, except in one instance. We do not suggest that any method of selection is, or can be infallible, nor that any selected dealer who may have developed reputation for reliability, may not at some time prove to be unreliable. We do not conceive of any precaution, that can be made absolute against those risks; an admission which necessarily concedes that the risks continue to exist; but we do suggest that methods implied to be employed, to conserve the interests of reader-subscribers, can and should be improved, developed to some standard of reasonable efficiency, with prospect of result satisfactory of those interests.

We cite a case in point to show, that result of those methods can be, and was anything but satisfactory. A member of this Society, who is and has been a reader-subscriber to the "Philatelic Magazine" for several years, relying on the care Mr. Harris states, and has stated in the past, is exercised by him to select advertisers for that magazine, and at the invitation of the Secretary-Sales Manager of a certain Club, whose stationery advertised his membership in the Stamp Exchange Protection Society, was induced to contribute to the sales packets of the Club. Three or four such contributions were settled for satisfactorily. Others sent over the period of November, 1939, to March, 1940, remained outstanding in November, 1941. Harris Publications, Ltd., was written to, naming the Club as an advertiser in the "Philatelic Magazine," the complaint stated, informa-

tion relative to the status of the Club asked for. A letter from them dated 12.1.32, offered in reply "*to secure payment of £7. 10 2. (tendered by the Club) together with the return of the rest of your stamps.*" The offer was accepted 4. 5. 42. There was exchange of several letters. Under date of 16.7.43, £7. 10. 2 advised sometime previously as collected, was brought to account, by presentation of a bill for 15s., remittance of the remainder, with statement the matter could be taken no further. By letter dated 18.9.43 it was suggested to them, that advertised membership in the SEPS, by the individual complained against; appeal to the police at his home town, against use by him of His Majesty's Mails for purpose of fraud; seemed to provide possible means of pressure, which had not been and usefully might be applied. In reply came an excessively rude, boorish letter from Mr. Harris. The complainant then asked that the correspondence, exchanged on his behalf with Mr. Harris' selected adviser, be supplied to him, in order that he might better be able to take up the matter of redress, with some other source of possible action. That request has been refused, offer made to make the correspondence available at their office, to an authorised representative of the reader, who happens to be resident several thousands of miles away at Jamaica.

Such are the facts and details, ascertainable from documents in our possession. How and to what extent do they give reality, to Mr. Harris' published profession of concern for the interests of his reader-subscribers, and that of the particular subscriber-reader?

The incident provides a clear case against one of his selected, advertisers, by one of his subscriber-readers, who has held that status for many years. Mr. Harris or his firm, in the course of the correspondence, advised possession of written acknowledgment by his advertiser, of the value that improperly has been retained. One does not pretend that the proprietor of the "Philatelic Magazine," or his firm, has responsibility in any way for that develop-

ment; very definitely they have not; but his firm made written offer "to secure payment of £7. 10. 2. together with the return of the rest of your stamps". That tendered payment was collected, has been accounted for, but he has failed "to secure . . . the return of the rest of [the] stamps," which have (should be "had," they are worth rather more now) value of more than £40. 0. 0., not a very trivial sum. On his written statement, possible means, to secure that return, were not explored, certainly not applied. His response to representation and suggestion, relative of those means, was an offensive letter. He has refused his client ready access to correspondence, conducted on that client's behalf, for which the client has paid; correspondence that can have none, or but little value to him or his firm; and so hampers, makes so much more difficult, any effort his client yet may wish to make to obtain redress by other means. That is what the correspondence discloses to us, there should be some undisclosed reason for what seems to have been an unusual course of action. Mr. Harris no doubt can, if he so wills, show and make clear how that procedure has served the interest of his reader-subscriber; we confess a denseness that precludes understanding how it has or can.

Some readers, knowing of the Stamp Exchange Protection Society, may wonder why representation and appeal have not been taken there. As we understand it, that Society does not undertake to give service to any but its members, but we also understood that membership therein, to some extent was an assurance of probity. Apparently it can no more guarantee that measure of confidence than can Mr. Harris guarantee his advertisers. Some years ago we held membership in the Society, but relinquished it.

Those of our members and readers, who may have read the Gibbons article, the caption to which we have borrowed for this, are well advised to give heed. Condensed to few words, it is a published warning by a reputable firm in England, that there are dishonest dealers there, who, are able to buy, and are sold, the means

by way of advertisement in the English philatelic press to prey on you and I; on all collectors of stamps who acquire by purchase, or dispose of surpluses by sale.

It is essential for us to remember that we are many miles away from dealers and others there, who, by advertisements, induce us to do business with them; we are outside the jurisdiction of Courts of Law with power over them, to which otherwise we might be able to appeal; the dishonest, fraudulent may, can, will be found when and where we may least expect to do so (that we assure you is not mere rhetoric, it is based on personal, factual experience); the obvious handicaps to which we are liable, operate as stimuli for the practices of the dishonest, near honest, fraudulent, unscrupulous to victimise those whose possible means for redress have not the smallest factor of certainty, are nebulous and remote.

It is trite to remark, that the spectator usually sees more of the game than the players, and frequently undertakes to admonish expert participants as to the methods to be used. We have not done, and are not trying to do that. We have tried to help bring into the light for wider exhibition, evils which are admitted to exist by at least two qualified to judge. We have shown that at least one magazine claims to fight that evil, but that its lone effort is not, and cannot always be successful; that when and where we may think (as a member of this Society thought) some measure of protection appears to be provided, means for redress offered, they are not reliable, apt to prove not merely broken reeds, inefficient as in the instance cited, but words only, not supported with fact or deed.

If there be a moral to be deduced from the foregoing, it surely is:—

Place no reliance of any kind on any advertisement, that may appear in the English philatelic press; perhaps one should qualify that to read "in some sections of;" we cannot know, have not the means to know which, if any, is reliable. If there are reliable dealers and others there, who use that press to promote busi-

ness domestic and overseas, it is their concern to provide that means, remove the mess stated there to have existence, clean the house, make it fit for restoration and residence of confidence. Until that is done, rely on none; obviously it is unwise, potentially expensive by way of loss; as our colleague has found to his hurt; knowingly to expose oneself to

admitted risk of fraud, fraud which we know has been experienced by others, placed exactly as we are.

It should be observed that the "Jamaica Philatelist," does not publish the advertisement of any dealer, the reason may be understood from the sense of the statements governing this article.

JAMAICANA

ASTLEY CLERK. On other pages of this edition, we publish expressions of deserved appreciation, recorded of a member who has been called to his final award. To record a reasonably comprehensive list of his local philatelic achievements, would require very much more space than there is at our disposal, but because of Jamaican philatelic history, some of which he was instrumental in making, and for record of very much of it he was largely responsible, he must be given a niche of this column. For decades he was the focal point—so recognised both here and in England—of philately in Jamaica. For more than twenty years, he was very closely identified with this Society; perhaps it would be more correct to state that the Society was identified with him. During that period he saw Jamaica emerge from philatelic obscurity, into the sun of a recognised place in the philatelic world, a transition which he had the right; both moral and factual, but never claimed; to regard as in some sense, and to no small extent, fruition of his personal, persevering, and often lonely effort. The Jamaica Philatelic Society, Jamaican Philately, and philately in general, owe him much.

No. 8b. Our item on this subject, published in our last previous edition, created some small stir. All but one of the letters received on the subject, were commendatory, congratulatory; the one irate and abusive. We thank those readers who troubled to express their appreciation; an unusual experience for us; and are not disturbed by the abuse. We believe

that what we wrote, served the philately of Jamaica; that was, is, and will remain the purpose we have to serve, and from which we shall not be deflected.

THE "BOW" VARIETY. Elsewhere in this edition, is an article on this subject, which we commend to all our readers, especially those resident at, have their homes in Jamaica, where we believe the item may still be obtained at reasonable price.

PRICES. On another page we have referred to the London market, and prices quoted by advertisements in the English philatelic press, for other Colonial stamps. Jamaica is not neglected entirely, as she is some times.

CHILD WELFARE. The set maintains figures previously given. The mint set is quoted by different dealers at £1. 3. 6., £1. 4., £1. 5., the used at £1. 7. 6. The Jubilee set is offered for 9s. The 3s., Pictorial MCA is offered at £1. 15. 0., Gibbons price so far as we know remains at £2.; the same stamp in B4 is priced £7. 10., the 3s. script at 15s., the 10s. MCA at £1. 15., in each instance rather better than "half catalogue," the MCA items are $\frac{2}{3}$ of catalogue, 87½%

CONSTITUTION ISSUE. Elsewhere in these pages you will find all the information, which almost up to the time of going to press, we are permitted to publish. You will be required to spend a little more than usual, and not as much as, for Bahamas for instance, to acquire the set. You will need 17/11 to do so, begin to put it bye, take more than one set if

you can, remember they are commemoratives to be on sale for the limited time, the original supply ordered will last.

DECIMAL PERFORATIONS or perforations expressed in decimals. We publish an article on the subject, and despite the quotations made there from other publications, observe that the absurdity is persisted in. "GSM" for April 1944 advises the Jamaica current 2½d. is now perforated vertically 12.7 instead of 12.6, the 6d. horizontally is 12.7 instead of 12.6; the 1s. now comes from plate 2; the numeral appears on the bottom margin below the fourth stamp; and the vertical perforation is 12.6 instead of 12.5 How really marvellous and absorbingly interesting? All of us "dot" and "fly mark" collectors, should be boundlessly grateful to Gibbons for this epochal, erudite, brilliant method of discovering new and additional varieties. What a thrill there is to be had from it? It provides us with new and additional some kinds, some sorts of things, to collect, doesn't it? and incidentally is a hash of philately that tends to create and develop, effects similar to those of hashish; a condition in which one does not think, and multiple delusions sway, if they do not actually command, all sense and reason.

