

Numeral Obliterators of Jamaica

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Numeral Obliterators of Jamaica

Introduction

Extract from Ian Potter's 1996 book:

With the introduction of postage stamps in 1858 it was decided that these should be cancelled with a numeral obliterator rather than the circular date stamps then in use. These obliterators were introduced in 1858 at Kingston and in the following year 1859 at the other offices. They consisted of bars of varying thickness with a different code in the centre for each one. Before the provincial offices had their own obliterators they were told to leave the stamps and they would be cancelled with the obliterator coded 'A01' at Kingston. Several offices however did cancel stamps at this time with their date stamps (Flint River & Savannah-La-Mar are examples) others used manuscript cancels and Spanish Town used a "1/2" handstamp.

The style A 'A01' obliterator was available for the first stamp issue in 1858 and the 52 other obliterators were received in 1859. They were coded 'A27' through to 'A78' and were issued to the offices in alphabetical order Alexandria receiving 'A27' and Vere 'A78'. However, GB stamps were officially withdrawn at the end of May 1860 therefore until the arrival of the first Jamaica stamps in November of that year the obliterators were little used just cancelling stamps which had been held in the community. Of course, they were used extensively on the new stamps.

In November 1862 obliterators 'A38' to 'A59' were recalled and reissued to new offices to allow for closures and openings in the previous three years. The idea was to keep the numerical and alphabetic order of the obliterators constant. To this day this exercise causes great confusion for anyone trying to find the origin of any postal item from this period. Any of these cancels may have been used at either of two and sometimes more offices and unless it is on a cover with a named handstamp it is often impossible to say which.

After this any new offices were issued with obliterators with new codes or those from offices which had closed. The new codes used included a continuation of the 'A' series with 'A79', 'A80', 'A81', 'A82' & 'A83'. There was also 'E06', 'E30' and 'E58' and some in the 'F' and 'G' series. Then there were some issued with three digits and no letters and some with one letter and no digits. Besides all this some of the offices lost or damaged their original obliterators and had them replaced with others of the same code but with different shapes. The various styles are illustrated and where used later.

Over the years various rarity guides have been produced, these are not repeated here but can be viewed via the bibliography.

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Bibliography

Link	Date	Author	Title
Link	1949	LCC Nicholson	Jamaican Obliteration Numbers
Link	1950s	incl Russell Gibson	BWI Philatelist Articles
Link	1950s-2000		BWISC Bulletin Articles
	1982	Ian Woodward	Exploring Jamaica Through Obliterators (BCPSG monograph)
Link	1996	Ian Potter	Listing of obliterations
Link	1967 2009	Bob Topaz (BCPSG) Michael Hamilton	Obliterator Scarcity Table (updated with Hamilton new discoveries)
Link	2009	Ian Woodward	Obliterator Examples as pdf
Link	2009	Ian Woodward	Obliterator Scarcity Table (24 collections)

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Obliterator Types and Dates

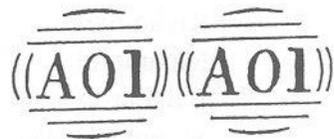
Obliterators were first issued to Kingston 14 Apr 1858 and to the Post Towns on 1 Mar 1859.



Style A
14 Apr 1858



Style B
30 Apr 1859



Style C
30 Apr 1859



Style D
Early 1863



Style E
1871



Style F
1874



Style G
1874



Style H
1 Mar 1859



Style L
Late 1861



Style J
1865



Style K
1869



Style O
1872



Style P
1873



Style M
1876



Style N
1878

Adhesive Stamp Issue Dates:

Watermark	½d	1d Blue	1d Red	2d Red	2d Grey	2½d	3d	4d	6d	1s
GB			1 Mar 1859					1 Mar 1859	1 Mar 1859	1 Mar 1859
Pine		23 Nov 1860	23 Nov 1860	23 Nov 1860			10 Sep 1863	23 Nov 1860	23 Nov 1860	23 Nov 1860
CC	29 Oct 1872	Apr 1873		Apr 1870			1 Mar 1870	1872	10 Mar 1871	23 Feb 1873
CA	Feb 1885	1884	3 Mar 1885	17 Mar 1884	1885		Nov 1886	9 Mar 1883	4 Oct 1890	Mar 1897
Provisional						4 Jun 1890				
KeyPlate		8 Mar 1889		8 Mar 1889		25 Feb 1891				

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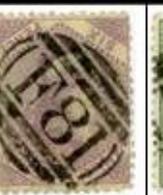
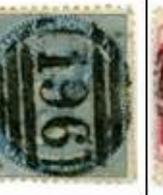
Images Examples

