

# THE BRITISH WEST INDIAN PHILATELIST

EDITED BY E. F. AGUILAR

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5/- YEARLY

EDITOR E. F. AGUILAR

P.O. BOX 408, — KINGSTON.

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## The Case Of The Missing Perfs Or The Lament

The day was damp and dusty, the spring showers had set in; lightning flashed across the sky, and the atmosphere was heavy with mystery. Mr. P. E. R. Frame, C.I.D., F.B.I., S.Y., that illustrious faker, landed on this tropical paradise; he had come to begin his investigation on the case of the Missing Perfs.

He entered the nearest Bar, ordered a large rum and commenced his investigation immediately. There he knew he could get all the information he needed, also a lot he didn't too.

Sitting at the next table was Mr. Watermark of Watermark & Street Unlimited. This was luck. Well surely, for they had been the originators of the Missing Perfs.

"Good morning Mr. Watermark," Mr. Frame began. "What a busy little bee you've been lately, what with elections, Christmas, the egg and spoon races, and didn't you have something to do with the Missing Perfs?"

"Well, actually we did," he said, "but that was back in October, issued on the 10th, 1949, they were, sometime ago now."

Mr. Frame was elated, here was his first clue.

On the morning of October 10th at 8 a.m. the first of the Missing Perfs was sold by the P.M.G. (known to his intimate friends as-er-Inky) to the first man in a queue stretching several miles.

"That's funny," said Mr. Frame, "I was only in the Island around September 30 and was assured they were unknown."

"That is odd. I simply must tell Mr. C. Agent he will be amused to hear that one.

"Now take Bermuda, they really do things in style, with a special Department that takes care of oil Philatelic maniacs-they also indulge in such frivolities as cachets, covers for special issues and things that collectors go frantic over, and do such daring deeds to get. Of course, such out of the way places as the Leeward Islands can't be expected to have reached this standard yet. Then you see they start their Christmas rush in September, or why else is it that orders placed there in that month cannot be delivered until January 20. Oh yes! Perhaps if their Christmas mail gets any greater they'll, take out a printed form to this effect. Think of the saving of copies in triplicate. Actually, I'll be continuing my investigation there tomorrow; it's only 2¾ hours by air. Will you have dinner with me when I return in the evening?"

13½ x 14½ hours later, Mr. Frame was interviewing a most important witness. It was that illusive gentleman Mr. Fiscal of the renowned legal Fiscal & Judicial. He had been run to earth at last in the courts of Justice; here he was balancing his books with red tape. From his expression business was excellent. Why shouldn't it be? With the pound devalued and certain Islands depriving a revenue as great as 65% of their total from the sale of stamps.

Why, Mr. Frame wanted to know, was there this reluctance to sell these articles to buyers without first causing them as much inconvenience as it was possible. Even Mr. Fiscal could not answer this one, but then who can?

It was now evening, an exotic tropical night (see your Travel Agency for further descriptions). Mr. Frame was listening to a fascinating calypso sung by Dela, Mr. Street's secretary. He had been questioning her earlier on the collecting of material in the West Indies.

"Oh", she told him, it we manage wonderfully with the new sarongs. Of course, grass skirts were never popular, neither are the unobliging morons who give the West Indies such a bad name with the customers, fortunately these are very few and on the whole the West Indies are popular. Even though there is not a grass skirt to be seen either! "

She giggled coyly.

"It's a ticklish subject!"

With a sigh Mr. Frame close his album, it was January 10th, 1950, and at midnight the case of the missing Perfs was withdrawn forever.

Do you think this is a fairy story? Perhaps, it is, perhaps it isn't!

## News Here And There

### Jamaica- – Defence Regulations Seal

On December 8th, 1949 the Finance Board stopped examining letters going to the Dollar countries. During the three months previously, the Board had opened letters which were suspected of containing dollars, after which they were sealed by an Official label (3x2) showing the coat of arms of the Governor of Jamaica at the top with G on one side and R on the other, and with the following wording in three lines:

"Opened, Examined and resealed by proper Officer under the Jamaica-Defence (Finance) Regulations."

These items are not easily seen, as most of them went out of the Island, and collectors are only too anxious to get hold of same.

During the past few months, a number of new temporary Post Offices have been opened. The most interesting has been "Lookout" which uses a double lined circle of 37 M.M. The following is the list of new Post Offices opened in the last three months.

### Jamaica – TRDs

#### T.D. 17 A

This is the first occasion that one of the new T.R.D.'s has been similar to the earlier issue. Lookout is the same type of double ring as Myers Wharf, except that it has a larger circle 7 M.M. and the date hand stamped across the middle. The Lettering is 3 M.M, high and always in purple ink.