THE CURRENT 2½d. The preceeding paragraph indicates that Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., recently acquired newly printed supplies of stock, yet we understand that for many months past, the stamp has not been obtainable locally, and have been informed unofficially, that no more supplies would be requisitioned, hence none would be printed, for the reason that there is no practicable use now for the denomination. The foreign postal rate for which it was intended, is and has been 3d. for two years or more, the Empire rate is 2d., and the local rate 1½d.

PLATE NUMBERS. In our last edition, we appealed for help from members, to compile a list of those items, applicable to our current stamps. As has been our experience for years past, there has not been response from any local member. Mr. Colett,

resident in England, several thousands of miles away, has answered the appeal; his effort is published on another page. We know that during the past year, a member showed at one of the monthly meetings, a collection of the very items, a list of which we had asked for, and he, like all others, ignored that request. That fact, together with the almost complete indifference, of which we have complained so often without effect, has convinced and decided us that this journal is of no value or use to local members, hence we are wasting time and effort to carry it on. Our resignation as Editor goes to the Secretary, just as soon as this edition is in print. We refuse to continue under the conditions we have set out, some one else may, if he or she will, take on a task which to this writer, has become hopeless.

INSCRUTABLE. We have no desire to dabble in politics, and this journal has no relation therewith, nor interest therein, yet we cannot help but touch on the subject. The local press frequently stresses need for governmental economy; has blazoned claim that the country is headed for financial bankruptcy; financial experts of one kind or another, relate and re-publish figures from government statements, to show that revenue is many hundreds of thousands of pounds below expenditure; the extraordinarily heavy taxation inflicted on the country, is destroying by restriction its capacity for business; checks, hampers, stifles initiative for expansion; and in addition to that allegedly serious condition, we are barely able to keep going, through aid of a dole of some hundreds of thousands of pounds, squeezed under pressure of war from the British taxpayer. We do not know that representation to be correct, it is what we understand from the local press. In our last edition, we suggested and advocated a measure of economy, small perhaps but still economy, much needed, not to be neglected, if the picture created by the local press be true. It was that our current stamps, extravagantly wasteful of paper, be withdrawn, and substituted with the much more economical types, in use in the "Judicial" series, set out all relevant detail,

showed that it could be done without expense or inconvenience. Recent English journals report new printings of our current stamps, recently received there by the trade. Apparently nothing has been done from this end, to effect necessary economy, that waste goes on.

Mr. C. L. von Pohle writes:

I find I have the following plate numbers in my collection in addition to those listed by Mr. Collett, of the

current King George VI series:

½d. 2A-2B.

1d. 1A-1B.

1½d. 2A, 3A-3B, 3C-3D.

2d. Frame plate 5 combined with vignette plate 2. Frame plate 5 with vignette plate 3. Incidentally, these two are perforated 13 x 14, instead of the previously used 12¼ x 12¼.

3d. Frame plate 3 with vignette plate 2.

4d. Frame plate number 2.

JAMAICA PLATE NUMBERS

By G. W. COLLETT, F.R.P.S.L.

In the last number of the Jamaica Philatelist the editor appeals for help in listing the plate numbers of the Jamaica issues.

These have always appealed to me in making my collection, and in the past I have had the valued help of Mr. G. C. Gunter, F. R. P. S. L., in getting me examples as they became available. Since the beginning of the war I have been unable to get these from the Colony, but have managed to acquire some from our dealers over here.

In the Jamaica Philatelist No. 10, June 1936, you will find a list of all the Jamaica plate numbers listed by myself up to S. G. No. 113. Since then I have acquired or noted the following: S.G. No. 108A King George V Die II I have with plate No. 3A-3B—printed in two panes of 60 with 3A on the left pane, 3B in the right pane. I have still not heard of any plate number on the 1½d. or 9d. value of this issue, or, any on the following 1932: 2d., 2½d., 6d. Pictorial issue.

The next issues listed by Gibbons are the Silver Jubilee stamps, and I have not seen any plate numbers on these.

In the Coronation issue of 1937,

the 1d. value was listed in the "Jamaica Philatelist" No. 12, with plate No. 1A-1B. I have only seen plate 1B. The 1½d. and 2½d. values were also listed with plate number 1. I have not seen this myself.

In the current King George VI., issues, I have seen the ½d. value with combined plate number 1A-1B and 1C-1D and 2C-2D. 1d. value with combined plate number 1C-1D 1½d. value I have plate No. 1. and 2A both on the right pane only.

In the "Jamaica Bulletin" No. 1, the 1½d. was listed with 1A-1B and in the No. 2. issue with 2B. I have not seen these.

The 2d. value I have with frame plate number 3. and plate 4 was listed in "Gibbon's Stamp Monthly, Sept., 1942, but I have not seen the latter.

The 3d. value has frame and vignette plate No 2.

The 6d. value has frame Plate No. 2.

The 5s. value frame Plate No.1.

The 10s. value Plate No. 1

I have not yet seen or heard of any plate number on the 2½d., 4d., 9d., 1s., 2s., values.

THOSE REGISTERED LABELS. . . .

By C. L. VON POHLE

It all began on the 12th May, 1937—Coronation Day—although I did not realise at the time that anything special was happening. I had been to Old England post office in the morning to mail a number of first-day covers to some of my friends in America, and had bought a number of Coronation stamps in addition to those needed for my mailing. As I was returning to Kingston in the evening, the thought came to me: Why not post these extra covers to myself from some of the post offices along the way—Four Paths, Osborne Store, Bushy Park, and so on. They would make interesting place names to have in one's Jamaican collection.

For the next day or two I was busy signing for registered letters. I had overlooked the fact that the postage and registration fees were only 3d., while a set of Coronation stamps came to a full 5d. The post office clerks, seeing extra postage, had registered the covers, although they had found them in the ordinary letter drop containers. One postmistress even made a pencil notation: "Found in letter-box." Evidently she was forewarning me that I would have trouble trying to say that something, perhaps valuable, was missing from the letter.

But such notes were not what held my attention when I saw the covers I was receiving; on each I saw a small, blue-printed label, giving the name of the post office from which it had come, and a number, which, together with a large "R" were enclosed in a single lined rectangle. This was more than I had anticipated receiving for my 5d. As I had just recently come from America, where a rubber stamp mark was the most one expected on a registered cover, my interest was aroused. "What better way could one have of studying Jamaica and its postal system," I thought. "I can buy a set of stamps at any post office, but these labels—why not collect them as a side line—a sort of Jamaican name compilation to add interest to my

stamps and cancellations?" And the idea was born.

"Hmm; there are only a few more than three hundred post offices in Jamaica," I mused. "I'll soon have all these labels." So I bought myself a Post Office Guide, which lists all the post offices now open, and set to work.

Now one cannot travel around Jamaica as easily as it would appear from the size of the island—even before the petrol restrictions. So I was soon aware of the fact that I would not be posting myself a registered letter from each post office. I would have to take them as they came to me—the slow way. Even today, the set is not complete. While I have had the assistance of many friends (some of whom have difficulty in seeing any connection with stamps, but are willing to humour me), I find the subject far deeper and much more interesting than I had ever anticipated. And so far I have only scratched the surface.

The label in general use today is furnished to the post office in rolls, numbered consecutively, the series running from 0001 to 9999. As a letter is handed in to be registered (usually because of value contained; it must be signed for by the recipient) a numbered label is glued to it; a record of the sender, addressee, and the number entered in a duplicate book, and a receipt given. As the mail is made up, the particulars of these registered letters are entered on a "way-bill" which accompanies them, and they are checked at each sorting post office, and back-stamped. Thus, a letter can be traced by means of this numbered label from one end of its journey to the other.

As I became more engrossed in the study of these labels, I discovered that there were a number of variations to be found from the standard type. For instance, I found some perforated on all four sides, instead of the two sides only as was customary. And the type and printing were slightly different. These apparently

were the forerunners of those now in use—they were printed and furnished to the post offices in sheets instead of rolls. I discovered, too, that there are many variations in the spelling and arrangement of some of the names. I have HALFWAY TREE, HALF WAY TREE, and HALF-WAY-TREE, to give only one example, and that does not include the differences in sizes and styles of type used. Another common variation is the use of ST. and SAINT for many of the post offices having this as a part of their names. Also, some include JAMAICA as well as the post office name. This is comparatively common on the older sheet-type labels; some of our newest post offices are using this style, too, on their roll-type labels.

But suppose some post office should allow themselves to run out of a supply of labels. Ah, that is what makes it interesting to the collector. They simply borrow from another post office, cross out the printed name, and substitute their own. Sometimes the offices are furnished with labels which have no printed name; in that case they also write in their own name. I have noted that Mandeville, Montego Bay, and St. Ann's Bay

keep rubber stamps of their names for this purpose! I wonder how often they have to use it.

The hand book "Jamaica" mentions some rubber stamps which were being used for marking registered letters previous to the time of publication—a large "R" enclosed in a circle. But I find that there are a number of present-day variations of this, also. Rose Hall, a small post office in St. Elizabeth, was using a large "R" in an upright oval a few months ago. Spanish Town has two kinds of rubber stamps, approximating the size and style of the registration label, which they have called into use during the last few years as the occasion arose.

