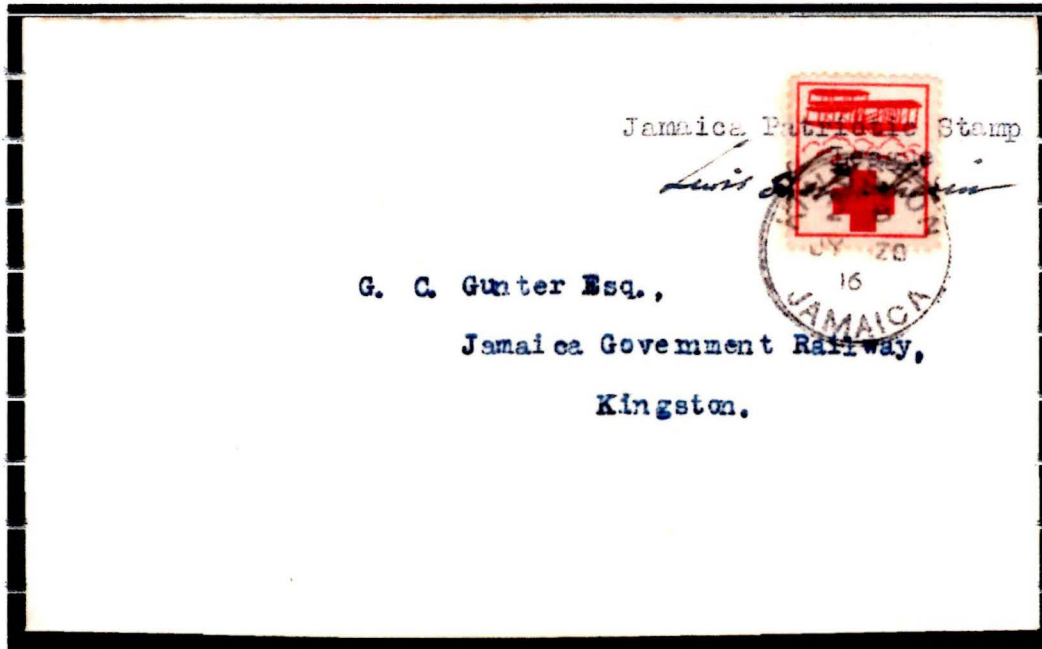


Frame 52

LABELS AND EPHEMERA – PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

from the collection of Ian Jakes



Jamaica Lewis Ashenheim Cover.

On the outbreak of hostilities with Germany in August 1914 and the invasion of Belgium by the German Army, the European Allies tapped into the 'patriotic fervour' of the Caribbean people by encouraging the production of patriotic labels in several British West Indies islands to raise funds for the Red Cross and other charitable war projects. Examples of these labels are shown in this display.

The Governors in Trinidad and Tobago and in Jamaica authorised letters relating to the charitable businesses of Trinidad Red Cross Society and Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League, respectively, to be sent through the post free of charge in their respective colonies. The Postmaster-General in each of the two countries declared that envelopes to be used for free postage must be franked with the name of the charity and signed by an authorised person.

On 18 September 1914 Trinidad Red Cross Society delivered about 900 letters to Port of Spain Post Office immediately after the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago had authorised free postage, but before the Trinidad Postmaster-General had issued his requirements for the implementation of the free postage facility. The Postmaster-General cancelled the Trinidad Red Cross Label on each envelope with a postmark to prevent the letter from being taxed. The cancellation on the label passed the letter through the post. The Postmaster-General had 'almost unintentionally' created a half-penny postage stamp for one day only on 18 September 1914. The label now appears in stamp catalogues as a postage stamp.