Name of Post Office	M/Ment	P.O. Opened.
LOOKOUT	37	Sept. 1, 1949

#### T.D. 37

Name of Post Office	M/Ment	P.O. Opened.
BAILEYS VALE	48x32	Nov. 11, 1949.
CONTENT GAP	48x32	Nov. 16, 1949.
GLANVILLE	48x32	Nov. 7, 1949.
MT. AIRY	48x32	Nov. 8, 1949.
TRANQUILITY	48x32	Nov. 11, 1949.
SANDY RIVER	48x32	Nov. 14, 1949.

#### T.D. 38 A

A similar type to T.D. 37 but the letters are much wider apart and larger. A double Elliptical with entire ring with a star either side. Always in purple ink. Dating by Handstamp as usual.

Name of Post Office	M/Ment	P.O. Opened.
LEEDS	48x32	Nov. 2, 1949.

#### T.D. 41 A

A double line Elliptical. The name of the Post Office and the word Jamaica are in the same type of lettering as TD 37 A. but without inner circle. Star at the either side of the Elliptical.

Name of Post Office	M/Ment	P.O. Opened.
CALDWELL	48x32	Nov. 7, 1949.

**NOTE:** The spelling should have been CAULDWELL.

**T.D. 43**

<b>Name of Post Office</b>	<b>M/Ment</b>	<b>P.O. Opened.</b>
JOHNSON MTN	50x30	Nov. 10, 1949.

**British Guiana – 1949 KGVI 2c Perforation**

It is interesting to note that the 2c British Guiana has reverted back to the old perforation of 12½ x 12½ and already from reports this stamp is quite scarce in obtaining. The control plate setting is 5, which was the same as the 13x13.

**Jamaica Vernam Field American Base**

January 2 this year, the American Base was handed over to the Jamaican Government, who had purchased all stock and accessories plus buildings, runways, and equipment. The postmarks used at Vernam Field as it was known, ceased on this day. Up to the present, Sandy Gully is open for local residents there who need Postal facilities. This Post Office, it is expected, will be turned into a Postal Agency.

**Jamaica 1949 KGVI 5s Comb Perf**

The 5/- comb perforation 13 has caused quite a flutter among Philatelists in this Island. Early in December, it is stated that the P.M.G. received 416 half sheets at which time they were distributed to all the smaller Post Offices in Kingston and lower St. Andrew. These Post Offices were handling very heavy consignments of parcels going to the U.S., Canada and the U.K. Very nearly all these stamps were used on packages, and only a small and limited amount found there were obtained by the collectors in this Island. This item if not reprinted, will be one of the scarcest of the George VI stamps for Jamaica, and is quite easily picked out from the other issues by the bluish paper, and also the perforations at the top of the frame.

Early in 1948, a block 8 of these 5/- stamps were purchased and on being carefully measured just recently were found to be of a perforation 13.75 x 14. The colour being very heavy orange. I am quite sure that this intermediate perforation must have been on sale a little while in Jamaica, and it does seem extraordinary that collectors have not yet reported same.

**Jamaica & Barbados 1949 KGVI 2½d Blue Shades**

A large amount of envelopes were recently purchased in this Island among which were the 2½d blue on first day cover and the 2½d ultramarine of Barbados. There is absolutely no hesitation in picking out these two shades under the Quartz Lamp and there must have been quite a quantity of the blue used from Barbados.

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WANTED: Jamaica T.R.D postmarks also any Jamaica Postal History items.  
J. D. Fielding, 211 Earlham Road, Norwich, England.

WANTED: Jamaica used key plate and Llandovery Falls wanted by the hundreds.  
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E. F. Aguilar, P.O. Box 406, Kingston. Ja., B.W.I.

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### Postmarks Of The Bahamas

Early types were AO 5; 27 and 29, all similar in design to S.G. type 2 used abroad; and B as type 14. Later, various types of B; and R in circle (registered).

Modern slogan postmarks seen:

- The Switzerland of Bahamas ELEUTHERA (In three lines).
- Air Mail Saves Time (in two lines with aeroplane in between).
- Come to Nassau Bahamas Ideal Tourist Resort (in three lines)
- Nassau Tourist Season (in two lines).

