THE

JAMAICA PHILATELIST



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE JAMAICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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OFFICERS

COMMITTEE

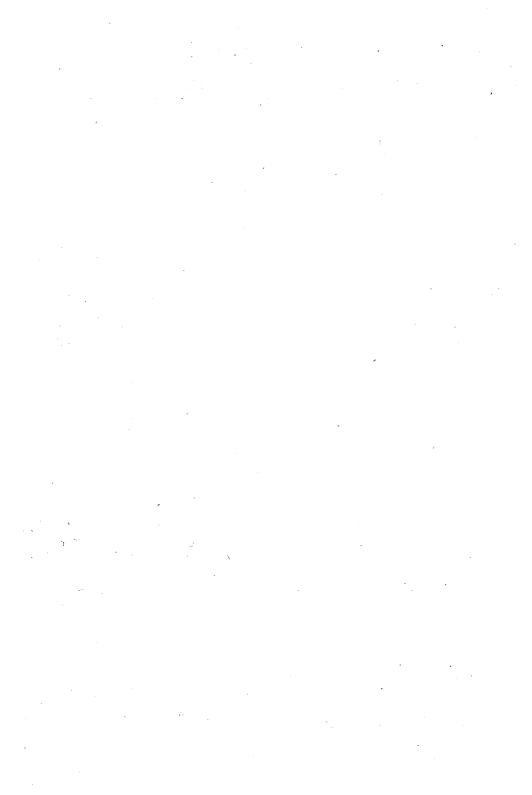
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The Jamaica Philatelist

The Annual Magazine Of The Jamaica Philatelist Society

VOL 7

JULY 1950

No. 24

EDITORIAL

THE July 1949 double No, of the Jamaica Philadelic proudly an nounced that a New Editor of the Magazine was making his bow, having taken over the important voluntary work, thus following in the footsteps of acknowledged philadelists, erudite students of Stamp Collective

Mr. J. M. Nethersole, the New Editor was no imeretyro, but a highly respected and much valued member of the Jamaican Philatelic Society, twhose acceptance of the Editorship of the Magazine gave universal satisfactions to its members and a sense of security to the Executive Committee—

Unfortunately for the Society Mr. Nethersole has not found it possible to continue his work for the Society, and now the Magazine is without an Editor.

The writer of this paragraph is so placed as to be able to write appreciatively on Mr. Nethersole's work and to emphasize that his absence from the Editorial Chair, is a great personal disappointment

and a district loss to the Society.

In a Society as well established as the Jamaica! Philatelic Society the members of which are to be found in all parts of the world, it should not be difficult to undertake the important work of editing its Magazine, the issue of which takes place once per year; but the policy has always been to appoint one of the local members to the Editorial Chair and there has been no attempt to get one of our members resident overseas to act in this capacity.

Until recently it has not been difficult to find the necessary talent in Jamaica but much reluctance has been exhibited by those who are considered capable to perform the task, one who enjoys the confidence of the President and the Executive Committee.

In making this announcement of Mr. Nethersoles' retirement from office the opportunity is taken to thank him for his services and for the articles he gathered for the is-ue, and to apoloto the members and friends of the Society for the la e appearance of this issue which we hope will be interesting senough, to compensate for its unavoidable delay.

number includes, items beyond mid-year 1950 but we thought members should be kept abreast of the times as far as is possible.

JAMAICANÂ

THE NEW SECRETARY

As members are aware the Society has been without a Secretary since Mr. Tom Bush resigned from that office.—At the Annual General Meeting held on in 1950 there was no election to the office, and in order to keep the home fires burning the President undertook to carry on as acting Secretary until a permanent appointment could be made It is now possible to announce that Mr. George R. Bowen has undertaken the duties of Secretary and we bespoke to him the loyal support and sympathetic consideration of our members, and friends, so that the burlens of this importoffice may be lightened through the help that can be given to him by our more experienced friends,

Mr. Bowen is a comparatively new member, and a young collector, but what he lacks in Philatelic experience and length of years in the Society is, amply. made up to him by his en:husiastic approach to the hobby, and the vast experience gathered in the management of his own growing business, will no doubt be of inestimable benefit to him,

and incidentally to the Society whose business is now entrusted tohis care Mr. Bowen's address is co Cosmopolitan Assurance Co., Ltd.—P.O., Box 428, Kin 5ston, Jamaica:

The Président. Mr. G.

C. Gunter F.R.P.S. one of the founders of the Jamaica Philatelic Society, has been unanimously elected President for the current year. Mr. Gunter's interest in the Society is abundantly illustrated in so many ways that it is impossible to enumerate them; suffice it to sav, however, that he has been brought back to active service in the Society from which he had voluntarily retired some vears ago, we welcome him most heartily, and sincerely hope we will have his active services for many years to come.

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The Treasurer. It is with pleasure that we announce the re-election of Mr. A. S. Brisco, as Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Briscoe has given unselfishly of his time over many years, and we look forward to his continued help with much appreciation for his efficient services. The opportunity is taken to remind those members who have not paid their yearly subscription, for the current, as well as for the past years, to do so without delay— A check on the Membership has recently been made and it is surprising to find that many members have failed to pay their yearly dues. An appeal is now made, on behalf of the Treasurer, for an early settlement of all arrears.

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

will be held this year 1951 We envy these who wave been selected to represent the Society. The team of 4 will be led by our Veteran Life Member, Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson, who writes that it will be a great pleasure to represent the Jamaica Society at this all-embracing Philatelic event. Those of us who have experienced one of these Congress Meetings can well appreciated what is meant by "All-embracing".

The Society acting as host for the occasion, spares no pains to let their guests feel at home both Socially and Philatelically, and we anticipate for our representatives a very happy experience at this Congress.

The University College

Stamps. On the eve of going to press Jamaica and several of the British West Indies and Mainland Colonies in the Area, have been given a new set of Stamps to commemorate the installation on the 16th Feb., 1950 of H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, as first Chancellor.

Princess Alice was appointed to the office by H.M. The King who is the Visitor of the University College, the Royal Charter of which was granted by His Majesty on the 5th January 1949.

The set of Stamps consist-of-2

values, viz 2d and 6d. They were issue ton the 16th. Feb. 1951, the first, anniversary date of the formal installation of the Chancellor who appears seated in her full robes of office on the 6d Stamp That Chancellor's robes follow the design of nearly all Chancellor's robes which are made of black silk, trimmed with gold lace. The Chancellor's headdress is a flat "bonnet" of black velvet with a gold thread cord around it.

Princess Alice is known to be very keen on University Education and has worked very hard at She is Chairman of the Governor of Royal Holloway College, a woman's College of the University of Landon. Her Husband the Earl of Athlone is Chancellor of the University of London. Jamaica and West Indies proud in the knowledge that a representative s of our heloved Royal Family is so closely connected with, the Educational life of the Area, and we look forward to a long, and happy association with this Royal Chancellor who from her exalted position can exercise much influence on behalf of this New Sent of Learning.

The 2d Stamp is a representation of the Coat of Arms of the University the design of which was approved by the College of Arms. In August 1949 the Lord Chancellor issued a patent authorising the University College to use these Arms

In common with the arms of many Universities, the shield is divided into two parts: The main part shows an open book superimposed up n blue and white wary lines. The book is a symbol com-

mon to practically all Universities, and in the background is the heraldic representation of the Sea. The upper part, techincally known as the chief, is red and carries on it a yellow lion. This lion is the. symbol: of the King who is the visitor of the University College; the lion cannot be identical with the Royal Lion, but must be different. This difference consists in black marks on the Laon's skin. which is technically described as "erminos", it so appeals in the Coat of Arms of Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and is used. with her consent, to mark the fact that she is the first Chancellor of the University College,

The Crest is a period which is an heraldic symbol of pious care for the young, since according to the old legend, it punctured its breast with its bill and feed its young on the blood from the wounds.

This legend is untrue, but the symbol remains and appears in the Coat of Arms of both Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. In these Coats of Arm the pelican is white, but here the brown Caribbean pelican is used, since it is this species that frequents the shores of all the Colonies in the University College Scheme.

The Latin motto is "Oriens ex-Occidente Lux" and means "Light rising from the West". It is not a quotation from any classical work of literature, but contains the contrast between oriens and occidens which is in the spirit of such mottas. It was first proposed by the Principal of Green Royal College, Trinidad, Mr. R. M. Hanna, M.A. (Cantab.) and an almost identical wording was suggested by Mr. Maurice Platnauer of Brasence College. Oxford.

