

# The Jamaica Philatelist



## OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE Jamaica Philatelic Society

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CIRCULATED FREE OF CHARGE TO MEMBERS

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**EDITOR: MR. C. L. VON POHLE**

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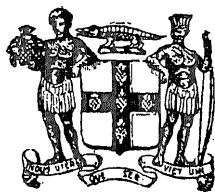
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# The Jamaica Philatelist

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Volume IV

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Number 19

## EDITORIAL PERFS

A recent announcement by the Allied Military Government in occupied Germany is to the effect that all postage stamps of that country which portray Hitler or Nazi insignia or propaganda of any kind are to be destroyed.

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One of the most difficult tasks still before philatelists is the identification and classification of the many stamps purported to have been issued by the military authorities of both sides for use in occupied territory. Scattered reports list a number of German stamps used in Poland, France, Russia, Norway, and other places, which, in many instances, have been merely handstamped overprints on captured stocks. In contrast, one finds the many issues of "Free France," both authorised and unauthorised by the various Free French governments. Regardless of what catalogue editors ultimately decide, we feel that no one should disregard any stamp because "it is not in the catalogue."

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With the passing of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, of the United States, philately can sadly say that she lost a true friend. A cripple for many years, President Roosevelt was unable to take part in more active hobbies, and he found a welcome

relaxation from the many worries of public life in the study of his collection. Started when he was but a boy, it showed care throughout, and with the many presentations made from time to time by the officials of many countries, it contained many items which are unique. No official word has reached us as to the disposition of this collection, but a good guess would be that it will be placed in the museum at Hyde Park with the many other items of interest concerning the late president. A new series of stamps of America is slated for issue, depicting scenes connected with his life, and the first, the 3-cent, is already to hand.

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With the passing of V-E day, many people are again in a position to take up more peaceful pursuits. It will probably be years before the effect of the war on stamp collecting will become known, destroyed collections, varieties created, special issues made, all having a part. Reports of auctions from New York and London indicate that the market is still keen, and prices for outstanding items continue high. Especially in America, it is apparent that the high rates paid to war workers, and the lack of manufactured goods to absorb the surplus money, are contributing factors.

# THEORY OF THE EARTH

The theory of the earth is a branch of geology which deals with the origin and development of the earth and its various parts. It is a science which seeks to explain the processes which have shaped the earth and its features, and to determine the time and place of their occurrence. The theory of the earth is a branch of geology which deals with the origin and development of the earth and its various parts. It is a science which seeks to explain the processes which have shaped the earth and its features, and to determine the time and place of their occurrence.

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In addition to those reported in the "Jamaica Philatelist," for 1944, the following plate numbers of the present series of Jamaican stamps have been reported:

- 1d. 2A-2B, 2C-2D (right and left panes);
- 2d. Frame plate No. 6 with vignette plate No. 3; frame plate No. 7, with vignette plate No. 3.

One of the items not generally appreciated by collectors outside of Jamaica is the booklets of ½d. and 1d. offered for sale by the post office department. Containing 12 of the former and 18 of the latter values, these booklets sell at face—2/-. While the previous booklets, containing the stamps of the King George V series, incorporated advertisements of some of Jamaica's famous products, the present booklets give only the various postage rates to other parts of the world. Booklets of Jamaica stamps have been on sale most of the time since they were first made available in 1906, and are responsible for what sometimes appear to be roulette perforations along one edge of the stamps. These are caused by the trimming of the booklets, cutting away the perforations of the stamps in so doing.

The 1/- of the current series (Sugar Industry) shows a minor plate flaw of some interest. Two small vertical lines, one on each side of the taller chimney, cutting through the smoke, indicate slight damage to the vignette plate. This is found on stamp number 49 of the sheet.

The 2½d. of the current series (Castleton, St. Andrew) has apparently been withdrawn from sale, as it is unobtainable at most post offices. Since the foreign, non-empire, rate was raised for letters carried by surface means from 2½d. to 3d., this stamp has had little to do, other than to assist the 2d. in paying the registered letter rate. It has been observed that the 4d. in conjunction with a ½d. for a while seemed to be the favourite in making up the 4½d. rate needed at the present time. Since the local parcel rate was re-

duced from a straight 4d. a pound to 2d., the 4d. has been unnecessary, and is now unobtainable at the local post offices.

In a recent auction of Robson Lowe, the prices noted on some Jamaican items were: 1917 (March) 3d. War stamp with overprint sideways, mint, brought £11; 1920-21 ½d. to 10/- complete mint, £6; 1923 2/- with lower half of frame double, £65.

Among the post offices established in Jamaica recently, the following have been noted: Dias, (formerly Riverside), Lodge, Jeffrey Town, Portland Cottage, Pizgah, Lime Tree Garden, Bermaddy, Rock Spring, Top Hill, Danver's Pen. All of these have used the usual temporary rubber cancellation, and some of them have now secured their permanent steel stamp—all in the "Birmingham" type, of course.

Treasure Beach, after having used a T. R. D. for several years, now has its steel stamp. A recent cover from this office shows that they are still using the purple cancelling ink, of the T. R. D., however, instead of the official black ink.

Porus and Balaclava are observed to be using both double-ring and new type cancelling stamps indiscriminately.

With the establishing, on December 1916, of a direct air mail service between Trinidad and Jamaica, by the British West Indies Airways, the West Indies have a foretaste of what is hoped may eventually become commonplace—an air mail postage of modest rate—2½d. or 5 cents. The company proposes to make this the standard rate between any two places served by their planes. At the present time survey flights are in operation between Kingston, Jamaica, and Belise, British Honduras, and plans call for the soon operation of flights between Kingston, and Nassau, Bahamas. These routes will indeed be a boon to the post-war tourist trade between these places. First flight covers from Trinidad show the usual Port of Spain cancelling stamp, with

inscription in a rectangle "FIRST FLIGHT/B. W. I. AIRWAYS/TRINIDAD—JAMAICA," evidently a hand stamp.

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Attention is called to the form in the back of this issue of the "Jamaica Philatelist." It is hoped that each member will fill in this blank and return it *now* so that definite steps may be made toward making the Society a real benefit to its members.

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Although during the present war no official "war stamps" comparable with those of 1914-18 have appeared, through the efforts of private individuals Jamaica has produced three outstanding "Help the War Fund" issues of labels which have been widely used on correspondence. First to appear was especially in aid of the Red Cross organisation. Of conventional size, and printed in red on white wove paper, the central design is composed of the usual emblem of the organisation. Above it is the word "JAMAICA" in gothic capitals, and below, "WAR FUND", all enclosed in a plain line border. The second label is a little more elaborate design, and is printed in two colours, red and black. Like the the Red Cross label, this one is also enclosed in a plain line border printed in black.

At the top, inside the frame, are the words in red in two lines, "Help the/War Blinded" in fancy italic lettering. The central part of the design portrays the St. Dunstan emblem in two colours: a torch and flame, with a panel containing the words "ST. DUNSTAN'S" superimposed at an angle. At the bottom of the design is another panel, containing colourless letters "JAMAICA, B.W.I."

The last label to put in an appearance was in aid of the "Fellowship of the Bellows" fund. As is well known this international organisation was formed during the war to aid contributions for the purchase of aircraft for the Allies. These labels were placed on sale on the 7th. Nov., 1944 in a number of the stores in Kingston, and the number printed is said to be 300,000. They were sold for ½d. each. Of conventional size, they portray on the upper half a "flying bellows" marked with the insignia of the R.A.F. In the background are two planes going down in flames, pursued by two more planes. The lower half of the label is taken up by the lettering "FELLOWSHIP OF THE BELLOWES" in orange letters on a black background, and "JAMAICA" in white letters on a blue panel with orange tips. There is no border.

