

The Act of Transference.

When the time arrived for providing Colonial stamps for any of the British Colonies in the West Indies, the respective Governor wrote in detail the requisition, and forwarded it to the Secretary of State. Unfortunately, for students, Jamaica is one of the very few exceptions.

Governor Darling, after his great struggle for the transference, appears to have handed the matter over to his Postmaster, for in none of his despatches does he mention postage stamps beyond one passing reference. In writing to the Duke of Newcastle on 28th March 1860, Governor Darling stated that if his Council could be induced to pass the Bill there would be no difficulty in taking over the Post Office Department, "although some inconvenience" Darling added "would undoubtedly have been experienced from the fact of our not being provided with a supply of Colonial Postage stamps to replace the Imperial stamps at present in use, upon which point instructions only reached me on the 19th inst., of your Grace's circular dispatch of 21st February."

Accordingly, the Act of Transference (13 April) provide for the introduction of Colonial Postage stamps, and on the next day, the Jamaican Post Office, under the direction of the Governor, forwarded a detailed statement of what British stamps had been used during the past two years, and an estimate of what Jamaican stamps would be required in the future, to the GPO in London, so that a start could be made in preparing them.

The first issue of postage stamps for Jamaica was again handled by Thomson Hankey. The Jamaican Executive Committee had written to them giving instructions as follows: "Her Majesty's Head as previously engraved with the words "Jamaica Postage" at the top of the head, and at the foot the words "One Shilling" or "Sixpence" etc. as the case may be, expressive of the value of each denomination".

The designs were based on the previous Revenue issue.

On May 3rd 1860, the Board of the Inland Revenue gave approval for De La Rue & Co to prepare plates for printing the 1d, 2d, & 4d postage stamps, followed by the 6d & 1/- on May 25th. The stamps were to be printed under the supervision of the Board's officers, stationed at the factory.

A 3d value was added in 1863, and further extension with ½ 2/- 5/- denominations during the 1870s

The first issue was in November 1860 on paper watermarked pineapple, the design continued to be used for sixty years and underwent three changes of watermark - Crown CC, Crown CA and Multiple Crown CA.