

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head  
Official Notices

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## Introduction of Pines

With regard to the issue of these stamps, no notice appeared in the Jamaica Gazette, nor was there any Post Office notification to the Public, but Postmaster General Pierce, many years afterwards, affirmed that these stamps were first issued to the public on 23rd November 1860, and this date has the strong support of the following letter:

No.22.  
JAMAICA  
GENERAL POST OFFICE  
24th November 1860.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Postmaster General, samples of the Postage stamps now in use in this Colony, of the following denominations-viz.:

Shilling	Fourpenny.
Sixpenny	Twopenny.
One Penny.	

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

ALEX. J. BRYMER,  
Postmaster for Jamaica.

Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B.'  
London.  
G.P.O.

The Falmouth Post alone of the Island newspapers made any allusion to the introduction of these stamps, by reporting in its issue of 27 November 1860:

"We are informed that the Postmaster of Jamaica has received a large number of postage stamps, and that they will be distributed amongst his deputies ...".

Outside of Kingston and the larger towns, the shilling was not a popular stamp. The planters, remembering their distance from a Post Office, and that a shilling stamp was ordinarily only of service for packet letters, preferred to lay in a stock of sixpenny and lower values, and accordingly collectors are provided with a considerable number of covers franked by two sixpenny stamps, prepaying packet postage, or more rarely three four-pennies, or other requisite values. Whereas the shilling stamp had a great vogue in Kingston, the sixpenny stamp was the maid of all work throughout the island, and this probably accounts for the diversity of shade.

## Authorisation of Bisection of 1d

No ½d stamp was issued, and as the newspaper rate had been fixed at ½d per paper in 1843, great inconvenience was caused to the public by this omission. Accordingly, on 20th November, 1861, the following notice was published in the Gazette:

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
20th November, 1861.

For the greater convenience of persons availing themselves of the facilities afforded by the book post, and also for the pre-payment of newspapers forwarded within the Colony, His Excellency the Governor, in Executive Committee, has been pleased to authorise the recognition of one-half of the present Penny Postage Label in prepayment of the Half Penny Rate of Postage. The label must be divided diagonally so as to render the Half Penny triangular, the only shape in which it will be recognised in pre-payment of postage.

(signed) ALEX. BRYMER  
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The stamp was nevertheless occasionally bisected vertically.

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By 1862, the public had got accustomed to bisecting this penny stamp and did not see any reason why they should not bisect any other stamp when they required half its value. This caused the following notice to appear in the Gazette:

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
28th August 1862.

Postage Labels

The attention of the public is requested to the fact that the Penny Stamp is the only one which the Government have permitted to be made use of in a divided state (thus forming the halfpenny label).

All letters, etc., upon which portions only, of Postage Stamps of any other denomination are affixed, will be treated as unpaid.

(signed) ALEXANDER J.. BRYMER  
Postmaster for Jamaica.

The 4d is known bisected in 1872! The 2d is also known quartered.

On 20th March 1872, a Mr George Levy sent to the Postmaster of Jamaica a letter which he had received through the May Pen Post Office bearing half a fourpenny stamp in prepayment of postage.

Notwithstanding this, Mr Levy had to pay an additional 4d because "as I was informed" wrote Mr Levy to Mr Sullivan "no one has the right of cutting in halves any other than a penny stamp for postage purposes.

Considerable correspondence ensued (ref The Colonial Standard of 3rd May 1872) culminating in endorsement by the Governor of the Postmasters actions, but as a result the production of ½d stamps was initiated.

The practice was withdrawn on 30th November 1872 (see issue of ½d adhesive below).

Over the period of 11 years, the 1d stamp was frequently used for this purpose, but as the majority of newspapers were destroyed and letters bearing bisected stamps were usually official ones, or else odd rates of postage, the bisected 1d on cover is now a scarce item.

Most of the covers were addressed to the Chief Clerk of the Provost Marshal's Office at Spanish Town (Mr. W.A. Feurtado) and these were all handed over to the Supreme Court Office when the Provost Marshal General's Office was abolished in 1872, on Kingston becoming the Capital of Jamaica instead of Spanish Town.

They were all destroyed about thirty years later by burning in the railway furnaces at Kingston. Some few, however, appear to have escaped destruction, as this is the address usually found on a cover with a bisected penny stamp on it.

C.E.M.&N. (p52) cites this letter:

...Whilst I was Chief Clerk in the Provost Marshal General's Office in Spanish Town from 1865-69, I used to receive letters from the Deputy Marshalls all over the island. Book post packets were ½d postage from 1861 and as there were no postage stamps in use at the time for less than a penny, the Postmaster gave permission to have the 1d stamps cut in two diagonally...

The envelopes and covers bearing my name with stamps on them were delivered over to the Supreme Court Office when the Provost Marshal General's Office was abolished in 1872, and these papers I understand have lately been disturbed by stamp collectors.

Yours truly, (sgd) W.A.FEURTADO

Cottage Grove, Franklin Town, 21 April 1902.

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## ½d CC

GENERAL POST OFFICE  
29th October 1872.  
HALF PENNY POSTAGE LABELS

Postage labels of the value of one half penny each having been provided, the special rule, under which one half of a penny stamp has been permitted to be used in payment of the half penny rate of postage is no longer necessary.

The public are, therefore, hereby notified: That on and after the 1st day of December next, the half part of a penny postage label will cease to be recognised in the payment of postage, and any paper, etc., posted with the part only of the penny stamp affixed thereon, will be treated as unpaid. The half penny postage label has been issued for use as of this date, the 29th October 1872, and can be obtained at the several Post Offices on application.

(Signed) FRED SULLIVAN,  
Postmaster for Jamaica.

## 3d Pine

A threepenny stamp was not issued until 10 September 1863.

GENERAL POST OFFICE  
September 10, 1863.  
THREE PENNY POSTAGE LABELS

For the convenience of the public, Postage stamps of the denomination of three pence have been imported and can be obtained at this office.

These stamps are well adapted for Ship Letters.

(Signed) ALEX. J. BRYMER,  
Postmaster for Jamaica.

## 2s & 5s CC

The following notice announced the issue of the 2/- & 5/-.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.  
Issue of New Denominations of Postage Stamps.  
GENERAL POST OFFICE  
27 August 1875.

His Excellency the Governor, for the greater convenience of the Public, having been pleased to authorise the introduction of new denominations of Postage stamps of the value 5s and 2s respectively, the Public are hereby informed that such stamps have this day been issued, and can be obtained at this office.

(Signed) GEO. H. PIERCE,  
pro Postmaster for Jamaica.

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<sup>i</sup> Ref: C.E.M.&N..