		 Not to Scale							
A01-A Kingston	A01-B Kingston	A01-C Kingston	A01-D Kingston	A01-E Kingston	A01-F Kingston	A01-G Kingston	A27 H Alexandria	A28 H Annotto Bay	A28 M Annotto Bay
A29 H Bath	A30 H Black River	A31 H Brown's Town	A32 H Buff's Bay	A33 H Chapelton	A34 H Claremont	A35 H 1. Claremont 2. Four Paths	A36 H Dry Harbour	A36 MS Dry Harbour	A36 L Dry Harbour
					As A40 H but with Blue Ink				
A37 H Duncans	A38 H 1. Ewarton 2. Falmouth	A38 N 1. Falmouth 2. Up Park Camp	A39 H 1. Falmouth 2. Flint River	A40 H 1. Flint River 2. Gayle	A40 H Blue 1. Flint River 2. Gayle	A41 H 1. Gayle 2. Golden Spring 3. Stony Hill	A41 H Violet 1. Gayle 2. Golden Spring 3. Stony Hill	A42 H 1. Golden Spring 2. Gordon Town	A43 H 1. Gordon Town 2. Goshen 3. Santa Cruz
A44 H 1. Goshen 2. Grange Hill	A45 H 1. Grange Hill 2. Green Island	A46 H 1. Green Island 2. Highgate 3. Siloah	A47 H 1. Highgate 2. Hope Bay	A48 H 1. Hope Bay 2. Lilliput	A49 H 1. Lilliput 2. Lucea	A50 H 1. Little River 2. Malvern	A51 H 1. Lucea 2. Manchioneal	A52 H 1. Manchioneal 2. Mandeville	A53H -OR 1. Mandeville 2. May Hill 3. Spur Tree

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A53H - RE 1. Mandeville 2. May Hill 3. Spur Tree	A54 H 1. May Hill 2. Mile Gully	A54 J Mile Gully	A55 H 1. Mile Gully 2. Moneague	A56 H 1. Moneague 2. Montego Bay	A56 K 1. Montego Bay	A57 H 1. Montego Bay 2. Morant Bay	A58 H Montpelier	A58 J Bluefields	A59 H 1. Morant Bay 2. Newport
									
A60 H Ocho Rios	A60 M Ocho Rios	A61 H Old Harbour	A62 H Plantain Garden River	A63 H Pear Tree Grove	A64 H 1. Port Antonnio 2. Lacovia	A64 H - Blue 1. Port Antonnio 2. Lacovia	A65 H Port Morant	A66 H Port Maria	A67 H Port Royal
									
A68 H Porus	A69 H Ramble	A70 H Rio Bueno	A71H Rodney Hall renamed Linstead	A72H St David renamed Yallahs	A73 H St. Ann's Bay	A74 H Salt Gut	A75 H Savanna- La-Mar	A75 L Savanna- La-Mar	A76 H Spanish Town
									
A76 O Spanish Town	A77 H Stewart Town	A78H 1. Vere 2. Richmond 3. Alley	A79 H Richmond	A79 H - Miss "7" Richmond	A79 J Richmond	A79 K Balaclava	A80 K Large Mount Charles	A80 K Small Hagly Gap	A81 K Pedro

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A82 M Middle Quarters	A83 M Trinity Ville	E06 K Newmarket	E30 K Lacovia	E58 K Little River	F80 O Little London	F81 O Clark's Town	F95 O Watson's Hill	F96 O Shooter's Hill	F97 O Copse
									
F98 O Chester Castle	G13 O Halfway Tree	G14 O Hampden	G15 O Blue Mountain Valley	G16 O Priestman's River	193 O Cold Spring	196 O Ewarton	199 O Guy's Hill	201 O Milk River	598 O Adelphi
									
615 O Bull Bay	617 O Hayes	622 O Kings renamed White House	631 O 1. Medina 2. Maidstone	640 O May Pen	642 O Petersfield	647 O Southfield	"A" P Milk River	"B" P Duncans	"C" P Laughlands
									
"D" P Unknown	"E" P Unknown								

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Types and Where Used

Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A01	A	Kingston	1858 to 1863	
	NOBL~A01	B	Kingston	1859 to 1870	Duplex of obliterator and K10 dated circle.
	NOBL~A01	C	Kingston	1859 to 1870	Duplex of two obliterators.
	NOBL~A01	D	Kingston	1860 to 1870	Small lettering with heavy bars