But in these days of rapid moves, waiting for a rubber stamp to be made is too much trouble for some country post offices. If no label is at hand, all one has to do is to cross the cover with blue pencil, mark a number in the corner, and presto! a registered letter is made!

But as I say, there is much fun and knowledge to be gained from these registered labels, and I would heartily commend it to more of our members who are interested in the postal items of Jamaica.

A, B, C, D, E

By G. W. COLLETT, F.R.P.S.L.

Nine years have gone by since friend Nicholson penned a few lines on these mystery postmarks of Jamaica, and we are still no nearer a solution of the subject.

Shall we ever know which Post Office used C, D, E, it will be a red letter day for some enthusiastic collector of Jamaica obliterations when an entire comes to light providing the necessary evidence.

I have often longed to be that fortunate person, but the sands are running out and I see no hope of solution here.

The blitz of old solicitors' offices and the paper salvage effort here, unearth a good many finds in other material, but I feel if we are ever

to have a solution, it will be found in Jamaica somewhere.

I fear I can add very little to what Nicholson wrote in 1935.

I recently sent Mr. Green, U.S.A., a complete list of my collection of Jamaica obliterations numbering some 1000 items, and he has very kindly made a summary of our two collections, and those of Messrs. Gibson and Pierce.

On comparing these four big collections it gives a very good indication of what is in existence, but I propose only to give a brief observation of the A, B, C, D, E section.

A, used at Milk River

The only known cover was in the Nicholson collection, and I was fortun-

ate to get this cover when his collection was sold.

It is a black-edged mourning envelope with two copies of the 6d. CC, each having a clear A obliteration; it is addressed to Sir W. Fitzherbert, Tissington, Derbyshire, England, and backstamped Milk River with single ring postmark, 9 Nov. 1873, Jamaica single ring postmark 9 Nov. 1873, Ashbourne 29 Nov. 1873. Ashbourne, of course is in Derbyshire. This A obliterator is known on the 1d. pine, 2d., 4d., 6d., CC issues. All are scarce.

B used at Duncans

This is by far the commonest of the five marks.

Covers dating from 7.6.1880 to 26.10.91 have been seen, proving its use at Duncans. The B mark is known on ½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 1/- CC issues; ½d., 1d. blue, 1d., carmine, 2d. rose, 2d. grey, and 4d. CA issues; 1d., 2d., 2½d., Key Plate issues; 2½d. on 4d., 2d., official, and 3d., revenue issues.

It is curious it has never yet been recorded on the 3d., value either CC or CA.

C, not known where used

This is a scarce mark, only known

on ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d. CC issues; ½d., 1d. carmine, 2d. rose, 2d. slate, 4d. CA issues.

D, not known where used

This is the scarcest of the five obliterations, and is one of the rarest postmarks on any Jamaican stamp.

It is only known on the 2d. and 4d. CC issues; only three examples are known. In my collection I have a fine mark on the 4d. CC and another 4d. is in the Pierce collection. The third example is on a 2d. CC and was bought by Col. Duffus at the Nicholson sale.

E, not known where used

This appears to be rather more difficult to find than the C. It is known on ½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d. CC issues; the ½d. value is the commonest.

We are still without any reliable information as regards the why and wherefore of the five marks, and it must still be presumed that they were used on emergency or at a new Post Office until it received its proper number from England, thus being the forerunner of the Temporary rubber date stamps.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES

By G. C. GUNTER, F.R.P.S.L.

*From the "West Indian Review,"
June, 1944*

Among philatelists there existed for a very long time a difference of opinion as to whether Commemorative Stamps were desirable or not. Much has been said in support of both opinions until gradually, and at long last, the popularity of such stamp issues has been well established. What were once thought to be superfluous stamps are now much sought after, the albums of stamp collectors are adorned with many beautiful and valuable sets of stamps issued to commemorate interesting and

important historical events of the stamp-issuing country.

The history of the British West Indies, among the oldest Colonies of the Empire, provides us with so many events of importance that if all were to be recorded on stamps such a gallery of pictures would be formed, that a comprehensive pictorial history of these islands would result, much to the delight of stamp collectors and the satisfaction of students of West Indian history.

The Commemorative stamps of the United States provide a splen-

did example of such a picture—history, beginning with the set of Columbus Commemorative stamps, right through the war of Independence, the Civil War, and up to the present-day issues showing the flags of the European Countries that have been occupied by the Nazi hordes during the present War.

But it has been a long-standing regret of the Jamaican stamp collector that the Government of the Island has never thought it necessary to record Jamaica's many outstanding historical events by the special issue of commemorative stamps. A glance at the stamp issues of the Island from the year 1860 right up to the present time provides evidence of this, for, while other islands of the West Indian group were periodically issuing commemorative stamps, Jamaica continued to use conventional designs for her stamps.

The year 1894 gave Jamaica an excellent opportunity for the issue of a set of Commemoratives, but unfortunately she took no thought of that milestone in her history, the 400th anniversary of her discovery by Christopher Columbus who not only discovered Jamaica, but enjoyed the hospitality of the country for nearly a year while waiting for help to restore his battered ships.

The importance of the event was not lost sight of by the Jamaica Philatelic Society, which petitioned the Government for the issue of a set of stamps to commemorate the event; but the Governor of the day did not see the necessity for such an issue.

The insistence of philatelists in Jamaica for a change of stamp designs at length convinced Governor Probyn that this was necessary and accordingly with the permission of the Secretary of State it was arranged to issue a new set of stamps. Only the rumour of such policy reached the Jamaica Philatelic Society which was not consulted as to the designs to be used, but it was hoped by the members, that something in the nature of a commemorative set had been authorised and would be issued. This was not to be, however, for on the morning of July

3rd. 1919, the "Jamaica Gazette" appeared with a notice dated 27th June, 1919, which heralded the penny half-penny stamp to be put on sale on the 4th July. The stamp was most unattractive and met with disapproval from all sections of the public. The design represented the first Jamaica Contingent embarking on the S. S. "Verdala" for the training camps of England.

Slowly the set of twelve stamps, which were to be known to philatelists throughout the world as the "Pictorials of 1919-1921," gained completeness until finally the 5s., denomination was issued on the 15th April 1921. The set includes pictures of buildings, monuments and events that remind us of great happenings, but not a word from the authorities responsible for their production to show that commemoration of the history surrounding these subjects was intended. It was left to philatelists to write into them the history of their period, and these writings are of the greatest interest, and invite study. But of how much more interest would the set of stamps have been had it been issued all together or had been heralded in the Government notices as a commemorative set!

In connection with the issue of the 5s. stamp of the set, it is interesting to note that the picture on the stamp was designed by Sir Leslie Probyn who wrote the explanation of the symbolism used in the design as follows:

"The Jamaica 5s. postal stamp is one of a series designed to record the more important facts of the Island's history, the stamp itself symbolising the fact that Jamaica has long held a pleasingly rhythmic and sonorous title, viz: *The Land of Wood and Water*.

The latest approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for Jamaica to issue a set of seven stamps to commemorate the granting of a new Constitution to the Island has met with general approval. The invitation of the Postmaster General of Jamaica to the public of the Island, to submit designs for this series of special stamps, came as a surprise, for never before in the pos-

tal history of the Island had such an opportunity been given to the people to suggest subjects for their stamps. This seemed out of the question for the ordinary man. Only the favoured few had ever been invited to give their ideas. The response to the advertisements has been remarkable, and very soon Jamaican postal history will record an issue of stamps that will be pleasing to look at and will commemorate an event of great importance in the Island's history. The subjects that have been chosen remind us not only of our political past, but of our cultural and educational advancement, the tradition of local Government, as well as the administration of justice in the Island, the unity of Jamaica with the Empire, and her hopes and aspirations for the future. With the introduction of this new policy Jamaica will take her place alongside the other Islands of the West Indies whose commemorative stamps have proved very popular and which I will try to present in their alphabetical sequence.

I begin with the island of Antigua, which issued in 1932 a set of ten stamps, in four designs, to commemorate the first settlement of the Island by Sir Thomas Warner and a body of English settlers who took possession of the Island in the name of Great Britain in 1632. Although the island was discovered by Columbus in 1493 it remained uninhabited until 1666, when a further settlement was made under the direction of Lord Willoughby, to whom the Island was given by King Charles II. A few years after this last settlement by the English, the French raided the Island and remained in possession until Nelson in his flagship "Victory" defeated them and retook possession for the British Crown. The set of stamps reminds us of these historical facts; the 1s. stamp shows a picture of the "Victory" and the 5s., a picture of Sir Thomas Warner's vessel.

The Peace celebrations, after the Great War of 1914-1918, gave the Government of the Bahamas Islands an opportunity to issue stamps to commemorate the event and accordingly in 1920 a set of five stamps

in one design was issued. This proved to be a very popular issue and the stamps were a worthy addition to the gallery of philatelic souvenirs of these Islands, one of which, San Salvador, was the first land that Columbus sighted in 1492, on his voyage of discovery in the W. I. waters. Ten years later another set of five stamps was decided upon by the colony to commemorate the tercentenary of the English settlements of the Islands, which began in the second quarter of the 17th century, and so ready was the Government of the Bahamas to keep alive the historical events connected with them, that a third set of commemoratives was issued in 1943 to remind the world that the Bahamas was the gateway into the New World through which Columbus entered in 1492.

