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CAYMAN ISLANDS

By Fred. J. Melville



Crawford 1308

Cayman Islands



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By
Fred. J. Melville,

President of the Junior
Philatelic Society,

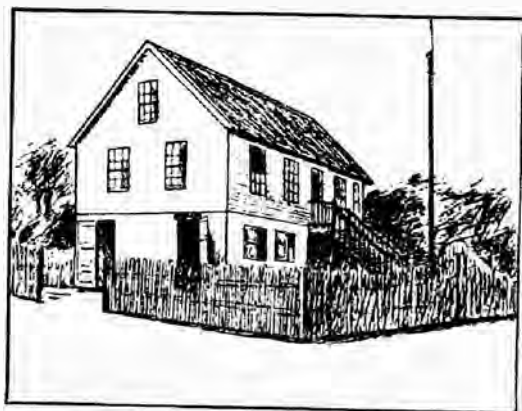
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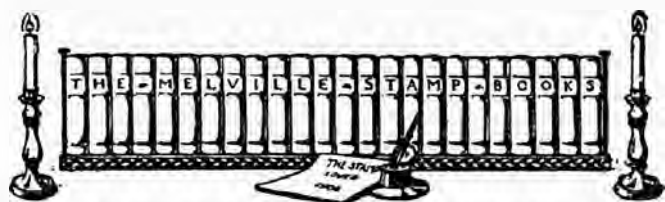
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The building at Georgetown, Grand Cayman,
where the early postal business was transacted.
[By courtesy of "The Postage Stamp".]



INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

ALTHOUGH the time is still far-distant, when this small group of Islands will celebrate its philatelic jubilee, the comparatively short space of twelve years since the issue of its first modest pair of stamps has proved fruitful in variety, not merely of the ordinary postal series, but of stamps of a brief provisional existence, rendered necessary by the exhaustion of certain values.

The postage-stamps of the Cayman Islands have already been the subject of study by several writers, and large specialised collections have been formed—one at least, on such generous lines as to entitle its owner to consider it practically complete, containing, as it does, several items of great and almost unique rarity.

Unlike that of Jamaica, of which these islands are a dependency, the record of the Caymans cannot be truthfully said to be quite clear of philatelic speculation; but the practice of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, in sending out supplies of stamps merely sufficient for genuine postal requirements, and in ignoring the inevitable requirements of dealers and collectors, undoubtedly furnishes opportunities for, what should be, quite unnecessary emissions.

With this slight qualification, there is no doubt that the issues of the Cayman Islands constitute an interesting study, and are popular with many amongst that ever-increasing section of philatelists who, despairing of ever

approaching the collectors' ideal—completion—in the stamps of any of the historic colonies, turn their attention to the philatelically younger groups and find therein a sufficiently-absorbing interest to justify the collection of modern issues only.

The study of the stamps of the Caymans is straightforward, and presents little difficulty, but the opportunity of inspecting a large accumulation, which may perhaps not be always so accessible, provides an excuse, if not a reason, for producing the present work.

We are glad to admit indebtedness to those writers, whose contributions to our philatelic knowledge on this subject have appeared in the various journals as detailed in the Bibliography; and we have to thank Mr. W. H. Peckitt for the kindly loan of the "accumulation" above-referred to, with its mass of documentary evidence and carefully written-up notes.



The Cayman Islands.

CHAPTER I.

The Posts of the Caymans.

IT was Columbus who, returning to his beloved Spain from Porto Bello, discovered this little group of islands, and he named them Las Tortugas, possibly on account of the extraordinary number of turtles then frequenting their shores. Spain, the colonising power of olden days in the far west, does not appear to have ever occupied this group; and it is said that the islands were for long used by pirates as a convenient base, from which to carry on their depredations on the trading ships which in due course ventured across the seas, in search of new markets or fresh sources of produce.

We have mentioned that the Caymans—as they were subsequently re-named—are a dependency of Jamaica, and it was shortly after Great Britain had obtained possession of that island that she annexed the small adjoining group, which is now under the care of a High Commissioner, Mr. George S. S. Hirst, M.B. There are only three Cayman islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman: they are situate in the Caribbean Sea, the first-named being about 100 miles

south of Cuba and about twice that distance slightly to the north-west of Jamaica. The other islands are 60 to 80 miles farther east, and together about one-third the size of their larger sister; the area of the entire group being only 200 square miles, with a population, in June, 1911, of 5,564, of whom 4,533 were white or coloured, and 1,031 black—an increase during the preceding twenty years (when the previous census was taken) of 1,242.

The apparent disparity between the sexes—2,427 males and 3,137 females—was due to the fact that quite 500 men were absent at the time of the census, at work in the United States and the Republics of Central America, or at sea.

Turtle-fishing, farming, and sea-faring are the principal occupations of the inhabitants, of the female portion of whom it is ungallantly said that they are thriftless and idle. Though no one is rich, there are no paupers, and the "poor-rate" is covered by an annual contribution from the Government of the small sum of £10.

The first mention of Caymanian postal affairs is in the Handbook of Jamaica, 1889-90, where it is stated that on April 13, 1889 "temporary arrangements were concluded for the exchange of mails between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica," by schooner plying at irregular intervals between Georgetown and Kingston.

Communication with the outside world is irregular, if frequent, and efforts are being made to induce some of the numerous steamers passing Grand Cayman within a very close range to call regularly.

Previous to 1889 there was no Post Office in the Dependency, letters being addressed to the Kingston (Jamaica) Post Office, or to friends in Jamaica and

THE POSTS OF THE CAYMANS. 11

these, as opportunity arose, were sent on by the captain of a vessel likely to call. In 1900 the passing of the "Post Office Law" placed matters on a more satisfactory basis, and a special series of stamps (two values only) was issued, superseding the Jamaican stamps which had been in use since 1889; and at the present time there are post-offices at Georgetown and Boddentown in Grand Cayman, and at Stake Bay in Cayman Brac, with sub-offices at Spotts in the largest island, and at the Creek, Cayman Brac. A branch office, for a time open at East End, Grand Cayman, was discontinued in 1908.

In 1907, a local mail service was instituted between Georgetown and Boddentown, but it was discontinued in 1908 owing to high charges and bad roads; but later in the same year it was re-established, and the roads having been considerably improved, a mail-cart is now run three times a week between Boddentown and Georgetown, with branches to East End and West Bay.

Local postage on letters not exceeding 2oz. in weight has been reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and on newspapers, postcards, etc., to $\frac{1}{4}$ d., the parcel-post rate being 1d. per $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. : at first limited to Grand Cayman, these rates were in 1909 extended to Cayman Brac.

The following statistics of recent Post-office activity are of interest :—

LOCAL MAIL SERVICE.

GEORGETOWN POST OFFICE ONLY.

	Packages received.	Packages despatched.
1909	2461	5074
1910	8610	10457
1911	5858	10004

FOREIGN MAIL SERVICE.

(FOR GEORGETOWN POST ONLY,
except during the first two years.)

	Received.	Despd.	Received.	Despd.
1904-05		42	4935	6636
1905-06		60	10490	13830
1906-07			5766	6637
1907-08		48	11512	14867
1908-09	33	51	24829	12637
1909-10	22	46	17160	9635
1910-11	25	45	24870	12404

There is now a daily postal delivery in Georgetown and in each of the following settlements on the receipt of the mail—Boddentown, East End, and West Bay. Postal packages are delivered at all small settlements *en route* by the Mail-man.

The following table shews the Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office:—

CAYMAN ISLANDS POST OFFICE.

(FOR GEORGETOWN ONLY, after 1905-06.)

Year ending 30th September.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1904-05	£307 0 0	£75 0 0
1905-06	282 0 0	88 0 0
1906-07	805 0 0	80 0 0
1907-08	2192 0 0	
1908-09	1757 17 1½	354 14 11½
1909-10	721 7 1	74 13 6
1910-11	799 13 10	90 12 1

THE POSTS OF THE CAYMANS. 13

At first Postal business was conducted in a small annex to the Public Offices (now used as a store for light-house materials), and on this room becoming much too small for the business, the Post Office was removed to what had been used as a bonded store in the basement of the Public Offices. In 1909, more space was again required, and the Commissioner's Office was included as a sorting-room, that high official's quarters being transferred to the basement at Government House.



