



Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago

(Founded May 1942)

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NEW ISSUE NEWS

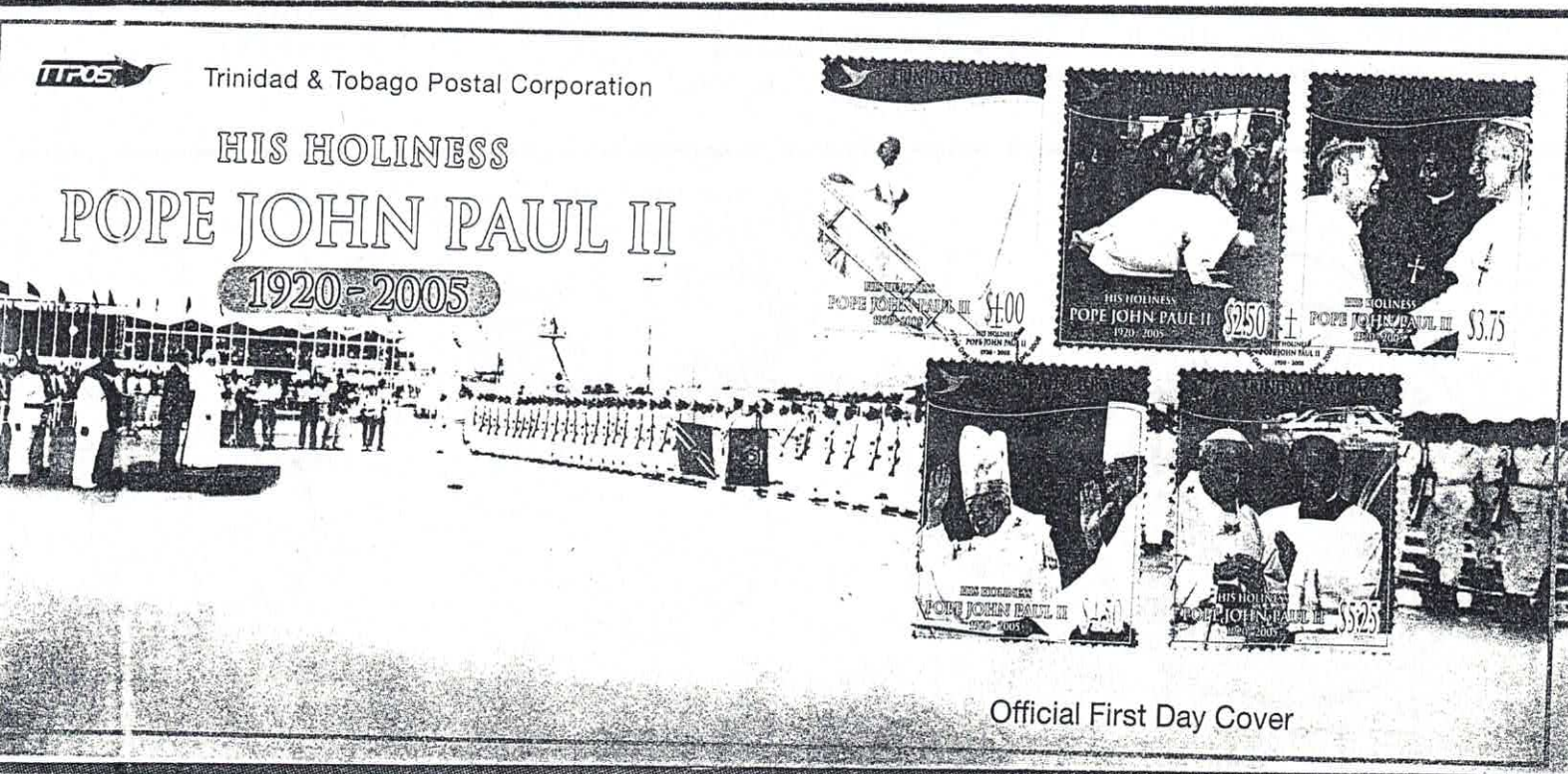


Fig. 1: HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II FDC

The first issue released for this year was "His Holiness Pope John Paul II 1920 - 2005" on the 10th April 2006. The issue consisted of five stamps featuring photographs from the Papal visit to Trinidad in 1985: \$ 1.00 - Walking down the stairs from the aircraft; \$ 2.00 - Kissing the ground at Piarco; \$ 3.00 - The Pope being greeted with the late Archbishop Anthony Pantin in the background; \$ 4.50 - The Pope with the late Archbishop Anthony Pantin; \$ 5.25 - The Pope celebrating Mass at the (Hasley Crawford) Stadium. A souvenir sheet was produced with a single \$ 15.00 stamp which reproduced a photograph of the Pope with the late Archbishop Anthony Pantin in the Stadium.

The issue was printed by Thomas Greg and Sons de Columbia and the graphics were done by Troy Rhodes (DesignWise). The photographs were taken by Noel Norton. The FDC's were sold at \$ 19.00 each and the Souvenir Sheets at \$15.00 each. A brochure was prepared for the issue.

