

ERRORS FREAKS AND ODDITIES FROM JAMAICA LOCALLY APPLIED WAR STAMP OVERPRINTS

SCOPE & PURPOSE

This exhibit presents examples of errors, freaks, and oddities that appeared on Jamaican locally applied WAR STAMP overprints from 1916 through 1918. The stamps in this exhibit are used to emphasize the stress upon labor and resources experienced by the British West Indies colonies during World War One (1914-1918).

In the case of Jamaica, it is important to recognize that sending 15,600 middleclass planters, builders, skilled craftsmen, machinists, and even printshop workers to participate as soldiers of war strained the lives of those on the home front. The experienced labor force was seriously depleted. Additionally, with active U-Boats disrupting trade and resupply, the colony embraced a "Waste Not - Want Not" approach to daily life. This included using everything including what is today considered "Printers Waste". This exhibit shows examples of the released overprinted stamps which may have failed to meet standards but were needed to meet the purpose of their issue: Collect a tax to fund the war effort.

War Tax Initiated: April 1, 1916

War Tax Rescinded: March 31, 1926

The Tax:	½d	Every letter and postcard domestic and addressed to the UK
	1½d	A combination of postage and tax demanded by the public
	3d	All parcel post packets incoming to Jamaica and outgoing to the UK. Later amended to include Telegrams

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SIGNIFICANT PIECES ARE FRAMED IN RED

EXAMPLES OF THE OVERPRINTS



ERRORS
Inverted Overprint



FREAKS
Broken S



ODDITIES
Misalignment