



Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago

(Founded May 1942)

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NEW ISSUE NEWS



Trinidad & Tobago Postal Corporation



Syrian/Lebanese 100th Anniversary of their presence in Trinidad and Tobago



FIG.1: SYRIAN / LEBANESE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR PRESENCE IN T&T FDC

The third issue released for this year was the Syrian / Lebanese 100th Anniversary of their presence in T&T on the 20th July. The issue consisted of four stamps: \$ 1.00 - Rahme Sabga - Pioneering Peddler; \$ 2.50 - Pioneering Peddler - Kashish; \$ 3.75 - Grand Bazaar; \$ 4.50 - Nicholas Tower. A Souvenir Sheet was produced with one \$ 15.00 stamp featuring the ' Dabke ' a Syrian / Lebanese group dance and traditional arab headwear.

The issue was printed by Cartor Security Printing, France. The graphics were done by Troy Rhodes. The FDC was sold at \$ 19.00 each and the S/S at \$ 15.00. A brochure was produced for this issue.

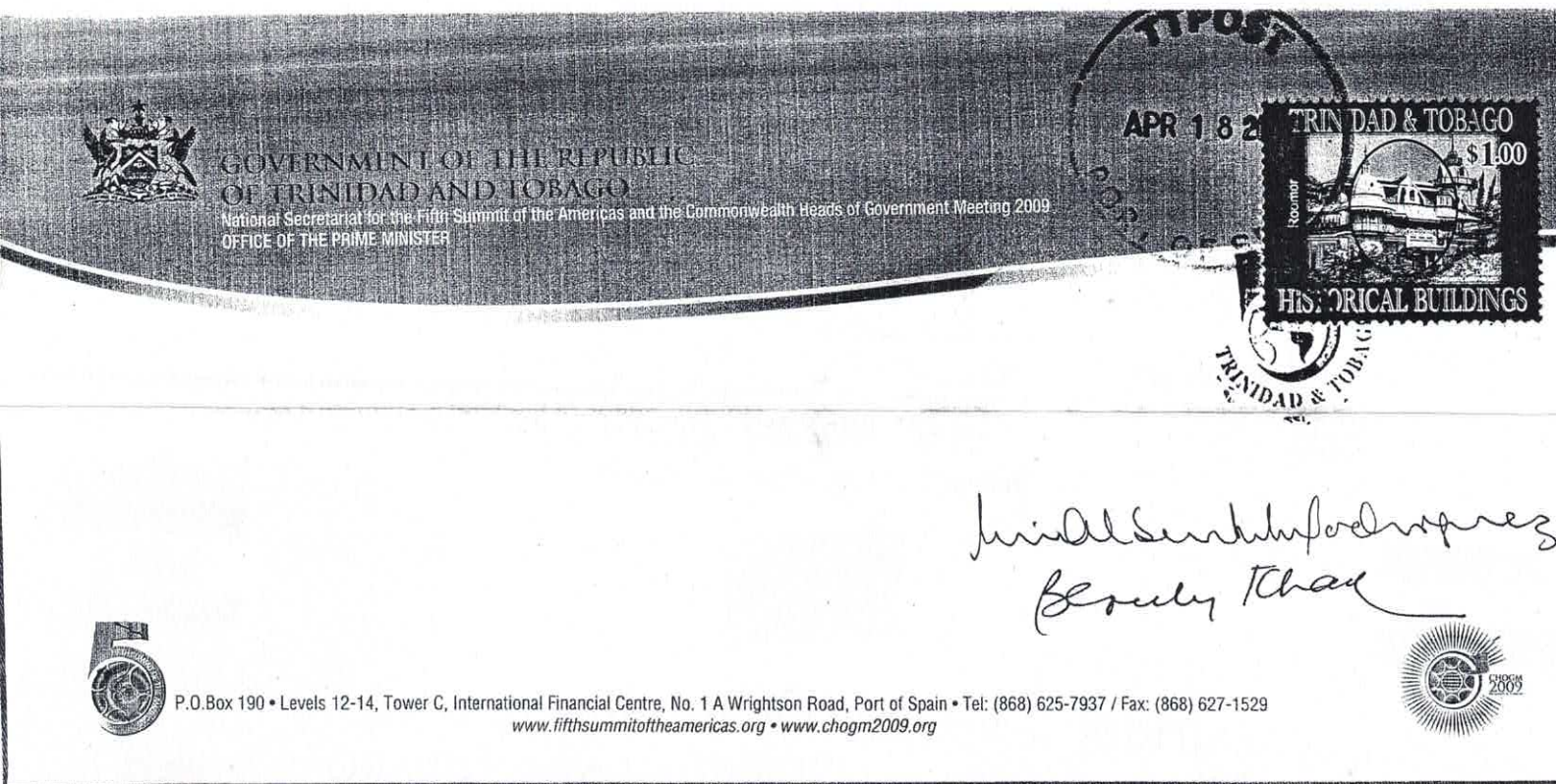


Fig.2: A PRIVATELY PRODUCED SUMMIT COVER WITH AUTOGRAPHS

A privately produced cover using the stationery of the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit of the Americas and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2009 is available. The cover bears the \$ 1 Historic Buildings stamp which was cancelled by the special Summit postmark and the POS datestamp - both of which were used at the TTPost booth at the Summit Village. The cover was datestamped 18th April. From the 15th to 19th April the area around the Summit Village was closed to the general public for security reasons.