## JAMAICA'S CONNECTION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES PHILATELICALLY AND OTHERWISE

*By G. C. Gunter, F.R.P.S.L.*

Christopher Columbus, the intrepid navigator, who discovered the West Indies and the greater part of the "Spanish Main," has been honoured by every island of the West Indies in the issue of the stamps of the respective countries; but Jamaica, for some unknown reason, has never thought fit to honour the great discoverer in like manner. This, however, can be said: That the Jamaica Philatelic Society has not been neglectful in bringing this fact to the notice of our Post Office officials, as

well as to the Governor himself. As far back as 1894, the claims of this Island to be among those who wished to commemorate Columbus took the form of a strong petition to Government urging that the country would be well pleased if it could be arranged for an issue of our stamps to be identified with the intrepid Spanish Admiral, who against the wish of his King, Ferdinand of Spain, sailed away into the unknown and with his expedition "collected" many possessions for the Spanish Crown. To

Isabella, the Queen of Spain does that country owe the one time possession of Jamaica. It is a well known historical fact that the Queen was so interested in Columbus' proposed adventure that she pawned her jewels to help him. The King (Ferdinand) was decidedly luke-warm about the matter, and if Isabella had not spurred him on the expedition would not have been undertaken. Thus was the connection of Jamaica with Spain established and after 160 years' possession, England took Jamaica from Spain, but for many long years constant efforts were made by that country to recapture the island. It is of interest to remember that Columbus remained for over a year on the Island to repair and refit the worn out and rotting ships of his fleet. The Republic of Dominica has provided, by the issue of a 1-cent stamp, Gibbons No. 210, a good reminder of this. The stamp shows a boat manned by several members of Columbus' party commanded by Mendez; the Spanish inscription reads, "Voyage of Mendez from Jamaica to Santo Domingo." He was sent there by the Admiral to seek help for the repairs of his vessels. As a contrast to the issues of stamps to commemorate Columbus the stamp issuing countries of the British West Indies have been very neglectful in their regard for that famous Admiral Nelson who by his gallant deeds retained for the British Crown the islands now so prominently before the eyes of the world. It is difficult to understand why the island of Barbados should be the only colony to issue a special Nelson commemorative stamp. Nelson's association with Barbados was by no means the most fortunate or glorious episode in his career. It will be remembered that from this island he set out with his twelve ships hot on the trail of the allied fleets of France and Spain; but he had been given wrong information about the movements of those ships, and eventually pressing on to Trinidad found that the French Admiral had gone in another direction and his "wild goose" chase had prevented the meeting which Nelson so ardently desired.

But Barbados holds Nelson's memory in high honour and issued the Nelson Centenary set of 6 stamps in 1906, consisting of ¼d., ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 6d., and 1/- of which the 4 higher values are very desirable stamps, the lower values being commonly seen in all collections. The island of Barbados in commemorating Nelson, has not only done honour to this great British Admiral, in the stamps of the island, but has demonstrated to Jamaica and the other British West Indian Colonies, her gratitude for his victories over the King's enemies which enabled Britain to retain her prized possessions and the inhabitants of the islands an honoured connection with the British Empire. But the connection which Jamaica has with the island of Barbados is not only through the great Nelson, who all Jamaica knows was for a long time stationed at Port Royal, but in the agricultural interests of Jamaica also. We are told by Bridges in his "Annals of Jamaica" that the agricultural interests of the island received a reasonable augmentation by the arrival of 400 planters from Barbados who were speedily followed by Sir Thos. Modyford with 200 more in 1664. The same Historian also tells us that "three hundred settlers arrived here from Bermuda, with some industrious Quakers who had been driven from Barbados."

Most of us here tonight will remember the generosity of Barbados to Jamaica after the great earthquake of January 14, 1907, when that Island's Government approved of the issue of the Kingston Relief Fund stamps, examples of which are shewn you now. These stamps were overprinted "Kingston Relief Fund 1d." and were issued by our sister Colony on the 23rd. of February, 1907, just 38 days after the Earthquake had laid in ruins the entire business portion of Kingston and a great part of the residential quarters. The stamps, the 2d. of 1899 No. 109a, were sold for 2d. each, of which one 1d. was retained by Barbados for her own postal revenue and the other 1d. given to a fund, "the Kingston Relief Fund" for the benefit of the

sufferers by the Earthquake in Jamaica. There are six varieties of these overprinted stamps, the surcharge being in red and the Catalogue numbers are 154, 155, 156, 157, 157a, and 157b. I can, however, illustrate this paper with only three of the varieties which I have enumerated in the margin. No. 154 it will be seen has no stop after the "1d.," while No. 155 has the overprint inverted and the stop in position. No. 156 shews the inverted overprint without the stop after the "1d." The double surcharge, and the double surcharge, both inverted, as well as the tete-beche pair not being now in my possession having parted with them in 1936 in which year my collection was sold.

Jamaica's connection with other places in the Western Hemisphere is well known to philatelists and by the stamp issues in their Albums the connection may be clearly defined. For instance, the Cuban stamps, illustrated by the accompanying specimens, show that Jamaica is an island and gives her position among the greater Antilles and her proximity to certain parts of North and South America. Jamaica, I think you will agree with me, owes Cuba a debt of gratitude for thus bringing to notice the Island on her stamp issues.

I would also remind you that the island of Cuba owes a lot to Jamaica for it was by the labour provided by this island that Cuba was enabled to develop her vast sugar industry which is today the main stay of that island's prosperity. Jamaica may also be remembered through the stamp album for the part she played in the building of the great Panama Canal. Which Jamaican here this evening does not remember the 11th of August, 1914 when the wonderful undertaking was opened? On that occasion the world was informed that the great waterway was constructed chiefly by Jamaican labourers. The Culebra cent is illustrated by the 15 cent stamp which shows the steamer that took the first excursion party through the Canal.

And does history not remind us that Surinam, Mexico, British Honduras, The Bahamas, of this Hemisphere are

all connected with Jamaica. And you will no doubt remember too that Ireland, Arabia, and Egypt are also of more than passing interest to Jamaica. Of Surinam we are told by "Stedman's Narrative of an Expedition to Surinam" that at length by order of King Charles, the settlement was ceded to the Dutch in 1669, when 1200 of the old inhabitants, English and Negroes together, left it and went to settle on the Island of Jamaica. Bridges in his "Annals of Jamaica" at page 274, tells us that "the evacuation of Surinam was, in the meantime effected; 40 families arrived in Jamaica and were soon followed by the "Hercules" with 1100 persons, who were all settled in a district which still retains the name of 'the Surinam quarters.'" Of Jamaica's connection with Mexico, Bridges tells us that "three years after the conquest of Mexico we find that the Castellians were obliged to import a population to that Kingdom, first from Jamaica and the adjacent islands, and when these were exhausted, from the distant regions of Africa." The connection with Ireland dates from the time of Oliver Cromwell who, it is recorded by Bridges, "to put some life into the wretched race he had consigned to Jamaica determined to follow the example of the French in Canada by transporting to "the island 1000 Irish girls with as many male labourers." In Gardener's "History of Jamaica," we read that "a month later (February 1741) 127 girls arrived from Limerick, but they were brought away with difficulty, for O'Connell denounced the emigration scheme, declaring it to be nothing else but a system of white slavery—a new wrong inflicted upon suffering Ireland by the Saxon race." Of Jamaica's connection with the Bahamas much could be written. Suffice it to say that in 1688 Thos. Bridges who had gone to the Bahamas from Jamaica was elected by the people as Governor. Throughout the early and stormy career of the Bahamas, Jamaica helped to protect the islanders from the depredations of the Spaniards and French. British Honduras, which was declared a colony in 1862, was subject to the Governor of Jamaica as its chief



magistrate and remained so until 1884 when the colony was made independent of Jamaica.

Jamaica's connection with Arabia and Egypt is neither political nor Philatelic but incidental, but I am sure you will be interested to know that our famous Jamaica coffee came from Arabia. It is recorded that in 1554 the Coffee berry first came to Constantinople from Arabia being introduced into England about the middle of the 16th. century, and was planted in the island of Jamaica by Sir Nicholas Lawes in 1728. This information is given us by Stedman in his "Narrative of an Expedition to Surinam," but Madden in his book "A twelve months reminiscence in the West Indies" says, "I believe the Coffee plant was introduced into Jamaica in 1676, but Martin says 1728 by Lawes on Temple Hall Estate." The

Coffee plant is admirably depicted on one of the stamps of Colombia. Jamaica's connection with Egypt dates from the great War 1914-1918, when a Regiment of the British West Indies formed part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. A set of postage stamps was specially issued for use in "Occupied Enemy Territories (Military) administration." At first these stamps were sold only, and in a limited quantity, to soldiers of the E.E.F. among whom were many Jamaicans. I attach hereto one copy of the issue of 5th. March 1918, Rouletted 20, and 5 copies of the July to December 1918 Perf. 15 x 14—they are of great interest because they were sent to Jamaica by a Jamaican serving in Palestine as a Corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps, who was also a member of this society.

## JAMAICA GRASS LOOKS GREENER

*By Arthur D. Pierce*

To write about Jamaica from a vantage point—some might call it a disadvantage point—of more than a thousand miles away, at a little corner crossroads in the State of New Jersey, U.S.A., may seem presumptuous to some. They should not bother to read further. But just as the cows and horses get a pretty good view of the green grass "on the other side of the fence," so do the philatelic horizons of Jamaica seem green and alluring from overseas. And if science, with all its current wonders, still does not provide a telescope capable of bringing Jamaica into focus at this Jersey crossroads, stamp collecting does, and particularly the collecting of the post-marks on Jamaican stamps.

