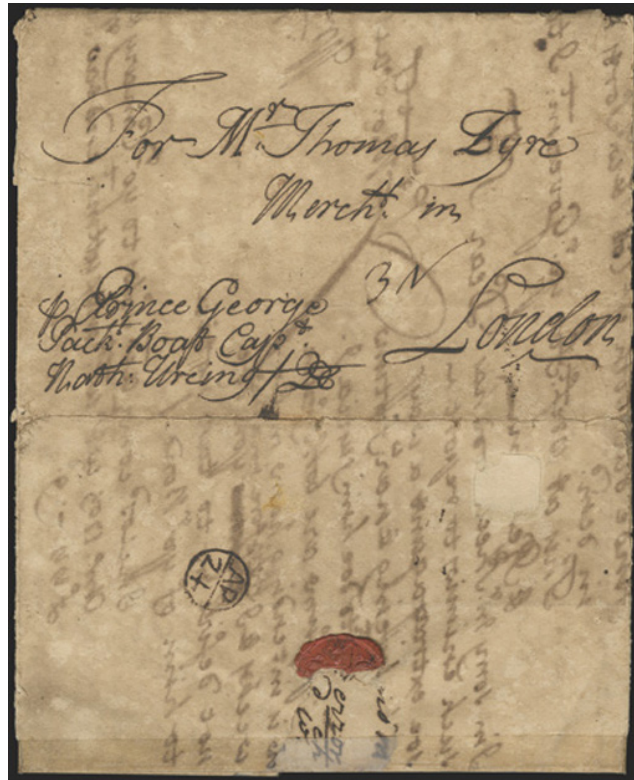


## Viewing Collections: The Mahfood Jamaica Collection

by John F. Dunn

On January 28, 2011 Spink Shreves Auctions offered at a Public Auction in New York City the Joseph M. Mahfood Collection of Jamaica. Mahfood, a successful businessman in Jamaica, and one of the country's most prominent philatelists, spent decades building what is considered to be one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of Jamaica ever formed.

The first lot selected for this viewing is this 1706 Dummer Packet letter, a folded letter datelined "Jamaica Jan 29th 1706" to London with "p Prince George/Packt Boat Capt/North Ureing QDC" directive at lower left on the front and manuscript "3N" double packet rate, the reverse with "AP/24" London Bishop mark arrival handstamp.



Per the lot description, "very few letters sent by the Dummer Packet service have survived; the Prince George was captured during its 4th voyage in August 1707...In August 1701, a proposal was made to the British government by Edmund Dummer, Surveyor-General of the Navy, and operator of a line of packets between Falmouth, Corunna and Lisbon, to initiate a packet service to the West

Indies. In 1702, 'An Act for Establishing a General Post Office for all Her Majesty's Dominions' was passed. With the passage of this Act, Mr. Dummer was authorized to appoint his own Postmasters in the West Indies and the service was inaugurated. However, only four of the first twelve monthly packets completed the voyage. He lost so many ships by shipwreck and capture, that the service failed in 1711. He died bankrupt in London in 1713. Regular service was not re-established by the Post Office until 1745.

Estimated at \$5,000-7,500, this cover sold for \$5,500. (All prices quoted here do not include the Buyer's Premium, which is equal to 20% of the successful bid price of each lot up to and including \$2,000 and 15% of the excess bid.)

Next we view a 1757 folded letter to Edinburgh with a clear strike of the Potter Type J2 postmark struck on reverse, with manuscript "1N6" packet rate crossed out and replaced with British inland rate for transmission to Scotland, clear "8/OC" Bishop mark London arrival backstamp. This early cam-