As this issue is meant to be of financial hencht to: the University all the West Irdies and especially Jamaica should welcome at and do everything to increase the sales of the stamps. We wish the idea abundant success and compliment those who have been responsible for the design of the Stamps;

New Issue Service

Efforts are being made to organise the new Issue Service for British West Indian Stamps. We can duly give this service to our members and made the conditions that (a) members will place their orders as early after announcements re New Issues are made. (b) 50% deposit with orders. (c) Agree to pay postage (d) Agree to pay postage (d) Agree to pay 10% of the value of the stamps as commission. For any further information please write to The Hon. Secretary.

General Exchange: Stamp

collectors from all over the world write to us for exchange facilities. This is most gratifying to our pride "but extremely arduous on our time. We will be always happy to exchange addresses for our MEMBERS if such contacts are available when the requests are made, but we do find it impossible, all on account of time, to deal with any requests apart from those of our MEMBERS.

JAMAICA EXHIBITED

Contributed by C. BRINKLEY TURNER.

In the July number of the builetin of the National Philatelic Museum at Philadelphia the following announcement appeared: "July 24th to August 10th, International Centenary Stamp Exhibition of British Guiana, also British West Indies and Colonies in Central and South America."

Invitations to exhibit were issued to many collectors, but whether it was the oppressive heat wave, or the Korean trouble, the response was not large. Your writer was pleased, however, to see that 68 of 100 frames submitted were Jamaica, and incidentally most of the exhibitors were members of the Jamaica Philatelic Society.

A resume of the collections may be of interest, and at the initial display your writer admits nostalgia, since most of the rarities shown came from his first Jamaica collection, which was auctioned by Harmer's years ago. There was a feeling of pride nevertheless in viewing covers galore addressed to "J. M. Nethersole, C. Brinkley Turner and Arthur Pierce."

BERNARD DAVIS, Director of the Museum, showed ten frames. (By the way, it should be explained that these frames are two x three feet and accommodate 16 standard album pages each.) Two frames were pre-stamp, two of postal stationery and six of covers.

ALEX P. WATT, of New York (What a man Watt!) (he bought the bulk of the writer's original collection for many hundreds of dollars.) Twentyfive frames for Alex. One of British used in Jamaica, with many choice obliterators, pines on cover, several "splits", including a pretty cover addressed from Kingston to Geneva, Switzerland, bearing a pine shilling, a 1d. pine and a bisect, all neatly postmarked, and used after the legal date! Another frame contains pre-stamp covers starting with a 1752 date (which once belonged to your reporter) and scores of other fascinating postal markings, including "ships". Other frames gave us pines on cover — the entire set - and lovely card die proofs of the 1d. and 3d. Other outstanding pines were a block of 30 of the 1d. pine, and blocks of 4 of other pines. Of course the dollar "errors" are all there, and every "Ser. et". Numerous colour trials and proofs, including a beautiful die-sunk brown and blue of the 2/- Pictorial stamp, and 'specimens' galore, from the pines to recent issues. Two colour trials of the "Slavery" stamp, and of many of the first pictorial set were shown. But the loveliest frame, as far as your reporter was concerned, contained an enlarged photograph of the 1/- invert, together with a neatly cancelled copy, and a perfect mint stamp. Then

Alex shows two frames of recent covers, and in somewhat reversed order, frames of "War Tax" stamps, postally used revenues, and "obliterators", including many scarce numbers. Other frames of Mr. Watt's collection contain hundreds of postmarks carefully described, and many T. R. Ds. One frame is almost entirely "paquet boat" and "steamship" markings.

ARTHUR PIERCE of Haddonfield, N.J., had two frames of Jamaica covers, and JOHN M. SPENCE, Richmond, Virginia, presented also two most

interesting frames.

C. BRINKLEY TURNER, of Wynnewood, Penna, with twenty-five frames, displayed nearly every known postmark of the Island. Starting with three frames of "stampless" (the earliest 1764) the exhibit runs through the "pines" and the regular issues to the 1919/29 series, which is brilliantly displayed. The "Constitution" set is well written-up, with many clippings from the "Daily Gleaner", which were incidentally supplied by your editor, Mr. Nethersole. Seven frames of postmarks — 112 pages covered the "circular dated" the

"squared circle" and the "Birmingham Type". One frame was entirely composed of "franks" and this attracted much attention. Three frames displayed T. R. Ds. mounted on black cardboard, and your editor was largely responsible here, too. The frames carried a collection of 32 pages of postal stationery, almost complete. There were many other frames of covers, shopcovers, censored covers and "posted-at-sea".

It would be easier to list the Iamaica varieties not shown, than to continue this description. The "Slavery Stamp" without "specimen" and the 2/Pictorial with double impression were missing. Of course I did not have time to check all the obliterators, but doubtless many rare numbers were conspicuous by their absence. I wish every member of the J. P. S. cou'd have had an opportunity to examine this display, shown as it was, under the new lighting system of the Museum. Every stamp may be seen clearly, and it is not necessary to get down on your knees to examine the "PFNNK" at the base of frame!

A LITTLE "FIND" IN TR.D.S.

By ARTHUR D. PIERCE.

That the field of Jamaican cancellations is far from completely explored may be judged from the fact that I have come upon no less than four distinct

types of TRD for the Kingston office known as Direct Cable.

In Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson's original pamphlet, and in the excellent new handbook of

Everard Aguilar, one type of Direct Cable is listed: Type 25, about 52 millimetres in length, with block lettering, and with dates from the opening, July 1, 1922 to as late as February 15, 1923.

Now I have the following to report:

- Type 21, on cover dated July 3, 1922, just 3 days after Direct Cable was stated to have opened.
- 2—"DIRECT CABLE", also in Type 21, on cover dated July 20, 1922. These have the bold condensed type, with a border 40 mm by 25 mm.
- 3—"DIRECT CABLE", in box 52 mm by 21 mm, which is the type listed in the handbook.
- 4—"DIRECT CABLE", in a box 45 mm x 20 mm, with block type quite similar to

that just above. At first glance this looks like the same cancellation as that in the handbook, but measurement shows the sharp difference, just as there is the difference in the types of Munro College.

This last is not on cover, but

on a strip of three ½p. 1920 pictorials, and the date is indecipherable except for the year, 1922. So there is no way, from the evidence at hand, to determine whether Number 4 in my list preceded or followed No. 3 in actual use, or whether, perhaps, they may have been in concurrent use.

At any rate, it seems surprising that this office should have had no less than four cancelling stamps within the short space of eight months. Perhaps some investigator on the ground can solve the mystery.

G. B. STAMPS USED IN JAMAICA

BRIEF COMMENTS

By DR. R. URWICK.

The use of G.B. stamps in Jamaica falls naturally into two periods, one from April, 1858, when they were issued, to March 1st, 1859, when the obliterators A27 came into use, and the other from March 1st, 1859, to the beginning of 1860 when the appearance of Jamaica stamps put an end to the use of G.B. stamps in the Island.

I have always been interested in the relative rarity of stamps used in these two periods, and I have tried for many years to collect covers representing both — not a very easy task.

I have succeeded in getting 61 covers of which 9 originated from Kingston and are normally cancelled A01 — I think it

is a chance of collecting that the earliest of these is 27th April, 1850, and the total in '59 is 5, four in '60, of which the latest is 24th April, '60. Of the other '52, 11 were used before, and 41 after 1st March, 1859. Of these 11 only 3 were used in '58. All the other 8 were used in February '59. To understand these numbers it must be remembered that when the G.B. stamps were sent out the Postmasters were only given 1% commission on their sales, instead of 15% received when payment was made by cash, in consequence many of the Post Offices boycotted the sales until on February 1st, 1859, a warrant was sent out making the use of the stamps compulsory, on penalty of an additional 4d., so that from February 1st, 1859, offices which had previously boycotted the sales were forced to supply them.

The Jamaica Hand Book gives a report rendered to the G.P.O. London with a list of 16 offices which dealt in a greater or less degree with the G.B. stamps. Curiously enough my three covers used in '58 are from offices not on the list i.e.

- (i) Bath 29th October, '58, with town-dated post mark and A01 on a pair of 6d.
- (ii) Grange Hill 22nd November, '58, with town-dated post mark (date inserted in manuscript) and "paid 8d.", on front and A01 on a 6d. G.B.
- (iii) Montpelier, an interesting cover with "paid 8d.", on

front and A01, on two 4d., on the back Kingston date stamp June 30th, '58 and in the same writing as the "paid 8d.", "Montpelier June 28th, 1858."

This last named Post Office was closed in 1850 and the only known use of its obliterators A58 is on a G.B. 6d.

