

THE BRITISH WEST INDIAN PHILATELIST

EDITOR E. F. AGUILAR
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ISSUED QUARTERLY

10/6 YEARLY

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VOL. 7

MARCH, 1956

No. 3



OTHER POSTMARK OF CAYMAN

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The following are some of the

FAMOUS "NAMED" COLLECTIONS

which have been dispersed through

The Pall Mall auction rooms during
the current season:

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GREAT BRITAIN POSTAL HISTORY
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"C. D. Houston", "A. E. Hopkins"
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Editorial Why Registration?

Early last year, a small selection of stamps was sent to Hartford, Conn., U.S.A., and remailed by Registered mail. Up to the present time of writing this has not been received.

The U.S. Post Office Inspection Department reports:- (Extracts from their letter).

1. 1. It has not been possible to find any trace of the article or to determine the disposition made of it.
2. There is no provision for the payment of indemnity for the loss, rifling, or damage of ordinary mail matter exchanged between this country and the foreign country concerned.
3. The Postal Union Convention under which the article was accepted for registration does not provide for the payment of indemnity on account of rifling or damage of registered articles in the international mails.
4. The loss of the article was due to "force majeure" (causes beyond control). The Parcel Post Agreement or the Postal Union Convention under which the article was accepted does not provide for the payment of indemnity for losses due to "force majeure".

Therefore what is the use of Registration?

News Here & There

Jamaica – Slogan Cancels

(by H. O'Connor) –

- **Come to Jamaica, B.W.I. The ideal Tourist Resort** - my first date is Feb. 10, 1923, several months ' ahead of Mr. Collett.
- **British Empire Exhibition 1924;** my first date is August 25, 1923, a few days ahead of Mr. Collett.
- **Visit Jamaica Tercentenary year;** my first date is April 26, 1955; Mr. Collett says it came into use May 1.

Antigua – Princess Alice Slogan

Rubber stamp wavy line in oblong shape 51 x 26 mm with the following wording in three lines - GIVE TO THE PRINCESS ALICE - APPEAL FUND in purple or black ink usually over the stamps on the envelope.

St. Kitts – Princess Alice Slogan

Same as Antigua.

Grenada – Princess Alice Slogan

A small single line rubber hand stamp with "PRINCESS ALICE APPEAL" 60 x 3 mm used on the envelope, never seen across the stamps - in black ink.

Trinidad—Jamaica 1955 Viscount First Flight

Viscount first flight to Jamaica was Nov. 10th, 1955 and the return flight from Jamaica was Nov. 11th, very small amount of mail carried.

Trinidad -- First flight Viscount Trinidad – New York via Barbados

Trinidad – New York via Barbados, Port au Prince, Bermuda was January 1, 1956. Returning on the 2nd to Trinidad - only a limited amount of covers were carried.

Bahamas -- TRDs

Two new T.R.D's have been seen - used during 1955 - These are in a semi-oval 48 x 30 with POST OFFICE at the top. Dated Mar. 4, 1955 in the middle, and around the bottom WEST END, GRAND BAHAMAS in black ink. The second mark in a semi oval 48 x 30 mm has Commissioner's Office around the top, dated Mr. 7, 1955 in the middle, and at the bottom "MAYAGUANA" all in black.

Jamaica – Aguilar in NY

The editor and his wife, will be in New York for about 3 weeks as from April 23, and will look forward to meeting his many friends.

FIPEX Entry

Jamaica: Two entries into the FIPEX Exhibition. Mr. Herbert Macdonald's Topical Collection and the Editor's, who will be sending up a very strong lot. of T.R.D's and Jamaica mint. The next edition of the magazine will be a few weeks late as a full report will be made from New York of the show.

Jamaica – QEII £1 Stamps Burnt

Queen Elizabeth Pound stamps were burnt last year November.

Jamaica – Obliterator 'C' Discovered on Laughlands PPC

New find by Mr. Harvey O'Connor has been obliterator Letter "C". The late Mr. L. C. C. Nicholson did a tremendous amount of work on the obliterator numbers of Jamaica, but was unable to trace all the letters.

The three letters so far known is the letter "A" used for Milk River, and can be found in all Pines and CC stamps while the letter "B" is fairly common, and was used for DUNCANS. The letter "C" was not known until Mr. O'Connor recently purchased a bundle of post cards, one of these had a very fine strike of the letter "C" tied with a T.R.D. of Laughlands TD 3, dated Feb. 25, '84. Now only letter D and E remain to be established. The letter "D" only two copies are so far known, while the letter "E" can be found mainly on the CC's.

