

THE BRITISH WEST INDIAN PHILATELIST

EDITED BY E. F. AGUILAR

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PHILATELIST

ISSUED QUARTERLY
5/- YEARLY

EDITOR E. F. AGUILAR
P.O. BOX 406, — KINGSTON.

VOL. 2

SEPTEMBER 1950

No. 1

NEXT ISSUE

POSTMARKS of JAMAICA

and

AUCTION SALE

1/-

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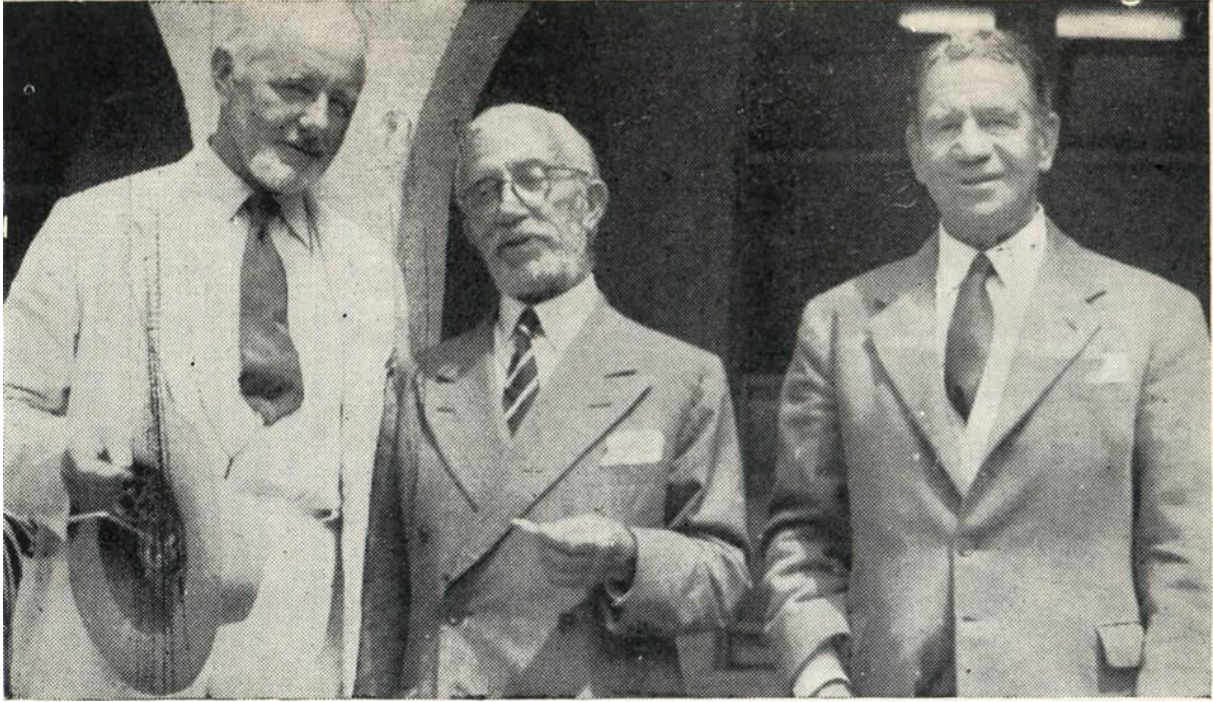
KINGSTON – JAMAICA – B.W.I.

Philatelic Values

Recently; a number of letters have been written inquiring as to the value of certain items, and it is extremely difficult to answer these accurately. Most of the time those who seek such information are primarily interested in the market values, and want to know how much they can expect to realize on something that they would like to get rid of, because it is of little or no interest to them. Generally speaking the type of material they describe is not the sort of thing that has any staple market value. The sort of items which are extremely difficult in fixing valuation on, are censored covers used in the West Indies during the war, also the increasing number of meter numbers now being used on this Island as well as a number of others. It is also true as to the first day covers, as a great number of collectors are glutted with these, such as the Coronation and Peace issues.