### **TOWN POSTMARKS & ISLAND ON WHICH SITUATED**

Town	Island
Abraham Point	Mayaguana
Abraham Bay	Mayaguana
Acklin's Island	Acklin's
Alice Town	Bimini
Arthur's Town	Cat
Bannerman Town	Eleuthera
Behring Point	Andros
Bimini	Bimini
Bluff	Cat
Burnt Ground	Long
Cat Cay	Cat Cay
Cherokee Sound	Abaco
Chester	
Clarence Hill	Long
Clarence Town	Long
Colonel Hill	Crooked
Coopers Town	Abaco
Cornwall	Abaco
Deadman's Cay	Long
Deep Creek	Eleuthera
Devil's Point	Cat
Dundas Town	
Eight Mile Rock	Grand Bahama
Fairfield	
Farmers Creek	
Fox Hill	New Province
Fresh Cay	Andros
George Town	Great Exuma
Governor's Harbour	Eleuthera
Grants Town	Nassau, N.P.
Grays	
Great Guano Cay	Abaco
Gregory Town	Eleuthera
Green Turtle Cay..	Abaco
Harbour Island	Harbour
Hatchet Bay	Abaco
Hope Town	Abaco
Inagua	Inagua
Industrious Hill	Cat
James' Cistern	Eleuthera
Kemps Bay	Andros
Knowles	Cat

Town	Island
Knowles	Cat
Landrail Point	Crooked
Lignum Vitae Cay	Berry
Little Bay	Current
Long Bay Cays	Andros
Long Cay	Fortune
Lower Bogue	Eleuthera
Mangrove Cay	Andros
Man-o-War Cay	Abaco
Marsh Harbour	Abaco
Mastic Point	Andros
Mayaguana	Mayaguana
Millville	
Moss Town	
Mount Thompson	
Nassau	New Providence
Nicoll's Town	Andros
Norman's Castle	
Old Bight	Cat
Old Place	
Palmetto Point	Eleuthera
Pine Ridge G.B.	Grand Bahama
Pirate's Well	Mayaguana
Pompay Bay	
Port Howe	Cat
Pure Gold	Andros
Ragged Island	Ragged
Rock Sound	Eleuthera
Rolle Town	Great Exuma
Rolleville	Great Exuma
Roses	Long
Rum Cay	Rum Cay
Sandy Point	
San Salvador	Watling
Savannah Sound	Eleuthera
Sea Floor	Self Explanatory
Shirley Street	New Providence'
Simms	Long
Snug Corner	
South Palmetto Point	Eleuthera
Spanish Wells	Harbour
Spring Point	Acklin's
Stanyard Creek	Andros
Steventon	Great Exuma
Sweeting's Cay	Grand Bahama
Tarpum Bay	Eleuthera
The Bight	Cat
The Current	Harbour
The Ferry	Great Exuma
Thurston	
True Blue	
Watlings	Watling
Wemyss Bight	Eleuthera
West End	Grand Bahama
Williams Town	Exuma

(By kind permission of

Mr. W. L. Freshwater).



### First Flights To And From Jamaica 1931 To 1938 By E. F. Aguilar

Early December 1930, a new flight was started between Venezuela-Kingston-Miami and a few covers are known from Venezuela to Kingston, Ja. that were not cacheted, but each of the envelopes were signed by the Pilot and co-Pilot who were Mr. Wallace D. Culbertson, the Pilot and Master of Pan American Seaplane-NC 669 M. and W. S. Doxey Pilot of Pan American Amphibian - NC 145 M. Envelopes are postmarked in Venezuela on December 5 arriving in Kingston on the 8th December at 8 a.m. at the General Post Office. I have no information as to the flights done to Venezuela whether special cachets were ever issued or if the covers that were sent bore any marks for the first flight.

The Christmas trade being very brisk in Kingston 1930 whisky ran very short in the City, and one wholesale firm chartered the Caribbean Airways Ltd. seaplane to fly to Black River and back, where a cargo of whisky was loaded and brought to Kingston. This was the first occasion that air freight was carried from the airports to Kingston.

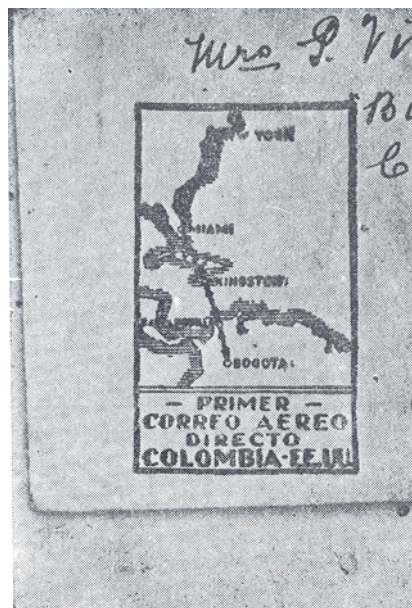
The New Year started with an announcement by the General Post Office that air mail letters could be posted to London. Letters would go by air up to New York, and then link with one of the big Trans-Atlantic liners to Southampton. Air rates were 2½d per half oz.

