

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

Club News of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

Volume 3, Number 4.

July 1963

Whole Number 14.

Russell A. Gipson, President.

R. H. Lant, Secretary-Treasurer.

A. N. Johnson, Editor, 2610 Virginia St., Baytown, Texas.

EDITORIAL.

There have been some rumors to the effect that the Jamaican Government is contemplating a change in the manner of distribution of their stamps to philatelists through an "Agency", similar to the Ghana and other Agents. After seeing the results of the handling of several small nations stamps through the so called "Philatelic Agencies", we are dismayed to think that this might happen to Jamaica.

A correspondent in Jamaica writes us as follows about the situation:

"I know that you will be disappointed to learn that we are giving up New Issues completely. I must say that there is a lot happening at this end, philatelically, which we do not like at all. All that I am able to say now is that the Government's idea regarding the future of the stamps of Jamaica with regards to distribution, will put them in complete chaos, before they are finished and would compare them to Ghana."

If this is true, we sincerely hope that the Jamaican Government considers all of the factors involved before committing herself to this policy.

Many small countries with the idea of making huge profits by the sale of their stamps to philatelists, have prostituted their stamps in this manner and have in the long run paid heavily for such, since Agency pressure has caused them to produce tremendous volumes of "wallpaper" or "labels", that have turned many philatelists away from them in disgust.

We at one time, collected Gold Coast and Ghana, but were forced to discontinue that country after we were swamped with unnecessary issues.

We are sending a copy of this Journal to the Postmaster General of Jamaica, with the plea that he investigate the pitfalls of such a policy, which can only do a disservice to Jamaican Philately and Jamaica.

A. N. Johnson, Editor.

* * * * *

We have a couple of changes of address to report this month:

Ed. Weinberg, P. O. Box 3023, Modesto, California

and

Donald G. Mason, R.R. 1, Box 277, Decatur, Illinois.

- 51 -

ST. VINCENT.

By John Medland.

The island of St. Vincent was discovered by Christopher Columbus on St. Vincent's Day, 1498, and although he named it in honor of the Saint, he did not actually land upon it. In fact, St. Vincent was the last of the islands to be settled by Europeans.

At the time of its discovery, St. Vincent was inhabited by the Carib Indians, who retained undisputed possession of the island until 1627, when Charles I of England granted the island to the Earl of Carlisle. In 1660 the Caribs, after many fierce struggles, agreed to accept British rule. In 1748, by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, St. Vincent was declared neutral, but in 1762 it was again seized by the British under General Monckton. By the Treaty of Paris in 1763, St. Vincent was declared British and General Molville was appointed Governor, but in 1779 the island was captured by the French and was not restored again to Great Britain until the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

The natives of St. Vincent, the Caribs, were a fiercely war-like tribe, which accounts for the late settlement of the island, for although both France and Spain laid claim to the island, it was not until 1660, as stated, that the English were finally able to subdue this courageous people. Intermittent battles between the Caribs and the English continued until in 1773 an extensive portion of the island was allocated to the Caribs. Unfortunately, this area was adjacent to Mount Soufriere, and when that volcanic mountain erupted in 1812, nearly all of the natives were killed. Disease has taken its toll of the survivors and so today all trace of the Carib Indians has practically disappeared from the island.

St. Vincent is one of the Windward Islands, lying approximately 21 miles South-west of St. Lucia, 70 miles North East of Grenada, and 100 miles West of Barbados. The island itself is 18 miles long and 11 miles wide and contains 96,000 acres of land. It is distinguished by its scenic valleys and its mountainous terrain, which is crowned by the semi-dormant volcano, Mount Soufriere. The principal dependencies of St. Vincent are the Grenadines, a chain of small islands lying between St. Vincent and Grenada. The largest of this chain is Bequia, with an area of 7 miles. In this chain, as well, are the smallest islands of Camouan, Union and Carriacou.

St. Vincent is sometimes referred to as the "Breadfruit Isle", a name attributed to the prominence of the breadfruit trees, which were brought to the island by Captain Bligh of H. M. S. Bounty. It is interesting to note that this notorious personage had a further cargo of breadfruit bound for St. Vincent on board that ship at the time of the famous mutiny. The chief products of the island are, however, arrowroot, sea island cotton, sugar, ground nuts, coconuts, cocoa, bananas and spices. Virtually the entire world supply of arrowroot is produced in St. Vincent.

The Capital of St. Vincent is the city of Kingstown, and the local inhabitants are quite insistent that the "town" be emphasized and not simply slurred into "ton". Other chief towns of the island are Calliaqua, the former capital, Barrouallie, Layou, Chateaubelair, Colonarie and Georgetown. Two old fortresses guard the island, Fort Charlotte, on Kingstown Bay and Fort Duvernette, on Youngs Island. These fortresses appear on the King George VI issue and will be discussed in more detail in the consideration of that issue.