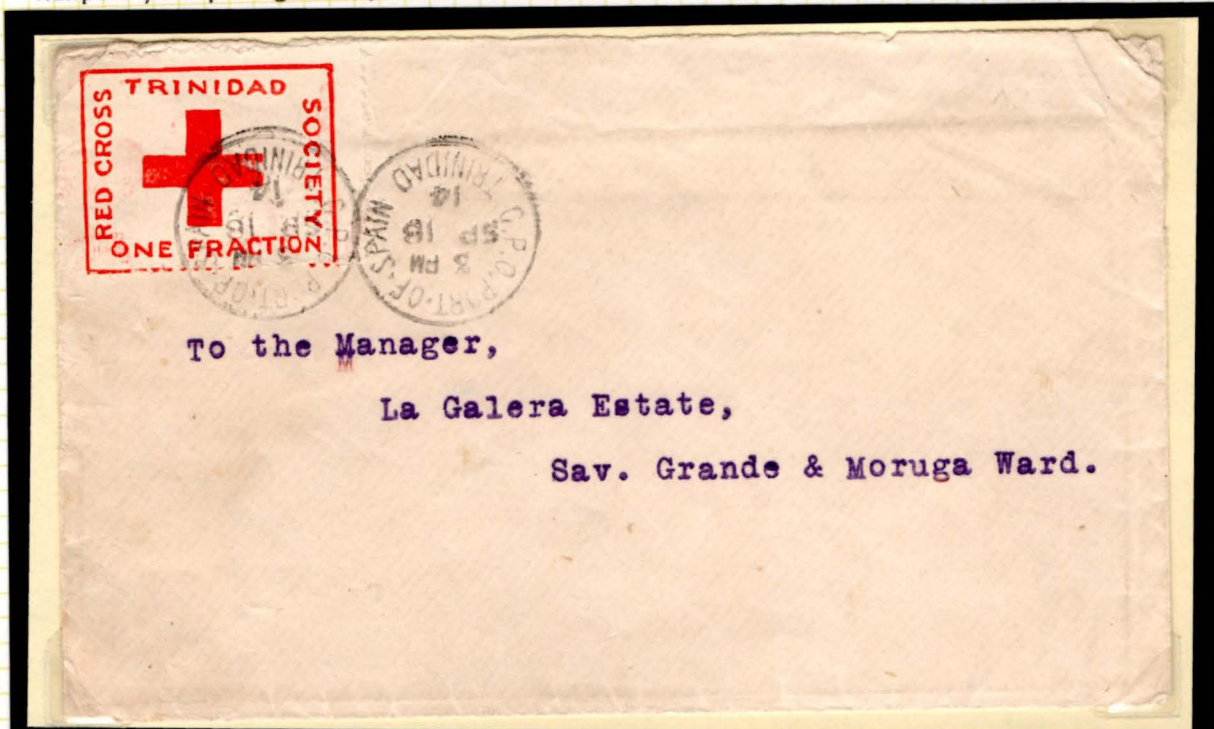
This exhibit includes examples, not only of the Trinidad Red Cross Label now declared to be a postage stamp, but also of a Jamaica Red Cross Label endorsed with the authorised frank of Lewis Ashenheim of Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League. The frank, i.e. the signature of Lewis Ashenheim and the typed charity name, aided and abetted by a Kingston, Jamaica postmark over the label, has passed the letter through the post. Has Mr. Ashenheim 'almost unintentionally' created a postage stamp?

No Governor in any other British West Indies island authorised free postage and therefore no case can be made for any other British West Indies Patriotic Label to be regarded as a postage stamp.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Trinidad Charity Appeal Mail

These covers are two of approximately nine hundred envelopes which contained circular letters, 50 being typewritten in purple ink and the remainder being addressed in the handwriting of Mrs. E.M. Phillips, the Treasurer of Trinidad Red Cross Society, where the Trinidad Red Cross Label was cancelled by 18th September 1914 postmark and date stamps. The label was later declared to be a halfpenny red postage stamp for this one day only.



Most surviving covers were undelivered and returned to Trinidad Red Cross Society.

The circular letter containing the charity appeal.



Port-of-Spain,
11th September, 1914.

Sir,

At a Public meeting held on September 4th, a Committee was formed to raise funds for the Red Cross Association in London. The money is to be collected by the women of Trinidad and Tobago and their aim is to reach every man, woman and child in the islands and give them an opportunity of doing their share, however small, for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors who have been fighting so gallantly for our protection and liberty. These will include not only the British but our French and Belgian Allies as well as our East Indian troops in whom the East Indians on the estate will have a very special interest.

The Committee will be glad if you will do your best to interest the employees on your estate to contribute a small sum—from a cent upwards—every month while the war lasts.

A list of the districts to which a member of the Committee has been appointed is given below, but in the event of there being no one in your district, the Committee will be obliged if you will help them by suggesting some responsible person, preferably a woman, who will undertake it. Lists have been printed for the purpose and can be had from the lady of the district or from Mrs. Burslem, Queen's Royal College, Port-of-Spain.