It is very difficult for many collectors to understand that items such as these mainly depend upon how much one wants to pay. The specialist of any country will always be prepared to pay higher prices than the ordinary collector, as he is trying to obtain as perfect a collection as possible. Even today in the regular issues of postage stamps of many of the Islands, it is difficult to define their values, for though the leading catalogue lists them, they will be found on the market at prices very much higher, than listed by catalogue. While on the other hand most war varieties and stamps can be purchased at a third and less than half catalogue. It is extremely hard to fix any Philatelic values on material which is unusual. The true market always has been found to be the auction, and judging by the prices obtained nowadays, there are extremely keen bidders on all the main specialized items.

HR Harmer Visits BWI



(Photo from Gleaner, Saturday July 8th)

On Friday, July 7th, Mr. H. R. Harmer and friends arrived in his Yacht "ALPHA" for a few days stay in Kingston. Leaving England on May 30th they sailed by way of the Channel Islands, Portugal across to Antigua then Jamaica, continuing on their trip sailing Wednesday, July 12th, for Havana, Cuba, then on to New York. Mr. H. R. Harmer is the world-famous auctioneer now retired, and has offices in London, New York and Australia. He was able to see a little of the beauty spots of the Island, and we do trust he will be able to visit this Island staying longer when next he comes.

News Here And There

Jamaica – Visit of Mr & Mrs Rich.

We welcome to Jamaica Mr. & Mrs. J. Rich who are out on holiday for several months. Mr. J. Rich is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and is a keen specialist of the stamps and postal history of the Ascension Islands. We wish them an enjoyable stay and trust they will visit the Island sometime again.

Jamaica 1946 New Constitution 1½ variety

An interesting variety in the 1½d line perforation of the Constitution issue has been found to be on the 52nd stamp of each sheet, between the right hand side of the frame and the top edge of the foliage will be found a "T" turned sideways. This variety does not appear at all in the comb. perforation thus making one come to the conclusion, that there were two plates made for these stamps.

Jamaica – Visit of Mr von Pohl

We were very glad to see Mr. von Pohl, in the Island for a few weeks, who stopped on his way from Canal Zone to America. Mr. von Pohl is a very keen specialist in Jamaican T.R.D's, Railway postmarks and obliterations, and is always willing to contact any collectors outside his territory with a view to exchanging. His address is: Box 2862, Cristobal, Canal Zone.

Many readers have asked for another auction sale, and this will be done in the December issue which will be a complete auction: by mail. So, as to give the opportunity of the magazine reaching, distant points such, as New Zealand and Australia, the auction will not be closed until March and in the items will be postal history West Indian, and New Zealand material.

Jamaica – 1946 Victory 1½d variety

Mr. G. Calder has shown me a very interesting variety which appears on the 1½d Victory stamps but is not constant. On the 45th stamp "U" in the word REVENUE appears to have received a blow thus causing the "U" to be formed like the letter "G" making it read REVENGE.

Philadelphia – Auction Results.

Auction sales recently held produced some high prices for Jamaica obliterator numbers, one lot with 377 stamps with 120 different. town cancellations was sold for \$76.50. At the same sale, the scarce 5/- perforation 13 on blued paper, went for \$10.00 (£3. 10. 0 sterling). Postal History items on the whole were all low in price, such as commercial rooms/Kingston, which is a very difficult item to find nowadays was sold for only \$2.00.

St.Lucia – New Coil Stamps

The new coil, stamps perforation 12 in the 1c and 2c values, were reported to be on sale the end of June. .As yet one of these have been seen in the Island, but it, is understood that large quantities of them are at the G.P.O. Castries.

Jamaica – TRD for Plowden

A new temporary Postmark came into operation at Plowden on the 30th of June in the Parish of Manchester. This type is quite different from the others, reason being that the rubber stamps are now being made by one of the new firms in Kingston and not by the Government Printing Office or Jacobs, as has been done in the past.

New York – Harmer Offices

Messrs., H. R. Harmer Inc. opened on the 30th of June their new Offices and showroom on the 32nd floor at 32nd E. 57th St. in New York. These offices and sales gallery are the most modern in the Philatelic world, and will be able to handle the ever increasing number of big auctions.

