

Jamaica Newsletter No. 6

By Thomas Foster

King George VI Definitives

My enquiry about the sheet position of the 'Exhaust Pipe' flaw on the 6d King George VI definitive stamp brought forth the required information and revealed additional detail. This value was issued in post office sheets of 60 stamps, i.e., 10 rows of six stamps, and the flaw occurs on No. 55, the bottom left corner copy. As I mentioned previously, the variety cannot occur on the comb perforated 6d, S.G.128a, because Centre Plate 1 (unnumbered) was never used for printing that stamp. This fact, however, did not account for the appearance of sheets from Centre Plate 1 which had no flaw and were mistakenly supposed by some specialists to have had the flaw corrected.

I have now seen bottom left corner blocks of the line-perforated stamp which show, quite plainly, that the printer's sheet comprised two horizontal adjoining panes of 60 stamps, separated by a gutter margin the width of a normal stamp. This gutter was perforated down the centre but the printer's sheet was usually guillotined just off the row of perforations and issued thus as post office sheets, the flaw only occurring on the right hand pane. These adjacent pairs of panes had long been suspected to exist on certain of the Waterlow values, but I had never been able to prove this theory with certainty until I had seen these blocks.

A similar variety, as yet unplaced on the sheet, exists on the comb perforated stamp, but the centre plate used is unknown to me. The 'pipe' is shorter and at a different angle, leaving the back of the car to the right of the true 'pipe', and the problem now is: can this variety be plated?

I must also mention two other stamps from this series which have been puzzling me for some time. These consist of mint and used copies of the 4d stamp with the centre plate, or vignette, printed in a yellowish-olive instead of the usual brown, and the 2s value, with the frame printed in a light olive-green, again instead of brown. Many of these items occur with dated postmarks of the 1950-54 era and several of them are on commercially-used covers together with other stamps of the same value in the normal colours. This would suggest that these colour changelings (for want of a better word) are of non-philatelic origin and not the result of a fading. Has anyone any suggestions?

Coin Centenary Watermark Varieties

The Coin Centenary issue has produced another fine variety. The issue should have been withdrawn from sale on January 26th, 1970, but the date was extended owing to the discovery of an unopened case of stamps in the Post Office vault. The case contained sheets of the 3 cents value printed from the previously-unrecorded plate combinations 1B2B2B and 1B2B3B, and many sheets of the latter had the watermark sideways to the right, as seen from the front of the stamp. The number of sheets found must have been large as examples are known used from many parts of the island.

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Despite being officially informed that only one set of plates (four panes) were used for printing the **Christmas** stamps, I have now received blocks of the 5c value from Plate/Pane 2B(x5), and, presumably 2A(x5), 2C(x5) also exist. The colours of these stamps are paler than those from the original plates.

A major variety, this time of perforation, exists on the recently obsolete **1½d Ackee definitive**, where the bottom row of the sheet has been found with misplaced, double perforations extending through the bottom sheet margin and for varying distances between the bottom row of stamps. These sheets were printed and perforated in reel form, so possibly only 12 examples of this variety can exist and I would like to hear of any further examples found. (See illustration below)

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Fiscal Stamps. These are of little interest to the average collector but I must mention the interesting new series of stamps overprinted JUDICIAL, consisting of seven values ranging from 5c. to \$2. The stamps are of the key and duty plate type and the amazing thing about them is that the duty plate carries the word JAMAICA with the value in decimal currency, besides bearing the words POSTAGE and REVENUE! It must, therefore, have been deliberately made—but why? Besides having the head of Queen Elizabeth II, the stamps are typographed on St. Edwards Crown CA paper, which itself was replaced for all Jamaican stamps in 1964 by the present 'Pineapple J' paper.



Postal History. Discoveries of late include the first-known example of Highgate type P11 and a third copy of the Kingston type K1, dated November 12th, 1808, a new latest known date for this very rare marking and used on this occasion, as a receiving mark on an incoming ship letter from London. Due to an oversight, I mentioned in my last news letter that Manchioneal P2a was unique, and at the time my book was published this was so. I now know of four copies, the latest being August 23rd, 1858, just after the use of the Manchioneal P7 date-stamp mentioned in that same letter and making little difference to the text.

Two unrecorded markings have also to be reported, the first being a new post town paid marking from Montego Bay on a letter of August 18th, 1849, which will be listed by me as type PD14a. The other, a 'Returned For Postage' hand-stamp in sans-serif lettering is to be listed as type D3a.

New postal agencies continue to be opened in various parishes, the latest being:

- ST. CATHERINE - Berwick (January 27th), TRD38b.
- TRELAWNY - Biddiford (January 30th), TRD49a.
- WESTMORELAND - Big Bridge (January 30th), TRD41.
- CLARENDON - Reckford (January 3rd), TRD38b.
- ST. ANN - Rio Hoe (February 6th), TRD49a.
- ST. ELIZABETH - Crawford (February 20th), TRD49a.
- PORTLAND - Ken Jones (February), TRD36a.

The TRD type numbers given here are from my new listing and are not those of Aguilar.

Agencies will be established in the near future at: Tivoli in Kingston; at River Head in St. Thomas; at Blue Mountain, Green Mount and Bottom St. Toolies in Manchester; and at Miles Town and Winruss in Hanover. Further details in my next letter.