The papal visit lasted only seven hours. The Souvenir Sheet showed the heavy security surrounding the Pope. The S/S has an unusual sight: Police officers belonging to the Special Branch. The Special Branch provides the security for the Prime Minister and President in addition to its role of gathering intelligence. Due to the nature of their work, these officers are not seen in media photographs and wherever they are present, they maintain a very low profile.

Below is illustrated the commemorative cover issued on the 5th February 1985 to mark the papal visit. Four of the flower definitives were affixed to the cover and cancelled with a PAPAL VISIT skeleton date-stamp. The PSTT has a few of these covers on sale at our monthly meetings if any members wish to obtain one.

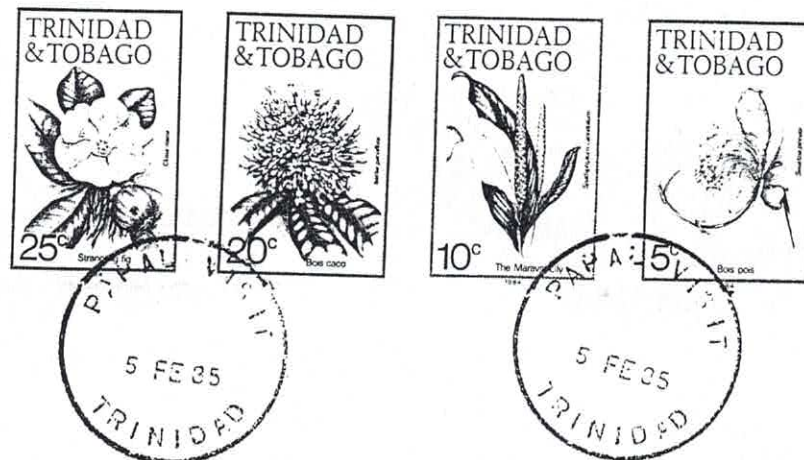


Fig.2: 1985 COMMEMORATIVE COVER OF THE PAPAL VISIT

There are two issues planned for release in May: Caribbean Single Market Economy and Football (soccer). The Football issue will be released before the World Cup begins in Germany. In June, look forward to a Souvenir Sheet and an aerogramme on orchids. The Orchid Society is celebrating their centenary this year.

The new person in charge of Stamps and Philatelic at TTPost is Ms. Kari Elliot. She was one of the TTPost employees who volunteered to appear on the World Aids Day 2003 issue. Her photograph is on the \$ 3.75 stamp - she is holding the child. Kari was also featured on the Souvenir Sheet (look under the "\$ 10.00").

