

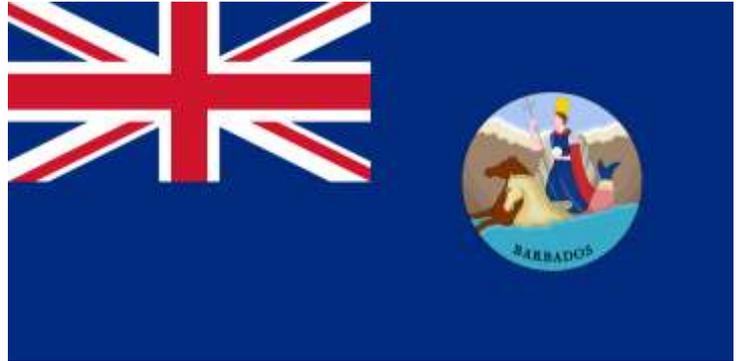
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# Bridging Barbados

For this episode in our occasional “village” series, we visit the coral limestone island of Barbados. The ship Olive Blossom arrived in 1625 and took possession for James I.

This “sugar” colony became a centre of the African slave trade until outlawed in 1807.

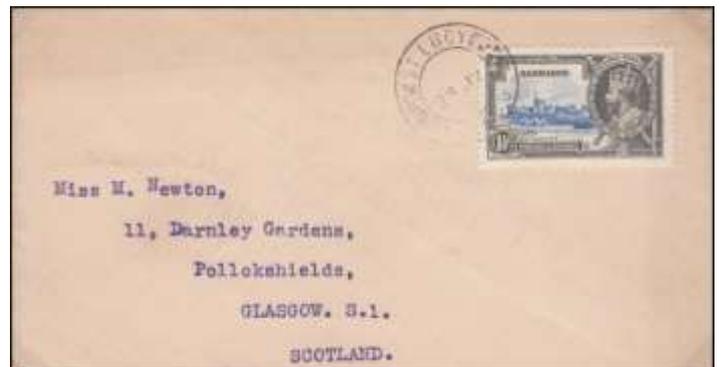
Postmarks at the time of the Jubilee roughly reflect the parish names, as outlined on the map below. For most of the illustrations, we are again indebted to John Cooper. Thanks also to Jonathan Guy of <http://www.barbadosstamps.co.uk> for his assistance.



## St Lucy

Most distant from the capital, Bridgetown, is the less populated parish of St Lucy at the northernmost tip of the island.

Here we have the 1½d empire rate stamp tied to a cover to Scotland by a St Lucy cds for 23 Jy 35.



## St Peter

Bordering St Lucy to the south is St Peter, largely devoted to the island’s chief cash crop of sugar cane.

Another example of the empire rate but this time to Canada and tied by a St Peter single ring cds for 8 Oct 35.



## St Andrew

Thought to resemble the hills and fields of Scotland, parts of this parish are referred to as Scotland District.

And another cover to Scotland, (Orkney), at empire rate, has its 1½d tied by St Andrew cds for Jy 31 35, with a further strike.



## St James

The island was claimed on landing at Holetown, formerly Jamestown, of this parish.

This cover to Australia (via Panama) boasts the double empire rate of 2½d, (1½d 1<sup>st</sup> oz + 1d 2<sup>nd</sup> oz), tied by St James cds for Ap 29 36.



## St Joseph

Reputed to be one of the prettiest parishes is that of St Joseph.

Another cover to Canada carries a late use Jubilee with two strikes of St Joseph's double ring cds for 11 Fe 36.



## St John

In 1660, to replace the 1645 church destroyed by fire, cost the diocese 110,000 pounds of sugar.

In 1935, to get this cover across the Atlantic to the Leeds addressee, had she been there, cost the sender a mere 1½d. The cancellation is that of St John for 5 Nov 35.



## St Philip

Culpepper Island, Barbados's only dependency, falls within the parish of St Philip.

This 1/- stamp is cancelled St Philip 7 Nov 35. Perhaps it carried a 3lb parcel to somewhere within the Caribbean.



## St Michael

The capital, Bridgetown, lies within the parish of St Michael, from which most mail seems to carry the GPO Barbados cancels.

## St Thomas

In the middle of the island lie two landlocked parishes, one of which is St Thomas, home of Harrison's Cave.

This cover overpaid by ½d the empire rate to Scotland and bears the St Thomas single ring cds for 9 Aug 35.



## St George

The prominent landmark, Gun Hill Signal Station of 1818, lies in the parish of St George.

Although addressed to Bridgetown, this first day cover carries the cancels of St George.



## Christ Church

This is the island's southernmost parish. When the church in Dover was destroyed by floods in 1669, the main parish church was moved to Oistins.



# Barbados parishes



## And offshore...



PAQUEBOT-BRITISH GUIANA