St. Vincent is a colony of interest to the stamp collector not only for the beauty of its stamps, but for the history and geography of the island, particularly its extraordinary beauty which remains virtually undiscovered by the modern tourist.

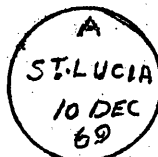
St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Co.

Robert Devaux has compiled the following listing of articles appearing in the philatelic press, on the St. Lucia locals. (See Devaux's article on these interesting locals in Volume 1, Number 4, page 38, of this Journal.

Billig's Philatelic Handbook	Vol. XXV	St. Lucia S. S. Co.
Br. Caribbean Philatelic Journal	November 1961	St. Lucia Locals.
Canadian Philatelist	May/June 1962	St. Lucia Locals.
London Philatelist	Sept. 1933 p.212-13	St. Lucia S. S. Co.
" "	Oct. 1933, -. 234	St. Lucia S. S. Co.
" "	Nov. 1933	"
" "	Dec. 1933, p. 255, 279,286	"
Philatelist	1934. No. 5, p. 91.	Ship Ahoy.
"	May 1946, p. 212.	St. Lucia Provisionals.
"	July 1945, p. 273.	" "
"	Dec. 1938	St. Lucia S. S. Co.
St. Lucia Gazette	Feb. 25, 1871	St. Lucia S. S. Co.
St. Lucia Philatelist	1950 No. 3, p. 3, 11, 13.	" "
Stamp Review	Nov. 1938 p. 5.	

Bob Devaux also writes requesting information as follows:

"Can anyone explain the illustrated postmark of St. Lucia?



"There is what I believe to be a code letter at the top, then a straight line "St. Lucia", followed by the day, month and year in two lines. The circle is about 20mm. The "A" could not be for "Anse-La-Raye" as it was not opened until many years later. At that early date it could only be "Castries". What was it used for and how long was it used?"

"Can anyone tell me what his earliest mark of "Gros Islet", with the "G" code letter is? Does anyone have this mark later than 1947?"

"I would like to hear from anyone interested in St. Lucia, who may have something to offer the group." (Editors Note: Rev. Hines "Numerical Cancellations of the British Empire", shows "A" code letter from Castries, St. Lucia)

BAHAMAS BITS

By Eddie Adelson.

Official figures of the CITY OF NASSAU printings:

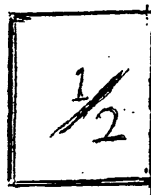
8d. Crown Agents Bureau	57,900 stamps
Local	749,760
Total	807,660
10d. Crown Agents Bureau	57,398
Local	262,080
Total	319,478

On April 8, 1963, a new 8d. Air Letter Sheet was released in Nassau. The stamp imprinted on the sheet is the same design as the current 8d. with color a red violet and black. The Freedom from Hunger stamps of the Bahamas will appear in the future but the release date not known at this time.

My current mail from St. Kitts has some unusual registration labels: St. Kitts surcharged on a Nevis Label, also Dieppe Bay crossed out in indelible pencil and used at G.P.O. St. Kitts.

* * * * *

Robert Grimble and I have been carrying on some correspondence with reference to the seldom seen boxed mark "1/2" found on pre-postal letters from the West Indies to Scotland. This mark is shown in Green when the addressee is in Scotland.



I expected to be in London sometime this spring, so rather than write Angus Parker about this marking, I thought that I would see him. I have just returned from London and has an opportunity to spend several enjoyable hours with Angus during which time I asked about the boxed $\frac{1}{2}$ in green. It turns out that I was in luck because he had just gotten a copy of a new booklet by "The Postal History Society" which describes the marking. The booklet is entitled "The Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax 1813-1839" by W. G. Stitt Dibden. While this booklet is concerned with the additional halfpenny tax charged on mail carried by coaches in Scotland, it has some interesting information in it for the British West Indies collectors.

The marking I am discussing is identified as Fig. 16 in Dibden's booklet. After discussing in Chapter 5, the method used in sorting mail and forwarding it during this period, Dibden states:

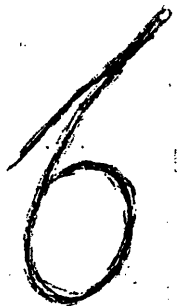
The first port to be used as a forward office in respect to Scotch letters was Falmouth and the stamp supplied to it (Fig. 16), is known used as early as July 1823. It was rarely used, however, and is scarce. It is usually found struck in green ink; a distinctive color also used for a series of handstamps struck at the port on letters from Cadiz, Malta, Gibraltar, and the West Indies and South America and bearing the names of the country of origin with the letter "F" (Falmouth), at the foot; with which it is normally associated.