My introduction to Jamaica was the common 1d. pictorial showing, as the catalog says, an "Arawak Making Cassava." That was eight years ago, when I was just starting to collect stamps. Previously, Jamaica had been just a name on a map. What interested me more than this 1d. pictorial, however, was the post-mark I

found on it: "Alligator Pond." The place name fascinated me. It still does. When I visit Jamaica, as I someday hope to do, I shall go there. Perhaps I will be disappointed, but I don't think so. On another stamp I found "Bog Walk," an equally fascinating name, and on still other copies I came across Oracabessa, Yallahs, Anchovy, Porus, Ocho Rios, Manchioneal, Bamboo, and that post town so expressive in its simplicity, "Wait-a-Bit." This place name made me think of another close to home. Six miles from where I live in New Jersey is a town which used to be named "Long-a-Coming." Back about 1843 they changed the name—to "Berlin." I wish they would change it back, and I suspect many of the residents wish so, too.

As my collecting of Jamaica stamps progressed, I found there were many fancy items in the catalog which commanded prices far beyond my purse. At the same time, I found that these fascinating postmarks could be picked up for a penny or two apiece, and that might tell me

more about Jamaica than a couple of dozen pictorials possibly could. Today I have at least one postmark of 95 percent of the Jamaican cities and towns which have had post offices, according to the records I have. Since newspapermen, by nature, are as curious as cats, I wanted to know more about the towns which these postmarks represented. Thanks to friends on the island, particularly Judge J. M. Nethersole, of Saint Ann's Bay, I have acquired some books and pamphlets which have, in part anyway, relieved that curiosity.

So, with my postmarks, I can, even at this distance, enjoy a fairly comprehensive tour of the island, and when more collectors come to appreciate Jamaica's postmarks I prophecy that they will be in as much demand as Jamaica's stamps. I often wonder how many members of the Jamaica Philatelic Society living on the island realize what an advantage they have over those who, like the writer of this screed, must view the "green grass" from a distance.

Jamaica is an ideal country for the collection of postmarks. First, there are many varieties of postmarks to collect: the early marks of pre-adhesive days; the numerical obliterations, which have become a bit harder to find, owing to a considerable vogue; the "squared circles," the so-called "Birmingham" type, in which the town name is between the two circles of the postmark; the Temporary Date stamps, a special field in itself; the railway postmarks, another specialty; the official franks. Again, Jamaica is ideal for postmark collectors because the island is just the right size, i. e., large enough to make completion of the list a bit difficult, yet small enough to make it possible. In a country like the United States, for example, completion of postmarks, even if possible, would be a lifetime job and not a hobby.

Above all, Jamaica's postmarks reflect in high degree the history and the colour of the island. The place names stem from the Arawaks, from the Spaniards and from the English, with corrupted names from all three. According to the pamphlet by the late Frank Cundall, who was Secretary and Librarian of the Institute

of Jamaica, from which I have gained much information, the island name itself is Arawak, later to become, in Spanish, "Xyamaca." Yet I still have not had a conclusive explanation why the early postmarks, used in the latter 18th. century, spelled the name with an "I", viz. "IAMAICA."

At any rate, a postmark tour of Jamaica combines both postal history and political history, obviously, for example, in "Kingston" (King's Town), the old capital, "Spanish Town," the name again telling its origin, its former Spanish name having been "St. Jago de la Vega." But moving on, the origins of other town names are more obscure. "Yallahs," according to some researchers, probably from "Yalos," or frosts, the high, white cliffs there having the appearance of a frosty covering. It also have been attributed to a Captain Yallahs, a privateer who was active in the island, but whose activity, according to Cundall, post-dated the use of the name by the English residents. I suppose all readers know the meanings of Spanish names which have survived more or less intact, such as "Savanna-la-Mar," the "plain by the sea." The name of another great Jamaican plain on which Kingston is situated, is found in a postmark, one which long since whetted by curiosity: "Liguanea." The name here, according to Cundall, is from "Lia-with-guana," the name of an animal which at one time was probably common in that part of the island.

The postmark "Porus" is another fascinator. It seems to be derived from some wells sunk there, or from the porus nature of the soil. "Oracabessa," according to the same source, stems either from "aura," air, or breeze, and "Cabeza," high land — thus meaning "high, airy land," or else from the Spanish "Oro Cabeza," the golden head. "Ocho Rios" of course, is "Eight Rivers," another scenic spot which, I am told, should merit a visit from any tourist in Jamaica. Formerly, "Ocho Rios," was called "Cherieras," or "bay of the waterfalls." Water may be the source of another interesting Jamaican place name, "Lacovia" — "lago-via," or "by-the-lake." An apparently

preferred explanation is that it is a double corruption, from "La Caoba" of the Spaniards, locally that was called "Coby", and Anglicized (?) to the present "Lacovia." Whatever the answer, I am told that this little village of "Lacovia" is famous as a source of cashew nuts. "Moneague" is a town name deriving from the Arawak, but Cundall suspects it to be an Arawk corruption of the Spanish "manique", which means thicket.

One of Jamaica's most famous beauty spots outside the island is "Bog Walk," in the gorge of the river Rio Cobre. My friends tell me that this is a scene of enchanting loveliness. It is, as you would guess, neither a bog nor a walk, the name being derived from old Spanish, "Boca de Agua." At one time it was called, in plain English, "Sixteen Mile Walk," but the more colourful name survived. The collector of postmarks will want both the cancellation of the railway station and that of the post office (the station mark is obsolete). Another postmark which somehow suggests itself right here is "Bamboo," and for the reason that the famous "Bamboo Walk," shown on the current 2/- pictorial, is nowhere near the town "Bamboo." The gorgeous "cathedral of bamboo trees," as it has been described, is in the parish of St. Elizabeth, while "Bamboo," the town, is miles away in the parish of St. Ann, about midway between Brown's Town and Lime Hall.

Other Jamaican postmarks tend to lift some of the island's colourful history far out of the Past. Port Royal, for example. There is no need to tell, here, the story of the earthquake of 1692, which sank what then was the wicked and lawless pirate haven of Port Royal deep into the sea. But today ships sail directly over the old town, and there are legends, resembling those of the sunken Spanish cathedral of Y's, that on certain nights bells of an old church have been heard to toll. So far as I know, however, the Jamaican legend does not go so far as that of the Y's cathedral, which was supposed to rise above the surface of the sea on the nights when its bells tolled.

Philatelic history was made in

another Jamaican town, Manchioneal, a little place on the northeast coast. At the Manchioneal post office were found the famous ten stamps, remainder of a half sheet of the One Shilling pictorial of 1920, on MCA paper, with the "frame inverted." (Scott's catalog still lists it as "inverted center"). This is the most celebrated of Jamaica's philatelic rarities. Only half a sheet was supposed to have been sent to Manchioneal, but whatever happened to the other half remains a mystery. Now most of us can't hope to have that Shilling with the center upside down, but we can have a Manchioneal postmark — and mount it in the album alongside a photo of the rarity, if we fancy that.

Other postmarks recall history, too. "Bull Bay" was named for the buccaneers; "Sturge Town" for Joseph Sturge, a wealthy Quaker, who gave much money for land settlement of the slaves; "Bowden," for a William Bowden, who was a member of the Assembly in 1664; "Sligoville," for Peter, Marquis of Sligo; "Vere" for Vere, daughter of Sir Edward Herbert, Attorney General to Charles I, and first wife of Sir Thomas Lynch, who died aboard ship en route to Jamaica in 1683. The post offices of Balcarres, Beckford Kraal, Beeston Spring, Keith and Moore Town, all are named either for former Governors of Jamaica or their families.

The researches of Cundall showed that some towns refused to adopt the names given them. For example, proposals to rename "Old Harbour" as "West Chester" failed, and he reports that "Claremont" was once called "Finger Post," while Bamboo was "Excellent Town." Again, some of the post offices are misnomers. Alligator Pond, for instance, is not really named for alligators, but for crocodiles — "Maggotty" is another post town which stamp collectors may have encountered both on ordinary and railway station postmarks. It seems that the name supposedly came from an unappetizing legend, to the effect that rain drops in that vicinity turned into maggots. The validity of this report having been disproved, a theory was advanced that the name derived from "maga," an enchantress,

and "otoo," watching on a high place, and was linked with Mount Diablo, in a different superstition. But Cundall notes existence of three places which have used this name and suggests that it stems from some unidentified Spanish word, which, in turn, came from Jamaican Arawak.