CHAPTER II.

“ Borrowed ” Stamps.

FOR the ten years preceding the issue of Cayman Islands stamps, those of Jamaica were on sale at the post-offices, and, although such cannot be differentiated from the ordinary issues of Jamaica when unused, they are (when duly postmarked) of considerable interest—and rarity—and are certainly worthy of a place in a specialised collection of the Dependency's issues.

During the period specified (1889-1900) the series of Jamaican stamps comprised ten values* ranging from One Halfpenny to Five Shillings, and three official stamps of One Halfpenny, One Penny, and Two Pence respectively : of the former only six were used in the Caymans—Halfpenny, Penny (two designs), Two Pence, Twopence Halfpenny, Three Pence, and Four pence, together with the three bearing the “ OFFICIAL ” overprint.

All these stamps, except the Penny of the second type, bear the profile of Queen Victoria, and were printed on the Crown “ CA ” paper in use during the period, and are perforated 14 : they were designed, engraved and supplied by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

*For a study of these stamps, see “ Jamaica ” (Melville Stamp Books, No. 12).

The Halfpenny is in green; the Penny bicoloured, dull purple and mauve; the Two Pence, green; the Two-pence Halfpenny, also bicoloured, is in dull purple and blue; the Three Pence is pale olive-green; and the Four Pence is red-brown.

The Penny of the second type is that with a view of the Llandovery Falls printed in red on the large Crown “CC” paper then used for stamps of similar dimensions: it was issued in Jamaica on May 1, 1900, and had only a short “Caymanian” life of five months; whilst its successor, of the same type but printed in two colours (blue-black for the centre, and red for the frame) was not on sale in Jamaica until September 25, 1901. This latter, although copies are known as having paid postage on letters from the islands, cannot be included in the category of Jamaican stamps used in the Caymans.

The “Llandovery” stamp, line-engraved and printed direct from the plate by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., was designed from a photograph of the Falls, situate—not in Wales, as might be, and actually was, thought—in the district of St. Ann, Jamaica.

The official stamps were the Halfpenny green, the Penny rose and the Two Pence grey, all with the overprint in thick letters.

All the postmarks, by which the use of these stamps in the dependency may be recognised, bear the word “Cayman” as part of the inscription*: those we have met with are:—

(1) a large transverse double oval, inscribed between the concentric lines “GRAND CAYMAN — POST OFFICE”, with the date in the centre.

*See Illustrations I., II., III., VII. and VIII. to the Chapter on Postmarks, *infra*.

(2) a single-line circle, lettered " GRAND CAYMAN P.O. ", and the date in the centre in two lines.

(3) a double-line circle, with the inscription " GRAND CAYMAN—CAYMAN ISLANDS " inside both lines, and the date in the centre as in (2).

(4) similar to (3), but lettered " CAYMAN BRAC—CAYMAN ISLANDS ".

(5) a transverse oblong, lettered " CAYMAN BRAC—CAYMAN ISLANDS " in two lines: no date, which presumably was added in MS.

The official stamps, which came into use, so far as the Halfpenny value is concerned, in Jamaica on April 1, 1891, were current in the Caymans also, until discontinued in favour of "franking" government correspondence by means of a hand-stamp.



CHAPTER III.

The Queen's Head.



PRIOR to the first issue of Cayman Islands stamps, it was intended to use those of Jamaica with a suitable overprint, and instructions were actually issued to the postmaster to supply a series overprinted "CAYMAN ISLANDS" for use in the dependency; but the instructions did not materialise, so far as collectors are concerned, beyond a few copies of the lowest two values.

Some stamps of St. Vincent were also overprinted for use in the Caymans, but no specimens have been forthcoming, and the stock printed was, it is said, ultimately destroyed, the Commissioner of the Caymans refusing to sanction the issue.

However, it was at last decided that the Caymanians were to have their own definite postage stamps, and instructions were accordingly sent through the Crown Agents, to Messrs. De La Rue & Co. early in 1900 to supply a modest series of two values, Halfpenny and Penny.

The supply was duly delivered by the printers and was placed on sale probably late in September, or, perhaps, on October 1, the earliest mention of the stamps in English journals being on the 27th of that month.

As often the case with modern colonial issues, these stamps were surface-printed from electrotypes in sheets of 120, arranged in two panes side by side, each pane containing 60 stamps grouped in ten horizontal rows of six, and being enclosed in a "Jubilee" line of printers' rule: the plate-number was shewn four times in the margins—over or under the second stamp from each corner of the sheet.*

The paper used was the well-known Crown "CA" paper, which has already been fully described in these Handbooks†, and the perforation was of the almost universal gauge of 14 to the two centimetres.

For the production of the stamps, it was decided to use the "General Colonial Key-plate" which allowed for the insertion, by a second printing, of the name of the colony and the denomination, in tablets at the top and bottom of the stamp intentionally left void for that purpose. Imperforate copies, printed in green and

*For a description of the surface-printing process and of the manufacture of the plates, see "Jamaica" (Melville Stamp Books, No. 12), Chapter III.

†"Gambia" (Melville Stamp Books, No. 4), Chapter V.



Proof, with name and duty painted in.

carmine respectively, from the General Plate were completed by painting in the name and value in the proper colours, and these are the only known essays in the adopted, or any other, type. By the second printing, the name "CAYMAN ISLANDS" and the value " $\frac{1}{2}$ d." or "1d." were inserted in the blank tablets, completing the stamp, the design of which shews a small diademed portrait of Queen Victoria to left, on a horizontally-lined ground within a circle; at each side is a vertical uncoloured label inscribed "POSTAGE", that on the left reading upwards, that on the right downwards; the name, as described, is at the top of the stamp; and the value in a lined oblong hexagonal frame is below the portrait. The spandrels adjoining the central disc and at the ends of the value label contain conventional ornamentation of a foliate pattern.

The plate-number on the sheets of each of the two values is "3".

For the stamps, the Postal Union colours of green and carmine were selected, both varying in depth of shade, the lower value from pale to dark green, and the Penny from a pale rosy to a deep carmine.

There is a very minor variety of *all* the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d.

stamps: the spacing between the letters "S" and "L" of "ISLANDS" varies—usually, it is greater than that between any other two of the letters, but in some cases—probably, 20 per cent.—it is correct, and uniform with that between the other letters of the inscription.

It is recorded that 96,920 of the Halfpenny and 97,920 of the Penny were printed, the figures including the "specimen" copies sent to Berne for distribution.

The gum, in this and all the following issues, is usually white, though occasionally it is of a slightly brownish tone.





CHAPTER IV.

The King's Head.



CONSEQUENT on the death of Queen Victoria in January, 1901, it became necessary to provide new stamps, and this time the order was a little more ambitious, the denominations required being five—Halfpenny, Penny, Twopence Halfpenny, Six Pence, and One Shilling.

As before, these were prepared by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., the process of manufacture and the printing being identical with those of the former issue; the paper continued to be that watermarked with a Crown and "CA"; and the perforation was uniformly 14.

The values were issued as follows :—the 2½d., 6d. and 1s. on December 20, 1901, the ½d. on September 15, 1902, and the 1d. not until March 6, 1903.

The design is similar to that of the previous issue, the head of King Edward VII. being substituted for that of the late Queen; and, instead of a diadem, there is a very small crown poised above the portrait and imposed on the upper part of the enclosing circle. There is a difference, also, in the value-tablet of the three new values : instead of an uncoloured figure on a lined ground, the indication of value is in colour on a plain uncoloured tablet.

In addition to the " IS LANDS " variety on the two lower values, there is another minute variety on the duty-plate of the Twopence Halfpenny : the first upright stroke of the letter " M " is very slightly abbreviated, as if it had been damaged. The variation is found on the 27th stamp on each of the two panes, shewing that the original duty-plate contains only 60 *clichés*.

All the values were from No. 1 of the new " POSTAGE—POSTAGE " key-plates, and it is noteworthy that they were the first stamps to be printed from it.

The colours of the stamps are as follows, with variations in depth of shade except, perhaps, in the case of the One Shilling :—Halfpenny, green; Penny, rose, through rose-carmine, to carmine; Twopence Halfpenny, bright blue, pale to dark; Six Pence, brown, pale to dark; and One Shilling, orange.

