



# Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago

(Founded May 1942)

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## NEW ISSUE NEWS



## CARIBBEAN POSTAL UNION

### 9th Annual Conference



Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment

June 27 - July 1, 2005

Official Commemorative Cover



\$1.00

Fig. 1: COMMEMORATIVE COVER OF THE 9th ANNUAL CONFERENCE CARIBBEAN POSTAL UNION

TTPost released the Solomon Hochoy issue on the 22nd September before the Republic Day holiday (24th September). The release was unannounced and without any ceremony. We have no illustration or details of the issue in this Bulletin because the issue was withdrawn by 10:30am on the same day. It appears that one of the government's Ministries decided belatedly to hold an official ceremony for the issue. The issue will be back on sale by early October after the ceremony.

Albert Sydney reports on the 9th Annual Conference of the CPU in the next article. The commemorative cover (Fig. 1) was given out to the participants of the conference and was not on sale to the public. We obtained some of these covers for our members. The cover can be collected at our monthly meetings or write to Robert Franco. There is no charge for the cover, only one per member.

**9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CARIBBEAN POSTAL UNION CONFERENCE  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

**By Albert Sydney**

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Utilities & The Environment hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Caribbean Postal Union Conference from June 27 to July 01 2005.

The Conference was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the theme of the Conference was – The Changing Postal Environment and the “Impact of CSME (Caribbean Single Market Economy) and the Bucharest Congress”.

The Postmasters General or their representatives of all Member States of the CPU were in attendance. There were also representatives of the U.S. State Department, the United States Postal Service, La Poste (France) Canada Post, the Deputy Secretary-General of the UPU and other International Agencies relating to the postal industry.

Mr. Franklin Ali (TTPost) and Ms. Celene Jack (St. Vincent & Grenadines Post) were elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Conference and the agenda was approved.

The Secretary-General of the CPU presented a report of the work of the CPU ending 24 June 2005 which focused on operational issues, the 2004 Bucharest Congress, CPU matters, Disaster Relief, relations between CPU and regional organisations and regional and technical cooperation.

There proposals were presented to the Conference, one of which dealt with the release of a stamp issue for the International Cricket Council World Cup in 2007.

Among the Regional issues discussed was the area of Border Security by the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC) with specific reference to the CSME and Cricket World Cup which recommended the need for Customs and the Postal Service to collaborate in protecting the region's borders and expediting the handling and delivery of postal items to customers. There was also an overview of the CSME and its relevance to the CPU which was presented by His Excellency Jerry Narace, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago with responsibility for trade and investment.

There were joint presentations on operational issues covering the status of EMS Parcels, International Parcel Service Light tracking and Security, the major decisions of the UPU Bucharest Congress relative to Terminal Dues, the Quality of Service Fund (QSF), Extra-territorial Offices of Exchange (ETOES) and Parcels.

A Roundtable on "Re-configuring Caribbean Postal Priorities" and three workshops on Market Analysis, Customer and Competitor Profiles (Jamaica), Disaster Planning for Post Offices (Jamaica) and Security (USPIS) were also conducted.

The Meeting of Postmasters General established an Ad-hoc Committee of the CPU to suggest possible directions on the re-configuration of the priorities for the Caribbean Postal Sector, one of the items in its report was the selection of a Philatelic Task Force.

The Meeting elected Ms. Loretta Ianthe Charlemange (St. Lucia) as Secretary General for a second term.

The delegates of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the CPU expressed its profound sense of loss on the passing of Robert Irizarry, the former Manager of the USPS Regional Support Center for the Caribbean in San Juan, Puerto Rico and dedicated the formal Declaration to his memory.

The Meeting by Resolution, formally commended Mr. Hubert Niles for his pivotal role as Regional Adviser to the UPU from 1995 to 2005 and former Postmaster General of the British Virgin Islands and Barbados and noted that his imminent retirement will result in a loss of expertise, knowledge and unbounded enthusiasm at the highest level of the regions postal sector.

