

Jamaica Newsletter No. 2

By Thomas Foster

THE **Human Rights** set designed by Jennifer Toombs was to be issued early in 1968, but at the last moment it was cancelled. The official explanation given was that the designs were not considered suitable, and as the Jamaican Prime Minister was personally interested a decision was made to select designs submitted by Jamaicans, whose work was considered by the Human Rights Committee to be more appropriate depictions of Human Rights from a Jamaican concept.

The 'Toombs' designs went so near to issue that mint sets were distributed by the Crown Agents to the US press for publicity purposes. Some of these have come on the market recently and command high prices, deserving mention in the catalogues as 'being prepared for use but not issued'. Presentation sets of the amended issue in special folders were given to various Government officials. Incidentally, the 3s value of the issued set exists with the gold colour missing, the 3d value in a similar condition being reported in News Letter No. 1.

Varieties on modern stamps found since last writing include the 8d Scouts, the 1s6d Salvation Army, the 3s Commonwealth Games, the 8d Jamaica. Letter and the 5s definitive, all with **inverted watermark**. In addition, the 10s definitive has been discovered with the entire **blue colour missing** and as this includes the word JAMAICA it is a spectacular variety. My last letter recorded the 6d definitive with the blue colour missing. This affects the spots on the butterfly's wings, which appear white, and a variety has recently appeared in which the blue colour is misplaced 2 mm. downwards, printing on top of the black. These items can easily be distinguished from the genuine missing blue under low magnification.

My last notes also mentioned the **revalued 2d newspaper wrapper**, distributed to post offices from about mid-July 1968. I have now official confirmation that two hand-stamps were used and that all overprinting was done by post office officials working in the stamp vault. The first hand-stamp was defective at the corners, being replaced by the second type, which had the corners more or less intact with small differences in the lettering. Examples exist with both types superimposed on the same wrapper. At a later stage, the letter P in PAID of the second hand-stamp had part of its stem broken to produce the short P variety. In this condition, the hand-stamp can be found double struck on some wrappers.

Turning to **postal markings**, several important discoveries have been made. These include a new Forwarding Agents' Cachet for Barklay & Co., dated September 10th, 1858, illustrated here as FAC¹ and listed as serial 5a¹, together with a new manuscript cachet for the firm of Duke, Parke & Company dated Feb 7th, 1820, which will be listed as serial 2a¹. A new type of 'To Pay' marking has also turned up on two letters dated in November 1859, this last item being illustrated and listed as type TP4¹. New manuscript town markings have also been noted for Black River, Little River and Morant Bay, similar in style to those mentioned in my book.



Type FAC

Type TP4



Another postmark discovery has been a previously unknown T.R.D. for St. Margarets Bay dated 1889. The oval format resembles that of the Alligator Pond T.R.D.s, but its exact spelling is not known as it is too large to appear on a single stamp. At the same time, a new steel double-ring date-stamp for Seaforth dated May 23rd, 1910, has been found, preceding by many years the previous earliest known date for anything from that place. The possibility of a T.R.D. having been used there is now remote, as the office opened in March 1910.

Postal Agencies have recently been opened in the following parishes, using the 'Aguilar' type TRD 37:-

Westmoreland —Beaufort (December 13th, 1968)

Clarendon —Cumberland (December 18th, 1968)

St. Mary —Kellam (February 14th, 1969)

St. Catherine —Connors (February 21st, 1969)

St. Andrew —Cane River (March 4th, 1969).

Die Proofs. I have recently been shown two beautifully-embossed sunken die proofs, struck in vermilion, of the 1d Fiscal stamp embossed on some earlier official envelopes and the Registration/Postage stamp embossed on the King George V registered envelope. I have never recorded either of these items before and they must be extremely rare.

Decimal surcharges. New printings of the current stamps overprinted in London with the following decimal values will be released on September 8th this year:—

1c on 1d,	8c on 9d
1c on 1½d,*	10c on 1s,
2c on 2,	15c on 1s6d,
2c on 2½d,*	20c on 2s,
3c on 3d,	30c on 3s,
4c on 4d,	50c on 5s,
5c on 6d,	\$1 on 10s,
7c on 8d,	\$2 on £1

May be withdrawn from current use.



Help, please. Finally, I seek assistance. I have been shown a registered letter to Great Britain dated April 16th, 1895, bearing normal postage rates of that date, i.e., 2d registration fee plus 2½d postage. The unusual thing about this letter is that the stamps are tied by a single strike of a large oval hand-stamp reading EXPRESS, as illustrated. I have no record of any express service operating from the island at any time and no rate has been charged on the letter for such a service, but I am satisfied that the mark was applied at the Jamaica Post Office. Can anyone throw light on this subject? p715

¹ Additional type and serial numbers allocated to these items for inclusion in a future supplement to my book 'Jamaica—The Postal History 1662-1860'