On January 9, 1931 the great movie "Hells Angels" opened in Jamaica, and the Caribbean Airways Ltd. Moth was engaged to do stunts during the evening. A few nights later this Moth crashed and was beyond repair.

The big event of the year was the arrival of the S.S. Oropesa on which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and his younger brother Prince George (late Duke of Kent) were on board. Kingston gave them a wonderful welcome. Their Royal Highnesses spent nearly two days around St. Andrew and Kingston, in which time they saw and did a great deal. (Although this was a great historical event to the Island, it is of no Philatelic value, as there were no Postmarks to commemorate this).

One of the most important new links in Pan American Airways was the opening of the service between New York and Bogota. There must have been a number of covers carried on this flight, which was early June 1931, but I have only the return flight from Bogota to Kingston which was on the 18th of June 1931. The cachet on the envelopes were always in black measuring 60x35 M.M. and showing the outline of the American coast, the Island of Cuba, Jamaica, and the outline and part of the coast of Central and South America, with the air route marked out in black lines from New York to Miami across Cuba to Kingston, then on to Barranquilla and Finally to Bogota. At the bottom of each cachet the following words are in four lines:-

"PRIMER-CORREO AEREO-DIRECTO-COLOMBIA-EEUU." (See Photo).

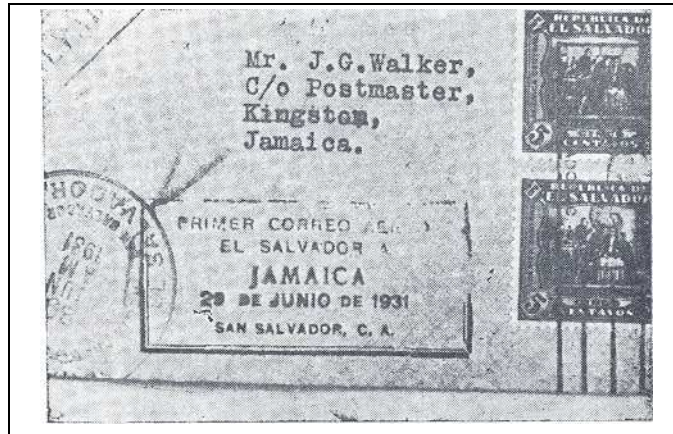


NEW YORK - MIAMI - JAMAICA - BOGOTA

On June 29 a direct service was established between San Salvador C.A. and Jamaica by Pan American Airways Inc. The cachet on the envelope is oblong measuring 54x23 M.M. in blue ink with the following wording in five lines:-

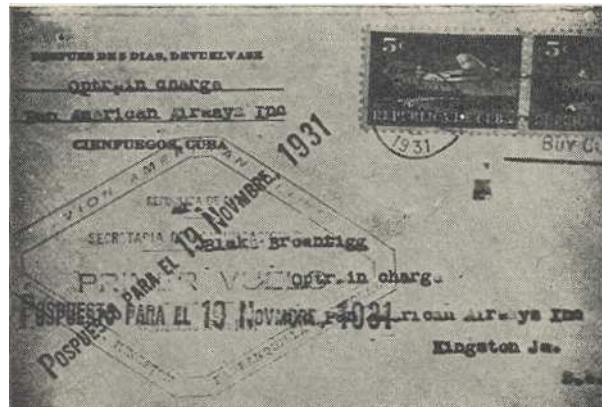
"PRIMER CORREO AERIO-EL SALVADOR-JAMAICA-29 de Junio de 1931-SAN SALVADOR C.A." (See Photo).

Back stamped in Kingston on July 4.



EL SALVADOR - JAMAICA

On the 19th November 1931, Pan American opened their new route to Barranquilla. The envelope in my Possession has the cachet from Cienfuegos Cuba to Cristobal via Kingston and Barranquilla (as Photo). There may exist direct covers from Kingston to Barranquilla or Cristobal, but I have not seen any to know if a special cachet was used. From information received it does not appear so. Ink is in purple or blue.



CIENFUEGOS-JAMAICA-BARRANQUILLA

On August 8th, 1932, the first flight between Jamaica to Porto Rico was flown. All covers from Jamaica bear a Purple cachet 42x45 M.M. with the following words in six lines:- -

"AIR MAIL / FIRST FLIGHT / JAMAICA- / HAITI-DOMINICANA / PORTO RICO / AUGUST 8, 1932" (As Photo).

