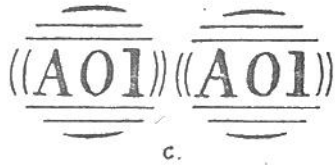
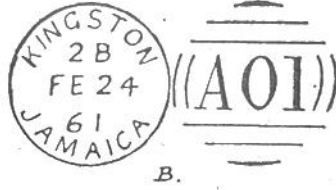


JAMAICAN OBLITERATION NUMBERS  
BY L. C. C. NICHOLSON, 1949



TYPES OF OBLITERATORS.

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The most interesting of all Jamaican postmarks are the Obliterators.

An 'Obliterator' is a mark used only to deface postage stamps, and may consist of a plain design or else numbers and letters, singly or combined, which indicate to the postal authorities the office of origin.

'Town Names' and 'Date-Stamps' may be found anywhere upon a postal packet, but obliterations are always on the postage stamps themselves-hence the word.

Collectors of Jamaican stamps are strongly advised to form a collection of at least one specimen of each of the numerical obliterations as a reference collection against being deceived by faked postmarks.

The common 2d rose, watermark Crown CC, will provide many obliterations at a very small outlay, whereas the 3d and 6d stamp, watermark Crown CA, are scarce with any obliteration mark. An interesting collection can be formed of the obliterations on the one penny, Key-Plate issue (1889), when these obliterations were giving place to the 'squared-circle' date-stamps.

Every type of postmark used in Jamaica was made in England, and sent out by the G.P.O., London. The only exception to this rigid rule was in the case of the temporary rubber date-stamp, issued to a new office until such time as it received its permanent steel date-stamp from England.

Mr. Sullivan, the Postmaster of Jamaica, wrote to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on 28 June, 1879, from the Post Office, Kingston:

'As to Office Date Stamps, the London Post Office must always supply the information as to the lettering of the obliterating stamps so as to guard against the duplication of stamps and the consequent defeat of the object in view, viz. the distinguishing by the lettering (A01), or as the case may be, on the obliterator of the name of the office of posting, the impression of the date stamp for which may have been omitted, or be indistinct. If any action in the matter is decided to have been irregular I can only express my regret and repeat that the practice (viz. applying, direct to Post Office and not through the Crown Agents for these obliterating stamps) has obtained for nearly 20 years and was commenced and has been continued for the good of the service.

(Signed) F. SULLIVAN.'

From 1 October, 1842, Messrs. Morden & Co., of Finsbury Pavement, London, had a three years contract with the G.P.O. to supply numerous types of steel stamps.

From 1853 to 1855 Mr. John H. Francis, of 51 Myddelton Street, Clerkenwell, was the contractor, and for some time prior to 1871 Mr. David Garden Berri, of 36 High Holborn, was the 'engraver of the various date-stamps and obliterations, etc. In 1871 he was succeeded by Mr. George de Lacy, of Sekforde Street,<sup>1</sup> Clerkenwell, the founder of the present firm in Turnmill Street, E.C., who are still contractors to the G.P.O., London, for the same class of work.

In 1915, during the paper shortage caused by the Great War, this latter firm sold all their old books, containing complete records of all date-stamps, obliterations, etc., supplied since 1871, as waste paper for the sum of five pounds! Sic: transit gloria mundi.

The special stamping ink used from 1857 onwards was (and still is) supplied by Messrs. Shackell & Edwards (now Shackell, Edwards & Co. Ltd.), of Red Lion Passage, London, E.C. Jamaican postmarks are sometimes found in blue ink, due probably to a temporary shortage of the special black ink.

The Catalogue of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., contains a list of the numbers 'A01' and 'A27' to 'A78' as used on British stamps only, but no one has attempted to deal with the complete history of these fascinating postmarks.

The Author has therefore endeavoured to make his study of these obliterations as complete as possible, although he readily acknowledges that much still remains to be discovered.

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

The type of some of the obliterations was changed, and Kingston had seven 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 obliterations, including all type varieties.

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<sup>1</sup> The reader is advised not to try and locate Mr. de Lacy's old house in Sekforde Street, as when the Author attempted to do so he discovered that a large portion of this street is now used as free accommodation to house London's imbeciles and mentally deficient!

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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 for the early ones, except the duplex 'A01', which like the later ones 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 (vide Type H), were sent out on 1 February, 1859 ;

General Post Office, London,

1 Feb., 1859.

Sir,

With reference to your report of 25 December last I have to inform you that the Portmanteaux with which you request to be furnished have been ordered and will shortly be supplied you.

The dated and obliterating stamps and type will be forwarded to your address, packed in a box, by the mail of tomorrow.

With regard to the obliterating stamps I have to point out that some of the numbers (2 to 54) which you suggest should be used in Jamaica, have already been assigned to other offices and it is therefore considered advisable that the numbers 27 to 79 should be furnished to your Postmasters.

Impressions of the stamps so numbered are enclosed and in returning them to me I request you will write against each number the name of the office which you propose it shall represent in order that accurate records may be kept in this Department of the name of the Office to which each numbered stamp corresponds.

M. O'C. Morris.

(Signed) F. HILL.

Accordingly, it is not surprising to find in the G.P.O., Book of Proof Postmarks, under date 1 February, 1859

"These obliterating Stamps from A27 to A79 inclusive have this day been enclosed in a box to the Deputy Postmaster General of Jamaica who has been requested to state at what office each of these stamps will be used." (The offices were never added against these impressions in the G.P.O. Book.)

Of these obliterators 'A27' to 'A78' came into use on 1 March, 1859, but 'A79' (normal Type H) not until 1 November, 1863, so that 'A79' was never used on British stamps.

From May 1858 to February, 1859, such letters as were posted at post towns bearing British stamps had the stamps obliterated 'A01' on arrival at Kingston.

