

Jamaica Newsletter No. 16

By Thomas Foster

The exhibition being staged in Kingston upon Hull on May 12th, to accompany the 27th Convention of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association is believed to be the biggest ever to be held in the north of England and will include a large Jamaican display consisting of at least 28 nine-sheet frames. Exhibits will include the unissued 6d. Abolition of Slavery pictorial without 'Specimen' overprint and in both watermarks, together with the 1s. inverted frame error, both from the 1919-21 definitive issue. Many examples of modern missing colours will be on show, several of them for the first time, whilst a number of other well-known varieties occurring on the stamps of recent years will be included, together with the unissued stamps in the rejected designs for the 1968 Human Rights issue.

A comprehensive display of the completed artwork for many of the definitive and commemorative stamps of the past two years has been contributed by the Jamaica postal authorities together with postal history items. The actual material used in designing the recent tercentenary issue will also be there, so why not make an attempt to visit the East Riding to see this Exhibiton?

The Jamaica post office was largely persuaded into sending over this design work because it knew of the keen collecting interests existing within the counties of Yorkshire and Lancashire, for Jamaican and other West Indian material. The Roses Caribbean Society, which holds its quarterly meetings in the West Riding and consists of an ever-growing band of northern philatelists who are interested in both foreign and Commonwealth material from the Caribbean area, would be pleased to provide details of their meetings and activities to anyone on request. Plans for the staging of a one-day convention and exhibition of the Society are in hand and this will take place at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds, on Saturday, September 22nd when enthusiasts from all over the country can meet and discuss their common interests. This event will probably have the backing of the American-based British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group and it is hoped that several American collectors may be able to make the journey and attend.

Reading of the depredations of the burglar and thief, it is easy to forget that it can happen to anyone, and anywhere! These remarks are prompted by the loss of a registered mail bag from the Miami, Florida, Post Office containing, amongst other things, packages of valuable coins and a considerable portion of the Gold Medal collection of **Mr. Byron R. Cameron** of Fort Lauderdale. The collection was in transit to the annual exhibition of the Chicago Philatelic Society and comprised letters dated between 1709 and 1840. Amongst the material stolen are many extremely rare items of which only a single or a few copies are known, together with two original coloured maps of Jamaica by Tomaso Porcacchi of 1572 and Robert Morden of 1688. Collectors and dealers in this country are requested to be on the lookout for any attempt to dispose of this material in Europe and anyone who is offered suspicious material is invited to communicate with me giving details. Both Mr. Cameron and I possess complete photographic records of every item in the collection and a quick check is easily made.

First Airmail Flights.

Eastern Airlines began operating its new non-stop service between Atlanta, Georgia, and Jamaica on July 1st last year. The flight commenced at Minneapolis and travelled via St. Paul Twin Cities and Atlanta to Montego Bay and Kingston, and return. Cachets in various colours were applied to all outward stages in the U.S.A., and return flight covers bear the black cachet 'EASTERN AIRLINES/ First Flight/Kingston Ja.—Atlanta, Ga / July 1 1972'. The cachet on covers from Montego Bay has that name substituted for Kingston and is struck in purple.

Air Letter Forms.

I have been shown an example of an unstamped airletter written at sea on January 7th, 1946, to a Cheshire address, from a returning member of the Barbados Contingent of the 1st Caribbean Regiment. In it, he mentions leaving Port Said on December 22nd, reaching Bermuda on January 5th, going on to Nassau and leaving for Jamaica two days later, before travelling to British Honduras and, finally, to Barbados.

The airletter was handed in to the military post office at Up Park Camp on arrival of the ship at Kingston and carries, on the reverse, the hand-stamp of the Signals Centre at that base. On the front is a rectangular, framed hand-stamp containing the two-lined legend with quotes:

'FORCES MAIL VIA BALTIMORE
/ AND BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRCRAFT'

and the letter has been cancelled on arrival in this country with the Post Office Maritime Mail machine cancellation. Can anyone else report the use of this particular hand-stamp on Jamaica mail or throw light upon the place of application?

Postal History

There is a report, as yet unconfirmed, that a further example of a **Dummer Packet Letter** has recently turned up in the archives of the Institute of Jamaica. If true, this will be about the eighth example to have been recorded of a much written-about service from which covers are very rare. Only two of the known letters bear the name of the packet boat which carried them and all originated from Jamaica, despite the fact that the service operated to other West Indian islands.

A startling new **latest date** of June 7th, 1837, for the PORT MORANT, type T3, hand-stamp has turned up on a letter addressed to Plymouth. This is some 18 years later than previously known and as neither of the later straight-line markings, T4a and T4b, have been recorded from this office, it is now possible that there may have been some logical reason for their non-appearance. In addition, two other latest dates are to hand:— LUCEA, type P2a, has appeared on a letter dated June 13th, 1843; and the transit hand-stamp, TR10, on a letter of March 23rd, 1901. It is becoming more and more apparent that some of these later transit markings were probably applied to signify that charges had been credited to the Jamaica post office for handling through the island.

The last few months have seen little of note in the **Temporary Rubber Date-stamp** field. WIRE FENCE has been observed using what is probably a new type TRD41, in black, dated nearly four years later than that last seen in purple; whilst MEADOWBRIDGE has been using a new type, TRD41(ii), known between June 13th, 1970, and February 1973. This differs from the previous type, TRD41(i), in having a distance of 9 mm. instead of 12 mm. between the left-hand asterisk and the letter 'J'.

New **single circle** date-stamps, type SC1, with the '1968' style small lettering, have been observed from the following, three of them replacing the original T.R.D. issued at opening:—

HIGGIN TOWN, St. Ann; in purple with 1973 dates,

KEN JONES, Hanover; in black, c. July 31st, 1972.

LONG LOOK, Clarendon; SC1b in black, c. May 5th, 1970

PLUM TREE, St. James; in black, c. July 29th, 1972.

The first dater in this classification used by Long Look was type SC1a which had the old-style, larger, lettering.