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### EDITORIAL

It has been several years since I published the "British West Indian Philatelist" magazine, and must thank the many readers in the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, etc. who have written from time to time asking for a publication.

Like so many things today, printing in Jamaica is high, so from this Issue onwards a quarterly copy of the West Indian Bulletin will be sent to all Collectors and firms.

Readers will be pleased to know that the Jamaica Philatelic Society is being revived through the Institute of Jamaica, and this Bulletin will be the official Bulletin of the Society.

The British Caribbean Philatelic Society is now being dissolved and the funds will be turned over to the Jamaica Philatelic Society.

Readers who are interested in joining this Society are asked to write to the Editor. The proposed subscription will be 21/- per year for the four Bulletins.

We would appreciate your comments on what they would like whether specialized articles on the British West Indies, Postal History, First Flights, etc. A number of articles on the West Indies which are on hand will be run accordingly. Montserrat early Postal History will be done in due course , likewise some of the early letters of British Honduras to Nugent (1801-1805).

These pre stamp covers are very interesting, and are now in the Institute of Jamaica.

Readers who wish to obtain a subscription to the Bulletin without joining the Society – this will be 10/6 per year for four editions.

### NOTES HERE AND THERE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA      We must congratulate the Editor of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, Mr. A.N. Johnson, on the publication of the Bulletin. Mr. R. Topaz, Pres., has proven himself to be extremely capable in this position. It is indeed a pleasure receiving a list of the names of the members with their addresses, and other interests. Any Collectors interested in West Indian material, we would advise them to write to the Secretary of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, Mr. R.H. Lant, 164 Highbourne Road, Toronto 7, Ontario, CANADA.

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMAICA      British Overseas Airways Corporation had their first flight from London to Lima, Peru on April 5th. No covers were prepared for this flight, although a few covers were sent from Jamaica — London without a cachet.

WEST INDIES STAMPS Vol. 1 No. 1 (Dec 1962)

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ST. KITTS Reports of a special Commemorative Issue have been received. This Issue will appear early next Spring 1963.

\*\*\*\*\*

MEXICO First flight Mexico — Jamaica took place on December 1st, 1962.

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMAICA For over a year, postmarks have been appearing overseas and locally in a Temporary Rubber Date mark of T,P.O. It was originally believed that this was being used on a train, but this has turned out to be incorrect. The General Post Office started a little over a year ago with Travelling Post Offices. The mail is sent on Route 1 from Mandeville to Sav-la-mar. Mail is collected enroute and postmarked while travelling. Route 2 is from Kingston - St. Anns Bay. Route 3 St. Anns Bay — Montego Bay In the next 6 months, there will be an additional two. or possibly 3 more routes. For postmark collectors the routes are not identified except by the envelope as all the. Temporary Rubber Date marks are similar.

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMAICA Reports from London state that the 2d. Jamaica Independence stamp has been found Imperf. On very careful checking in Jamaica, and knowing how the General Post Office distributes its stamps, the chances of this sheet of Imperfs. coming out of the General Post Office is very slight, and it is a good guess to say that it is an item from the Crown Agent

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JAMAICA The new Independence stamps were issued at the Post Offices on August 8th (which is the official First Day Issue) and not August 6th. Both the 6th and 7th were Public Holidays in the Island.\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMAICA The Jamaica Queen Elizabeth 4d can be found with the watermark inverted, and the Centenary 6d exists with the offset printing on the back. Also the overprint of the 1d value with the overprint partly on the margin. This block was broken, so that the setting had been spoilt; but there must be a penny value with little or no overprint on it.

\*\*\*\*\*

CAYMAN A new Post Office by the name of "HELL" was opened on November 28th which appeared with a Temporary Rubber Date mark stamp made in Jamaica. The steel die ordered from ENGLAND was incorrect, calling this very town by the name of "HILL."

\*\*\*\*\*

PERTH,  
AUSTRALIA Rum has again proven to be a better drink than Whisky. Result - Jamaica will be having the VIII Commonwealth & Empire Games in August 1966.

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMAICA New Post Office Guides were put on sale in December 1962. Price US \$1.00 - 7/- sterling, plus postage overseas,

\*\*\*\*\*

BAHAMAS Commercial mail recently received from the Bahamas show that Bimini, Fox Town, The Bright, Governors Harbour are using Temporary Rubber Date Marks. While steel stamps in blue or a bright purple have been seen for Inaugua, Rock Sound, Governors Harbour.

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMAICA Cunard Eagle opened their First Flight on May 8th from Jamaica - Nassau - Bermuda - London. No covers were prepared.

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMAICA With Jamaica gaining her Independence, the Island used a meter mark with the following inscription:

"WITH FAITH - AND- COURAGE - INTO THE FUTURE -  
INDEPENDENCE - AUGUST 6, 1962."

