



# Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago

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## NEW ISSUE NEWS



Fig.1: \$1.00  
OVERPRINT ON  
\$2.50 STAMP  
OF THE 1990  
BIRD DEFINITIVE  
(a) Left  
(b) Right



The first issue of 2014 was a new overprint of \$1.00 on the \$2.50 denomination of the 1990 Bird definitive. This overprint was different to the previous 2013 overprint as a black rectangle was used to cover the '\$2.50' on the stamp and the '\$1.00' was 1mm above it.

The overprint consisted of two passes through the printing press. The first pass printed the \$1.00 and what was intended to be a black rectangle. However, when the job was delivered, TTPost observed that the 'black' rectangle turned out gray in appearance and the '\$2.50' was easily seen. The printer was informed of the problem and took back the entire job. The printer printed another black rectangle on top of the previous (gray) rectangle, the '\$2.50' was no longer visible.

The overprint is illustrated in Fig.1. In Fig.1a the two rectangles are aligned over each other fairly well, while in Fig.1b the second rectangle has shifted upwards blocking out the 1mm space between the \$1.00 and first rectangle. Incidentally, both stamps came from the same pane. In most cases, the rectangles are not exactly aligned enabling one to see that there are two rectangles, one on top the other.

The first ('gray') rectangle measured 16mm x 8mm. The second rectangle was slightly larger and measured 16mm x 10mm. TTPost informed us that the first batch of these stamps was dispatched to the Piarco store on 7th July. However, this does not mean that sales of

the stamps to the public began on that date as they could have continued to sell the older stock of the \$1 overprint. TTPost informed us that one million of the \$2.50 stamps received this overprint. The overprinted stamps have been found with the Multiple Crown Script CA Diagonal watermark and the Multiple Crown BLOCK CA Diagonal watermark.

TTPost will launch an issue to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China on the 19th September.

THE RED CROSS PROVISIONAL STAMP OF 18th SEPTEMBER 1914

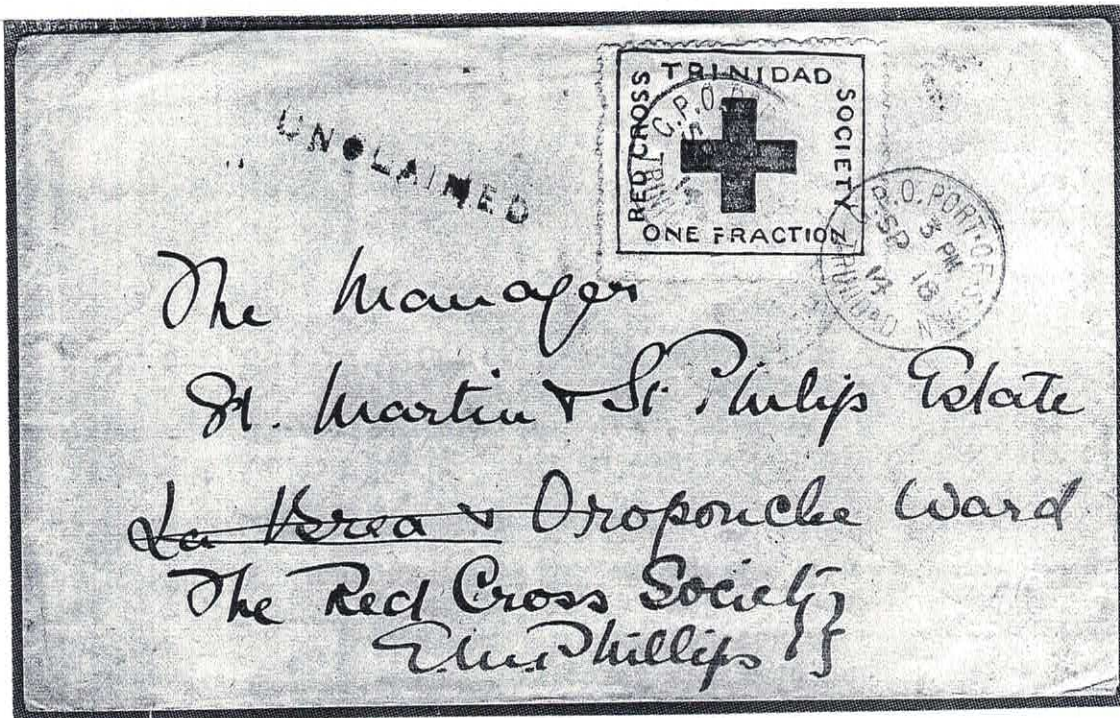


FIG.1: THE RED CROSS LABEL THAT BECAME A STAMP

A Committee of the British Red Cross Society was established in September 1914, the month after World War I began. The famous Red Cross Label that became a stamp was the subject of articles in previous Bulletins and also articles written by Dr. Reuben Ramkissoo and other authors over the years in various publications. Here is a brief look at the label.

The Red Cross created these labels for people to decorate their mail and show support for the organization. The labels were sold as part of their fund-raising operations. Also as part of the fund-raising operations, the Red Cross had planned to send out a circular via mail seeking donations.



Port-of-Spain,  
11th September, 1914.