Therefore I conclude that the boxed $\frac{1}{2}$ in green of the kind sketched above and the Robson Lowe Type P319, (Hand Struck Stamps of the British Empire), are similar in origin and the cover I have which is addressed to Fountain Hale near Aberdeen, N.B. (New Britain), and is from Kingston Feb 6, 1839, is a Falmouth packet letter. Dibden, by the way, values these Falmouth markings as upward of six pounds sterling. My cover is backstamped with your Type 4 circular Kingston mark, (A.P.S. American Philatelist, December 1962, p. 192). It is interesting that your cover also went to Aberdeen That seems to summarize the story on the boxed $\frac{1}{2}$ marking. If you are interested in a copy of Dibden's booklet, it is obtainable from the Postal History Society, Ormonde House, Sion Hill, Bath, Somerset, England, for twenty shillings."

* * * * *

Another item that Robert Grimble has sent to me, and which will be of interest to the Group follows:

"Another item in which you may be interested has to do with the postage due "6" sketched at the right. L.C.C. Nicholson wrote an interesting article on the postage due 4, 6 and 8 markings on Jamaica local letters in the June, 1952 issue of the British West Indian Philatelist which E. F. Aguilar used to publish. I obtained my cover from Aguilar some time ago. Nicholson says in his article that covers with this mark were used only on the Leewards route starting in 1844 and that all the covers that he knows of with the "6" marking were from Kingston to May Hill between 1844 and 1852. My cover is from Kingston to May Hill on December 3, 1846, backstamped with your Type 5. Recently I acquired a cover with the same "6" marking which went from Kingston to Falmouth (Jamaica). Since Falmouth is on what Nicholson calls the Northside to Green Island postal route, this seems to show that the "6" mark at least was not restricted to the Leewards route. These marks seem to be scarce - the only time that I recall ever having seen one in auction is Robson Lowe's Jamaica sale of May 29, 1957 and the cover in this sale was also from Kingston to May Hill. The cover I have to Falmouth from Kingston is dated June 11, 1849, on a Kingston backstamp, your Type 6, and stamped on the front with a Falmouth, Jamaica, your Post Town Circular Postmark Type 3. Interestingly it was unclaimed and stamped again with the Falmouth marking on August 17.



* * * * *

We were very sorry to receive a notice from the Queen Elizabeth II Philatelic Society that due to the fact that Miss Harriett Work, their able editor was unable to continue in that office, and there being no replacement for her available, the Society has concluded to disband. We have enjoyed the exchange of Journals with this Group and regret that they are unable to continue as a group.

* * * * *

Gale Raymond sends in an excerpt from a long Cayman Islands article in the New York Times, April 7, 1963, which is of interest to all of us:

"A place called Hell - at least partly because of its intriguing name, visitors drive or cycle to Hell, an area perhaps twice the size of a football field, of extremely hard gray coral that juts on end like ragged and irregular sawteeth. The coral is quite comparable to the rough Hawaiian lava flows, albeit only a few feet high and partly immersed in swamp water. One sea turtle, held captive in a pocket of coral, is being fattened on turtle grass and fish just as the North Americans would fatten a hog or turkey. The children - the only beggars on the island pull the 18-inch turtle out of his

"pen for everyone to admire. A new local sub-post office does a thriving business in the island's new issue of 15 stamps. Travelers buy them here so their mail will be cancelled in "Hell".

* * * * *

NEW APPLICATIONS:

The applicants listed below have applied for membership in the Group. In accordance with the Constitution their names are hereby published. If no adverse reports are received by the Secretary within thirty days, their names will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for full membership:

- B ARTLETT, EDMUND, % J. Henry Schroeder Banking Corp, 57 Broadway, New York 15, N.Y.
EDGCOMB, JULIAN W., 190 Canterbury Road, Dewitt 14, N. Y.
FRISHMUTH, ROBERT B., Peach Tree Drive, R.D. #1, Basking Ridge, N.J., (Near Pluckemin)
HICKS, DR. HENRY D., V. P. and Dean of Arts and Science, Dalhousie University,
Halifax, N.S., Canada.
LOCKIE, DR. J. M., Brandon Health Unit, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.

* * * * *

NEW ISSUES,

New Definitive issues for St. Kitts and St. Lucia are on order and Release dates and other data will be announced later in this Journal.

