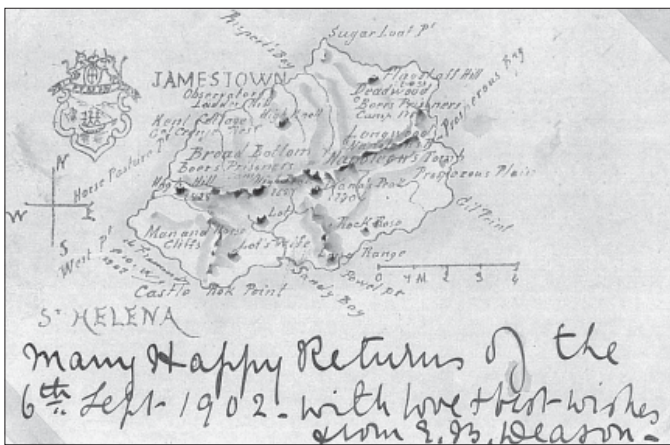


1 This is the Wharf where all visitors and supplies must come ashore. Visitors are ferried from larger vessels in small boats known as “bum boats”: supplies in larger boats then winched ashore by crane. The Island is the tip of an extinct volcano, larger vessels cannot approach the Wharf too closely for fear of ripping their bottom open. The two ships in the picture are the ELBE and the ERNE arriving at St. Helena with a cargo of coolies from Calcutta in 1895.

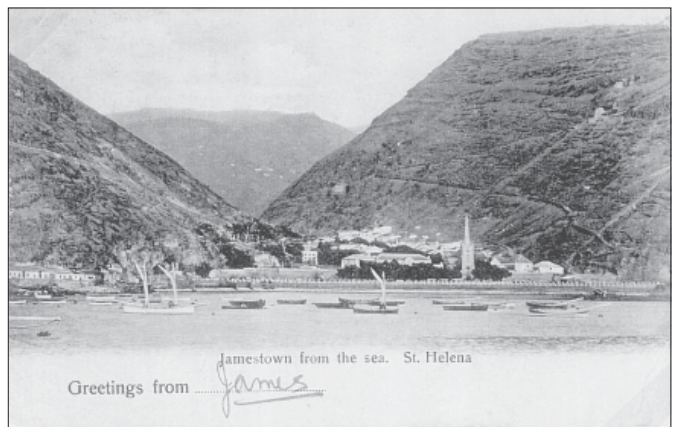
**Early Postcards of
St. Helena**
1900 – 1910
by
Robert W. Richardson

St. Helena became a member of the Universal Postal Union in 1896, shortly thereafter it issued its first postal stationery. This consisted of two buff postcards, one a single the other a double used as a reply paid card. Circa 1900 the first picture postcards appeared probably in response to requests for such an item from visitors.

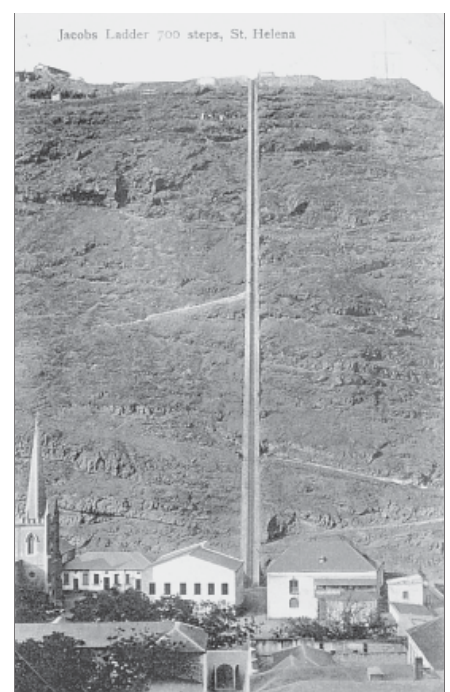
2 Jamestown from the sea, the first sight to greet visitors; it is the only town on the island of any size. The boats pictured are those mentioned in the previous postcard description. ↓



3 A map of St. Helena drawn by a Boer P.O.W. circa 1900-1901, used here as a birthday greeting card to England. Greeting cards of any type were not sold on the Island at this time. The two camps housing the Boers can be identified on either side of the map, Broad Bottom and Deadwood, also the location of Napoleon’s Tomb is identified.



