

RAILWAY TOWN CANCELLATIONS
OF JAMAICA By B. de BURCA, M.B.E.
STAMP COLLECTING February 5th, 1960

IN the 100th number of the Postal History Bulletin I wrote an article on this subject, and about the same time an article by W. K. Watson appeared in Bulletin No. 20 of the West Indies Study Circle. Mr. Watson suggested that the "station name postmarks are of sufficient interest for an effort to be made to compile a complete list". In subsequent correspondence, Mr. G. W. Collett suggested that if I was willing to tackle the problem he would be very glad to help, and this he has done in full measure.

The late Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson was the first to give an outline of the Railway Postmarks in his handbook, and Mr. E. F. Aguilar subsequently wrote an article in the T.P.O. Bulletin of November-December 1955, which added little to the previous account. The most detailed article so far published is that by T. W. Frost in The Stamp Collectors Fortnightly, No. 1,309, of May 1945. This article was based on the best collection of these postmarks which I have seen. Again no details were given of the types used in the various stations.



Type I



Type II



Type II(a)



Type III

The following list is based on my own collection and on those of five other collectors.

| <u>TOWN</u> | <u>Type I</u> | <u>Type II</u> | <u>Type II (a)</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ALBANY | 12.8.1904-18.5.10 | 6.5.1912-5.11.1924 | — |
| ANCHOVY | 18.12.1906-7.4.1915 | 20.8.1919 | — |
| ANNOTTO BAY | 21.7.1903-1.10.1912 | 20.9.1912-19.11.1923 | 6.10.1925-11.10.1925 |
| APPLETON | 29.9.1901-3.3.1909 | 13.12.1917-23.2.1922 | — |
| BALACLAVA | 22.8.1902-30.12.1912 | — | 1.12.1923 |
| BOG WALK | — | 10.7.1913-11.3.1924 | -- |
| BUFF BAY | 8.8.1906-10.6.1921 | 1.6.1915-5.10.1923 | — |
| BUSHY PARK | 30.10.1901-20.9.1909 | July, 1919-7.12.1923 | — |
| CAMBRIDGE | 3.10.1910-23.10.1917 | 9.5.1921-15.6.1924 | — |
| CATADUPA | 2.11.1910 | 20.9.1919-22.9.1921 | — |
| DANKS | — | 3.12.1910-14.12.1921 | — |
| CHAPLETON | — | 7.8.1012-4.9.1923 | 22.8.1922-14.4.1924 |
| CLARENDON PARK | 3.10.1901-May 1919 | 11.7.1919-13.9.1922 | 31.5.1922-15.1.1924 |
| EWARTON | 10.12.1911-16.6.1923 | — | — |
| FOUR PATHS | 10.8.1903-12.9.1916 | 25.11.1920-21.7.1924 | — |
| GRANGE LANE | Jan. 1902-3.1.1917 | 10.3.1916-16.7.1921 | 26.1.1923-11.2.1924 |

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| <u>TOWN</u> | <u>Type I</u> | <u>Type II</u> | <u>Type II (a)</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| GREEN VALE | 16.9.1901-1904 | 24.7.1917-1.3.1921 | — |
| GREGORY PARK | 5.6.1917-20.1.1924 | — | — |
| HARTLANDS | 24.7.1918-23.8.1923 | 25.8.1920 | — |
| HIGHGATE | — | 13.1.1915-23.10.1924 | — |
| HOPE BAY | 23.5.1906 | 28.2.1911-11.12.1924 | — |
| INVERNESS | — | — | 21.8.1923 |
| IPSWICH | 13.11.1907-24.8.1911 | 2.3.1920-13.7.1924 | — |
| KENDAL | 8.7.1902-17.1.1919 | 21.10.1918-25.10.1923 | — |
| KINGSTON | 8.10.1901-16.12.1919 | 1.5.1916-20.12.1924 | 1.3.1925 |
| BAGGAGE DEPT. | 31.10.1905 | — | — |
| | 24.5.1908 | — | — |
| BAGGAGE OFFICE | — | 13.5.1908 | — |
| | — | 2.1.1912 | — |
| LINSTEAD | 31.10.1901 | 4.3.1921 | — |
| | Nov. 1904 | 7.10.1924 | — |
| MAGGOTTY BAY | 20.12.1905 | 3.10.1917 | — |
| | 20.1.1912 | 24.3.1923 | — |
| MAY PEN | 16.9.1903 | — | 8.10.1923 |
| | 1911 | — | 29.12.1924 |
| MONTEGO BAY | 24.10.1901 | 5.8.1910 | 3.7.1923 |
| | 24.10.1906 | 23.5.1919 | — |
| MONTPELIER | 30.7.1902 | 18.9.1916 | — |
| | 9.8.1902 | 17.3.1924 | — |
| OLD HARBOUR | 3.2.1902 | -- 1914 | — |
| | -- 1905 | 30.12.1924 | — |
| ORANGE BAY | 27.8.1902 | 20.3.1914 | — |
| | 17.10.1912 | 22.8.1922 | — |
| PORT ANTONIO | 17.3.1903 | 4.4.1911 | — |
| | 4.7.1919 | 13.7.1922 | — |
| PORUS .. | 14.2.1902 | 27.3.1917 | -- |
| | 5.3.1903 | 4.12.1923 | — |
| RICHMOND | 8.10.1901 | -- 1914 | — |
| | 30.6.1913 | - 2.1922 | — |
| RIVERSDALE | 27.4.1906 | 20.11.1919 | 1.10.1923 |
| | 6.7.1918 | -- 1924 | 9.10.1923 |
| ST. MARGARETS BAY | — | 21.6.1916 | — |
| | — | 18.9.1923 | — |
| SPANISH TOWN | 11.10.1901 | 2.10.1911 | 19.12.1922 |
| | -- 1908 | - 6.1921 | 21.10.1924 |
| SUTTONS | — | 8.9.1914 | — |
| | — | - 3.1923 | — |
| TROJA | 2.11.1901 | 9.2.1910 | - |
| | - 1.1922 | — | — |
| WILLIAMSFIELD | 7.5.1903 | 29.3.1917 | — |
| | 28.11.1924 | 28.9.1923 | -- |

