

# The Cinderella of Philately

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A set of Charity stamps or semi-postals issued in 1923 by the British colony of Jamaica has been called the Cinderella of philately. Funds raised by the surtax of 1/2d., amounted to a mere £246 during the three years these stamps were used. Gouverneur Sir Leslie Probyn and Lady Probyn sought permission of the Sec'y of State for the Colonies, Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill to have a set of stamps issued for the benefit of the Child Saving League. Sir Leslie Probyn was inspired by the Pro-Juventute stamps of Switzerland. After some adverse criticism permission was granted by the Postmaster General of Great Britain to issue a set of three bi-colored stamps.

The subjects for illustration for the stamps were from photographs of negro children taken by Miss Violet F. Taylor of Kingston, Jamaica. (Copies of these pictures, autographed by Miss Taylor) are illustrated with this article.)

The official notice permitting their use was circularized on Oct. 29 and 30, 1923 as follows:

### Child Welfare

"A special issue of Postage and Revenue stamps bearing the words 'Child Welfare' of the following denominations 1/2d., 1d., 2 1/2d., will be sold for 1d., 1 1/2d., 3d., each respectively at the G.P.O. and certain district P. O.'s during November, December 1923 and January 1924. The extra half-penny charged over and above the face value of each stamp will be for the benefit of 'Child Welfare'—the value for postal purposes is what is printed on each stamp."

Other notices giving more specific description of the stamps were printed



in the press and signed by the Deputy Stamp Commissioner C. C. Manton.

The center design (vignette) which is in black represents a native girl sitting posture (1/2d), a native boy sitting posture (1d) a native boy and girl standing (2 1/2d). The eastern symbol of health or hygiene (Caduceus) a twined snake is shown in the side panels, the value in upper corners with "Jamaica" between; the bottom left "Postage" and right "Revenue" with "Child Welfare" between in two lines. The borders green for the 1/2d., red for the 1d., and blue for the 2 1/2d. These colors being the conventional shades as prescribed by the Postal Union. The



stamps were printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., from two line engraved plates of 120 subjects of the vignette and frame, in a single sheet with no plate numbers, except for the printer's name in the frame color on the bottom margin of the sheet.

The paper is white wove, water-marked script CA in upright and line perforated 12. There were three separate printings of each value from 1923-25. No major varieties except for the ½d on thin paper.

Coming back to these poor orphans, these stamps were very unpopular locally for whatever quantities were sold were purchased by collectors or dealers abroad thru local agents. They were not sold thru the Crown Colony offices. Therefore used copies on cover are rarely seen. The stamps were withdrawn on January 30, 1927, and all remainders were officially destroyed on Feb. 21, 1927. Below are the official figures on this issue:

Total Printed	Number Sold	Remainders Destroyed
½d. 107,760	½d. 43,159	½d. 64,539
1d. 52,800	1d. 44,401	1d. 8,337
2½d. 39,240	2½d. 30,595	2d½. 8,583

62 sets were overprinted "SPECIMEN" in red for distribution by the Postal Union at Berne, Switzerland. From the above figures one can realize that the specimens are modern rarities

and the used copies on cover are indeed scarce. These could well become the true Cinderellas of Philately, from rags to riches.

The above figures and facts were from the Handbook of Jamaica—Stanley Gibbons Limited, 1928.

Reference: MP Vol. 8, No. 9, May 1952