" Specimen " copies of all values were circulated as usual, through Berne.

There appears to be no definite record as to the quantities printed on the old Crown " CA " paper.

but the following figures are given for the three high values :

2½d.,	13,560
6d.,	5,400
1s.,	3,240

Various trial-colours are known, the Halfpenny duty-plate being used for the experiments—dull mauve, brown, brown and mauve, ultramarine, ultramarine and purple, french-grey and carmine. The second colour is that of the name and denomination.



CHAPTER V.
The "All-over" Watermark.



SAVE for a change in the watermarking of the paper on which they were printed, the stamps of this issue are absolutely identical with those described in the preceding chapter.

The alteration in the watermark, which first appeared in its new form about the middle of 1904, consisted of a slight reduction in size, though the space between the Crown and the letters "CA" is appreciably greater than formerly, and in the disposition of the device. Formerly each stamp had one watermarked device, and one only—hence the distinguishing name which had to be adopted, "Single 'CA'"; whilst the new disposition had the devices scattered over the paper, from edge to edge of the sheet, so that each stamp shewed portions of several watermarks.

THE "ALL-OVER" WATERMARK. 25

This new paper, which is technically said to bear an "all-over" watermark, is known to collectors as "Multiple Crown 'CA'."

All the then existing values of the King's Head type appeared in due course on the new paper, the stamps being printed from the same plates in colours practically similar to those of the single "CA" series: the perforation gauged 14 as formerly.

The various denominations appeared as follows:—
Halfpenny, pale to dark green; Twopence Halfpenny, bright blue; Six Pence, light and dark brown; and One Shilling, orange, in March, 1905; and the One Penny, carmine, on October 18, 1905.

There were evidently three, or perhaps four, consignments of the stamps on the new paper, but all the figures do not seem to be available: presumably, the quantities were sufficient for all requirements, as none of this series is particularly scarce. The figures given for the first consignment are:—

½d., 12,000. 2½d., 10,500.

1d., 12,000. 6d., 1,154.

1s., 995.



CHAPTER VI.
The "Bi-coloured" Series.



THE passing of a new Stamp Duty Law (No. 9 of 1906—November 8, 1906), the payments under which were directed to be made by means of postage stamps, rendered it advisable, as a matter of convenience, to provide stamps of a higher denomination than a shilling; and accordingly a supply was ordered of the facial value of five shillings.

At the same time another new stamp, of the value of four pence, was added to the existing series; and it was also determined to obtain a further supply of the Six Pence and One Shilling, all four stamps to be bi-coloured.

The order was, as usual, placed with Messrs. De La

Rue & Co., who prepared the necessary duty-plates for the two new values, and forthwith printed the requisite quantities, the size of the sheets, the paper—Multiple Crown "CA"—and perforation being as in the preceding series. For each of the two new values, the plate used was numbered "1".

All four values—Four Pence, Six Pence, One Shilling and Five Shillings—were placed on sale on March 13, 1907.

We have not been able to trace more than one printing of this bi-coloured series, and the figures do not seem to have been disclosed except, perhaps, in the case of the highest value, the number of which is given at 6,000.

The design of the middle two values was, of course, unchanged, and that of the Four Pence and Five Shillings is similar to that of the One Shilling, with the figure of value on an uncoloured ground; and for colours the following selection was made, the second in each case being of the impression from the duty-plate—brown and blue for the lowest value, olive and rose for the Six Pence, violet and green for the Shilling, whilst the highest denomination was allotted a combination of salmon and green.

It will be noticed that, although the new high value was primarily created for fiscal purposes, the old "POSTAGE—POSTAGE" key-plate was used, not, as in the case of other colonial issues intended for stamp duties as well as postage, that with the special inscription of "POSTAGE & REVENUE". Whether this was intentional or not is unknown; possibly, it was a slip on the part of the responsible official for the four stamps had a very brief existence, all subsequent printings of those values being from the new plate.

The four stamps are comparatively scarce, and used copies, especially when bearing an early postmark, are seldom to be met with.

When these bi-coloured stamps had been on sale a short time, *all* the single-coloured values were withdrawn from issue, but it is believed that the order was intended to apply to the Six Pence and Shilling only. This mistake probably contributed in a great measure to the necessity for provisionals, which play such a large part in the philatelic history of the Caymans; for, as is obvious, the withdrawal left in stock no Halfpenny, Penny or Twopence Halfpenny values.



CHAPTER VII.

The Provisional "One Halfpenny."



THE sudden and—at all events, officially—unexpected reduction of the stock of Halfpenny stamps down to about a two months' supply, caused by the filling of the "speculative demand", as the Colonial Secretary terms it in the official letter quoted *infra*, of a dealer, rendered it necessary to take immediate steps to prevent a stamp-famine; and, the time being deemed insufficient to obtain a supply through the ordinary channels, recourse was had to the usual method—surcharging.

Accordingly, on June 11, 1907, the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands took from his not over-large stock of the One Penny, forty sheets (= 4,800 stamps),

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and forwarded them to the Colonial Secretary in Jamaica with a request that they might receive the necessary surcharge.

The Colonial Secretary was, apparently, somewhat averse from granting the request, for, with his reply, he sent a copy of Lord Ripon's famous Circular Despatch of August, 1893, on the subject of surcharges; but, recognising the necessity in the present instance, he gave instructions to the Superintendent of the official printing-works to comply with the Commissioner's desire.

The full text of the correspondence, published by the direction of the Governor of Jamaica, together with the terms of Lord Ripon's famous circular, is as follows:—

Letter of the Hon. Geo. S. S. Hirst, Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, to the Colonial Secretary, of June 11, 1907:

I have the honour to report that a large foreign order has reduced my stock of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (half penny) stamps to 17 (seventeen) sheets, which at the ordinary rate of sales will not last me eight weeks.

I am therefore forwarding 40 sheets of penny stamps of which I have a good stock, with a request that they may be surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and returned to me as soon as possible.

I shall in the course of a few months, if sales continue as they are at present, be getting short of other denominations, when I will submit the question of a new issue of all denominations to His Excellency.

The Colonial Secretary's reply of July 26, 1907:

I have to transmit herewith a copy of Secretary of State's Circular despatch of the 18th August, 1893, on the subject of surcharging postage stamps, and to request you to be so good in future as to refuse to supply the speculative demands of dealers until you have got a new stock. Copies of the Secretary of State's circulars of the 27th September, 1896,

PROVISIONAL "ONE HALFPENNY." 31

and 19th September, 1905, are also enclosed for your information and guidance.

As the surcharge in this case may be regarded as necessary for the convenience of the public, the Superintendent of the Government Printing Office has been instructed to surcharge the stamps as requested: and I am to request that you will not sell any of these surcharged stamps except across the counter.

In conclusion, I am to add that the Governor is not prepared, without substantial reason, to authorise a new issue of stamps, and to request you to report on this question as soon as possible. I am to say that if a fresh supply of halfpenny, or other stamps, is required, a requisition should be sent forward in due time to enable them to be obtained from the Crown Agents before the stock in hand is exhausted.

Lord Ripon's Circular:

DOWNING STREET,
18th August, 1893.

Sir,—My attention has been called to the practice of issuing surcharged postage stamps, and to the temptations which it affords to postmasters and treasurers and other public officers, of making irregular profits by dealing with stamp-dealers and collectors.

If proper care is taken to maintain a sufficient supply of stamps, the practice of surcharging is unnecessary, and it should never be resorted to unless absolutely required for the convenience of the public, and in every such case the officer responsible for keeping up the supply of stamps should be liable to be fined.

I have, etc.,

RIPON.

The surcharge was set up in ordinary type, sufficient to print a half-sheet of sixty stamps at each impression, and the stamp of which a supply was sent to Jamaica was the current One Penny, carmine, of the King's Head type, on the "all-over" paper.

As a rule, colonial surcharges are not examples of uniformity either in type or printing, but this particular

instance affords an agreeable departure, for the surcharge does not shew any errors or varieties save such very minor differences—and they are few—almost inseparable from the use of reproductions which are type-set, and not stereotyped.