The Crown Agents Bulletin No. 364 announces that the Trinidad "Freedom from Hunger" issue will be released on June 4. This special issue of three values, 5, 8 and 25¢ is being printed by Harrison and Sons, Ltd., by the photogravure process on CA (Block Capitals) watermarked paper. The stamps are 1.1 x 1 inch, perforation to perforation, in horizontal format. The design, common to all three stamps, has been produced by Michael Goaman and consists of a symbolic representation of protein foods together with the official symbol of three ears of wheat. The colors are: 5 cents, Rust; 8 cents, Mustard; 25 cents, Blue.

Further Printings of current issues:

British Honduras, 4, 5 and 25¢.

Jamaica, ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 1/-, 2/-, and 3/-.

Montserrat, ½ cent.

The Red Cross Omnibus Issue is on order, but no definite Release dates have been given.

* * * * *

Bob Topaz writes that he has noted the "HELL" Cayman Islands TRD as late as Dec. 31, 1962. This mark must have been used more than five days, as stated in our previous announcement. Does anyone have the last date of use of this mark?

John Medland writes that Stan Durnin has reported a purple cancel for Union Island, St Vincent. This is the only one he has seen in purple, all others being in black. Does anyone have any information on this? John also reports that he has obtained several postcards of St. Vincent and Grenada with Q.V. and K.G.V, including postal reply cards. He asks for detailed information that anyone may have on these cards.

* * * * *

DUES ARE PAST DUE.

^{egs.}
We have a remarkable record of having collected all of the 1963 dues with the exception of eight members. In a group of 117, this is outstanding. To the eight who are not yet paid, please send in your dues and make it 100%.

* * * * *

Reg Lant writes that he has run across a couple of Jamaica KGV1 definitives with the letters "JPCo", with the "o" inclosed in the "c", perforated through the stamp. I likewise have a number of copies of this. Bob Topaz suggests that this may mean "Jamaica Power Co.", but is not sure. The letters are 7mm high as follows:

Does anyone know definitely what they stand for, Mr. Aguilar or Hersh, can you help out?

* * * * *

PERSONAL MENTION:

EDDIE ADELSON is going marlin fishing in Mexico around the first of June, and has said that he may get to Houston and Baytown on the way through. Hope you can make it, Eddie, will have the welcome mat out.

BYRON CAMERON must be real busy, or has gone into hibernation. Drop us a line, Byron, and let us know what the news is around the Cayman Islands, and anywhere else that your ship touches.

STAN DURNIN reports that he had a fine time at "WESTPEX", met Paul Larsen and Ed. Weinberg at the meeting, and said that Elaine, (His one and only), came home loaded with topicals. Sure would liked to have been with you, Stan.

REG LANT and Mrs. Lant left for England, Scotland and Wales the 16th of May and will be gone until the end of June. Hope that you have a wonderful trip, Reg, and that the weather is better than last year.

DR. ARTHUR GRISWOLD was a guest speaker at the Nutmeg Stamp Club at a testimonial dinner given to Mr. Holloway, founder and first President of this Club.

Ralph Group writes that he is working on British Honduras cancellations, and expects to send an article soon.

AL JOHNSON AND JOAN will leave for Asheville, N.C. on June 9th for a two weeks stay. The Journal will be early this month, as I am trying to get it out before we leave. Hope to see all the kin folk that I havent seen in fifteen years.

BRUNO LABELLE writes that in addition to collecting mint B.W.I., he is now taking up Jamaican cancellations. Know that you will find this a very rewarding part of your philatelic interests. Bruno. If I can help any, let me know.

HOOTEN MITCHELL hasn't written in in a long time. Don't you have some choice bits that the Group would enjoy, Hooten?

CLINT von POHLE should be getting to the end of the college examinations by now. Hope you get through magna cum laude, Clint, and that you will find time soon to resume your correspondence.

FRANK SAUNDERS continues to put out a darn good issue of the King George VI Collectors Club Bulletin, and get his spring vegetable garden planted, too. The weather, however, has conspired against him and things are late.

Dr. MORRIS SCHWARTZ writes that he is on the way to Tokyo with the Psychiatric Assn., on a charter flight. Hope you have a wonderful trip, Morris.

FRED SEIFERT, we understand, has been doing a lot of traveling lately.

BILL STITT has sent in a listing of Official Franks and Commissioner's Franks, that will appear in the next issue. These franks are from Bahamas.

MARK SWETLAND writes that they have a new son, their fifth child. Congratulations, Mark.

BOB TOP AZ visited with MILT ERICKSON recently in Columbus. RUSSELL GIBSON, however, was out of pocket as he was having a ball at "ROMPEX" in Denver, at the time.