Bahamas Airways First Flight to Turks

First Flight Bahamas Airways from Bahamas to U.S. Field in Turks Island, expected early in March.

Cayman Is -- Lineas Aereas Costarricenses.Flight

New application for flight between Miami-Grand Cayman-San Jose, Costa Rica, has been made by Lineas Aereas Costarricenses. S.A. with two flights per week, and no date has been made as to when the first flight will take place.

New Queen Elizabeth Stamps Of Jamaica

At long last the new Queen Elizabeth stamps for Jamaica have been announced by the Crown Agents, and will most likely go on sale around April or May of this year, and these have been taken just over 5 years; in being prepared during which time they have had many changes, and it is interesting to go over some of the major hold ups.

It was early in 1951 that it was first suggested that a new set for George VI be prepared and a competition was drawn up by Government, for suggestion of designs for four denominations of the new issue, the other eight to be prepared by a Committee selected for the purpose. From this competition four designs were selected, of which only one has been used in the new Queen Elizabeth set, namely Fort Charles, showing Nelson's Quarter Deck, by Mr. Milton S. Weller. All the other designs were drawn for Government by various artists, and finally redrawn by de la Rue in London.

From the start it was realized that the face value of this set would have to be stepped up due to the new postage rates, and it was definitely decided on that the four low values would feature the head of Queen Elizabeth with appropriate border designs, while the four high values would feature the Arms of Jamaica, again in appropriate colours.

The immediate values from the 3d to the 2/- would be Pictorials and this is where a great deal of the difficulty lies, due to getting certain colour combinations, it was suggested that if these stamps were printed on coloured paper, then bi-coloured, this would be far more attractive.

The 3d value Mahoe (*Hibiscus elatus*) which has been done in green and brown, is a very attractive tree, which should be a very appropriate stamp. While the 4d bread fruit (*Artocarpus incisa*) in green and blue was originally brought to Jamaica by Captain Bligh, and is now fount! around the Island,

The 5d value which is the overseas postage rate is a new stamp and features the ackee (*Blighia sapida*) which, along with the salt fish, is the national dish for the Island. The ackee tree originally came from West Africa, probably on a slave ship; it is thoroughly naturalised and is found throughout the Island; it is interesting to note that the people in most of the other B.W.T. Islands do not eat this fruit. The 6d value air mail rate to the B.W.I. features the Doctor Bird, which is a very striking little fellow, in bright green, and has a red bill. The colour of the vignette is black, surrounded by red.

The 8d value, which is the air mail rate to North and South America is Blue Mountain Peak. This beautiful _peak, which recently had an extremely cold spell in that ice was found on the slopes, stands 7,340 ft. in height, and is the highest range to be found in the B.W.I.

The shilling value is a view of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hope. This scene was taken from a corner in the Gardens, and not having seen the proofs, I am very worried as I do consider it might be very over crowded.

The 1/6d air mail rate to England is a lovely stamp of Rafting on the Rio Grande in blue and purple. The 2/- Fort Charles drawn by Weller, shows the entrance with Nelson's Quarter Deck in the distance. The four high value stamps feature the Coat of Arms of Jamaica.

This set should be very popular, and will be interesting to see how long these will be on sale. For having taken such a long period in being prepared, it might be far shorter time before they will be off sale.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MAIL AUCTION.

1. Lots will be sold to the highest bidder without reserve.
2. All bidding is by mail. There are no floor bids. Bids will be kept confidential.
3. Lots may be inspected prior to the date of sale at our office. No individual lots will be sent overseas. Bids from new customers must be accompanied by a deposit or reference.
4. Postage and Insurance will be extra.
5. Material purchased by mail auction is not on approval. Lots, however, not correctly described may be returned promptly.
6. Every item is guaranteed genuine, unless otherwise stated. Claim for any lot proving otherwise must be made within 3 weeks.
7. Listing of Catalogue value has been done from Stanley Gibbons and Commonwealth Catalogues.
8. Closing date is June 1st, 1956.

MAIL AUCTION LISTING.