The print consists of the words "One Halfpenny." in two lines of long primer, lower case with capital initials, and the impression was in black ink: it was set up correctly and the printing was carefully done, the register being good and seldom "off centre". Occasionally, the stop appears to be missing from its proper position, but, when so, it fell on the adjoining stamp, through the sheet not being quite centrally placed.

The only variety worth recording occurs on the last stamp in the second row, "penny" being slightly dropped: evidently, this was not constant, for it does not appear on every half-sheet.

August 30, 1907, is the date when this first provisional was placed on sale, and it remained in issue until the latter part of November.

Though dealers' wholesale orders for this provisional were not executed, the stamp is cheap as compared with the prices of some of the later surcharges.



CHAPTER VIII.

The Provisional " $\frac{1}{2}$ D" and "1D".

THE withdrawal of 4,800 Penny stamps from a stock which, at its best, was probably only a little over 12,000, naturally had a disastrous effect; and the "speculative demand" above referred to must be held indirectly responsible for two more provisionals, this time of a more ephemeral nature.

As suggested by the Commissioner's letter of June, 1907, the issue of a new series—evidently from the "postage & revenue" key-plate—was being considered, but it did not materialise, so far as the Penny was concerned, until nearly the end of December; and meanwhile the supply of that value was running perilously low, so low indeed that, by the third week of November, it was practically out of stock. The lowest value, the stock of which had been temporarily bolstered up by the issue of the "One Halfpenny" provisional, was also running out, and there were no present hopes of a consignment from London.

Under these circumstances, and on this occasion without waiting for sanction from Jamaica, the Commissioner took it upon himself to create two more provisionals to replenish the supply of the lowest two values. With the lesson of their first attempt at

"makeshift" stamps, the local authorities evidently carefully considered what value was to be transformed by means of the convenient surcharge; and they selected the Five Shillings, possibly because its use was more usually fiscal than postal, and that it represented a letter-rate little in demand.



It was on November 22, 1907, that the Commissioner instructed the Grand Cayman's Postmistress, Miss Gwendolyn A. Parsons, to convert 1800 Five Shillings stamps into provisional pennies, and that lady had a handstamp prepared for printing the surcharge. This handstamp was crude in the extreme—a few pieces of printers' type fixed in a piece of wood—the work of a local handy-man: it comprised a single figure and a capital letter, "1D".

The postmistress had evidently more time on her hands than have her official sisters in England, for she was able to place the provisionals on sale at her Georgetown office on November 23, the office stamping-pad supplying the necessary ink; and the new stock lasted until December 9, when a sudden demand for penny stamps to use on receipt forms rendered a further printing of 360 stamps necessary. These proved

PROVISIONAL " $\frac{1}{2}$ D" AND "1D". 35

sufficient to tide over all difficulties until the arrival of the anxiously-awaited "POSTAGE & REVENUE" Penny stamp, which superseded the provisional on December 27.

Handstamping is obviously liable to produce varieties, of commission and omission, accidental and intentional: generally this surcharge fell over the original value, but it is to be found in other places and in various positions.

The only true variety is a double surcharge, though copies of the stamp are known on which only the letter or figure is to be found, possibly due to the handstamp not being correctly held.



Meanwhile, another provisional was materialising: the surcharged "One Halfpenny" on Penny was rapidly becoming exhausted, and it became necessary to augment the stock. Sanction was accordingly given for the creation of yet another surcharged makeshift, and Miss Parsons handstamped 15 sheets (=1800 stamps) with " $\frac{1}{2}$ D", the upper figure and letter being identical with those used for the Penny or Five Shillings, which latter value was again chosen: curiously there is no fraction-bar.

In this case, the surcharging was not so carefully executed, there being four variations from the normal: inverted; double; double, one inverted; and omitted "in pair with normal". Of this latter, we have seen two copies—one the centre stamp of a strip of three, the two others being surcharged; and on an entire sheet, the unsurcharged stamp being the last but two in the bottom row of the right-hand pane of the sheet.

The surcharge was supposed to be struck over the original value, but it is sometimes, though not often, found off the tablet; also the figure "1" is sometimes absent, as is also the letter "D" or the greater part of it—both due to the difficulty in delivering an absolutely vertical stroke with the handstamp.

This supply of 1800 was put on sale on November 26, and there was no further printing, this quantity being sufficient to last until receipt of the "postage & revenue" Halfpenny on December 27.



CHAPTER IX.

The "Zenaida."

THE advent of the new Halfpenny and Penny had put an end to the "provisional" period, and it was believed that, pending the receipt of supplies of the remaining values of the new series, the stocks on hand were sufficient for all requirements.

This belief was unexpectedly shattered on February 12, 1908, when Sir Frederick Johnson's steam-yacht "Zenaida" anchored off Georgetown, and an offer was made to convey the foreign mails to Cienfuegos in Cuba. Seeing that the ordinary outward mail was not due until the end of the month, the offer was readily accepted; but a difficulty presented itself—the stock of Twopence Halfpenny stamps was practically *nil*, though a further supply was expected by the vessel which (in ordinary circumstances) would convey the mail.

It may be urged that the lowest two values might have been used to make up the twopence-halfpenny rate, but, as they were greatly in demand and the stocks low, it was deemed inadvisable to further reduce the numbers on hand. Recourse was, therefore, had to surcharging, and four sheets (=480 stamps) of the

bicoloured "postage—postage" Four Pence were handed to the Inspector of Police (Mr. J. H. O'Sullivan) to be surcharged with the required value, which was indicated thus—"2½D", the figures and letter being much smaller than for the earlier provisionals, and again there is no fraction-bar.



The stamps were prepared and issued on February 12, and the metal handstamp was at once destroyed: the supply lasted for two days only, although not more than six copies were supposed to be sold to any one applicant. It is stated, however, that two entire sheets were acquired by a local speculator, leaving only a similar quantity for genuine postal requirements.

The majority of the surcharges are applied directly over the original value, misplaced prints being rare: on the other hand, few are quite upright, the impression generally leaning to the left or right, and copies are known shewing a double surcharge: a copy is known with two surcharges, one of which is inverted.



CHAPTER X.

The "Postage & Revenue" Issue.



THE permanent series, consisting of nine values, was issued over a period of about ten months, from December 27, 1907, till early in the next October, the denominations with actual dates of issue being as follows:—December 27, Half-penny and Penny; March 30, 1908, Twopence Half-penny, Threepence, Fourpence, One Shilling, Five Shillings, and a new high value, Ten Shillings; and the last, the Sixpence, was on sale on October 2.

Messrs. De La Rue & Co. were, as usual, the printers of this new set, all of which were produced from the "postage & revenue" key-plate, shewing the

King's head within a fancy octagonal frame and surmounted by the small crown as in the earlier type. The inscriptions—"POSTAGE" on the left, and "& REVENUE" on the right, were now on solid colour, instead of being in colour on an uncoloured ground; the ornamentation was of a conventional scroll pattern; and the two types of value-tablet were employed, that with a coloured figure on a plain ground being adopted for the Threepence, Fourpence, Shilling, and Five Shillings, whilst the uncoloured figure on a lined background was used for the other values.

For the printing, the old "single" Crown "CA" paper was employed for the Ten Shillings (3,000 stamps) and for the first supply (6,000 copies) of the One Shilling, and the "all-over" paper for the remaining values and the further printings of the Shilling: in both cases the paper was chalk-surfaced, save for the lowest three values, and we have the anomaly of a peculiarly modern stamp printed on old paper, faced with the latest safeguard against fraudulent cleaning of used copies. The perforation uniformly gauges 14.

Of the dates of issue given above, that of the Shilling applies of course to the first printing of 6,000 which was on the old paper: the supply on the Multiple Crown "CA" was not put on sale until April 5, 1909.