During February 1859 the postmasters were requested to leave the British postage stamps to be obliterated with 'A01' on arriving at Kingston, as before, but with mistaken zeal some offices obliterated the postage stamps with their circular date-stamp (e.g. Flint River, Savannah-La-Mar, etc.). Others used pen and ink, and the Author possessed an entire from Lucea dated 24 February, 1859, with 'P.O. Lucea' written in ink across three fourpenny British stamps, which were afterwards obliterated with 'A01' at Kingston.

Spanish Town is known to have defaced the postage stamps with the fraction '½' (in black), which was probably a handstamp to denote a half ounce weight of letters ; fifty of these '½' and '1' marks being sent out from the G.P.O., London, for use in both Halifax (Nova-Scotia), and Jamaica on 17 October, 1843.

The numbers from 'A27' to 'A78' inclusive were only in general use on British stamps for little over a year, namely, from 1 March, 1859, till about the end of May 1860 ; hence the reason why they are so difficult to obtain.

During the interregnum the postmasters laid aside their obliterators until stamps reappeared with the Colonial issue in November 1860, when they were again used by the same offices.

On the closure of three post offices, some numbers had to be re-allotted about 1 November, 1862 (if not on that day).

Accordingly, all the post towns using the numbers from 'A38' to 'A59' inclusive, were moved up 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 from 'A38' to 'A59' inclusive were therefore used at a different office after 1 November, 1862 from what they had been before that date.

These and later changes will be found recorded under 'Post Towns'.

## JAMAICAN OBLITERATION NUMBERS

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The illustrations of the seven different types of the 'A01' obliterator as used at Kingston, and also a specimen of each type used by the post towns, all in exact measurements, are commended to the reader for reference. (See Frontispiece).-

The obliterators were sent out in the following order :-

A01	Type A	14 April, 1858	1
A01	Type A	28 April, 1858 (3 ditto)	
A27 to A79	Type H	1 Feb., 1859	53
A01	Types B and C	30 April, 1859	2
A36 and A75	Type L	Late in 1861	2
A01	Type D	Early in 1863	1
A53	Type H, renewal	11 May, 1863	1
A54, A58, A79	Type J	About 1865	3
E06, E30, E58	Type K	Jan., March and July, 1869	3
A01	Type E	About 1871	1
F80, F81, F95 to F98	Type O	Sept. and Oct., 1872	6
G13 to G16	Type O	July, 1873	4
A, B, C, D and E	Type P	About 1873	5
A01	Types F and G	About 1874	2
A76	Type O	About 1874	1
193 to 201	Type O	Sept., 1874	4
598 to 647	Type O	About 1876	8
A56, A79 A80(2) and A81	Type K	About 1876	5
A.28. A.60. A.82	Type M (two dots)	About 1876	3
A38	Type N	About 1878	1
A.83	Type M (but only one dot)	2 Oct., 1878	1
			107

I would like here to impress upon my readers that the only Jamaican Obliteration numbers that can be found on British stamps are A01 (Types A, B and C) and the numbers from A27 to A78 inclusive (all Type H).

It is doubtful whether A50, allotted to LITTLE RIVER P.O. was ever used on British stamps, is this post office was closed by 1860, after being vacant several times owing to lack of business. No specimen is known of A50 used on a British stamp.

British stamps were first issued in Jamaica on 8 May, 1858, but the Obliteration numbers from A27 to A78 inclusive were not issued until 1 March, 1859.

Therefore the only Obliteration number in use during these ten months was A01 (Type A). Jamaican stamps were first issued in November 1860, so that the Obliterators A27 to A78 inclusive, and A01 (types B. and C.) were only used on British stamps for a little over one year, as the supply of British stamps ran out some time before the first Jamaican issue arrived.

The only British stamps officially issued for use in Jamaica were :-

- 1d Red (stars in upper corners) Watermark Large Crown Perf. 14.
- 4d Rose-Carmine or Rose. (No letters in corners) Watermark Large Garter, Perf. 14.
- 6d Lilac, or Pale Lilac. (No letters in corners) Watermark Emblems, Perf. 14.
- 1s. Green. (No letters in corners) Watermark Emblems, Perf. 14.

Any Obliteration numbers sent out after 1860 can only be found on Jamaican stamps.

I hope that this will kill the impression in the minds of many collectors (and even dealers) that the later numbered and lettered obliterators can be found on British stamps.

# JAMAICAN OBLITERATION NUMBERS

BY L. C. C. NICHOLSON, 1949

“A01’ KINGSTON, JAMAICA

Type A. (Normal.)

This was sent out 14 April 1858, and again (in triplicate) on 28 April 1858, coming into use with the British stamps on 8 May, 1858. This type did not have a long life as it went out of use about the end of 1863, and so is only found on G.B. stamps and early Pines.

TYPE B. (Duplex.)

This was sent out 30 April 1859 (in duplicate), with index letters 1 B and 2B, and was very popular, as it saved stamping every letter twice. It was in continuous use for nearly twelve years, disappearing about the end of 1870. It is sometimes seen on early CCs.

E.D.K. 1B 23 May 1859, 2B. 26 May 1859.

TYPE C. (Double.)

This was also sent out on 30 April 1859, but apparently was hardly ever used, as it necessitated the use of a date-stamp also. It is one of the scarcest Jamaican obliterations,

E.D.K. 30 May 1859, L.D.K. 10 March, 1861.

The following letter bears on these obliterations (Types B and C)

General Post Office, 'London,

30 April, 1852

Sir,

With reference to your report of the 1st ultimo, requesting to be furnished with certain stamps, I beg to acquaint you that I have caused to be forwarded to your address by this packet two sets of combined dated and obliterating stamps and type, and a double obliterating stamp ; the Controller of the Circulation Department being of opinion that two sets of combined stamps (which are expensive) instead of the number applied for, will be found to be sufficient for the duty of the Kingston Office.

O'Connor Morris, Esq.

(Signed) F. HILL.