Although Barbados is one of the smallest of the British West Indian Islands, it has a history which illustrates the progress of peaceful colonization. The Island was acquired without conquest, and has never been out of the possession of the British Empire. It was in 1605 that the crew of the British ship "Olive Blossom" took possession of the Island in the name of James I. It was therefore appropriate that in 1905 the tercentenary of annexation was commemorated by the issue of a stamp known to philatelists as the "Id. Olive Blossom." The Island has not been slow to take advantage of opportunity and has enlarged her stamp issues by four other sets to commemorate events in her history. The Nelson Centenary set of seven stamps in one design, was issued in 1906. This is an interesting set, as apart from its commemorative value it recalls the origin of the statue which forms the idea for design. The legend under the statue viz: "First monument erected to Nelson's memory 1813" was, however, corrected by Mr. R. F. Healy who wrote in the Philatelic Magazine of Dec. 13, 1942 as follows: "The Monument which stands in Trafalgar Square, London, was put up in 1813 at a cost of £2,300, an amount which took seven years to collect as the project was initiated in 1806, the monument was unveiled by two Trafalgar Officers on the 22nd

March 1813., The set of stamps known as the "Victory issue" of 1920 commemorated the restoration of Peace after the 1914-1918 War, and the lone 1d. stamp issued on the 17th February, 1927, recorded the tercentenary of the Island's first settlement under the patent of Lord Leigh, afterward the Earl of Marlborough. Twelve years later, on the 27th June 1939, the tencentenary of the General Assembly of Barbados was commemorated by the issue of five stamps in one design picturing King Charles I and George VI, with the Barbados House of Assembly and the Mace.

I do not think that many people outside of the Islands, know that the discovery of the Bermudas resulted from the shipwreck of Juan Bermudez, a Spaniard who was on a voyage from Spain to Cuba with a cargo of hogs, early in the 16th century. There is no stamp issued by Bermuda to commemorate this incident, but we are reminded by the issue of a complete series of nine stamps between 1910-19, that the Islands were first settled by Sir George Somers. The design of the nine stamps is a picture of the "Sea Venture" in which vessel Sir George and his settlers arrived in the Islands. This set of stamps was not regarded as a truly commemorative issue, but in 1920 Bermuda decided to issue stamps to commemorate the tercentenary of the establishment of Representative Institutions in the Colony. In the following year another set of nine stamps was issued with the same purpose in view.

An interesting story surrounds these two sets of stamps which illustrates the friendly accord that existed between the Governor and the people's representatives. Early in 1920 the Governor in Council decided to issue special stamps in honour of the tercentenary of Representative Government in the earliest settled Colony in the Empire, and the Crown Agents were requested to prepare a design showing the king's head together with the badge of the Colony. All this was not known to the House of Assembly, which, almost simultaneously, had also come to the decision to mark the event by the introduction of a set of stamps of

special design. When, however, the recommendation went to the Governor he duly informed the Assembly of the steps he had already taken. Although the Governor's design was not favoured by the Assembly, a compromise was effected by the decision to issue another set of stamps in the design approved by the House. This set is described by the philatelic press as very artistic in design with its four symbolic emblems, the Ship of State, the Sword used in 1620, the Gavel of 1920, and the ancient Coat of Arms of the Colony, with the King's head as the centre-piece. Thus the event has been commemorated by two sets of stamps instead of one set as originally intended.

The commemorative idea has extended even to the tiny Cayman Islands, which, following the example of her bigger sister islands, obtained permission to issue a set of stamps to commemorate the centenary of the Assembly of Justices and Vestry. Accordingly on the 5th of December 1932 there appeared on sale at all the Post Offices in the Islands, as well as in London through the Crown Agents, a set of twelve stamps in one design bearing the heads of King William IV and George V, a somewhat conventional design but rather attractive and today very popular with collectors.

The little island of Grenada commemorated the 400th anniversary of her discovery by the issue of one stamp having as its central design the flagship of Columbus; and Montserrat, one of the Leeward group, took the opportunity, knowing well the historical value of commemorative stamps, to issue in 1932 a set of ten stamps to commemorate the tercentenary of its colonisation by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632.

Of the Colonies in the West Indies St. Kitts-Nevis is among the oldest. Columbus discovered St. Kitts or St. Christopher as it was first named in 1493 but it was not until 1623 that a colony was founded. In 1903 the Government issued its first stamp which, although not designed as a commemorative, had that effect because it commemorated the discovery of the Island by Columbus. The great Discoverer is shown

viewing the Island through a telescope, but as this instrument was not invented until a hundred years after the death of the Admiral, philatelic writers have tried to solve the anachroism of the Discoverer looking through a telescope!

Saint Lucia in 1936 issued a very handsome set of stamps. These were not heralded as a commemorative issue but they nevertheless remind us of events in the history of the Island which was probably discovered by Columbus in 1502. He named the Island after the Saint on whose day it was sighted. We are reminded by the picture on the 1s. stamp that St. Lucia was the island from which Rodney sailed just before his famous victory over the French Admiral de Grasse in April 1782.

The Island of Trinidad did not miss the opportunity of remembering her Discoverer and in 1898 issued a stamp to commemorate her discovery in 1496. The picture on the stamp shows the Admiral and his ship's company landing on the Island, but unlike the 3d. stamp of Jamaica issued in 1921, the picture does not include any of the natives of the Island nor does it show the dogs that the designer of the Jamaica stamp insisted on picturing and which the late Mr. Hyglet described as "dogs with three legs."

Stamp Collectors in Jamaica as I have said earlier, are pleased with the decision of Government to commemorate Jamaica's New Constitu-

tion by the issue of a set of stamps, but their satisfaction has been dulled by the decision that no commemorative stamp is to be issued in honour of Columbus who discovered this "Land of Wood and Water" 450 years ago, and who actually lived on the Island for over one year while he waited in suspense for help to come from Santo Domingo, to which place he had sent one of his officers with the news of the bad condition of his vessels.

The discovery of the New World by Columbus, has given many of the Governments of the Americas good reason for issuing stamps to commemorate the voyages of the Great Discoverer. The commemorative stamp, issue as we know it today, made its first appearance in the United States in 1894 in which year the attractive series of stamps known to collectors as the "Columbus" issue was put on sale. It was in that year that Jamaica's opportunity was present to be in good company and to pay tribute, as other British West Indian Islands have done, to the great Genoese navigator whose face is so familiar to stamp lovers and whose ships, statues, travels and triumphs have all been requisitioned by the designers of postage stamps. This writer deplors the fact that Jamaica's only tribute to this great man is to be found on a three-penny stamp, the design of which is so fantastic as to be the subject of ridicule throughout the Philatelic world.

THE "BOW" VARIETY (JAMAICA)

A short article on this subject, captioned "Jamaica S G 107a," by Mr. J. Benson, one of our members resident in England, appeared in our last edition. We wished then to have referred to the article, but were prevented by exigencies of restricted space, imposed by existing war conditions. We do so now and for the reasons that, Mr. Benson asked a question, which we think usefully may be answered; and, inferentially, he chided us for having described the item previously as "minor," yet at

the same time compared it with the "\$hilling" and "Ser.et" varieties.

No such item as "107a" appears in the present Stanley Gibbons Jamaica list, nor is the "Bow" variety listed or mentioned there. Mr. Benson's identifying letters and numerals, may be construed as a fiction employed by him to indicate what, in his opinion, should be, as he asks why that "catalogue status" has not been given.

It may be informative to provide a description of the variety. The stamp is the ½d. green, George V,

issued 3rd. November, 1927, in the 1912 type of our first Georgians. The curved band bearing the word "Jamaica," set below the oval with the vignette, shows above each end, right and left, an ornamental frond with leaves on both sides of the stem. The lowest leaves turn down and in towards the stem, but do not touch it. In the variety, those leaves at right are curved back to the stem, touch and apparently cross it, to form a bow or knot without pendant ends. Observable irregularity of conformation, indicates damage to the plate as the cause. There is a sub-variety that differs little from the main, believed to have been created by unskilled attempt to repair the damage.

The first published record of the variety appeared under the name of Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, in "Godden's Gazette," edition of December, 1935, and was followed by confirmatory comment in this Journal, annual edition of 1936. There is no question of fact, doubt of any kind relative to authenticity, constancy, or of any factor necessary to validate existence and propriety, but the point may be raised, why does the variety appear on some sheets, not all?, and may be answered with invitation for attention to the dates of original issue, 3rd November, 1927, and discovery of the variety; the earliest known date as Mr. Nicholson records, being 12th December, 1930. The possible, reasonable inferences to be made, seem to be: (1) original and early printings were made from an undamaged plate, (2) the variety about the later date came into existence, obviously from a damaged plate, probably the same plate damaged in use, (3) later printings about 1936-38 were made from a new, undamaged plate. Theories 1 and 3 appear to be supported by the fact, that sheets without the variety are known to have been received from official source, both before and after discovery, but that cannot be stated to be conclusive, for the reason that stamps identified by watermark as obsolete, are known to have been sold by the Post Office, after stamps of similar design, but with new watermark had been in use for some months, indicating that stock piles

were not rotated with desirable sequence. Be that as it may, the variety is a positive, authentic fact, and is locally known on copies dated as late as February, 1936, an approximate life of six years, about as long as that of the "Ser.et" items, and if we think of those for a moment, it will be remembered that they too did not appear on all sheets issued, i. e., the variety did appear on the ½d. and 5d. both papers, 1d. and 2½d. on CA paper, but not on those denominations on MCA paper.