Yours faithfully,

M. E. BURSLEM (Mrs.)

J. I. BLACKWOOD WRIGHT (Mrs.)

} *Joint Secretaries*

Diego Martin	Mrs. E. M. Lazare,	Sangre Grande	Mrs. Lickfold and
Santa Cruz	Mrs. A. V. Stollmeyer,		Mrs. Andrew Maingot,
St. Joseph	Mrs. Smart and	Chaguanas	Mrs. Paul de Verteuil,
	Mrs. Francis Gransaull,	Couva	Mrs. Arbuckle,
Maracas	Mrs. F. E. Scott,	San Fernando	Mrs. Perez,
Caroni	Mrs. Kay,	Princes Town	Mrs. Jardine,
Tunapuna	Mrs. Thornton Warner,	Montserrat	Mrs. Carl de Verteuil,
Tacarigua	Mrs. Greig,	Cedros	Miss Rowbottom,
Dabadie	Mrs. Cleaver,	Blanchisseuse	Mrs. David Hchoy,
Arima	Mrs. A. H. Grey,	Toco	Mrs. O'Halloran.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

Authorised postal use of the Trinidad Red Cross Label other than as a postage stamp.

“On the subject of allowing the correspondence of the Red Cross Society to be forwarded by post free of charge within the Colony....I see no objection to such a course provided that the letters in addition to bearing the Red Cross stamp are duly franked by....someone appointed by the Committee to frank such letters....but on no account must this label be obliterated again.” Clarence Ross, Postmaster General, in his letter dated 18th September 1914 to Governor of Trinidad & Tobago.



An official post free letter with a label obliterated contrary to the Postmaster General's instructions.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Grenada Red Cross Labels

In September 1914 Grenada issued a "ONE FRACTION" patriotic label to support the Red Cross in similar format to the Trinidad Red Cross Label – note the perforations at the top of this sheet.