All envelopes are back stamped Port-au-Prince 8th August, 1932 Haiti. On the return flight only a small amount of mail was carried, the cachet used was almost a square with the corners concaved, measuring 55x56 M.M. in deep blue ink. A small part of the outline of the coast of Haiti is shown on the left of the cachet while on the right part of the coast line of Jamaica, with sea in between and at flying boat. In heavy block letters at the top of the cachet in four lines:-

PRIMER VOL - PORT AU PRINCE - KINGSTON - DIRECT and at the bottom in two lines, in heavy block type:- PAN AMERICAN - AIRWAYS SYSTEM. The cover bears the date of mailing as 8th August 1932, and is back stamped at the General Post office Kingston 7.30 p.m. 8th August 1932.



JAMAICA-PORTO RICO

After this flight no new routes were open for a number of years, but there were several first flights outside of the Island. Covers were mailed from the Island, which went on these flights,

The two most often seen is the Hindenburg, which flight was from Lakehurst to Frankfurt, Germany. The cachet is quite large showing a Zeppelin, in two circles and the coast line of North America in the first and in the second circle the outline of Europe, with the airship route dotted out.

These covers are fairly scarce, and most of those posted from the Island had London addresses with no London backstamp date.

The Baltimore-Bermuda flight is also one of the popular covers outside the Island, this flight was made on March 16th, 1938, and envelopes are back stamped at Hamilton-Bermuda on the 16th.

It is very possible that many more Jamaica covers figure in first flights throughout the world, but these have not come to light yet to be recorded.

The next section to this article will take in the Second World War years, the different labels issued during this time to raise funds. Also the prisoner of war and H.M. ships Mails known.

## Jamaica Philatavelogue

**By J. M. Nethersole**

Still Westward Ho! and next we come to RUNAWAY BAY - it was from here that Don Ysassi after his defeat further East at the hands of Colonel D'Oyley in 1658, left the Island; in a canoe, it is said, and "running away" but it is also said that he did not "run away" - that he left for Hispaniola to get reinforcements; why he did not return, as he intended, is quite another story.

RUNAWAY BAY is also of long standing as a Post Office, dating from 1815. The temporary mark is known in Type 8 (vide -Nicholson's pamphlet).

About midway between RUNAWAY BAY and our next Post Office there is, some fifty yards from the road, on the South side, a most interesting lagoon, entirely surrounded by heavy mangrove growth. This lagoon is some half a mile long and perhaps half that in width -it is fed, at the western end by a little, ice-cold spring; its waters are crystal-clear and at the edges, where the mangrove has encroached, any bright object dropped into the water can be watched in its descent, fathoms down, until it comes to rest on a mangrove root. That is at the edges, so far, the middle has not yet been plumbed; certainly, in one trial, at two hundred fathoms bottom was not found, and the indisputable presence of huge electric eels which inhabit the depths in an effective deterrent to the over-curious.

A mile or so to the west lies another of Dismore's early foundations the Post Office at Dry Harbour, in existence before 1780. Pre-adhesive marks exist and the Office used Obliterator A36. There were two types of these, A 36, with a gap in between the dates of their use, which gap was filled by pen-cancellations "36" About the end of 1861, there seems to have been provided the second type of A 36.

DRY HARBOUR is the point at which Christopher Columbus first landed in Jamaica 1494, and the event is commemorated for the collector on the 3d stamps of the 1919-29 Pictorial issues. Canine fanciers perhaps over-captious, cavil at the dog there portrayed as being an anachronism. The older generations of the "locals" call it DISCOVERY BAY and a letter bearing that address prior to July 1948, would have been despatched by the Post Office to DRY HARBOUR.



The name was bestowed on this historic spot because it has no spring nor well as a water-supply, though there are streams underground -one of these bubbles up, in respectable volume, a hundred Yards or so from shore. Since July 1948 influential Tourist interests have prevailed upon the authorities to change the name of the Post Office to DISCOVERY BAY.

Beyond DRY HARBOUR the next (topographical) feature is the sharp rise and similar descent of Bengal Hill, ending at the bridge over the RIO BUENO, which marks the boundary between the Parishes of St. Ann and of Trelawny. Trelawny was named after Sir William Trelawny, the Governor at the date of its formation.

The bridge over the river, built by the Spaniards, is an engineering freak. It is said to be the last remaining bridge of its kind in the world, built not level but sloping downwards, from East to West.

Less than a mile west of the bridge we come to, RIO BUENO Post Office. RIO BUENO is the site of FORT DUNDAS of date 1778. and is another of Mr. Dismore's "earlies" one of the pre-1780 offices like DRY HARBOUR behind and DUNCANS ahead. RIO BUENO used Obliterator A 70.

Our next port of call DUNCANS, is ten miles from ST. ANN'S BAY and yet another of the early Dismore foundations, but today an Office of very little importance. This station used Obliterator A 37 down to about 1880, and after that the least uncommon of the scarce "letter" obliterations, in this case "B".