The cover was autographed by T&T's Ambassador for the Summit and CHOGM, H.E. Luis Alberto Rodriguez and by the Deputy National Coordinator for the Summit and CHOGM, Beverly Khan. The cover is on sale at \$ 10.00 each at our monthly meeting or contact the Hon. Secretary, Robert Franco.

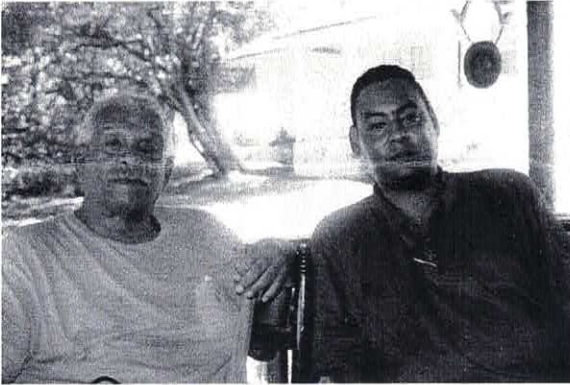
The final new issue for 2010 will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Cadet Force. The issue will consist of five stamps and one S/S. This issue is expected to be released in the last quarter of 2010.

Celebrating Derek Walcott@80 – A Philatelic Tribute

by Albert Sydney, CCM, GSM, CFM, Esq.

As part of its Caribbean Nobel Laureates celebrations, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus recently honoured Derek Walcott on his recent 80th birthday celebrations with the showcasing of Walcott's art and literature in an academic conference titled, "Interlocking Basins of a Globe" from 12-15 January, 2010.

The event commenced with an exhibition of the Walcott family's private collection of his paintings and a performance of "Fragments," a play celebrating Walcott's literary works, put on by The UWI Department of Creative and Festival Arts.



Hon. Derek Walcott with PSTT Vice President, Albert Sydney in St. Lucia (Photo Sigrid Nana)

The conference involved panel discussions exploring the intricacies of Walcott's literature. There was also a keynote address delivered by Professor Emeritus Edward Baugh, editor of Walcott's *Selected Poems in 2007*.

The Hon. Derek Alton Walcott was born on January 23, 1930. He is a Caribbean poet, playwright, writer and visual artist. He was born in Castries, Saint Lucia and he won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992. He also produced and wrote the play *Drums and Colours: An Epic Drama* in 1958 for the short-lived Federation of the West Indies.

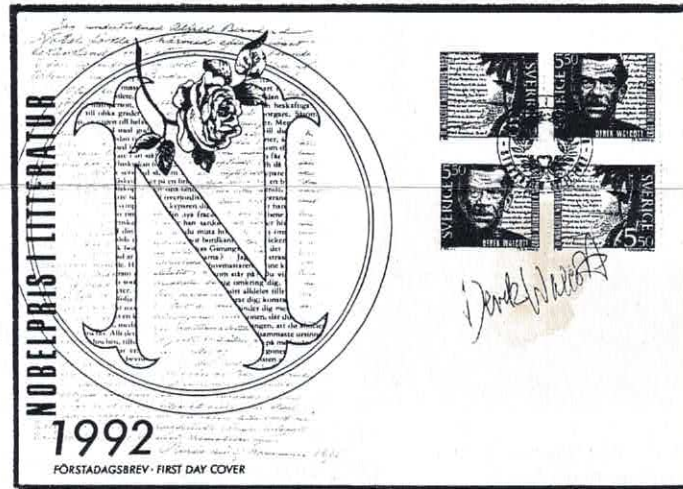
He has published 11 books of poetry, including *Selected Poems* (1964); *Collected Poems 1948-1984* (1986); *The Star Apple Kingdom* (1979); *The Arkansas Testament* (1987); *Omeros* (1990); *The Bounty* (1997); *Tiepolo's Hound* (2000) and *White Egrets* (2010). Walcott's *Collected Poems: 1948-1984* won the 1986 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Poetry. His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *London Magazine*, *Antaeus*, and other periodicals.

He has won the Guinness Award for Poetry, a Royal Society of Literature Award, the Cholmondeley Prize, the *New Statesman's* Jock Campbell Award, and the Welsh Arts Council International Writers Prize. In 1981, Walcott was a recipient of a five-year fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation. In 1988 he was awarded the Queen's Medal for Poetry. He is an Honorary Member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. He was awarded the Hummingbird Medal Gold from Trinidad & Tobago in 1969, Order of the British Empire in 1972, Hon. Doctorate of Literature, UWI in 1973, Hon. Doctorate of Letters, Boston University in 1993, Hon. Doctorate of Letters, Dartmouth College in 1993, Hon. Doctorate, University College of London in 1994, Key to the City of Taipei, Taiwan in 2002 and made a Commandeur de L'Ordre Des Arts et Des Lettres, Paris in 2005.