Of the other 8 used before March 1st, '59, all should be cancelled A01 at Kingston, but one from Black River to Savannah-la-Mar is only cancelled with the Black River stamp because there was no need for it to go through King-Another from Lucea to ston. New York February 24th, '59, has a strip of three 4d, cancelled A01, but in addition "P.O. Lucea" in manuscript by the Postmaster. Another from Spanish Town to London February 10th, '59, has a pair of 1d. and a 4d. cancelled AO1 with the addition of \frac{1}{2} on each stamp. This $\frac{1}{2}$ was used at Spanish Town as a paid mark on pre-stamp covers, and is very rarely to be found actually cancelling stamps; the top of the $\frac{1}{2}$ ties the stamp to this cover, establishing that it was applied after the stamp was affixed to the cover.

Incidentally, I had this cover in my possession a year or more before the significance of the $\frac{1}{2}$ was realised by me; I had bought it at a sale without the $\frac{1}{2}$ having been noticed by anyone, not even the auctioneer.

My other 5 covers under review are from Buff Bay, Gayle, Plantain Garden River, St.

Ann's Bay, and Savannah-la-Mar.

These pre-March '59 covers have a variety and interest possible greater than those subsequent to this date; the 41 covers which I have of later than March 1st, '59, and which are all cancelled with the respective obliterators depend to a large extent for their interest on the stamps which are used. The 1/is much the scarcest and I have none on cover, the only one I have is cancelled A45 and derived from and otherwise unexciting collection. The 1d. comes next in rarity and I am very attracted to this denomination on covers and newspapers. There are:

- 1. Four pennies cancelled A64; a local letter from Port Antonio to Kingston.
- 2. A strip of three and single penny cancelled A68 from Porus to Kingston.
- 3. A strip of four and a pair cancelled A71 from Rodney Hall to Clarendon.

There is not much to say about the rest except for the earliest one of all, from Moneague A56 on 4th March, '59, which has the Postmaster's initials across the stamp. Moneague was not on the list of offices, which dealt in G.B. Stamps, so, possibly, he was new to the job.

I have had another opportunity of checking the rarity of these two periods, and that is, from the catalogue of the sale of Mr. Nicholson's stamps in February, 1940. Out of 93 covers, omitting those originating from Kingston, there were 19 before March 1st, '59, and 74 after; of the 19 only two were dated 1858, as against 3 of mine, of which one was from Savannah-la-Mar, another office which is not on the "G.B." list given in the Jamaica Hand Book. The earliest is June 25th '58, as against June 28th '58 of mine; looking at the later date, there were 4 used in 1860 while I had 2 of these.

These figures from Mr. Nicholson's scale and from my own collection show a remarkable agreement and point to their being a reasonable expression of the relative rarity, and it is interesting to see that in spite of this the covers later than March 1st, with the correct obliteration appear to be more popular than the others, if auction prices can be accepted as a safe guide.

I must mention that at the International Stamp Exhibition I had the good fortune to see the wonderful display of Jamaica by Mr. G. W. Collett, including the cover which Mr. Nicholson declares to be the finest with G.B. used in Jamaica—it is franked by two 4d., a pair of 6d. and 1/- cancelled A75. A verdict with which I am in complete agreement.

A Note from "Down Under"

By DR. H. BRUCE, BULOLO, NEW GUINEA.

Although I am now an Australian by domicile, it is paradoxical that the one country in the Empire that I have never collected is Commonwealth of Australia. It may be that a prophet hath no honour, etc., etc., but for one thing I had too much respect for my eyesight to go looking for "extra hair on the King's Moustache" and "wart on the ear" which seems to me to be the main divertissement of Australian specialisation. Having collected and sold "all other countries recorded in the red Gibbons" including Wadhwan, complete, I remain wedded to Jamaica.

Now collecting Jamaica in Australia is an introvert job; few, very few, others here have discovered the multitudinous interests of the Isle of Wood and Water, its multum in parvo of philatelic aspects. She appears to have a sample of everything but not in that overabundance which spells tediumimperf, varieties, imperf between watermark varieties, flaws, prepared for use but not issued — but why enumerate what all Jamaicaphils know so well? Of late there has been added perforation varieties. Yet in Australia I am largely a voice crying in the wilderness, albeit occasionally compensation do accrue from this as, for instance when one picks up from the exchange books a scarce postmark or a rare shade of the 1d. lilac Tablet at cut rates. At this point let me freely admit to Scots ancestry.

From Jamaica to New Guinea is a far cry though the air annihilation of distance has worked wonders and I have had a letter arrive here nine days after leaving Kingston. New Guinea is now in the philatelic doldrums, as seems to be the inevitable fate of any country which has ceased to have its own emissions; nevertheless specialist are having much fun in collecting the 'Australia used abroad' which is now the status of New Guinea stamps. Whereas before the War both Papua and New Guinea had their separate issues, today even the postmark combines the two in "— PAPUA-NEW GUINEA." This type of stripe is in general use now, but although very many of the offices used a 'Relief Stamp' bearing a distinguishing number immediately after the abandonment of the previous 'PAPAU' or 'NEW GUINEA' types of mark. Both of these were used on stamps of the Commonwealth, so there is plenty to interest the specialist and the postmark blood-Whatever these do I hound. collect though living in the Ter-I was in the field too ritory! late and would have too much leeway to make up.

Possibly many collectors on seeing in the Catalogue the £2 and £5 values of N.G. gives a derisive and probable sourgrapish snort condemning them

as wholly uncalled for as were some of the £1 S/W issues. Far, far from it, my friends. I have seen postally used many blocks of 4 and 6 of the £2 value and pairs and strips of 3 of the £5. All of these emanated from BULOLO, which is the centre of a fabulously rich alluvial gold bearing area. From here, before the War, parcels of gold were posted to the Sydney banks; these weighed 20 — 40 lbs. each, so at 3d. per half ounce £10 was quickly reached. This went by air, for where Bulolo is concerned as in many places in the Territory, if you don't come or go by air you simply stay out, the hinterland being, for practical purposes. otherwise inaccessible. A brief years ago cannibal feasts were staged in the fever ridden iungle of the Bulolo Valley; that same Valley where I now sit in front of a flood-lit swimming pool and with the mosquito and the fly unknown.

Below our present dark horizon however there is creeping up a new philatelic sun; shortly, designs for a new issue for the (combined) Territory are to be called for and it is to be hoped that in 1951 we will again take our place as a respectable member of civilized society by reappearing in the philatelic Gospel according to Gibbons an-

other Apostle. It is but expected that the set will include the £2 and £5 values as gold is now freighted "down south" under contract with OANTAS (Q'land and Northern Territory Air Services.) In that set however one will most likely see pictured, one of our six fold dredges dainty like gadgets weighing up to 3,500 tons, every section of which has been flown in the active volcanoes of Rabaul, the inevitable dusky chief and the Bird of Paradise of that last wonder of the world. my last description can give but a feeble, drab sketch of a dream of living gold fluttering shyly in the jungle, a showery orange gold cascading down from a body iridescent in blue and green, beset with purple and vivid carmine. The bird is strictly protected, and throughout the Commonwealth and Territories. even the ownership much less the wearing of the plumes meets with a heavy fine and confisca-So like, a stolen 1c British Guiana, gone is the sweetness of display - and what would mere ownership be but as the Apples of Sodom?

To my fellow Jamaicaphiles — Good Luck and Good Hunting, may you find an inverted frame! What better could I wish you?

AHEAD OF THE CATALOGUES B.W.I. George VI Issue

By F. B. KETTLE

The Editor called me a catalogue bound monkey and in the same breath suggested that I write an article on "What to look for in the British West Indies". What did I call him? Just exactly what you would have done, the so-and-so. Just because he is a poor benighted postal history wallah, he has the brazen effrontery to refer to students of modern postal history as catalogue bound mon... the hound.

I'll start with an item which has. to the best of my belief, only just appeared on the hori-This is a very distinct shade in the current Bermuda 12/6. A Manchester dealer ordered a sheet of these from his Bermuda agent early this month (April) and to his great surprise, the sheet he received was in a bright yellow orange instead of the usual orange and, furthermore, is printed on the substitute chalky paper. By the toning of the gum it would appear to have been in the Colony for some little time and I am inclined to assume that it must be part of a 1946 or 1947 printing which has never appeared from the Crown Agent's in London. My guess is that it will rank for catalogue status and I have a hunch that it will be a scarce item.