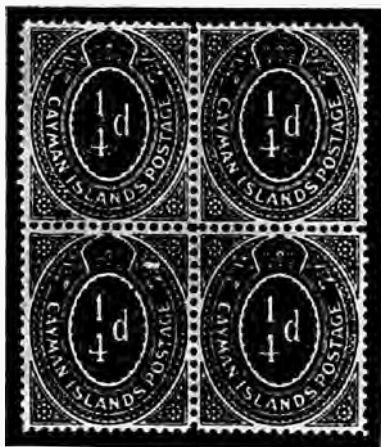
The colours of the eight denominations are those under the then latest scheme of the Crown Agents, the second being that of the two tablets containing the name "CAYMAN ISLANDS" and the indication of value:—Halfpenny, green; Penny, carmine; Twopence Halfpenny, ultramarine; Threepence, purple on yellow paper; Fourpence, black and red on yellow; Sixpence.

dull and bright purple ; Shilling, black on green ; Five Shillings, green and red on yellow ; and Ten Shillings, green and red on green paper.

For all the denominations plate 1 was used, the size and make-up of the sheets being as before : there are no varieties in the ordinary sense, but specialists may note a slight break on the key-plate, to be found on all the values, in the upper right-hand corner of the frame intended for the reception of the name : probably it is due to wear. The disappearance of the slight irregularity in the spacing of the word "ISLANDS" from the duty-plates of the lowest two values indicates that new plates were made : otherwise, the old plates were employed, except of course for the two new denominations of Threepence and Ten Shillings.



CHAPTER XI.
One Farthing.



REDUCTION in the inland postal rates coming into effect in the earlier half of 1908, necessitated a Farthing stamp for postcards and for each 2oz. of printed matter ; and the information first appeared in *The Colonial Office*

Journal, Vol. II., p. 54—"CAYMAN ISLANDS are about to issue $\frac{1}{4}$ d. stamps for internal postage in Grand Cayman".

The stamp was put on sale on June 30, 1908, and ten days afterwards the following notice was sent out to all the dealers and collectors, whose orders for copies came pouring in, one dealer requesting 72,000 exactly the number of the first printing:—

No. 27.

GEORGE TOWN POST OFFICE,
GRAND CAYMAN, B.W.I.

Notice is hereby given that farthing stamps, being provided solely for internal postage in the Cayman Islands Dependency will only be sold across the counter at a Post Office in the Cayman Islands.

By Order,

G. A. PARSONS,
Postmistress.

"Through lack of Halfpenny stamps", to quote the Postmistress, and possibly owing to the ridicule to which the authorities were subjected, the new stamps were soon allowed to be used for external postage also, and many copies are known on letters and packets addressed to places outside the Dependency.

Messrs. De La Rue & Co. were the printers—or rather, the lithographers—of this low-value stamp, which was imposed on the stone in a sheet of 120 in two panes of sixty, each of ten rows of six, the transfer being apparently in groups (2×2) of four, shewing minute differences, as is usually the case in lithography when the transferring is not done one at a time, or by duplicating from the stone itself: No. 1 is somewhat blurred at the upper right-hand part of the oval, and

No. 2 shews the letters "MA" *not* joined, as they are in the three other varieties.

Multiple Crown "CA" paper was used, and the design of the stamps, which were perforated 14 by a single-line machine, consists of a fancy upright oval frame, surmounted by a crown, inscribed "CAYMAN ISLANDS POSTAGE" in uncoloured *sans-serif* letters, and containing the indication of value, " $\frac{1}{4}$ "; the spandrels are filled by a conventional flower and slight ornamentation; but the familiar rectangular frame is absent, though that is the shape of the finished stamp.

The first printing of 600 sheets was in brown, of a chocolate tone, and this colour was retained for the second printing placed on sale on November 3, 1908; but for the third printing the brown inclined to black, without any trace of red: this last supply arrived early in the following year, probably in February.

Besides the points of difference between the stamps composing each block of four, there are varieties arising from slight defects in the stone: four comparatively prominent instances have been recorded—a white flaw to the right of the crown, on the first stamp in the fourth row of the left-hand pane; an uncoloured dot under the last letter of "CAYMAN", on the third stamp in the bottom row of the left pane; a "hair-line" running vertically through the "A" of "POSTAGE", on the fourth stamp in the third row of the right-hand pane; and an uncoloured dot under "S" of "POSTAGE", on the sixth stamp in the eighth row of the right pane.

The white flaw variety was rectified before the third printing took place.

A sheet of the Farthing stamp, in black-brown, has been seen without perforation on the right-hand margin.

During a shortage of this value, prepayment was made in cash, the missive being marked accordingly and officially initialled in red or black ink, blue pencil or ordinary black-lead, and then a postmark was applied as if to a stamp ; sometimes, a postmark alone was used to indicate postage paid.



CHAPTER XII.
The Fiscal "1d".



As this provisional has been accorded catalogue-rank, we include it for the purposes of description and discussion of its status ; but it will be seen that it was issued for fiscal purposes only, and was never intentionally allowed to prepay postage, though copies are known postally obliterated—either by favour or through oversight.

The distance from England, coupled with the inability of the Crown Agents to correctly estimate the local requirements, is one of the chief factors in the occasional dearth of some particular value, and this again occurred in May, 1908, when stamps of low value ran out and postage was for some time paid in cash, the letter being marked "Postage Paid" by the

postmistress—a procedure which could obviously have been adopted in September and November of 1907, and in the following February.

In the present instance, the difficulty arose through the application of an American resident, who "speculatively demanded" a sheet of the one penny for receipt purposes: on being told that there were no stamps of that value in stock, he made a formal complaint, on which the Commissioner directed a small provisional issue to be made by surcharging the Fourpence, his explicit instructions being that they were to be issued as fiscals and used for that purpose only and not for postage.

The handstamp used by Miss Parsons was in the usual rough-and-ready style, consisting of "1D", set in sealing wax on a wooden handle, but the surcharge is much clearer than either of the previous ones except when it falls exactly on the "4", the Four Pence value being again selected for the provisional. It is said that some were surcharged on May 12 and the balance on the 14th, in all 396 stamps, which gives 3 sheets and 36 over: black ink was used, from the post-office pad.

The American who was responsible for this provisional had his one sheet, and the other copies were mostly sold in singles, except to those who shewed that they were *bonâ fide* required.

Bearing in mind the instructions as to the stamp being available for fiscal purposes only, very few copies are known postally obliterated, and those only through oversight: some one tried to smuggle a copy through as a postal, together with an ordinary Six Pence—which latter possibly was sufficient to pay the postage—but it was detected and reached the addressee with a red



pen-and-ink cancellation and "Fiscal only" written across it. To this "piece" a certificate is attached: "The Provisional 1d. on 4d. on the envelope was issued for Fiscal purposes only, and may not be used for Postage.—W. G. M'C., P. M." The certificate is not dated, but the official who signed it succeeded Miss Parsons as postmaster on October 1, 1908; and the Postmistress herself wrote to a correspondent: "We have had to do some more surcharging, but this time for fiscal purposes only. They were 1d. on the new 4d., and badly done as usual."

Copies are known with the surcharge inverted, and judging by catalogue prices they are only about twice as rare as the normal; also one copy is known on which a defective surcharge has been touched up with pen-and-ink.



CHAPTER XIII.
The Georgian Series.



AT the Georgetown Post-office there duly appeared the following notice, which serves to remind us of the world-wide change in postage-stamps necessitated by the death of a British sovereign :—

No. 2/1912. CAYMAN ISLANDS.
POST OFFICE NOTICE.

Postage and Revenue Stamps (bearing the effigy of His Majesty King George V.) of the following denominations will be on sale at the Georgetown Post Office at 10 a.m. on April 24th next., viz. :— $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., 2s., 3s.

By order,

A. BODDEN, Postmaster.

These forerunners of the new series are, as might be expected, supplied by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and are surface-printed from plates of the same size and make-up as those of the previous issue. The paper also is the "all-over" Crown "CA", the variety with chalk-surface being used for the higher two values: these, with the Two Pence, are entirely new denominations for the Cayman dependency. The perforation gauges 14, as usual. The design shews a small profile to left of King George, set in the old "postage & revenue" key-plate, with which we became familiar during the preceding reign.

For the lowest value green is, of course, the colour, and two tones, bluish and greyish, have already been chronicled; grey for the Two Pence; dull purple and blue on blue paper, for the Two Shillings; and green and violet for the Three Shillings. These colours follow the Crown Agents' Scheme, and presumably the remaining values will likewise do so when they appear: in the bi-coloured stamps, the second colour is that of the name and denomination.