The Story Of The Cayman Islands

By C. W. Meredith

(Reproduced by kind permission of the author and the Postal History Society, London)

The Adhesive Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands cover less than three pages in the catalogue and are thus a very condensed and attractive group. There are no complications with perforations or watermarks-only the normal three types, C A, multiple C A and Script. But when the Postal History is added to the basic collection of stamps, the complete story becomes very complicated.

They might aptly be called the Twentieth Century Classics.

As with so many British Colonies, the first stamps used, come into the "used abroad" category, and these present a most fascinating study. To the ordinary collector little was known about the postal arrangements before 1900. The "used abroads" are hardly mentioned in the catalogue; even the Handstruck Postage Stamp: of the Empire dismiss the matter in half a page. The only comprehensive account of the early Postal History is given in the Regent Encyclopaedia.

While many problems remain unsolved, collectors are very much indebted to the late Mr. A. J. Watkin, F.R.P.S.L., for his study of these problems. I was privileged to have considerable correspondence with him on this subject and he went to great trouble to explain the various queries I raised.

It is not my intention to give you a detailed account of this Postal History, but rather a commentary on the pages of my collection: these have had to be condensed in order to cover the whole field and bring the collection up-to-date. An attempt is made to show the earliest and latest dates of each type of postmark. It has not been easy to fit in the "postal History" with the "Collection of Postage Stamps" as they really form two separate sections. At times one overlaps the other and so, for the sake of continuity, a break has had to be made to allow one section to "catch up" with the other.

While there were no official arrangements, for mail before 1889, the postal history would not be complete without photographs of two letters sent .from Grand Cayman to General Nugent in Jamaica. The one is inscribed Grand Caymans 1805 and also backstamped at Kingston, Jamaica. They are obviously of an official nature and were probably carried by a vessel sailing from Cayman Islands to Jamaica, probably landing at Lucea. The originals are both in the Museum at Kingston, Jamaica.

It is only fair to record that, in July, 1848, the inhabitants requested that their Island might be included in the route of the Royal Mail. Again in 1854 they petitioned that the R.M.S.P. steamer, between Jamaica and Honduras, should stop at their Island.

Both were refused on the ground of delay and the dangerous character of the reefs that surround the Islands.

It will be realized that there was a very small letter-writing population, so no wonder that there is no record of postal arrangements before a branch P.O. (of Jamaica). was opened at Georgetown in 1889. Very few Jamaican stamps, used in 1889, have survived but it is believed that one or two may exist in American collections. One example is shown clearly dated 1889. This first oval postmark had the disadvantage of being large so that it is only seen complete when used on a pair or on the entire. Entirets of this period are very scarce indeed and as "philatelically used" was undreamt of, the few surviving letters were used in the ordinary course of correspondence.

Before 1901 letters, beyond Jamaica and the Cayman Island, are unknown. There was no demand for stamps over 2½d but a small supply of 4d stamps was sent to Georgetown with the other lower values of ½d, 1d, 2d, & 2½d When the initial supply of 4d was used up, probably by 1890, the 4d was not repeated so that used copies are very scarce. It is believed that not more than six copies may exist, of which only two are known in Great Britain the other rests in a collection in Birkenhead!

This first type postmark is always in violet so that many used copies may have been discarded as fiscally used and so lost to philatelists. The examples shown are mostly clear impressions and are arranged in sequence to show their use from 1890 to 1894, when the second type came into use from 1895-98. This circular type is outstanding for the fact that the year date, 1895, was never changed. Only a backstamp or receiving mark can definitely fix the year of use. The colour ranges from black-Violet to Pale Violet; these are arranged in this order which provides an approximate period of use.

The third type, in black, took over in 1899 and continued till 1906 on the Q. V. and early K. E. stamps. This completes the series for Grand Cayman so, for the sake of continuity, the other "Used Abroads", or "Jam-Cays" as they are affectionately known to enthusiasts, are included here.

The subsidiary Island of Cayman Brac had its first mark in 1899; this was undated so that only the backstamp could fix the period of use - these are very scarce indeed.

After a year this was superseded by a circular dated postmark which has the merit of being carefully and clearly impressed. This second type had a long life till 1930. It is shown used on various issues right up to the last date recorded in August 1930.