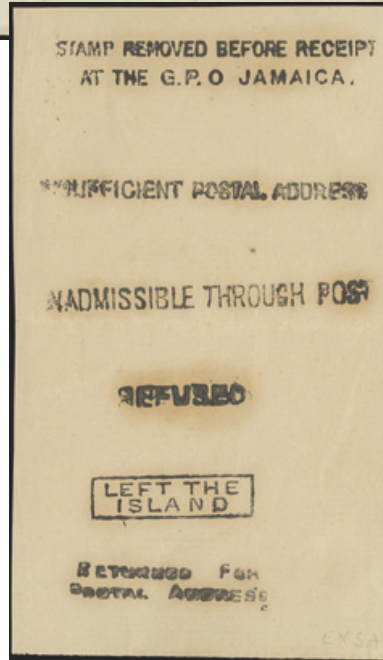
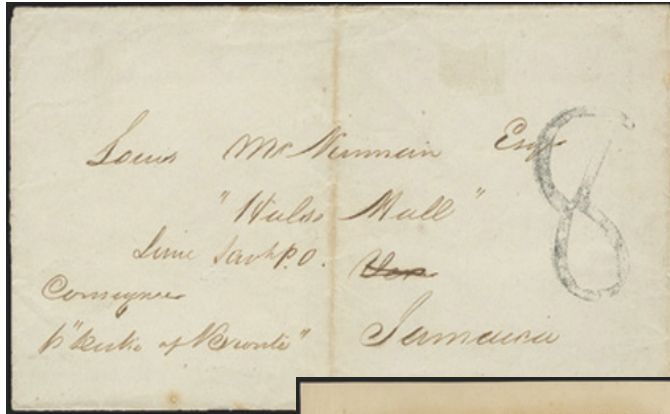
paign letter to The Lord of Lauderdale from his brother was estimated at \$400-500, and realized \$325.

On page 3 we see an incoming 1844 folded cover with an 8 postage due handstamp made from a wooden block, manuscript "Consignee, p Duke of Noronte" directive and "Kingston/Jamaica/Mr 16, 1844" backstamp. The earlier of the two recorded examples, it was estimated at \$1,000-

1,500 and was hammered down for \$1,300.

Below the "8" folded letter is a piece with six different Trial strikes of postal markings, comprised of "STAMP REMOVED BEFORE RECEIPT/AT THE G.P.O. JAMAICA.", "INSUFFICIENT POSTAL ADDRESS", "INADMISSIBLE THROUGH POST", "REFUSED", boxed "LEFT THE ISLAND" and "RETURNED FOR/POSTAL ADDRESS". Described as having been provided by the 1893 postmaster general George Pearce, it was estimated at \$150-200 and went for \$350.

The folded cover below bears a horizontal strip of four of the 1857 1d Rose-red, perf. 14, SG



(Stanley Gibbons) Z2, cancelled by three clear strikes of the "A01" Type Z1 obliterator on the folded cover to Morant Bay, the reverse with a "Kingston-Jamaica/My 7, 60" postmark and split circle "Morant Bay/Jamaica/My 8, 1860" arrival datestamp.

Estimated at \$400-500, it soared to \$1,500.

Stamps off cover were also presented in the Mahfood Collection auction. The first one presented here is this 1856 1/- Green, S.G. #Z6, (Scott #A5) with a well struck “A01” Type Z1 obliteration of Kingston.

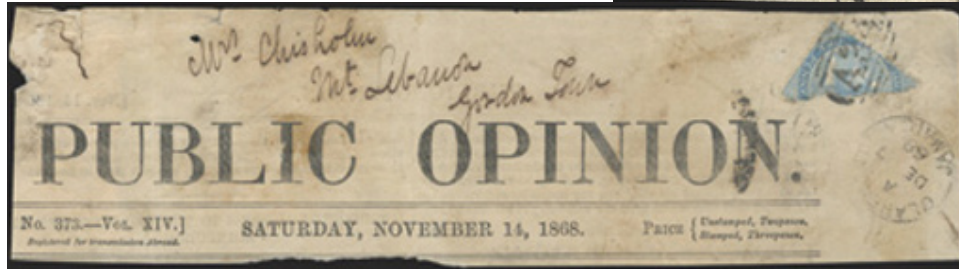


With an SCV of \$275 and an SG value of £275, it fetched \$475.

Next is a piece that only a specialist could love. It's the 1856 6d Lilac, S.G. Z22 (SGV £400), (Sc. A20 (SCV \$425), tied to piece by a neat strike of “A28” obliterator of Annotto Bay. It sold for \$240.



