



Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago

(Founded May 1942)

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PORT OF SPAIN MEETINGS: 6pm second Wednesday every month, St. Mary's College, Frederick St.

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NEW ISSUE NEWS

Below is a summary of the 2004 stamp programme.

- 1) 18th February: CARNIVAL five stamps - \$ 1.00, \$ 2.50, \$ 3.75, \$ 4.50 and \$ 5.25. Souvenir Sheet with one \$ 10.00 stamp.
- 2) 7th June: FRUITY FUN five stamps - \$ 1.00, \$ 2.50, \$ 3.75, \$ 4.50 and \$ 5.25. Souvenir Sheet with one \$ 10.00 stamp.
- 3) 19th July: RETURN TO ATHENS four stamps - \$ 1.00, \$ 2.50, \$ 3.75 and \$ 4.50. No Souvenir Sheet produced.
- 4) 23rd September: STRUGGLE AGAINST SLAVERY AND ITS ABOLITION five stamps - \$ 1.00, \$ 2.50, \$ 3.75, \$ 4.50 and \$ 5.25. Souvenir Sheet with one \$ 10.00 stamp.
- 5) 22nd October: BOSCOE HOLDER - CHRISTMAS 2004 five stamps - \$ 1.00, \$ 2.50, \$ 3.75, \$ 4.50 and \$ 5.25. Souvenir Sheet with one \$ 10.00 stamp.

The first issue scheduled for release in 2005 will be the Carnival issue on the 18th January. The issue will consist of five stamps and one Souvenir Sheet. Other issues planned for release in 2005 will be one on Brian Lara and a new definitive. The subject of the new definitive will be medicinal plants.

MONTHLY MEETING

Our monthly meeting starts at 6:00pm and finishes between 7:30pm and 8:00pm. Picture Postcard albums are in stock and on sale at the meetings. Any members who have items for sale or trade are welcome to bring them to our meetings.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th February 2005 at St. Mary's College, Frederick Street, Port of Spain. Nominations are required for all posts for the 2005/2006 session. Please respond and nominate any member whom you believe could serve well, but please have your nominees sanction their acceptance. As this meeting will be held on the Wednesday after Carnival, please make an extra effort to attend.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

All Ordinary members are reminded that the 2005 dues were due by the 31st December 2004. The 2005 dues for local members are adults \$ 30 and juniors \$ 20. Please send early. For our overseas members, the dues are Canada \$ 13 (CDN), UK £ 6 and all others US \$ 10. Please make cheques payable to the Philatelic Society of Trinidad and Tobago. Ordinary members can pay two or more years at a time, based on the annual given above. Life membership is TT \$ 300.00 for local members or US \$ 100.00 for overseas members.

BWIA L-1011 TRISTAR #9Y-TGN



When one hears that a Lockheed Tristar L-1011 aircraft was sold for one dollar, one might think it was an aircraft on a stamp. BWIA ceased using the Tristars early in 2004 and replaced them with the Airbus A340. BWIA has been selling off the Tristar fleet. One Tristar, #9Y-TGN, which was cannibalized for parts to maintain the other two operational aircraft, was sold to the Chaguaramas Military History and Aerospace Museum. The price was just one dollar (US 16 cents or 8p Sterling).

While the price was a bargain, the only problem was in moving a jumbo jet weighing over 300,000lbs / 136,000Kg and with a wing span of 165ft / 50m from Piarco to Chaguaramas. Firstly, the aircraft's fuel tanks had to be drained of 6,000 gall. of old aviation fuel. Next, the aircraft wings and tail section were removed. The fuselage was then cut in half at the mid-section and also horizontally, producing four pieces not more than 15ft (5m) high, the maximum height for transport on the highways and roads. The aircraft pieces were moved over the course of two Sundays to the Museum. By December 2004, the aircraft was almost completely reassembled.

