



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



Trinidad & Tobago Postal Corporation

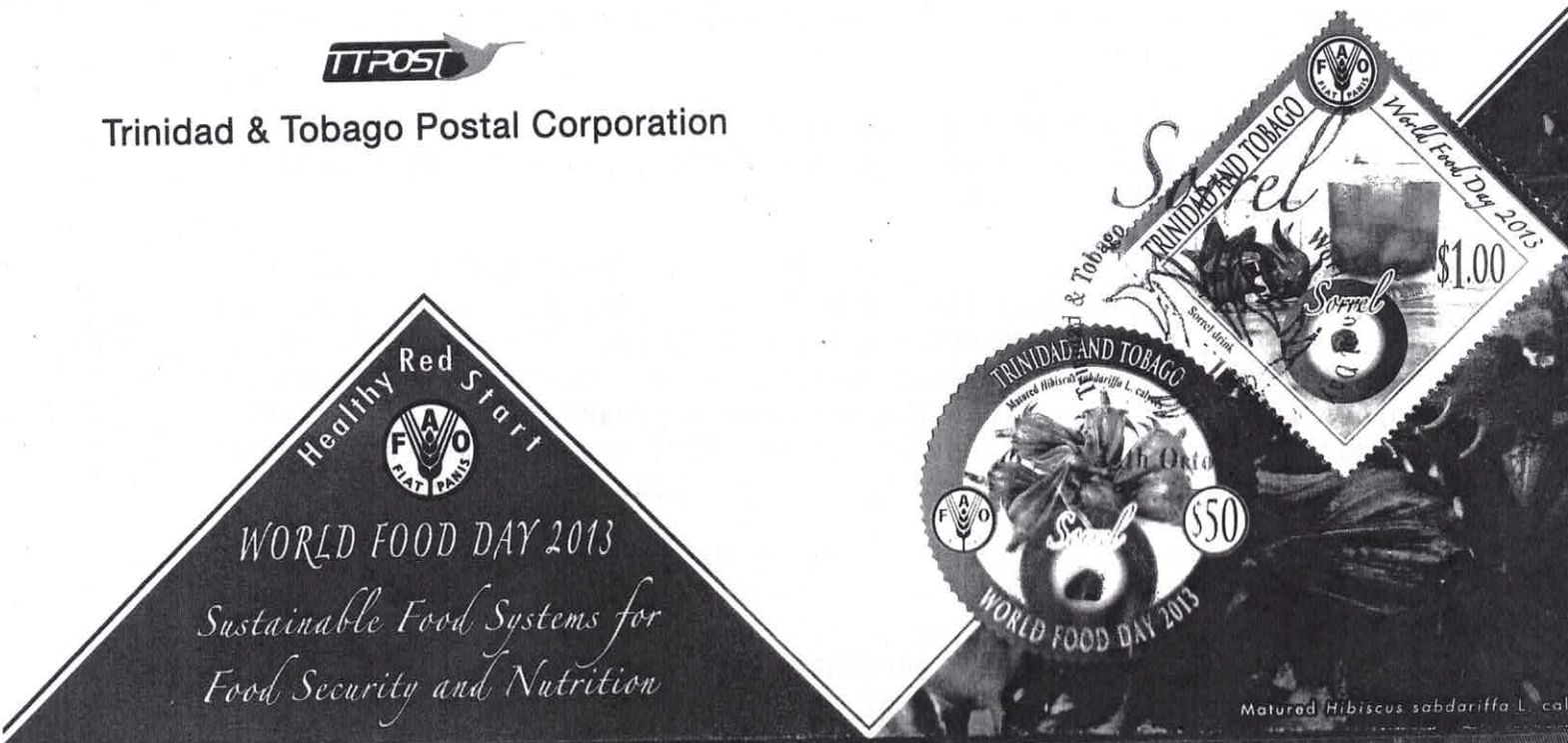


FIG.1: WORLD FOOD DAY 2013 (SORREL) FDC

The second issue for 2013 was WORLD FOOD DAY 2013. The FDC has a pictorial cancellation with the date of 14th October 2013 (World Food Day). The issue was available to the public after it was launched on the 4th December. The issue featured sorrel, (*Hibiscus sabdariffa L.*), commonly used in T&T to make beverages, syrups and various preservatives. This issue was a collaboration of the Ministry of Food Production and TTPost.