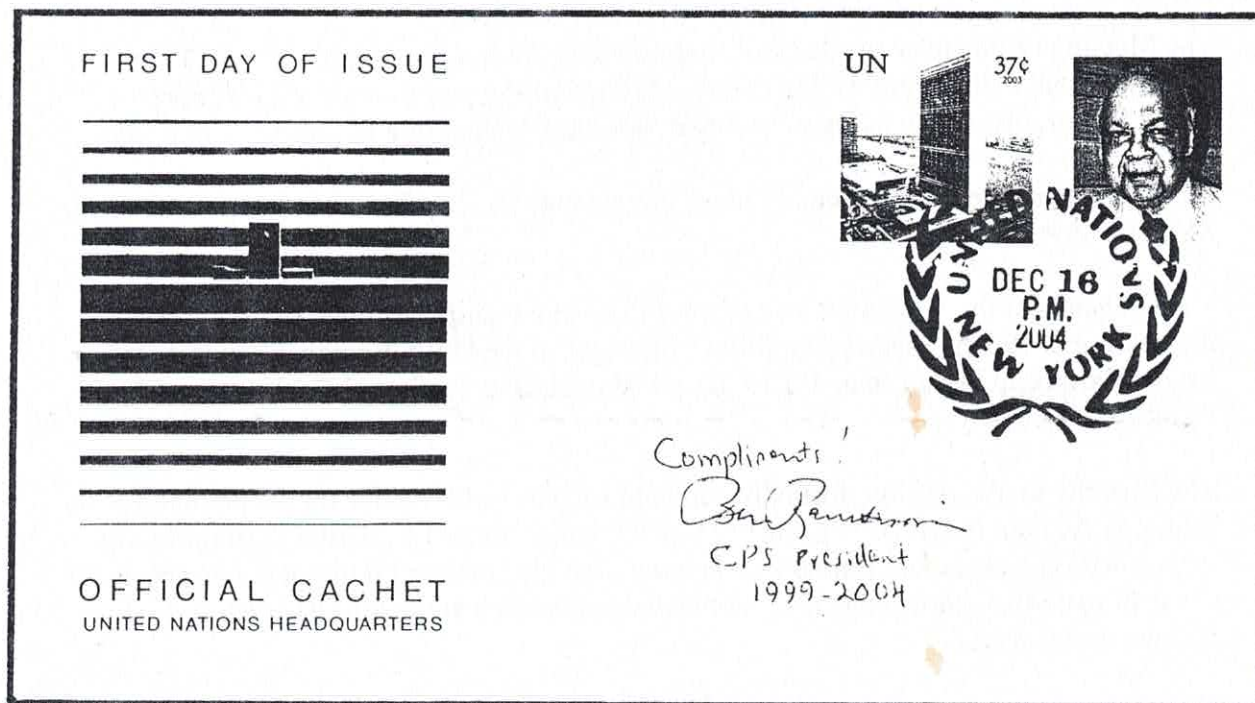
There was also a Meeting of Ministers on 30 June and 01 July 2005 which has chaired by the Honourable Penelope Beckles, Minister of Public Utilities & The Environment of Trinidad & Tobago.

One major item on the agenda was 'Preparing the Postal Sector for CSME' which were presented by the Hon. Felix Finisterre, Minister of Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities of St. Lucia, the Hon. Phillip Paulwell, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Technology of Jamaica and Dr. Rudolph Mathias, Chairman of the Board of the St. Vincent & The Grenadines Postal Corporation.

There was also a panel discussion on CSME which was chaired by Minister the Hon. Penelope Beckles. During the Plenary Session, presentations were made by Mr. Charles A. Prescott, Chairman of the UPU Consultative Committee, Mr. Huang Guozhong, Deputy Director General of the UPU, Hon. Victor Banks, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Anguilla and the Rev. Joseph Artherly, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs of Barbados.

The Report and Resolutions from the Meeting of Postmasters General were presented and the Resolutions were adopted.

The Meeting of Ministers set the place and date of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual CPU Conference, to be held in St. Vincent & The Grenadines.