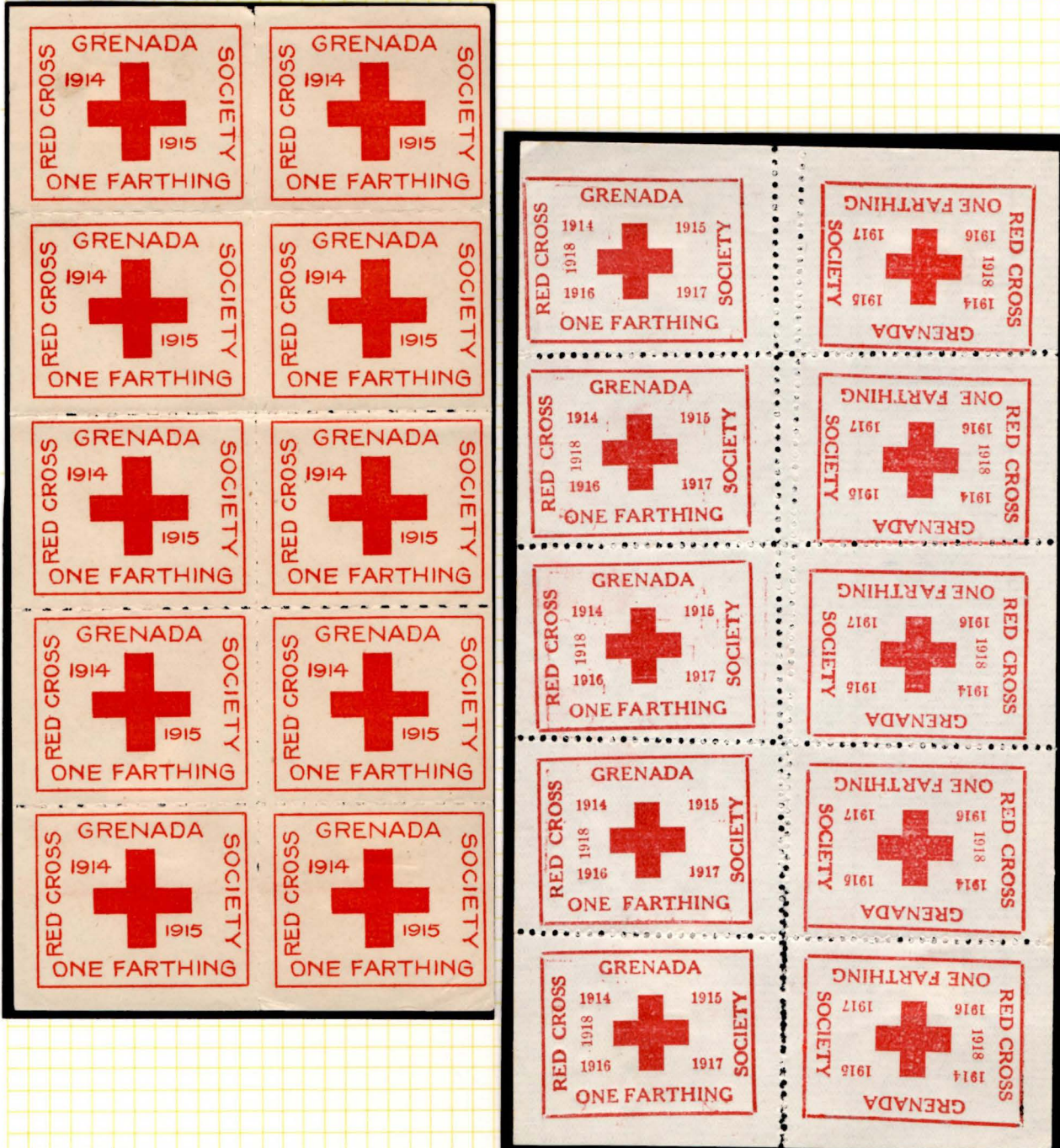


In this sheet of ten labels, the top four labels mirror the bottom four labels. The missing top two labels (which probably were mirror images of the two middle labels on this sheet) were probably detached after printing and destroyed. Grenada Red Cross Labels were only ever issued in blocks of ten labels.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Grenada Red Cross Labels

Sheets of ten of the 1915 second issue (perf. roulette 6 on paper without a watermark) and of the 1918 fourth issue of the Grenada Red Cross Labels (perf. 11 on paper watermarked with lines) are shown. Note that on both sheets the denomination "ONE FARTHING" replaces "ONE FRACTION" which appeared on the 1914 first issue.

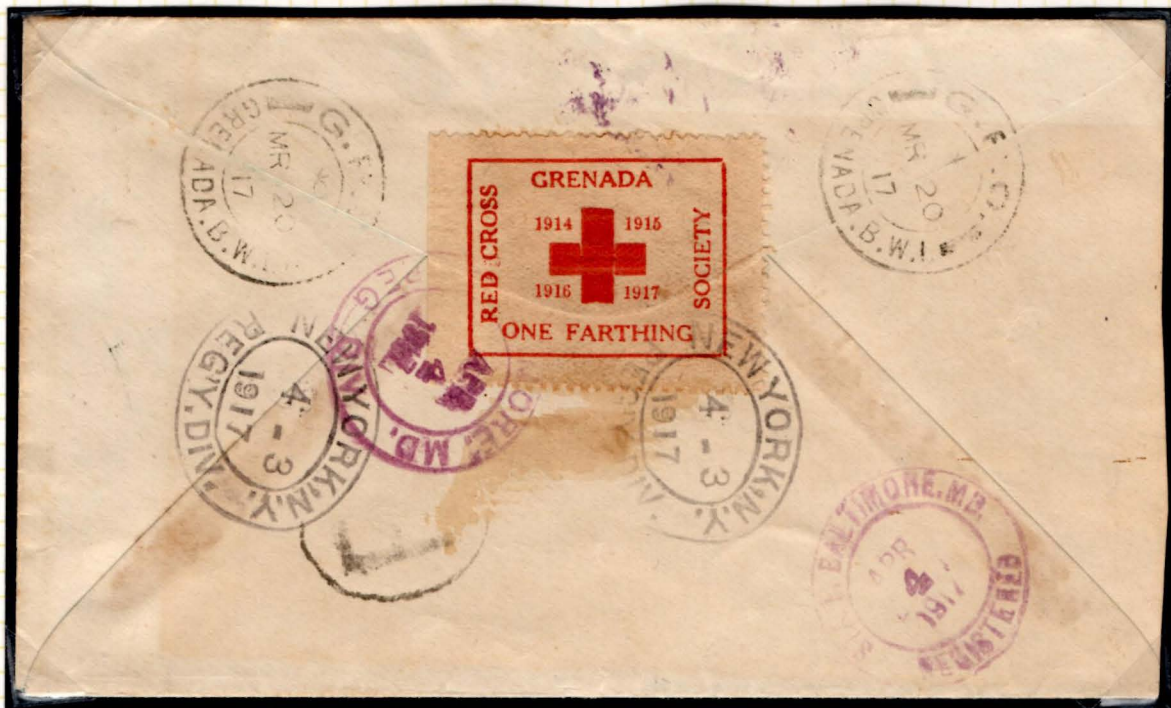


Note that the 1918 fourth issue is printed tete beche and that the left hand strip of 5 labels which is offset (and warranting a double perforation down the middle of the sheet) mirrors the inverted right hand strip of 5 labels.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Grenada Red Cross Labels

All Grenada Red Cross Labels were used as patriotic and envelope sealing labels. Displayed is the reverse of a cover from Grenada to Switzerland with a first issue label sealing the envelope.