The L-1011 Tristars have been in the BWIA fleet for over twenty years. They were used mainly on the United Kingdom / European and North American routes. BWIA Tristars have been illustrated on four T&T stamps: 1983 10th Anniversary of Caricom 35c stamp SG # 626 / Sc # 382, 1988 Lloyd's of London \$ 1.10 stamp SG # 750 / Sc # 485, 1990 50th Anniversary BWIA S/S SG # MS 786 / Sc # 529 and 1992 Aircraft \$ 2.25 SG # 817 / Sc # 550. The registration numbers of the aircraft (painted at the top of the tail) used on these stamps are either not legible or not #9Y-TGN. However, the aircraft is illustrated on a St. Kitts 50c stamp of 1983 commemorating 200 years of Manned Flight SG # 131 / Sc # 125.

GENERAL NEWS

BWIA no longer flies the McDonnell Douglas MD-83 aircraft. The last flight by one of the MD-83 fleet was on the 10th January 2003. The MD-83 was in service with BWIA for 17 years (1986-2003). The aircraft were used on the North and South American and also the Caribbean routes. The MD-83's were replaced by the Boeing 737-800. The MD-83 was illustrated on two T&T stamps: \$ 2.75 stamp of the 1992 Aircraft issue SG # 223 / Sc # 549 and 10c stamp of 1987 Miss World issue SG # 724 / Sc # 459.

GRAF ZEPPELIN D-LZ127 VISIT TO TRINIDAD

The Trinidad Guardian of the 24th October 1933 reported the visit of the Graf Zeppelin as follows: " Awakened unceremoniously from their beds by the roaring engines thousands of city residents staged a pyjama parade in their backyards and streets on Sunday morning to catch a glimpse of the Graf Zeppelin, the second largest in the world - on its way from Brazil to Chicago ... The throbbing of her engines was like the roaring of some wild monster suddenly let loose ... " .

The Graf Zeppelin passed over Trinidad at approximately 6.00am on Sunday 23rd October 1933. The Graf Zeppelin did not land but circled Port of Spain twice, descending as low as 200ft over Woodbrook. Michael Cipriani flying his Tiger Moth, the only aircraft in Trinidad at the time, took off from the flying field at Mucurapo to meet the Zeppelin. Micky Cipriani was " Circling in and out around the Zeppelin, like a gnat around an elephant ... " reported in the Trinidad Guardian's article.

The cover in Fig. 1 was mailed in the USA by special arrangement and was placed aboard the Graf Zeppelin at Friedrichshafen, Germany, carried to Brazil, flown over Trinidad and finally off-loaded in Miami. The cover was backstamped 11:00am October 23, 1933, Miami, Florida. The transit time was approximately 5 hours from Port of Spain to Miami. From Miami, the Graf Zeppelin went to the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago. The cover bears the triangular rubber-stamp flight cachet on the front.

The remarkable photograph in Fig. 3 was provided by courtesy of the Chaguaramas Military History and Aerospace Museum. It shows the Graf Zeppelin over St. James and the Tiger Moth below.

Michael ' Micky ' Cipriani was a pioneer in aviation in T&T. He was a solicitor and a cover from his office is illustrated in Fig. 2.

Two PSTT members who were eyewitnesses gave their reactions. One said she was attending the Sunday's church service at St. Mary's College chapel on Frederick St., when the Zeppelin passed over, everyone ran out of the chapel to take a look. The Zeppelin flew low enough to see the passengers inside waving. The other member, who was only a kid at the time, was frightened by the noise of the engines, he found a place to hide !

References: 1) Trinidad Guardian, October 24, 1933
2) Airmails of T&T by Ron Wike