It is a source of never ending surprise to me that the shades of the Cayman Is. 2/- have not achieved catalogue rank. I have

this stamp in three distinct shades, deep yellow green and blue green. Sooner or later at least two of these will appear in the catalogue and I think that the vellow green - 1938 - will be a nice item to have. There appear to be no stocks in England. At the same time, you might make sure that you have both shades in the 5/-, the earlier crimson and the current claret. They are both easy to get at present, but may not remain so. The 10/- value is rather a favourite of mine and I have all five printings'in my collection and they are not difficult to distinguish. The first, third and fifth printings are all perforated 12 x 13 and the second and fourth printings are perforated 14. The first printing is easily picked out by the lighter and brighter look of the print with its obvious reddish tone; in the second and third prints the red becomes 'progréssively less noticeable; the tourth print has a rather greyish tone and the print is less sharp than any of the others, whilst the (1948) has a definite sepia tint. Altogether a most interesting stamp.

In Dominica the shades as a whole have shown very little variation, but there are two nice shades of the centre in the 6d. value, yellow green and blue green and the frame of the 10/in the latest printing is certainly

a collectable variety although it is unlikely to achieve catalogue rank.

With Grenada the fun and games available are boundless. The 10/- value alone would need an article to itself but I must content myself by dvawing attention to the first printing of 163b. This can be picked out at a glance by the woolly looking centre. If you collect Grenada sericusly this stamp is an absolute MUST. So far as I can judge, it is second in scarcity only to 163c. The second 10/- worth looking for is the shade of 163d which you have not got. There are two distinct shades and I think that the darker one is the better of the two, but I could be wrong on that point.

In the other values there are a number of shades of varying interest and some care is necessary in deciding which are true shades and which are due to tropicalisation. I would select the $2\frac{1}{2}d$, and the 1/- values as those producing the most interesting shade varieties.

Skating carefully and tactfully past Jamaica — who am I to stick my neck out? — we arrive in the shade hunters paradise, the Leeward Islands, and here we can all go to town in a big way. I myself have missed some of the shades in the 1d.; I only have nine of them! If only some kind soul would send me plate blocks of all the printings I could be happy for days. Of the $1\frac{1}{2}d$. I have only three shades, but with the 2d. I jump to seven again and I am assured that there is a nice slate printing

which I have missed. There are at any rate five each of the 3d. and 6d, and not less than six of the 1/- including that elusive item with the gray duty plate. I missed that one too. Why does that curious vortical lined effect persist on the 2/- value of Leewards? And why is it a horizuntal lined effect on the 5/-P Can any reader tell me, please? It is hardly necessary for me to say anything about the £1 values, except that quite a lot of collectors in this country are nursing 105a in the belief that they have 105, and the next dealer that sells 105a as 105 will not be the first man in the trade to do so. The only reason that I have been sure of my facts is that I have a very nice commercially used and dated copy of 105 for reference when the issue is in doubt. recently found a local collector with 105b in his collection in the firm belief that it was 105. If you have any doubt, look at the back of your mint 105. It MUST have the treacly brown

In Montserrat I have nothing in the way of shades in the first perforation, but there are good shades in the 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 3d. values perforated 14.

St. Kitts-Nevis offers some pretty variations. Of the 2d. perf. 13 x 12 I have, notwithstanding the catalogue, a pale grey, a dark grey and a slate, the latter being a really hard-to-find item. There are interesting shades in all values to 1/- in the current perforation, the 3d. on ordinary paper needing considerable effort to locate here in England.

Despite the fact that three printers have been responsible for the stamps of St. Lucia, the shades have shown remarkably little variation with the exception of the listed shades of the 6d. value, and rather minor shade varieties of the 2/- and 5/-.

Why, oh why was it necessary to mutilate the design of the 10/- stamp (1938) to produce the current dollar currency stamps. The 1938 design is magnificent, the current one indifferent. What a pity it is that some people cannot let well alone.

The only significant shades I possess in the 1938 St. Vincent series are in the 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1/- stamps, the latter being the outstanding item with the red purple and blackish purple centres.

In Trinidad and Tobago I have nothing really collectable in shades other than the olive green and the olive grey of the 24c.

Turks and Caicos shades have been very regular and show variation only in the green of the ½d. and 5/- values. These are both outstanding and must go into the catalogue sooner or later; indeed, I shall be somewhat surprised if they are not in the new catalogue when it appears next month.

All serious collectors will have noticed for themselves the difference in the shades of the Virgin Islands stamps on chalky and on ordinary papers, and apart from these, I have noted nothing of any great interest.

If any reader is saying to him(her)self "What has all this to do with modern postal history?" I would point out that the majority of the shade varieties of this reign have arisen, either directly or indirectly as a result of that abomination now known as the Second World War and can be grouped under three main headings: the red sha es (scarlet, carmine, etc.) from Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., the green shades from the house of Waterlow and the blacks from De La Rue & Co. Blues have shown some variation generally from both Waterlows and De La Rues, but not in the case of Bradburys. The blacks have not affected the BritishWest Indian Islands so far as I can recall, but make an interesting study if you like to follow the printings of the Fiji 6d., Kenya 3/-, the centre of the Gilbert & Ellice Islands ½d. oh, and the Barbados 4d. The last one does bring it within your group, after all.

Well, I suppose there is plenty of scope for dispute in my suggestions. If there is, I'll be happy to hear from you, particularly if you have any really good uncatalogued shades which I have not mentioned. There must be one or two that I have missed in my never ending hunt. Catalogue bound monkey, indeed!

Gosh! I fergot Bahamas!

A COMMON STAMP

By J. M. NETHERSOLE.

There are thousands of issues to which the label attaches: the term implies a stamp which has been produced in quantities that supply far exceeds demand from the average collector who is satisfied with enshrining in his album a mint and a used copy of a particular stamp; a stamp which, with hundreds of its brethren provides grist for the cheap packets, is nominally priced at 1d., the catalogue minimum value. is readily given away to save cluttering up the boot-box-storage-space, and is to be seen in every beginner's collection.

And yet, it is the "common stamp" which, by reason of its accessibility, at times rewards serious study circles with remarkably interesting results. It is from the pool of the millions of a common stamp that serious students elicit information on the wear of plates, detect plateflaws, re-entries, retouches, and the like.

Such a stamp is the 1d. Lilac of the Key Plate issue, which in 1889 replaced the original design of the first three Jamaica penny postage stamps.

Close study of this stamp will amply repay the delving involved; on it Queen Victoria's head first appeared "diademed" as compared with the "laureated" head of the three previous penry issues — the stamp was the first Jamaica dual-purpose adhesive, designed for both postage and fiscal use — as the name implies, the "Key" plate

or Frame and the "Duty" plate (or value-tablet) were separate entities, involving two printing processes, the same Key Plate being used in the production of four other stamps.

The cheap packets will assuredly not reward the prospector with the Specimen stamp of the issue (with "Specimen" in block letters, printed horizontally across the lower third of the stamp) or the recorded Die Proof known in black on glazed card, without value tablet --nor, probably, with an interesting oddity, genuine if unauthorised, the stamp diagonally bisected and used as a ½d. stamp on a piece of the newspaper which it shepherded safely through the post.

But the cheap packets, the handouts or a dealer's stockbooks may possibly produce any of four very collectible treasures: - (i) The variety with the watermark inverted; (ii) The very scarce blue or bluish grev value — tablet; for a long time the existence of this varietv has been doubted but the editor had the good fortune recently to find one undeniably such in a batch which derived from an unexpected source; another was sold in 1948 at Mr. Harvey Greene's auction (iii) The stamp New York. bearing the extremely scarce postmark of the Jamaica Exhibition of 1891. This is of the "Squared circle" type and emanated from the Post Office set up in the Exhibition grounds

and in operation between January 27th and May 16th 1891. (iv) The stamp showing one of the five types of the purple cancellation denoting use in the Cayman Island. Before the Dependency received its own adhesives. Jamaica stamps were used there, the inclusive dates appearing to be April 12th 1889 to February 19th 1901. Our 1d. Key Plate is also known with overprint "Cayman Islands" in two lines, in type similar to that of the 2d. official (local print) of Jamaica (S/G O2).

intensive search will also produce a remarkable range of purple or purplish shades in the Key Plate, and the value tablets exist in surprisingly different colours, purple, lilac (matching the Key Plate colours), mauve. claret, maroon, crimson (shading to pink) as well as the rare aforementioned blue or bluish grey. The crimson or pink tablet is thought to have resulted from an imperfectly cleaned tablet plate which had previously been used to print the 1d. red official stamp (of the same design as the cadaver now under dissection).