Above is a third issue Grenada Red Cross Label sealing the reverse of a registered cover addressed to Baltimore USA and posted in Grenada on 19th March 1917.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Belgian Relief Fund Labels and the French Red Cross Label.

In about October 1914, Barbados, and in October 1915, Grenada, issued Belgian Relief Fund Labels to support the “hundreds of thousands of Belgians - men, women and children refugees from their own country, homeless, penniless, maimed, sick, unemployed, starving.” The central design of the Barbados Belgian Relief Fund Label shows the Belgian Coat of Arms with the motto “L’Union fait la force” – united we stand.

The 1916-17 1d + 1d French Red Cross Charity Label was printed by De Landre for the Red Cross Committee in Montserrat.



Perforate

Imperforate

The central design of the Grenada Red Cross Label depicts the Legion d’Honneur with the words “Liege” and “Leman”. The Belgian General, Leman, held up the German Army outside Liege, which enabled the Allies to regroup.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Jamaica Red Cross Labels

In November 1915 the "Jamaica War Stamp League" was founded, changing its name, in 1916, to the "Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League" when Jamaica issued its own war tax stamps. On 1st December 1915 this charity started to sell patriotic labels at one halfpenny each. The cover below shows the first issue patriotic label, affixed alongside postage stamps, and cancelled by a postmark.



The second issue patriotic label with the word "JAMAICA" in red added to the design and first placed on sale on 22nd December 1915.


PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Jamaica Red Cross Label

The third issue with "JAMAICA" changed from red to black first placed on sale on 15th January 1916.