- LOT 1. A collection of T.R.D's for Jamaica on Registered envelopes with Registration labels for — Vaughansfield — Spot Valley — Mona (second type) — Baking Lodge — Epsom — Lookout (both types) — Lancaster — Content Gap (1st type) — Yarmouth — Grey Ground—Font Hill—Leeds—Craighead. 14 covers. E. £1. 10/-
- LOT 2. Registered cover with MAY PEN not an easy mark to find. E. 10/-
- LOT 3. A Registered cover Treasure Beach with T.R.D. as a back stamp envelope addressed to REGISTRAR GENERAL, Spanish Town 17 Dec. '40, Registration label PEDRO PLAINS crossed out and Treasure Beach written in, also Discovery Bay with a Dry Harbour Registration label and Kingsvale — All Registered. 3 covers. E. £1.
- LOT 4. 2 Registration covers addressed to Knutsford Park of Aberdeen and Flint River. Both are scarce and rare on Registered cover. E. £1. 10/-
- LOT 5. A collection of 60 T.R.D's of the modern types has many different items — a good lot for the backbone of a collection. Including Linton Park — Spaldings — Flint River — Content Gap (two types.) E. £5.
- LOT 6. On cover Portland Cottage (faint) May Pen and on piece TOP HILL and FAITH PEN all different items — 4 items. E. £1.
- LOT 7. 175 used envelopes of Jamaica with different postmarks 95% are Registered envelopes — a useful lot for a collector of postmarks or Registered labels — number of stamps damaged on cover. E. £2. 2/-
- LOT 8. 3 covers of T.P.O. (a) steel die of the Birmingham type, and TPO 1 and 3 on full cover, a scarce lot. E. £1. 1/-
- LOT 9. 4 T.R.D's of Jamaica (1) Jamaica Philatelic Society Exhibition for 1927 and 1938, full registered cover of PISGAH and cover for DIAS not Registered. 4 covers. E. £1.
- LOT 10. Small collection of Bahamas, T.R.D's Cedar Harbour, West End, Mavaguana, True Blue, Bennett's Harbour. 5 covers E. 15/-
- LOT 11. T.R.D's for the Bahamas, Sea Floor in black and red inks, Pleasant Bay in blue and black ink, both poorish strikes, Fairfield, and Landrail Point (very poor) 6 covers. E. 21/-
- LOT 12. "Lower Deadman's Cay" written across the stamp on the envelope and the T.R.D. E. 21/-
- LOT 13. Antigua a small lot of postmarks of All Saints, Bolans, Barbuda, Gray's Farm, Freetown, and "Give to the Princess Alice

- Appeal" used on covers, and 9 postmarks from St. Kitts all on full cover — 15 envelopes. 7/-
- LOT 14. Lot of Registered covers Bahamas, Bermuda, British Guiana, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Trinidad (2) Grenada unused large size Jamaica 2 large and 2 small, British Guiana 4¢ on envelope 13 envelopes. E. 8/6

G. B. USED IN JAMAICA.

- LOT 15. Pair 4d. and single 6d. with AO1 a few perfs, missing from one of the 4d. values otherwise a very fine cover, back stamped Mr. 14, 59, Kingston. E. £3. 10/-
- LOT 16. Pair 4d. with A O1 a fine cover backstamped Ap. 4, 59 Kingston. E. £3.
- LOT 17. Similar cover to Lot 16 but backstamped Sp. 15, 59 Kingston. E. £3.

PRE STAMP COVERS OF JAMAICA.