Mr. Benson's question re "catalogue status," impels us to enquire just what that term is intended to mean. We understand it to mean, record in a dealer's price-list-cum-catalogue. The detail cited by him, perhaps amplified by us here, provides the reasons, answers the tests, by which the variety may be appraised as eligible for record, in any catalogue of stamps that are within the range of our philately, which is prepared with philatelic reason, compiled to serve philatelic purpose. There is no intelligent argument possible, that can deny to the variety, right to philatelic recognition, but to claim on that ground, similar right to record in any dealer's price list, is quite another matter, one that cannot be sustained, for the reason that it means attempted dictation to the dealer concerned, whose price list is published to advertise the wares he has for sale, not necessarily any we may think he should have, may not be possessed for that purpose or at all.

If we refer again to the "\$hilling" and "Ser.et" varieties, we can and should find that the first did not have the "catalogue status" desired by our correspondent, for many, many years, although for decades it had received philatelic recognition, was sought and prized by philatelists and collectors of Jamaican stamps. If our memory serves aright, the second not only was denied "catalogue status" for several years, it was derided as well. That both subsequently were given "catalogue status," discloses unusual procedure of negation, derision, spaced by many years from that tardy appreciation and recognition. We do not attempt to explain, but to us it seems to suggest, lack of ability

in some responsible individual to recognise at once, obvious philatelic worth and merit. In each instance, lapse of a lengthy period of years, apparently was necessary for incubation and emergence of that realism: by comparison, it is but a trifle of about eight years only, since the "Bow" variety was discovered and reported.

Are "catalogue status" and/or "catalogue omission," factors that need disturb the collector-philatelist? We think not; as a philatelist, he should be able to determine what philatelic worth there may be in the item considered, and as a collector concerned with the financial phase of his hobby, reports of auction sales should do much to relieve anxious thought on that subject. Those functions are not governed by any dealer's price list, and the fact that many items of no "catalogue status" change hands there at desirable prices, is indication that there is market for them; (for instance, Jamaica No. 111 vertical pair, imperforate between, brought £35.0.0) that the philatelic world has shaken, or is shaking off, stupid, stolid acceptance of dealer control, implied by that absurd term, "catalogue status." Some collector-philatelists of today, obviously do think for themselves, do not permit nor rely on any dealer to do so for them; do not accept "catalogue status" as certifying comprehensive philatelic excellence, any more than they recognise "catalogue omission," as necessarily denoting odium. The point is made impressive by the dealer-publishers of the price-list-cum-catalogue, who, by special advertisements, have offered sundry items to which they had not given "catalogue status," but which by their descriptions may not be regarded as lacking philatelic interest, or in any way inferior, because of that "catalogue omission." The conclusion we derive is, "catalogue status" or "omission," mean just nothing to the collector-philatelist, who reasonably well is able to appraise philatelic worth; does not accept any and everything because of "catalogue status"; does not necessarily reject, discard any, because of "catalogue omission." Those who may elect to remain conscious of, give undue importance to

those two terms, are destined sooner or later to find themselves compelled, as others have been, to realise that those designations have their origin in, are derived from unthinking acceptance of, unintelligent deference to, the whims, fancies, fashions, positively or negatively expressed, displayed in price lists published by some dealers, which, by catachresis, are made to bear the mis-nomen of "catalogue."

There is considerable evidence of loose thinking, far too much of it, relative to proper application, understanding of the word; let us try to develop clear, reasonable understanding of the subject. In most reliable dictionaries, the word "catalogue" is defined as meaning, "an ordered, systematic list of items." There is no mention of "prices," or of the qualification "priced." Just so soon as figures of value are added, one has a "priced list," or as some may elect to term it, "a priced catalogue." No catalogue is meant to be an encyclopædia of the items it covers, but it seems rationally to follow, that the less comprehensive a catalogue is, the less is its use and value for the usual and intended purpose of reference for information, to the user who seeks primary information relative to the subjects, he expects to find listed there. Each and any catalogue of known and established laxity; by omission for instance, has use and value for the purpose of reference, in direct relation with the measure of its laxity, for the reason that required but omitted primary information, must be sought and found elsewhere, in some instances perhaps laboriously discovered, evolved by ourselves, and as that imposed labour is found to become irritatingly, increasingly necessary, so does use and value of the alleged "catalogue" recede.

Reviewing existing alleged "catalogues" in that sense, one becomes aware, by discovered omission of sundry stamps, of laxity that is not trivial. Dealer-publishers of those "catalogues," have been known to reply to complaint on the subject, with reminder that the alleged "catalogue" is their "price list," hence it seems reasonable to understand, that laxity by omission discloses the dealer-pub-

lisher's disinclination, to have his list record any items, other than those selected by him for purpose of trade, which, in its turn, makes clear that description of those lists, is not defensible other than as *priced lists*, or "So & So's priced catalogue of his stamps." The usual appellation of "So & So's postage stamp catalogue," is a misnomer that misleads, even though it be not used for that purpose. "So & So's catalogue" means that it is a list prepared by him, for the purpose of reference for information; if of stamps, *all those known to him to have had existence*, accepted as authentic in the purview of his research; the effort of compilation influenced by desire to provide a philatelic lexicon, not of words but of stamps, not of prices and market values, but of all primary informative facts; is not in the most remote sense a "priced list" at all; clearly and definitely not a list of the possessions of some one offered for sale, as are the alleged "catalogues" published by dealers. There is a wide, significant difference of meaning between "So & So's catalogue of Jamaican stamps," and a "catalogue of So & So's Jamaican stamps." If the difference and its significance has been made clear to you, it will not be difficult to grasp and understand that, without any sort of doubt, each dealer's published price list is a "catalogue of So & So's stock of stamps," *is not* a catalogue of all known, authentic stamps.

If, for instance, this Society decided to compile and publish a list of the stamps of Jamaica, and did so, it would have produced a *genuine catalogue* of those issues. It does not deal in stamps, has no urge to trade in them; is concerned solely with philatelic fact; has service of philatelic purpose as its object; is influenced by, and we hope with, philatelic reason; is not swayed by whims, fancies, fashions or other similarly fantastic imponderables, which may have place in business, but not remotely so in philately. For those reasons, the Society would endeavour to compile a list of *all stamps*, issued with official authority by and in Jamaica, supplemented with record of all legitimate, authentic, philatelic varieties; it has no reason to exclude any but those of

doubtful authenticity, "wrong uns" generally. The produced result of its effort might not be comprehensive, perhaps not nearly complete, if judged by some standards, but within the scope decided, that result would be a *genuine catalogue* of the stamps of Jamaica. Because of the known and established laxity, of existing trade price lists of stamps, we commend the idea to the Society for consideration and action. Such a list, sponsored and published with the authority possessed by the Society, should prove a boon to its members, to all collectors interested in the stamps of Jamaica, to whom it should be made available; and, incidentally, enhance its prestige; very much so, if, as may be possible and probable, its action be followed with similar action by other Colonial Philatelic Societies, which dissatisfied as we are with existing conditions, decide to reject "catalogue status" and "catalogue omission," as governing the activities of its or their members. Full fledged development of the idea, may be too much to hope for all at once, but dearly would we like to see a start made.

Why did we describe the "Bow" variety as "minor," yet compare it with the "Shilling" and "Ser.et" items, each of which because of high market value, seems by inference, to be placed in the category of "major"? If, as it may have done, the financial consideration weighed with Mr. Benson when he wrote, readily we admit that there is no comparison at present; but if damage to a printing plate, be the philatelic consideration, as it was with us when we wrote, there is precise comparison. In none of the three was the damage large, extensive enough to be described as "major," obscuring beyond ready recognition, or even nearly to that stage, any large part of the design. Our esteemed correspondent rightly may argue, that in each of the first two varieties, known and familiar symbols were changed to something else, and for that reason the change is important enough to be described as "major." Have it the way you will, friend, that argument applies with as strong and precisely the same reason to the "Bow" variety. If the first cited varieties be described correctly as "ma-

jör", what is the superlative necessary correctly to describe the "shilling with inverted frame"? We pay little or no attention to the trivial, abundance of which is forced on one's notice by dealers and some collectors, with the wholly unmerited classification and description of "minor varieties." Their correct description is compassed in the phrase "*res parvi momenti*," things of the most trifling importance, "absurdities," "stupidities," none too strong to designate them.

Probably we are guilty of heresy to have classified and described all three as "minor" varieties, but it appeals to us that in the reasonable, logical, philatelic view, we were and are strictly orthodox, basing as we did and do, similarity, equality of

classification on the fact of common origin, viz., accidental minor damage to the respective printing plates. Whichever may be the correct, proper classification and description, the point that presses most on our present attention, is the place of the "Bow" variety in the philately of Jamaica, and, for not a few, its present and future market value. If the experience to be derived from the trade or market lives of the "\$hilling" and "Ser.et" items be applied, it seems clear without any reasonable doubt, that, despite its present lack of "catalogue status," the "Bow" variety should be acquired and held for (1) its positive, unquestionable philatelic worth and merit, (2) possible, very probable worthwhile increase in market value.

THE CONSTITUTION ISSUE

During August, 1943, Mr. G. C. Gunter, our Honorary Treasurer, approached the local Government with suggestion that, as May, 1944, would see the four hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of this Island by Columbus, there should be an appropriate issue of postage stamps, commemorative of the event. He also suggested yet another commemorative issue, to coincide with enactment of a new political constitution for the Island, scheduled for promulgation on some date to be fixed, in 1944.