Type D. (Thick bar, Normal.)

Types A, B and C all have thin bars above and below the 'A01'. Types D, E, F, and G all have thick bars.

This Type D came into use early in 1863, and was still being used in January 1875. It is quite common on the Pines and occasionally found on the CCs, becoming very heavy and blotched at the finish.

Type E. (Thick bar, Tall, Narrow.)

This type came into use about the middle of 1871, and lasted till about 1884. The 'A01' is somewhat similar to that of the 'Double' (Type C), but much heavier. It is somewhat scarce on late Pines, quite common on CCs, but scarce on CAs.

This Obliterator was apparently returned to London when it went out of use in Jamaica. It is known used on a soldier's letter from South Africa (26 Jan 1900) marked 'Stamps Not Obtainable.' In this case it was used to obliterate the 'T' (Tax) mark placed in error on the letter.

It has also been seen on a British reply postcard from France, charged in error with extra Tax (11 Sept 1903); here it was used to cancel the stamp.

It is finally known on the following stamps :-

Great Britain (Queen Victoria)	(½d vermilion)	(1887)
	(1d lilac)	(1881)
	(2½d purple-on-blue)	(1887)
Great Britain (King Edward VII)	(1d scarlet)	(1902)
	(2½d blue)	(1902)
	(£1 green)	(1902)
Spain	(5c blue-green)	(1899)
	(10c red)	(1899)
Porto Rico	(8c brown)	(1898)
Sweden	(1 ore brown and blue)	(1892)

In all these cases it was probably used to cancel stamps which had escaped being obliterated at the office of origin.

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Type F. (Thick bar, Large, Round.)

Type G. (Thick bar, Medium, Round.)

Types F and G both came into use about 1874, and ran concurrently until Kingston ceased to use 'A01' in January 1885. They are, of course, never found on the Pines, but are quite common on CCs and early CAs.

Type F is known on the 1d rose Postal Fiscal (watermark CA sideways), but this is scarce, as the majority are forged.

The last known date of use of an 'A01' obliterator is 9 January 1885 (Type G), and the earliest known date of Kingston's 'squared-circle' date-stamp, which succeeded the 'A01' is 24 January 1885.

Collectors are warned against the so-called 'A01' on the 1d lilac Key-Plate type, as this is '201' (i.e. Milk River).

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The five letters A, B, C, D. and E present a very difficult problem. They 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, thus being the forerunners of the temporary rubber date-stamps.

The Author had an entire showing 'A' used at Milk River on 9 November 1873. Milk River P.O. was opened in September 1873, but was not supplied with a numerical obliterator 'till 1874 (vide '201 '). During this period Milk River was presumably using the 'A' obliterator.

A.'Type P. Milk River (afterwards 201). -

This 'A' obliterator is known used on a 1d Pine and on the 2d, 4d and 6d CC, stamps, but it is very scarce.

B.'Type P. Duncans (formerly A37).

Duncans discarded A37 obliterator and substituted the letter 'B' about 1880.

'B' is known used at Duncans, on entires, dating from 7 June 1880 to 26 October 1891.

It therefore, presumably, had a long life, and is frequently seen on the CC, CA, and Key-Plate issues. It appears to have remained in use until about the end of 1895, and is the commonest of these five letters.

'C' 'D' 'E' Type P.

It is not known where the letters 'C,' 'D,' or 'E' were in use.

The letter 'C' can be found on most of the CC and CA stamps, but is not common.

Only two copies of letter 'D' are known to me. These appear on 2d and 4d CC stamps. This is one of the rarest Jamaican obliterations.

The letter 'E' is only known on CC stamps, and it is not at all common.

These five letters all have three protecting bars on each side, whereas all other Jamaican obliterations have only two. The letters 'B' and 'C' are exactly like the illustration given (vide Type P), but the letters 'A', 'D', and 'E' are slightly larger and have much finer lines on all sides.

The Author believes that none of these five letters was used at more than one office.

On 1 April, 1877, Jamaica joined the 'Postal Union, which looked with dis-favour on obliterations, and no new ones were issued to Jamaica after 1878.

**JAMAICAN OBLITERATION NUMBERS  
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**POST TOWNS**

\* To all the references to the year 1862 can be added "about 1 November," when the numbers were rearranged. Similarly the year 1859 always refers to 1 March.

The references to scarcity or otherwise do not refer to British stamps, which are all more or less scarce.