And below we have a bisect of the 1d Pale blue tied to the dateline portion of the “Public Opinion” news-



paper dated “Saturday, November 14, 1868” to Gordon Town by an “A34” numeral obliterator (SG 1d, £650; Sc. 1a, \$825). Per the lot description, “The diagonal bisection of the 1d was authorized by P.O. notice dated November 1861 to pay the 1/2d rate for newspapers or book post as no fractional stamps had yet been issued.”

The newspaper also bears a matching “Claremont/Jamaica/De 7, 68” datestamp. It sold for \$190.

On page 5 is the earliest documented use of the 1860 6d Dull lilac, SG and Sc. 5 (and the earliest recorded date of usage of any Jamaica stamp with pineapple watermark) in the form of a left wing margin single tied to a folded letter to London by a bold strike of “Kingston/Jamaica/No 24, 6” with “AO1” Type Z2 duplex postmark, red “London. E.C./Paid/De 18, 60” arrival postmark (repeated on reverse).

As described, “The pineapple wa-  
 termarked adhe-  
 sives were issued  
 at the Kingston  
 Post Office on the  
 23rd November,  
 1860. All mail for  
 the British packet  
 would have been  
 cancelled, ac-  
 counted for and bagged on the 24th. Therefore, the only  
 chance for an earlier cover would be a first day cover to  
 a post town, which would have an extremely limited sur-  
 vival rate.”



Estimated at \$7,500-10,000, this lot went for \$5,250.

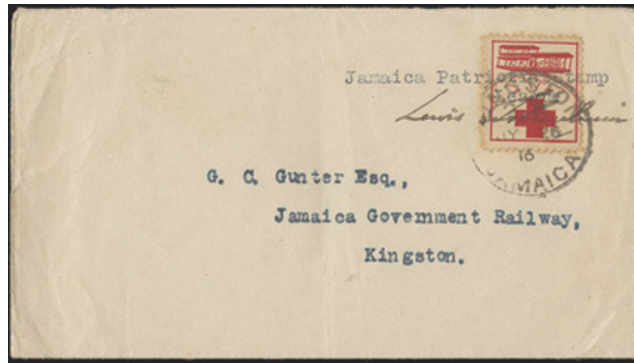
The most im-  
 portant aspect of  
 this next cover is  
 the straightline  
 “MORE-TO-PAY”  
 handstamp (Foster  
 Type D1, which he  
 says is known to  
 have been issued,  
 but is not recorded  
 by him).



The 1860 1/- Purple-brown (SG 6a, Sc. 6 variety) is  
 tied to the cover by a faint “A43” obliterator. Addressed to  
 Peshawur, India, it bears a matching “Gordon-Town/De  
 23, 67” postmark on the reverse. Other markings include  
 a manuscript “Postage Paid 1/5” at upper left on the  
 front and on the back a Kingston transit backstamp, red  
 London transit datestamp and Bombay and four other  
 Indian backstamps. It was described as “a very fine and  
 rare usage.”

It was assigned only a \$750-1,000 estimate, but went  
 for much more, settling at \$1,800.

Completing the used stamps on and off cover, we present the 1915 (1/2d) Red Cross label, tied by a “Kingston/Jamaica/Jy 26, 16” date stamp to an official cover to



the Jamaica Government Railway, with typed “Jamaica Patriotic Stamp/League” and manuscript endorsement of Lewis Ashenheim across the stamp, also backstamped the same day.

This is a very rare proper postal usage of this label. As explained, “The Red Cross labels of the Jamaica Patriotic League were sold for 1/2d each. The fund was founded by Lewis Ashenheim, a Kingston lawyer, with the proceeds going to support the British Red Cross, the purchase of aircraft for the Royal Flying Corps and the relief of Polish Jews. The labels had no postal validity when used by the general public, however, by special order of the Governor, they were accepted for the payment of postage on the League’s official mail if inscribed ‘Red Cross Business’ or ‘Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League’ and endorsed with Mr. Ashenheim’s signature.”

Estimated at \$1,500-2,000, this great postal history item fetched \$3,750.

In the proofs, essays and stamps section we start with a lot containing six Progressive die proofs of the 1860-63 3d, 4d and 1/- (SG and Sc. 3-4 & 6E). Among the group of six cut down die proofs in black of the “Wyon Head” on glazed card, we see here the 3d (SG 3E) before adding the corner ornaments. Other examples are the 4d with head surroundings un-cleared and the 4d finished die, and 1/- showing heavy shading on laurel leaves, the laurel leaves shading cor-



rected and a well margined example of the finished die. Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it was not hammered down until it reached \$1,800.