If some towns do not reflect the romance or history of past centuries, they do have a genuine contemporary interest. The postmark of "Blue Mountain Valley," a post office now obsolete, reminds one not only of Jamaica's most glorious mountains, but one of my goals when visiting Jamaica will be a taste of Blue Mountain Coffee. It is all very well to say that it is used to blend the coffees I drink now; the flavour of the original has grown into something of a legend which needs only a brisk advertising man to exploit. Too, while it is not a post office, I want to see the Wag Water River, whose name is one more philological delight. Yet a further objective must be Hector's River, where the post office is near a stream, which, I am told, does not flow naturally into the sea but finds a subterranean outlet by sinking directly into the soil—but, I understand, flowing underground for miles, and emerging thence into the Black River, and then on to the sea.

As for such other post offices as Bunker's Hill, Anchovy, Catadupa, Guanaboa Vale, Knockpatrick, Lottery, Up Park Camp, and Kalorama—those will, I hope, bestir some other curious soul to search out their

background and let collectors know their origin.

Now from all this one may gather that a few inexpensive postmarks, plus research, can make a collection of stamps much more interesting than mere expenditure of money; while that may be true to some degree of every stamp-issuing country, it is particularly so of Jamaica, whose place names and history together can give a really exciting background to its philately.

Now I am quite aware that in this little piece I have, for many, been carrying philatelic coals to Newcastle—Jamaica's Newcastle, not Britain's. No doubt I am telling many readers what they already know, and I can hear some say: "What on earth does that fellow up in Jersey think he knows about Jamaica?" In extenuation, I can only reply that the sources of both my enthusiasm and my information are Jamaican, and that, as the saying at the beginning of this piece suggested, perhaps the greenness of Jamaican grass is more apparent to one looking on from the outside, as the shrewdest move on the chess-board sometimes is more clearly observed by the kibitzer than by the players themselves. Finally, as the reader will have divined, this is but a beginning exploration of the post towns of Jamaica, a project which, philatelically, can best be carried forward by those on the ground, for whom, as Walt Whitman said: "Al-lons! the road is before us!"

## REMAINDERS

by G. L. DUNN

Unless immediate action is taken by collectors of British Empire Stamps, to put an end to the sale of Colonial Issues by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, the intrinsic value of every such collection is in grave danger of depreciating considerably.

Recent investigation of the sale in Jamaica and London of the 4d. denomination of the current issue of Jamaica Stamps, brings the follow-

ing to light:—

- (a) Since February this year (1945) this stamp, S.G. No. 127 has not been on sale at Post Offices in Jamaica for Postal purposes.
- (b) This stamp is now, or until quite recently has been, on sale by The Crown Agents in London.

(c) At a recent interview with The Postmaster for Jamaica, the writer was informed that no supplies of the 4d. denomination were ordered this year as it now fills no local postal requirement, and it is not now on sale at Post Offices in Jamaica. However, as it may be desirable to re-issue it at any time in the future, it will not be officially withdrawn, cancelled or declared obsolete, although it may never again be on sale in Jamaica.

At this point I would call attention to the fact that the 2½d. denomination went out of issue in Jamaica in almost identical manner, and with the same conditions prevailing in London. i.e. Mint supplies could be obtained from the Crown Agents long after the Jamaica Post Offices were "sold out."

The writer claims that this practice is a gross violation of the ethics of stamp collecting. Any bona fide Collector wants to include in his album only genuine Postage Stamps, and he has no use for replicas, even though they may be indistinguishable from the genuine article. Can any

one deny that "stamps" sold by the Crown Agents in London, not for postal purposes, but to dealers for speculation, are not in fact "Postage Stamps," but merely copies of the genuine article which is sold over the Post Office counter, in the Country of origin. There is, of course, some excuse for the sale of Colonial Issues in London. It saves time and shipping space, and during the war avoided the risks of capture or destruction. For these reasons it has been tolerated, but there is no possible justification for the official sale in London of any stamp not obtainable in the Colonial Post Office which issued it. For so long as a stamp is not on sale at the Post Office, it is, for philatelic purposes, "Obsolete," and the official sale of "Remainders" will not be tolerated.

Stamps of the British Empire have always enjoyed the greatest popularity and the wholesome respect of Collectors. Let us make sure that this hard earned popularity continues to be deserved, for should the procedure outlined above develop into general practice, there can be little doubt that Empire Stamps will be discredited in the eyes of Collectors all over the world.

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## JAMAICA'S "PROPAGANDA" STAMP

Now that the war in Europe is over, it is interesting to note some of the many ways in which war can be waged in these so-called "modern" or "enlightened" days. From the very first after that 3rd. September, 1939, (how much has happened since!) the value of propaganda was fully recognised by both sides. The loud speakers or amplifiers along the Maginot line, the paper "bombs" which for so long formed the loads of the Wellingtons and Halifaxes, delivered in to Germany night after night, and the broadcasts by the B. B. C. beamed to enemy territory, showed that those at the head of affairs felt that not all could be accomplished by gun and shell in that "war of nerves."

I remember sitting by the wireless

in one of those early days, listening to the German broadcaster give in English some of the reasons why his country should not be condemned for her conquest of Austria, Sudetenland, Poland, and the rest. He was reading a long list of the conquests of the early British rulers, monotonously droning on date after ancient date, until I was awakened by "... 1655, Jamaica, seized from the Spanish. . ." Even our own little island was not bypassed.

Of more interest, however, was a recent article in the *New York Times* concerning a more subtle method employed by our adversary. As all remember, in the early days of the war, Britain was in serious need of protection for her convoys

scattered throughout the seven seas, and along with other assistance, a deal was made whereby 50 old U.S. destroyers were traded in return for leases in British possessions in various parts of the world. One of those bases, now known as Fort Simonds, is located in Jamaica. In spite of the large amount of well-paid-for labour which was furnished the Jamaican labourer, the common man stood to one side with raised eyebrows. Even today, many Jamaicans cannot be convinced that their island was not traded to the United States in that destroyer exchange.

Word of this attitude must have reached the ears of our "friend" in the Nazi propaganda office, Paul Joseph Goebbels, and, recognising a good thing when he saw it, thought that he could use it to advantage in his own department. Calling one of his most trusted assistants, he said: "Ach, dose verdamt Jamaicaner, I'll show dem." And forthwith, an issue of stamps appeared—no, not German stamps, but British (Made in Germany)—designed to show that all was not well behind the scenes. That, in reality, Stalin and Roosevelt had been dividing the British Empire behind Churchill's back. One series consisted of a number of British stamps—1d. through 3d.—overprinted with "Liquidation of Empire" and the name of a British colony: Hong Kong, Singapore, Jamaica, Barbados. This was to show that these colonies had been lost to Britain, either through conquest by force of arms, or by conquest around the discussion tables.

Calling Herr Stamp-dealer into his confidence, Goebbels had the forgeries sent in regular consignments to the dealers in Stockholm, purporting to be regular issues of Britain; indeed, a few genuine British stamps were usually included in the shipments.

But the Swedes are not usually caught napping. Even a casual inspection showed that there were many differences between the "British" stamps and the British stamps. The forgeries were on a paper watermarked with a wavy line instead of the crown design, the perforation holes were larger, the colours not true. Consequently the whole business was turned over to the Stockholm police, who, according to the latest reports, were still investigating the matter.

Those who wish to see for themselves just how much Jamaica has been "liquidated" as a part of the Empire have only to look at the record. It was Jamaica that originated the idea of contributing funds for bomber squadrons. Jamaica took a leading part in contributing aluminum and other metals to the war effort. Red Cross work has taken the full time of many Jamaicans, and part time of many more, along such lines as knitting, making bandages, etc. Jamaica has contributed stamps for the Lord Mayor's Red Cross Stamp sales. And not least has been the contribution Jamaica has made of her young men and women—in the training camps, in the factories, in the fighting forces, in the merchant marine, and in the agricultural camps—of England, Canada, and America.

On my library shelf stands a book by Mr. Frank Cundall, late secretary of the Institute of Jamaica, entitled "Jamaica's Part in the World War,"—155 pages of accounts of the great work done by this "liquidated" (*vide* Dr. Goebbels) part of the Empire in the great war of 1914-18. When the full story of this present conflict can be told, be assured that present generation of Jamaicans will be found to be worthy successors of their fathers.

## STOP PRESS

Reliable information just to hand states that the 2d. Constitution stamp has been issued by the Crown Agents in London with perforation measuring  $12\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$ , while the locals gauge  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ . Used copies of the former will naturally be hard to find.