LYNN WALLACE is still looking for Bermuda material. Anyone having surplus or duplications should get in touch with him.

DOC YARRY was awarded a Certificate of Merit for his Hong Kong Exhibit at the Collectors Club. Doc, there must have been some terrific competition, for you to only receive a Certificate for your wonderful Hong Kong.

* * * * *

REPRINT * GETTING POSTMARKS FROM BRITISH HONDURAS.

By J. Lea, FRPSL.

The following article has been reprinted from the Philatelic Magazine, April 5, 1963. all credits going to Mr. Lea and the Philatelic Magazine.

The small British Colony of British Honduras on the mainland of Central America, has a number of sub-post offices which provide the searcher of postmarks with much work if he wants to obtain a complete collection of the offices open at the present time. Even items from such offices as Crooked Tree, Monkey River and Gales Point, to name a few, are far from common and commercial mail is as rare as hen's teeth. That is the position even in 1963.

Most of the postmasters and agents are negroes and do not have a very high standard of English. However, in the North and Western districts many of the clerks are of Spanish decent and have that language as their mother tongue. It was in 1958 that I addressed a request to one of these sub-offices (Sittee), to stamp and then cancel a cover for me, and it so happened that the clerk knew little English. About that time he received a similar request from a collector in Australia who wrote in Spanish. The result was that the post office clerk simply sent my request back to the collector in Sydney with a note saying that he could not read my request!

Months later, the collector in Australia wrote to me sending my Commonwealth Reply Coupons back with a note about this postal clerk; around the world but in more than eighty days!

Many of these sub-offices only handle a handful of mail a week and the clerk takes little interest in his canceller and what it reads. The standard canceller is a steel one of 27 mm diameter with the name of the office at the top and British Honduras at the bottom. Normally the time, date and year are shown in the center. This postmark is generally struck in black, but I have it in blue from Double Head Cabbage (a gardener's paradise?), in 1956.

Frequently the date may be inverted and the time interchanged in position with the date, etc. In fact on one occasion, Boom was more concerned with 5 a. m. appearing than the actual date in May!

Some of these sub-offices are closed when the Postmaster goes on vacation and then the canceller is handed in to the post office in charge of the area. In 1959 I wrote to Guinea Grass but it so happened that this office was closed and the canceller held by the Postmaster at Orange Walk; so the Senior Postmaster of the Orange Walk district cancelled my envelope as requested with the postmark of Guinea Grass!

The post offices in the colony are divided into six districts and in each district there is a principal office which offers all classes of postal work including money orders, etc. Offices open at the end of October 1962 include the following:

BELIZE DISTRICT

General Post Office, Belize
Caye Caulker
Maskall, Northern River
Gacie Point
Gales Point
Burrell Bobm (Canceller reads Boom)
Double Head Cabbage
San Pedro, Ambergris Caye
Rockstone Pond

Cayo District

Benque Viejo
Roaring Creek
Baking Pot
El Cayo

Corozal District

Corozal
Louisville
Caledonia
Sarteneja

Orange Walk District

Orange Walk
Crooked Tree
San Estevan
Guinea Grass

Toledo District

Barranco
Punta Gorda
Monkey River

Stann Creek District

Stann Creek
Mullins River
Sittee
Seine Bight
Stann Creek Valley (postmark reads
18 1/2 miles Sic Valley)
Hopkins
Placencia

In addition to these offices the official list also gives Sand Hill and Mango Creek, but I do not have any idea of the postal district in which they are situated.

Registered mail is very little used and the only cachet I have seen outside Belize is one from Baking Pot which is a rectangular one, 65mm by 15mm with the number added in pencil, the cachet being struck in mauve.

* * * * *

With reference to the above, Your Editor has a cover from Kingston Jamaica addressed to Mango Creek, Stann Creek District.

JAMAICA JOTTINGS

By Robert Topaz.

Things have been a bit quiet in some Jamaican circles this past month or so, but some of the activity has been wild - - which proves that you get out of a subject what you put into it.

TRD's Very few new ones noted, but the following have been seen:

Bohemia noted 5 Nov. 1962 by Reg Lant.

Ellicress noted 14 March 1963.

Green Pond noted 27 March 1963.

There has been a query about Chudleigh. This is not a new postoffice as it was using the TRD back in Feb of 1962 at least. Does anyone have an earlier date?

The large Kingston squared circle mark was reported dated OC 2 00, with an R2 index. We also have had the Jamaican Exhibition squared circle used on the last date of the Exhibition - May 16, 1891, reported from two sources.

Russell Gibson was at the Denver Show (Romplex) in May and romped home with a couple of prized awards, but also found the following numeral obliterations:

640/21 640/B A74/F3 A53(renewal)/23

Byron Cameron reports finding 631/22, another new mark.