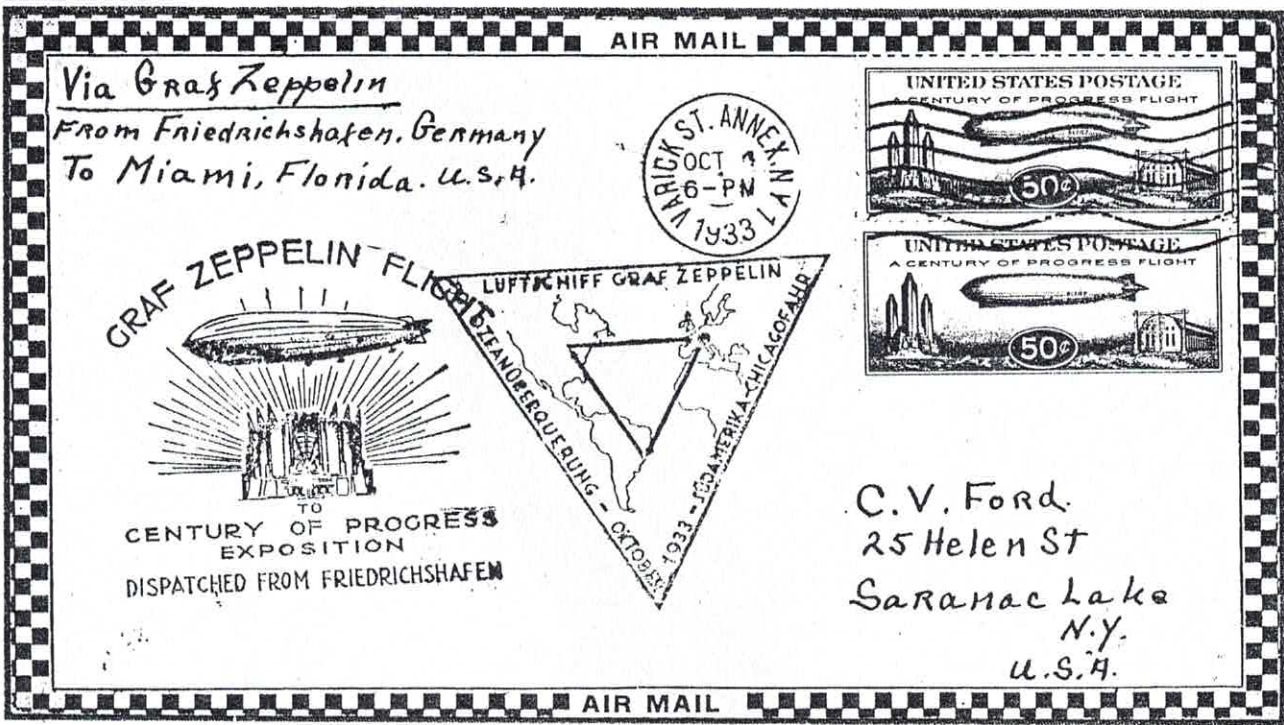


Fig.1: GRAF ZEPPELIN FLIGHT COVER - From Friedrichshafen, Germany, via Brazil and Port of Spain to Miami, Florida.