The above are the only values recorded or announced at the time of going to press, and it is possible that the stock of the other denominations at Georgetown is sufficient to last some time, before it becomes necessary to instruct the Crown Agents to forward supplies of further values bearing the head of King George V.



CHAPTER XIV. Postmarks.

THERE is so close a connection between postage-stamps and postmarks, that a short chapter on the obliterations used by the various post-offices in the Cayman Islands needs no further reason for finding a place in this volume.

I.*—The first postmark, which came into use late in 1889 or early in 1890, is of sufficiently large dimensions to almost cover a pair of ordinary-sized stamps: it was used at Georgetown until about the end of 1894, and was applied in a violet ink by means (apparently) of an indiarubber stamp with changeable date—it looks like an impression from an ordinary revolving "dater", on the base of which an appropriate inscription has been permanently fixed.

Two concentric transverse ovals—the inner plain, the outer serrated—contain the inscription "GRAND CAYMAN" above, and "POST OFFICE" below, the date appearing in the centre of the design. This postmark is found only on Jamaica stamps used in the Caymans.

II.—This also is a Georgetown postmark, but of more orthodox shape—a plain circle lettered "GRAND

* These roman numerals refer to the types of illustrations accompanying this chapter.



II



I



III



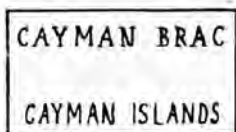
V



IV



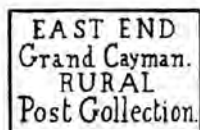
VI



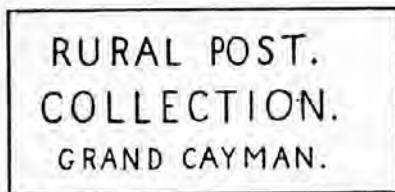
VIII



VII



IX



X

Caymanian Postmarks.

CAYMAN P O" and the date in the centre: it was struck in a dark purplish ink and evidently superseded type I., but how long it remained in use seems to be uncertain. It is found only on Jamaica stamps which have paid postage in or from the Islands.

III.—Within a double-line circle is "GRAND CAYMAN—CAYMAN ISLANDS" the date appearing in the centre. Struck in black ink, it is found on Jamaica stamps used in 1899-1900, and on the earlier Caymans down to 1906, or thereabouts.

IV.—Similar to type II., but lettered "GEORGETOWN—GRAND CAYMAN", this postmark was struck in black and is found on Cayman stamps used during the period—1906-1909.

V.—Another postmark allotted to Georgetown, and inscribed as in the preceding type, but there is an additional circle within the lettering and surrounding the date; also large marks separating the name of the town from that of the island. It came into use in 1909 and is evidently still employed: the impression is in black.

VI.—Similar in all respects to type V., but inscribed "BODDENTOWN": it was in use so recently as January, 1912.

VII.—The second island, Cayman Brac, sees to the postal needs of Little Cayman as well as its own; and the establishment in 1898 of a post-office necessitated the use of an obliterator closely resembling type III., but with the name "CAYMAN BRAC". Impressions in black are to be found on Jamaica stamps and, as the postmark is still used, on the regular Caymanian series up to date.

VIII.—Apparently this is a postmark though undated; unless by an addition in MS. Mr. Postwick is of opinion that it was in use prior to type VII., and

mentions that many "small post offices in Jamaica used a postmark just like this about this period [the middle 'nineties]. It was stamped in black, and had the date filled by hand".

IX.—This, as the inscription denotes, is a local cancellation applied to letters, etc., collected in the rural districts of East End: the envelope, from which this obliteration was copied, bears the Georgetown postmark with date of May 9, 1911. The stamp, which was used with violet ink, is evidently an india-rubber device, and the setting-up is remarkable for the mistake in spelling the last word with "G" instead of "C": the letter is perfectly formed in every part, and is without the slightest doubt a "G": whether the spelling was corrected or not we cannot say.

X.—This large cancellation, for the Grand Cayman rural collection generally, is probably of recent make, the specimen illustrated being on an envelope post-marked at Boddentown on January 1, 1912: like type IX., the impression is evidently that of a rubber-stamp.



CHAPTER XV. The Scandal.

THE *raison d'être* of a provisional is, or should be, the lack of the ordinary postage stamps, arising either from the non-arrival of the necessary denomination by the day appointed for issue, or from the failure of a stock of the current series.

Various things contribute to each of these unfortunate conditions—the responsible officials are just too late with the new value, and a makeshift has to be improvised; or the same officials shut their eyes to the fact that there is such a hobby as stamp-collecting, and ignore its demands when ordering the initial supply of stamps.

These are more or less legitimate reasons; though probably an ordinary individual, with due regard for his good business name, would in the one case be punctual, and in the other provide for the inevitable (if non-postal) demand.

Occasionally, there is another reason: some member of the public—possibly, on the strength of semi-official information—buys up the entire stock of a particular value, allowed to run abnormally low, so creating a dearth; or, the dearth being *bonâ fide*, unexpectedly requires a sheet or so of the non-existent value.

In either case, a surcharged provisional can meet the

demand ; and there again, a small printing soon runs out, necessitating another provisional ; and so on, until at last a very large stock, sufficient to supply all demands, is made, and no one speculates save to a modest extent.

In any of these cases, the philatelist cannot reasonably grumble at the post-office, though he may blame official shortsightedness and the ubiquitous speculator.

Collectors are, however, entitled to, and do, grumble at the creation of a provisional, the alleged necessity for which is the outcome of careful official manipulation of the stock of the various denominations.

The beginning of the Caymanian troubles was the unexpected shortage of the Halfpenny value, caused by " a large foreign order " ; and the official letter communicating this fact prophesies " in the course of a few months " a shortage of " other denominations, when " —and this shews the wonderful workings of the official mind—" the question of a new issue of all denominations " will be submitted.

No present submission, or promise of an early one : nothing of the kind. No present hurry ! Wait till we are short !

This may be all prejudice, but the request for a surcharged provisional (" One Halfpenny." on Penny), coupled with a disclosure of the official programme, makes one look ahead and watch—if not pray—for another provisional or two !

The first Caymanian wandering from the path of philatelic virtue would most likely have been forgiven, for, after all, the " large foreign order " could hardly be attributed to the postal officials : but when, rendered bold or reckless by the success of the first downward step, the post-office produces three more provisionals,

the regret at the first lapse becomes first a doubt, and then a strong suspicion, about the *bona fides* of the latest efforts.

First "One Halfpenny" on Penny; then "1D" on Five Shillings; then more of the lower value—this time " $\frac{1}{2}$ D" on Five Shillings; and lastly "2 $\frac{1}{2}$ D" on Fourpence; all, except the first, executed with a hand stamp, one of the most fruitful sources of surcharge and overprint varieties.

Naturally, there was a universal chorus of condemnation, and so loud did it become that the British Secretary of State for the Colonies considered it his duty to institute an Enquiry, the result—we do not suggest "object"—of which was to whitewash—or "exonerate" if that word be preferred—all those against whom the philatelic fulminations had been directed.

In June (or July), 1907, the first provisional was ordered; and it is interesting to know what was then the available stock of the surcharged denomination, "One Halfpenny", either in the Caymans or in Jamaica.

Miss Parsons, the Postmistress, writing to a well-known firm of dealers on May 30, 1907, says that "the old issue has been withdrawn from circulation, and cannot now be supplied by the Post Office at face value."

Again, on September 18, the lady writes—though this letter is not directly material, but it is instructive—"No: the old 6d., brown, and 1s., orange have not been destroyed nor are they likely to be [!], neither are they on sale at face value [!]."

On October 11, a further communication states that Miss Parsons does "not know what the Commissioner

intends doing with the old stamps . . . though he will not sell them at face value"; and this is followed, on November 9, by a suggestion that application should be made direct to the Commissioner to "find out at what value he would be willing to sell."

Meanwhile the "One Halfpenny" on Penny had appeared.

Early in 1908, the firm of stamp-dealers received the following important letter:—

GRAND CAYMAN, B. W. INDIES,
Dec. 9th, 1907.