He founded the Trinidad Theatre Workshop in 1959, which has produced his plays (and others) since that time, and remains active with its Board of Directors. He also founded Boston Playwrights' Theatre at Boston University in 1981 with the hope of creating a home for new plays in Boston, Massachusetts. Walcott retired from teaching poetry and

drama in the Creative Writing Department at Boston University in 2007. In 2009 he commenced a three year distinguished scholar in residence position at University of Alberta. He also accepted the post of Professor of Poetry at the University of Essex. He continues to give readings and lectures throughout the world. He divides his time between his home in the Caribbean and New York City. A square is named in his honour in St. Lucia.

The Nobel Prize in Literature is one that attracts the most interest. The first prize in Literature was awarded in 1901. In 1992, to celebrate the award of the Nobel Prize in Literature to Derek Walcott, Sweden Post issued its first Nobel stamps with the Literature Laureate of the Year.



Sweden Post 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature FDC signed by Derek Walcott

In 1987, a proposal emanating from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognised the need to acknowledge Caribbean nationals whose legacy in the economic, political, social and cultural metamorphoses of Caribbean society is phenomenal. This vision for honouring legendary figures of the Region was unopposed and shared by all CARICOM Member States and thus it was at the Eighth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the CARICOM Community in 1987 that the proposal was unanimously adopted by all parties.

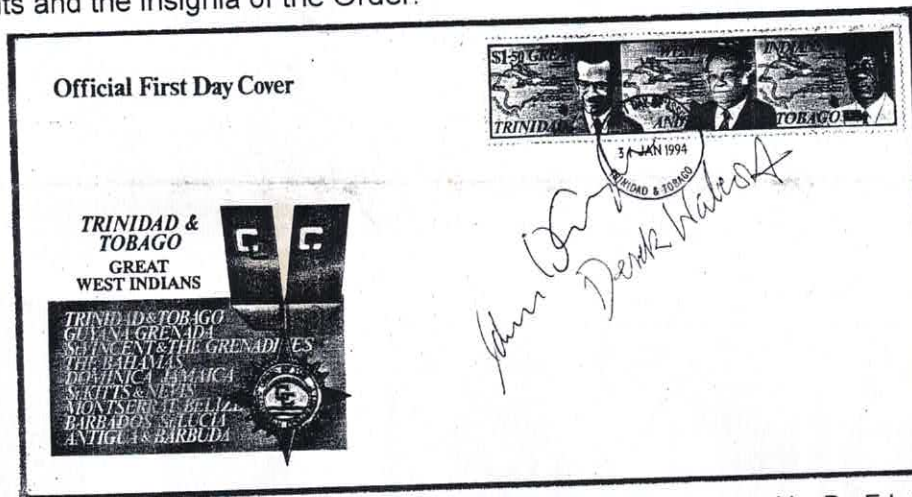
An Inter Governmental Agreement establishing the Order of the Caribbean Community entered into force on 28 May 1991.

The Insignia of the OCC was designed by Standhope Williams of Guyana, and captures the splendour and beauty of the Caribbean Region. The Insignia, as a representation of the sun, aptly symbolises the tropical environment of which the Caribbean boasts, but more significantly the distinctive character and record of achievements of awardees. The rays of the sun are presented as four prominent points which depict the four cardinal points. The logo of the Caribbean Community is inset as the centrepiece of the Insignia. The interlocking "C" of the logo and the outer circle of the sun combine to form OCC. The broken chain effect of the logo is the expression of "the freedom of the geographical chain of fourteen countries linked together by their common history, culture and aspirations and their integration movement". The Rainbow in the Insignia symbolises "the multiplicity of races of people present in the Caribbean Region: and "the natural beauty and colourful nature of the Region, as exemplified through tourism and the celebrations of Carnival and

other festivals in the various Member States". A second distinctive feature, the two wavy bands, characterises the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, which wash the shores of Caribbean territories.

In 1992 the first Awardees of the Order of the Caribbean Community were proclaimed. These were Hon. Derek Walcott, Professor of Literature at Boston University, Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Commonwealth Secretary-General and Hon. William Demas, former CARICOM Secretary-General and Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago.

In 1994, the postal service of Trinidad & Tobago honoured these Great West Indians with a set of four stamps, Souvenir sheet and Official First Day Cover with portraits of the recipients and the insignia of the Order.



1994 Trinidad & Tobago Great West Indians Official First Day Cover signed by Dr. Edwin Carington, CARICOM Secretary-General and Derek Walcott

Several postal administrations throughout the Caribbean also released commemorative postage stamps celebrating the achievements of these distinguished individuals in addition to recognising the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Caribbean Community CARICOM.



1994 St. Kitts and Antigua & Barbuda Great West Indians of the Order of the Caribbean Community



From top, 1994 Bahamas Order of the Caribbean Community Souvenir Sheet, Barbados and Grenada Great West Indians of the Order of the Caribbean Community, Grenada Grenadines Nobel Prize Winners, St. Lucia 1992 stamp featuring painting by Walcott and 2002 commemorative issue celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Derek Walcott. The First Day Cover also includes the opening line from the poem "Love after Love."

(Continued in Bulletin #251)