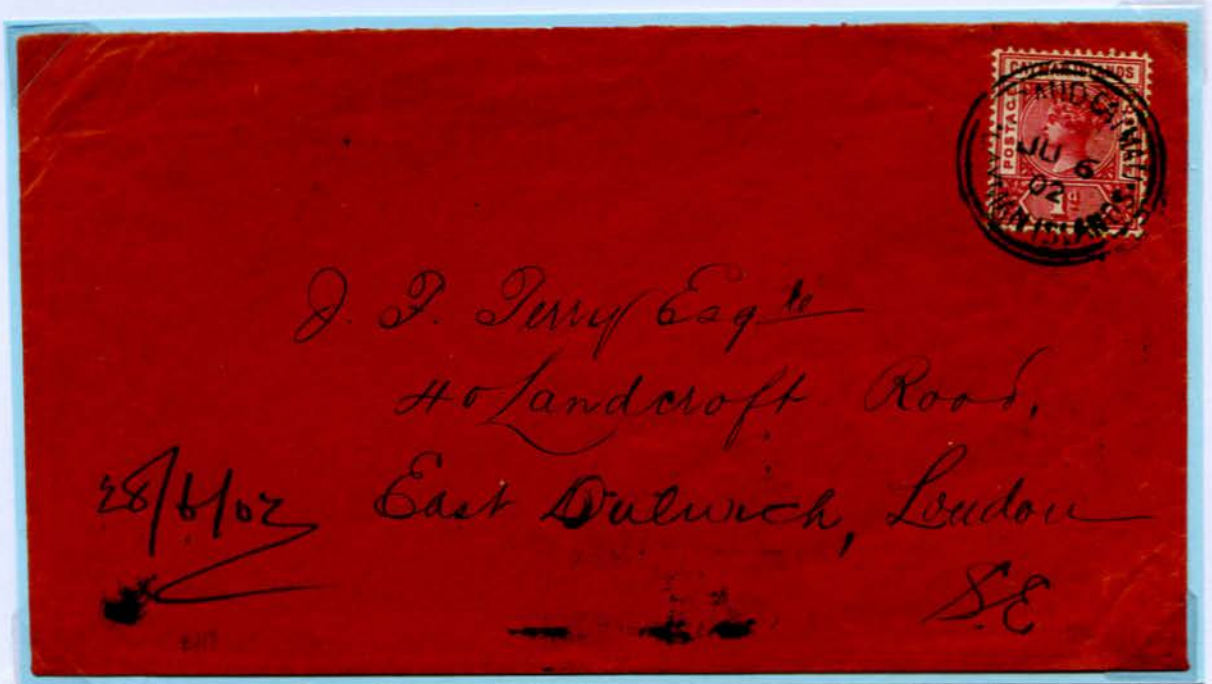


THE KEY PENNY

A Study of the Early Postal History of Cayman Islands through the key plate 1^d and its surcharge.

Extensive research through personal correspondence, writing articles and examining the major auctions and collections of Cayman Islands over the past seventy years has revealed that in none of the early years 1902 – 1906 does the number of surviving covers reach double figures.

The display only shows the select use of the 1^d stamp from this group to demonstrate seven postal rates going to five destinations with various transit marks of the available mail routes, all correct non philatelic rates.



1^d Victoria on June 1902 cover to England, Georgetown IIIa cancel with Key West, Florida transit on reverse for direct route.

Penny Rate

1^d Victoria on returned March 1902 German PSC, Georgetown IIIa cancel with JAMAICA TRANSIT. **One** of **only two** noted from the Cayman Islands.

Earliest use of postcard and **only** use of foreign PSC.



The German stamp dealer was enquiring of the Postmaster what value Edward postage stamps were stocked at the Georgetown Post Office.

Mail would normally transit via Jamaica though examples are occasionally seen via USA Gulf ports e.g. Key West and Cuba.