## NEW PRE-STAMP POSTMARK REPORTED

Jamaica Philatelic Society Member Arthur D. Pierce, of Haddonfield, New Jersey, U.S.A., reports the discovery of the first recorded copy of a Jamaican postmark—"Montego Bay: Ship Letter."

Ship letter markings for Jamaica are known for Kingston (two types); simply "Jamaica Ship Letter," (two types); a "Falmouth, Jamaica, Ship Letter," "Lucea Ship Letter" and "Annotto Bay Ship Letter." In addition the Robson Lowe handstruck catalogue lists a plain "Ship Letter" used from 1871 to 1879, this being an octagonal frame.

The new "Montego Bay Ship Letter" reported has "Montego Bay" in

thick, shaded italics; and "Ship Letter" in serif italic capitals, all in a rectangular frame 48 mm. by 13 mm. It is found on an unusual cover, sent from Springfield, Ill., U.S.A., to Montego Bay, but mis-sent to Jamaica, New York, then redirected, and, after arrival at Montego Bay, being again readdressed to Mount Vernon, Ohio. It contains the Jamaica, N.Y. marking, the ordinary Montego Bay date stamp, a Baltimore arrival stamp, and New York 5Cts (in red), in addition to the Montego Bay Ship Letter, which latter apparently was applied for the journey outward from Jamaica.

## CHECK LIST OF KING GEORGE VI.

Since the appearance of the first of the King George VI. stamps of Jamaica on October 10, 1938, there has been a number of new printings resulting in a variety of shades, and even some major varieties. Through the efforts of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Everard Aguilar, the following check list is offered. While it may not be complete, it is a beginning, and as such is a welcome sign of activity on the part of our local membership.

—Editor.

- No.
- 121 ½d. blue-green.  
(a) green.
- 122 1d. scarlet.  
(a) carmine.  
(b) crimson.
- Note: The salmon-yellow has not been listed, as so far I have seen no mint copies with gum.
- 123 1½d. brown.  
(a) very light brown.  
(b) red-brown.  
(c) chocolate.
- 124 2d. grey-black & green.  
(a) black & green.  
(b) grey-black and yellow-green.  
(c) black & yellow-green.  
(d) Error "COOO" for "COCO."  
(e) perf. 13 x 13½.

- 125 2½d. greenish blue and ultramarine.

Note: This value was withdrawn in 1944.

- 126 3d. ultramarine and green.  
(a) ultramarine & yellow-green.  
(b) offset of vignette on back.

- 127 4d. brown and green.

Note: For the past few months this stamp has been unobtainable at the Post Office.

- 128 6d. grey-black and purple.  
(a) grey-black & mauve.
- 129 9d. deep claret.  
(a) very light claret.
- 130 1/- green & purple brown  
(a) yellow-green and purple-brown  
(b) yellow-green & brown  
(c) Error broken chimney

- 131 2/- ultramarine & chocolate  
(a) ultramarine & brown

- 132 5/- blue & yellow-brown:  
(a) blue & pale yellow  
(b) blue & orange-brown  
(c) blue & yellow-orange

- 133 10/- myrtle-green  
(a) very dark green  
(b) grey-green

## NUMERICAL B. W. I. CANCELLATIONS OTHER THAN JAMAICA

Editor's Note: Any reader who may have additions or corrections to the following checklist, is urged to send them to the editor of The Jamaica Philatelist.

### ANTIGUA

A02—St. John's, capital of the island.

A18—English Harbour.

Both of these cancellations appear on the British stamps used in Antigua, as well as the earlier issues of the islands itself.

### BAHAMAS

A05—Nassau.

27—Inagua.

The A05 marks was used on British stamps as well as on the earlier Bahamas issues.

### BARBADOS

1—Bridgetown, capital.

2—Christ Church.

3—St. Philip.

4—St. George.

5—St. John.

6—St. Joseph.

7—St. James.

8—St. Thomas.

9—St. Andrew.

10—St. Peter.

11—St. Lucy.

These numbers are in two types of postmark: a common horizontal oval, the earlier type; and what is called the "bootheel type," an oval composed of thick radiating dashes:

So far as is known the numbers of both series represent the same towns.

### DOMINICA

A07—Roseau, capital.

This postmark was used on British stamps, and on the earlier stamps of Dominica. There are two types: the first, a horizontal oval; the second, a vertical oval, in which the cross-bars are much thicker than in Type 1. These marks, in the latter 1800's seem to have been used concurrently, as both are found, for example, on the earlier Leewards issues.

### GRENADA

A15—St. George's capital (on both

G. B. and early Grenada stamps) fall in the same general category, they should be included in this checklist.

A—Gouyave.

B—Victoria.

C—Sauteurs.

D—Grenville.

E—St. David's.

F—Carriacou (an island of the Grenadine group).

There are two general types of these letter postmarks. The first is a double-ring postmark, with the letter in the center, and the date between the two rings—day and month at top, and the year at the bottom. The second general type is a single ring circle, with the letter in the center, and "Grenada" on the top inside of the circle, and the date along the bottom inside. There are three types of "A" in this group: the first being a thin, narrow "A"; the second a much fatter, heavier "A," with the date reading normally at bottom; and the third an "A" similar to the second type, only slightly less heavy, but with the date at the bottom reading upside down.

### MONTSERRAT

A08—Montserrat.

There are two types, one similar to the ordinary horizontal oval in use in other B. W. I. on British stamps and earlier local issues, the other having the "A08" in *italic* numerals.

### NEVIS

A09—Nevis.

There are two types: one, as above, similar to the horizontal ovals in general use on British and earlier colonial stamps; the other, a vertical oval, in duplex with a circular date stamp with "Nevis" at top, date below. This was in use in the 1930's, and may still be.

### ST. KITTS

A12—Basse Terre.

There are three types of this mark. The first is the usual horizontal oval, which appeared on British stamps



used in St. Kitts, and early local issues. The second type is a vertical oval, with the "1" of "A12" 1 mm. thick, the third type being similar, but heavier and thicker numbers and crossbars, the "1" of "A12" being about 1.5 mm. thick. Type II is the one used on the stamps of Antigua used provisionally in St. Kitts. Type III. was in comparatively recent use.

### ST. LUCIA

A11—Castries.

There are two types, horizontal and vertical oval, the former appearing also on British stamps.

### ST. VINCENT

A10—Kingston.

Again there are two types, horizontal and vertical oval, the former being used on British stamps sold in St. Vincent, as well as on local issues. For some years both killers were in concurrent use, from about 1866 to 1895.

### TOBAGO

A14—Scarborough.

One type, only is recorded, the horizontal oval, used on both British and local issues.

### TRINIDAD

- 1—Port-of-Spain capital.
- 2—San Fernando.
- 3—St. Joseph.
- 4—St. Juan.
- 5—Santa Cruz.
- 6—Arouca.
- 7—Arima.
- 8—Toco.
- 9—Manzanilla.
- 10—Mayaro.
- 11—Tumpuna.
- 12—Blanchesseuse.
- 13—Diego Martin.
- 14—Moruga.
- 15—St. Mary's.
- 16—Chagaunas.
- 17—Couva.
- 18—Princes Town.
- 19—Oropouche.
- 20—La Brea.
- 21—Cedros.
- 22—Claxton Bay.
- 23—The Cedros Steamer.
- 24—St. Madeliene.
- 25—(Not put in use).
- 26—Erin.
- 27—Monos.
- 28—Mucurapo.
- 29—(not put in use).

30—Carapichima.

31—Caroni.

32—St. Ann.

33—Maraval.

34—Cunupia.

35—California.

36—Carinage.

There are varying types of these:

*Type I:* For No. 1 only: a circle made out of thick horizontal bars, with the center cut out, and the figure "1", a thick, short numeral.

*Type II:* For No. 1 only: a horizontal oval, similar to those in use in the other colonies.

*Type III:* (in general use for all numbers): a square, formed of four closely-spaced parallel lines on each side, the corners rounded; the numbers are large fancy, with serifs.

*Type IV:* A diamond mark, similar to Type III, stood on one corner with the parallel border lines slightly thicker, and the numbers plain, in bold type.

*Type V:* A diamond mark. Here the diamond is made up of horizontal bars, about 1.5 mm. thick, with the center cut out, and the number placed there.

*Type VI:* A circle about 22 mm. diameter, with the number at the top, in a thin block letter, and date below in similar type. How many of these were issued is a problem. Copies are known for Nos. 1, 2 and 27.

*Type VII:* A vertical oval with the number preceded by a "T," a type of postmark resembling the other vertical ovals in use in British West Indies. There is, however, no "T1," as this number was allotted to Turks Islands.