The third type came into use in 1930, but in the hurricane of 1932 the cancelling stamp was lost when the Post Office was destroyed. For about a month the Postmaster initialled envelopes (A.S. R.) which served as a frank, and this was confirmed in Jamaica. Before the new supply of stamps arrived the Cayman Brac mark was used in addition to the Postmaster's initials.

In December 1936, another type of postmark came into use and the old one was now used by a new branch opened at West End on Cayman. On April 12th 1949 this provisional postmark was superseded by a new one reading "West End Cayman Brac." At the same time H.Q. P.O. also acquired a new postmark reading "Stake Bay, Cayman Brac." Both are similar in style to the third type Cayman Brac, but with bolder lettering:

Another branch P.O. was opened in 1937 at the Creek which is still current in 1949.

The third Island of the group Little Cayman - opened a P.O. on October 1, 1934, which is also still current in 1949.

Postage Stamp Issues. The date of issue of the first stamps ½d and 1d Q.V. will never be fixed definitely as information is conflicting. They were probably used locally during January, but the recognized date of issue is February 19, 1901. A pair of ½d is known dated January 9, 1901. 1d values are shown dated January 22 and February 19.

In November 1907, the 2½d and 1d on 5/- provisionals made their appearance. Despite the Official statement the ½d is shown used on November 23, while the 1d was issued three days later. These provisionals were issued in small quantities and have always been scarce; their value has increased five-fold in the last 15 years.

Double surcharges of both values, mint and used, are shown. The type V postmark, introduced 18 months later, indicates how some of these provisionals were returned to Georgetown to be postmarked to order, when it was thought that used copies, might be worth more than mint.

The 2½d/4d provisional of February 1908, reflects the difficulty of despatching the mail. Full advantage was taken of the "private enterprise" offer of the yacht Zenaida to carry mail to Cuba, for subsequent transport to the American Mainland. As 2½d stamps were in short supply and necessary for the foreign postage rate, the 4d stamp was overprinted 2½d 480 copies only were authorized. February 12, 1908 is the only date on which these provisionals could be correctly used, i.e. the yacht Zenaida sailing that day. Some were used at a later date, by ordinary post, and even so late as with the type V postmark which was introduced in March 1909.

The 1d on 4d provisional of May 1908. was intended specifically for fiscal purposes and not for postal use; the efforts to get it used postally, and so attempt to prove its postal validity, were rather pathetic. Attempts were made to sandwich a copy between other stamps but this device did not succeed. The "interested parties" then acquired a discarded cancelling stamp, put the date back to June 23, 1908 and postmarked the provisional smothered in the newly issued ¼d stamp. But they forgot that the newly issued ¼d stamp was not available till June 30! The stamp is shown in this collection because it attracted considerable attention, but is not accepted as a postal issue.

By May 1908, stocks of both the ½d and 1d values were again exhausted, but further provisionals were not authorized. Letters were paid for in cash and the initials (G.A.P.) of the Postmistress, Miss G. A. Parsons, served as a frank.

Postal History of Georgetown. This is continued with Type 111 when it was used on the "Jam-Cays" in 1900. The latest recorded date August 23, 1906 is shown and on the next sheet a few of the very rare Type 111 B are mounted with two examples of Type 111A for comparison. This mystery mark is distinguished by having the inner circle thin and is only known used in September and October 1906. Types 111 A and 111 B may have been in use simultaneously. Following 111 A on the previous sheet, come clear examples of Types IV and V. Type VI did not have long life and is scarce.

Type VII again spells Island, in full and has been used fairly regularly from 1930 to 1949. A new type was introduced during 1949 with smaller figures.

The same date stamp is used in Type VIII but six horizontal wavy lines have been added, in duplex form. It was introduced on February 3, 1938, and was used spasmodically during 1939 and 1940: it continues to be used from time to time, possibly as an extra obliterator. Examples showing the complete duplex mark are rather scarce.

The demand for postage Due stamps was never great so that postage due has always been levied by means of ordinary postage stamps cancelled with a H.S. "T." in black in the case of Georgetown and in violet at Cayman Brac.

We now pass on to the branch P.O.'s on Grand Cayman, The H.S. "Rural Post Collection" was largely used for the benefit of the, Boddentown area, but was later extended to East End. The normal colour is violet, but it is very occasionally seen in black.