NO.	TYPE	POST TOWN	PERIOD OF USE	NOTES
A27	Normal Type H.	Alexandria	June 1859 (P.O. reopened) to early nineties.	This number is usually quite clear, but not common, as the office was small.
A28	do.	Annotto Bay	1 March, 1859, to about 1876 (infra).	
A28	Type M.	do.	About 1876 to early in 1885.	A28 is only scarce on CAs.
	There are two other obliterators of this type A60 and A82. The 'A' is narrow and has very short feet, and there are periods after the 'A' and after the number. All three were sent out about 1875.			
A29	Normal Type H	Bath	1 March, 1859 to about 1891.	Not a common number.
A30	do.	Black River	do. to about end of 1882.	
A31	do.	Brown's Town	do. do.	
A32	do.	Buff Bay	do. to 1892.	A very common number.
A33	do.	Chapelton	do. to 1890.	Another common number. The second '3' of this obliterator often looks like an '8' on the later issues, but anything after the CCs must be A33 as A38 (Normal Type H) went out of use about 1880.
A34	do.	Claremont	do. to about 1890.	-
A35	do.	(1) Clarendon (Now Clarendon Park, not a P.O.) The P.O. was moved 7 miles to	do. to June 1876.	-
A35	do.	(2) Four Paths	June 1876 (P.O. opened) to about 1893.	Quite a common number.
A36	do.	Dry Harbour	1 March, 1859, to about 1860.	
	This obliterator like A75 (Normal Type H), had a very short life. It was either, broken, damaged or lost, just about the time the Pines were issued (Nov. 1860). Specimens of the Five values are known penmarked '36', evidently the only means that the Postmaster had of indicating the number of his office, until he received a new obliterator.			Both the original A36, and the penmarked stamps are exceedingly rare.
A36	Type L.	Dry Harbour	About end of 1861 to 1892.	A36 of this type is fairly common, but usually rather indistinct. There is only one other obliterator of this type (A75 Type L).
	This P.O. was renamed DISCOVERY BAY 19 JULY, 1948.			
A37	Normal Type H	Duncans (Afterwards 'B')	1 March, 1859, to about 1880.	For use of an obliterator at Duncans after 1880 (vide Letter 'B')
A38	do.	(1) Ewarton (Afterwards '196')	1 March, 1859, to 1862 (about 1 Nov.).	
	This Post Office was constantly closed for long periods between 1856 and 1873. When reopened in 1873 Ewarton used number '196' (q.v.).			
A38	Normal Type H	(2) Falmouth (Formerly A39).	1862 (about 1 Nov.) to about 1880.	
A38	Type N.	(1) Falmouth	About 1880 to about end of 1882.	A38, Type N, a very neat type, is not a very common number, used at either place.
A38	do.	(2) Up Park Camp (N. of Kingston)	29 April, 1884 (P.O. opened to at out April 1885.	
	This P.O. was moved to CROSS ROADS 4. JAN, 1909.			
A39	Normal Type H	(1) Falmouth (Afterwards A38.)	1859* to 1862*	A39 is not a common number on any stamp.
A39	do.	(2) Flint River (Formerly A40.)	1862* to about 1893.	
	(Half-way between Montego Bay and Lucea) This P.O. was moved 2 miles to HOPEWELL 31 OCT., 1915.			
A40	do. do.	(1) Flint River (Afterwards A39.) (2) Gayle (Formerly A41.)	1859 to 1862. 1862 to about 1893.	A40 is very scarce on Pines and CCs. To distinguish A40 from A46, there is a large space between the point of the 'A' and the letter '4'
A41	Normal Type H	(1) Gayle (Afterwards A40.)	1859 to 1862.	A41 is a scarce number on any stamp.
A41	do.	(2) Golden Spring (Formerly A42.)	1862 to 5 June 1890	
	This P.O. was moved 1½. miles to			
A41	do.	(3) Stony Hill (About 7 miles N. of Kingston).	5 June 1890 to about 1892.	A41 is known in purple ink about 1890. (Probably used at Stony Hill).
A42	do.	Golden Spring (Afterwards A41.)	1859 to 1862.	

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NO.	TYPE	POST TOWN	PERIOD OF USE	NOTES
A42	do.	Gordon Town (Formerly A43.)	1862 to about 1893.	The figure '2' of A42 got very blotched from about 1870 onwards, often looking like A43. The point of the '4' is much further away from the letter 'A', and the triangle of the '4' is much smaller in A42 than in A43.
A43	do.	Gordon Town (Afterwards A42.)	1859 to 1862.	
A43	do.	Goshen (Formerly A44.)	1862 to 1 Oct. 1883	
		This P.O. was moved 6 miles to		
A43	do.	(3) Santa Cruz	1 Oct., 1883 to about 1893.	(Vide Note on A42). This number also became very blotched after 1870.
A44	do.	(1) Goshen (Afterwards A43.)	1859 to 1862.	
A44	do.	(2) Grange Hill (Formerly A45.)	1862 to about 1893.	
A45	do.	(1) Grange Hill (Afterwards A44.)	1859 to 1862.	
A45	do.	(2) Green Island (Formerly A46.)	1862 to about 1892.	
A46	do.	(1) Green Island (Afterwards A45.)	1859 to 1862.	A46 is exceedingly scarce on the Pines. To distinguish this number from A40, the point of the '4' almost touches the 'A'
A46	do.	(2) Highgate (Formerly A47.)	1862 to 1869, when the P.O. closed till 1895.	A46 has been seen on K.G. stamps, but this is only a case of the old obliterator being used at the receiving office to deface stamps unobliterated at the office of origin.
A46	do.	(3) Siloah	1869 to about 1893.	
		(This P.O. opened about October 1869).		
A47	do.	(1) Highgate (Afterwards A46.)	1859 to 1862	
A47	do.	(2) Hope Bay (Formerly A48.)	1862 to about 1893.	A47 is very scarce on Pines and CCs.
A48	do.	(1) Hope Bay (Afterwards A47.)	1859 to 1862.	A48 is not common on either Pines or CCs, and never to be found on CAs.
A48	do.	(2) Lilliput (Formerly A49.)	1862 to 1874 (P.O. closed)	
		(Lilliput was close to Balaclava in St. Elizabeth).		
A49	do.	Lilliput (Afterwards A48.)	1859 to 1862.	
A49	do.	Lucea (Formerly A51.)	1862 to about 1890.	A49 is very common except on the Key-Plate Issue. It became very out of shape towards the finish.
A50	do.	(1) Little River (Afterwards E58.)	(Infra.)	No specimen is known of A50 used at Little River either on British or Jamaican stamps.
		Although A50 was allotted to Little River on 1 March, 1859, it is very doubtful if it was ever used there, as the P.O. was closed by 1860, after being vacant several times. When this P.O. was reopened on 25 September, 1869, it used E58 obliterator (q.v.).		
A50	Normal Type H.	(2) Malvern	1 Nov. 1862 (P.O. opened) to about 1893.	To distinguish A50 from A56 (Type H.), the ball of the '5' does not project beyond the line of the vertical downstroke.
A51	do.	Lucea (Afterwards A49.)	1859 to 1862	
A51	do.	Manchioneal (Formerly A52.)	1862 to early in 1890.	A51 is seldom seen on the Key-Plate Issue.
A52	Normal Type H.	(1) Manchioneal (Afterwards A51.)	1859 to 1862.	
A52	do.	(2) Mandeville (Formerly A53.)	1862 to early in 1885.	
A53	do.	(1) Mandeville (Afterwards A52.)	1859 to 1862.	
		NOTE :-On 11 May, 1863, another 'A53' obliterator was sent out, entered in the G.P.O. Record Book as 'for Mandeville' (evidently ordered before November, 1862). It differs slightly from the original obliterator. In the original the 'A' and figures are 5½ mm. high, in the renewal 6½ mm.: in the original the ball of the '5' protrudes beyond the upright, in the renewal it is level with the upright and whereas the '3' was narrow, in the renewal it is wider. It is evident that the original 'A53' was mislaid, and discovered years after (possibly when the P.O. was moved in 1885), as it is not known used between early Pines, and the 'CA' and 'Key-Plate' issues of 1885-93		
A53	Normal Type H.	(2) May Hill (Formerly A54.)	1862 to 2 March, 1885.	
		(May Hill P.O. was close to Newport in Manchester). The P.O. was moved 4 miles to		
A53	do.	(3) Spur Tree	2 March, 1885 to about 1893.	
A54	do.	(1) May Hill (Afterwards A53.)	1859 to 1862.	The original A54 is very scarce on any stamp.



