

Jamaica Post Office Notices 1858

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General Post Office, Kingston,

Feb. 10, 1858

"In consequence of instructions received from his Grace the Postmaster General, it is hereby publicly announced that from and after the 1st April next, all letters posted in this island, addressed to the United Kingdom, will require the previous prepayment of postage, otherwise they cannot be forwarded. All letters posted in the United Kingdom will also be prepaid.

"Any letter Posted unpaid after the 1st. April next, addressed to the United Kingdom, will be at once opened and returned to the writer.

"The rates of postage on letters will continue same as heretofore.

MAURICE O'CONNOR MORRIS,
"Deputy Postmaster General."

17 Apr 1858; Issue of GB Adhesives [Jamaica 1928]

The following circular was drawn up for the guidance of the Postmasters in the West Indies, and dispatched with the stamps by the mail packet that left England on 17 April 1858.

CIRCULAR¹. Instructions for the guidance of Postmasters in the West Indies.
GENERAL POST OFFICE

16th April 1858

1 and 2 ... [Of no present value]

3 The following descriptions of British Postage stamps must henceforth be kept at your office for sale to the public, viz. :-
Sixpenny, Four penny, and Penny stamps.

4 The Postmaster General has decided that a supply of the above stamps to the amount of £2,000 may be forwarded to you by the present mail. This stock of stamps is calculated to be sufficient for two months' consumption, and it is intended to send you a supply of equal value by the mail on the 17th May.

5. The stamps will be accompanied by a Circular ... of applying for more at a future period.

6. Your first application for renewal of stock should be made one month after the receipt of the first supply and subsequent applications should be made, as a rule, every two months.

7. When a letter addressed to the United Kingdom is posted in Jamaica and British Postage Stamps of sufficient value to cover the Postage are affixed to it, such letters must be treated precisely as a letter upon which the Postage is paid in money.

8 and 9 ... [Of no present interest].

10. All Postage Stamps affixed to letters posted at your office must be carefully cancelled by means of the obliterating stamp sent to you herewith. Some black composition will also be forwarded to you for this purpose, the use of which must be limited to the obliteration of Postage Stamps, and your stock of this composition must never be allowed to become low. The Surveyor will furnish a fresh supply when necessary.

11. It is important the distinguishing number and letter introduced into the obliterating stamp to be used at your office should be legibly impressed².

12. (Was to the effect that previously defaced stamps were not to be used or accepted as prepaying postage: and (13) that forged stamps were not to be notified to the Surveyor but the letters franked by any forged stamp were not to be delayed through the course of post.)

(signed) ROWLAND HILL,
Secretary

¹ The same circular was sent to all the West Indies to which British stamps were supplied. The blanks have been filled in as they were originally inserted for the circular addressed to Jamaica.

² This was by A01, as none of the other obliterations were as yet supplied.

8 May 1858; Issue of GB Adhesives [Gazette? / Bacon 1891]

Bacon states: The file of The Jamaica Gazette I have had access to, commences with "Volume I. new series," which is dated June 3rd, 1869. I am consequently unable to furnish any particulars concerning the issue, &c., of the earlier postage stamps from that source. Thanks, however, to Mr. George H. Pearce, the chief clerk in the General Post Office at Kingston, Jamaica, I am enabled to give the following information.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

General Post Office, 8th May, 1858.

The Postmaster General having been pleased to sanction the introduction of Postage Stamps for the prepayment of Packet Postage, notice is hereby given that from this date the Public will be supplied with stamps of the respective value of 1d., 4d., and 6d., on application at the General Post Office, Kingston, between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

For the present the use of stamps is restricted to packet correspondence.

Arrangements will be made for supplying the several Postmasters throughout the Island with Postage Stamps as soon as possible.

(Signed) MAURICE O'CONNOR MORRIS,
Deputy Postmaster General.