4 This is the famous Jacobs Ladder, 700 steps also known as “the inclined Plane” constructed by the then Governor Fyke in 1717; 32 different stratas of lava can be counted from the bottom to the top, by those with sufficient stamina to make the ascent.



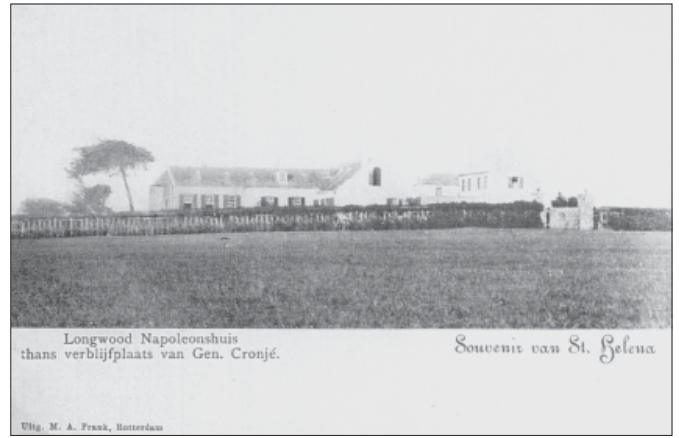
For the first hundred years of Jamestown the top of the cliff was the site of a gibbet on which criminals were hanged, often in chains so that after an execution the spectacle could be enjoyed by all the townsfolk.



5 Plantation House has been the home of all St. Helena’s Governors from the time it was built in the late 17th century. The lawn area in front, Francis Plain is the only flat area of any size on the Island and is used for all sports and special events throughout the year. As many of the older buildings it is reputed to be haunted.



6 One of the many tourist attractions of St. Helena is *Jonathan*, the tortoise, reputed to be more than 250 years old. Two are shown in this picture but only one remains. The card being used as a Xmas and New Years greeting in 1907. Tortoises were originally brought to the Island by sea captains to be used as food for the Governor's table. *Jonathan* is the sole survivor.



7 Longwood House was the residence of *Napoleon* during his exile. It is much different from the original building which was allowed to deteriorate badly after the death of the Emperor. Repairs were made in the 19th century and this area was given to the French government as an enclave under the care of a French vice consul who also is curator of the museum inside. This card is in error stating that the Boer General *Cronje* lived there with his entourage. *Cronje* was given *Rose Cottage* as his home on the lower slopes of the fort High Knoll.

(↓ better quality – closer-up – view of Longwood House by local publisher - Editor)



8 The tomb of *Napoleon* in Geranium Valley; the site selected by him and one of his favourite places to be on the Island when taking walks with his guards. His body was exhumed on October, 4th, 1840 and returned to France on the French warship *LA BELLE POULE*. Afterwards in to the mid 18th century a French soldier was detailed to guard the tomb area probably to deter souvenir hunters.



9 This is a colour copy of a sepia postcard first published 1901-2. The building on the left was the Officer's Mess, now the Post Office. Next to this is the chemist's shop of *Thomas Jackson*, the third the photo-studio of *A.L. Innes*. These two men were responsible for the publication of almost all the picture postcards available on the Island.

The group of small boys on the right are playing a St. Helena game called 'stones'. Marbles as we know them today were not available there so small round pebbles were used instead hence the name.



10 This view of the Sandy Bay Ridges in the south-west part of St. Helena composed mainly of ridges, gullies and ravines is typical of the topography of the Island where most coastal areas slope straight down into the South Atlantic. Only two small beaches provide access to the sea, one at Sandy Bay the other at Lemon Valley neither of which can be used as landing places.

The climate of St. Helena is sub tropical and has been described as ideal in every respect for year round living.