It is uncertain when the Boddentown Branch Office first became active probably about 1908 but the M.S. cancellation in red ink may have been a temporary expedient pending arrival of the Rural Post Collection mark. Because of its nature the M.S. cancellation mark is very scarce and very few have survived, but it is accepted as the first Boddentown cancellation in 1909.

The first dated handstamp for Boddentown came along in April 1909. It was in use for about 20 years and invariably presented a blotchy appearance. The moveable type was often inserted incorrectly.

The 3rd type in 1930 was much bolder and is still in use today.

East End provided us with the Second Rural Post cancellation. Special interest is in the fact that the word Collection is spelt with a very clear G in place of the large C - this was not corrected. It was often badly applied, and the impressions were usually illegible. When the East End office re-opened in 1913, this "Rural" obliterator was occasionally used there but in black instead of in violet as previously.

The first dated East End obliterator was probably used before 1908. The few examples shown have the year missing so that the year date could only be confirmed by a backstamp, and so far an entire has never been seen. Examples are mostly on stamps with the single C.A. wmk. so that the period of use will be about 1902-1906. One copy of the Q.V. 1d is known clearly dated in violet "NO 13 02."

The second date stamp for East End came into use in September 1913. The type was allowed to become badly clogged and seldom clear.

The 3rd type for East End is the same as for the 3rd Boddentown. In 1937 a slightly smaller stamp took over and this 4th type incorporated the new regulation introduced in 1935, that the month must precede the day figure. This is still current.

We now start with West Bay which, as the name implies, is on the western extremity of Grand Cayman and north of Georgetown.

This "West Bay Rural Post Collection" is the third of the "Rurals" and was used during 1911-13 before the branch office there was opened. The early impressions of the 1st West Bay dated cancellation (1913) were in violet but changed to black in 1914 and remained in use till 1930, by which time the stamp had become clogged and barely legible.

The 2nd West Bay cancellation was introduced in 1930 and is still in use to-day. This is usually very bold and clear.

Northside received its first obliterator on September 1930. The first few years produced very smudgy results - but it must have been periodically cleaned when clear impressions were the rule and this continues in use up to 1949.

This brings the Postal History up-to-date. Many interesting incidents concerning the various offices, have perforce, to receive, only a bare mention. I hope that many will see the possibilities for further study and if some lucky collector finds some early dated entires, new evidence may be , forthcoming to substantiate or correct the statements already made.

H. I. BUSH.

Post Offices Of British Guiana

Abary C.	Lodge
Acquero Postal Agency	Mabaruma
Agricola Postal Agency	Mackenzie
Airy Hall C.	Mahaica
Albouystown	Mallalie
Amacura C.	Mahaicony
Anna Regina	Maria C.
Ann's Grove	Massaruni C.
Apiqua Postal Agency	Met - en - Meerzong
Arakaka	Morawhanna
Aurora	New Amsterdam
Bagot-Ville	Nigg
Bartica	No. 51 Postal Agency
Bartica Grove C.	No. 19 Postal Agency
Bel-air C.	Parika .
Belfield	Plaisance
Benab.	Potaro - 110 miles
Beterverwagting	Providence
Blairmont	Queenstown
Boerasirie	Reliance
Bourda	Reliance Canji C.
Buxton	Rockstone C.
Cabacaburi	Sisters
Canefield C.	Skeldon
Cane Grove	Sparta C.
Charity	Stanley Town
Carmichael Street	Soesdyke
Clairmont C.	Suddie
Cornhill	Tarlooy C.
Cotton Tree C.	Taymouth Manor
	Tumatumari
Cuyuni ' C.	Tuschen de Vrieden C.
Danielstown	Tuschen
Dartmouth Postal Agency	Tuschin C'.
DeKinderen Postal Agency	T.L.B. Clark
Demerara C.	Uitvlugt Postal Agency
Dunoon C.	Vreed - en - Loop
Enachu	Wakenaam
Enmore	Wales
Eversham	Weldaad
Fellowship	Whim
Fort Island	Wismar
Fort Wellington	XV Mile C
Fredericksburg C.	Zorg C.
Georgetown C.	Massaruni Steamer C.
Georgetown-Cornhill	Steamer Stelling C.
Georgetown-Carmichael St.	T.P.O. Bartica Steamer
Georgetown Stabrook C.	T.P.O. Berbice River
Glo ? C.	T.P.O. Essequibo Steamer
Good Success C.	T.P.O. Pomeroun
Grove	T.P.O. Suddie Steamer C.
H.M.P.S.	Berbice Railway
Hyde Park C:	Demerara Railway
Ida Sabina Postal Agency	East Coast Railway
Kwakwani Postal Agency	Railway W.C. C.
Kitty	T.P.O. Railway E.C. C.
Kurupukari	W.C. Railway
Leguan	(T.P.O?) Garraway Steamer C.
Leonora ? Agency No. 3 C.