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NO.	TYPE	POST TOWN	PERIOD OF USE	NOTES
A54	do.	(2) Mile Gully (Formerly A55.)	1862 to about 1865 (when Type J. was introduced.)	
A54	Type J.	Mile Gully	About 1865 to about 1885.	A54 (Type J.) Is not common on any stamp, as the Postmaster Constantly used his old date-Stamp of 1857 to deface the postage stamps instead of his obliterator.
A55	Normal Type H.	(1) Mile Gully (Afterwards A54.)	1859 to 1862.	A55 is not a very common number, and is usually rather faint.
A55	do.	(2) Moneague (Formerly A56.)	1862 to about 1892.	
A56	do.	(1) Moneague (Afterwards A55.)	1859 to 1862.	A56 (Type H) is quite common. To distinguish it from A50, the ball of the ‘ ‘ projects beyond the line of the vertical downstroke
A56	do.	(2) Montego Bay (Formerly A57.)	1862 to about 1876 (when Type K was introduced).	
A56	Type K.	Montego Bay	About 1876 to end of 1885.	
A57	Normal Type H.	(1) Montego Bay (Afterwards A56.)	1859 to 1862.	A57 is very common on all issues.
A57	do.	(2) Morant Bay (Formerly A59.)	1862 to about 1893.	
A58	do.	(1) Montpelier	(Infra.)	
Although ‘A58’ was allotted to Montpelier on 1 March, 1859, it could not have been much used there, as the P.O. was closed by 1860, and although apparently reopened in 1861, it was thereafter closed for over thirty years. What happened to this original A58 obliterator is a mystery. The only specimen known is on a 6d. lilac G.B.				
A58	Type J.	Bluefields	Not known when first in use, but one of the last six obliterators to be discarded, about 1901 (vide A63, F95, G14, 598 and 615).	Very scarce on Pines but can be found on later issues up to the Llandoveries of 1900 and 1901; it is not common on the former and scarce on the latter.
The P.O. opened 1 Jan. 1866. It was closed middle of 1869 and reopened 15 April 1871.				
.A59	Normal Type H.	(1) Morant Bay (Afterwards A57.)	1859 to 1862.	A59 is a scarce number on the Pines and CCs.
A59	do.	(2) Newport	1 Nov., 1862 (P.O. opened) to about 1892.	
A60	do.	Ocho Rios	1859 to about 1876 (when Type M was introduced)	Not common on the Pines, and very scarce on CCs.
A.60.	Type M	Ocho Rios	About 1876 to about 1892.	Fairly common on CCs and CAs. (See note after A.28.).
A61	Normal Type H.	Old Harbour	1859 to about the end of 1872.	A61 is very scarce on CCs.
A62	do.	Plantain Garden River	1859 to early in 1894.	A62 is a common number.
The name of this place was abbreviated to P.G. River about 1875. The P.O., which was moved to Golden Grove in 1905, has been called by that name since 15 Oct. 1913.				
A63	Normal Type H.	Pear Tree Grove	1859 to 1900. Known on 1d. Red Llandoverly. (Vide A58 Type J).	This number is scarce on the Pines, as it was a very small place. The number is usually very clear, with well-cut lines and figures.
A64	do.	Port Antonio	1859 to early in 1889.	A64 is a fairly common number except on the Pines. It can also be found in blue ink (about 1878).
A64	do.	Lacovia (Formerly E30.)	About 1891 to about 1893	
A65	do.	Port Morant	1859 to 1890.	A65 is very scarce on the Key Plate Issue.
A66	do.	Port Maria	1859 to 1895.	A66 is a common number except on the Pines.
A67	do.	Port Royal	1859 to about 1895.	A67 is another common number.
A68	do.	Porus	1859 to early in 1892.	A68 is only scarce on the Pines.
A69	do.	Ramble	1859 to about 1893.	
A70	do.	Rio Bueno	1859 to about 1893.	A70 is very scarce on Pines and CCs.
A71	do.	(1) Rodney Hall Renamed	1859 to 15 Nov., 1868.	A71 is a very common number. the figures getting very thick and heavy towards the finish, which distinguishes this number from A74.
A71	do.	(2) Linstead	15 Nov. 1868 to about 1894.	
A72	do.	Saint David	1859 to about 1890.	A72 is very scarce on the Key- Plate Issue.
This P.O. reverted to its old name of Yallahs sometime between 1901 and 1905.				
A73	do.	St. Ann's Bay	1859 to about 1892.	A73 is a very common number on any stamp.
A74	do.	Salt Gut (Near Oracabessa in St. Mary) when the P.O. was moved 4 miles to	1859 to middle of 1892,	A74 is not very common, and the figures are usually rather faint whereas A71, with which it might be confused, is always thick and heavy.