- LOT 18. Cover with pair 6d. with AO1 lightly in between, top edges of stamps a little rough. Otherwise in very good shape backstamped My 9, 59, Kingston. E. £2.
- LOT 19. Pre-stamped cover with penned "8" addressed to Sav-la-mar backstamped Port Antonio July 31, 57, Kingston Aug. 1st, 57. E. 30/-
- LOT 20. Cover mailed from England (not clear) backstamped Kingston Feb. 14, 57 Savannah-la-mar Feb. 16, 52 a very interesting cover. 30/-
- LOT 21. A prestamp cover addressed to Grange Hill, backstamped Kingston DE. 3, 55 LUCEA — Jamaica Dec. 31, 53. The sum of 1/- was paid for carriage. E. £2.
- LOT 22. Envelope mailed from UK postmarked ENGLEFIELD GREEN, in blue ink and backstamped Kingston Feb. 22, 53 and also bears the Savannah-la-mar stamp dated Feb. 22, 53. Two other marks are indistinct. E. £2.
- LOT 23. Cover mailed from UK addressed to Green Island, 1/2 paid backstamped CHERTSEY Ja. 1, 49, Kingston Feb. 3, 49, Green Island Feb. 5, 49 a fine strike. E. £2. 10/-
- LOT 24. A lot of 9 prestamp covers, one letter from Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society with rates, mainly all with Kingston Jamaica 1854/51 also Savannah-la-mar (2) Port Antonio faint, Lucea. E. 1. 10/-
- LOT 25. **BAHAMAS** Coat of Arms done in colour, drawn by the late Claude deSouza, an ideal page to open one's collection. E. 84/-
- LOT 26. **BARBADOS** Coat of Arms of the Colony in colour. Very attractive, ideal for the opening page of a collection. E. 84/-
- LOT 27. **BERMUDA** Arms of the Colony beautifully done in colour by the late Claude deSouza. E. 84/-
- LOT 28. **BRITISH GUIANA** Arms of the Colony in colour, a fine piece of hand work. 84/-
- LOT 29. **BRITISH HONDURAS** Arms of the Colony in colour. Ideal for the opening page of a collection. 84/-
- LOT 30. **GRENADA** Arms of the Colony in colour. An ideal page to have in a collection. 84/-
- LOT 31. Arms of Jamaica drawn by the late Claude deSouza a very fine piece of work, and ideal for an opening page. E. 84/-
- LOT 32. Arms of Jamaica on full page with a more modern design. E. 50/-
- LOT 33. Crest of the Leeward Islands in colour. Ideal for a collector who collects the Leeward Island group. 84/-
- LOT 34. **ST. LUCIA.** Drawing of the Arms in colour of the Colony by the late Claude deSouza a fine page for any collector. E. 84/-

Nugent's Letters – The Report On Caicos Islands.

It was in the year 1512, that the Turks and Caicos Islands were discovered, and the first temporary settlers to Turks Island were from Bermuda in 1678. The Spanish Invasion was in 1710, while the French Invasion was in 1753, the termination of Spanish and French invasions by a Treaty between England and French commission in Jamaica in 1766. The first agent to His Majesty was Andrew Seymour appointed 1766.

The Bahamas established full jurisdiction over Turks Island in 1774, and annexed the Caicos Islands in 1799.

In 1803 Thos. Brown gives a full report of the Caicos Islands to John Sullivan, which was later passed on to Lt. Gov. Nugent, in Jamaica. In this he mentions the importance of the Caicos Islands, as related to Jamaica, being the principal key to the Windward Passage from Jamaica. Also the necessity of establishing a sufficient force at St. Georges Harbour, and on the Grand Caicos, to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy.

It is obvious the importance of the Caicos Islands to Jamaica, whether it be from a Military, Commercial or Political point of view.

Grand Caicos is surrounded by a reef of rocks or shoals, which has made it more completely fortified than any Island in the West Indies. The inhabitants of Grand Caicos have constructed a stockade, a Battery and platforms for 16 guns, furnaces for heating shot, magazine and barracks for 40 men, etc. at St. George's Harbour at their own expense for the protection of the harbour and shipping. The garrison consisted mainly of blacks, who were owned by the inhabitants. They did duty at Fort St. George, until relieved by a detachment of His Majesty's 63rd Regiment, and Royal Artillery sent by Lord Balcarress from Jamaica. The inhabitants also armed, clothed, and disciplined 300 of their most faithful negroes, to serve as Militia for the security of Grand Caicos. The small island or Key in St. Georges Harbour, on which Fort St. George was constructed, is capable of being made a place of considerable strength, but the present works being constructed on the spur of the occasion, of unseasoned W.I. wood, are in a decayed state from the dry rot. The climate of Grand Caicos and St. Georges is so very healthy, that the population of the Island in the last 14 years has nearly doubled. Also many of the soldiers arriving in the Caicos either as sick men or convalescents, very few have been lost in the course of four years whilst the other companies of the same regiment in Jamaica were greatly reduced.

However, if the troops had been sent to the Caicos Islands instead of Jamaica it is felt that very few of the troops would have been lost and if such troops were sent in a convalescent state to Caicos, they would have speedily recovered.

It is also felt that had the French taken possession of the Grand Caicos, and completely armed this Island, establishing Naval and Military hospitals on Pine Key (in St. George's Harbour) they would never have lost Saint Domingo.

From a Military or Naval point of view, Grand Caicos, would be of a great advantage to Jamaica, not only as a means of defence. but also from the point of view of obtaining food and water. If an hospital could be erected on Pine Key, this would also be of great advantage to convalescents.

