

THE OBLITERATOR POSTMARKS

OF

JAMAICA

JAMAICAN OBLITERATORS

At first glance each old Jamaican stamp appears to have a different obliterator number, and the task of sorting them seems endless. However, careful study shows that only eighty-eight obliterators were used during a period of over thirty years.

The type of some of the obliterators was changed, and Kingston had six varying types of "A01", similarly eleven post towns had their numbers renewed once, and one ("A79") had the number renewed twice, thereby giving a grand total of 107 different obliterators, including all type varieties

There were no special obliterators kept at the G.P.O., London, to be sent out to Jamaica, but whenever the Postmaster of Jamaica indented for new obliterators (not being empowered to have them manufactured locally) he received the next numbers of the type then in use in England; hence, the curious variety of types and odd numbers of the later obliterators.

They were cut entirely in one piece, in brass, except the "duplex", which was cut in steel, so that so-called missing letters or numbers have merely failed to receive any ink.

The first numbers for the post towns "A27" to "A79", all in the normal type (Type H), were sent out from London on 1 FEB 1859. These obliterators "A27" to "A78" came into use on 1 MAR 1859, and "A79" (normal Type H) not until 1 NOV 1863, so that "A79" was never used on British stamps.

From MAY 1858 to 1 FEB 1859, such letters as were posted at the post towns bearing British stamps had the stamps obliterated "A01" on arrival at Kingston.

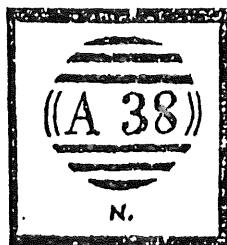
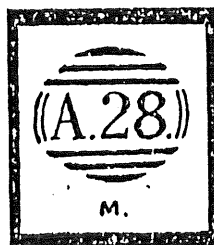
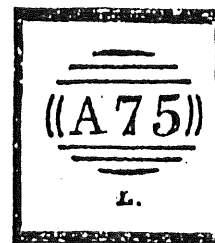
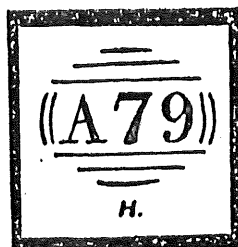
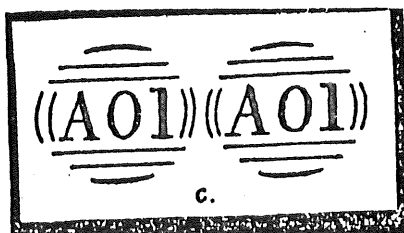
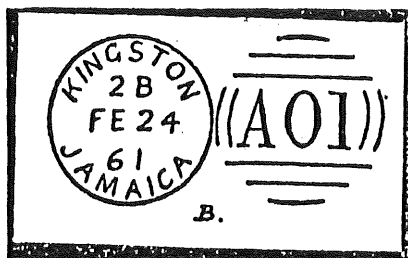
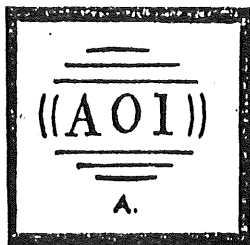
On the closure of three post offices, some numbers had to be reallocated about 1 NOV 1862. Accordingly, all the post towns using the numbers from "A38" to "A59" inclusive, were moved down the list one place or more, an effort being made to keep the list in alphabetical sequence as three new post offices had to be included. The numbers "A38" to "A59" inclusive were therefor used at a different office after NOV 1862 from what they had been before that date.

On 1 APR 1877, Jamaica joined the "Universal Postal Union", which looked with disfavor on obliterators, and no new ones were issued to Jamaica after 1878.

The five lettered obliterators "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" appear to have been sent out about 1873, for use in emergency, or at a new office until it received its proper number from England.

JAMAICAN OBLITERATORS

The Fifteen Types Used In Jamaica



The Jamaican Obliterator Listing

After many months, the first part of the Jamaican Obliterator Listing is shown in this issue. We hope that the other three parts will follow in the next three issues. This obliterator listing is designed to show the relative scarcity of any known obliterator on any stamp on which it is known used. It is not designed to be used as a pricing guide, until quite a bit more work is done on it.