A few miles north of DUNCANS, off our route and a little beyond CLARK'S TOWN, is the Sugar Factory of LONG POND which is, I think, the original of the view which appears on the current 1/- George VI stamp of 1939, illustrating the initial phase of the sugar industry.



FALMOUTH is our next Post Office – an historic Town, the only Town besides KINGSTON and PORT ROYAL which was actually planned and laid out. In the days of Postmaster Dismore the Post Office was at MARTHA BREA, the current spelling of which is MARTHA BRAE -Here, a mile or so South of and inland from FALMOUTH, was the old Spanish settlement of MELLILLA or MATIBERION, abandoned after a short while on account of the too fervent attentions of the harrying French filibusters. Legend places the Spaniards with the working of a secret gold-mine here; alas, the secret seems to have been only too well kept.

In FALMOUTH was the WILLIAM KNIBB Memorial (Baptist) Chapel. The original was completely wrecked in the hurricane of 1944, the foundation stone for the new building laid in 1947. William Knibb was, of course, the fervid partisan in the fight for the Abolition of Slavery, the subject of the (unissued) 6d stamp of the 1919-29 Pictorial issues; the narrator has in his collection a letter from the Rev. Walter Dendy, another of the Abolitionists, dated 1834. to his superiors in England, on which appears the William Knibb seal, with the initials "W. K." and the motto "The chain is broken, Africa is Free."

The Court House at FALMOUTH is reproduced on the 1½d value of the New Constitution Issue of 1944. The building shown there is not the original structure, this was utterly destroyed by fire in 1926 and rebuilt, as nearly as possible similar, in 1930.

Early pre-adhesive marks of FALMOUTH are well-known and the Office used Obliterators A39 until 1862 and A38 after that date.

Some four miles west of FALMOUTH we come to a Postal Agency of present days, SALT MARSH, opened March 13th, 1945. The place is well named, with marsh all round; Heaven forbid that one should be compelled to live there! Let us hope that the Sanitation Officers, whose duties include that of Malaria Control, are alert, to almost superhuman efficiency:

A few miles beyond this aptly named Office we pass through two squat stone pillars with great cannon-balls atop-the place is actually called "Pillars" marking the boundary between the Parishes of TRELAWNY and ST. JAMES, into which we now enter.

The Apostolic name of this Parish is not the result of piety, but was given in honour of James, then Duke of York and later James II. We now travel over really superb road surface and stop at LITTLE RIVER Post Office, which lies opposite the well-known ROSE HALL ESTATE. Here the chatelaine was the notorious Rose Palmer, the tales of whose enormities verge on the apocryphal; she apparently, combined the habits of a Messalina with black magic and almost Belsen-like practices; legend has it that she was eventually and appropriately murdered by her revolting slaves. But the Mesdames Palmer were not all alike, for in the Parish Church in Montego Bay there is a monument by Bacon to the memory of a lady of that name whose saintly character as there recorded is the exact antithesis of that of the liquidated lady-The contrast can only be paralleled by the "Two Brothers of Birchington" of the Ingoldsby Legends.

The shell of the Great House still stands - up to a comparatively few years ago the perfect flooring was still in site, and the magnificent mahogany staircase has been preserved from destruction by removal to the St. Andrew residence of one of the present owners of the Estate.

LITTLE RIVER was one of the old Post Offices, too, not ranking with the pre-1780 Dismore greybeards, but still of sufficient antiquity as to appear on the list of Post Offices given in the "JAMAICA ALMANACK" of 1810. Little River used Obliterator A 50 and, when re-opened in 1869. E 58. Of the first no example is known, used at Little River - A 50 was later the Malvern mark from 1862 to 1893.



A bare fifteen minutes of driving brings us to the Montego Bay Air Port on the eastern edge of the Town. This is of 1946 institution, built to land the U.S. Dollarphoroi direct from Miami to Montego Bay, to fill the many luxury Hotels over the December to March season (at rates astronomical to the impecunious Island dweller).

This local LIDO gets its name from the humble hog - The Spanish name was MANTICA BAHIA or BUTTER BAY - It would seem that in those days this area abounded in wild hogs and from here the Spaniards exported the lard from the carcasses.

Cundall says that in an old map of this locality the area is shown as MONTEVIAS, i.e. Hunting Places. MONTEGO BAY as a Post Office is very old, of course was one of the pre-1780 Dismores and the pre-adhesive strikes are well known - the Office used Obliterators A57 (1859-62) and then two types of A 56. Today the Office is very up-to-date, being equipped with radio-telephone in connection with Kingston, and in common with all the other Main Post Offices teletype machines installed instead of the Morse instruments.