SOCIETY NEWS - A PERSONAL MENTION

Dr. Reuben (Ben) A. Ramkissoon sent us the above private commemorative cover. Affixed to the cover was 37c personalized United Nations postage. The cover was postmarked with the New York wreath hand cancellation. The envelope was the standard UN Headquarters official gold cachet cover.

The personalized postage consisted of a 37c stamp illustrating the headquarters building of the United Nations in New York. The stamp is joined to a tab (se-tenant) which bore a colour photograph of Ben. Ben autographed the cover and stated his term of service as President of the Chicago Philatelic Society.

Ben and his wife, Connie, sponsored the Chicago Philatelic Society holiday reception / Chicagopex 2004 Appreciation Dinner on the 16th December and each guest received a cover. The cover was to remind them of the wonderful years they were able to work together for Chicagoland philately.

CORRESPONDENCE

Arsenio Daben, Via Cornelia no. 33-1, 39.001 Santander, Spain, wishes to exchange used stamps with members.

RED CROSS POSTAL MESSAGE SCHEME

The Red Cross Postal Message Scheme was used by persons who wished to communicate with friends / family / prisoners of war in enemy countries or enemy occupied territory. The cover was mailed from Port of Spain to the Committee of the International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland. The cover was franked with two stamps of the George VI definitive paying the 72c rate.

The cover was mailed on the 11th September 1943 and received the G.P.O. Port of Spain datestamp. The P.C. 90 censor label on the left was applied by Trinidad Censors. The cover was sent to Lisbon, Portugal, a neutral country, receiving the LISBON CENTRAL machine cancellation on the reverse. From Lisbon it was sent to Germany where it was examined by German Censors who resealed the envelope with the 'Geoffnet' paper label on the back (Fig.2). The small 'b' in the rubber stamps of the German Censorship office indicates that the cover was censored in Berlin. After Berlin, the cover's next stop was finally Switzerland.

An interesting feature of this cover is the faint blue streak running from top to bottom on the front - through the 'ME' of message and 'SW' of Switzerland. There is a similar blue streak on the back of the cover in the middle (Fig. 2). The German censor had applied a chemical to test for the presence of anything written in invisible ink. This was a common procedure although it is not seen often on T&T mail.

The Red Cross Message Scheme covers are fairly common and they show the intricate routing of mail during World War II.

Reference: British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II  
Trinidad & Tobago by Ron Wike

POSTAGE METER - P.B. # 017

Joe Chin Aleong reported another user of this unusual meter datestamp. The sender is unknown. The meter datestamp reads " PITNEY BOWES / SPECIMEN / 28/03/01 ". This specimen datestamp was first reported in Bulletin # 218/5.