Please note that the stamps of Great Britain used in Jamaica are not rated. Our feeling is that many of these stamps rest in the collections of Great Britain and therefore we could not arrive at any reasonable estimate of their frequency of occurrence. In addition, these stamps are priced in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, and therefore our ratings would not be particularly helpful to the collecting fraternity. Instead, we have indicated how many times each of these items is shown in the collections listed for us. We hope that this information is helpful.

The stamps of Jamaica are rated where they are known to exist - and have been verified personally by one of the compilers. There are other stamps-or I should say obliterations on stamps - that are supposed to be in collections, that we have not been able to verify, or that were so unclear or indistinct, that we have not felt they should be listed. If anyone has a stamp not listed, I would like very much to see it, so that we may print a correction in the Journal.

The rating used are as follows in descending order of rarity:

- VR - Very Rare
- R - Rare
- VS - Very Scarce
- S - Scarce
- N - Not Common
- VC - Very Common

Blank spaces indicate that this obliterator has not been noted and verified,

A special note of caution should be inserted regarding forgeries and frauds. Many of these have been noted, particularly on stamps of Great Britain and on the fiscal stamps of Jamaica. Any fiscal stamp with an obliterator cancellation, should be viewed with caution. Particular care should be taken with fiscals that have been cleaned and then cancelled. There is a "556" cancellation that is frequently seen on fiscal stamps of several of the BWI that are reputed to be forgeries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the twenty collectors who sent in their listings to me, and I do hope that this listing will be of use to them. Particular thanks should be extended to Messrs. Erickson, Mitchell and Surtees, for the extra details that they so willingly supplied, and for their wonderful cooperation. I do hope it was all worth while.

RT 1 January 1967

British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

July 11 1967

With the last of the Obliterator listings, it seems as if it would be expedient to include some notes of explanation etc. I would appreciate any readers advising me of any omissions, errors, or other desirable explanations.

Colored inks are always a problem with the obliterators. All ink was supposed to be black ink sent out from London. Very often, this ink was mixed poorly, or was "stretched" by poor mixture, and these strikes are sometimes taken as "blue ink" strikes. The only obliterator that was consistently struck in blue ink over any period of time was the A64, and I have no explanation for this. The A40 and E58 strikes seem to be struck in blue for a very short time. A41, A75L, and a few others seem to have bluish strikes, but to my eye, they are not really blue. The A41 strike in violet ink was a legitimate use with the TRD mark of the period. This can be seen consistently.

Only the "H" type strike was used in Jamaica on stamps of Great Britain, and only the marks A01 plus A27-A78 in this type were used in Jamaica. The A81-A83 marks of the "H" type that can be found are ship strikes. The numeral obliterations such as 647 that are found on GB stamps are usually of English usage.

I have only listed those stamps that I am reasonably sure are known. There are others that have been listed that I have not been in a position to verify. As I have this opportunity, I will so note in later issues. In some cases, I have taken the listing of others, but for the main part, I believe the listing that has preceded these notes to be quite reliable. I am sure that other stamps, not here listed, exist and will be found as time goes on.

Fiscal stamps are a real problem, and this is an area where there have been more "faked" marks than in any other field. I view most fiscals with a jaundiced eye, and I would advise my friends to beware of any fiscals other than the most common ones. The only town that seemed to use many fiscals was the 193 obliterator.

Please address all communications regarding these obliterator lists to:

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34 Maryellen Road
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U.S.A.