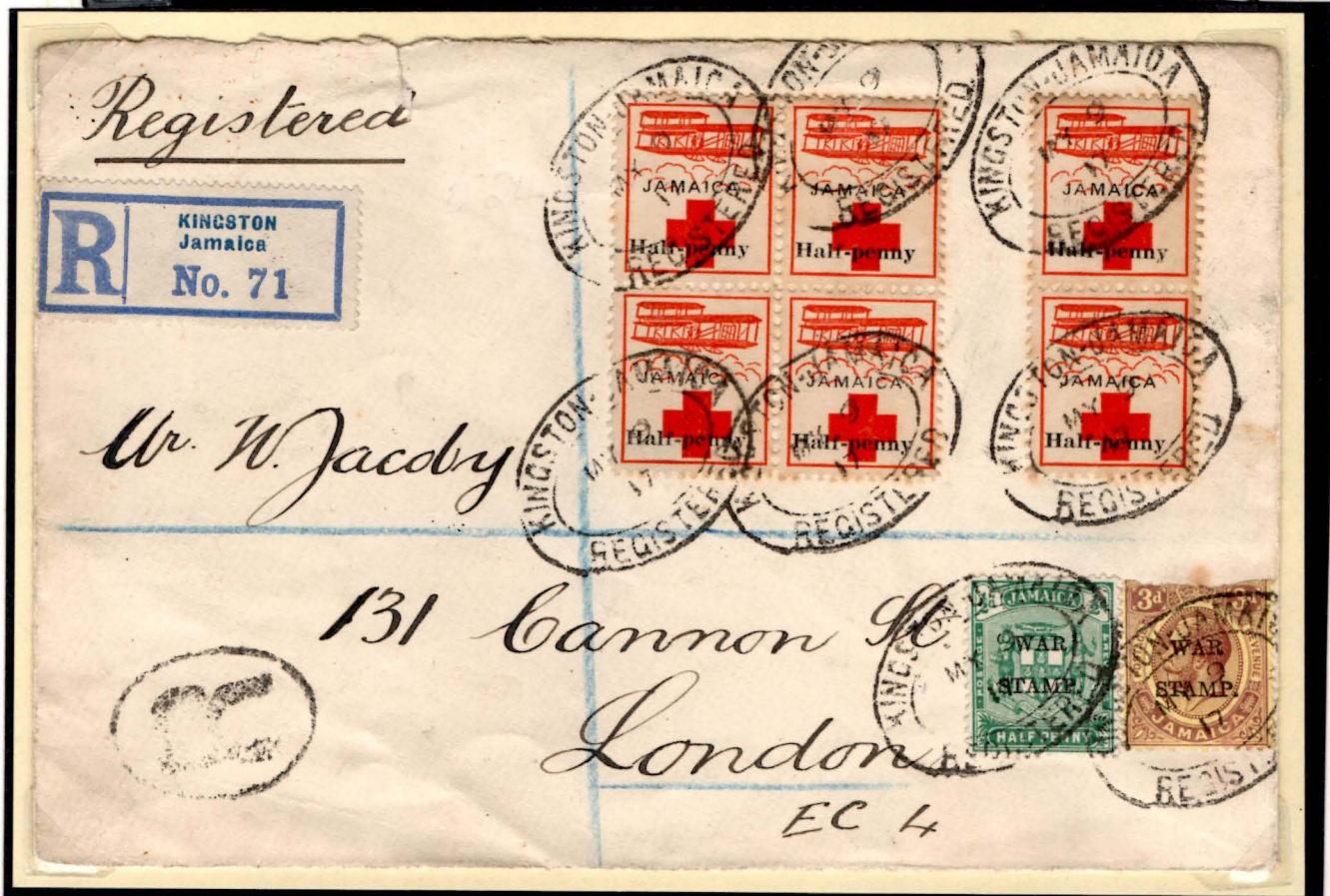
FRED. L. MYERS &

TELEPHONE 321. [ESTABLISHED 1879.]
 Office, Wharf and Bonded Warehouse, 188 Harbour Street Kingston,
WHOLESALE WINE & SPIRIT (RUM, ETC.) SUGAR, PROVISION, EXPORT

Our Great Specialties : —SUGAR— of all Grades from the best Estates. RUM from current Crop to 18 years old. "SPEY ROYAL" SCOTCH WHISKY.	AGENTS FOR JAMAICA MOET & CHANDON Champagne, W. & A. GILBEY, Ltd. Wines and Spirits, JAS. HENNESSY & Co. Cognac, M. B. FOSTER & SONS, Ltd. - Bass's Ale and Guinness's Stout. J. & J. COLMAN, Ltd. - Mustard, Starch, Blue, etc. N. K. FAIRBANKS CO. - Laundry and Toilet Soaps. A. H. RIISE'S - St. Thomas Bay Rum, NY CARLSBERG BEERS CUSENIER'S LIQUEURS SCHWEPPE'S TABLE WATERS "WHITEROCK" POLAND WATER.	 WAR STAMP GOLD MEDAL FLOUR, RICE, SIAM & BALLAM COARSE AND FINE SALT, STRAW PAPER.
--	---	---

G. A. Goubault Esq;
Annetto Bay

Our Wharf affords excellent accommodation for berthing Steamers and Sailing Vessels. Alongside our fine Sea-wall Sailing Vessels load and unload in comfort and in quick despatch.



The cover above shows the fourth, and last, issue when the black surcharge "Half-penny" was added to the design of the label and first issued on 11th March 1916.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

Varieties of the Jamaica Red Cross Label

A first issue patriotic label is hand stamped "LEST WE FORGET" in red sans serif type 2 mm. high in a horseshoe format (Fig.1). Another first issue patriotic label is cancelled by the personal hand stamp of the Governor of Jamaica, Sir W.H. Manning (Fig.2).

Varieties of the black "JAMAICA" overprint on the third issue patriotic label are known including a double "JAMAICA" overprint (Fig.3), a broken "J" in "JAMAICA" (Fig.4), and a missing "A" in "JAMAICA" (Fig.5).