In addition to all these types, there is known to be a sub-type of Type IV, in which the numerals are larger, although the frame of the postmark is the same. This is known for No. 18.

### TURKS ISLANDS

T1—Turks Islands, a horizontal oval, one type known, in common use well after 1900, appearing on stamps of "Turks and Caicos Islands."

### VIRGIN ISLANDS

A13—Tortola.

A91—Assigned to the Virgin Islands Naval Station in 1856, but in later years apparently put into general use as an obliterator, as it is even commoner than the A13.

## CHAOTIC

By H. Cooke

In a paper entitled "The BOW Variety," read some few months ago at a meeting of this Society, and later reproduced in the last edition of "The Jamaica Philatelist," attention of the Society was invited to necessity for preparation and publication of an authoritative, comprehensive catalogue of all the stamps, together with authentic, reasonable varieties of each, which have been issued officially by the Government of this Island; something which does not now exist.

The same edition of the "The Jamaica Philatelist," in the same and other articles, showed and stressed the trend of philatelic matters, as currently reported in the philatelic press, to be to the goal of chaos, and thereby offered to all who may think of their hobby, in the terms and as a means for pleasant, sane relaxation, ample reason to reflect whither it is being misdirected and diverted, to ask themselves why and ponder the prospect of hopeless confusion, with which it is at present faced.

Up to the present no information has reached this writer, of any action taken or contemplated by this Society, calculated to reduce, minimise, resolve or remove that confusion where Jamaican Philately is concerned, hence this additional effort to represent the subject to bring it home with reference to, and with emphasis on a current Jamaican stamp, familiar to each and within reach of any.

The stamp is the current 2d. Columbus Cove, which most members will know appeared some months ago with new perforation. In a letter published in "Stamp Collecting," 16th. September, 1944, the writer refers to the perforation as  $12\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ ; states that he acquired a copy alleged to be  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ ; that Gibbons records it as  $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , i.e., three different measurements descriptive of one and the same stamp. We agree with the description of  $12\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ , which is reasonably exact for all necessary and practical purposes, but where does the unguided common or garden col-

lector stand, induced as he is to acquire by purchase, the same stamp three times over? It is quite true that the particular instance is of a stamp that has small face value, but precisely the same detail may yet apply to the 10/- denomination, to all the stamps of the series, perhaps with still more numerous alleged differences; is he to be duped as at least one collector has been, do you propose to permit that to continue? Inaction surely will and does suggest indifference, if it does not mean acquiescence.

It may be well to enquire what is the foundation for, the origin of the conditions, which must give concern to all and any who have the welfare of stamp collecting in mind. We suggest it is based on the train of circumstances created and being developed by the author or authors, of the hopelessly stupid idea of necessity to measure perforations of stamps, to the impossible exactitude of decimal points expressed in tenths to hundredths. The very fact that they try to do that with a *paper* base by a *paper* gauge, is the measure of the stupidity behind it all.

The same or similar avoidable chaos exists and is being sedulously developed, relative to other stamps of the Colonial Empire, so yet another letter published in the same edition of "Stamp Collecting" appeals to the Royal Philatelic Society to act, to undertake preparation and publication of what he calls "A Collectors Catalogue," in other words a list void of the dealers' self interest which, of necessity, pervades and governs all such publications issued by them. Were this writer a dealer in stamps, in the interest of his business he would endeavour to increase the volume of his sales, by advertising and marketing any and every possible piffling variety, which could be described as variety, which he could possess or discover, for as long as there could be found purchasers for them, and for that reason does not absolve any dealer of similar urge.

With them, quite reasonably, it is business results that matter, philately is a secondary subject, but the collector of stamps like the philatelist, should be aware of that condition, and be critical of every variety offered to him, should need to be convinced of authenticity, constancy, factual variation, reason of or for existence; be able to discriminate and reject those born of a figment of imagination. Unfortunately there are many thousands who accept and avidly acquire, any and everything offered by dealers, and so promote, encourage the very ramp that exploits them, and is destructive of their hobby.

We have not seen in any section of the philatelic press, effort by any one to enquire, learn and explain WHY there should be so many piffling varieties of perforation on the same stamps, produced by the same printers, perforated on the same machines. Produced by the same printers, it is logical to understand that they man batteries of perforating machines, each of which differs from the other by the infinite small microscopic difference alleged to be disclosed by the stamps themselves. The printers are firms of business people, who need to conduct their business efficiently, economically: that being so, it is difficult to understand why they should equip themselves with machines, that appear to have no purpose other than to pose problems for the fantastic specialist, of the type responsible for inflicting the philatelic world with the current spate of stupidities.

Philately cum stamp collecting, eminently is and should be a sane, pleasant relaxation. Conversion to include inanities, insanities, idiocies necessarily destroys it, hence they should be avoided, firmly barred, something which will not be realised while collectors permit themselves to be exploited by dealers. We have not studied the projected stupidities closely enough to be dogmatic on the subject, but from what we have read,

it appears to us that these allegedly exact decimal measurements of perforation, are found only on line engraved stamps, and very probably only those produced by the wet process of printing. If that assumption be correct, it would then seem that uneven or unequal drying of the paper, can be, and probably is responsible for those alleged differences, differences which then may be found on different stamps in the same sheet, those near the edge drying more quickly than those in the centre, and so we have a development similar to that of shades, a sheet printed from a newly and fully inked plate, deeper than another printed from the same plate, the same lot of ink, but taken when the plate is drying, from which much of the ink already has been removed.

From the philatelic press, we learn that Messrs. Gibbons intend to simplify their record and keep it simplified. We wholly agree with and support that idea, applied as we understand it will be to the stupidities to which we have referred, even though they may be stated to have encouraged them, but while their record of Jamaica continues to list such things as the non-existent "inverted 'd'" for "P", omits the "Bow" variety, the 2/- 1921 script with partial double impression; which incidentally we observe fetched £65 at auction; the 2d. Columbus Cove of 1932, vertical pair imperf between; the 2/- 1921 script, imperf marginal edge; we persist that the Jamaica Philatelic Society, should not tolerate the whims and fancies of any dealer, or firm of dealers, and should as we have advocated, prepare and issue its catalogue of the stamps of Jamaica. We have shown here that the necessity for such a general catalogue, prepared to serve philatelic purposes as its sole aim, is a crying necessity, a need where Jamaican Philately is concerned; it is one of the functions of this Society to satisfy.

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## THE POSTMARKS OF ST. VINCENT

*By Arthur D. Pierce.*

The lovely isle of St. Vincent, for which Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., produced one of their most beautiful stamp designs, offers a challenge to the collector of its postmarks as well as the collector of its stamps. Whereas the collecting of St. Vincent stamps themselves is very much a problem of the purse, the collecting of the postmarks, if I may be pardoned, a pun, is a problem in persistence.

St. Vincent, as most of my readers know, is one of the Windward Islands for whose possession the French and British and native Caribs battled until the turn of 19th. century, the French had been defeated and most of the Caribs either killed or exiled to some islands off the coast of British Honduras.

To St. Vincent, the famous Captain Bligh was headed on his voyage which was interrupted by the "Mutiny on the Bounty," and the flight of Fletcher Christian and his mutineers to the now-renowned Pitcairn Island. Bligh was proposing to take breadfruit trees from the South Sea isles to St. Vincent, where the sugar planters hoped that breadfruit would provide a cheap substitute for bread, and cut their costs of importing flour. On a subsequent voyage, Bligh did take breadfruit trees to St. Vincent where they thrive today, as well as on other West Indian islands, but never were they accepted, as anticipated, as a substitute for bread.

It was in 1793 that Bligh sailed his ship, the "Providence," laden with 300 breadfruit trees consigned St. Vincent's Botanical Garden, into the harbour of the island's capital, Kingstown. By coincidence, that same year is the earliest for which a St. Vincent postal marking is known. (One would give much for a cover carried on Bligh's vessel!) This marking was a straight line handstamp:

**St VINCENT**

This is the first of what Mr. Rob-

son Lowe calls the "handstruck stamps" of St. Vincent, which are listed in his excellent catalogue of those pre-stamp markings. The stamp above is one of eight recorded postmarks of the St. Vincent pre-stamp era. Most of these I have seen, and so shall list here in the order given in the Lowe "Handstruck Catalogue:"

P1—Straight-line "ST. VINCENT" (above).

P2—Straight-line "ST. VINCENTS" with date.

P3—Fleuron "ST. VINCENTS" with date.

P4—Fleuron "ST. VINCENT" ("S" removed) and date.