	G.B.					Pines					C.C.'s							C.A.'s							2 1/2 d O'P	
	1d	4d	6d	1/		1d	2d	3d	4d	6d	1/	1/2d	1d	2d	3d	4d	6d	1/5/	1/2d	1B	1R	2R	2G	3d		4d
A01 A	10	11	10	6	C	C	C	C	C	C																
A01 B	2	10	8	1	VC	C	VC	C	VC	VC																
A01 C	1	4	2		VR					VR																
A01 D					VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	R	R		N	VS	VS	VS	R								
A01 E					VC	C	VR	VC		VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	S	VS		VS				VR	
A01 F											VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	VC	S	C	VC					C	
A01 G											C	VC	VC	C	VC	C	N	S	C	VC	VC				N	
A27 H	1		1		S	R	R	VR	R	R	S	C	C	R	R	R	VR	N	VS	S	R	C		R	R	
A28 H		4	1		C	S	S	N	N	C	N	N	C	N	VS	N	S									
A28 M											VC	C	VC	N	C	N	VR		R	VR	S	VS		VS		
A29 H		2			N	N	S	S	R	VS	N	VC	C	S	S	N	R	VS	S	N	R	C	VR	S		
A30 H	2	6	3		C	N	C	N	C	N	N	VC	VC	S	S	C	S									
A31 H		2			S	S	VS	S	S	R	S	C	VC	R	S	N	VS									
A32 H	2		2		N	R	S	VR	VS	S	C	C	VC	S	N	N	VS	C	S	C	N	VC	VR	N	VR	R
A33 H		4	2		C	VS	N	VS	R	S	N	VC	VC	N	C	N	VS	VS	N	VC	N	VC		S		
A34 H		1			N	VS	VS	VR	S	S	C	VC	C	VS	S	S	VS	VS	VS	C	N	VC	VS	S		
A35 H	1	1	1		N	VS	VS	S	VS	S	C	C	VC	S	S	VS	R	N	N	VC	N	S	R	N	VR	
A36 H			2																							
A36 Ms					R	R		VR	R																	
A36 L					S	R	R	VS	R	VS	S	C	H	R	VS	R	R	S	VR	VS	VS	S		VS		VR
A37 H		1	4		N	S	S	VS	N	C	VR	N	N	S	R	S	VS									
A38 H		1	1		VC	N	VC	C	C	VC	C	C	VC	VC	C	C	C	VR								
A38 N											S	C	VC	VS	N	R	R		R		R				R	
A39 H	4	6	3		R	VS	VR	VS	VS	R	R	R	VS		R	VS	VR	R	VR	R	VS	VS		R	VR	
A40 H			1		S	R	VS		VS	R	VS	C	C	VR	S	S	R	N	S	S	R	N	R	R		
A40 H Blue ink					VR	VR		VR																		
A41 H	1	1	2	1	S	R	R	VR	VR	R	R	S	N	VS	N	VS	VR	R	VR	S	VR	S		R		
A41 H Violet Ink																		VR				VR				