Sirs,

I am in a position to dispose of the whole of the remainder of the issue of stamps withdrawn from circulation in March, 1907, viz.: $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d., and 1s., also the whole of the remainder of the original 1d. stamps (Queen's Head), issued by this Government. The face value of the two parcels is £670 or thereabout, to be disposed of in one lot. In addition there are also a few sheets of surcharged stamps, viz.:

1 sheet 1d. surcharged One Halfpenny.
2 sheets 5s. " $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (19 sheets originally).
2 " 5s. " 1d. (15 " ").

None of the surcharged stamps have been issued to Stamp Dealers. If you care to handle these stamps, I shall be glad to have your offer.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

W. M. COCHRAN.

Before receipt of this letter, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. (the firm referred to) had written for particulars of the stock in the Commissioner's hands, and the reply from that official was:—

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
GRAND CAYMAN, Jan. 29, 1908.

Sirs.—The postage stamps referred to in your letter of Dec. 10, 1907, are now in the hands of the Governor

of Jamaica, to whom you must cable any offer you wish to make.

The stamps for sale are :—

1. 81 sheets at $\frac{1}{2}$ d.,	-	£20	5	0
2. 295 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ 1d.,	-	147	15	0
3. 88 $\frac{1}{8}$ „ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.,	-	111	0	10
4. 40 $\frac{1}{16}$ „ 6d.,	-	122	1	0
5. 45 $\frac{3}{16}$ „ 1s.,	-	274	12	0
6. Odd Stamps, -	-	-	14	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>		
		£676	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$

I have the honour to be,

Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE S. S. HIRST,

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.,
Ipswich.

Commissioner.

These identical stamps were sold by the Crown Agents in 1908, and there has never been any repudiation of the statement that they were the same lot as those offered by Mr. Cochrane.

Let us summarise the facts :—

Sept., 1907—4800	“ One Halfpenny ”	provisionals
	(on 1d., “ postage—postage ”).	
Nov., 1907—1800	“ $\frac{1}{2}$ d ”	provisional (on 5s.,
	“ postage—postage ”).	
Nov., 1907—2160	“ 1d ”	provisional (on 5s.,
	“ postage—postage ”).	
Feb., 1908—480	“ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d ”	provisional (on 4d.,
	“ postage—postage ”).	

During all this period, there were available supplies in the hands of high officials, or at all events at their disposal—

9720	stamps at $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
35460	“ „ 1d.
10660	“ „ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

If we deduct from the above figures, the quantities of the various provisionals (of which Mr. Cochrane mentions five sheets surviving) we arrive at an available *surplus* of—

3120	(9720 less 6600)	at ½d.
33300	(35460 .. 2160)	at 1d.
10180	(10660 .. 480)	at 2½d.

All this surplus was, as the Crown Agents stated in 1908, "available for prepayment of postal charges".

Having stated what the facts were, it was no surprise to learn that the Colonial Office had directed an enquiry as to the *bona fides* of several notorious provisional issues, including those of the Cayman Islands: and, without discussing the complaints of the stamp trade—admirably voiced by a leading British firm—as to the way in which their applications for stamps had been treated, it will suffice to give a single extract from the report of the enquiry:—

With regard to the stamps of the Cayman Islands, the Governor of Jamaica reports that early this year the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands made proposals for an internal post in the Islands at a reduced rate [*viz.*, a halfpenny for letter postage] and that the farthing stamp was printed for the newspaper and post-card postage. The Commissioner has so far refused to sell these stamps to dealers through the post, on the grounds that they are primarily intended for local use, and that owing to the cost of production outside sale is not profitable.

The concluding part of the last sentence suggests that a sale of stamps, for which no return is required, is less profitable than a sale of stamps for actual use on postal packets, or that the stamps cost over "face" to produce: the absurdity of such a statement is too apparent to need any refutation.

Lord Crewe's Reports naïvely puts it that "the primary object in all cases is the local convenience".

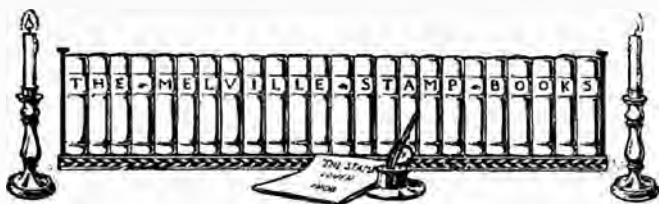
possibly, but when the secondary object is profit, the "local convenience" is apt to receive more than a fair share of official consideration.

However, the postmaster who succeeded Miss Parsons received explicit instructions to refrain from provisionals generally, and the postmistress's announcement of her supersession will (if it reached her successor) assist him in remembering of what he has to steer clear—"Mr. M'Causland, an *Englishman*, has superseded me."!

We do not intend to quote further from the Report of the Colonial Post Offices Commission, as the above excerpt is quite sufficient to prepare our readers for the complete vindication of the Jamaican and Caymanian officials, and the establishment of the absolute *bona fides* of the much-abused provisionals: evidently, from the official point of view, the surcharged issues were necessary, although there were at the time sufficient stocks of the ordinary stamps on hand.

A decision, based on the reports of the persons interested and whose actions have been subjected to severe hostile criticism, cannot be ideal: but the "whitewashing" extended in this instance was certainly a surprise to philatelists in general.

Those of our readers who care to go more deeply into the Caymanian exploitation of collectors are referred to the contemporary philatelic press, full references to which are given in the Bibliography *infra*; but it is not too much to say that the responsible persons, and their prospective successors, will most probably refrain for many a long year from following in the footsteps—or should we say "hand-stamps"—of their predecessors who held office in the golden period of 1907-08.



CHAPTER XVI.

Bibliography.

Literature on the issues of the Cayman Islands is, considering the short period covered, somewhat plentiful; and in the following Index reference will be found to standard works and the principal periodicals, which the student may possibly desire to consult.

COMPLETE BOOKS.

Philatelic.

- ARMSTRONG, D. B. (in collaboration with C. B. BOSTWICK and A. J. WATKIN) "The Cayman Islands: their Stamps and Post Office". *Stamp Lover Booklets*, No. 3. London, 1910. Plates.
- NANKIVELL, E. J. "Jamaica and Cayman Islands". *Nankivell Philatelic Handbooks*, No. 1.

Historical & Postal.

- "Cayman Islands Handbook for 1908"
- "Handbook of Jamaica"
- "Report of the Colonial Post Offices Commission", 1908.

INDEX TO THE CHIEF PRINTED ARTICLES AND PAPERS IN PHILATELIC AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

ABBREVIATIONS.

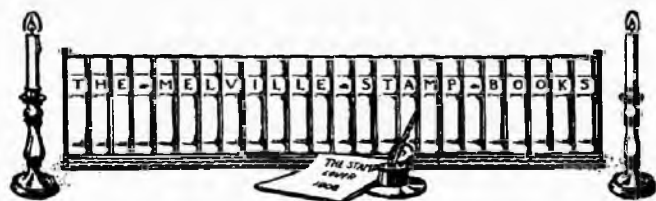
- C.O.J.—Colonial Office Journal.
- E.W.S.N.—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.
- G.S.W.—Gibbons Stamp Weekly.
- H.M.R.—Monthly Report of the Herts Philatelic Society.

- J.G.—Jamaica Gleaner.
 L.P.—London Philatelist.
 M.W.S.N.—Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.
 P.J.A.—Philatelic Journal of America.
 P.J.G.B.—Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.
 P.S.—Postage Stamp.
 S.C.—Stamp Collector.
 S.C.F.—Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.
 S.L.—Stamp Lover.
 W.E.P.—West-End Philatelist.

Note.—Roman figures—thus, IV.—denote the volume, and arabic figures—thus, 217—the page. For E.W.S.N., the current number only is given; and for J.G., the date.