The March 1963 edition of Pan America's house publication "Horizons", shows a map of Jamaica on its cover and carries a story of growing Jamaican industry. The map is part of a larger French map dated 1685 and is quite interesting - anyone reading French. Not as unusual, though, as Cameron's map of 1587.

Reg Lant, before he left for England, reported that the Postmaster at Kingston had changed his rubber stamp from:

POSTMASTER GENERAL
Kingston, Ja., B.W.I.

to

POSTMASTER GENERAL
KINGSTON, Jamaica.

and to emphasize the shift to Independence, we now find the old official envelopes have had the words "On Her Majesty's Service" obliterated with about eleven fine horizontal lines and below a new inscription is printed which reads "On Jamaica Government Service". Both phrases have a line underneath them. My example is from the Post and Telegraphs Department.

There are rumbles - I hope erroneously - that Jamaica is considering having an agency represent their Postal Department, based in New York or some such place. I hope not, for this would be a mighty blow to Jamaican collectors.

- - - - -

Children seldom misquote you. They repeat what you shouldn't have said, word for word.

A notice in Linn's Weekly Stamp News stated that our member Earl P. L. Apfelbaum is moving into greatly enlarged offices at 1503-05 Walnut Street., Philadelphia, Pa., in the heart of the business district. The offices will be only two blocks south of their present quarters and will occupy the entire second floor of the building, affording nearly 6000 square feet of office space, more than double the present area. Earl states that a tentative date for the move is June 1st.

* * * * *

Ed Wienberg writes in about a curious Antigua cancel. This impression appears on S.G. No. 70 and measures 2 1/2 mm in diameter:



Ed thinks that the M.O.O. stands for Money Order Office. Does anyone else have any examples of this strike and if so what is the office of origin and the earliest date of use.

* * * * *

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Gale Raymond reports that he has recently received a large bundle of non-philatelic covers, (local mail), from a Tortola friend. It is interesting to note the wide use of the U. S. Currency overprinted stamps from Roadtown, Virgin Gorda and West End, (The only B.V.I. p.o.'s presently postmarking mail). Oddly, however, the same stamps UNoverprinted are apparently in concurrent use, as late as March 1963. Roadtown is using a new small circular datestamp, but the machine-cancel is now the one seen more often.

* * * * *

Your Editor has been informed of the fact that Gale Raymond has acquired an 1100-acre East Texas ranch. Hope that he doesn't let those two fishing lake take up all of his stamp time! Gale, are you wearing one leg of your trousers in your boot yet? Or have you stocked the ranch with cattle yet?

* * * * *

SWAP COLUMN

Wanted, obliterator cancel "A" on Granada QV 1d. stamps, will swap other Grenada obliterations. Also wanted Jamaica cancels from Seaforth, circa 1910-15, on cover preferred, but will take stamps also. Will trade other town cancels.

Robert Topaz.

Wanted, clear, full strikes, on or off cover, of PINE RIDGE, also NASSAU & WEST END, double-circle "star" C.D.S., CORNWALL, WHALE BAY, CAT CAY, (Cat-on-a-key), GAMBIER TRD, GRAYS TRD. Offer good swap.

Gale Raymond

WANTED, GIBRALTAR CAMP cancellations, any type, on or off cover. Will give good swap. Al Johnson.

BAHAMAS NEWS AND NOTES.

By Gale Raymond.

By now, most collectors have learned of the recent decision to give self-rule to the Bahamas. Effective date is January 1, 1964, and we can expect to see a new set of stamps surely. Let us hope that it is not a new rash of overprints! -- Somewhat belatedly, the current 8d. and 10d. are being overprinted "BAHAMAS TALKS 1962", to commemorate the meeting last December of President Kennedy and Prime Minister MacMillan at Nassau. The set will appear "sometime this summer". The Freedom From Hunger 8d. will be released on June 4, and the Red Cross set, (1d. and 10d.), on Sept 2. Can anyone supply the name of a Nassau dealer who can service FDG's?

The new airletter sheet appeared a bit earlier than predicted, on May 8, 1963, very attractive, with a lithograph of the current 8d. stamp. In fact, it looks better than its original 8d. stamp! The airletter sheet is good to any spot on earth, and does away with the previous 7d. rate, which to countries in the Pacific required the addition of a further 3d. stamp.

A treasure hunt is strongly on in the Bahamas. British coins (as used in England) are used normally in the Bermudas and Bahamas. In 1950 and 1951 a relatively small number of copper pennies were minted in the U. K. especially for Bermuda and the Bahamas, and all sent out to the islands. There were 240,000 of the 1950 penny and 120,000 of the 1951 coin, and prices are still climbing. Dealers started off paying \$1.75 each (by thousands), for the 1951 coin and much higher now.