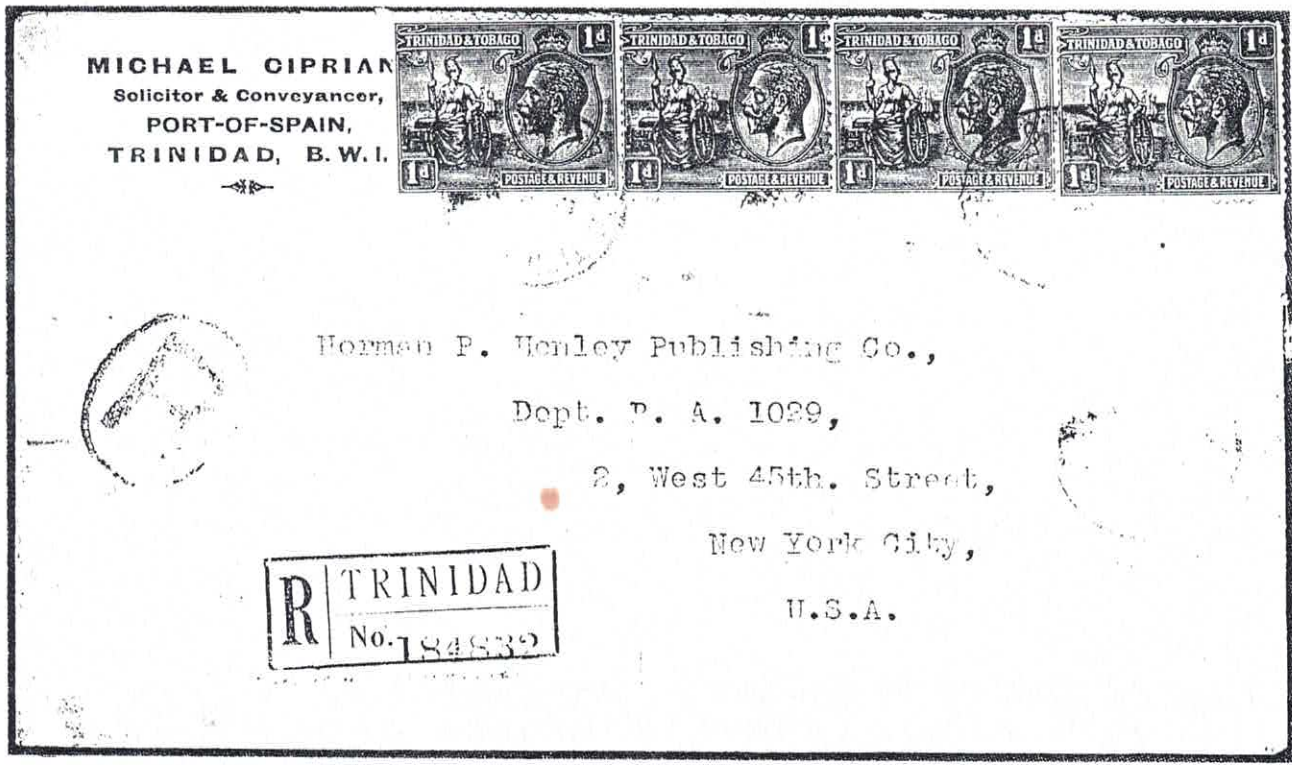


Fig.2: A COVER FROM THE OFFICE OF MICHAEL CIPRIANI date-stamped 23rd October 1929

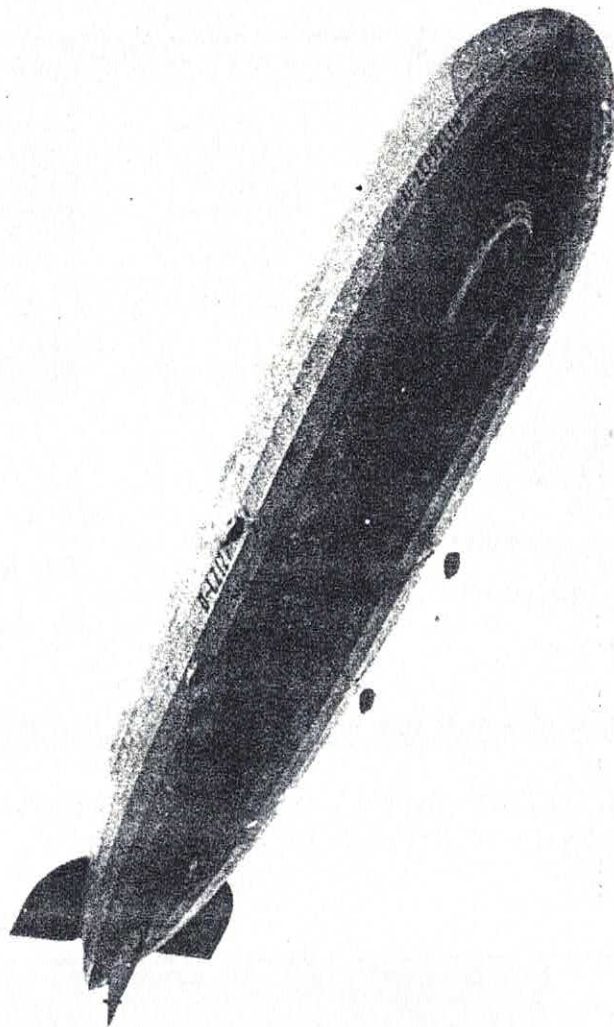


FIG.3: THE GIANT AND THE MOTH OVER ST. JAMES. The Graf Zeppelin length - 776 ft. / 236.6 m , diameter 100 ft./ 30.5 m and volume 3,708,600 cubic feet / 105,016 cubic meters. In terms of those large 40 ft. shipping containers one sees everyday on the roads, the volume is equivalent to 1,500 containers. On the other hand, the Tiger Moth is approximately half the size of a 40 ft. container.