Both suggestions seemed to have found favour with the local Government, but we are advised that the "Columbus" idea, was rejected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that for a "Constitution" issue accepted. A small committee was formed to develop the idea, on which Mr. Gunter, representing the Jamaica Philatelic Society, was invited to serve. The Postmaster General of Jamaica, Mr. W. A. Campbell, was chairman, and during a short stay here, Sir Harry Luke, designer of recent Maltese and Cypriot pictorial stamps, kindly met and gave some of his ideas to the Committee. Local advertisement by the Postmaster, invited competitive designs, ideas for designs,

with reward for any accepted, which would become the property of the Government.

Before touching on the later stages of development, it may be of interest at this point to give a short historical sketch, to provide the issue with its proper background, and show the reason it has for existence.

Historians agree that the First Political Assembly in Jamaica, of which there is official record, was convened at Spanish Town, on 20th January, 1664, its members having been duly elected by writs returnable and returned during December, 1663; they do not agree in other respects relative thereto. We use Cundall as our reference, for the reason that his record is taken from the official journals, records of the House of Assembly; he tells us so; and so provides what is first hand, official information. He fixes the number of members as 20 from 13 constituencies, and although later refers to "the Constitution," we do not trace that instrument, by which a specific form of government with defined powers, was created. Further statements give rise to some doubt that it existed, for the reason that, the King, Charles II, pro-

ceded to make laws, which, bearing his Seal, were sent to the local Governor, for adoption by the Assembly. That Assembly, set up by his instructions, refused to accept those laws, made theirs, submitted them to the King for his approval, which in turn he refused. Thus began and developed continuous bickering and friction, fanned by sundry incidents contributed by both sides, but centered chiefly around revenue measures, and in particular to tribute demanded by the Crown. In 1728, in exchange for a fixed annual sum payable to the Crown, full legislative power was ceded to the Colony. That autonomy lasted for 137 years, distinguished by frequent fights between the Executive and the Assembly, similar to those of earlier days; the Colony was brought to the verge of bankruptcy, averted by loans from Crown, and culminated in the Morant Bay rebellion, 1865, which a member of "the recalcitrant Assembly" was held guilty of having incited, and was executed. In December, the Assembly divested its powers; on 11th June of the following year, Government by the Crown was declared; a new Governor, Sir John Peter Grant, arrived with a new constitution on 5th August. Under it a legislature consisting of six official and three unofficial members was set up, and in 1867, the constituted parishes, twenty-two in number, were reduced to the present fourteen. In 1883 a deputation from Jamaica, waited on the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Derby, and by Order in Council, obtained "a moderate step in Advance;" the unofficial members were increased in number to nine. In 1885, that number again was increased to fourteen, the official element raised to ten. In 1899-1900, more trouble. Under power embodied in the Constitution, the Governor introduced as temporary members of the Legislative Council, four additional official members, to pass a revenue bill which he declared to be of "paramount importance." Subsequently, the added four were made permanent members, and all but one of the elected members left, refused to return to the Council, for the

remainder of that Session. Since then, presence of the "undesired, objectionable four;" frequent resort by successive Governors to "paramount importance," has more than ruffled the calm desired for legislative deliberation. Sustained agitation, legitimate and moderate, has pressed for an amended constitution, that would restore much if not all rights held 1728-1865. In 1926, an amended constitution was offered by the Crown, which the elected element refused as "not good enough." The agitation continued, to produce yet another amended constitution in 1944, the provisions of which recently have been made public, are under consideration for amendment, rejection, or adoption and promulgation by order in Council during the current year.

Such is a very sketchy sketch of the forms and reforms of Jamaica's political constitution, which we hope provides a historical background and reason for the projected issue of stamps, to commemorate this latest, anticipated change.

The designs accepted and recommended by the Committee, were published in the "Daily Gleaner," 12th June, 1944. Six in number, one, the 3d., was slated for the 10s. denomination also, so that the series would be one of seven stamps in six designs, and of the following denominations, viz., 1½d., 2d., 3d., 4½d., 2s., 5s., 10s. The published design of a 1s., stamp, in a sense is wrong. No 1s., denomination is intended, that design will be used for the 5s., stamp. We use the opportunity to congratulate our fellow member, Mr. Claude deSouza, who by free hand pen and ink drawings, has done some very fine work, to have reduced the originals 8" by 10", to facsimiles in approximate sizes of the stamps to be issued, as they appeared in the "Gleaner."

We have held this subject open and back, incidentally delaying publication of this edition of the journal, for rather longer than we wished, hoping that early finality would be reached, in order to get in all that may be written about this series of stamps, but that hope seems destined for frustration, even though an or-

gan of the local press has stated that the designs have had official approval. We hope that to be premature, as we believe such approval to be misguided and mistaken, have represented our reasons therefor, pointed out certain matters that seem to need correction, and/or improvement. Whether or not that effort will have influence, we do not know, but it may. The terms of the reformed Constitution, are under adverse criticism in the local press, legislative debate and decision have yet to be made, all of which seems to indicate possibility, probability of perhaps lengthy delay, on which we may not wait, and must treat the subject as it appears to us at the moment.

We have a confession to make. We were privileged to see the designs before they were published; unofficially of course; and our opinion invited. We were not very enthusiastic, but declared against the 2s. only. Publication in the "Gleaner," seemed to open our eyes to sundry faults, that should have been obvious when first we saw the designs, hence we are ranged to very large extent, with those who accepted and recommended them, and any comment we may make now, if it be regarded as criticism, necessarily is directed against ourselves, as much as against any one else, perhaps more so, but that is not our intention; we do not mean to criticize anyone, we do wish to suggest what we believe to be possible improvement, to point out for correction what we believe needs to be corrected.

The design for the 2d., denominations, shows in its general conception, appreciation of the idea of the commemoration, but portrayal of the idea is faulty, and has room for improvement. Delineation of the two Kings is very poor, due to effort to crowd into little space, the bust pictures shown. If the respective heads only were depicted, clearly and dominantly defined, there would be large, generous difference in pleasing effect. (See Barbados 1d. of 1927, commemoration of their Tercentenary.) A part of the Jamaica Coat of Arms, the escutcheon, is shown but assigned to debased place. Charles II. whose Royal Warrant created those Arms,

adopted the title of "Lord of Jamaica," and his descendant, our present king, is "Lord Supreme." The Coat of Arms is really theirs as "Lords" of Jamaica; it is a device, their insignia, for exaltation to the place of honour, the fesse, now occupied by the denominational tablet. There seems to be no question that those places should, must be changed about, the error is much too serious to be perpetuated by more and wider publication. The design by implication suggests, indicates reform of the Constitution from that of Charles II, 1664, to that now offered by the Government of George VI. Historically, that is incorrect. There was wide, important change in 1728 under George II, again in 1865 under Victoria. Historical accuracy and continuity, seem to require that George II and Victoria be introduced. Appropriately and with but little change, that idea may be applied, by using the design of the building, that used to house the Assembly; believed to have been erected during the eighteenth century; as the background for a portrait of George II, and similarly the design of the building of the Institute of Jamaica, for that of Victoria.

The present designs of the building of the Insitute of Jamaica, and that shown as for a 1s. stamp, transgress current convention. No colonial postage stamp of the present reign, shows His Majesty's left profile. If the profile at all is shown, always it is His right, placed at left or centre of the design. If placed at right, three quarter face is depicted, also used sometimes for the central position.

The design for the 2s., is most unusual. We do not desire to disparage local talent and effort, we would much rather encourage, so will the designer please accept what we write, as meant in the kindest sense. Clearly, experience was badly needed, as the fatal error was made, not to give attention to the diminutive area of the finished stamp, within which all of the design eventually must be shown. Attention thereto should have led to recognition of necessity for simplicity, elimination of all matter tending to crowd that very limited

space. Failure to co-ordinate the effort with that governing factor, has resulted in crowded disorder of incognizable objects, the purpose and meaning of which, necessarily are obscure, the presence of which puzzles and confounds. In addition, there seems to be gross misrepresentation of natural phenomenon, in the drawing of what is stated to be the rays of the sun. The uninformed observer, should have no difficulty to recognize those lines, as depicting the sails of a windmill, or radial sections of a spiders web, but never as the sun's rays. That planet may emit lateral, transverse rays, set in between and affixed to the vertical, we cannot affirm that it does not, but if it does, the fact does not seem to have been known, to any other artist who has attempted to portray the sun.

It is a gratification to observe that designs, acceptable in the main and general sense, without any sort of difficulty, have been available here in Jamaica. Never again should there be necessity, to commission artists

at London or elsewhere, to visit Kew for their models, and then produce on any of our stamps, absurd pictures such as, bananas growing *down* the stem, which has been inflicted on us. This series as a whole, with exception of the 2s., stamp, is very creditable. The mistakes and faults to which we have invited attention, are capable easily of remedy. Based on the intelligence shown, in the choice of subjects for the designs, one may be sure that as experience is gained, there will be appreciation of necessity for display of proper and exact knowledge of the subject shown, development of better technique, with still more satisfactory result.

That is about all the comment, usefully we make at present. Until the mater of the designs, with all their detail, are known to be finally settled, we cannot know what they will be, and cannot attempt to relate the stories they may have to tell. That must await our next edition.

PERFORATIONS

"To be or not to be; that is the question" dominating a controversy on this subject, which had and may still have, existence in England.

We referred to it in our last edition, warned all and sundry that in future, the little gadget, the common or garden perforation gauge, with which most of us had become familiar, by itself no longer would suffice, there would be need to implement it with another of the Vernier type, if one would determine the very precise, delicate graduations to hundredths in decimal points, which were being introduced, made into a vogue. Since then the subject appears to have gone through some of its stages, but not to exhaustion; even though it had all the attributes of being exhausting; and if dying, seems to be dying stubbornly. That more or less, is the point to which our most recent journals from England seem to take it.

