

# Jamaica Newsletter No. 24

By Thomas Foster

## An unissued 8d of 1919-23

It is not very often that one has the chance of reporting an unknown stamp essay from a popular Commonwealth country such as Jamaica, but amongst the De La Rue records in the National Postal Museum are completed die-proofs of an 8d value in the 1919-23 pictorial series, depicting an 1840 view of the Ferry Inn near Spanish Town, set in an ornate frame with the values in the top corners and the usual legends at the bottom.

The Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, wrote to the Crown Agents on June 12th, 1922, forwarding a design (probably a photograph of an engraving from the Institute of Jamaica), which they proposed should be used for an 8d postage stamp. De La Rue submitted the usual die-proof on July 26th and this was returned on September 20th with the complaint that the vignette was dark and flat and could it be improved? A further die-proof marked 'B' and dated '29th Sept. '22', was submitted on October 3rd and had the background lightened, but nothing further appears to have occurred. To the best of my knowledge, these essays / die-proofs are not in the Royal Collection and I hope to be able to illustrate them later. Several West Indian territories did issue 8d stamps during the 1930s to pay the airmail rate to the U.S.A.

## Modern varieties

I can also report four further varieties on the **1964 definitives**, thanks to Dr. C. D. Adams of the Jamaica Philatelic Society. Plate/pane 1D, R4/4, of the **1d value**, has a white dot joining the 'o' and 'w' of 'FLOWER' which resembles the well-known flaws on the 2d value, whilst on the same plate/pane, R2/5, there is a brown dot immediately below the serif of the 'l' in '1d'. Both flaws also occur on the decimal overprinted issue.

On the **1½d value**, Plate/pane ID, R3 /6, shows a pale diagonal band running from behind the 'AI' of 'JAMAICA' to the central fruit, whilst I have found copies showing a dark green line reaching from the 'AI' south-eastwards for about 7 mm., but I cannot locate the sheet position. On the **2d value**, the stamp next to the recently catalogued 'Extra Cape' flaw, i.e., Plate 1D, R6/3, shows a dark blob of green halfway up the right-hand side of the tree. This flaw also occurs on the decimal-overprinted issue and the 2c /2d provisional of the following year. My old friend Ronnie Wong reports finding a single example, used in 1968, of the 6d value of this issue with dull red spots in addition to the blue spots on the butterfly's wings. As no plate of this colour was used in production, it is difficult to account for the phenomenon but it appears to be genuine !

On the 1973 Orchid 10 cents value, Plate/pane 1A, R4/2, the final 'E' in 'JAMAICENSE' has a thin horizontal bar with a dot in the centre, whilst the 10 cents value of the 1974 Mailboat's issue, Plate/pane 1C, R5/2, has the first 'u' in 'QUEENSBURY' defective at the bottom right. On R3/4 of this value, there is a large red spot below the bowsprit of the packet ship which occurs on all four panes. According to John Waddington of Kirkstall Ltd., and the Crown Agents, this flaw occurred on the 25-unit multi-positive used in production, which was stepped four times to produce the printer's sheet of four panes, or post office sheets. The current 8 cents, 20 cents and \$1 definitives have now been found with inverted watermarks whilst on the Independence issue of 1972, the 3 cents value, R2/1, shows a black dot below the 'E' of 'BAUXITE' from the black Plate 1E, Pane E only.

The University stamps come in four panes of 25 subjects or each value in five colours. On the 10 cents, Plate/pane [Ax4+2A, R4/3, shows a black fleck over the 'w' find R5/1, a blue dot in the top right of the vignette. On the 30 cents value, Plate /pane 1Cx5, R4/3 has a yellow pot at the base of the fourth flagpole whilst R5/2 has a blue patch under the third flagpole. On the 50 cents, Plate/pane 1Ax4+2A, R5/1 has a blue dot in the top right vignette. The blue flaws on the 10 and 50 cents values are identical, proving that the same 'blue' plate was used in

producing both values, and this can be substantiated by pointing out that some small flaws of the background colour have been repeated on the same two stamps, affecting the salmon colour on the 10 cents and the pink on the 50 cents, both from the 'pink' Plate 2A. All the above varieties find flaws are constant with the exception of Ronnie Wong's 6d variety.

## Postal Stationery

Until now, it has always been thought that the second issue of Jamaican stamped postcards, the 'Floriate' provisionals, were originally issued in July 1877 but I have been shown an example clearly postmarked May 10th, 1877! Can anyone produce an earlier dated example?

Many of you will be aware that the Llandovery pictorials were designed from a picture postcard of this tourist attraction photographed by the late Dr. James Johnston, of Browns Town. Can anyone show me an example of this postcard as I have never seen it?

## Postal History

From time to time, discoveries of previously-unknown correspondence produce further knowledge in this field and the recent 'J. & T. Eyre' letters contained no less than four further examples of Dummer packet letters sent from Jamaica. These are:

October 25th, 1706, "per JAMAICA packitt, Capt. Smith"

August 11th, 1706, "per 'QUEEN ANN' packett, Capt. Massy"

May 11th, 1706, "per 'JAMAICA' packett, Capt. Smith"

November 21st, 1705, "per FRANKLAND' packett "

The Queen Ann was captured by a French privateer in February 1706 and the appearance of its name on this letter was probably due to the length of time it took to bring this went to the notice of the public. Incidentally, although the Dummer Packet Service operated between this country and the major West Indian colonies, I believe I am correct in stating that all the known letters come from Jamaica. The straight-line handstruck, type J4, has now been found with an earliest known date of February 14th, 1799, whilst the Transit marking, TR9, exists dated October 20th, 1874 and a new latest-known date for type F5a of September 8th, 1823, can be mentioned. A manuscript post town name, "*Robins River*", inscribed in ink across the flap of a letter of 1831 is also new and I will illustrate this at the first opportunity.

Recently, the following new TRD's have been used at established offices and agencies, all being type TRD41, struck in purple, with earliest-known dates in 1974 unless otherwise stated:

ASKENISH, July 10th

BAMBOO, May 3rd

BANGOR RIDGE, July 8th

BEACON HILL, May 15th

CENTRAL VILLAGE, May 20th

RUNAWAY BAY, May 8th

CHATHAM, August 6th

SOMERTON, August 2nd

HENDON, TRD41 (ii), Jul 8th

JUNCTION, July 7th

REGISTERED KINGSTON,

TRD55b, September 2nd

LIME HALL, March 7th

MALVERN, April 7th

PAPINE, TRD41 (ii), Mar 1st

REDWOOD, July 25th

SPALDING, February 18th

TROUT HALL, August 2nd

WHITNEY, black, Dec 22nd

HENDON TRD41 (ii) differs from (i) of opening in that the left-hand asterisk is at 8pm instead of 9pm, whilst PAPINE TRD41 (ii) has the asterisks at 4pm and 8pm, instead of 3pm and 9pm as in (i). The SPALDING item is incorrectly spelled and should read SPALDINGS.

The 8th General Assembly of the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrators (what a glorious title!) took place in the Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, between May 27th and June 1st, 1974, with a special TRD used on mail posted at the conference: details in a later letter. Finally, BALACLAVA in St. Elizabeth is now using an MSR /SC1 dater for the first time, the earliest known date being September 24th, 1974.