The years of issue of the several shades have long ago been settled by those stalwarts of earlier days, true students of the hobby, Mr. Astley Clerk and Dr. W. Simpson, as being:--

Key plate
Dull purple '89, - '91 - '95 1900
Deep dull purple '89 - '94
Purple '92 - '94
Pale dull purple '93 - '00
Duty Plate

Blue 8th March 1889

Mauve '18 - '90
Flum '91 - '94
Claret '90 - June 1891
Mauve Marcn - April '92
Purple (like headplate) '93
Crimson '94
Eright purple '94 - '00

(from the Jamaica Handbook)

To the Postal History addict in particular the 1d. Key Plate opens up a veritable Tom Tiddler's ground — the stamp was issued in 1889, at a period when some of the earliest singlering postmarks (issued 1859) were nearing the end of their normal thirty-year span of decipherable life, while others, issued later, were still in their prime - the "Squared circle" type of canceller had only been in use for some four years, since 1885 or so; accordingly on this stamp can be found scores of these single strikes; of the I 2 offices opened up to 1892, 85 used singlerings, and all but seven of those marks can be found on our "Common stamp", some are easy, from busy offices, but others take a lot of finding, even on stamp, much less on piece, or scarcer yet, on cover.

Of the thirty-five "Squared-circle" marks, all including Kingston appeared on our stamp: many are quite common but superb examples and those of the smaller offices call for assiduous search.

In 1894 appeared the first type of the Double-Ring cancellers, the earliest and accordingly the most clearly defined examples of these will appear on our "Common stamp".

Our subject also, in its 11 years of existance, on thousands

of its thirty-two million copies printed from its four plates, received "obliterator" strikes those fascinating numeral cancellations of Jamaica ranging from A27 to A83 inclusive, plus the "E", "F" and "G" numbers, others of bare, unlettered numerals, and the very elusive A, B, C, D, E, strikes. Our stamp was born too late to receive the kiss of any (Kingston) AO1 marks (the last of these went out of use in 1805) and by 1889 certain of the other obliterators, of District Post Offices, were also obsolete: the hunter will not find these marks on our lilac friend: - A28, A30, A31, A36, (type H) A37, A38, A52, A58, A60, A61, A76 (type H) nor A80, but there are 77 others to be tracked down.

Last. like the good wine, there are the Temporary Date — Stamps: our lilac production flourished during a period when many new post offices

were opened; from Bog Walk, in 1890, down to 1900, fifty-six such openings occurred and Temporary Date Stamps are known of nearly all of these, all likely to be found adorning our subject. These Temporary Date stamps are of absorbing interest, and as regards those types likely to be discovered by the enthusiastic student of the 1d. Key Plate Stamp four are circular, one oval and fortyeight rectangular, a small rectangle 30 mm by 16 mm enclosing the name of the post office, vear - date and JAMAICA in black ink.

Yes, the 1d. Key Plate of 1889 is by every standard a common stamp, and yet, working along the foregoing lines, a comprehensive collection of this item will add pages of interesting material to the Jamaica section of the album and prove it to be easily the most interesting of all the stamps of Jamaica.

"PAID To The LINES"

Canada-United States Combination Covers

By ETHEL HARPER

Prior to the issue of the United States adhesive postage stamps in 1847, it was not possible to send a letter to or from Canada and the United States and prepay postage beyond the country of origin. Later letters show that United States stamps were obtainable at or put on by the main post offices in Canada

enabling letters to the United States to be prepaid all the way. Canada did not issue adhesive postage stamps until April 6th, 1851, so that fully prepaid mail from the United States to Canada was stamped "PAID" in red by the Canadian postmasters.

At this date the United States rate for a letter weigh-

ing half an ounce was 5 cents up to 300 miles and 10 cents beyond that distance: heavier letters paid postage pro rata. Therefore, letters to Canada from New York required 10 cents to the border, plus the requisite Canadian postage. Letters originating nearer the Canadian border would require only the 5 cents United States domestic charge. Conversely, letters from Montreal or Toronto to New York would need 10 cents from the border to destination, plus the Canadian charge.

A notice issued to Canadian postmasters from Montreal, dated 14th March, 1851, stated that letters to and from the United States would be liable o a uniform rate of 3d, a half ounce between the frontier and the place of destination, or of origin in Canada, and that such charges on mail from Canada to the United States would need to be prepaid. Thus the postmasters had to arrange for the division of the rate between the two countries. To obviate delays, the chief offices on either side of the border obtained supplies of adhesive stamps of the country. Records show that the 1847 stamps of U.S.A. were used from Canada at an early date after their issue, and similarly a few Canadian 1851 3d. are known to have been used from the United States: the latter are of extreme rarity. It is not known if the stamps of one country were supplied officially to the other.

There is evidence that letters

of this period were franked with the stamps of both countries at the place of posting, although generally they were cancelled by the office of the country bearing the postage. It can be understood that a letter from Montreal bearing the Canadian 3d., and the U.S.A. 10c. would have the 3d. cancelled at Montreal and the 10c, by the United State postal authorities, since the latter could hardly be expected to recognise their stamps cancelled by a foreign office. and vice versa.

The regulation of the interchange of mails between Canada and the United States was effected by an agreement dated March 25th, 1851 between the Post Office Departments of the two countries, and on April 2nd. Toronto issued an Order stating that the whole charge for letters to the United States was fixed at 6d. Similarly, an American Act of Congress in March of the same year had fixed the rate for a letter to Canada at 10c. Although fully repaid postage between both countries was thus provided, the previous practice of dividing the rate continued. The handstruck stamps continued in use concurrently with the adherives.

Section 343 of the 1852 United States Regulations for the Government of the Post Office Department (as approved by the Postmaster-General April 3rd, 1852) reads: "Under these (postal) arrangements, the respective United States exchange offices are required to stamp "U. States" on all letters

sent into any of the British North American Provinces and to mark all paid letters received from the said Provinces with the word "Paid" and the full amount of the United States and Provincial postage paid thereon both in red ink, and to mark all the unpaid letters from the said Provinces in black ink, with the full amount of the United States and Provincial postage due thereon." (This regulationalso required keeping a record of these letters).

An extract from the first post convention between Canada and the United States, signed May 25th, 1851, reads: "Offices designated for the despatch and receipt of U.S. mails on the side of Canada will stamp "CANADA" upon all letters sent into the United States for delivery."

Covers from both countries are known with the manuscript inscription "Paid to the Lines" together with an initial or a From this it may be number. assumed that postmasters had arrangements with regular users of the mails, and that the Post Office Departments of both countries had an understanding regarding the assessment rates on either side of the bor-The number or initial on such letters would indicate the person to whom any deficiency was to be charged, and apparently there was a custom to carry "charge accounts" for those with large correspondence. This practice operated as late as 1860.

From my own collection the following brief descriptions of

covers bearing these markings may be of interest:

Nov. 1851 Montreal to New York with 1851 6d. and "CANADA" (scroll type) and "PAID" in red.

Sept. 1860 Toronto to Albany U.S.A. with 1859 10c. and no other marking, postage having been completely prepaid. Jan. 1863 Hamilton to Niagara, U.S.A. with 1859 10c. and "PAID". "C A N A D A 10 CENTS in red.

Oct. 1867 shewing similar franking and markings.

July 1850 from Quebec to Detroit, U.S.A. with the U.S.A, 1847 10c. affixed at Quebec plus the Quebec handstruck stamp with red manuscript "11½" and "Paid to the Lines".

Sept. 1850 from Eastport, U.S.A. to Hamilton, Canada, with U.S.A. 1847 10c., (to the Lines) and manuscript "4½d." "due" (Canadian).

Mar. 1853 from Troy, U.S.A. to Montreal with handstruck "PAID" "U. STATES" in scroll type in blue and "PAID" "10" in red — bearing no adhesive stamps.

December 1860 from Indianapolis U.S. to Canada W. with 1857 10c. (U.S.A.) and red "U.S. PAID 10."

July 1861 from Chicago, U.S.A. to Galt, Canada with 1861 embossed 10c. envelope plus 1c. (2) and 3c., with manuscript "Paid 15" in red.

FUN FOR FORTY BOB

By THE DABBLER

No, Nasty-mind, this is not an account of some unseemly frolic which a cynical beak assessed as being worth just that much (as Entertainment Tax?). This tells of an Auction item for which the writer had put in a (successful) mail-bid.

Along with "this and that" the lot included "a small collection of forgeries" — my forty shilling chip won this prize and the fun derived therefrom was worth every penny of the amount expended; for I can still look at what remains and relive the giggles.