In a commercial light the Caicos Islands would be of a great advantage to the British Merchants, who would then be able to trade freely with the people of Saint Domingo. But in order to do this, it would be necessary to have a military Force, for their protection.

From a political point of view, the present state of Caicos causes the most serious consideration, for the future of the Island of Jamaica depends on the form of Government which may be established by the people of colour in Saint Domingo. Situated as this Island is, it would be regretted if it were made into a Black Republic, for the consequences would be fatal to Jamaica. However, this is not an affair to cause too much worry, even though some of the blacks and mulattos are very intelligent, having been educated by their masters or parents in France, but in the course of a few years, Mr. Brown's opinion is that with internal warfare, between contending chiefs, they may return to the status of the blacks of the coast of Africa.

The negroes of the Caicos Islands are quite intelligent, and faithful, and no internal danger is expected from them. However for the future protection of these Islands it may be best to establish a Military Force, and thus encourage more whites into the community.

However, before all this can be executed, Mr. Brown fears that the present inhabitants will withdraw their negroes, and abandon the cultivation of their estates. For as a planter, he realizes that from a Military, commercial and political point of view that the Caicos Islands will be a bone of contention between Great Britain and France. For during the last war he was subjected annually to an expense of £4,000. If he were to withdraw his people the others would do the same, but should Government accept portion of his property on Grand Caicos, for a portion on St. Vincent, this would be acceptable. On that condition, he would risk half of his people on Caicos, and arm a certain number of his people against invasion, also maintain a gun boat, manned with negroes until Government may place the Island in a state of security. This would cost about £3,000 per annum.

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The Cayman Islands

Preface

It has been a long time since the last Handbook on the Cayman Islands has been produced, and for the year, I have been working steadily, on obtaining detail information re the stamps and varieties for this Colony. This has been very interesting.

One of the big questions however, has been whether the first issue of Queen Victoria stamps, was actually taken to the Colony on the H.M.S. Pallas, which was on the 19th February; 1901. This date also appears in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue as the date of issue. Yet, there is a doubt, due to the fact that two copies of this stamp are known, used before February 1901.

One can conclude that Mr. Hirsh, must have had a small amount of these stamps on hand, before the main shipment arrived. The Provisionals are extremely interesting not forgetting the Fiscal 1d. on 4d, which is as scarce an item as any.

After years of collecting, it is surprising to find that the pre-stamp covers have just come to light. There is a full article on this by Mr. P. T. Saunders.

The listing of the postmarks will be done after the completion of the general issue of the stamps, also the first flights, in and out of the Colony. No check list has been made of the specimen stamps of this Island.

In compiling this list, I must thank Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Whitfield King, Francis J. Field for permission to reproduce sections from copy-righted books, and also their assistance in sending new information. Also Mr. E. E. Ainger, P. T. Saunders for their assistance, and many collectors from the U.S.A., who have sent in odd information from time to time.

Altogether this will make the Philatelic Handbook for the Cayman Islands. Due to the very high cost for production, this will be run in complete sections through this magazine, and at a later date compiled into book form.

When completed, a limited number of deluxe Handbooks will be printed after which Readers will be interested to learn that every effort will be made to publish a detail check list of Barbados as prepared by Mr. Herbert Bayley.

Special thanks to Messrs. Robson Lowe and Company for kindly lending their dies and photos, which will be illustrated in these forthcoming chapters.

A Brief Outline Of The Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands were discovered by Columbus on May 10th, 1503 returning on a voyage from Porto Bello to Hispaniola, and named the Islands "Las Tortugas" from the amount of turtles, which were seen around the Islands. From the reports, the main settlers were from Jamaica, one of the earliest of these being a deserter from the Cromwell Army by the name of J. Bodden with others, and settled around 1728. This settlement is known as Boddentown now. From the Nugent File the census taken in 1802, shows, that the population was just over 900 with 88 families. Today the population is over 5,000 for Grand Cayman.

The Cayman Islands, a dependency of Jamaica, lie between Latitude 19 degrees 16' and 19 degrees 45' N. Longitude 79 degrees 83' and 81 degrees 30' wide. The largest Island being Grand Cayman which is 17 miles long by 7 miles wide, Little Cayman has a population of a little over 100, this Island is 9 miles long by 1 mile wide, and is used mainly for fishing. Cayman brae is 10 miles long and only one mile wide, with a population of over 1,500.

The Cayman Islands Revenue is mainly derived from duties, personal tax, taxes on animal drawn vehicles, vessels, boats, canoes, bicycles, motor cars, dogs, cattle, and postage stamps. There is no income tax.