Publishers of the cards shown are:

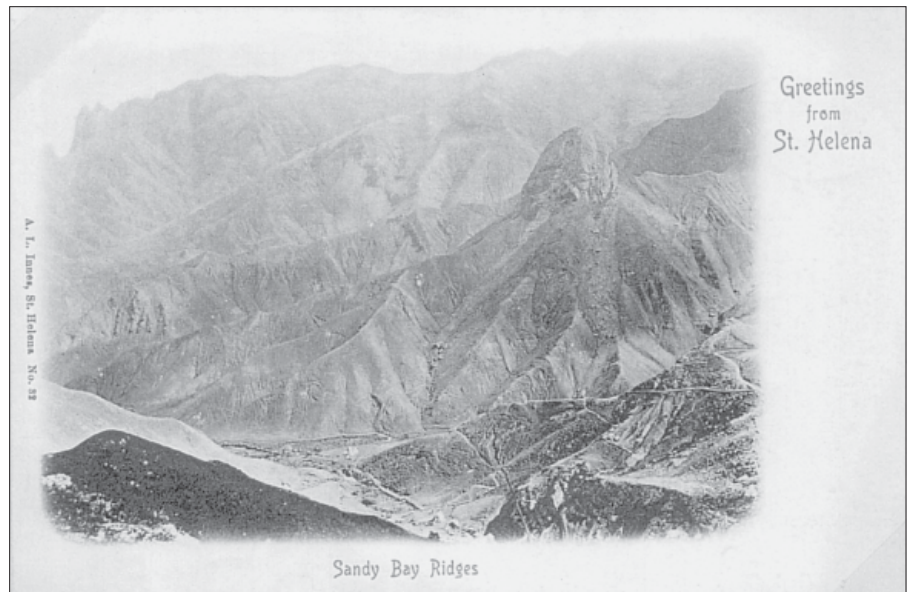
#2; 4; 6; 8; 9: Thomas Jackson

5 E.A. Thorpe

10 A.L. Innes

All three of the above were St. Helenians.

7 (top) M.A. Frank of Rotterdam



All of the cards of A.L. Innes were published between 1900 and 1902 at which time he emigrated to U.K. His cards are found in colour and black and white. Thomas Jackson also printed colour and black and white but his cards can be arranged in sequences, eleven different printings between 1903 and 1912. Comparison of the printing styles and the type fonts used on the address sides of both Innes and Jackson show that they were done by C.G. Röder of Leipzig. E.A. Thorpe's cards were printed in South Africa possibly by several different houses, one of whom was Paul Schroeder of Cape Town. The printers and publishers of cards #1 and #3 are not known.



This card is not very attractive at first sight. Typical French colotype, hand-coloured, the roofs done in an awful lipstick-pink. Card quite aged both sides, dirt spots etc. The photo however is quite good, lively with natives, military and medical personnel seen in front the **Military Hospital of Colomb-Béchar** (Sud Oranis), a smaller city (mining-district) found in (northwestern) Algeria. Card no. 22 in a series published by "Collection Idéale P. S", a firm from France I guess.

The card is not postally used but was sent inside letter with short message in German language on address side. Message dated *Africa, April 1, 1923* and addressed to *My dear Sister* by a *Max Wolleck*. The major purpose appeared to be to say hello to his relatives and provide his actual mailing address. The sick or injured Max had marked the building he was lying with a cross on picture side, describes it as a 'windowless shack'. What Max did in Algeria, perhaps in mining business, is not mentioned.

Japanese postcard publishers had a faible for colourful backgrounds usually done by chromolitho process together with b/w views inserted by colotype process. An interesting mixture/contrast indeed, especially as the inserted views are often small in size and the card as a whole is dominated by the colour background, looking more like an art card instead a typical picture postcard. I have seen many examples where the background design seems to have no relation to the inserted view(s), but pattern only. This card is different. Two inserted views show huge halls of a textile factory. The nice coloured plant is a **cotton** plant (belong to the mallow family) with yellow blooms and a white seed capsule. The triangle shaped object looks like the textile factory logo. Found also in stampbox. Card is not p/u, divided back, "Carte Postale"- all other imprints in Japanese.