The pertinent citations made here do not cover all the ground, but may enable readers to gather understanding of the whole.

The October, 1943, edition of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly," provides an extended list of recent issues of Grenada, showing variations of perforation in fractions and decimal points, said to be made in the interest of the "specialist." The January, 1944, edition, states that as decided by the Editor, and "*as announced some time ago*," the idea of recording fractional variations of perforation in less than halves, has been abandoned; then thoughtfully re-lists Gibraltar 1938-43 on the avowed basis of halves only, and shows the corresponding, allegedly accurate, actual decimals, which, in the immediately preceding context, were stated to have been abandoned, but, no doubt, again provided specially

for the special benefit of the "specialist."

The "Philatelic Magazine," 21st May, 1943, prints a short article entitled "Quarter Perforations Must Go," in which we are informed that the Gibbons firm is responsible for publication of the idea and conduct of the experiment, of recording perforations in fractions of a quarter and less, that theirs and Robson Lowe's catalogues are the only publications that list them, the experiment is a failure, the finical infinitives an unwanted, imposed nuisance, and asks for prompt announcement that all future record of fractions will be stated in halves only. Note the published dates of the respective references we have used, and understand our comment that the decimal idea dies hard; there seems to be very clear evidence of effort to keep it alive, in the fore ground, if not for suasion to adopt, for possible, probable resurrection, if there be reason to think it may be. We propose to help bury it deep, beyond that hope.

The spuriously recondite, fantastic, phantom "specialist," who may undertake with aid of a Vernier or similar gauge, to create without understandable purpose, a very extensive range of additional, pseudo collectible varieties of perforation, may be shown to have factual existence. Individuals possessed of inexplicable ideas do exist, not always within the confines of a mental home, and some by expression of those ideas, are able to stimulate to action, the kindred faculty in others for similarly aimless thought, but past and present experience should make clear to all able to understand that the vast majority of stamp collectors and philatelists are reasoning, reasonable folk, who endeavour to preserve their hobby on sound, reasonable, sane basis. It is freakish, ridiculous whims such as this, usually having origin in and with the stamp trade, that tend to destroy it. Have a glance at past effort and result, to exploit so called perforation varieties. See the list of Fijian stamps; we find that for 11 x 11½ there is the very nice distinction of "11 x nearly 12", 10 x 12½ has variety 12½ x 10; that of New Zealand provides some

similarly extraordinary things. Are the stamps of those countries popular, particularly those of the periods where the mentioned absurdities were introduced? We suggest without hesitation and very positively, that they are not; reaction from those experiments was and is one of indifference, neglect, interest destroyed, at best diminished to the vanishing point. Despite that knowledge, why the publicising of the present spate of stupidities; why another experiment?, experiment already had been made, known result obtained. If it be an experiment, its only warrant appears to be, we, the collectors and philatelists of today, are rated as being much more gullible, stupid folk than our predecessors were.

The "Philatelic Magazine" 4th June, 1943, published a very interesting and informative article, "Measuring Perforations," that has bearing on the subject. From it we learn that quarter perforations may be measured, with reasonable accuracy and reliability, only if an expensive, very precise scientific instrument be used; decimal points to hundredths may not. One hundredth of a perforation in the usual and standard length of 20mm, is said to be less than one twenty thousandth of an inch, and in paper; of which stamps are made; expands or contracts, as the paper absorbs or exhales, a variable moisture content from the surrounding air. Accepting that statement as correct, it has for support reason that appeals; the alleged "specialist," who indulges the fascinating pastime, of trying to measure perforations in decimals of tenths to hundredths, appears to accept for all his time, an endless, hopeless, task. Stamps that measure to one dimension in dry weather, have quite another when the weather is wet, with infinite variations between the extremes of dry and wet. He is almost precisely on par with the idiot, who, in tropical temperature, persistently endeavours to wipe dry, a water made block of ice. We do not believe any "specialist" in philately, of such dubious sanity, to have existence anywhere; has the stamp trade in England produced one or two?

CORRESPONDENCE

Mandeville,
July 21, 1944

Dear Mr. Cooke:

I don't know if I am too late, or if the material is at all acceptable, but I am enclosing a short article which may be of some use for the "Jamaica Philatelist." During the last day or two I have had occasion to read a portion of the present number of the magazine in proof form, and I noted your remarks in regard to the apathy of the local members of the J.P.S. I have been intending to write the enclosed article on Registered Labels for a number of years, but just never made myself sit down to do it until I read your comments.

I am also enclosing a few notes re plate numbers. You may be interested in printing a complete list of the plate numbers which have been observed by various members.

I would like to say that I wholeheartedly agree with your article on the matter of catalogues. Too many collecting. I would like to see the So-dealers' priced lists of their stocks, to the extent that what is not in the catalogues—so called—is not worth collecting. I would like to see the Society undertake the compilation of a correct catalogue of Jamaican stamps—now, before too many of our experienced philatelists follow Mr. Clerk. I think the trouble with many of us is that we feel rather young and inexperienced in the matter of Jamaican stamps, especially when we find ourselves alongside such people as Mr. Gunter, Mr. Clerk, and yourself. We are afraid to speak, afraid we will not be noticed. It would be a great help if more round-table talks and discussions could be organised. Of course there is the difficulty that many of us are not in Kingston where such a programme might be carried on more easily.

If someone with the time to undertake such a matter could be found, I would suggest that the local members be sent a questionnaire, asking them to fill in answers to specific questions in regard to their interests in philately, and from the answers points of interest could be discussed and developed in the "J.P." Various ones could also be asked to make write-ups for the "J.P." covering

their own particular phases of philately; those with similar interests could be placed in contact with each other. All this would take time to develop, but I feel that it would be worth while.

Do you know of anyone who has copies of the "Jamaica Philatelist" Nos. 1 to 9 which they would be willing to dispose of? Or any single copies from those numbers? If nothing better, do you know of anyone who would be willing to lend me copies from which I could make filing notes?

I will be glad to assist in the Society wherever I can. My work keeps me quite occupied, but I would try to squeeze in a little time where I could help out in any way.

Yours truly,

C. L. VON POHLE.

Kingston, 26th July, 1944.

Dear Mr. von Pohle,

As you state, your letter, based on a privileged pre-view of this edition of our magazine, has enabled you ahead of the other fellow, to act on some of the matter appearing therein. My experience assures me that no harm is done thereby, that there is little or no likelihood of any "other fellow," paying the slightest attention, being disturbed as you have been.

For that reason please accept my thanks, both for letter and contribution, which latter, again I am sure, has no sort of interest for most of our local brethren; it is, I know it to be, of interest to some of our members abroad, who have serious, comprehensively intelligent interest in Jamaican philately.

Your comment re my suggestion for preparation and publication of a disinterested catalogue of the stamps of Jamaica, is a very pleasant surprise, indicating as it does, that there is one other member, whose thought on that subject, is similar to mine, but, as the article conveying that suggestion, was read some months ago at a meeting of the Society, and in so far as I know, there has been no action, or suggestion of action, you and I appear to be a very minute minority, that has bothered to give thought to the subject, to appreciate and endorse the need.

For similar reason, your suggestion re a questionnaire; theoretically useful; is, in my opinion, foredoomed to failure, if it be given practical form. You should have seen, and have had published knowledge, of my failure to receive from our local members, replies to appeals made in successive editions of this journal. Obviously, then, complete indifference to any effort such as you propose, seems to be assured.

The same fact causes me to be wholly unsympathetic to your suggestion, that lack of co-operation is due to universal fear to speak out, that the effort will not be noticed. Time and again, this magazine has carried invitation, persuasion, request for suggestions, to state their preferences; local members have been

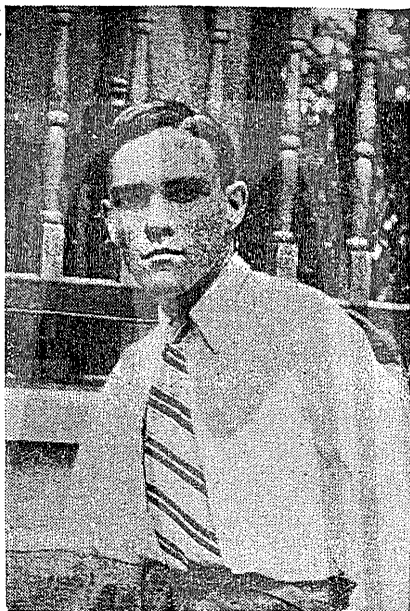
implored, besought to render such help as they possibly can, to pass on any scraps of information that came their way, relative to past or current matter; without result for very nearly so.

As stated elsewhere, I have decided to give up the thankless and hopeless task; thankless for the reason that, not the merest shadow of interest is shown; hopeless, because effort spread over many years, has completely failed to waken or inspire that interest, which seems to make clear that it just does not exist, and continuance of effort that has been wasted, merely promises additional waste.

Yours truly,

H. COOKE.

MR. CLAUDE DESOUBA



MR. CLAUDE DESOUBA—Artist

Starting with art work as a past-time and gradually developing into one of the Island's leading artists, Mr. Claude DeSouza has for the second time rendered a service to the cause of philately by executing drawings of four of the six new stamp de-

signs which are to be issued to commemorate the New Constitution for Jamaica, the denominations being the 1½d., 3d., 4½d., and 5/-. The first occasion was in connection with the Child Welfare stamps of Jamaica, when he submitted drawings of designs prepared by the Jamaica Philatelic Society at the request of the then Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn.