This meter mark was electrically stamped .at 12 different Post Offices, but there were actually 15 machines of which you will find listed below:

- Kingston 3
- Half Way Tree
- Cross Roads
- Spanish Town
- May Pen
- Ocho Rios
- St. Anns Bay
- Brown's Town
- Linstead
- Savanna-la-mar
- Mandeville
- Montego Bay

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMAICA A new local Air Line Company is just being formed by Mr. Robert Thompson, and it is planned that the service will be between Montego Bay - Braca - Oracabessa - Palisadoes, using small DC 3's of luxury type for passengers, while a second 'plane will be used mainly for freight and mail. No date has been set for the First Flight.

## BRITISH HONDURAS

On October 31st, 1961, British Honduras experienced one of the worst hurricanes yet recorded. The damage was estimated in the millions, and well over 60,000 people were made homeless.

"Hurricane Hattie" as it was called, certainly gave Jamaica and the Cayman Islands a very bad scare. After the hurricane it was suggested through the Institute of Jamaica to the Post Master General of Jamaica, that a .special surcharge be put into use to raise funds for British Honduras. This was accepted, but due to security measures it was found that it could not be issued in Jamaica, so the idea was dropped.

On January 15th, 1962, an Overprint appeared in London of four stamps, namely the 1c, 10c, 25c and 50c of the current Queen Elizabeth stamps of British Honduras, overprinted-Hurricane Hattie with no surcharge. Just how foolish can the Government in British Honduras and the Crown Agents be it is hard to tell, for here is a Colony which is absolutely destitute, and they issue stamps without even a surcharge. Each of these stamps should have had at least - 100% surcharge of face, to bring any help or assistance to the Colony.

The small amount of the stamps overprinted Hurricane Hattie which have been sold, Will make practically no impression to the Belize Fund. Shortly after these Overprints appeared, the main Queen Elizabeth stamps came on sale, which was extremely badly timed.

It is encouraging to report that great interest is now being taken in British Honduras, and feel that before long a number of new buildings will be erected. So out of bad - comes good.

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## WHAT IS WRONG?

**LONDON:** Last year, my family and self visited England for the first time in twelve years, and one could see the many architectural developments which were being made in London in various skyscrapers. But, at the same time, one appreciated the time worn charm of the old Cathedrals and the Art Galleries. Yet, so many of the buildings in London were still not Centrally Heated, which still shows that in this modern age there is still room for improvement.

**CROWN AGENTS:** In more recent years, the Crown Agents have been putting out a monthly Bulletin giving dates of all new releases as well as withdrawals. These Bulletins are intended for the Collector as well as the Dealer. As is known, the Crown Agents distribute their stamps for and on behalf of the Overseas Territories, but like so much in England their rules and regulations are antiquated. In order to give one simple example, let us say that there was a very big event taking place in England and a special stamp of Her Majesty was due to be issued. The Post Office in England should, without hesitation, despatch these new stamps to recognized Philatelic Associations and Dealers 8 - 10 days before the issue, for the preparation of First Day Covers. The Post Master General of England is well known for the amount of red tape he is involved in, of which some of the excess is passed on to the Colonies. Certainly the Crown Agents should look around and revise their whole complete set up in their rules and regulations for we are no longer in 1862 but 1962, and before very long there will be very few Colonies which they will have to worry about.

**AMATEURS:** What is an amateur? In England the "Royal" stands as the leading Philatelic Society for Amateur Collectors. We in Jamaica each year have the pleasure of seeing the world's leading Tennis Players who compete in the Caribbean Tournament. Only recently the IXth Central American and Caribbean Games were held at the National Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica.

We have a very good idea as to who are amateurs and we know the enthusiastic "Jamaican Amateur" is now up to 70%.

We wonder whether the "Royal" is up to this?

**NATIONAL SPORTS:** National Sports is the Organization running the Stadium which was opened officially on August 5th of this year (1962) by Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, after which the IXth Central American and Caribbean Games were held. This fine structure had many set backs in construction, with the result that the cost of the Stadium has exceeded expectations. Last October, Mr. Herbert McDonald, O.B.E., the head of National Sports Ltd., asked Government for a special issue of stamps to help the fund for the Stadium.

This was given to Mr. McDonald for National Sports in the form of a Miniature sheet, It was expected by the Government that Mr. McDonald would distribute these sheets wholly and solely. When Mr. McDonald told us of Government's action, the obvious intention was then to put the stamps on sale at the Stadium, but this was out of the question due to delays, for up to the time that the IXth Central American and Caribbean Games were being held, seats were still being put in at the Stadium. We were asked to distribute these sheets as an Agent for and on behalf of the National Sports Ltd. in December, 1961, and we had little alternative seeing that Government and National Sports Ltd. had set the sheets at 5/- wholesale and 7/- retail.