Fig.1



Fig.2



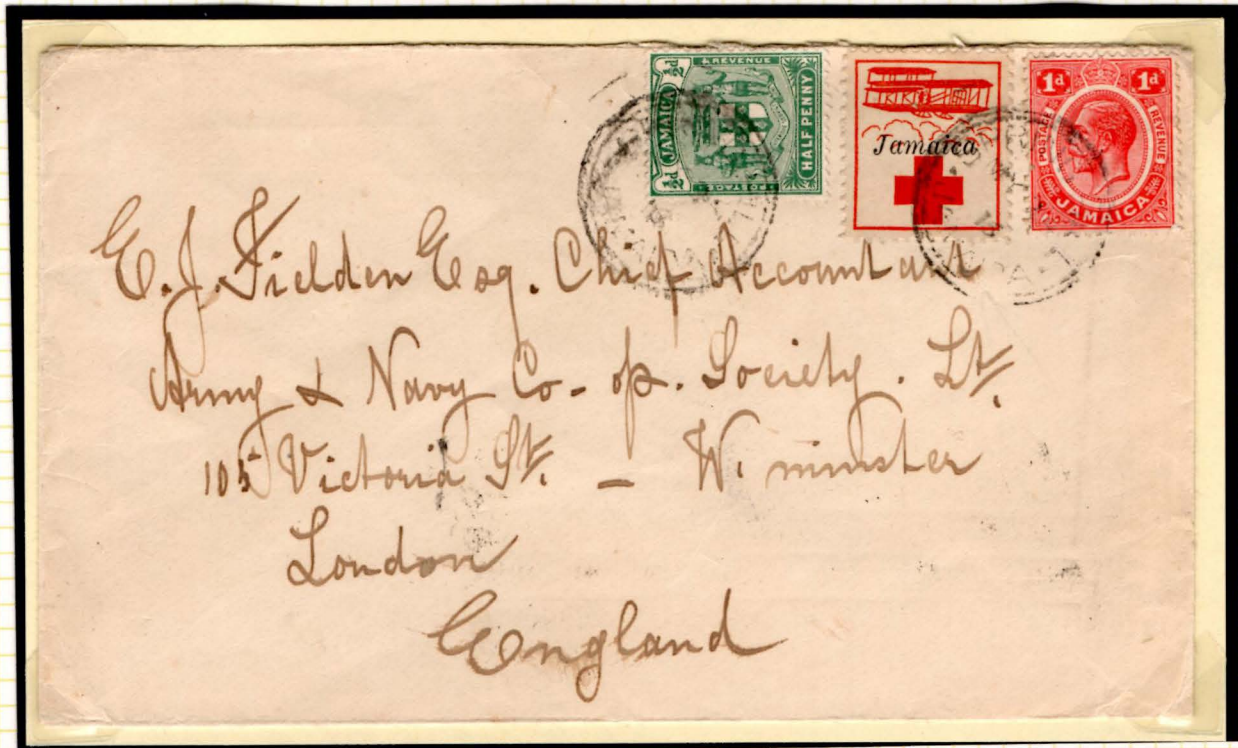
Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Above is a cover upon which is affixed an unrecorded patriotic label bearing a black "JAMAICA" overprint in italics fully tied with a light double ring cancellation date stamp of 24th May 1916

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Jamaica Red Cross Labels

A "War Stamp" booklet, with a blue-grey outer cover, containing twelve of the last issue patriotic labels was issued. Advertising space on the outer cover and in the booklet was sold.



Above is a cover bearing all four patriotic labels together with examples of the Jamaica war stamp issues. The Governor of Jamaica authorised the patriotic labels, originally called war stamps, to be placed on sale at all post offices throughout the island, and the postmistresses, instructed to push their sale, had to account for them just as they did for postage stamps.

PATRIOTIC LABELS IN WORLD WAR ONE

The Jamaica Red Cross labels: The Lewis Ashenheim Cover

The League was provided with a free postage facility in connection with their charity work. The Post Office notice reads:-

"Letters from Mr. Lewis Ashenheim in connection with Red Cross business are admitted free, as also replies to the same. The envelopes in each case are to be marked "Red Cross Business" or "Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League" and must bear Mr. Ashenheim's signature."



It has to be implied that Mr. Ashenheim was

- (a) Authorised, and probably expected, to affix a patriotic label on the charity mail envelope.
- (b) Entitled to type the charity name and append his signature over the label.
- (c) Entitled to use good practice when preparing his charity mail cover, if only to distinguish his postage label, which would be cancelled by a postmark, from patriotic labels sold in post offices, and also cancelled by post marks.

The frank i.e. the charity name and Mr. Ashenheim's signature, together with the Kingston, Jamaica postmark, has passed the letter through the post. Has Mr. Ashenheim, whilst complying fully with the Postmaster General's instructions, and aided and abetted by the postmark over the label, "almost unintentionally" created a provisional issue of the local Red Cross Society's label as a postage stamp?