The "new" 30mm c. d. s. sent out to MOORE'S ISLAND in February is puzzling in that it appears identical in every respect with the one used there since 1959. I can only suppose that it ran out of year dates and was returned via GPO Nassau to U.K. for a new date roller. In this event, can any reader report MOORE'S ISLAND covers of Dec. 1962 to Jan. 1963? Moreton Black reports SWEETING'S CAY is currently still using the TRD, and Eddie Adelson has the West End "AIR MAIL" TRD with March 1963 date.

Ed. Drechel, Western Editor of U. S. News and World Report, recently stopped off for a Houston visit, and showed me his collection of Bahamas paquebot (posted aboard ship), covers. It included a real prize, an 1894 card to Germany with the old c.d.s. "SHIP LETTER, NASSAU". At least one previously unreported mark was noted on a 1 Mar. 35 C. N. S. "LADY SOMERS" cover. The straight-line rubberstamp "SHIP MAIL" markings of Nassau are well known, but this cover in which the sans-serif letters very distinctly decrease in size toward the middle, the "SH" and "AL" quite large sloping to smaller letters in between. This has no appearance of an oddly struck cancel or a worn out "spread" one. Nassau (and more lately Freeport), ship-mail markings are a fascinating subject in themselves. Although 250 merchant vessels per month now put in at Freeport (on Grand Bahama), I have not seen its TRD "SHIP-MAIL, FREEPORT", since June 1960; can readers report later examples, with the name of the ship?

Morris Ludington has permitted me to photostat his 1942 INDUSTRIOUS HILL TRD, and it quite distinctively differs from the 1947 one. The new discovery is 52mm horizontally by 32mm wide, a double line oval, (Type 20V-8), with much larger letters, (sharp, not "spread"), and no comma after HILL. The one line date Nov 16 1942 is at a sloping angle. Thus you see that the day of new Bahamas postmark discoveries has not passed; YOU may be the next to find a new one! Be sure to share your discoveries with us, at least informatively.

* * * * *

Nothing is opened more times by mistake, than the mouth.

A CHRONOLOGICAL POSTMARK HISTORY OF THE

POST TOWNS OF JAMAICA

by

ROBERT TOPAZ.

IN TRODUCTION: This series of articles is intended to give a listing of postmarks used in each of the postal agencies and postoffices of Jamaica in the order in which they were put into use and an approximate time of usage. It will be only as complete as the knowledge that we can amass with the help of all the interested B.W.I. collectors, and everyone's help will be needed to make this as complete and correct as possible.

The myriad postmarks of the post towns have dazzled collectors for some time and trying to find one's way through the maze has bothered everyone for years and years. The constant reference to magazines, books, pamphlets and back again has been not only frustrating but annoying. For my part, I have an amazing facility to always find the correct reference on the bottom of the pile. And so - an attempt to compile the complete story in one listing. The following references were used as source material:

Jamaica, etc.	1928	Collett, Edwards, Morton and Nicholson
Jamaica Pre Stamp Covers	1760-1860	Nicholson.
Jamaica TRD's	1881-1938	Nicholson
Jamaica Obliterator Numbers		Nicholson
The Philatelic Handbooks of Jamaica 1949 and 1960.		Aguilar.
Jamaica Post Towns		Morton.
Post Office Guide.	1962	

Th this was added the information and material gathered from the collections of Clinton von Pohle, Reg H. Lant, Al Johnson, Milt Erickson and several other collectors, all of whom have been most cooperative and to whom I am deeply grateful. Let's hope that their patience and perseverance do not wear thin before this series is completed. May I again state that this series will depend on the interest and cooperation pf

all the interested collectors and their help will be necessary if we are to finish the series. It is quite frustrating to give all of the time necessary and not to get the corresponding back flow of information.

The following list of abbreviations will be used in this series and the types alluded to will come from the sources indicated.

Prestamp markings - all types as listed by Nicholson in "Prestamp Covers" pamphlet.

Obliterator types - as indicated by Nicholson in several of his publications.

S. R. - any of the types issued between 1859 and 1900 of the single ring variety.

S. C. - the squared circle postmarks issued between 1881 and 1901 as typed by paper by Reg H. Lant and myself.

D. R. - any of the various types of double ring marks issued between 1892 and 1960.

T. R. D. - any of the types of Temporary Rubber Date Stamps as typed by Aguilar.

T. S. D. - the temporary steel date stamps of the late 1950's.

oval - the oval pseudo registered marks of the early 1950's.