THE GREAT WHITE FLEET IN TRINIDAD

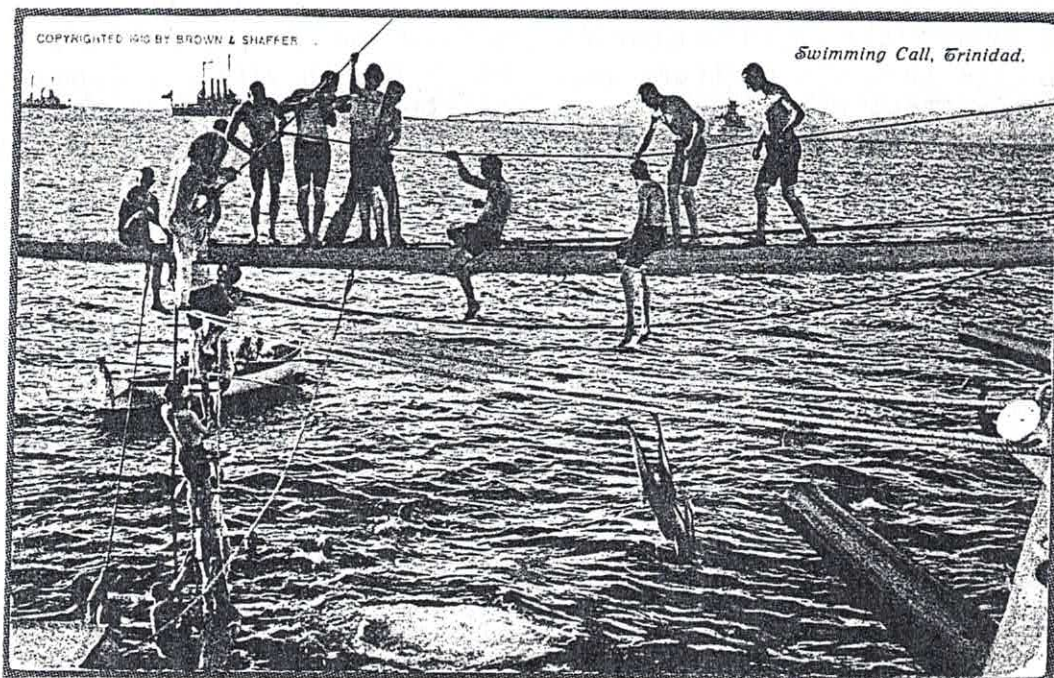
by Edward Barrow

The Great White Fleet was the name given to the large US fleet that set sail from Hampton Roads, Virginia on December 16th 1907, on a 43,000 mile, 14-month round the world cruise. The fleet consisted of 16 battleships and their auxiliary ships from the US Atlantic Fleet and was meant to display US power and prestige and mark its coming of age on the world stage. These ships were painted white hence the name "The Great White Fleet". The first leg of the cruise took the fleet around South America to San Francisco and the first stop was Port of Spain, Trinidad.

This postcard was published by two crewmembers of the battleship USS Georgia, Brown and Schaffer. They were musicians and privately took pictures to record the journey. After the cruise ended they published some themselves and later sold some negatives to the postcard publisher H. H. Stratton, of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Stratton took liberties with some images; for example this image which was taken while in Trinidad waters was also published with the title "Bathing at Aden, an Arabian Port on the Red Sea".

Source; http://www.greatwhitefleet.info/Brown_Schaffer.html

Editor's note: For more articles on the Great White Fleet see Bulletins #189/2 and #190/2.



GREAT WHITE FLEET POSTCARD

GENERAL NEWS

The Maritime Financial Group, one of the largest companies involved in the insurance industry in T&T, has begun construction of its new Centre at Court Street, San Fernando. The name of the Centre - the Maritime Lady McLeod Financial Centre. Naming the new Centre after the vessel, Lady McLeod, reflected the important role the Maritime Financial Group believed that San Fernando has always played in the historical development of T&T.

THE COURLANDER PICTURE POSTCARD 1980

An unusual picture postcard of Tobago is illustrated in Fig. 1. On the front is shown a sailing ship and the words " Ancient Couronian Settlers from Lativa in Tobago 1639 - 1693 " . On the back are the words "The fourth visit of the Courlanders to Tobago 1980". The postcard appears to have been printed in Riga, capital of Lativa.