There is a regular postal service between Cayman and Jamaica (twice weekly) and regular air service twice a week between Jamaica, British Honduras, and Cuba, flown by British West Indian Airways.

Banking facilities by a sub-branch of Barclays Bank DCO. Anyone visiting the Island, will find everyone very friendly.

A list of the Commissioners are as follows:-

1734	Governor Cartwright Governor William Bodden. Governor Drayton.
1833	Custos James Coe Sr.
1 855	Custos James Coe Sr.
1879	William Eden.
1884-88	Senior Magistrate and Treasurer W. B. Webster.
1890-97	Custos of Cayman the Honourable E. Parsons.
1898-1906	First Commissioner, Frederick Shedden Sanguinetti. (In 1906 Sanguinetti died, and Mr. C. H. Yorke Studer, Clerk of the Courts of Clarendon, acted as Commissioner for a time.)
1907-11	Commissioner and M.D. Sir George Stephenson Skirt Hirst, (L.M., Dub., M.B., C.M., Edin.)
1912	Commissioner H. H. Hutchings (Acting.)
1913 - 17	His Honour George A. C. Robinson, B.A.
1918-19	His Honour C. E. Mellish (Acting.)
1920-28	His Honour H. H. Hutchings.
1929-31	His Honour G. H. Frith.
1932	His Honour H. E. Phillips.
1933-34	His Honour G. I. Overton (Acting.)
1935-39	His Honour A. D. Cardinal.
1946	His Honour J. P. Jones, O.B.E.
1948-52	His Honour Major Ivor O. Smith.
1953-54	His Honour A. M. Gerrard.

Chapter 1 – Pre-Stamp Covers

Up to quite a while ago no one had ever seen or recorded pre-stamp covers for the Cayman Islands, and we must thank Mr. P. T. Saunders, Secretary of the B.W.I. Study Circle for his information with regards these covers.

It is known that in 1848 the inhabitants petitioned the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, through the Jamaica Government, for their vessels plying between Kingston and Belize, British Honduras, to call at Grand Cayman, and so establish communication, if only at irregular intervals with the outside world, but this was refused. Similar representations were made again in 1854, when the desirability of inaugurating a postal service was also mentioned. This was also unsuccessful, and it was not until the 13th April 1889, that the first Post Office was opened and some values of Jamaican stamps placed on sale (Mr. P. T. Saunders writes.)

It seems reasonable to suppose that prior to that time some of the inhabitants wrote letters, if only by reason of the intermittent trading that is known to have taken place with Jamaica and elsewhere. To the best of my knowledge no pre-adhesive cover can be found in any collection, and certainly no information is available that throws any light on the existence of any Postal Service however primitive. In the circumstances it will be readily appreciated that it was with some temerity I decided to institute enquiries in the hope that I might find a clue that would solve what has remained a mystery to this day. Right or wrong, I was of the opinion that my initial search should be made elsewhere than in the Caymans or Jamaica, so I directed my first

enquiries to the U.S.A. since I was aware that turtles were imported into that country. Furthermore, although the Islanders were able to build and launch their boats they had no facilities, to haul them out for repairs, so every boat went twice a year to Tampa, Florida, where suitable docks were available for maintenance work. So far no information of any material assistance has been received.

Strange as it may seem Norway was the next venue of my enquiries, since I had heard that a link with the Caymans might exist as vessels from that country called at British Honduras, Jamaica and elsewhere, for cargoes of timber. Here again I met with disappointment as I received information that this trading took place in the period 1870 to 1900. If anyone had told me that the clue I sought was to be found in London I am sure that I should be forgiven for not taking such a statement seriously, and yet events have proved that such' was the case.

A chance remark by one of the B.W.I. Study Circle members as to whether I had approached any of the many missionary Societies put me on the right path. I have now seen three pre-adhesive covers originating in the Caymans, and was privileged to have photographs taken of the essential portions of one of them. One of the covers dated 3rd Oct. 1842, bears a hand struck stamp of Jamaica's "KINGSTON NO. 17 1842" and a London arrival obliteration "22 DE 22 1842." The 15/- in manuscript is also most interesting, for if that was the sum required by the Captain of the vessel that conveyed it to Jamaica, it was indeed a costly communication.

Having now established that pre-adhesive covers from these Islands do exist, I cannot dispel from my mind the belief that others may be found (From the Philatelist.)