MONTEGO BAY is, after Kingston, the second largest town of the Island and accordingly also boasts of suburban Offices viz. WHITE SANDS BEACH and READING.

WHITE SANDS BEACH is a full Telegraph Office dating from January 1, 1936, situated at the entrance to the Bathing Beach whose name it bears. This Office is only open for four months of the year, December to March.

READING lies a couple of miles West of MONTEGO BAY and is, virtually; a residential suburb thereof - This District Post Office was opened on 28th September 1931 and it is almost certain that it used its permanent steel stamp from its inception and had no T.R.D.

And here, friend-collector, we leave you - It is to be hoped that the Letter of Credit and/or the Travellers Cheques are substantial enough for you to enjoy to the full the amenities you will find here - White sands, wonderful sea-bathing, adequate Hotel comforts.

Tennis, Golf, and, if you will have your ponies flown over, even polo!

THE END.

## **More News Here And There**

### **British Honduras 1949 St George's Cay withdrawn**

The St. George's Cay stamps of British Honduras were withdrawn on January 9th ...

### **Barbados 1950 Decimal Issue**

A new pictorial set, with values expressed in cents and dollars (B.W.I. currency) will be issued shortly. A portrait of H. M. The King is shown on each stamp. Values, colours and designs are as follows:

- 1c. grey: Dover Fort.
- 2c. green: Sugar cane breeding.
- 3c. brown and green: Public buildings.
- 4c. carmine: Nelson's statue.
- 6c. blue: Fishing by cast net.
- 8c. blue and purple brown: Inter-Island schooner.
- 12c. blue and sepia: Flying fish.
- 24c. red and black: Old Main Guard Garrison.
- 48c. violet: The Cathedral.
- 60c. green and claret: Careenage.
- \$1.20. red and olive: Wireless Masts.
- \$2.40. black: Arms of the Colony.

### **Jamaica 1951 University College of WI**

The opening of the University College of the West Indies took place on February 16th when H.R.H. Princess Alice was installed as Chancellor. There is unconfirmed reports that the Islands will be issuing a commemorative set for this event sometime later in the year. If this is so, it does seem a shame that a special issue of stamps should be issued so long after the actual event.

### **Popularity of Collecting Jamaica**

According to Stanley Gibbons, Jamaica is the most popular Colony of the British Colonies today with collectors, with the Falkland Islands and Malta coming second and third. Jamaica certainly offers an exceedingly wide range for collectors as they have untold wealth in postal history, a large amount of first flights, and in the issues of regular postage stamps, the early Queens are easier to distinguish than some of the sister Colonies. With the great help of the many articles written about this Island, it has been a lot easier for collectors generally to know the items that they have or the ones they are missing.

### **1950 International Stamp Exhibition London**

The big International Stamp Exhibition opens in London from May 6th to the 13th at Grosvenor House. There will be the very finest collections throughout the world on Exhibition, and in the Central Frame 895 will be 20 pages from the Royal collection. I am sure collectors who have the opportunity of seeing this Exhibition should by no means miss same. In our next issue we will have a description of the show written for us by one of the leading collectors in England.



## BWI Federation

The problem of whether or not it is politically expedient and economically practicable to federate the territories of the British Caribbean, including the continental units of British Honduras and British Guiana now awaits the decision of the legislatures of the respective colonies and the acceptance by His Majesty's Government of such composite plan as they might put forward. The problem, with all its interesting aspects and exciting possibilities, has been taken out of the realm of pure speculation by the concrete proposals drawn up by the Standing Closer Association Committee which was appointed following the Montego Bay Conference in 1947. The Report of the Committee now awaits the verdict of the peoples of the British Caribbean to be expressed through the formal voice of the several legislatures.

The task of finding a formula which will be acceptable to all and at the same time which will not be so weakened by compromise as to be ineffective must indeed be a formidable one. It is a task which involves the federation of over 3 million people scattered over 20 degrees of latitude and 25 degrees of longitude from British Honduras in the North West to British Guiana 2000 miles to the South East; it involves the constitutional welding of twelve colonies, each of which has attained a different stage of political maturity and varying degrees of economic development; it touches upon the racial problems of the large East Indian populations of Trinidad and the Guianas and the Mayan unionites of Honduras, the mixed cultures of the Windward and Leeward groups with their alternating Spanish, French and English backgrounds and the minute landfalls of the Virgin Islands to the South East and the Cayman Islands to the North West over 1000 miles away. It will require the goodwill and patient resolve of all to evolve a federal formula which will meet the case.