P5—"ST. VINCENT" at top of 2-line circle; 27 mm. diameter; date in center.

P6—similar, only circle "Paid at St. Vincent."

Ship Letter: "Ship Lre., St. Vincent."

Other handstruck stamps, including another type of ship letter are listed as sent to the island, but no copy has been found, hence their use is not established.

These handstruck stamps are all scarce, and most of them rare and expensive to obtain. This, however, is not true of the subsequent postmarks of St. Vincent, which, while often scarce, need not be expensive as they may often be picked up in dealers' stocks on common stamps, since this island has not been as carefully studied with respect to postmarks as, for example, Jamaica.

Indeed, the difficulties of obtaining many of the later St. Vincent postmarks, plus the knowledge that they may, with luck, be purchased cheaply, plus the further difficulty of obtaining even the current postmarks without making a personal tour of the island and its dependencies, which is beyond the hope of most of us—all combine to make the postmark chase of extra philatelic interest.

My own difficulties have their amusing side. Several years ago I set out

(a) to obtain a list of all the post offices on the islands; (b) to establish a contact in the island through whom I might obtain the postmarks of the various towns. I decided first to try obtaining the list of post offices, and wrote the postmaster a polite note to that effect. When that elicited no response I asked if he would pass my request to someone in the island who might care to reply, or correspond. When that drew another blank, I decided to try the Administrator of the island. To him I wrote what I considered a polite and courteous note, explaining that I was studying St. Vincent postmarks, and suggesting that if he could not give me the information, would he pass my letter along to someone who would? Not even the courtesy of a reply did I get. Finally, being a newspaperman, I looked up to see what papers might be published in Kingstown, feeling that the supposed brotherhood of the Fourth Estate might stand me in good stead. I found the name of the largest newspaper, and proceeded to compose a "letter to the editor." Also, I asked him to send me some copies of his paper, and enclosed a dollar for that purpose, since I felt that if it seemed interesting I might subscribe, since, when I "adopt" a country philatelically I go the whole way. That's three years ago, and so far I have (a) not had a reply to my letter; (b) not received a copy of the paper; (c) not received my dollar back.

Undaunted, I decided to try, by long distance, to at least obtain the current postmarks of those post offices which I knew to exist. So I wrote a brief letter to each town postmaster, ordering from 50 cents to a dollar's worth of stamps at each post office, and requesting the postmaster to give me the courtesy of a clear cancellation on the reply envelope. Now this operation involved writing some 16 letters, making out 16 separate money orders, and sending them all in separate envelopes. I even used U.S. pictorials for postage. Then I waited. After about two months I received a package from the General Post Office at Kingstown. Enclosed was a brief note to the effect

that my orders to the various town postmasters had been sent on to Kingstown for fulfillment. All I had for my trouble was a lot of stamps I did not need, and one postmark—the commonest in the whole island!

So, lest anyone think St. Vincent is an island easily to be invaded in a philatelic sense, these experiences may suggest the contrary. I couldn't even establish a beach-head. Incidentally, they are precisely the opposite of the experiences I have had in those other islands which, so far, I have attempted to study. Bermuda, for example, is extremely courteous to collectors. The Postmaster of Grenada very kindly identified for me the early "letter postmarks" of that island, and as to Jamaica, the JPS not only speaks for itself but speaks, eloquently, for the island.

With this garrulous digression concluded, I shall get on with what notes I have on St. Vincent's postmarks, not intended to represent a definitive study, but simply the first effort which, it should be stated here, are known to the author to gather together what information is available.

### THE "KILLERS"

We have noted briefly the hand-struck stamps. The next postal markings of St. Vincent are the killers—"A10." The first of these came into use in 1858, on British stamps used in St. Vincent. It is a horizontal oval with three horizontal bars above and below the "A10", and two slightly curved vertical bars at each end. In this Type killer, (K1), the distance between the two horizontal center bars is 8 mm., and the figure "1" is 4.5 mm. high. This killer remained in use for nearly twenty years, and I have it in black and red.

A second type "A10," (K2), came into use in the mid-1860's, probably about in 1866. It is a *vertical* oval, with thicker killer bars, and taller and thicker numbers. It contrasts sharply with Type 1, and I have copies in black, red, and blue.

Type K3 killer, "A10" seems to have come into use early in 1870. It resembles Type K1, and may easily be mistaken for it, being also a horizontal oval. But in Type K3 the dis-

tance between the two center killer bars is 9 mm., and the figure "1" is 5.5 mm. high. Too, the figures are not quite so thick as those of Type K1. I have seen this only in black. All three of these killers appear to have been used simultaneously during the latter 1870's and early 1880's, and I have Types K2 and K3, which must have been used as late as 1897.

This is probably the best place to mention another "killer" which is commonly found on St. Vincent stamps and which has puzzled a great many collectors. See Illustration A.

A number of marks similar to these are known for other British colonies, but are seldom found on stamps. The reason for the great number of these marks on St. Vincent issues is still a matter of dispute. But the best explanation I have encountered is this: the postmark, being intended for use on mail sent to England by French packet steamers, had the "GB" to signify "Grande Bretagne," and the 40c the sum due the French post office for its service; but about 1879 or earlier, the mark was used in the St. Vincent postoffice indiscriminately, as just another canceller, and was so used as late as 1886. There are two types of this mark, so similar as to be not worth illustration, the chief difference being in the center width of the oval, and with the "40c" slightly larger in one than in the other. From my own reckoning, the larger marking is the earlier of the two, though the information available doesn't warrant a positive opinion.

Together with these killers the St. Vincent post office used two date stamps, both circular, of 19.5 mm. diameter. One, (D1) most commonly used, has "ST. VINCENT," curved at the top, with the date below. The second type, (D2), of which I have seen but one copy, (on a cover I have), spells the entire name out "SAINT VINCENT," but is otherwise the same as the first type date stamp. The first type, (D1), probably duplicated, remained in use until after 1900 (although in later years it was employed concurrently with various other markings.)

### THE "LETTER POSTMARKS"

St. Vincent Colony, it should be remembered, is not one island but several. Most of the post offices are on the main island, but the administration includes several dependencies in the Grenadines: the islands of Bequia, Canouan, Mustique, Mayreau and Union. Of these all have post offices except Mustique. For those who may be interested, it may be noted that the island of Bequia is about 9 miles from Kingstown; Canouan 25 miles from Kingstown; Mayreau 37 miles away, and Union 40 miles. The other major isles in the Grenadines—Carriacou and Little Martinique—are administered by Grenada.

So now we come to a whole new series of unusually interesting postmarks, a series which the author has yet to complete. These are the first town postmarks of St. Vincent, and the various towns are represented by from one to three large block letters: Illustration B.



A



B

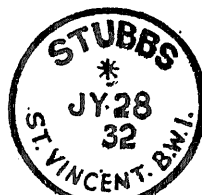


T1

TYPE T2 AS  
T3 BUT WITH-  
OUT "B. W. I."  
AT BOTTOM



T3



T3A

The various towns, and the letters representing them in this series of postmarks are as follows:

K—Kingstown.  
 BAR—Barouallie.  
 BEQ—Bequia.  
 BI—Biabou.  
 BU—Buccament.  
 CA—Calliaqua.  
 CO—Colonarie.  
 CUM—Cumberland.  
 L—Layou.  
 MES—Mesopotamia.  
 RAB—Rabacca.  
 ST—Stubbs.

Of these, I have seen Bequia and Barouallie in black only; Kingstown, Calliaqua and Mesopotamia in both black and red; and Biabou, Buccament, Colonarie, Rabacca and Stubbs in red only. I have never seen Layou, Cumberland and Chateaubelair, though I'm still hoping. Most of these marks came into use in the middle or latter 1870's, and all but "BEQ" were dropped by the middle 1880's. "BEQ," however, was in use for over 30 years, and I have a copy on the 1910 issue.

In my own collection I have a whole page of these postmarks, in red, on the 1d. black stamps, and they make a very attractive display. As to their comparative scarcity, I would estimate from my own experience that "K" and "BEQ" and "CA" were the most common, in that order, with the rest all scarce, and "L," "BU," "CUM" and "CH" at the other end of the scarcity spectrum.

#### "SINGLE-RING TOWN STAMPS"

Next series of St. Vincent postmarks comprises an assortment of date stamps for the various towns, all with the town names spelled out. See T 1.

These circles are 19 mm. diameter, and I have only been able to find them for twelve towns: (besides Kingstown, whose date stamps will be discussed separately):

Biabou, Barouallie, Calliaqua, Colonarie, Chateaubelair, Cumberland, Georgetown, Layou, Mesopotamia, Rabacca, Stubbs and Union (Island).