This next piece is the 1860 1/- Yellow-brown, “\$” for “S” in “SHILLING”, imperforate imprimatur (SG 6c variety, Sc. 6 var.). Per the auctioneers, “This variety only occurs once in a sheet of 240 stamps...this imperforate example is undoubtedly unique.”



Estimated at \$2,000-3,000, it soared to \$5,000.

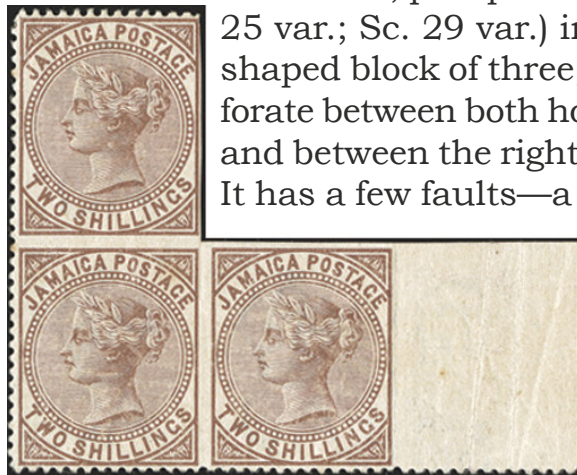
And here we have the 1860 6d Dull lilac, imperforate, overprinted “SPECIMEN” (Samuel Type D2; SG & Sc. 5S) in a right sheet-margin single lightly hinged. A choice example it brought \$300, double the high end of its \$100-150 estimate.



One of the nicer issued stamps in the auction was this 1885 1d Rose, imperforate (SG & Sc. 18 var.) in a bottom sheet margin part imprint mint single with brownish o.g. and a light hinge remnant. Generously estimated at \$750-1,000, it justified the estimate when it fetched \$1,000.



Next up for bids was this 1897 2/- Venetian red, part perforate (SG 25 var.; Sc. 29 var.) in an “L” shaped block of three, imperforate between both horizontally and vertically and between the right stamp and the selvage. It has a few faults—a 6mm scissor cut in the



margin between the bottom pair, the top stamp with a natural gum crease. Estimated at \$2,000-3,000, it brought \$2,200.



As the unused section included Proofs, Essays and mint stamps by Stanley Gibbons number, the next lot contained the 1891 2-1/2d Key plate essays in black on glazed cards, with separate essays for the key plate and for the value tablet (SG & Sc. 26E). The key plate is initialed in the bottom margin, the value tablet has a manuscript “Jamaica” notation above the tablet and “60 Leads/Jan 8th” alongside, both mounted on a portion of the De La Rue Working Day Books. From the De La Rue Archives and the only examples in private hands, it was conservatively estimated at \$400-500 and fetched \$1,200.

This unusual strip of three is the 1891 “TWO PENCE / HALF-PENNY” surcharge on



4d Red brown, with 1-1/2mm spacing between the lines of the surcharge (SG 30b, Sc. 27b)—but with a second surcharge running diagonally and the right stamp shows both the “PFNNY” for “PENNY” (SG 30c), and broken “K” for “Y” in “PFNNY” (SG 30ca). The strip also bears light “Kingston/Jamaica/Fe 3, 91” datestamps of the month the stamps with this surcharge spacing were issued. Described as “quite likely unique as a double surcharge multiple containing these varieties, it was estimated at \$750-1,000 and sold for \$1,250.

Also from the De La Rue Archives and a portion of a De La Rue Working Day Book page, we find the 1900-01 1d Red and 1d Slate-black and red, overprinted “SPECIMEN”, the latter

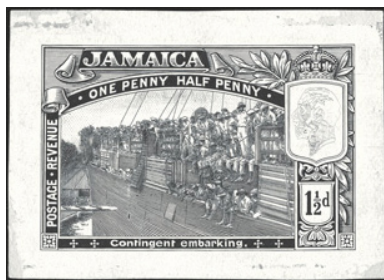


handstamped “SPECIMEN” in violet. The page is annotated in manuscript “60 Set./April 1900” and “60 set May 1901,” respectively. SG and Sc. 31-32S, the lot was estimated at \$200-300 and went for more than triple the high end, with a \$950 hammer.