	G.B.				Pines						C.C.'s						C.A.'s						2 1/2 d				
	1d	4d	6d	1/	1d	2d	3d	4d	6d	1/	1/2d	1d	2d	3d	4d	6d	1/	1/2d	1B	1R	2R	2G	3d	4d	6d	O'P	
A42		1	1		C	S	N	VS	N	C	N	C	C	VS	N	S	VS		S	S	C	VS	N		S		R
A43					S	VR	VS	VS	VS	S	C	N	C	VS	VS	S	R		S	R	C	N	C	VS	N		VR
A44	5	3	6		VS	VS	S	VR	VS	VS	VS	C	C	R	VS	VS	VR		VS	R	S	R	VS		R		
A45	2	2	4		R	R	R	VR	VS	VS	S	N	N		R	R	VR		VS	VS	C	S	C		R	R	
A46		1	2		VS		VR		VS	VR	C	C	C	VS	R	VS	VR		VC	R	N	VS	N	VR	R	VR	
A47	1	5	1		VS	VR	R	R	VR		S	S	C	S	S	C		S	VS	C	S	C	VS	C		R	
A48		2			N	R	S	VS	VS	S	VS	VS	N	R	VS	VS	R										
A49	1	2	5		C	S	C	N	S	C	N	C	VC	VS	C	N	S		VS	VS	C	N	VC	VR	C		
A50					N	S	N	VS	S	N	VS	N	C	S	N	S	R		VS	VS	N	N	C	R	N	R	
A51		6	2		C	S	S	S	N	VS	C	C	C	S	VS	N	VS		N	VS	VC	VS	C	R	VS		
A52					C	N	S	N	N	C	N	C	VC	C	C	C	N		N	VR	VC	R		C			
A53 Orig.	1	6	3		S	S	S	S	S	VS		VR	VR			VR	VR		VS		VR						
A53 Reissue					VR		VR				VS	C	C	R	R	VS	R		N	R	S	R	S		R	VS	
A54 H		5	5		VS	R	VR	R	S	VR	R		VR	VR	VR	R											
A54 J					S	R	R		R	VC	VC	C	C	S	N	S	R		VR		VR		R		VR		
A55		1	1		C	R	VS	VS	N	R	S	N	VC	VS	R	S	R		VS	R	C	S	VC		S	VR	
A56 H	1	2			VC	N	C	N	C	VC	S	N	C	N	N	N	N										
A56 K											N	VC	VC	S	C	N	VS	VR	R	N	N	VC	N		C		
A57	2	6	6		N	C	N	C	C	S	C	C	VC	VS	C	N	S		N	S	C	C	C		N	VR	
A58 H			1																								
A58 J						VR	VR		VR	VR	R	R	S		VS	R			N		VS	VS	N	R	N		
A59		8	3		N	N	VS	VS	S	S	S	N	VC	VS	S	S	VS		N	R	C	N	C	R	S	R	
A60 H		2	2		VS	R	VS	R	VS	N	R	VR	S	VR		R	R										
A60 M											C	N	C	VR	VS	VS			VS	VS	S	N	N		R		
A61		4	1		VC	N	S	N	S	N	S	S	N	R		VS	VR										
A62	3	6	2		N	S	C	S	C	N	VS	VC	VC	S	C	C	C		S	VS	N	N	C		S	R	
A63					VS	VR	VS	VR	VR	VR	VR	C	N		R				S	R	S	VR	S		R		
A64			2		N	VS	S	VS	S	VS	C	N	VC	N	C	C			C	S	VC	N	VC	S	C	R	

	Key Plates			Falls		Officials				Fiscals					Others				Total this page	Total first page		
	1d	2d	2½	1d	1d	17	15	London		CA	CC											
	1d	2d	2½	R	RB	½d	½d	½d	1d	2d	1d	1½	3d	3d	17	F2 33 34						
A42	N	VR	VR						VS	R	R											
A43	N	S	VR			R		VR	VS	VS	R											
A44	C	VR	VR			R		VR			R											All or most of the C 1's are inverted overprints
A45	C	R	R			VR		VR	VR													
A46	VC	S	VS			R			VR		VR											VR VR
A47	VC	N	R			VR			VR	VR												
A48																						
A49	S	C				VR			VR		VS											VR
A50	C	N	VR								VR											
A51	R	S									VR		VR									
A52																						
Orig. A53	S	R	R							VR												
Reissue A53	S	VS	VS			VR																
A54 H																						
A54 J																						
A55	C	N	R			VS			VR	VR	R											VR
A56 H																						
A56 K																						
A57	N	C				VR			R	VS	VS											VR
A58 H																						
A58 J	C	R	VS	C	VSVR			VR														
A59	C	C	VR								R											
A60 H																						
A60 M																						
A61																						
A62	VC	C	S			R		VR	R	VR	R											VR
A63	VC	R		VS		VR			VS	R	R	VR										
A64	C	VS	S			R			VR		C		VR		VR							

