

Jamaica Newsletter No. 28

By Thomas Foster

No matter whether constant or inconstant, most of us are keenly interested in flaws and varieties on the 1938 K.G.VI definitive issue. Mr. L. P. Voller of Peterborough, has shown me two marked varieties, neither of which appear to be constant. On the 2½d value, the left leg of the 'M' of 'JAMAICA' is very misshapen and almost severed at the top, a state that may have been caused through over-inking as I cannot find this variety on any of the three complete sheets in my collection and it was only printed from one set of plates. On the 9d there is a white spot just to the front of the King's chin which, again, I cannot confirm on complete sheets. It is probably one of the 'confetti' flaws commonly found on modern stamps but very rarely, on recess-printed issues.

However, two constant varieties have also been submitted by Mr. Voller. On the 1948 1½d Silver Wedding, there is a 'flash' flaw appearing in the necklace just above the 'd' of '1½d' and occurring on every stamp in the top row, whilst on all three values of the 1890-91 London Official stamps, S.G.O3-O5, there is a partial break in the 'O' of the overprint at about ten o'clock, leaving a very distinctive delve in the letter. Can anyone report the sheet position of this last variety?

An inspection by the printers of the 1964 3s 'all blue' definitive, mentioned in my last letter, suggests the possibility of subjection to excess ultra-violet light as having caused the condition. I have recently acquired a used copy of the 1964 Miss World showing a most distinctive misplaced perforation. The holes intrude well into the design at the right-hand side and bottom, whilst at the left side and top, large portions of the adjoining stamps appear as well as the white inter-margin. I would be interested to hear from anyone having similar examples as presumably, at least one sheet must have existed!

The current definitives continue to develop more of the small flaws so commonly found with offset lithographic printing. On the 3 cents Bauxite Industry, there is a spot of colour below the 'X' of 'BAUXITE', R2/1, Plate/panes 1Ex4 and 1E1 E2 E1 E, whilst the 5 cents Oil Refinery, R2/3, Plate /pane 1Ax4, shows a serif to the 'I' of 'JAMAICA'. On the same value, R3/1, Plate/pane 1Ex4, a diagonal break can be found leading from the lower tip of the '5' through the large curve and into the letter 'c', whilst on the \$1 Jamaica House, there is a small spot in the triangle of the last 'A' in 'JAMAICA', R4/3, Plate /pane 1Ax4. On the 5 cents value of the 1969 Christmas issue, there is a blue dot in the white frame below the figures '96', R2/1, Plate/pane 1Bx4, whilst on the 5 cents of the 1974 Mailboats, there is a blue spot under the 'Ma' of 'Mary', R4/1, Plate/pane 1Cx4. All these flaws are constant.

Postal History.

First of all, I can mention an earliest known date of 1807 for ROBINS RIVER, type T2.

Next, I can report a previously-unrecorded Canadian Censor mark used in 1942 by the 1st Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada. The Canadian battalions forming the garrison were issued with unit censor handstamps having denticulated circumferences and bearing the legend, "'Y' Force", and the examiner's number¹.

Now, we have what appears to be a base censor handstamp in a completely new style and without the distinctive denticulation, type 'A'. It is a little similar in style to the base censor markings used by the British Army in the island during the last war, whose examination numbers go up to at least '16', type 'B', and it is possible that this Canadian base censor was 'tagged' on to the examiners' list after these. I would be pleased to hear from anyone having further examples of this 'new' handstamp.



Type A



Type B

The following new datestamps have been observed in use at the undermentioned offices and agencies;

BLACKSTONEDGE, St. Anne,	MSR/SC1 in black
CRAWFORD, St. Elizabeth,*	MSR /SC1 in purple
GORDON PEN, St. Catherine*	MSR /SC1 in black
HUNTS TOWN, St. Mary*	MSR/SC1 in black
LAKES PEN, St. Catherine,	TRD 41d in purple
PENNINGTON, St. Catherine,*	MSR/SC1 in black
WARMINSTER, St. Elizabeth,*	MSR/SC1 in black

*These replace the original TRD's of opening.

Registration Labels.

My old friend, Reg Lant, of Toronto, Canada, now happily recovered from his recent illness, has shown me examples of Jamaican parcel post labels used provisionally as registration labels at the OLD HOPE, BUNKA HILL and PAPINE postal agencies. These are completely new to me and very interesting and I wonder if anyone else can produce covers bearing these provisionals?

Postal Censorship Labels.

Many of you will recall the brief notes on these labels made in a past letter and my request for further specimens. The initial study of the labels has now been completed and looks very nice though doubtless, it will be pulled to pieces on its appearance. Nevertheless, it will be published by the Roses Caribbean Society, together with similar studies on Antigua, British Guiana and St. Lucia, in one volume, about the beginning of May in time for the Yorkshire Philatelic Association convention at Harrogate. Non-members of the 'Roses' interested in this work should contact Malcolm D. Watts, 'Good Intent', 18 Linden Way, Wetherby LS22 4QU, as quickly as possible because publication will be limited.

¹ See 'Postal History of the Canadian Forces in January, 1940-46' by Thomas Foster, STAMP COLLECTING, October 22nd, 1965.