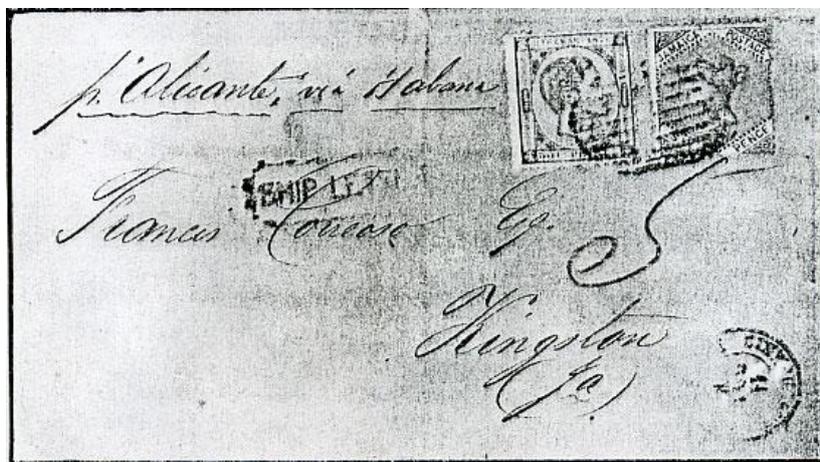


JAMAICA USED ABROAD

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There is no suggestion that the Jamaica Post Office farmed out supplies of their Pine watermarked denominations to British Post Offices established in the Caribbean area, but there are three clear indications that Jamaica stamps may have had permitted, or accepted, use on correspondence back to the island.



Firstly, two wonderful covers dated July and September 1876 were offered and illustrated in the Grant Glassco (1969) auction showing respectively Jamaica 6d Crown CC wmk in combination with Cuban 50c, and secondly Great Britain QV 4d Plate 14 in combination with Jamaica 2d rose and Cuba 50c. They are mailed from Cienfuegos, Cuba and the adhesives are tied by 10 barred horizontal oval.



These covers are the firmest confirmation that such incoming Jamaica inclusive combinations were tolerated. They pin-point an exact date, and because we never see loose Jamaica stamps with parts of this 10 barred oval we get a crystal clear insight into how exceptionally rare these frankings are.

Secondly, we are steered into the direction of Jamaica used abroad by Tom Foster who wrote in his *'Jamaica The Postal History 1662-1860'* handbook on Page 31 the following:

"Increasing correspondence arising from the improved mail facilities, led to many British Post Offices being established in the Caribbean area. At first they were equipped with the Crown Circle handstamps and later demands led to the introduction of British postage stamps too."

It is in connection with this last statement that a little known fact emerges. Imperial stamps (GB QV issues) were not issued in these foreign ports until about the middle of the 1860s, yet it is probable (though no positive proof appears to exist), that Jamaican postage stamps may have been allowed to prepay postage from certain of these places which were in direct communication with the colony.

Examples are known on letters from Cienfuegos in Cuba and Santa Martha in Colombia being prepaid with colonial stamps, and it is quite possible that this practice was carried on to a larger extent than we are yet aware.”

Great Britain stamps were supplied to nearby areas:

Cuba - Havana using C58 in 1865 and St. Jago De Cuba using C88 in 1866

St. Thomas – using C51 in 1865 (with the main British Packet Office moved to Colon in Colombia following the hurricane of October 1867)

Dominican Republic – using C86 at Porto Plata and C87 at St. Domingo as of re-openings in 1876

Haiti – Jacmel using C59 in 1865 and Port-Au-Prince using E53 in 1866

Porto Rico – Aguadilla using F84, Arroyo using F83, Mayaguez using F85, Naguabo using 582, Ponce using F88 and San Juan using C61.

There were also British Postal Agencies in the area, like Aux Cayes, Cap Haitien etc, which did not receive Imperial stamps and obliterators.

The Grant Glassco covers were from the southern port of Cienfuegos which was not a British Postal Agency, and use of Jamaican stamps as late as 1876 indicates that their accepted use on correspondence back to the island may have continued well after the use of the Pineapple watermarked stamps.

The third indication is the growing list of Jamaican stamps, both Pine watermark and Crown CC watermark, which are now known to exist bearing British Postal Agency cancellations from Spanish or Danish ports.

Initially one might have considered these contenders to be simply loose letters (carried in the captain’s bag) which were cancelled on arrival, but if so I would be illustrating an equal or larger number of Jamaica 1865 – 1876 stamps solely bearing the cancellations of neighbouring English Caribbean islands i.e. A02 used Antigua, A05 used Bahamas etc, but I do not recall seeing a single example.

The contenders are as illustrated:



C51 (used St. Thomas) on 1d Pine wmk

D60 (used at unknown location) on 6d Pine wmk (has AU 27 1996 BPA certificate)

D63 (used at unknown location) in red ink on 6d Pine wmk (also given AU 27 1996 BPA certificate but wrongly written as D65. Returned to member of the expert committee for correction but stated lost. Also mentioned in Nicholson’s handbook).

E88 (used Colon) on 2d Crown CC wmk

10 barred horizontal oval (used Cienfuegos, Cuba) on 2d Crown CC wmk

The Rev. H.H. Heins in his compilation entitled “The Numeral Cancellations of The British Empire” (published 1959) states that “Numbers D60 to D65 appeared in the official Post Office list of 1887 as assigned to the towns here listed (D60 at Valley, Anglesey, D63 at Nawton, Yorkshire). Obliterators with these numbers are known to have been used much earlier, but it is not certain where”. The earlier allocations of D60 and D63 are still not known and the only surviving strikes of these GB used abroad instruments are thought to be on these two Jamaica stamps.

If you have further contenders please send scans and watermark details to your Editor.