	G.B.			Pines						C.C.'s							C.A.'s							2 1/2 d		
	1d	4d	6d	1/	1d	2d	3d	4d	6d	1/	1/2d	1d	2d	3d	4d	6d	1/	1/2d	1B	1R	2R	2G	3d	4d	6d	O'P
A64 Blue Ink											S	S	S	R	VS	R										
A65 H		5	1		C	VS	S	NC	S	S	VS	C	C	S	R	NC	R		S	VS	NC	R	C	VR	NC	
A66 H	1	3			NC	S	VS	R	VS	S	NC	C	VC	S	C	C	VS		NC	R	C	C	VC		C	VS
A67 H		1			NC	VS	VS	VS	NC	S	C	NC	NC	VS	NC	C	VS		S	R	C	R	NC	VS	C	S
A68 H		4			NC	VS	S	VS	S	VR	C	C	VC	R	NC	NC	R		S	R	VC	NC	C	VR	NC	VS
A69 H		1	1		S	VS	NC	R	R	NC	R	S	C	R	R	R	R		S	VR	S	VS	S		S	VR
A70 H	2	1	5		VS	R	R	R	VS	R	R	S	NC	R	VS	R	VR		NC	R	S	S	S		VS	VR
A71 H		4	3		NC	NC	N	C	NC	S	C	C	VC	S	VS	NC	S		S	R	VC	NC	C	VR	C	VR
A72 H					S	R	R	R	R	VS	S	NC	C	R	R	VR	VR		VS	VS	C	VS	NC		R	
A73 H		5	3		NC	C	C	S	NC	S	C	VC	VC	C	C	C	NC		VC	NC	C	C	VC	S	C	
A74 H		3	1		VS	VR		R	R	VR	NC	C	VC	R	VS	VS			NC	R	NC	S	C		S	
A75 H	5	7	3					VR																		
A75 L					C	S	VC	NC	VC	VC	C	C	VC	NC	C	C	C		S	S	C	C	C	R	R	
A76 H	3	5	5		VC	NC	C	C	C	C	VS	R	VS	S	R	VS	R									
A76 O											NC	C	VC	VS	NC	S	VS		NC	NC	VC	NC	C		C	VS
A77 H	1	2	1		NC	VR	VS	VS	VS	VS	VS	S	VC	VS	NC	S	VS		S	R	C	C	C		NC	
A78 H	1	3	3	1	NC	S	C	S	C	C	C	C	VC	NC	NC	C	S		NC	C	C	NC	VC	VR	NC	R
A79 H					VR	VR		VR																		
A79 H(Missing "7")											VR	VR	VR	VR	VR											
A79 J					R			R	VR	R	R	S	VS	VR	VS				R	VR	VR	VR	VR		VR	R
A79 K											S	S	C	VS	S	S	R		VS	R	S	S	C	R	NC	R
A80 K Large Numerals								VR	R		VR	VR					R									
A80 K Small Numerals											VS	R	VS	R	R	R	VS			R		VS				
A81 K											VS	VR	VS	VR	R	VR	R		C	VR	R		R		VS	
A82 M											VS	C	C	R	VS	VS			NC	R	NC	VS	C	VR	S	VR
A83 M												S	S		R	R			R	R	VS	VS	R		S	
E06 K					VR	VR	VR		VR	R	VS	S	C	VR	R	VS	R		R	R	NC	R	VS		VR	VR
E30 K					S		VR		VR	VS	NC	C	C	NC		R	NC		VS	S	NC	VS	NC		S	

British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

26th December 1967

For many years, collectors of Jamaican Obliterators have been looking for some sort of indication as to the value of the various obliterators on the stamps of Jamaica. Of course, Stanley Gibbons has priced these obliterators on the stamps of Great Britain in their catalogue, but no one has attempted to price the Jamaican stamps.

After seven years of trying various formulas and comparing notes with the late Russell Gibson and with Milt Erickson, we offer the following table of values, as a guide to the value of Jamaican stamps cancelled by the obliterator markings. Covers bearing these stamps and markings have much greater rarity and value. In preparing the basic data for this table, I want to thank all of the collectors who were kind enough to make out listings of their holdings, and especially the late Russ Gibson and Milt Erickson.

In determining these values, the rarity of the particular stamp with each marking was taken into consideration, along with the rarity of the particular obliterator overall. The following factors were also taken into consideration:

1. They are offered by a reliable informed dealer in Postal History to an informed collector.
2. The stamp itself is very presentable and all the characters of the obliterator mark are clearly struck and plainly visible to the naked eye.
3. The value of the stamp itself must be added to this table of values, since in some cases the value of the stamp is greater than that of the obliterator.

Please note that the scale of values does not reach as high as some of the prices reached at auction for unusual items. For instance, the last auction price realized on a "D" obliterator was \$288.00, while the high point on the scale is considerably lower. Thus it must be realized that superb or exceptional items may realize higher prices than the listing shows. The prices herein are for very fine marks on very fine stamps, and partial, indistinct, smudged, etc. marks will realize far lower prices.

