

Jamaica Newsletter No. 3

By Thomas Foster

The ILO issue which appeared in May introduced several innovations, being the first Jamaican issue to appear on unwatermarked paper, the first printed entirely by lithography and the first to be printed by Format International Ltd. A first day cover completed the set but there was no special postmark. It is intended to commemorate the centenary of the ½d and 1d coins with two stamps that were scheduled for July, but they have not yet appeared. Whilst on the subject of modern issues, can anyone show me, or supply me with an example of the Crown Agents publicity leaflet for the 1964 Eleanor Roosevelt issue?

The new 9d Air Letter, required owing to the rate increase of July 1968, appeared on April 16th in the new, three-flap format with the dark blue imprinted stamp depicting the Streamer-tailed Humming Bird. This form will have a short life as it, and other current postal stationery, will shortly appear in the existing designs, but in decimal currency the relevant items being Air Letters at 8c, Postcards at 1c, Newswrappers at 1c and 2c, and Registered Envelopes at 11c. The present 1½d, 2½d and 8d stamps will be withdrawn and the remaining values of the definitive set will appear with decimal surcharges and an overprint reading 'C-Day 8th September 1969', details being as follows:-1c/1d, 2c/2d, 3c/3d, 4c/4d, 5c/6d, 8c/9d, 10c/1s, 15c/1s6d, 20c/2s, 30c/3s, 50c/5s, \$1/10s, \$2/£1.

Postal History.

I have been shown by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd., an example of the 1d paid marking, type PD8 in red ink, used in conjunction with type PD5 on a soldier's letter dated June 28th, 1847. This use is quite logical but absolutely new to me and its belated appearance is the result of the scarcity of soldiers' and sailors' correspondence of that era. Other surprises have been the appearance of the rare Green Pond T4a hand-stamp struck in red ink on a letter of 1821 and two entires bearing good strikes of the Vere T3 hand-stamp in black, both dated 20 years prior to the previous earliest known date!

Unrecorded 'G.B. Used in Jamaica' do not often turn up, so imagine my surprise when shown a beautiful pre-numeral obliterator letter addressed to Kingston and bearing a 4d rose cancelled by the Rodney Hall P6 date-stamp of February 8th, 1859. This, the first pre-numeral obliterator letter to be recorded from Rodney Hall, becomes item 77 in the list of known pieces in that section.

Military Mail

My recent article dealing with P.O.W. and Internment Camp Mail¹ resulted in a letter from the Adjutant of that camp between 1941-44. This cleared up several puzzling points and disclosed that the Women's Internment Camp, housing wives and children of civilian internees in the main camp, was located in Hanover Street, Kingston, until 1944, when married families were reunited in a new Married Families Camp on part of the Gibraltar Camp. Informative mail on this subject also came from Sicily, Italy, East and West Germany, Austria, Canada and Ghana, all from former inmates of the camps and providing proof of the widespread readership of STAMP COLLECTING.

It has recently been brought to my notice that a company of the Scots Guards trained for three weeks in

the island last August, accompanied by British F.P.O. 250, and that training by a British infantry unit will take place this year. Readers of my article on Canadian Army mails² will be interested to learn that a Canadian infantry battalion was engaged in jungle training, 'Exercise Nimrod Caper', in the Cockpit Country of central Jamaica during March and had its mails handled through Canadian F.P.O. 5003, which accompanied the unit. Sight or details of any of these F.P.O. markings would be appreciated.

Telegraphs.

It has often been claimed that telegraph stamps and cancellations should form part of a specialised collection, but it is difficult to distinguish between postal and telegraphic use when post-marks are used for both purposes. Jamaica telegraph stamps (later replaced by postage stamps) were cancelled by



Fig. A



Fig. B

postal daters for long periods, but some offices were issued with date-stamps as Figs. A and B, which can be found on postage stamps from about 1900 onwards. Other offices [employed hand-stamps consisting of the word CANCELLED set in a rectangular frame and struck in black ink. These are often found on the bi-coloured values of the 1912-20 series and on higher values of later issues.

Telegraph facilities exist at all railway stations and telegraph stamps exist cancelled with railway station date-stamps which were used to date railway tickets on issue. These daters were later used to postmark letters mailed at those stations until 1924, when station letter-boxes were withdrawn. The 4d to 1s postage stamps found cancelled with these date-stamps between 1944-45 are telegraphic and stations noted during this period include Green Vale, Highgate, Montego Bay and Riversdale, and I have just been shown a previously unrecorded example from Ipswich, as in Fig. C.



Fig. C



Fig. D

For some time, larger offices have been using postal Temporary Rubber Date-stamps for telegraphic use and, occasionally, these can be found cancelling letters and creating rare modern postal history items, but my excuse for these rough notes on telegraphic cancellations came when finding a current 4d stamp with the unrecorded type of telegraphic cancellation (Fig. D), in the stock of a local dealer. This is the new format for all postal dates which has now been adopted for telegraphic use.

Postal Agencies have recently been opened at Armstrong in St. Elizabeth (April 18th, 1969) and Spring Village in St.

¹ STAMP COLLECTING, June 5th, 1969

² STAMP COLLECTING, October 22nd, 1965—amended and republished in the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (of America) Bulletin of May 1967.