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A01	E	Kingston	1860 to 1875	Bigger with very oval "0"
	NOBL~A01	F	Kingston	1870 to 1885	As E but very round "0"
	NOBL~A01	G	Kingston	1870 to 1885	Between E and F.
	NOBL~A27	H	Alexandria	1859 to 1890	
	NOBL~A28	H	Annotto Bay	1859 to 1876	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A28	M	Annotto Bay	1876 to 1885	
	NOBL~A29	H	Bath	1859 to 1890	
	NOBL~A30	H	Black River	1859 to 1882	
	NOBL~A31	H	Brown's Town	1859 to 1882	
	NOBL~A32	H	Buff Bay	1859 to 1892	
	NOBL~A33	H	Chapelton	1859 to 1890	
	NOBL~A34	H	Claremont	1859 to 1890	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A35	H	Clarendon	1859 to 1876	
	NOBL~A35	H	Four Paths	1876 to 1893	Office moved here from Clarendon.
	NOBL~A36	H	Dry Harbour	1859 to 1860	
	NOBL~A36	M	Dry Harbour	1860 to 1861	
	NOBL~A36	L	Dry Harbour	1861 to 1892	
	NOBL~A37	H	Duncans	1859 to 1880	See also 'B'
	NOBL~A38	H	Ewarton	1859 to 1862	See also '196' Closed & reopened.
	NOBL~A38	H	Falmouth	1862 to 1880	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A38	N	Falmouth	1880 to 1882	
	NOBL~A38	N	Up Park Camp	1884 to 1885	
	NOBL~A39	H	Falmouth	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A39	H	Flint River	1862 to 1893	
	NOBL~A40	H	Flint River	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A40	H	Gayle	1862 to 1893	Known in Blue ink
	NOBL~A41	H	Gayle	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A41	H	Golden Spring	1862 to 1885	Known in Violet - Blue ink.
	NOBL~A41	H	Stony Hill	1885 to 1893	Office moved here from Golden Spring
	NOBL~A42	H	Golden Spring	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A42	H	Gordon Town	1862 to 1893	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A43	H	Gordon Town	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A43	H	Goshen	1862 to 1883	
	NOBL~A43	H	Santa Cruz	1883 to 1893	Office moved here from Goshen
	NOBL~A44	H	Goshen	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A44	H	Grange Hill	1862 to 1893	
	NOBL~A45	H	Grange Hill	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A45	H	Green Island	1862 to 1890	
	NOBL~A46	H	Green Island	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A46	H	Highgate	1862 to 1869	Closed 1869 to 1895
	NOBL~A46	H	Siloah	1869 to 1893	New office.
	NOBL~A47	H	Highgate	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A47	H	Hope Bay	1862 to 1893	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A48	H	Hope Bay	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A48	H	Lilliput	1862 to 1874	
	NOBL~A49	H	Lilliput	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A49	H	Lucea	1862 to 1890	
	NOBL~A50	H	Little River	Not known used	office closed by 1860. See 'E58'
	NOBL~A50	H	Malvern	1862 to 1893	New office
	NOBL~A51	H	Lucea	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A51	H	Manchioneal	1862 to 1890	
	NOBL~A52	H	Manchioneal	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A52	H	Mandeville	1862 to 1890	
	NOBL~A53	H	Mandeville	1859 to 1860	Lost refound about 1885.

