

# JAMAICA

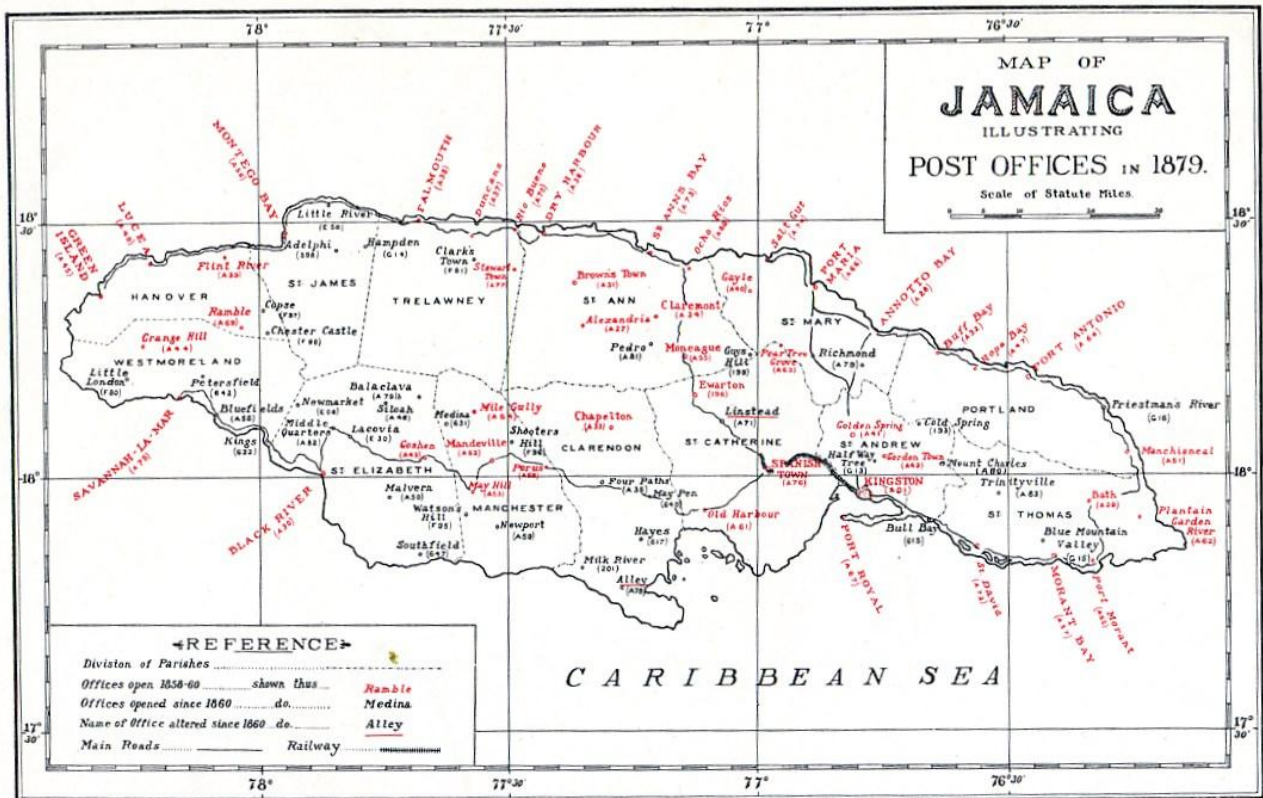
## ITS POSTAL HISTORY, POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTMARKS

JOINTLY EDITED BY

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JAMAICA  
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PREFACE

THE idea of a comprehensive handbook on the stamps of Jamaica originated with Mr. H. Cooke, of Kingston, Jamaica.

Mr. Cooke, whilst in London in 1925, arranged a dinner party, at which he outlined his idea to his guests, all of whom were interested in Jamaican stamps. A Committee was forthwith formed to carry out the work.

Separate sections were allocated to those collectors who were known to have some special knowledge of the subject-matter. The chapters, as written, were considered by the Committee in concert; and then, in most cases, sent out to Jamaica (or vice versa) for the consideration of the Sub-Committee there.

The watchword of the Committee being "Bedrock", many files of old records were searched. The authorities at the British Museum kindly afforded permission to look at the early Jamaican manuscripts to trace, any first-hand information bearing on an Island Post Office. In this connection, the G.P.O., London, also allowed search to be made, and further, with invaluable forbearance, permitted a long, detailed, personal study of all their records of the postal markings supplied to the Colony.

The Colonial Office granted facilities for searching the records of the Colony from the year 1670 to 1881, these records including valuable evidence from the Governors' dispatches.

Messrs. De La Rue & Co., the printers of all the Jamaican postage stamps (except the Child Welfare series), supplied, through the kind permission of the Crown Agents, a list of their printings and other information.

In the course of research, a memo. was discovered in the Crawford Collection at the British Museum in Judge Philbrick's handwriting, evidently written after a visit he had paid to Somerset House, more than thirty years ago. Judge Philbrick had to appear before a meeting of the Board; but thanks to him, and others, the object of such peculiar enquiries is now more patent to the authorities.

The compilers would pay the heartiest tribute to the Stamping Department at Somerset House for looking up the old annals, and allowing an inspection of all their records which provided for Messrs. De La Rue printing the first definite postage stamps for Jamaica.

As regards the information derived directly from Jamaica: the Jamaica Government, through the Colonial Secretary's Office, kindly allowed search to be made through the Government archives; whilst Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A., lent welcome aid from his unrivalled store of a very deep knowledge of Jamaica's history; and Mr. R. H. Fletcher, the present Postmaster-General of Jamaica, helped to unravel some modern-day knots.

The compilers were also indebted to the following gentlemen who submitted either the whole or portions of their specialized collections of Jamaican stamps: W. Doming Beckton, J. H. Daniels, E. Egly, J. Stelfox Gee, Captain L. J. Gilbert-Lodge, B. McGowan, C. F. Dendy Marshall, Dr. W. Simpson, L.O. Trivett, A. J. Watkin, and Delf Norona, who sent his collection from far-off Virginia.

The compilers have to thank: Mr. George Pearson for drawing both the maps to meet the needs of this book; Messrs. F. J. Melville, Louis Bradbury, and J. R. Wilson for many services; and the West Indian Committee for granting ready access to their library.

Finally, the compilers would tender their thanks to the societies and private individuals who subscribed for the book in advance, without which help it would have been impossible to have produced a handbook covering so wide a scope.

The united labours of the past three years are now presented to the stamp world in the hope that the result will be of some real service to both present and future students and collectors of the postage stamps of the Isle of Wood and Water. The compilers neither seek for nor desire other reward.

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|--|---|-------------------|
| ASTLEY C. CLERK.<br>G. W. COLLETT.<br>H. COOKE.<br>W. BUCKLAND EDWARDS.<br>G. C. GUNTER.<br>C. S. MORTON, <i>Hon. Sec.</i><br>L. C. C. NICHOLSON, <i>Hon. Treas.</i> | } | <i>Compilers.</i> |
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LONDON, July 1928.

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