Chapter 2 – Jamaica Stamps Used In The Cayman Islands

For nearly 10 years before the issue of the Cayman Islands stamps, those of Jamaica were on sale, they are certainly worthy of a place in any specialized collection, and are extremely rare. Early in 1889, a branch Post Office of Jamaica was opened at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, while another at Stake Bay and Cayman Brac was opened in 1898.

A notice issued by the Post Master for Jamaica, on the 13th of April 1889, stated that Jamaica postage stamps had been supplied to the "Custos" of the Cayman Islands, and that letters prepaid by them would be treated as though originating in Jamaica, the same postage rates being in force. Jamaica stamps used at these offices are distinguishable only by their cancellation of which three different types are known to have been used at Georgetown, and two at Cayman Brac. Some of these cancellations have been forged and there exists dangerous fakes, prepared by adding Cayman Islands cancellations from the original obliterations with "altered" dates, to lightly cancelled Jamaica stamps. The reference collection of forged and faked were presented to the Royal Philatelic Society, from the outstanding collection of the late A. J. Watkin, F.R.P.S.L.

During this period, there were ten Jamaica stamps all known to have been postally used, these are as follows:-

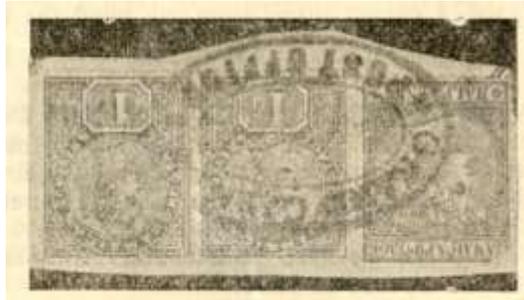
Date of Issue	Design	Value	Colour
1885	Q.V.	½d	yellow-green
1889	Q.V.	1d	purple & mauve
1891	Q.V.	2½d	dull purple & blue
1883	Q.V.	4d	red-brown
1900	"Llandoverly"	1d	red
1890	"OFFICIAL" thin	½d	green
1891	"OFFICIAL" thick	½d	green
1890	"OFFICIAL" thick	1d	rose
1890	"OFFICIAL" thick	2d	grey

It will be seen that the 3d value was not used nor any value above the 4d value. At this period the foreign postage rate was 4d. The 1d Llandoverly Falls printed in black and red, does not exist genuinely used, since it was not issued until after prepayment by Jamaica stamps had

ceased to be valid for prepayment of postage in the Cayman Islands after the 19th February 1901.

These marks are often mistaken for fiscal cancellations, even more so when a single item is encountered.

1st Type Temporary Rubber Date Stamp.



This handstamp, a large transverse double oval, inscribed between the concentric lines "GRAND CAYMAN - POST OFFICE" with the date in the middle. Always in violet, but varying in intensity, which has a marked tendency to fade.

Post Offices Known	Earliest Known Date	Latest Known Date
Grand Cayman P.O.	1889	Dec. 13th, 1894

NOTE. All the stamps listed are known used with this cancellation except the 1d red Llandoverly Falls.

Second Temporary Rubber Date Stamp.



The second type is similar to Jamaica TD. 8. A single small lined oblong being 30 mm. long by 16 mm. high. The name of the Post Office is in one straight line near the top, and the word Cayman Islands at the bottom. Always in violet.

Post Offices Known	Earliest Known Date	Latest Known Date
Cayman Brac-Cayman Isl.	Jan. 12th, 1900	

NOTE Most of these are usually seen without date. It's more likely that this type of Temporary Rubber Date stamp which was being heavily used in Jamaica, was made and sent for a very short life to the Cayman Brac.

First Single Ring Steel Die.



This obliterator handstamp with "GRAND CAYMAN-P.O." in a single line circle, with the date in the middle in two lines. Usually in mauve or purple ink, but can be found in black. The year does not appear on most copies. This single ring can be found with the following stamps. The ½ d green, CA. the 1d Key Plate, and the 2½d Key Plate.

Post Offices Known	Earliest Known Date	Latest Known Date
Grand Cayman P.O.	April 20 1895	April 1897.

Double Ring Steel Mark.



This double ring steel mark can be found used in the following stamps:-½d green CA, and all the values of the Key Plate namely the 1d, 2d, and 2½d Always in black.