The Post Offices in Jamaica could not undertake selling these stamps over the counter at this high premium, but the Postal Department did agree to supply all overseas orders from the Philatelic Department, but not wholesale. This leaves us wondering why? Philatelically we do know our good friend, the Post Master General, who is working very hard, also most of the Committee and unfortunately they do not know some of the finer points in stamp collecting. The mere fact that all orders for the Miniature sheets to the General Post Office were supplied, and will more than likely be always supplied for unless the stamps are withdrawn from issue, I would strongly recommend that in the future Jamaica should have none of her stamps demonetized as this is certainly one of the lowest forms of Philately. All of our present stamps should be available at all times through the Philatelic Department which is now in embryo.

The Athletic sheets of which a total number of 100,000 were printed, would I suppose be always available from the Philatelic Department at the Post Office, at the same rate 5/- wholesale and 7/- retail.

These are my recommendations, and I sincerely trust that part of these will be carried out as there is a tremendous amount which is wrong today in the Stamp world, and certainly any firm which condemns an Issue knowing the full facts of the sheets, must be branding themselves.

As far as we are aware, we have never seen Miniature sheets yet listed in any of Gibbons Catalogues, so why the fuss. Obviously a precedence has been made in the fact that a Dealer has for the first time distributed an Issue as Agent for a country. I am sure that this will not be the last time.

There is a very mistaken idea in Canada, United States and the United Kingdom that if an Issue of stamps is not distributed by the Crown Agents, the stamps are not legal. The handling of an Issue V stamps by the Crown Agents does not make this legal — this is left to the country, but more of this in our next Issue.

**PRINTING:** The future of Jamaican stamps is very assured. Our new Issue will have at least sixteen values, the greater part of which is already designed. The Printing Houses in London such as De La Rue or Bradbury Wilkinson .surely could not be proud of their printing.

In plain English, most of it is shocking Some of Harrison's printing has really been very good. Jamaica, in their new Pictorial issue, will more than likely have the Crown Agents handle the printing, but one cannot see any further issues going to them.

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E.F. AGUILAR.

In North America there has been an idea prevailing among many Stamp Collectors that unless an Issue of stamps is available through the Crown Agents, this is not legal, as in the case of the Miniature sheets for Jamaica. This is quite incorrect, as the Crown Agents are merely distributing for and on behalf of the Colonies, and countries in question.

Readers may like to know that this large Government Organization known as the Crown Agents, is merely a firm of "Brokers," and all Government Offices whether in Jamaica, Malta, or Hong Kong can order all the office equipment such as files, desks, electrical fittings, all the different types of stationery, books, etc. usually at a much .cheaper price than from the open market in England, but over the years the distribution of stamps has been an accepted practice by the Crown Agents. However, this is certainly not necessary as the Colonies or the countries could distribute their own stamps or make other arrangements with Agents.

To give the reader an idea of the procedure, Jamaica is now preparing an issue which should be ready around June or July of this year; the designs having been selected in Jamaica by a Committee. Many of these will be photographs, drawings or reproductions which will be passed on to London to be prepared for the printers. An artist is appointed, and the first set of colour trials of the stamps are prepared and forwarded to the Island.

There might be as many as 4 - 5 trials on .a particular stamp before the final work commences. The given number of stamps is ordered and then despatched to the Island with the Crown Agents keeping a portion for distribution.

One would expect that the stamps now completed with the original drawings and photographs would be returned to the Island, but unfortunately these are not always returned. In some cases, we do know where the Crown Agents have asked certain Colonies for original drawings while others have never yet been asked, but again they have never been returned. But what makes it worse is the fact that without asking permission from any of the Colonies, .readers have the pleasure of seeing through Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Limited an article entitled "An Issue is Born."

The Crown Agents fully realize the extremely high value of the nature of these original sketches, photographs or drawings and Art Work which are being sent to them, and unfortunately the overseas territories do not realize the importance and value.

When the Crown Agents keep many of these items we certainly trust that in due course they will pass them on to the Royal Collections, as all original designs are usually presented to Her Majesty.

Incidentally, having a publication of the Royal Collection which was prepared by Sir John Wilson, there was a number of designs which certainly should be among this latter group which appears in this volume. What makes us wonder is the fact that a commercial firm ad lib can publish these original designs without question or leave and one never has the slightest idea as to what happens to these designs.

The Institute of Jamaica has one of the finest collections of West Indian pictures, reference material which can be found in any part of the world, likewise there are excellent libraries, museums in Trinidad and Bermuda. The Islands in this area which send their designs of stamps to London for printing, should demand the return of their original designs and essays. These should be placed either in Jamaica or one of the other museums in the-Islands, but certainly they should not remain in London unless they were being presented to the Royal Collection and certainly not for publication.

Let us hope that in the future this will be corrected by the Crown Agents.