The Report recommends the Australian type of federal structure in which the Federal Government should have only such powers as are handed over to it and that all others—the residual powers should remain with the territorial units. For this reason the proposed constitution has an "exclusive" list and a "concurrent" list. Only the Federal Government would be able to legislate on matters contained in the "exclusive" list. The unit governments would be able to legislate on matters falling in the concurrent list until such time as the Federal Government passed an overriding law. "Postal Services" is on the concurrent list in the proposed constitution.

Since no Federal Government could exist on contributions which might or might not be voted to it by the constituent units, it must have its own source of revenue. The history of all federations points to the fact, and it has been recommended by the Report, that the appropriate single source of revenue should be the product of customs. "This is the more appropriate in that the establishment of a Customs Union, involving a Free Trade area, uniform tariffs and a single customs administration, are the foundation of a federal structure, particularly of one of which the chief functions will include responsibility for economic and commercial matters." (Report: par. 30). But since it is recognised that the customs revenues of the area, which represents 30% of their total revenue, will exceed the requirements of the Federal Government for several years, the Report recommends that for the first 5 years, 75% of the customs revenue will be returned pro rata to the contributing units. Then follows a recommendation of particular interest to the philatelist:

"A further source of Federal revenue which gives rise to special problems, is that arising from the federalisation of Postal services. Taking the region as a whole, postal revenues and expenditure approximately balance. But the position varies from territory to territory. In some of the larger territories, postal services operate at a loss and their deficits are a charge on general revenues. In some of the smaller territories and dependencies, on the other hand, the proceeds of stamp sales, largely to philatelists, constitute an important if somewhat hazardous source of revenue. Merely to federalise postal services, without making allowance for this fact, would place these territories in considerable difficulties. We recommend therefore, that as from the date on which the Federation takes over postal administration and becomes entitled to revenues therefrom, there be paid to each of such territories as make application accordingly an annual size equivalent to their average annual net receipts from stamp sales over the preceding five years. The proposed grants in lieu of postal profits, should like those in lieu of customs revenues, be automatic and without any implication of financial control on the part of the Federal Governments

So closely reasoned is the Report that it is difficult to summarise the recommendations without running the risk of distorting the overall perspective, of giving over-emphasis on the one hand or minimising some argument on the other. Every adult in the British West Indies should study the Report if only to familiarise himself with the problems of the territory of which he is a resident. Certainly every philatelist

will wish to do so. For these reasons we will conclude by giving the broadest sketch of the type of federal legislature recommended.

- (a) There will be a Governor General appointed by His Majesty the King.
- (b) There will also be a Senate 23 all appointed by the Governor General, 2 Senators being appointed from each unit except Montserrat which will have one. The first appointment will be for 10 years and thereafter for 5 years.
- (c) There will be a House of Assembly of 50 members elected by universal adult suffrage in which the islands will be represented as follows:-
  - (1) For the purposes of the election of members of the house of Assembly, seats should be allocated among, the Units as follows:
 

Barbados	4	
British Guiana	6	
British Honduras	2	
Jamaica	16	
Antigua	2	
St. Kitts-Nevis	2	
Montserrat	1	
Trinidad	9	
Grenada	2	
St. Vincent	2	
St. Lucia	2	
Dominica	2	
  - (2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 20 below, regarding the first general election, the seats within the Units should be allocated to constituencies by Federal Law.
- (d) There will also be a Council of State to advise the Governor General in his executive status as constitutional head of the State. This Council, corresponding to some extent to the Executive Council in Jamaica, will consist of .
  - (I) The Prime Minister, who will be elected by the Members of the House.
  - (II) Six persons who may be appointed by the Governor General. Not more than 3 may be officials and the remainder must be members of either the Senate or the House.
  - (III) Not more than 7 persons (being members of either Senate or House) ruminated for appointment by the Prime Minister.

It is also important to note that to the extent that the Governor General does not appoint all or any of his 6 nominees, the Prime Minister shall have the right to fill up the number in addition to those nominated by him under (III) above.

Money bills can only be introduced in the House and must the prior approval of the Council of State. If a money bill is rejected by the Senate it nevertheless becomes law. If any other bill, is rejected by the Senate and passed a second time by the House, it becomes law without the necessity for a second submission to the Senate. There are, of course, certain mechanical details affecting the rules stated above.

The reserve powers, such as veto, vested in the Governor-General are limited to the barest minimum short of giving the federal Structure Dominion Status and the Council of State is so designed as to permit a gradual development of a complete Cabinet and Ministerial system under the control of the Prime Minister.

Such, in barest outline, is the foundation proposed upon which the peoples of the British Caribbean may build upwards to the goal of ultimate complete political self dependence.

(Contributed).



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WINDSOR FOREST - ESSEX HALL - BRAETON - SAMUEL  
PROSPECT - ASHLEY - ABOUKIR - LEEDS - LOOK--  
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