**JAMAICAN OBLITERATION NUMBERS**  
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NO.	TYPE	POST TOWN	PERIOD OF USE	NOTES
		Retreat	(opened about 1 July, 1892).	It is highly improbable That Retreat ever used this or any other obliterator. Retreat is on the Rio Nuevo River.
A75	do.	Savanna-La-Mar	1859 to about the end of 1860.	A75 (Type H) is only found on G.B. stamps and early Pines, and on the latter it is very rare.
	This obliterator like A36 (Normal Type H) had a very short life. It was either 'lost, stolen, or strayed,' soon after the advent of the Pines. During the years 1861-2 the P.M. at Savanna-La-Mar used his single ring date-stamp with which to obliterate the stamps.			
A75	Type L.	Savanna-La-Mar	About the end of 1862 to middle of 1892.	This small type A75 is one of the commonest numbers and became very blotched and indistinct towards the finish. There is only one other obliterator of this type (A36, Type L.). It can also be found in blue ink on Pines.
A76.	Normal Type H.	Spanish Town	1859 to about 1874 (when Type 'O' was introduced).	In this type there is a space between the foot of the 'A' and the '7' has a long serif.
A76	Type O	Spanish Town	About 1874 to end of 1892.	In this type the foot of the 'A' is joined on to the '7', and the '7' has a short serif. The three bars, above and below, are very thick. A76 (Type O) is common.
A77	Normal Type H.	Stewart Town	1859 to 1889.	A77 is known on the Key-Plate Issue but this is naturally very scarce.
A78	do.	(1) Vere Changed its name to	1859 to 1875.	A78 is one of the commonest numbers on any stamp.
A78	do.	(2) Alley	1875 to about 1895.	
A79	Normal Type H	Richmond	(Infra.)	Only one specimen of this normal type of A79 is known, and this is on a 6d. Pine.
	Like A58 this number is one of the mysteries awaiting a solution. It is in three different types. The original Type H was sent out at the same time as A27—A78 (1 February, 1859) and was, as far as can be ascertained, given to Richmond when that P.O. was opened on 1 November, 1863.			
A79	Type J.	Richmond		This type of A79 is seldom seen on any stamp.
	This type was sent out about 1865, but it is not known used at Richmond till 1880 and was out of use there in 1896.			
A79	Type K.	Balaclava	1876 to about 1895.	A79 of this type is quite common, and can be found on the Key-Plate Issue.
	This type is entered in the G.P.O. (London) Records as having been sent out for use at Balaclava in 1876.			
A80	Type K	(1) Mount Charles	1876 to 2 June, 1884.	There are two types of A80. The first one (presumably used at Mount Charles) had much larger figures than the A80 used at Hagley Gap, which is the normal size for Type K
	(On the Yallahs River, 10 miles N.E. of Kingston). This P.O. was on 2 June, 1884, moved two miles to			
A80	Type K.	(2) Hagley Gap (Now spelt Hagley Gap.)	2 June, 1884, to early in 1885.	Larger type is similar to E06, E30 and E58, so it may have been sent out earlier, and used elsewhere. A80 is scarce on any stamp. The larger type of figures has been seen on a 1s. Pine (i.e. prior to 1873).
A81	do.	Pedro	1876. Still in use in the early nineties.	A scarce number.
A 82.		Type M. Middle Quarters	1876 to about 1894.	Scarce on the CCs, but fairly common on CAs. (See note after A.28,).
A.83	Type M.	Trinity Ville (But only one period).	This was the last obliterator to be sent out (2 Oct., 1878) for use in Jamaica. It ceased use about the middle of 1891.	A.83 is a fairly common number. In the Book of impressions (GPO London) there is a very faint dot after the 'A' only, and none after the '3'. The '3' has a flat top.
E06	Type K	Newmarket (But larger figures)	(Infra.)	E06 is not a very common number.
	This 'new office' was opened in 1869 (vide J.P.O. Report for 1869). The P.M. of Jamaica wrote for 'A80' obliterator for this office. This was evidently his first application for a new number since he received A27—A79 in Feb., 1859. The G.P.O. London replied on 15 Jan., 1869 :—'The number of the obliterating stamp is 'E06', as 'A80,' the number asked for, is already in use in the Travelling Post Office.' It was sent out on 16 Jan, 1869, and was used till the middle nineties.			
E30	Type K (But larger figures)	Lacovia (Afterwards A.64) (q.v.)	Sent out 17 March, 1869, to about 1890.	E30 is scarce on the Pines and scarcer on the Key-Plate of 1889, as about 1891 Lacovia used 'A64' obliterator.
E58	do.	Little River (Formerly A50.)	Sent out July 1869 to about 1894.	E58 is scarce on the Pines. It is known in blue ink on the CCs.