And here we see the issued 1901 1d Llandovery Falls, slate-black and red, but imperforate between (SG 32b; Sc. 32a) described as “particularly well centered, slightly brownish o.g., lightly hinged, horizontal creases at center as apparently always, otherwise very fine; a desirable example of one of the rarest errors of Jamaica, of which only six examples are believed to exist.” With a Gibbons value of £12,000 and SCV of \$10,000, it went for a lofty \$21,000 realization.



War Tax issues included this 1916 3d Purple on lemon overprinted “WAR/STAMP.”, but with the “S” in “STAMP” omitted (SG 72b, £650; Sc. MR6b, \$600). Fresh and well centered, with lightly hinged o.g., it went for \$550.



To the left we have the 1919 1-1/2d Essay in black on thin glazed card, 49x35mm, showing the King’s head (upper right

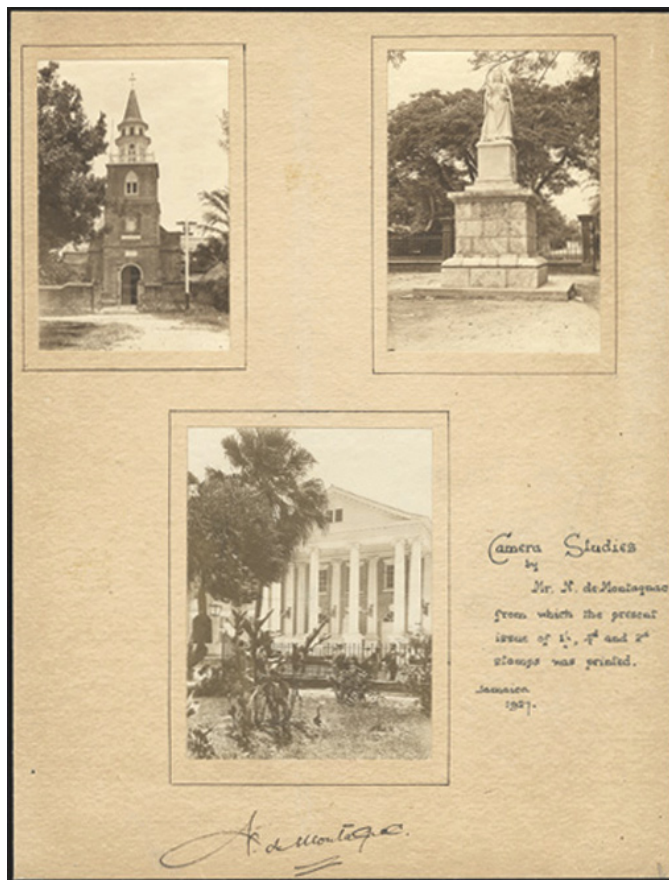
medallion) in outline only and the vignette lacking some details (SG 80E, Sc. 77E). Estimated at \$400-500, it did not close until reaching a top bid of \$1,250.

Here's the same design of the 1919 1-1/2d Green, as a Proof, imperforate imprimatur on upright watermarked paper, with original gum (SG 80P; Sc. 77P).



Estimated at \$150-200, it sold for \$280.

This next piece presents the photographs from which the engraved designs of the 1920-21 2d, 4d and 1/- designs were based (SG 81E, 84E, 85E; Scott 78E, 81E, 83E). They are mounted on a tan card neatly inscribed "Camera Studies by Mr. N. deMontagnac from which the present issue of 1/-, 4d and 2d stamps was



printed. Jamaica 1927." and signed at the bottom by deMontagnac, endorsed in pen on reverse "To Mr. L.C.C. Nicholson, With Complements of G.C. Grants, Hon. Secty Ja Phil Society, 23/4/27".

Appropriately described as "a lovely collateral piece for the 1919-21 Pictorial issue, it was estimated at \$200-300 and realized \$475.