I must thank Mr. W. L. Freshwater and Mr. A. H. July of Demerara for the help with the above article. Any collector able to give additional information on the above can advise me or either of the other collectors.

Wish to purchase used postage stamps in any quantity. Airmail stamps or inventory for prompt offer. Highest prices paid.

Desirable merchandise also sent in exchange.

G. LISS, 4891 S.W. 5th STREET, MIAMI 44, FLORIDA, U.S.A.

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British Guiana – Check List Of Air Mail First Flights

From September 1929 to February 1931

Made possible and brought more up to date by information kindly released by Mr. F. Birkett, Postmaster General, from the Official records of his Department.

(All rights reserved)

	Origin Destination	Date Despatched	Quantity Flown
Br. Guiana to	Paramaribo		
	Suriname	23. 9. 29	376
	Trinidad	23. 9. 29	446,
	St Lucia	25. 9. 29	97
	Antigua	25. 9. 29	78
	San Juan PR	25. 9. 29	544
	St Thomas VI	25. 9. 29	32
	Cuba	25. 9. 29	--
	Haiti	25. 9. 29	04
	San Domingo		
	Dom Rep	25. 9. 29	08
	Miami, USA	25. 9. 29	1,046
	BRAZIL:-		
	- Bahia	12. 3. 30	04
	- Pernambuco	12. 3. 30	11
	- Rio de Janiero	12. 3. 30	88
	- Argentine	12. 3. 30	44
	- Uruguay	12. 3. 30	31
	VENEZUELA:		
	- Caracas	12. 4. 30	09
	Bahamas	2. 4. 30	
	British Honduras	2. 4. 30	06
	Canal Zone	2. 4. 30	-
	Costa Rica	2. 4. 30	06
	Panama	2. 4. 30	-
	Mexico	2. 4. 30	None
	Jamaica	19. 12. 30	103
	Fr Guiana	31. 12. 30	106
	Curacao	6. 2. 31	51
	VENEZUELA:-		
	La Guaira	6. 2. 31	04
	Maturin	6. 2. 31	07
	Nicaragua	6. 2. 31	30
	Rep of Honduras	6. 2. 31	29
	Salvador CA	6. 2. 31	29
	Guatemala	6. 2. 31	29
	Columbna	6. 2. 31	33
	Ecuador	6. 2. 31	36
	Peru	6. 2. 31	28
	Chile	6. 2. 31	28
	Mexico	6. 2. 31	03

The above was compiled by Mr. W. A. HUSBANDS, who at that period was the Honorary Secretary of the defunct Victory Philatelic Society.

Jamaica Philatelic Society

Hon. Secretary's Annual Report for year 1949-50

Mr. President, Ladies & Gentlemen:

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report 1949-50 at this the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica, Philatelic Society.

During the year, 19 new members were admitted to our ranks, 7 life members and 12 ordinary subscribers.

A consolidated statement of affairs is presented herewith and I would like to bring to your notice a few of the more important points.