To determine the value of an obliterator on any Jamaican stamp, the first step is to look up its scarcity rating as previously published as supplements to this Journal. Then check the chart provided herewith and find the scarcity rating of the obliterator number itself. Where these ratings intersect on the Chart of Values, you will find the value of the stamp in question.

ROBERT TOPAZ

RELATIVE SCARCITY OF OBLITERATOR NUMBERS

A01 A - 1	A42 H - 2	A64 H - 5	E06 K - 4
A01 B - 1	A43 H - 3	Blue Ink	E30 K - 4
A01 C - 19	A44 H - 4	A65 H - 2	E58 K - 4
A01 D - 1	A45 H - 3	A66 H - 2	F80 O - 6
A01 E - 1	A46 H - 3	A67 H - 2	F81 O - 5
A01 F - 1	A47 H - 3	A68 H - 2	F95 O - 3
A01 G - 1	A48 H - 7	A69 H - 2	F96 O - 6
A27 H - 3	A49 H - 1	A70 H - 4	F97 O - 9
A28 H - 2	A50 H - 2	A71 H - 3	F98 O - 4
A28 M - 2	A51 H - 2	A72 H - 2	G13 O - 5
A29 H - 3	A52 H - 1	A73 H - 1	G14 O - 5
A30 H - 2	A53 H - 4	A74 H - 4	G15 O - 6
A31 H - 3	Original	A75 H - 19	G16 O - 5
A32 H - 2	A53 H - 2	A75 L - 1	193 O - 3
A33 H - 2	Reissue	A76 H - 1	196 O - 9
A34 H - 2	A54 H - 11	A76 O - 1	199 O - 8
A35 H - 2	A54 J - 6	A77 H - 2	201 O - 5
A36 H - 20	A55 H - 2	A78 H - 2	598 O - 10
A36 Ms - 12	A56 H - 1	A79 H - 18	615 O - 11
A36 L - 2	A56 K - 1	A79 H - 15	617 O - 4
A37 H - 3	A57 H - 2	Missing "7"	622 O - 6
A38 H - 1	A58 H - 20	A79 J - 5	631 O - 12
A38 N - 7	A58 J - 3	A79 K - 3	640 O - 4
A39 H - 7	A59 H - 2	A80 K - 15	642 O - 9
A40 H - 3	A60 H - 9	Large	647 O - 5
A40 H - 14	A60 M - 6	A80 K - 11	"A" P - 15
Col. Ink	A61 H - 2	Small	"B" P - 4
A41 H - 6	A62 H - 2	A81 K - 8	"C" P - 10
A41 H - 14	A63 H - 5	A82 M - 4	"D" P - 19
Col. Ink	A64 H - 2	A83 M - 8	"E" P - 10

CHART OF VALUES

	VR	R	VS	S	NC	C	VC
20	120.00	60.00	40.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
19	114.00	57.00	38.00	19.00	14.25	9.50	4.75
18	108.00	54.00	36.00	18.00	13.50	9.00	4.50
17	102.00	51.00	34.00	17.00	12.75	8.50	4.25
16	96.00	48.00	32.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00
15	90.00	45.00	30.00	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
14	84.00	42.00	28.00	14.00	10.50	7.00	3.50
13	78.00	39.00	26.00	13.00	9.75	6.50	3.25
12	72.00	36.00	24.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00
11	66.00	33.00	22.00	11.00	8.25	5.50	2.75
10	60.00	30.00	20.00	10.00	7.50	5.00	2.50
9	54.00	27.00	18.00	9.00	6.75	4.50	2.25
8	48.00	24.00	16.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00
7	42.00	21.00	14.00	7.00	5.25	3.50	1.75
6	36.00	18.00	12.00	6.00	4.50	3.00	1.50
5	30.00	15.00	10.00	5.00	3.75	2.50	1.25
4	24.00	12.00	8.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.00
3	18.00	9.00	6.00	3.00	2.25	1.50	.75
2	12.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	.50
1	6.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	.75	.50	.25