It will be noted that Georgetown is a newcomer (at least I know of no record of a "G" in the previous

"letter postmarks"), while my list is lacking Bequia, and Buccament. Since Bequia continued to use its "BEQ" through these and later years, the presumption is that it never received one of these 19 mm. ring stamps, for reasons that are anyone's guess. Buccament may exist in this circle type, however, this being a fair presumption since the post office is still in existence.

Two of the post offices in this T1 type postmark will not be heard from again. The town of Rabacca was wiped out in the frightful eruption occurring concurrently with that of Mont Pelee, which laid low the whole of Martinique. It was only the greater magnitude of the Martinique disaster which prevented the horror on St. Vincent from monopolizing the world's front pages on that seventh day of May, 1902, when more than two thousand lives were lost in the deluge of stones and lava from a Soufriere which had been "quiet" for ninety years.

This type postmark also was the last recorded for the town of Biabou. The reason I do not know, but it does not seem likely that this town suffered the fate of Rabacca as Biabou is almost at the other end of the island from Soufriere.

In this series of postmarks, I have Biabou and Stubbs in red as well as black. In all the copies in my collection the only letter above the date is "C." Why? I don't know.

#### KINGSTOWN DATE STAMPS

Subsequent to the "K" for Kingstown "letter postmark," I have record of six types of Kingstown date stamps: all of them single-ring circles, with date, and letter above the date, save for Type VI, which has a "star."

Type I: Kingstown (height of letters, 3 mm.); Kingstown above; St. Vincent below; circle 23mm. diam.

Type II: Kingstown (height of letters, 2.5 mm.) St. Vincent below; circle 23 mm. diam.

Type III: Kingstown (similar); St. Vincent below; circle 22 mm. diam.

Type IV: Kingstown, (similar);

St. Vincent below; circle 24 mm. diam.

Type V: Kingstown, (similar); St. Vincent, B.W.I.

Type VI: Kingstown, (similar); (Star instead of letter over date) St. Vincent, B.W.I.

Type I was in use from the 1880's to around 1900; Type II dates from the mid-1890's; Type III came into use about 1905; Type IV about 1910; Type V in the 1920's, and Type VI around 1938. These dates are necessarily approximate, as official records are not available, but they do give roughly the periods in which these markings were in use, although some types, as with some earlier cancellations, were employed concurrently.

### LARGE SINGLE-RING TOWN STAMPS

Early in the 1900's various towns began to receive larger date stamps. (Type T2) and new post offices were opened. Most of these newer date stamps resemble the older and smaller types, but with the circle larger, about 24 mm., and with vertical condensed letters instead of the squarish block letters of the smaller date stamps. Later, some of the towns received still newer hand stamps, (Type T3), these having "St. Vincent, B.W.I." at the bottom instead of merely "St. Vincent." Still later ones (Type T30) also have a star above the date, instead of a letter. These two types are illustrated above:

I do not have enough copies of these 20th century town stamps to offer any worthwhile study of them, and the reader can gather from my frustrated efforts, related above, that I have scant hopes of co-operation within the island. However, I shall append a list of the post offices I know to have been in operation since the larger single-ring date stamps were put into use. T1 after the town will indicate that I possess or have seen the town in that type, and the same with respect to Types T2, T3 or T3a. I believe this list to be complete, but should any reader know of omissions I will be grateful for words of them—as I also will be grateful for any other additions or corrections to this article.

Georgetown T1, T2, T3a.

Orange Hill T2.

Colonarie T1, T2, T3.

Bridgetown T2.

Mesopotamia T1, T3.

Richmond Hill (now obsolete).

Stubbs T1, T2, T3a.

Calliaqua T1, T3.

Arnos Vale.

Sion Hill T3a.

Edinboro T3a.

Questelles T3.

Buccament.

Layou T1, T2.

New Adelphi (obsolete).

Barrouallie T1, T2.

Troumaca.

Cumberland T1, (using T1 as late as 1914).

Chateaubelair T1, T2.

New Ground.

Lowmans.

Lowmans Hill.

### THE GRENADINES

Bequia.

Canouan.

Mayreau T3.

Union T1, T2.

Now in this list, Edinboro, Sion Hill, Lowmans, Lowmans Hill and New Ground are newer post offices, all of which probably have Type T3, and never had any other.

Special mention must be made of New Adelphi, Troumaca and Richmond Hill. New Adelphi is supposed never to have had a town stamp of its own, but to have used the little plain St. Vincent date stamp (Type D1), with the letter "A" over the date. Troumaca is supposed to have used a similar stamp with the letter "C." These I have not seen, and would welcome information concerning them. As to Richmond Hill, the only postmark I have seen identified with this town is a slogan postmark: "ST. VINCENT ARROWROOT/A WHOLE-SOME FOOD." The ring stamp with this is indecipherable on the cover in my possession. Here again I would welcome, with Goethe, "mehr licht."

A few miscellaneous markings, and I am done. First, there is the "St. Vincent Official Paid," which is of a type similar to that in use in other British West Indian colonies.

Next, is the St. Vincent "Paque-



bot," which is far from common and which may well be illustrated for that reason:

# PAQUEBOT

"I understand that this mark is now obsolete.

Attention should be called, also, to an "error" in the Kingstown date stamp. In July of 1918, the year plugs were put in the date stamp upside down, giving the error "81"—

a year which still is rather remote.

In addition to St. Vincent's own postmarks, there are to be found the various Paquebot marks of other islands and foreign ports on St. Vincent stamps. I have one interesting "A26" for Gibraltar on a copy of the One Shilling vermilion Queen's head, on the Crown and CA paper; also a copy of St. Vincent No. 2 with a London postmark. All such oddities lend interest to a collection of this island—where man refused to live by breadfruit alone. And someday I do hope to visit the place—if only to find out what happened to my dollar!

## MR. A. J. WATKIN

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Watkin, a Life Member of this Society since January 23rd., 1936. The sad event occurred in England where, after a brief illness, Mr. Watkin passed to the Great Beyond to higher Service. Our late member was a trusted employee of the Bank of England and in peace time resided at 20 Heathgate, London. Owing to the war, however, duties took him to Overton, Hunts, where for the duration of the war he continued on, always hoping to go back to his home and stamps, a hobby which he loved and studied. He was a Specialist in the Stamps of the Cayman Islands. His many articles in these stamps were of a nature that disclosed the expert knowledge he possessed. His collection of the Cayman Islands was among the best of that Country that existed in the United Kingdom, and may well be described as a complete reference collection. At the time of his passing, Mr. Watkin was engaged in compiling information for a book he intended to write on the

"Stamps and Postal History of the Cayman Islands." Now however, Philately will be the poorer because of Mr. Watkin's death, as it is doubtful if the accumulated material which this ardent student had collected, will ever be made public. Much of this information has never been published for the information of the ordinary collector, because it remained hidden away in the official files of Government, but through the instrumentality of the writer of this inadequate tribute to a worthy Philatelist, the information became available to Mr. Watkin and was about to be collected and published for the benefit of Philately, when death intervened and we now mourn the loss of a friend, whose association with this Society will ever remain fresh in the minds and hearts of those members who had the privilege of knowing him. The Jamaica Philatelic Society will miss Mr. Watkin and we take this opportunity to extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Watkin.

G. C. Gunter.

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## Cash Statement for Year Ended 13th. April, 1945

44			
April 14	£	s	d
Balance brought forward	45	5	3
1945			
April 13			
To Entrance Fees		16	0
" Subscriptions		6	15 0
" Life Members Fee		6	6 0
" Sale of Stamp Hinges		2	5 0
" New Issues Distributed		3	18 11½
" Catalogues Sold		3	18 9
" Packet Sales		8	14 3
" Bank Interest			11 11
" Donation from "a friend" for Magazine		5	0
" Prize for 5/- stamp design submitted by a member of the Society		25	0 0
	£103	16	1½

1945			
April 14			
To Balance brought down	30	9	2
E. & O. E.			

1945			
April 14	£	s	d
By Paid for Catalogues	6	7	8
" printing and posting "Ja. Philatelist"		7	12 8
" Rent of Club Room		5	7 6½
" Foreign Subscriptions		2	15 0
" Wreath for a Member's funeral		1	1 0
" New Issues ordered		32	10 6
" Postage		1	8 9
" Commission on P. Os. and Drafts		3	4½
" Paid to Artist for drawing design for stamps subjects submitted by a Member		16	0 6
" Balance Carried forward		30	9 2
	£103	16	1½

*Audited and found Correct*  
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EVERARD AGUILAR.  
26/5/45.

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