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In addition to the types which are listed above, another modification of Type I exists that is very rare, and which I classify as Type I(a). This consists of the addition of the word 'Station' after the name of the town. This type has not been described previously in any published article. Those which I have seen are as follows :-

- BUSHY PARK STATION 20 Jan. 1906
- MAY PEN STATION 16, 17 Sept. 1903.
- EWARTON STATION Date ?
- OLD HARBOUR STATION 11 Feb. 1903-1905.
- GRANGE LANE STATION 13 Jun. 1905

All these towns are rare in Type I and, of the five, Grange Lane is the only one which I have in both types and here the Type I preceded the Type I(a). Full strikes of these large hand-stamps are rare, and one wonders how many more 'Station' postmarks have been missed. The two in my own collection had been unrecognised before I acquired them. Of the others, three are in Mr. Collett's collection, and the early Old Harbour Station is in Dr. Blackburn's collection. I cannot suggest any reason for this modification, or for its short life. The double date in the May Pen Station c.d.s. is most unusual.

Altered Spellings

The only town with an altered spelling is Annotto Bay, which was spelt Annatto between July 21st, 1903, and July 25th, 1907, or later.

Spanish Town and May Pen are junctions, and in both Type II(a) the word 'Railway' is spelt in the plural 'Railways'.

Variations in Colour

These hand-stamps were normally applied in blue, deep blue, or blue-green ink, but in rare instances other colours were used.

Red

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| ALBANY | Dec 1905 | MONTEGO BAY | 12 Aug 1905 24 Mar 1906 |
| BALACLAVA | 22 Aug 1902 27 Feb 1908 | PORT ANTONIO | 24 Apr-16 May 1907 |
| BUSHY PARK | 20 Jan 1906 | RICHMOND | Mar and Jun 1906 |
| LINSTEAD | 30 Oct 1901 | WILLIAMSFIELD | 6 Sep 05-1906 |
| MAY PEN | Oct 1906 | | |

Black

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| CLARENDON PARK | 24 Jan 1921 (Blackburn) |
|----------------|----------------------------|

Blue-black

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| WILLIAMSFIELD | 29 Dec 1921 |
|---------------|-------------|

Purple

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|------|
| ALBANY | NOV 1905 | CLARENDON PARK | 1924 |
| KINGSTON BAGGAGE OFFICE | 1911 | | |

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Late Use of Type I

The very late use of Type I in many stations is interesting, and Aguilar states that this was due to the fact that the hand-stamps were not withdrawn. I have not enough material available to make a detailed study, but in the case of Williamsfield, with the late date of November 28th, 1924, there appears to be no doubt that a second hand-stamp was issued as, in late examples, the lettering is as in Type II but the wording is as in Type I.

The use of railway hand-stamps normally ceased in 1924, but examples of their use in 1925 may be found, though this was contrary to post office orders.

From 1940 to 1945 railway cancellations were again in use, and were applied in purple ink. I have seen only two examples: Highgate for December 1945, and a new type 'Kingston Goods Shed', which is illustrated (Type M).

Conclusion

There are many obvious gaps in this study, and any further information would be most welcome.

Apart from Mr. G. W. Collett, R.D.P., I have to thank other members of the West Indies Study Circle for help, and particularly Mr. W. K. Watson. I am very indebted to my colleague Dr. Blackburn, and to Mr. L. A. Courtney for lending me their collections. Finally, I have to thank Norman Hill for three of the drawings.