Next we view the 1921 4d Vignette only die essay in brown SG 84E, Sc. 81E, 60x67mm showing the whole die sinkage area, estimate \$400-500, realization \$1,050.



And now for something... similar, the 1921 4d Trial color die proof in indigo and green (which are the colors of the issued 2d value), 39x47mm (SG

84TC, Sc. 81TC). With some faults, it exceeded its conservative estimate of \$500-750, fetching \$950.

And now for one of the key stamps not only for Jamaica collectors, but for any British area collector, we come to the 1920 1/- Orange-yellow and red-orange with Frame Inverted (SG 85a, £30,000; Sc. 83a, \$30,000) in a bottom sheet-margin mint example of this sought-after rarity, with excellent centering, rich fresh colors, and “relatively lightly hinged.”



As explained in the lot description, “In March 1922, a small partial sheet of stamps, reported as ten and described as with center’s inverted, was found at the Manchioneal post office, a little village on the north east coast. It is certain that a full sheet of 60 was printed. The GPO at Kingston had confirmed that only half a sheet would have been sent to the small Manchioneal post office at any one time. The

majority of these 30 stamps would probably have been used on telegrams, as at that time of the year the village was an active center for the purchase and shipping of bananas. Some were also probably used on Thrift savings cards, a system similar to that operated by the Post Office Department in England. Examples taken from telegram forms could not be recognized as other than postally used, as the canceling device was the same for both services. The other half of the sheet has not been positively traced, but was most likely sold over the counter at the Kingston post office as used copies with their cancellation exist. While no formal census has been taken, most authorities put the number known at somewhere between ten and twenty. Surprisingly, this stamp could do no better than a \$15,000 hammer price.

Another rarity in this auction was this 1921 6d Abolition of Slavery issue with watermark multiple crown and script CA (footnoted after SG 89, £30,000; and after Scott #87, \$30,000).

The o.g. stamp with a hinge remnant is centered slightly to the left “as are all known copies.” As explained, “It was printed as part of the 1919-1921 Pictorial series and depicts the scene in the main square at Spanish Town on 1st August, 1833, when the then Governor, Sir Lionel Smith, read the ‘Declaration of the Abolition of Slavery’.

The governor at the time of issuance, Sir Leslie Probyn, feared the stamp’s subject, the Abolition of Slavery, might be controversial and ordered all copies of the stamp destroyed. By the time the order was made, the stamps with “Specimen” overprints had already been distributed through the UPU, resulting in several copies of these Specimen overprints in the marketplace today. Only two blocks of four with the multiple crown and script CA watermark were saved from destruction, with one of the blocks being sent to King George V for inclusion in the Royal Collection.



The other block was subsequently broken up into singles, making only four examples available to collectors. Clearly a British Commonwealth rarity of the King George V era, it sold for \$18,000.

This design replaced the 1921 6d Abolition of Slavery stamp that had been withdrawn. It is an essay for the 1922 6d Port Royal in 1855



original ink and wash drawing on art board, 258x195mm (SG 98E; Sc. 95E). It is approximately 10" x 7.5", and thus described as suited for framing. Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it was one of the best performers in the auction, soaring to \$14,000.

Next we have a perforation rarity. It is the 1941 5/- Slate-blue and orange-yellow, line perforated 14 (SG 132a, £5,000; Scott 127 var.) in a mint right sheet-margin single, also with outstanding centering and o.g., n.h.



As explained, "The line perforated 14, 5/- is a war-time printing that came about when the works of De La Rue & Co. were bombed one night, destroying the plant and all its machinery, except for the stamps in the strong room. These were sent to Whatford for perforating and a few of the 5/- were done on an old line machine. Foster states

that about a dozen mint copies are known to be in existence. The perforation in this instance measures exactly 14 all around, instead of the normal comb perforations which measure 13.8 x 13.7. This rarity sold for \$3,500.

Finally, as a remembrance of times past, we present one stamp from a set of six 1944 1/2d-3d George VI German propaganda forgeries overprinted "Liquidation of Empire/Jamaica" in red or black, including three with corner margins, all but the 1d and 2d with violet "London/Special Stamp" cancellation (Michel IV 9d-14d. Estimated at \$200-300, it realized \$260.