The issue consisted of seven stamps - \$1 X 2, \$2.50, \$3.75, \$4.50, \$5.25 and \$50. The \$1 stamp (seedless) was printed in a sheetlet of 10 stamps- this was a regular stamp with water activated gum. This \$1 stamp had a printed seed. The \$50 stamp was circular and was printed in a sheetlet of 5 stamps on self-adhesive paper. The \$50 stamp had a seed attached. The FDC had only these two stamps - \$1 (seedless) and \$50. The FDC's were sold at \$60 each. The Souvenir Sheet contained five self-adhesive stamps each with a seed attached - \$1.00, \$2.50, \$3.75, \$4.50 and \$5.25. These five stamps were available only in the S/S. The S/S's were sold at \$30.00 each. All the self-adhesive stamps have die-cut perforations. A brochure was produced for this issue.

The issue was printed by Cartor Security Printing, France. The design consultant was Troy Rhodes. The sorrel seeds were affixed manually to each stamp with a circular (25mm diameter) piece of clear adhesive plastic.

This information on the quantities printed was supplied courtesy of TTPost. The \$1 (seedless) - 500,000 stamps, \$50 - 7,000; Souvenir Sheet 2,500 and FDC - 2,000.

The issue was launched at the Chancellor Hotel & Conference Centre, St. Ann's, on the 4th December. Addresses were made by Mr. Barton Clarke, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Representative and Ms. Nishe Ramharack, TTPost National Retail Manager. The feature address was given by Senator the Honourable Devant Maharaj, Minister of Food Production. The President of the PSTT was graciously presented by TTPost with a framed collection of the issue.

TTPost and the Ministry of Food Production must be congratulated for the innovations in this issue with the diamond shaped \$1 stamps, the circular \$50 stamp and the sorrel seed attachment. The sorrel seed is anticipated to be able to germinate for approximately one year. One sore point with this issue is, of course, the \$50 stamp which is expensive for collectors and which, at best, would be rarely used for postage. It would be interesting to use stamps from the S/S on regular mail to determine if the seeds can pass through the mail processing equipment locally without causing any problems. Before anyone uses these seed stamps on mail abroad, one should check the respective import regulations regarding seeds of each country the mail may transit and the destination country. The Ministry of Food Production has carried out tests on the seeds and determined that the seeds are free of diseases. Members can report their results to the Editor.



FIG.2: (Left to Right) Mr. Barton Clarke - FAO Representative, Hon. Devant Maharaj - Minister of Food Production and Ms. Niche Ramharack - TTPOST National Retail Manager.



FIG.3: (Left to Right) Ms. Kari Elliot-Padmores - TTPOST Marketing Officer Stamps & Philatelic, Ms. Niche Rambarack - TTPOST National Retail Manager and Ms. Tricia Scipio - TTPOST Philatelic Technical Officer.

Of concern to collectors is the long term care and preservation of this issue. How well will this issue stand the test of time ? As the seeds deteriorate, what effect will they have on the stamps ? Also the adhesive of the clear plastic affixing the seed to the stamp - what will happen as it ages ? We have noticed that on some stamps the plastic has become unstuck on one side. The T&T stamps in one's collection presently have stood the test of time. For example, the 1962 Independence issue is over fifty years old and the first stamps inscribed 'Trinidad and Tobago' was issued in 1913 therefore over one hundred years old.



FIG. 4: SHEETLET OF FIVE SORREL \$ 50 STAMPS (reduced image)

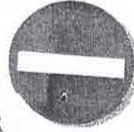
MEMBERSHIP DUES

All ordinary members are reminded that the 2014 dues were due by the 31st December 2013. The 2014 dues for local members are adults \$30.00 and juniors \$20.00. Please send early. Your dues can be paid either at the meetings or mail it to P.O. Box 596, Port-of-Spain. For our overseas members, the dues are UK 6.00 and all others US \$10.00. Please make cheques payable to the Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago. Ordinary members can pay two or more years at a time based on the annual given above. Life membership is TT \$500.00 for local members or US \$150.00 for overseas members. Due to bank charges in T&T, we ask our overseas members to send payment via a bank money order (bank manager's cheque) or a personal cheque drawn on a USA bank. Please do not make any payment using a Postal Order.