Art has been from his youth, one of his most outstanding interests. Commencing with caricatures of leading local personalities of more than twenty years ago, and later branching out into practically every kind of art work, Mr. DeSouza has been awarded scores of first prizes in various Island art competitions, and has won high praise, not only locally, but from leading newspapers, magazines, and firms in England and the United States of America. In 1920 the Governors of the Institute of Jamaica awarded him a certificate of merit, and in 1925 he was elected an Honorary member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society.

Mr. DeSouza is Art Editor for some leading publications in Jamaica, and designs the greater portion of the labels and other advertising matter connected with Jamaica's manufactured products. He has also used his talent for War Work, Social Welfare, Education, and many other

causes in the interest of Jamaica. To quote from the letter of one of the executives of the Scout movement

to Mr. DeSouza: "You have truly learned that perfect happiness can only come from service to others."

THE FORTHCOMING NEW JAMAICAN STAMPS

By G. C. GUNTER, F.R.P.S.L.

It cannot at this juncture be said when the series of stamps to commemorate the granting of a New Constitution to Jamaica will be issued, but from information gathered from various sources, chiefly an illustrated news item published in the *Jamaica Daily Gleaner* of June 12, 1944, it is possible to give our readers some information of interest concerning the stamps.

The idea of this special issue of commemorative stamps was first suggested by the writer to the Government in 1943. The suggestion was readily accepted, and strongly supported by the Postmaster General of Jamaica, who with characteristic action obtained the Governor's approval for a series of seven stamps, and invited the public of Jamaica, through advertisement in the local press, to submit "black and white drawings, or suggestions for designs, for a new series of postage stamps which it is proposed to issue in commemoration of the New Constitution for Jamaica." The designs were to be symbolic rather than strictly representational, and at least one design should relate to agriculture and labour. A prize of 15 guineas was offered for any design accepted. The selection of the design, or designs, was entrusted to a committee of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica, with whom was associated a representative of the Jamaica Philatelic Society.

The Committee decided to submit for the Governor's approval designs for five of the stamps, leaving two designs to be submitted by the public. The designs selected by the Committee are as follows:

- (a) A view of the old House of Assembly in Spanish Town.
- (b) A view of the Museum building of the Institute of Jamaica.
- (c) A view of the Court House at Falmouth, Jamaica.
- (d) A design composed of the heads

of King Charles II (First Constitution, 1664) and King George VI (New Constitution, 1944), with the two Jamaica Maces.

Of the many designs submitted by the public in response to the Postmaster General's advertisement, only two were selected by the committee, and submitted to the Governor, thus making up the six designs to be used on the seven stamps of the series. These two designs were submitted by (1) Miss Rhoda Jackson, and (2) The Jamaica Philatelic Society, and are as follows: (1) A symbolical design entitled "Labour and Learning"; (2) A design shewing the flag of Jamaica flying over a tropical sea upon which a new day is dawning.

The new series will consist of the 1½d., 2d., 3d., 4½d., 2s., 5s., and 10s. values, and will be, it is believed, as follows:

- 1½d. The Falmouth Court House.
- 2d. The design with the two kings' heads.
- 3d. The Institute of Jamaica, (Museum Building).
- 4½d. The House of Assembly.
- 2s. Labour and Learning.
- 5s. The flag of Jamaica over a tropical sea, etc.
- 10s. The Institute of Jamaica, (Museum Building).

The Falmouth Court House was built in 1817. When finished, it was regarded as the best building in the Island, and no doubt a short descriptive sketch will be of interest.

The building is situated in Falmouth, the chief town of the Parish of Trelawny. The plan of the building was prepared by Mr. John Robey in the year 1814 at a cost of £16. He received his orders from the Justices and Vestry of the Parish who, at a meeting held on the 11th April, 1814, had unanimously voted to build a new Court House "at a cost not to exceed £10000."

The original intention was to erect the Court House in what was then

known as the Water Square, and a Committee of five was nominated for the purpose of "receiving and approving of plans and Estimates." On the 1st of May, 1814, a change of site was agreed upon by the Vestry, and consequently by the 24th July, 1815, a piece of land known as the "Old Fort" on which the building now stands, was purchased for £1000 from the estate of Edward Barrett Moulton-Barrett. The building was completed and occupied by the 7th April, 1817, at a cost of approximately £20000. 0. 0, which included £1520 for fittings and furniture. When finished it was regarded as the best building in the Island. No expense was spared in those early days when the Parish was in its hey-day of splendour.

The building is 80 feet square with walls of superior cut stone 2½ feet in thickness and 30 feet in height. The porch measures 20 feet square, faces North to the sea, and is supported by four stone columns two feet in diameter. On the eastern side of the edifice is the ball-room or Concert Hall 30 feet by 80 feet. In the centre of the building is the Court Room.

The original building was destroyed by fire on the 19th May 1926. Such of its valuable furnishings and the records of the Local Government Board, and the Judicial Offices as could be removed were saved. The Royal Arms which hung on the walls of the Court Room were saved but the Arms of Jamaica, as well as the beautiful antique Scarlet Tapestries which for decades adorned the walls, all went up in smoke. Three very beautiful Chandoliers which in 1815 cost £2000 were also destroyed.

After the fire it was found that the walls and foundation of the old building were safe for rebuilding. It was therefore decided to reconstruct the building in every respect to correspond with the original structure, and how well that has been done can be seen from a comparison of the present-day structure with the original building.

On the interior walls hang the life sized paintings of Lord Metcalfe and Sir John Keane, two former governors of Jamaica, who did much for the Island.

The restoration of the building was completed on the 28th November, 1929, at a cost of £9834. 0. 0, and the first meeting of the Parochial Board

of the Parish was held in the building on the 12th December of the same year. It was officially opened by the Governor, Sir Edward Stubbs, on the 16th May, 1930.

This design is an exceedingly pleasing example of early municipal architecture in the Island, combining as it does harmoniously the Georgian and American Colonial styles. The building is representative of Government as well as the administration of Justice in the Island.

The design with the two Kings reminds us that the first constitution for Jamaica was granted in 1664 by Charles II, in which year the first General Assembly was summoned by Sir Charles Lyttleton, who issued Writs for the Assembly, which met at the then capital of Jamaica, St. Jago de la Vega (now named Spanish Town) on the 20th January, 1664. This Constitution lasted until 1866 when Sir John Peter Grant was appointed Governor and brought with him to Jamaica a new Constitution, thus bringing to a close a Representative Institution which had existed for 202 years, and which had exercised powers, in some respects, in excess of those of the British House of Commons itself—(that however is another story and must remain over for another issue of this journal).

The Institute of Jamaica (Museum) was constituted during the governorship of Sir Anthony Musgrave in 1879. It comprised a library, reading room, museum and lecture hall, and was founded for the encouragement of Science, Art, and Literature. This it does by means of the Library, lectures, and exhibitions.

Early in 1941, the new building which is shown on the 3d. and 10/- stamps was completed, and the Institute has been able thereby to offer further facilities to the public of Jamaica. The new building houses a much used Art Gallery, Lecture Hall, and Historical Gallery, as well as a Museum in process of being arranged.

The vigour with which the Institute has approached its task of ministering to our cultural needs augurs well for the future, and makes its handsome building a fitting symbol for a new Jamaica.

This building is the visible sign of evidence of the cultural and educational advancement of the people of Jamaica (on which the success of

the New Constitution depends as largely as on any other factor).

The House of Assembly as pictured on the 4½d. stamp is situated in the "Square" of Spanish Town. It probably only dates from 1762 or a little later. Previous to this date the Assembly had no house of its own and met in the Court House at Spanish Town. The seat of Government was removed from Spanish Town to Kingston in 1872, since which date the building has been used for other purposes.

The symbolical figure "Labour and Learning" is described by the author as follows:

The drawing is symbolical. A strong youth stands in the rays of a generous and benign sun, the sun of 1944 which heralds a new era for young Jamaica as he stands on the threshold of a new day.

In one hand he grasps the hoe, an emblem of agriculture, at his feet too lie further symbols of labour, a spade, a machete, and in the distance a tractor.

In his other hand he holds firmly to the torch of Learning, and to the right foreground of the design are shown the emblems of learning, the pen of the writer, the globe, symbolical of wider interests, the book of the thinker, the saw of the artisan, and the palette of the artist.

It is intended in the design that

Labour and Learning must balance each other, in its agriculture lies the strength of Jamaica, and in its learning the aspirations for its future.

The design shewing the flag of Jamaica flying over a tropical sea, upon which a new day is dawning, symbolizes the dawn of a new era for Jamaica, which has been granted a New Constitution, and with it universal adult suffrage. The flag of Jamaica, which is the British Ensign into which the Arms of Jamaica have been woven, is used to demonstrate that Jamaica is an honoured part of the British Empire.

The view of the Falmouth Court House is from an old photograph, and that of the House of Assembly from an old etching. The Institute of Jamaica is from a recent photograph by D. K. Corinaldi, a professional photographer of Kingston. The designer of the 2d. stamp is Mr. Hugh Paget, the representative of the British Council in Jamaica, who also executed the drawing; the 2s. stamp is designed and executed by Miss Rhoda Jackson, of Mandeville, Jamaica. The design of the 5s. stamp was submitted by the Jamaica Philatelic Society. The artist who executed this design as well as those of the 1½d., 3d., and 4½d. stamps is Mr. Claude DeSouza, an Honorary Member of this Society, whose picture appears in another part of this journal.

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