Bl, etc. - the Birmingham type marks as typed by vonPohle.

M. S. R. - the modern single ring marks of the 1959 - to date era.

Please note that all measurements are approximate and are taken from the outside measurements of the best postmarks that we can find. The methods of measurement being what they are, it is not difficult to find an area of disagreement on specific measurements, but they should not vary much more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

And so to the listing.

Aberdeen in St. Elizabeth Parish. First opened on November 6, 1931.

- 1. D.R. 29 mm. diameter $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm high letters EDK FE 7 33 LKD OC 25 49
- 2. Oval 13 JY 50 1 Au 55
This mark had the word "REGISTERED" defaced in its early strikes but by 1955 the defacing material is all but worn off and the word "REGISTERED" can be seen again.
- 3. TRD type 37d in violet ink 30 JU 1955 16 JY 1955
- 4. TRD as above but black ink 1 JY 1955 2 JY 1956
- 5. M.S.R. $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. letters DE 14 55 JA 26 62

ABOUKIR in St. Ann Parish First opened on 2 JULY, 1949.

- 1. TRD type 37 in violet ink 2 JY 1949 3 MR 1952
- 2. Oval in violet ink 14 MR 51 16 JU 51
This mark had the word "REGISTERED" defaced.
- 3. Oval in black ink 20 NO 58 24 DE 60
By 1960 this mark showed no sign of defacement.

ABOVE ROCKS in St. Catherine Parish First opened on 4 August, 1908

- 1. TRD type 14 in black ink has been reported - no dates available.
2 $3/4$ mm. letters.
- 2. D.R. 27 mm diameter NO 12 14 OC 17 29.
- 3. D.R. $28\frac{1}{2}$ mm diameter, 3 $3/4$ mm. letters AU 17 35 46???
- 4. M.S.R. $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm. letters 54?? NO 19 56
There is an asterisk above the date.

ADELPHI in St. James Parish First opened in 1876

- 1. Oblit. # 598, type 0 OC 15 00
- 2. S. R. $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. letters. ? DE 30 01
- 3. TRD type 14 has been reported in 1902 but color ink and definite type still not confirmed. Some reports list this as type 12.
- 4. D. R. $28\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm letters DE 8 05 NO 29 17
- 5. D. R. $27\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm. letters. OC 17 26 39 ?
In 1932 the inner line of this mark shows severe wear and by 1939 all that remains of this mark, in my opinion, is a thin, wavering single line. I believe it is all the same mark.

ADELPH I - (continued)

- 6. D. R. ? $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm. letters 38? 54?
This appears to be a similar mark in many respects but the both lines of the double circle now show up quite strongly.
- 7. M.S.R. $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm.diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. letters SE 23 54 FE 8 62
This mark has an asterisk above the date.

AENON TOWN IN Clarendon Parish First opened on 24 November, 1934

- 1. D. R. 29 mm. diameter, $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm. letters AP 28 36 MY 7 59
- 2. M.S.R. $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. letters OC 11 60 JU ? 62

AIRY CASTLE in St. Thomas Parish First opened on 6 December, 1934.

- 1. D.R. $29\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm. letters JY 20 37 FE 23 57
- 2. M.S.R. $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. letters MR 7 58 62
This mark has an asterisk above the date.

ALBANY in St. Mary's Parish First opened on May 20, 1897

- 1. TRD type 8 in black 97
- 2. D.R. $26\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, 3 mm. letters 20 DE 97 MY 7 41
This mark has dots on both sides of the word Jamaica which apparently have worn off by 1941. This seems like an excessive period of use for this mark, but I cannot find any differences between the early and late marks except for the missing dots. The spacing between the inner and outer rings seem a bit wider than the normal spacing of the double ring marks.
- 3. M.S.R. $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. letters FE 10 60 MR 30 61

ALBANY RAILWAY at the town of Albany as above opened sometime after 1900.

- 1. The first type "Jamaica Railway" mark in either blue or red ink. The red mark is more uncommon than the blue. Known - 12 AU 04 10
- 2. The second type "Jamaica Government Railway" in either blue or violet ink. The violet ink mark is much rarer than the blue. Known - 12 DE 14 23
This mark is reported to have been in use into 1924 at least.

ALBERT TOWN in Trelawney Parish First opened on JJ, February, 1902

- 1. TRD type 12 in black ink 5 MR 02 24 MR 03
- 2. D. R. 28 mm diameter, 2 mm. letters OC 6 29
- 3. D. R. 28 mm. diameter, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm letters OC 21 38 SE 16 60
- 4. B3 JY 21 54 JY 11 61.

(To be continued)