NEOPOST DIGITAL POSTAL METER STAMP

STIGE HOLDINGS LTD PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
A Restaurant Management Company

47-49 Sackville Street, Port Of Spain, P.O.Box 3012

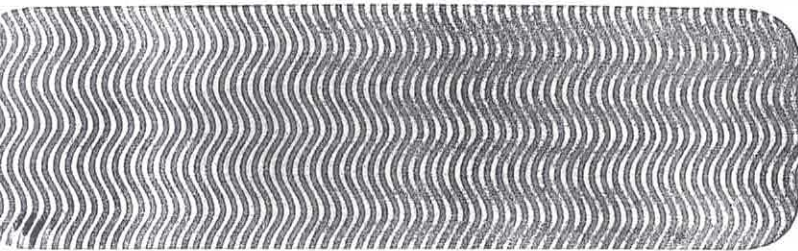


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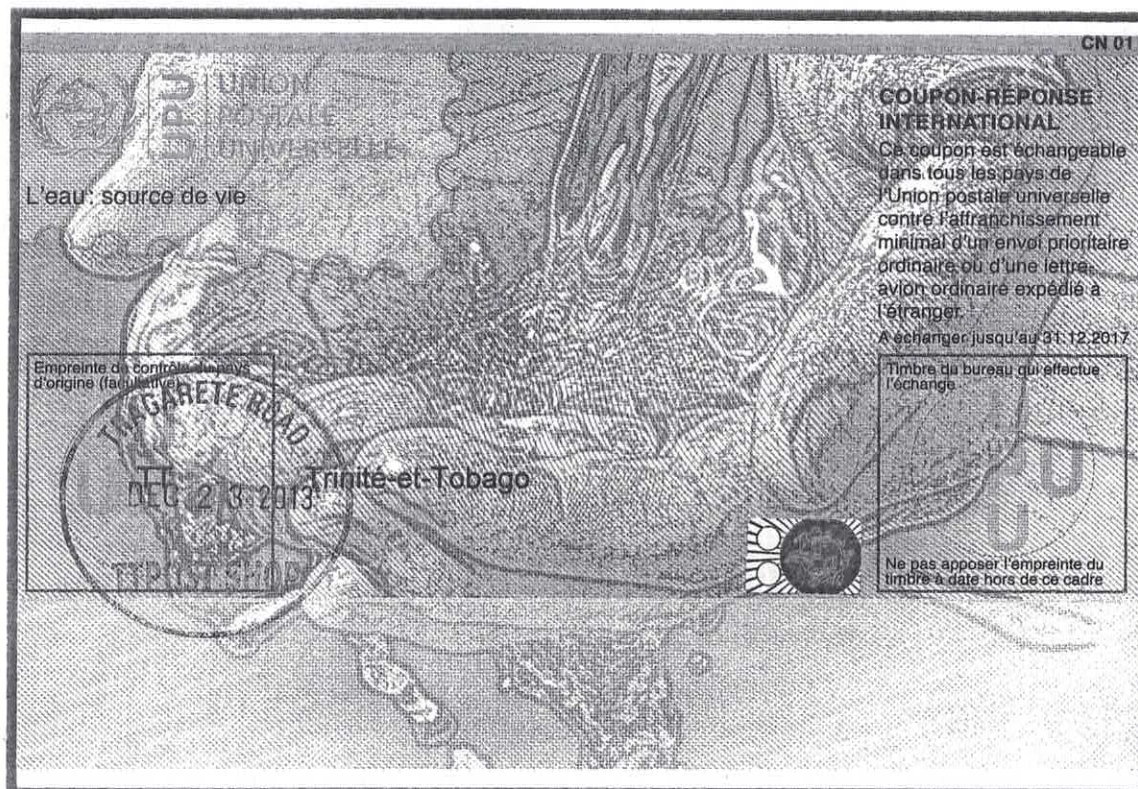


NEOPOST # 400016 DIGITAL METER STAMP

In the first quarter 2013, Digital Franking Machines (DFM) began service. The old style franking machines had to be brought to a Postal Outlet periodically to be read, reset and resealed. Payment for the postage used was paid at this time also.

The Digital Franking Machine requires a permit from TTPost just like the old style machine. The permit holder would pay a sum of money at a TTPost outlet. TTPost Finance Department will credit the amount to the permit holder's account. The DFM is connected to the telephone line and the sum of money is uploaded on the machine. This is entirely automated. There is no need to bring the machine to the Postal Outlet.

INTERNATIONAL REPLY CUPON 2013



The Czech Republic won the Universal Postal Union's Competition to design a new International Reply Cupon (IRC) beating 13 other countries. The work of Czech artist and graphic designer, Michal Sindelar, was based on the theme 'Water for Life'. The theme selected the UN2013 theme - International Year of Water Co-operation. The design portrayed a pair of hands catching water.

TTPost placed this new IRC on sale in the last quarter of 2013. The new IRC's are sold at \$7.50 each and are valid to the end of 2017. The previous IRC by the UPU was the Nairobi design which was valid from 1st July 2009 to 31st December 2013. TTPost never sold this design and therefore did not sell any IRC's for a few years.

Ref: UPU website www.upu.int/