As events proved, they were not ALL forgeries—there were about a dozen nice reprints of U.S. Locals ("Bloods" and the like) for which a U.S. friend, to whom they were sent for identification, made a readily-accepted offer to exchange an unmounted and presumably unwanted Mint set of the Bahamas 1930 Centenary. I followed the example of Sir Philip Sidney, as his need seemed to be greater than mine.

Then, on exhibiting my purchase to one well-versed in the European issues, I discovered that doctors DO differ and Homer nods, for the vendor seems to have discarded a genuine superb used copy of Lubeck No. 1, with secret mark and all; that item when disposed of, left me with "that comfortable feeling" somewhat like the archer in Holy Writ who drew a bow

at a vulture, with satisfying, if unexpected, results.

These forgeries were amusing things, even though reprehensible as a practice; some were so crude as to excite wonder that the authors could possibly imagine that collectors could be so very gullible as to be deceived by them; tests the horrible sight presented by three traversties of the early British Guiana "ships" of Newfoundland No. 28, or worse yet of No. 27 of that country; of Turks Islands No. 3 or of Eermuda No. 8.

One artist had added an "E" to the tail of the 1 real value of Argentine No. 1, Honduras No. 1 was seen in a beautiful puce-mauve shade, an hue undreamed-of by the printers of the genuine stamp. For the 30c., 60c. and 90c. "Bulls-eyes" of BRAZIL the engine-turning was not convincing, for his 1 Real and 2 Reales values of the first issue of Peru he had, careless fellow, drawn the ships sailing in the wrong direction - but what does a minor gaffe like that matter as between collectors when a mere bagatelle of £70. 0. 0. is at stake? Variety is, notoriously, the spice of life!

Our pre-Sperati made an horrid mess of his Hawaii No. 8, while his No. 1 of Ionian Isles was pitiable; he produced Sicily No. 5 in deep blue instead of the regulation indigo. Over his German States he really "went

to town". My expert friend declared some of them to be extremely dangerous, especially those of Hamburg, No. 9 and No. 10, but he wondered why a forger should have bothered with Bergedorf No. 3 or No. 8 stamps of such low catalogue status.

The fake \$1 Wells Fargo "Pony Express" was clumsy work, there were two of these, one artistically faded, but fitted with the appropriate cancellation — also phoney.

The two DEH SEDANG items ½ and 4, were quasi-genuine; I am told that these were printed by an aspirant to some Far East throne who counted his chickens in the shell, and there were also in the Lot four pretty line-green items, imperforate, of about the size and format of the oblong Malta farthing stamp. These, I was

told, were Guatemala proofs, extolling the horsemanship of its inhabitants.

But it was the last item which provided the biggest kick of all — How satisfying to possess a stamp catalogued at £1,100!!

Even a spurious presentment of such a one produces a thrill! When I looked at the circular "dud" of Moldavia No. 3, portraying bearded mountain goat, posthorn, and star, I felt as any of us paupers must do, when he gets the opportunity to push the pre-war Austin Ten into its tin shed and reclining on the easeful cushioning of the Rolls or Isotta of some politician friend revel in being wafted over the countryside in silent, opulent comfort. (MORAL -If you don't happen to be ROLLING, the next best thing is to LOOK LIKE IT!)

Yes, it was a good "cuppla" quid, that was!

The "Paquebot" Cancellations of Jamaica

By BRIGADIER M. A. STUDD, F.R.P.S.L.

A certain amount has already been written about the early ship letter types of cancellations used in Jamaica, but little, I think, about its "paquebot" cancellations.

The number of Philatelists who are interested in cancellations is increasing steadily year by year. One reason for this is the scarcity and mercarny cost of suitable stamp material, other than new issues.

There are many different types of cancellation collections

which can be formed by enthusiasts and maritime cancellations hold their own in popularity.

It was not till 1897 that the Universal Postal Union Congress decreed that all correspondence received from ships should be stamped with the word "Paquebot".

This is surprising as the first Paquebot markings appeared in Great Britain in 1894 and in the U.S.A. certainly by 1895, and probably earlier. There are two main types of Paquebot cancellations —

(a) The word "Paquebot" stamped separately on the letter written, no direct invocation of the port of origin.

(b) The word "Paquebot" incorporated in the same portmark with the name of the port of arrival, or duplex within the port marking.

In so far as Jamaica is concerned I only know of one type (a) Paquebot marking and three type (b). Possibly more were used and a perusal of this records in the G.P.O. at Kingston might produce some inter-

esting results.

- (A) One type was certainly in use from 1898 till 1908.
- (B) A second type was in use from 1910 till 1914 and may have come back into use again 1920 after the first world war.
- (C) A third type was in use from 1930-1938, and may well have been used earlier as at present there are no records as to the type used between 1920 and 1930.
- (D) A fourth was in use from 1933 to 1936 or later. There is probably a subtype of this cancellation with the duplex retaigle 54 mm long instead of 50 mm long as illustrated.

Describing Stamps For Auction

(By A. D. PIERCE (Reproduced)

Regularly, from certain philatelic columnists, one hears pleas for a "uniform method" of describing stamps in auction catalogues. We are told that it would be ideal if every auctioneer described every stamp in precisely the same way as every other auctioneer.

With the highest respect, we dissent. We do not believe such exactness is desirable. We do not believe it is possible. An auction catalogue should be more interesting to read than a telephone directory or a table of logarithms. An auction catalogue; in our opinion, should reflect in certain measure the kind of joy which collector and deal-

er alike find in the precious gems of philately. As for exactness, that is as impossible as exactness in describing feminine beauty.

The charm of a stamp often is as indefinable as the charm of a woman. It may be equally difficult to put into words. The analogy here is close. beauty of some women is accepted by common consent just as there are certain stamps whose perfection is beyond argument. With the vast majority of both women stamps, however, there is no such agreement. How have you heard the phrase: "I don't know what he ever saw in her!" Yet the chance sare that he "saw in her" something very fine and worthwhile, which others had overlooked. The qualities of stamps are as varied and fragile as the qualities of feminine charm. What appeals to one person in a given stamp leave another cold; one man may see only the margins, another only the cancellation, a third only the colour — and a fourth only the re-entry in the upper left corner.

So, to those who suggest that it would be easy to devise a uniform system for describing stamps, we merely say "try it". The problems are numerous, and often fascinating.

Recently we have seen a pet panacea advanced to solve the describer's problems at a single stroke. One firm, we read, puts on each employee's desk a notice: "Underdescribe!" But how can auction houses underdescribe without being grossly unfair to the owner of the property, and diminishing his return from that property?

Before anyone suggests that an auctioneer "underdescribe", ask him if he would want his stamps sold by an auctioneer who makes a practice of underdescribing.

Our task, then, is to describe stamps, and not dodge the issue by underdescribing. The first problem comes up with those catchall words: Poor, Good, Very Good, Fine, Very Fine, and Superb. Because these are approximations only, we usually give further description when

the stamp warrants.

Where modorn issues are concerned it is practical to use single terms alone. To us, Very Fine means almost perfect centering, and Superb is perfection in all respects. Fine is a more difficult word. We use it to mean a stamp second to very fine only in the matter of centering, a stamp which has clear margins on all sides but not even margins on all sides. Very good, to us, means a stamp which would be fine except that the perforations touch or cut slightly. Good is a stamp definitely of third quality, quite a bit off centre or not fresh. Poor means what it says, a stamp often with thins or other defects.

Difficulties begin when one starts describing the older stamps, which were not turned out with electric eyes, or other devices to improve the centering of the perforating machines. With the classics, the questions of margins and centering are quite as variable as the winds of our present winter.

The catalogue of Yvert illustrates the margins of various issues, a valuable guide. With some imperforate stamps the space between them on the sheet was so small it was almost impossible to cut the adhesives apart without cutting into the designs on one side or the other. With some, such as the first issue of Ceylon, the only possible "Fine" copies are those which happened to be so cut as to denude margins of the neighbouring stamps on all four

sides. On the other hand, Mauritius Lapirot were spaced far apart on the sheet, so that even a "fine copy" here ought to have large margins.

With most imperforate stamps, the size of the margins is the major factor. Five Cent 1847s Cape Triangles, Threepence Beavers. and Penny Blacks, for example, are not rare with margins on all sides; but as the size and evenness of the margins incrase, the value increases rapidly. With 20th century U.S. imperforates, of course, anything less than full margins is unacceptable to most collectors.

Among perforated classics, the centering of early Perkins Bacon issues is notoriously bad. This firm possessed two primitive perforators, and the matter of centering never intruded at all. That is why the centred copies of early Ceylons, St. Lucias or St. Vincents, and to a slightly lesser degree the early perforated Barbados, Grenadas and Trinidads, are rare.