- EDWARDIAN SERIES. [Armstrong] "Edwardian Stamps of the British Empire", Part I., pp. 50-59. E.W.S.N., 128, 160, 184, 322, 400. G.S.W., X., 38.
- ESSAYS. [Bostwick] P.J.A., XXI., 24, 278. P.S., V., 129.
- FARTHING STAMP. C.O.J., II., 54, 164. E.W.S.N., 470, 471, 472, 477, 479, 488, 504. G.S.W., IX., 307; X., 427. S.C.F., XIV., 156.
- FORGERIES. [B. T. K. Smith in *The Bazaar*] P.S., V., 68.
- GENERAL. [Adutt] H.M.R., IV., 107, 134; L.P., XX., 30, 64. [Armstrong with Bostwick and Watkin] S.L., II., 155, 185, 215, 233; III., 9, 17, 30. ["Cornelius Wrinkle"] G.S.W., I., 302. [Croom-Johnson] S.C.F., XIV., 131; XVI., 199. [Heginbottom] S.C., VIII., 226. [Nankivell] G.S.W., V., 1; P.S., I., 127; III., 111. [Phillips, Cyril, J.] S.C.F.,

- XV., 54. [Poole] W.E.P., III., 175. [A Review] P.J.G.B., XIX., 126.
- GEORGIAN SERIES. C.O.J., V., 358.
- HISTORICAL. E.W.S.N., 484.
- JAMAICANS USED IN CAYMANS. [Bostwick] P.J.A., XXI., 275; XXII., 89.
- POSTMARKS. [Bostwick] P.J.A., XXI., 275.
- PROVISIONALS. [Bostwick] P.J.A., XXII., 97. E.W.S.N., 426, 431, 432, 433, 441, 446, 449, 457, 460, 476. G.S.W., VI., 317; VII., 381; VIII., 92; X., 427, 476. M.W.S.N., XXII., 405, 429; XXIII., 3. P.S., III., 222. S.C., XII., 102.
- QUEEN'S HEAD. E.W.S.N., 71.
- REMAINDERS. G.S.W., VII., 356.
- "THE SCANDAL." [Evans] G.S.W., IX., 225, 282. [Ward] G.S.W., IX., 88. C.O.J., II., 341. E.W.S.N., 490. G.S.W., VII., 116. P.S., I., 249, 275, 285, 310; II., 123, 173, 291; III., 222, 235. J.G., Jan. 2 and 7, 1909.
- VARIETIES. E.W.S.N., 514, 534. G.S.W., X., 38, 427.



CHAPTER XVII.

Check List.

1889-1900.—Contemporary stamps of Jamaica, issued for use in the Islands, and locally postmarked.

Queen's Head. Watermark, Crown "CA".

Perforated 14.

½d., green.

1d., dull purple and mauve.

2d., green.

2½d., dull purple and blue.

3d., pale olive-green.

4d., red-brown.

View of Llandoverly Falls. Watermark, Large Crown "CC". Perforated 14.

1d., red.

Oct., 1900.—Queen Victoria. Engraved and surface-printed by De La Rue & Co. Watermark, Crown "CA". Perforated 14.

½d., green (shades).

1d., carmine (shades).

Dec., 1901-03.—King Edward. Engraved and printed by De La Rue & Co. Watermark, Crown "CA". Perforated 14.

½d., green (shades).

"ISLANDS".

1d., rose, carmine (intermediate tones).

"ISLANDS".

- XV., 54. [Poole] W.E.P., III., 175. [A Review] P.J.G.B., XIX., 126.
- GEORGIAN SERIES. C.O.J., V., 358.
- HISTORICAL. E.W.S.N., 484.
- JAMAICANS USED IN CAYMANS. [Bostwick] P.J.A., XXI., 275; XXII., 89.
- POSTMARKS. [Bostwick] P.J.A., XXI., 275.
- PROVISIONALS. [Bostwick] P.J.A., XXII., 97. E.W.S.N., 426, 431, 432, 433, 441, 446, 449, 457, 460, 476. G.S.W., VI., 317; VII., 381; VIII., 92; X., 427, 476. M.W.S.N., XXII., 405, 429; XXIII., 3. P.S., III., 222. S.C., XII., 102.
- QUEEN'S HEAD. E.W.S.N., 71.
- REMAINDERS. G.S.W., VII., 356.
- "THE SCANDAL." [Evans] G.S.W., IX., 225, 282. [Ward] G.S.W., IX., 88. C.O.J., II., 341. E.W.S.N., 490. G.S.W., VII., 116. P.S., I., 249, 275, 285, 310; II., 123, 173, 291; III., 222, 235. J.G., Jan. 2 and 7, 1909.
- VARIETIES. E.W.S.N., 514, 534. G.S.W., X., 38, 427.



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½d., green (shades).

1d., carmine (shades).

Dec., 1901-03.—King Edward. Engraved and printed by De La Rue & Co. Watermark, Crown "CA". Perforated 14.

½d., green (shades).

"ISLANDS".

1d., rose, carmine (intermediate tones).

"ISLANDS".

2½d., bright blue (pale to dark).

"M" with short stroke.

6d., brown (pale to dark).

1s., orange.

Mch.-Oct., 1905.—As in previous issue, but on paper with "all-over" watermark.

½d., green (shades).

"ISLANDS".

1d., rose, carmine (intermediate tones).

"ISLANDS".

2½d., bright blue (pale to dark).

"M" with short stroke.

6d., brown (pale to dark).

1s., orange (shades).

Mch., 1907.—New values: otherwise as last. Second colour that of name and value.

4d., brown and blue.

6d., olive and rose.

1s., violet and green.

5s., salmon and green.

Sept., 1907.—The One Penny of 1905, surcharged in Jamaica "One Halfpenny." in black.

½d. on 1d., carmine.

"penny." dropped.

"ISLANDS".

Nov., 1907.—The Five Shillings, handstamped locally with new value in black.

½d. on 5s., salmon and green.

Surcharge inverted.

Surcharge double.

Surcharge double, one inverted.

Surcharge omitted from one of a pair or more.

1d. on 5s., salmon and green.

Surcharge double.

Feb., 1908.—The Four Pence of 1907, handstamped locally with new value in black.

2½d. on 4d., brown and blue.

Surcharge double.

Surcharge double, one inverted.

1907-08.—King Edward. New types with "Postage & Revenue"; otherwise as before. Watermark: Crown "CA", single for One Shilling and Ten Shillings; "all-over" for the others. Paper chalk-surfaced except for the lowest three values.

½d., green (shades).

Broken frame.

1d., carmine (shades).

Broken frame.

2½d., ultramarine (shades).

Broken frame.

"M" with short stroke.

3d., purple on *yellow*.

Broken frame.

4d., black and red on *yellow*.

Broken frame.

6d., dull and bright purple.

Broken frame.

1s., black on *green*.

Broken frame.

5s., green and red on *yellow*.

Broken frame.

10s., green and red on *green*.

Broken frame.

June, 1908-09.—Numeral type, designed and lithographed (in groups of four minor varieties) by De La Rue & Co. Watermark, "all-over" Crown "CA". Perforated 14.

¼d., chocolate-brown (shades).

Flaw on right of crown.

Minor varieties.

¼d., blackish brown (shades).

Imperforate on right-hand side.

Minor varieties.

July, 1908.—The Four Pence of 1907-8, locally handstamped with new value, and issued specifically for fiscal purposes only.

1d. on 4d., black and red on *yellow*.

Surcharge inverted.

Broken frame on stamp.

1909.—Similar to same value of 1907-8, but on "all-over" paper, chalk-surfaced.

1s., black on *green*.

Broken frame.

1912.—King George. Engraved and surface-printed by De La Rue & Co. Watermark, "all-over" Crown "CA". Perforated 14.

½d., green (bluish and greyish tones).

2d., grey.

2s., dull purple and blue on *blue* (chalk-surfaced).

3s., green and violet (chalk-surfaced).

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

1890-1900.—Contemporary overprinted Queen's Head stamps of Jamaica, issued for official use in the Islands. Watermark, Crown "CA". Perforated 14.

½d., green.

1d., rose.

2d., grey.

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DEC., 1901-03. MCH.-OCT., 1905. MCH., 1907.

SEPT., 1907. NOV., 1907. FEB., 1908.

1907-08. JULY, 1908. 1907-08.

1909. JUNE, 1908-09. 1912.

WMK., CROWN "CA". WMK., CROWN "CA".

WMK., CROWN "CA". WMK., MULTIPLE CROWN "CA".

WMK., MULTIPLE CROWN "CA". WMK., MULTIPLE CROWN "CA".

PERF. 14. WMK. LARGE CROWN "CC". PERF. 14.

PERF. 14. PERF. 14. PERF. 14. PERF. 14.

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