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NO.	TYPE	POST TOWN	PERIOD OF USE	NOTES
		This P.O. was reopened on 25 Sept. 1869. The records of the G.P.O., London, simply state that this number was sent out to Jamaica, and it was surmised it was used at Little River. The Author was fortunate in finding an entire bearing E58, used at Little River in 1889, which settled the matter.		
F80	Type O	Little London	Sent out 17 Sept., 1872. Last used about 1894.	F80 is scarce on the Pines and only common on the CCs.
F81	do.	Clark's Town	do. do.	F81 is very scarce on the Pines, otherwise fairly common.
F95	do.	Watson's Hill	15 Dec., 1872 (P.O. opened.) One of the last to be discarded about 1901. (Vide A58, Type J.)	Very scarce on the Pines. But common on CCs and CAs. Uncommon on 1d. red Llandovery and very scarce on bi- coloured.
F96	do.	Shooter's Hill	Feb., 1873 (P.O. opened) to early nineties.	F96 is known on the Pines, but seldom seen except on CAs.
F97	do.	Copse (In Hanover, 2 miles W. of Montpelier.)	1 Feb. 1873 (P.O. opened.) to about 1890. Closed 28 Feb. 1899. (Re-opened 1947.)	Scarce on any stamp.
F98	do.	Chester Castle	Feb., 1873 (P.O. opened) to about 1894.	F98 is only common on CAs and Key-Plate Issue
G13	Type O	Halfway Tree	Sent out 1 July, 1873, to about 1878.	G13 has never been seen on a Pine ; it is not scarce on other issues.
G14	do.	Hampden	Sent out 1 July, 1873. Last used about 1901 (vide A58, Type J.)	Gm has never been seen on the Pines, but fairly common on later issues, until Llandovery, on which it is scarce and usually very faint.
G15	do.	Blue Mountain Valley	(Infra.)	
G16	do.	Priestman's River	(Infra.)	
		The Records at -the G.P.O., London, allot G15 to Priestman's River, and G16 to Blue Mountain Valley. This is an error of reversion, as G15 has been seen used on entires at Blue Mountain Valley on 24 May 1877, 24 Nov. 1879, and 18 Aug. 1884; and five entires are known ranging from 25 May 1884 to 4 July 1892 bearing G16 used at Priestman's River. No entire is known with these numbers allotted otherwise.		
G15	Type O	Blue Mountain Valley (6 miles N.W. of Morant Bay.)	Sent out 1 July, 1873, to about 1898. Now closed.	G15 is fairly common, though not known on the Pines.
G16	do.	Priestman's River	Sent out 1 July, 1873, to about 1898. .	G16 is fairly common, though not known on the Pines.
193	do.	Cold Spring (Renamed New castle 1March, 1902.)	Sent out end of Sept. 1874, to about 1897.	193 is quite a common number.
196	do.	Ewarton (Formerly A38.)	This P.O. reopened on 5 Dec. 1873. Sent out end of Sept. 1874, to about 1898.	196 is fairly common.
199	do.	Guy's Hill	Sent out end of Sept. 1874, to about 1898.	199 is not very common on any stamp.
201	do.	Milk River (Formerly 'A') (q.v.)	Sent out end of Sept., 1874, to about 1895.	201, like the above, is not known used on Pines but is otherwise common.
598	do.	Adelphi	Sent out about 1876. Used very late ; know n on the red Llandovery of 1900. (Vide A58, Type J.)	This number is seldom seen on any stamp and the impression is usually very faint.
615	do.	Bull Bay	Sent out about 1876 to 1901 ; known on both Llandoveries. (Vide A58 Type J.)	615 is another scarce number on any stamp.
617	do.	Hayes	Sent out about 1876 to end of 1899.	617 is a very common number, though like the above never used on the Pines.
622	do.	Kings (Renamed Whitehouse about 1892.)	Sent out about 1876 to about 1892.	622 is not a very common number.
631	do.	Medina This P.O. was moved 2 miles to	Sent out about 1876 to 5 May, 1891.	631 is exceedingly scarce on any stamp.
631	do.	Maidstone	5 May, 1891 to about 1892.	
640	do.	May Pen	Sent out about 1876 to about 1898.	Never used on the Pines, but one of the commonest numbers on all other issues.
642	do.	Petersfield	Sent out about 1876 to about 1896.	A scarce number on any stamp.
647	do.	Southfield	Sent out about 1876 to late nineties.	Not a scarce number.

## JAMAICAN OBLITERATION NUMBERS

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### JAMAICAN STAMPS USED ABROAD

Jamaican stamps can sometimes be found with English, Colonial or Foreign obliteration numbers.

The following; are known to me:-

- (1) The numbers '3', '5' or '12' in a circle, surrounded by vertical bars forming an upright oval. These are believed to be American ship marks, and are known used on the CC, the CA, and the Key-Plate Issues of Jamaica.
- (2) The numbers '43', '50' or '51' in a square-shaped diamond, surrounded by horizontal lines forming a circle. These were London marks and are known used on the Pine issue.
- (3) The numbers '63' or '77' in a circle, surrounded by short thick horizontal lines forming another circle. These were also London marks, and are known used on the 6d Pine.
- (4) The number '285' in a diamond-shaped obliterator composed of very thick horizontal bars. This was the town number of KILRUSH in County Clare, Ireland, and is known used on a 3d green Pine.
- (5) The number '723' in an obliterator (as Type D)  
This was Southampton's number, and is known used on early Pines. (6)  
The number '723' in an obliterator (as Type K) This was a later type of Southampton's number, and is known used on later Pines.
- (7) The letters 'B' or 'F' in a diamond, surrounded by very thick horizontal bar; forming an upright oval. These are probably used at Bristol and Falmouth respectively. They are known used on the Pine and CC issues.
- (8) The Obliterator 'B16' (as Type H)  
This was the number of the Plymouth and Bristol T.P.O. and is known used on the 6d Pine and 1s. C.C. stamps.
- (9) The Obliterator 'D65' in a large upright oval (as Type K)  
This is believed to have been used at a British Consular Office in Peru about 1865. It is known used in red ink on a 6d Pine, deep lilac.
- (10) The Obliterator 'TI' (as Type J)  
This was used in the Turks Islands, and is known on the 1d lilac, Key-Plate issue, used about 1898

The above are all scarce, some indeed being very rare, and are desirable items in any postmark collection.

No doubt others exist, but these are all that I have seen..

The reader is warned against a bogus obliteration mark often seen on early Jamaican stamps, especially the Postal Fiscals. This consists of an obliterator similar to TYPE K, but with a large letter "R" in the centre instead of A79. It is quite different to the "B" obliterator described in No. 7 above.