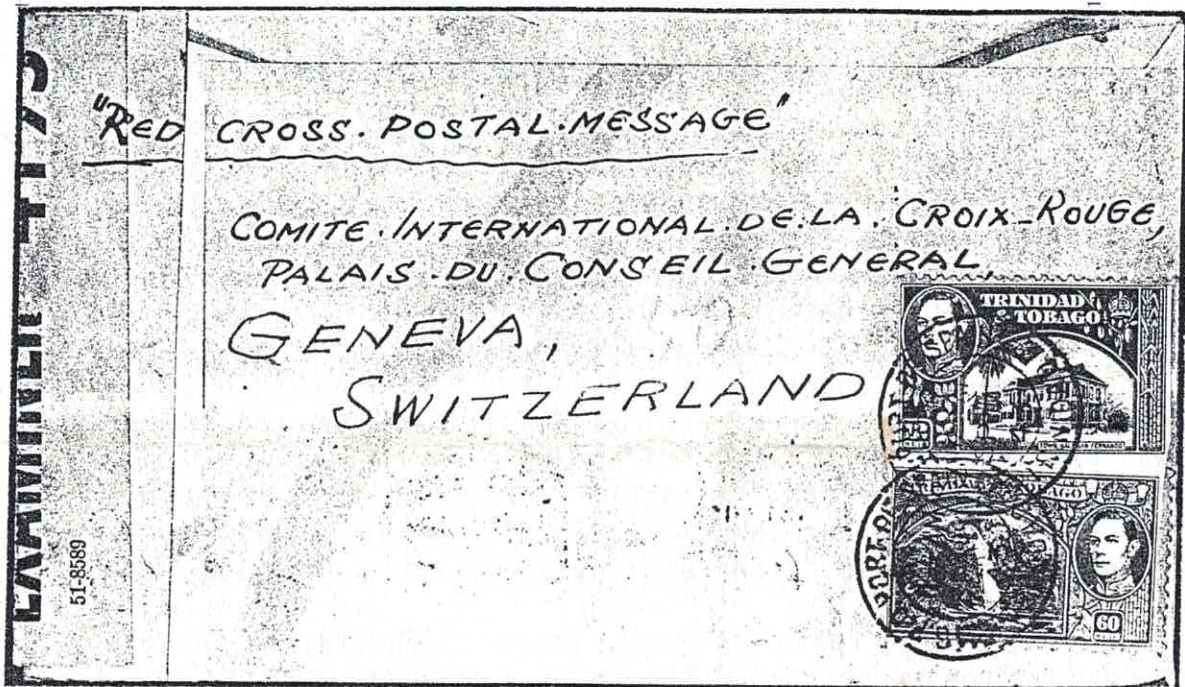


FIG.1: FRONT OF RED CROSS POSTAL MESSAGE SCHEME COVER

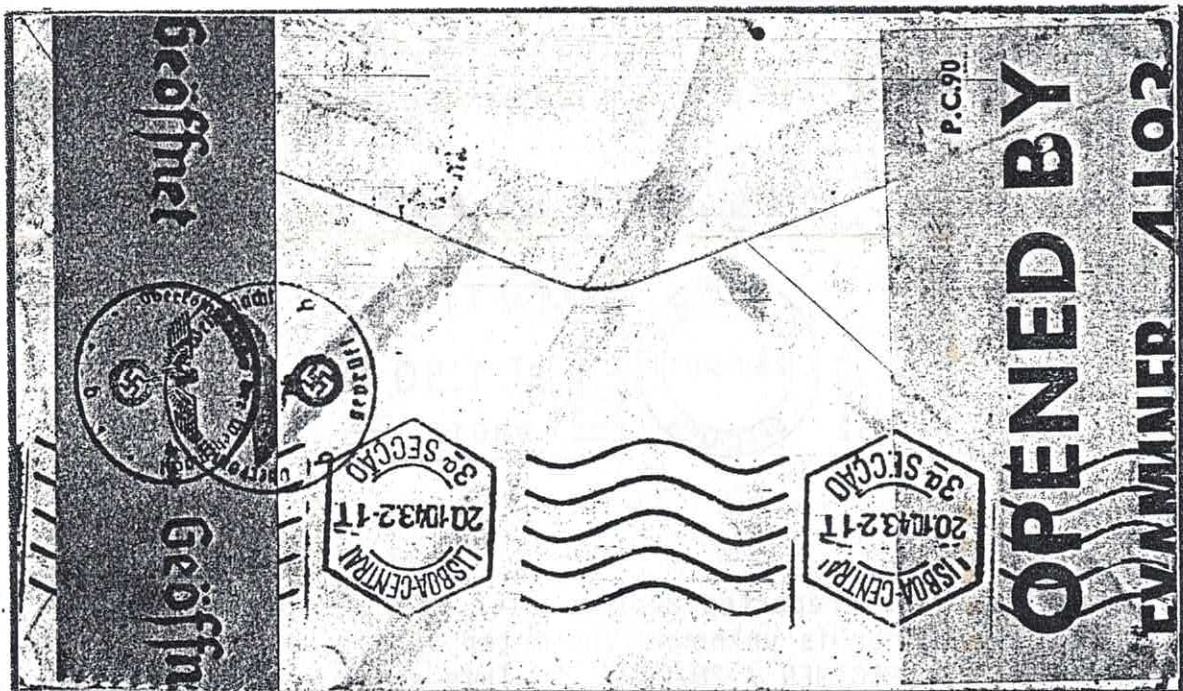


FIG.2: REVERSE OF RED CROSS POSTAL MESSAGE SCHEME COVER