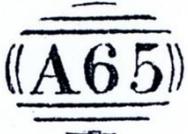
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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A53	H	May Hill	1862 to 1885	Has taller fatter digits than original.
	NOBL~A53	H	Spurr Tree	1885 to 1893	Office moved here from May Hill.
	NOBL~A53	H	Spurr Tree	1885 to 1893	Refound original die as well.
	NOBL~A54	H	May Hill	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A54	H	Mile Gully	1862 to 1865	
	NOBL~A54	J	Mile Gully	1865 to 1885	Replacement for type H.
	NOBL~A55	H	Mile Gully	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A55	H	Moneague	1862 to 1892	
	NOBL~A56	H	Moneague	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A56	H	Montego Bay	1862 to 1876	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A56	K	Montego Bay	1876 to 1885	Replacement for type H.
	NOBL~A57	H	Montego Bay	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A57	H	Morant Bay	1862 to 1893	
	NOBL~A58	H	Montpelier	1859	Only known used once then lost.
	NOBL~A58	J	Bluefields	1866 to 1901	Replacement for type H in new office.
	NOBL~A59	H	Morant Bay	1859 to 1862	
	NOBL~A59	H	Newport	1862 to 1892	
	NOBL~A60	H	Ocho Rios	1859 to 1876	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A60	M	Ocho Rios	1876 to 1892	Replacement for type H.
	NOBL~A61	H	Old Harbour	1859 to 1872	
	NOBL~A62	H	Plantain Garden River	1859 to 1894	
	NOBL~A63	H	Pear Tree Grove	1859 to 1899	
	NOBL~A64	H	Port Antonio	1859 to 1889	
	NOBL~A64	H	Lacovia	1891 to 1892	See also 'E30'.
	NOBL~A65	H	Port Morant	1859 to 1890	
	NOBL~A66	H	Port Maria	1859 to 1895	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A67	H	Port Royal	1859 to 1895	
	NOBL~A68	H	Porus	1859 to 1892	
	NOBL~A69	H	Ramble	1859 to 1893	
	NOBL~A70	H	Rio Bueno	1859 to 1893	
	NOBL~A71	H	Rodney Hall	1859 to 1894	Office was renamed Linstead in 1868
	NOBL~A72	H	Saint David	1859 to 1890	
	NOBL~A73	H	St Ann's Bay	1859 to 1892	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A74	H	Salt Gut	1859 to 1892	
	NOBL~A75	H	Savannah-La-Mar	1859 to 1860	Appears to have been lost or damaged.
	NOBL~A75	L	Savannah-La-Mar	1862 to 1892	Replacement for type H.
	NOBL~A76	H	Spanish Town	1859 to 1874	
	NOBL~A76	O	Spanish Town	1874 to 1892	Replacement for type H.
	NOBL~A77	H	Stewart Town	1859 to 1889	
	NOBL~A78	H	Vere	1859 to 1895	Office was renamed Alley in 1875.

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A79	H	Richmond	1863 to 1866	Only two examples known.
	NOBL~A79	J	Richmond	1866 to 1892	
	NOBL~A79	K	Balaclava	1876 to 1895	Note use at same time as Richmond.
	NOBL~A80	K	Mount Charles	1876 to 1884	
	NOBL~A80	K	Hagley Gap	1884 to 1885	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~A81	K	Pedro	1876 to 1892	Not known in use until 1889.
	NOBL~A82	M	Middle Quarters	1876 to 1894	
	NOBL~A83	M	Trinity Ville	1878 to 1898	
	NOBL~E06	K	Newmarket	1869 to 1898	
	NOBL~E30	K	Lacovia	1869 to 1890	New office. See also 'A64'

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~E58	K	Little River	1869 to 1894	Reopened. See also 'A50'
	NOBL~F80	O	Little London	1872 to 1894	
	NOBL~F81	O	Clark's Town	1872 to 1894	
	NOBL~F95	O	Watson's Hill	1872 to 1900	
	NOBL~F96	O	Shooter's Hill	1873 to 1891	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~F97	O	Copse	1873 to 1891	
	NOBL~F98	O	Chester Castle	1873 to 1894	
	NOBL~G13	O	Half Way Tree	1873 to 1898	
	NOBL~G14	O	Hampden	1873 to 1901	
	NOBL~G15	O	Blue Mountain Valley	1873 to 1898	

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~G16	O	Priestman's River	1873 to 1898	
	NOBL~193	O	Cold Spring	1874 to 1897	
	NOBL~196	O	Ewarton	1874 to 1898	See also 'A38'
	NOBL~199	O	Guy's Hill	1874 to 1898	
	NOBL~201	O	Milk River	1874 to 1894	See also 'A'

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~598	O	Adelphi	1876 to 1900	
	NOBL~615	O	Bull Bay	1876 to 1901	
	NOBL~617	O	Hayes	1876 to 1899	
	NOBL~622	O	Kings	1876 to 1892	Renamed White House
	NOBL~631	O	Medina	1876 to 1890	
	NOBL~631	O	Maidstone	1890 to 1892	Office re-located here from Medina.

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~640	O	May Pen	1876 to 1898	
	NOBL~642	O	Petersfield	1876 to 1896	
	NOBL~647	O	Southfield	1876 to 1895	
	NOBL~A	P	Milk River	1873 to 1874	can be found in all Pines and CC stamps See also '201'
	NOBL~B	P	Duncans	1880 to 1895	Fairly common

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Image	Code	Style	Office	Approx dates	Notes
	NOBL~C	P	???	1880 to 1885	Laughlands, one identifying copy on PPC tied with a T.R.D. of Laughlands TD 3, dated Feb. 25, '84 Discovered by Mr. O'Connor in the 1950s in a bundle of post cards
	NOBL~D	P	???	1880 to 1881	Location not known, only 2 copies known
	NOBL~E	P	???	1880 to 1885	Location not known, found mainly on CCs