So, with all these differences in margins between stamps, in printing and perforating methods, it is obvious that what the experienced collector would consider a "Fine" copy in Ceylon is very different from what the same collector would consider a "Fine" copy of Canada No. 4. That is why "Fine" is usually insufficient to describe such stamps, and why we usually give further description.

We have considered center-

ing alone. Many other factors face the describer, when he sets about "writing up" a stamp. It may be "Fine" by the technical definition, and still be far from fresh. Another major factor is the cancellation. Is it light, or heavy, or medium? Does it obliterate the major features of the design? Again, the cancellation in some cases is of more value than the stamp.

All this is aside from examining for defects, thins, repairs, and the general soundness or the item. The matter of perforations aside from centering must be considered. The value of the Finland Serpentine Roulettes, for example, varies greatly depending on whether a stamp has "all its teeth", one missing, or more. A blunt or missing perforation is a factor on any stamp, clipped perforations likewise. When a cover is involved, these matters plus the condition of the cover and any philatelic or historical interest it may possess all become part of the problem. So, describing consists of more than starting with perfection and pulling a stamp down from there.

Some decry the use of adjectives in describing stamps. We disagree. When a stamp gives us some visual pleasure, we try to communicate that in our catalogue. When it is a "brute" why not be frank about it? The gift of enthusiasm, kept in proper restraint, is as vital in the stamp business as that same gift is in the field of collecting.

A PLEA FOR

The Exchange Superintendent

By G. C. GUNTER

() UR Exchange Packet Superintendent is constantly finding reasons for complaining about the apparent indifference of members in connection with the Exchange Packets. One of his greatest troubles is the failure of some members to properly indicate their takings on club sheets from which stamps are removed by them and consequently he has to much valuable time in correspondence in order to ascertain the narty who has not signed for the stamus that have been removed from the sheet. Another of his complaints is the failure of members to pay promptly for the stamps taken from the packets. There can be no valid excuse for the failure of members in these Those of us who know matters. the enormous amount of work involved in the preparing of packets for Circulation, and the subsequent accounting to owners of the sheets, will realise how necessary it is for this special appeal to be made to members, who are so forgetful of these simple matters, to mend their ways and give the Exchange Supt. the fullest support which his voluntary efforts deserve.

Another of his justifiable complaints is the lack of support given to his Packets by our members. Perhaps it is not generally known that dealers who are members of the Society are allowed to send in sheets for the Packets. Professional members are good contributors. Their booklets are

neatly made up. Their wares are always of the best quality thus their contributions to the Packets benefit. Those members who are anxious to build up their collections should use the Packets and furthermore the Commission earned through these sales help the finances of the Society.

A difficult problem for the Exchange Supt. to solve is the question of the rota. To the more advanced collector it is hardly worth while seeing a Packet after it had been in the hands of several members and treating all members in turn does cause some dissatisfaction to them. But it is difficult to remedy this plea all because there can be no ideal rota system, therefore the Supt. must be left to use his discretion in dealing as firmly as possible with all members.

The Exchange branch is an important section of activity in any Philatelic Society and therefore every effort should be exerted by the Supt. to please all members. It is gratifying to realize that this Society has in its present Exchange Supt. a man although faced with many difficulties does not regard his task as a thankless one. It is to him a Philatelic joy and a labour of love to serve his fellow members, and I make the plea in his behalf that those who use the Exchange Branch will render his work less arduous by observing the rules of the Branch and co-operating fully with him.

27 Years Ago.

AS OTHERS SEE US: (I)

THE Annual Report of our Society—that excellent little booklet which we all received from Mr. Cooke some months ago—has drawn very favourable mention on the Philatelic Press, on both sides of the Atlantic.

Our Honorary Member—Mr. MELVILLE—gives a full copy of the report, taking up a complete page of 3 columns in his paper the STAMP COLLECTORS FORTNIGHTLY.

The Editor of STAMPCOL-LECTING terms it an "interesting" report and he must think that it will be read with pleasure by his 6,100 (weekly) subscribers for he prints a full page of extracts in a recent number of his up-to-date journal.

The PHILATELIC MAGAZINE and some of the AMERICAN JOURNALS refer, in generous terms, to the report.

STANLEY GIBBONS' MON-THLY CIRCULAR, the premier house-organ in the stamp trade, prints the following "newsy par." in a prominent position in it's September issue:-

A SOCIETY WITES

"IAMAICA has a philatelic society which may well serve as an example to others. From the report before us we find that, during the past year the membership has increased from 25 to 42; finances sound, with a balance of over £20 in hand; while the Society has done practical work for the good of the hobby by assisting to secure the repeal of the local import duty on stamps; by stopping the sale of Jamaican stamps by the Crown."

"Agents before they were available in the Colony: by putting the local authorities on the track of cleaners of fiscally used stamps; and by compiling an authoritative list of Jamaican stamps for the Sectional Catalogue of the British Philatelic Congress. On a record such as this we can safely say "WELL DONE

JAMAICA.22

L. W.

A Short Account of the Postage Stamps of the Channel Islands During the German Occupation

By G. C. GUNTER

paper for the February meeting of the Society, I had it in mind to give you a short account of the Stamp issues of the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey in the Channel Islands group under the "Swastika," or German occupation.

The historical details of the surrender of these ancient and loyal Islands cannot fail to be of interest, and the remarkable decision of the German invaders to allow the Jersey and Guernsey local Postal authorities the privilege of issuing special stamps for use during the occupation is no less interesting to Philatelists than the history of the surrender and subsequent occupation of these Islands, which had been linked to the English since the year 1066 when William the Conqueror became King of England.

The evacuation of the Islands was the obvious outcome of the Dunkirk evacuation which placed the Germans in full possession of France, the Britany coast of which lies only a few short miles within sight of the Island of Jersey; so before the final retreat of the Allies from France was accomplished it was no surprise to the people of the Islands to be told to prepare themselves for evacuation, which eventually was

concluded on the 21st of June 1900, the total number of eva-cuers heing 8,500. This was a purely voluntary evacuation, and therefore it was not surprising that the greater part of the population remained behind to meet their German Conquerors, who true to their War-time tradition, prepared for their landing by bombing and machine gunning the unarmed population. killing and wounding many useful citizens, after all the Military establishments had been mutralized and all volunteer and regular troops had been removed.

The behaviour of the inhabitants under this trying ordeal was splendid. They remained calm, and throughout the many years of occupation were cheerful, in spite of the treatment meted out to them by the Gestapo, who were continually searching and arresting people whose homes were sometimes levelled to the ground, their beautiful fields destroyed and their furniture, cars, houses, etc. requisitioned.

Much could be written about the behaviour of the German troops of occupation, who it is reported, were remarkably considerate in their behaviour, and their discipline was exemplary but as it is not my intention to write an account of the occupation I must be content to leave further details of this unpleasant circumstance, and proceed with my subject. "The stamps of the Channel Islands" with special reference to the Local postage stamps of the German occupation.

Mr. Ernest Baker in his excellent Catalogue of the Postage stamps of the Channel Islands reminds us as one of the effects of every war is to focus the attention and impress upon the memory of the world for all time the existence of some place, or places which otherwise would scarcely have been known to more than a few persons. Such is the case in this instance, for had these Islands not been surrendered to the Germans the local stamp issues would not have been in existence, and the Island's Philatelic history would have remained of little interest to the people of the world, although the first official P.O. had been established as long ago as 1794.

During the German occupation of the Islands, the General P.O. was not interfered with. The instrument room, however, was kept sealed and the postal service between the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey was not restored until the 15th July, 1940. The Island of Aldernay having been completely evacuated by its Civil population in June 1940, there was no regular postal service to that place but packages were sent to working parties during their occasional spells of residence there.

At the commencement of the German occupation the stock of British stamps in the Islands was not large, and therefore, even the decreased number of letters which the Post Offices were called upon

to handle, as a result of the evacuation and disrupted services, very soon proved a drain on the reserve stocks, and within a few months of the German administration of the Islands the stock of stamps became completely exhausted and in the Island of Guernsey the German authorities took the oppor tunity, on the 24th Dec. 1940, of bisecting in a diagonal manner the 2d English stamps of King George VI to fill the need for 1d stamps. were therefore no fewer than 4 totally different 2d. stamps available at that time in bisection.

It has now been recorded that for the first time in history there was seen an enemy country in the position to dictate a precedent to His Majesty's Post Office. This Administrative act of the Germans may truly be said to be the first step in the philatelic history of the Channel Islands, and that only 6 months after the German occupation.