Post Offices Known	Earliest Known Date	Latest Known Date
Grand Cayman-Cayman Isl.	Jan. 6th, 1898	Jan. 12th, 1901
Cayman Brac-Cayman Isl.	Jan. 6th, 1900	Jan. 5th, 1901

NOTE. One variety can be found in the Grand Cayman which has a small inner circle.

Other Postmarks On Jamaica Stamps.

Fragmentary copy on a ½d green CA. with the following "SMA" - "CAY" - "ISL" which could be small Cayman Island, in an oval, only one copy recorded.

Jamaica Stamps Overprinted Cayman Islands.



It was in 1909 when a well known New York collector going through a large lot of Jamaica common stamps discovered two copies on the 1d Key Plate overprinted "CAYMAN ISLANDS." These two copies were exchanged with a prominent Cayman Island specialist, who at once started to institute enquiries.

After it had been decided that the Cayman Islands should no longer use Jamaica stamps but should issue their own stamps and collect their own revenue, it is believed that the first proposal was that Jamaica stamps suitably overprinted should be used. It was stated by two officials who were very intimately concerned with the project, that the ½d and 1d Jamaica stamps to the face value of ten pounds were overprinted "CAYMAN ISLANDS" at the Government Printing Office, by authority of the Governor of Jamaica. In one respect their evidence does not tally, in that one correspondent thought that the stamps were generally used on Cayman mail for a short period, whereas the other stated that "When ready they were held back until such time, as the different countries within the Postal Union could be informed; but before this happened it was decided to have their own stamps. Neither correspondent could throw any more light on the disposal of the overprinted stamps, but a subsequent letter from the Colonial Secretary's Office in Jamaica states that they were all destroyed. These two stamps are considered genuine by the committee responsible for the publication of the Handbook of the stamps of Jamaica, since they were overprinted in the same type as that used for the thin "OFFICIAL" overprinted on the ½ d green Jamaica. Two specimens are known, one of them unused, the other cancelled "RICHMOND" (Jamaica) May 31, 1897, are probably the sole survivors of this project issued.

First Rural Post Cancellation.



On Feb. 3rd, 1908, the Commissioner recorded that he had to stop the existing bi-weekly mail service between Georgetown and Boddentown because of its expense. Instead a weekly mail wagon was put into operation between the places on March 31st, 1908, and the service was extended from Boddentown to East End by messenger. There were to be no Post Offices but the wagon, and messenger were to collect and deliver letters en route as well as to sell stamps. For this service a special obliterator was introduced which was used by the driver of the mailcart, running between Georgetown and Boddentown. It was at one time applied to all mail collected by him, but later seems to have been used for local letters only, those for abroad, receiving the dated Georgetown cancellation on arrival there. This obliterator is believed lost in the hurricane of 1917 and not replaced. This hand stamp reads "RURAL POST-COLLECTION GRAND CAYMAN" in three lines, in a rectangular frame with no date, and is generally found in violet ink, but copies in black ink can be found.

Second Rural Post Cancellation During 1911-1916.



It is believed that the obliterator was issued to the driver of the mailcart and used by him on mail matter collected between East End and Boddentown. Mail was forwarded via Boddentown and usually cancelled there both on arrival and despatch, while overseas mail received in addition a Georgetown cancellation. After the East End Post Office, which had been closed since 1905, and had been re-opened in 1913 and it is believed, that this obliterator was kept there and used concurrently with the First East End obliterator. This cancellation reads "EAST END-GRAND CAYMAN-RURAL-POST COLLECTION" in four lines. The word collection was spelt in error with a "G" - usually in black, this mark deteriorated very quickly and became almost illegible.

Third Rural Post Cancellation During 1911-13.



Local mail between Georgetown and West Bay was probably inaugurated in 1909 but the obliterator seems to have been issued at the same time as that for East End, and for use under similar conditions. An oblong mm containing the following "WEST BAY-GRAND CAYMAN-RURAL-POST COLLECTION". The obliterator appears to have passed out of use when the WEST END Post Office was opened in 1913. These marks are scarce.

Review.

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Published by Minkus, U.S.A. priced at \$4.00 and contains 440 pages. This Catalogue lists all the stamps of the British Commonwealth and it is pleasing to see that perforations have been listed along with major shade varieties. A useful Catalogue, listing U.S.A. and possessions. The Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue for George VI 1956 Edition has even surpassed any of the earlier issues. Collectors who specialize and require detailed listing of different shades, and varieties of George VI cannot go wrong in obtaining this new publication. Printed on Heavy Art Paper - containing 156 pages. Priced 6/- plus postage.

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