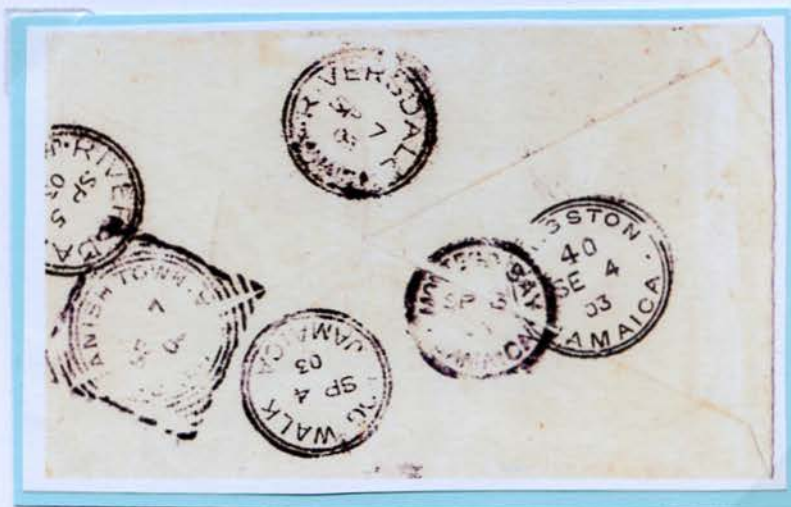
Schooner Mail

Front and reverse of August 1903 Schooner Mail cover from Cayman Brac with type II cancel Edward 1^d to Jamaica. Sent to Bog Walk, St. Catherines and posted on to the schooner when it arrived at Montego Bay.



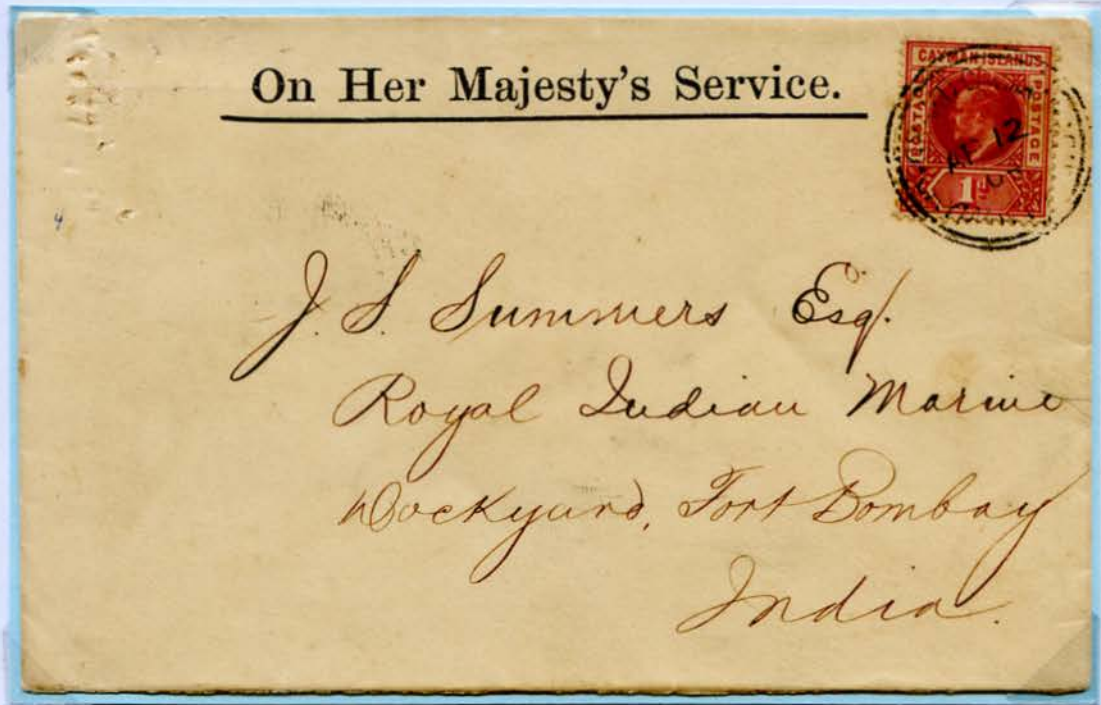
The reverse shows series of Jamaica transit marks as the cover traverses Jamaica on the railway.

One of **three** such recorded covers.



Empire Penny Rate

Most of the mail sent from Grand Cayman at the Empire Rate at this time was destined for England or Canada, other destinations are most unusual.