Previous to the approval of this bisected 2d stamp, letters had to be handed over the counter with cash, and these were franked by postmark. In Jersey there was no bisected stamp, so this procedure went on for some time until the Occupying Authority authorized the issue of special stamps for local inter-Island use. On the 17th Febry, 1941 it was notified in both Jersey and Guernsey that on the 18th Febry, 1941, penny postage stamps would be on sale at the Head Post Offices and all sub-Offices.

The issue of special stamps for the Islands created a new interest and the Post Offices were crowded by people many of them not collectors. This unexpected demand very soon depleted stocks and new printings were made. The Guernsey Post Office issued three stamps during the period, viz., the ½d, 1d. and 2½d values. The total printings of the 1d stamp were 15 and the quantity issued amounted to 2,478,000. There were 13 printings of the ½d amounting to 1,772,150 stamps and of the 2½d there were 4 printings totalling 420,000 stamps.

At the Island of Jersey several printings were made and while it is recorded that the sister island of Guernsey issued only 3 denominations of stamps, the Jersey Post Office was allowed to issue 6 denominations, viz ½d green, 1d red, 1½d brown, 2d orange. 2½d blue and 3d violet. Three hundred and sixty thousand stamps of each value (in sheets of 60 stamps) were printed on no watermark paper, perf 13½, all in June 1943.

Additional printings were approved as follows: in 1943—½d. 12,000, 240,000, in 1944—1d. 240,000 2½d.—360,000. The last two lots were printed on inferior paper the gum being thin and dull.

No bisected British stamps were used in Jersey as was done in Guernsey, where the 2d Centenary and King George VI, 2d stamp were bisected and used as 1d postage stamps from the 27th Dec. 1940 to the 22nd Febry. 1941.

On the 8th January 1941, a German Field Post Office, was opened in Jersey. Postal communication between the Channel Islands on the one side and the occupied territory of France, as well as Germany, Belgium and Italy on the other side, was restored through this Field P/O. Letters and parcels were received

from, and despatched to the above Countries, postage free, but only to prisoners of war and internees.

The occupation Postmarks of Jersey and Guernsey are very limited in number, but quite an interesting study can be made of the Postmarks of the various Post Offices of both Islands. There are six or seven cancellations used by the Post Offices. I have none of these to show you this evening but I am glad to be able to show you a complete set of the stamps locally produced, together with samples of the pictorial stamps issued on 10th May, 1948 to Commemorate the third Anniversary of the liberation of the islands from German occupation, viz., the 1d scarlet and 2½d blue, both of which were withdrawn from sale on 30th Sept., 1948.

The history of these Islands during their bondage under the Germans is interesting, and provides evidence of an enduring Faith. The Islanders never gave up hope, and although they were completely shut off from news by a strict Censorship, the people firmly believed in the ability of the Allied Forces to conqueor and smash the German Might that had caused their surrender.

During the difficult years of occupation the population went through many hardships; lacking food; fuel and clothing, and finally underwent a siege by the British Freet from the 16th August, 1944. In spite of all this, however, no one died from starvation and there was very little sickness.

On May 9, 1945; the British armed Forces liberated the Islands after an occupation lasting 4 years and 9 months.

I hope this short somewhat incomplete account of the Postag

stamps of the Channel Islands during the German occupation, will induce some of my hearers to make a collection of these interesting and historical stamps. To those who may decide to do so I cannot do better than advise them to get a copy of "Baker's Catalogue and Handbook of the stamps of the Channel Islands," from Ernest J. Baker, 43 Pollet Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

C. I. And if an authority account is wanted of the occupation of the Island of Jersey, by the Germ in Forces from 1st July, 1940 to 12th May, 1945, Mr. Ralph Mal et's book distributed exclusively by Simpkin Marshall (1941) Lt,—London, will afford the best possible sources of information. I am indebted to publications for a geat deal of what I have told you this evening.

Jamaica Philatelic Society

HON. SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR 1949-50

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report 1949/50 at this, the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Philatelic Society.

During the year, 10 new members were admitted to our ranks, 7 life members and 12 ordinary subscribers.

A consolidated statement of affairs is presented herewith and I would like to bring to your notice a few of the

more important points.

1. The New Issue Service managed by Mr. Calder has shown a book profit of £8 18/2 upon sales of £49 17/3, 1; must be presumed that a certain amount of this profit is in respect of earnings made during the previous year, as it has been our custom to charge 10% commission over face. This is more apparent, because as those present know, it has been necessary of late to dispose of some of the slow lines at face. Sundry debtors occupy over £10 of the Society's assets and we shall be pleased to get in this amount to finance further expenditure. This year we purchased only £22 of New Issues as opposed to £150 in the past year, which can be attributed to two main factors. Firstly, Mr. Everard Aguilar las now commenced to deal in this city and obtains his supplies direct rom London. I think it can be agreed that this source is much more reliable

than contacting local Postmasters and Agents in the other islands. In Lordon, there are experts who detect minor differences of perforation, shade, etc., almost as soon as the ink has dried. Secondly, this year we have experienced no blanket issues as we did with the Silver Weddings.

2. The Packet Service has brought us a good return for which we must once again thank Mr. Perkins for his able management. The Commission earned amounted to £13 13//6 as against £14 6/10 last year, which proves that the service is holding its own. You will note that approximately 25% of the material offered was sold, which will perhaps act as a guide to contributors that buyer. are not so free with their money as in previous years (last year approximately 33 % was sold.) Appearances indicate that a decrease in price will provide greater benefits to both buyer and seller in the coming year.

3. Mr, Briscoe has again ably carried out the duties of Hon. Treasurer, although, as you can see, the tide has begun to drive us back. Our asset, are £10 16s. 5d. less than they were a year ago. It is very interesting though not gratifying to note that we are now worth only £61 5s. 11½d, out of which we must finance the Magazine and also provide capital for the purchase of new issues. If we are able

to scraye through on this amount, the margin will be very narrow. Of the income, subscriptions provided 31% the New Issue Service 6% and the Packet Service 26%. As there promises to be a further drop in New Issues and the Packet Service is already working at full capacity, it is obvious that one of the following courses must be adopted in respect of finances. Firstly, a greater degree of promptitude must be enforced in the payment of fees and arrears. Secondly, if the first recourse brings only fair results, a substantial increase in subscription dues is indicated.

We have again been fortunate in securing the brief of our stalwart "Judge" Nethersole for the coming issue of the Jamaica Philatelist. With our worthy President managing the business side in his office of Magazine Secretary, we look forward to a very lively and informative publication. Both of these gentlemen have had considerable experience with the Magazine before and I think that if the next is as good as the last one, we poor laymen will have cause to be more than satisfied.

In the last report, it was hoped that an exhibition would have been staged this year but our other occupations (mainly in this era of high prices, trying to make both ends meet) have frustrated the plans.

During the year the Crown Agents issued more stamps for the Island, which as they have

keen written up in the Philatelic Magazines already, I shall do no more than mention. The introduction of a £1 stamp has met with a mixed reception—the ayes and nays are still expostulating and we do not know yet who has The U. P. Us with their uniform design had to visit us to make one more boring overall The one that took the issue. limelight, however, was the 5/perforation 13, blued paper. At meetings, we are still trying to solve the mystery of "who scuffled the 5/-s blued, perf. 13," but as yet we have reached no solu-Perhaps our members overseas could throw some light on the problem, and if they are in possession of any of that light, we wish them the very best of luck and assure them that on the next occasion, we shall remove mote from our eyes.

May I take this opportunity of thanking those officers and members who have cc-operated in the running of the Society for the past year. On this, our 30th Anniversary, we may now consider curselves ripe with age, but please do not let us become too aged. Let us go on to prove in the coming yearthat there is a lot of life in us yet.

H. T. BUSH, Hon. Secretary.

The Jamaica Philatelic Association

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

1949 - 1950.

RECEIPTS

EXPENDITURE

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A. S. BRISCOE, Hon. Treas.

29 May, 1950

N.B.

Commission on Packets Sales not yet paid over to Treasurer £6 5 10.

in B.W.I,

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	c/o Jamaica College, H, W, T, P.C	
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Black, V. C.	3 South Ave., Rest Pen, H. W. I.	Sub.
Beresford, Supt.	Belvenie, Mandeville P.O.	L.
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His Hon. Mr. Justice	4 Duly Dr. and William Asset	т
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Clossy, P. J.	P.O. Box 158, Kingston	Sub.
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Rohde, Max H. (A.	o,s, 19	*** · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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