(1) The New Issue Service managed by Mr. Calder has shown a book profit of £ 8. 18. 2. upon sales of £ 49. 17. 3. It must be presumed that a certain amount of this profit is in respect of earnings made during the previous year, as it has been our custom to charge 10% Commission over face. This is more apparent because, as those present know, it has been necessary of late to dispose of some of the slow lines at face. Sundry debtors occupy over £ 10. 0. 0. of the Society's assets and we shall be pleased to get in this amount to finance further expenditure. This year we purchased only £ 22. 0. 0. of New Issues as opposed to £ 150. 0.0. in the past year, which can be attributed to two main factors. Firstly, Mr. Everard Aguilar has now commenced to deal in this city and obtains his supplies direct from London. I think it can be agreed that this source is much more reliable than contacting local Post Masters and Agents in the other Islands. In London, there are experts who detect minor differences of perforation, shade etc., almost as soon as the ink has dried. Secondly, this year we have experienced no blanket issues as we did with the Silver Weddings.

(2) The Packet Service has brought us a good return for which we must once again thank Mr. Perkins for his able management. The Commission earned amounted to £ 13. 13. 6. as opposed to £ 14. 6. 10. last year, which proves that the service is well holding its own. You will note that approximately 25% of the material offered was sold, which will perhaps act as a guide to contributors that buyers are not so free with their money as in previous years (last year approximately 33% was sold). Appearances indicate that a decrease in price will provide greater benefits to both buyer and seller in the coming year.

(3) Mr. Briscoe has again ably carried out the duties of Hon. Treasurer, although, as you can see, the tide has begun to drive us back. Our assets are £10. 16. 5. less than they were a year ago. It is very interesting though not gratifying to note, that we are now worth only £61. 5. 11½d out of which we must finance the next magazine and also provide capital for purchases of new issues. If we are able to scrape through on this amount, the margin will be very narrow. Of the income, subscriptions provide 31%, the New Issue Service 6% and the Packet Service 26%. As there promises to be a further drop. in New Issues and the Packet Service is already working at full capacity, it is obvious that one of the following courses must be adopted in respect to finances.

Firstly, a greater degree of promptitude must be enforced in the payment of fees and arrears. Secondly, if the first recourse brings only fair results, a substantial increase in subscription dues is indicated.

We have again been fortunate in securing the brief of our stalwart "Judge" Nethersole for the coming issue of the Jamaican Philatelist. With our worthy President managing the business side in his office of Magazine Secretary, we look forward to a very lively and informative publication. Both of these gentlemen. have had considerable experience with the magazine before, and I think that if the next is as good as the last one, we poor laymen will have cause to be more than satisfied.

In the last report, it was hoped that an exhibition would have been staged this year but our other occupations (mainly in this era of high prices trying to make both ends meet) have frustrated the plans.

During the year the Crown Agents v issued more stamps for the Island, which, as they have been written up in the Philatelic magazines already, I shall do no more than mention. The introduction of a £ stamp has met a mixed reception. The ayes and nays are still expostulating and we do not yet know who has it. The U.P.U's with their uniform design had to visit us to make one more boring overall issue. The one that took the limelight, however, was the 5/- perforation 13 blued paper. At meetings, we are still trying to solve the mystery of "Who scuffled the 5/- blued, perforation 13", but as yet we have reached no solution. Perhaps our members overseas could throw some light on the problem, and if they are in possession of any of that light, we wish them the very, best of luck and assure them that on the next occasion we shall remove the mote from our eyes.

May I take this opportunity of thanking those officers and members who have co-operated in the running of the Society for the past year. On this our 30th anniversary we may now consider ourselves ripe with age, but please don't let us become too aged. Let us go on to prove in the coming year, that there is a lot of life in us yet.

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Jamaica – A Bisected Bi-Sect

Here is a story which, I must admit, sounds hardly possible, but it can be documented, and the material referred to, after 85 years, rests in my own collection, where it is much appreciated.

Once upon a time, Thomas Oughton, Esq., Attorney-at-law, of Kingston, Jamaica, addressed a large (4½ x 9½) blue envelope, containing legal papers, to Charles S. Cover, Esq., Stewart Town P.O. in that Island. He marked the envelope "Book Post-Paid"; and affixed a one penny and a bisected one penny stamp to cover postage at the book rate. The stamps were cancelled A01, and cover bears Kingston dater of October 18, '65.

Later, Mr. Cover wanted to return the papers to the attorney, and having no larger envelope, he simply turned the envelope inside out, re-addressed it to Thomas Oughton, at Kingston, marked it "Law Paper", and affixed a one penny and a half penny stamp (se tenant) to make the 1½d rate. Both are cancelled A77, and the cover also bears the Stewart Town dater (day and month missing) of 1865.