JAMAICAN OBLITERATION NUMBERS  
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ALPHABETICAL INDEX

NAME	DATE OF OPENING	OBIATERATORS USED
DELPHI	1 MARCH 1876	598
ALEXANDRIA	1816	A27
ALLEY	LATE IN 1874	A78
ANNOTTO BAY	BEFORE 1774	A28 & A28
BALACLAVA	FEBRUARY 1875	A79 (TYPE K)
BATH	BEFORE 1774	A29
BLACK RIVER	BEFORE 1774	A30
BLUEFIELDS	1 JANUARY 1866	A58 (TYPE J)
BLUE MOUNTAIN VALLEY	AUGUST 1873	615
BROWN'S TOWN	22 JANUARY 1852	A31
BUFF BAY	BEFORE 1788	A32
BULL BAY	AUGUST 1857	615
CHAPELTON	BEFORE 1810	A33
HESTER CASTLE	FEBRUARY 1873	F98
CLAREMONT	MAY 1851	A34
CLARENDON	BEFORE 1774	R9S
CLARK'S TOWN	1 MARCH 1872	F81 '
COLD SPRING	SEPTEMBER 1874	193
COPSE	1 FEBRUARY 1873	F97
DRY HARBOUR	BEFORE 1788	A36 (TYPES H & L)
DUNCANS	BEFORE 1788	A37 & B
EWARTON	OCTOBER 1849	A38 & 196
FALMOUTH	BEFORE 1774	A39 & A38 (TYPES H & N)
FLINT RIVER	BEFORE 1788	A40 & A39
FOUR PATHS	JUNE 1876	A35
GAYLE	JUNE 1857	A41 & A40
GOLDEN SPRING	DECEMBER 1846	A42 & A41
GORDON TOWN	MAY 1851	A43 & A42
GOSHEN	BEFORE 1788	A44 & A43
GRANGE HILL	ABOUT 1839	A45 & A44
GREEN ISLAND	BEFORE 1788	A46 & A45
GUY'S HILL	1 FEBRUARY 1874	199
HAGLEY GAP	2 JUNE 1884	A80 (NORMAL)
HALFWAY TREE	JUNE 1873	G13
HAMPDEN	1 JULY 1873	G14
'HAYES	ABOUT 1876	617
HIGHGATE	BEFORE 1796	A47 & A46
HOPE BAY	BEFORE 1810	A48 & A47
KINGS	MARCH 1875	622
KINGSTON '	BEFORE 1774	A01 (7 TYPES)
LACOVIA	BEFORE 1774	E30 & A64
LILLIPUT	16 NOVEMBER 1857	A49 & A48
LINSTEAD	15 NOVEMBER 1868	A71
LITTLE LONDON	22 APRIL 187	F80
LITTLE RIVER	BEFORE 1810	A50 & E58
LUCEA	BEFORE 1774	A51 & A49
MAIDSTONE	5 MAY 1891	631
MALVERN	1 NOVEMBER 1862	A50
MANCHIONEAL	BEFORE 1774	A52 & A51
MANDEVILLE	ABOUT 1839	A53 & A52
MAY HILL	BEFORE 1810	A54 & A53
MAY PEN	AUGUST 1875	640
MEDINA	14 AUGUST 1875	631
MIDDLE QUARTERS	MAY 1876	AJ2
MILE GULLY	1812	A55 & A54 (TYPES H & J)
MILK RIVER	SEPTEMBER 1873	A & 201
MONEAGUE	BEFORE 1796	A55 & A55
MONTEGO BAY	BEFORE 1774	A57 & A56 (TYPES H & K)
MONTPELIER	OCTOBER 1857	A8
MORANT BAY	BEFORE NOVEMBER 1773	A59 & A57
MOUNT CHARLES	SEPTEMBER 1874	A80 (LARGE)
NEWMARKET	FEBRUARY 1869	E06
NEWPORT	1 NOVEMBER 1862	A59
OCHO RIOS	1812	A60 & A.60
OLD HARBOUR	BEFORE 1774	A01
PEAR TREE GROVE	ABOUT 1833	A63
PEDRO	FEBRUARY 1875	A81
PETERSFIELD	OCTOBER 1875	642
PLANTAIN GARDEN RIVER	MAY 1850	A62
PORT ANTONIO	BEFORE 1774	A64
PORT MARIA	BEFORE 1774	A66
PORT MORANT	BEFORE 1774	A65

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NAME	DATE OF OPENING	OBIATERATORS USED
PORT ROYAL	ABOUT 1833	A67
PORUS	OCTOBER 1846	A68
PRIESTMAN'S RIVER	AUGUST 18713	G16
RAMBLE	10 OCTOBER 1857	A69
RETREAT	ABOUT I JULY 1892	A74 (?)
RICHMOND	1 NOVEMBER 1863	A79 (TYPES H & J)
RIO BUENO	BEFORE 1774	A70
ROWNEY HALL	BEFORE 1788	A71
ST ANN'S BAY	BEFORE 1774	A71
SAINT DAVID	BEFORE 1771	A72
SALT GUT	BEFORE 1775	A74
SANTA CRUZ	1 OCTOBER 1883	A43
SAVANNA-LA-MAR	BEFORE 1774	A75 (TYPES H & L)
SHOOTERS HILL	FEBRUARY 1873	F90
SILOAH	OCTOBER 1869	A40
SOUTHFIELD	AUGUST 1875	647
SPANISH TOWN	BEFORE 1774	A76 (TYPES H & O)
SPUR TREE	2 MARCH 1885	A53 (BOTH TYPES)
STEWART TOWN	OCTOBER 1850	A77
STONY HILL	5 JUNE 1890	A41
TRINITY VILLE	DECEMBER 1877	A83
UP PARK CAMP	29 APRIL 1884	A38 (TYPE N)
VERE	BEFORE 1788	A78
WATSON'S HILL	15 DECEMBER 1872	F95
WHITEHOUSE	ABOUT 1892	622 (?)