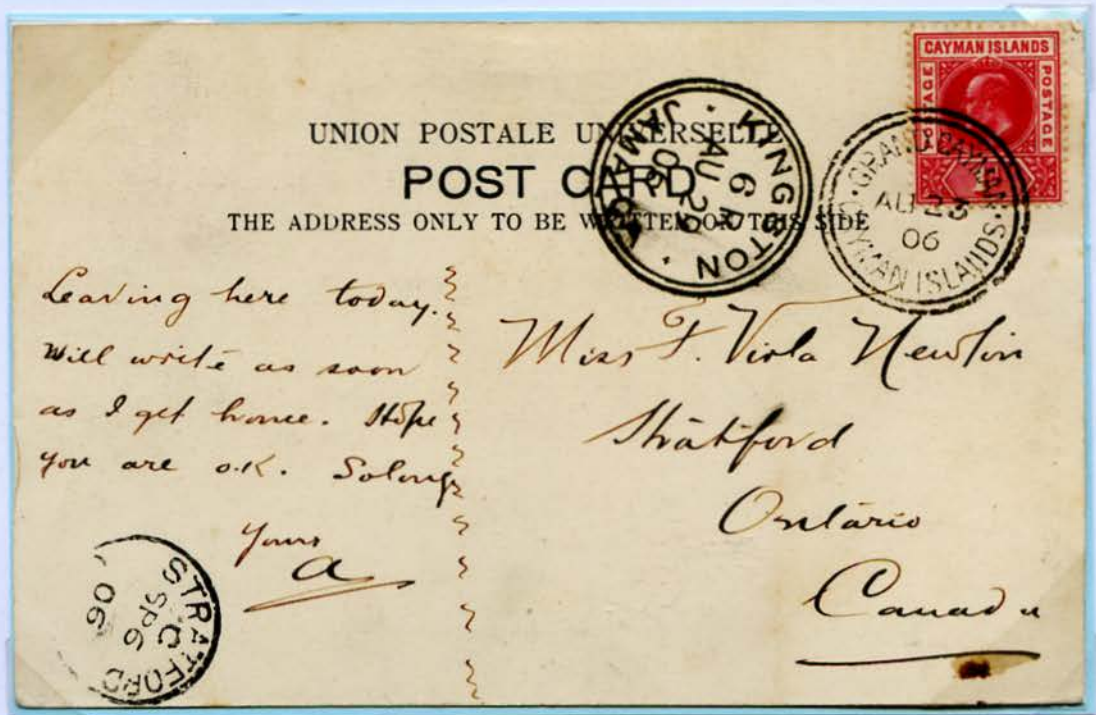


Edward 1^d on April 1904 OHMS cover to India with Georgetown IIIa cancel, **only known** example, with Jamaica and Sea Post Office transits.

Postcard Rate

Two examples of 1^d postcard rate on Jamaican PPC sent by a holidaymaker from Georgetown in August 1908. He explains there are no Cayman PPC's to send. **Only** recorded use of Jamaican PPC from Grand Cayman.

Despite posting ten days apart the cards were sent on the same mail to Jamaica and then onto Canada.



Double Rate

The 1^d Empire Rate was for up to ½ oz. Double rate for the next ½ oz.



Double 1^d Empire Rate for 1 oz on June 1903 cover with Cayman Brac type II cancel via Jamaica and New York to Canada. **Only** recorded example.

One Halfpenny on 1^d Surcharge Provisionals

Empire and Registered Rate

The first Cayman surcharge was issued on August 30th 1907. Early examples are seen on philatelic covers in early 1907. Correctly rated covers are seen in November.



Six surcharges on November 1907 cover to England at 1^d empire and 2^d registered rates.

Large **R** in circle handstamp and transit registration label applied at Birmingham.

One Halfpenny on 1^d Surcharge Provisionals

Printed Matter and Foreign Letter rate

Single example of surcharge on PPC at ½^d printed matter rate only example recorded.

Five surcharges for 2½^d foreign letter rate. **Three** recorded examples. Both used November 1907.



SHELDEN ROAD, GEORGETOWN, GRAND CAYMAN.



Inter Island Mail

Until the new local postage rates were approved in February and enacted in June 1908 the local inter island letter rate was 1^d - the same as to England and colonies.



February 14th 1908 valentine cover to Magnus Bodden,
Master Mariner, South Hole, Little Cayman (pop. 100)