Neither of the bisects is properly tied on cut edge, and the following two calamities have happened:- the whole stamp from Kingston has been partially removed, leaving only one-fourth of its area, and the cover has been cut across into two pieces, leaving larger piece with Kingston stamps, and smaller with Stewart Town cancellation, on reversed side.

The "pay off" is that both pieces are now mine, one bought in London in 1946, and the other in New York this year (1950) and they match perfectly.

They come from Robson Lowe's sale October 9th, 1946 Lot 98, and Harmer Rooke's sale of June 27/28 1950 Lot. 672. Neither firm claimed that they were bisects, but, now that they have been reunited, I feel sure of their authenticity, and that the above is the true story of what happened. The \$64:00 question, of course, is "Who dun it", vandalized a previously unique cover.

Personally I feel that I now have two Jamaica bisects, and also a really interesting story to go with them.

-John M. Spence.

Turks and Caicos Islands – 1950 New Stamp Issue

The current issue was brought into use in 1938, and comprises only two views of Raking Salt. The stamps were criticized from the first as unimaginative and one expert stated that they looked more like labels on patent medicine bottles than postage stamps. The expert-expert at least in vitriolic criticism may have been unduly forthright, but it must be admitted that he had good grounds for criticizing. As the set had been current for a dozen

years, the Colonial Office suggested that a new issue should be brought out showing views of the Islands and illustrating various phases of the Salt Industry. Details of the stamps are as follows:

Halfpenny-Green: "Bulk Salt Loading." In 1947 a contract was secured to ship 50,000 tons of salt purchased during the war years when shipping could not be obtained, to Japan. The contract called for a much higher guaranteed loading rate than had ever before been required in these Islands where shipping methods were geared to the requirements of the now vanished schooners and brigs. The Wharf illustrated was hurriedly built and equipped with rails, decauville trucks and a schute for bulk-loading lighters. This wharf and the experiments carried out on it were largely responsible for increasing greatly the rate at which salt could be shipped.

One Penny-Brown:- "Salt Cay." This ' shows . part of the Town Salina at Salt Cay. In the foreground in en are seen trimming salt into the familiar wedge shaped heap.

Penny Halfpenny Lake:- "Caicos Mail." Inter-island mail, freight and passengers are carried by sailing sloops. The sloop "Kathleen" illustrated carried the Caicos mail for over twenty years. She was destroyed not long ago by a hurricane.

Two Penny-Orange:- "Grand Turk." This stamp shows a view of the waterfront at Grand Turk. This is the best known view of the Islands.

Two Shillings-Blue and Green:- "Government Offices." The Commissioner's Office is shown in the foreground and the centre is the Treasury and Council Chamber. Since this stamp issue was put in production the offices have been considerably extended and are now twice the size shown. In the centre foreground can be seen two of what was formerly a six gun battery. The garrison was withdrawn in 1858 and legend has it that years later the War Office instructed that these guns be sent to Nassau by rail. A glance at the fourpenny "Map" stamp will reveal the reason for the pleasure with which this tale is always told.

Five shillings-Black and Blue:- "Salt Loading" shows the old style way of head loading salt out to lighters. Six bags weighing 22.5 lbs. Was the traditional load. This method has been obsolete for some years.

Ten shillings-Purple and Black:- "The Dependency's Badge." The badge shows a full rigged ship in the background. In the foreground are salt heaps and a man loading salt into baskets. The artist who designed the badge many years ago evidently suffered from the illusion that the neaps he was depicting were 'snow, and not salt, as he drew attractive little doors for getting into the igloos.

Design and Printing. The various .scenes etc. depicted were chosen by the Commissioner with considerable aid from local experts. The general layout and the Colours of the stamps were decided on after study of of designs in possession of the Crown Agents for the Colonies. Preliminary water colours were prepared by Miss Ann Deed. The final water colours, the engraving and the printing were all done under the direction of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. The higher six denominations are printed by the double colour process. The entire set is recess printed.

(Sgd.) C. E. WOOL-LEWIS,

Commissioner, Grank Turk, 8th May, 1950.

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