King Charles I of England made a birthday present of Tobago to his godson, James, Duke of Courland in 1641. Courland was a small principality in what is now Lativa. James sent settlers to Tobago in 1642 and they disembarked at the place now known as Courland Bay. This initial attempt at starting a colony was unsuccessful as the Carib inhabitants were hostile and finally drove away the settlers by 1650. Over the ensuing thirty to fifty years, more attempts were made to establish a colony but all eventually failed.

The descendants of the Courlanders have not forgotten their island in the sun. The postcard marks their fourth visit to Tobago in recent times. They have made more visits after 1980. On their visits they carry out their rituals and other cultural activities. Sometime in the 1980's the Courlanders had approached the Postal Service for a commemorative stamp issue. After consideration, the request was not approved.

The Courlanders were of German descent. Before the start of World War II, Nazi Germany found this connection most useful to make territorial claims. An official map listing the former German colonies noted T&T. Part of the map showing T&T was printed in Business Week April 8th, 1939 (see Fig. 3). World War II began five months later with the invasion of Poland.

Members please note that we do not have any of these postcards for sale.

- References: 1) The Story of Tobago by CR Ottley
2) Business Week, 8th April 1939

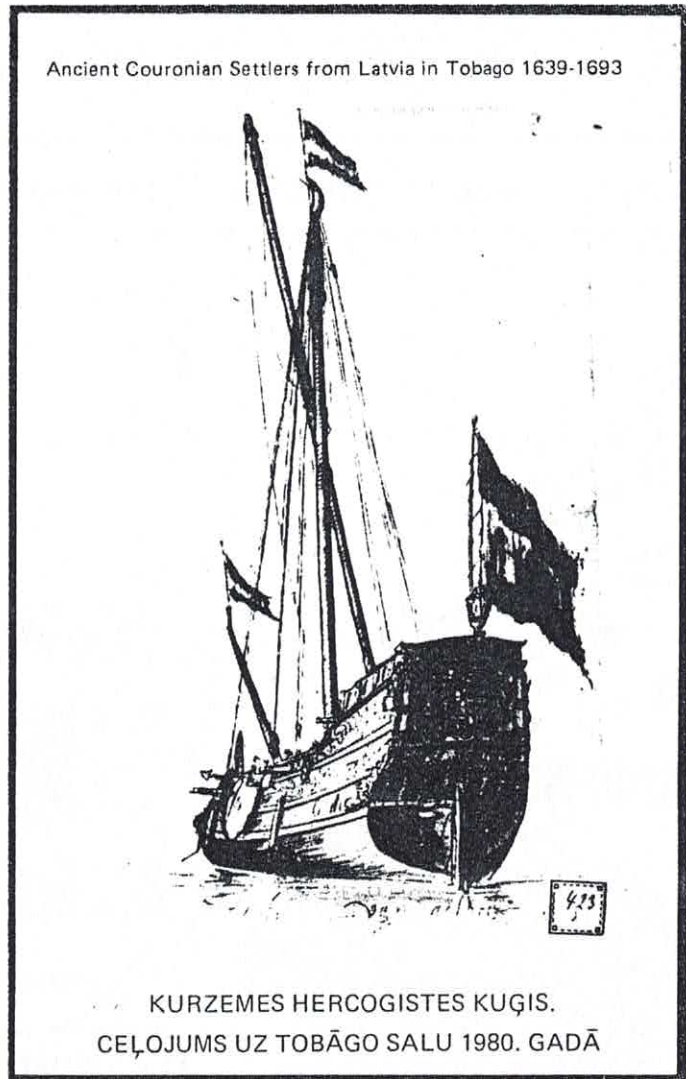


Fig.1: FRONT OF COURLANDER POSTCARD



Fig.2: BACK OF COURLANDER POSTCARD