Sir,

At a Public meeting held on September 4th, a Committee was formed to raise funds for the Red Cross Association in London. The money is to be collected by the women of Trinidad and Tobago and their aim is to reach every man, woman and child in the islands and give them an opportunity of doing their share, however small, for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors who have been fighting so gallantly for our protection and liberty. These will include not only the British but our French and Belgian Allies as well as our East Indian troops in whom the East Indians on the estate will have a very special interest.

The Committee will be glad if you will do your best to interest the employees on your estate to contribute a small sum—from a cent upwards—every month while the war lasts.

A list of the districts to which a member of the Committee has been appointed is given below, but in the event of there being no one in your district, the Committee will be obliged if you will help them by suggesting some responsible person, preferably a woman, who will undertake it. Lists have been printed for the purpose and can be had from the lady of the district or from Mrs. Burslem, Queen's Royal College, Port-of-Spain.

Yours faithfully,

M. E. BURSLEM (Mrs.)

J. I. BLACKWOOD WRIGHT (Mrs.)

} Joint Secretaries

Diego Martin	Mrs. E. M. Lazare,	Sangre Grande	Mrs. Lickfold and
Santa Cruz	Mrs. A. V. Stollmeyer,		Mrs. Andrew Maingot,
St. Joseph	Mrs. Smart and	Chaguanas	Mrs. Paul de Verteuil,
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Arima	Mrs. A. H. Grey,	Toco	Mrs. O'Halloran,

FIG. 3: THE RED CROSS LETTER

They asked the Governor to have it mailed free of postage. The Governor approved it as long as the Postmaster General had no objections. The PMG gave his approval. It was the intention of the PMG to send out notices to all post offices informing them of this arrangement, otherwise when the mail arrived at the receiving PO it would be taxed, i.e. postage would be assessed and charged in the form of postage due stamps being affixed.



Fig.3: POSTCARD MAILED 27.1.16

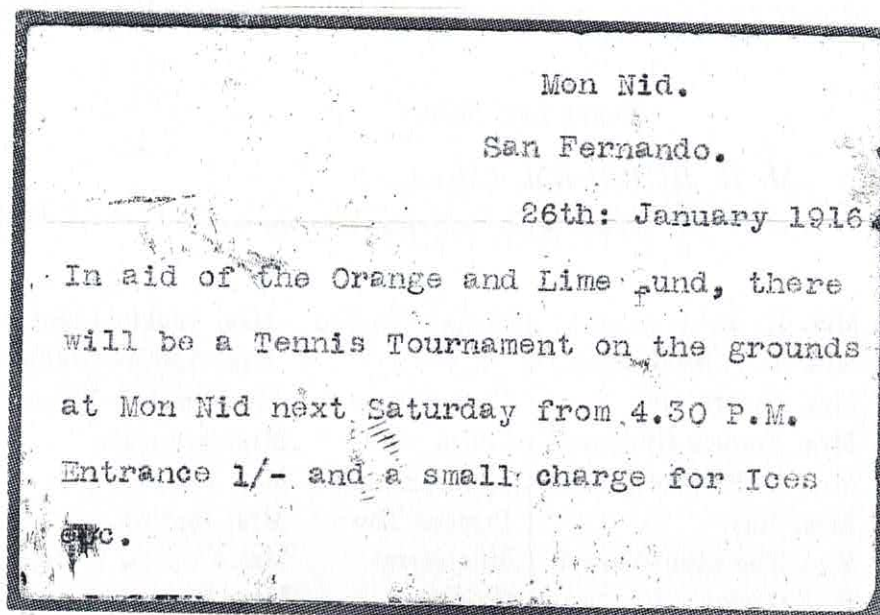


Fig.4: REVERSE OF POSTCARD

The PMG was surprised when the Red Cross delivered the letters (900) the next day. He had no time to send out the notice. He decided to apply the date-stamp on the Red Cross labels, which would indicate to the receiving PO's that the postage was paid. This action inadvertently created a stamp (SG # 157/Sc # B1). When philatelists heard of this, there was a stampede to buy the Red Cross labels which was good news for fund-raising, the rest is history.

This postcard (Fig.4) mailed to San Fernando used the Red Cross label as a decoration. Notice the San Fernando date-stamp was struck away from the label. On the letter was written 'O.H.M.S. (On His Majesty's Service) Service of wounded Soldiers' - this was official mail and postage free.



FIG.5: ORANGES, LIMES AND HOME MADE PRESERVATIVES CACHET RUBBER STAMP which was used on some pieces of mail from the Red Cross.

#### RED CROSS OVERPRINTED STAMPS - 1915 & 1916

The one penny stamp overprinted with the 'Red Cross 21.10.15' (SG # 174/Sc #B2) is shown in Fig.1 on FDC. The colourful patriotic envelope was produced by J.C. Wilson & Co., Montreal. This cacheted envelope was used in other countries and was not produced for T&T. There was no official FDC's at the time.

The one penny stamp overprinted with the Red Cross 19.10.16 (SG # 175/Sc # B3) is shown in Fig.2 on postcard FDOI. This is a patriotic postcard produced for the stamp issue. As it bears the Red Cross logo, it was most likely published by the Red Cross.

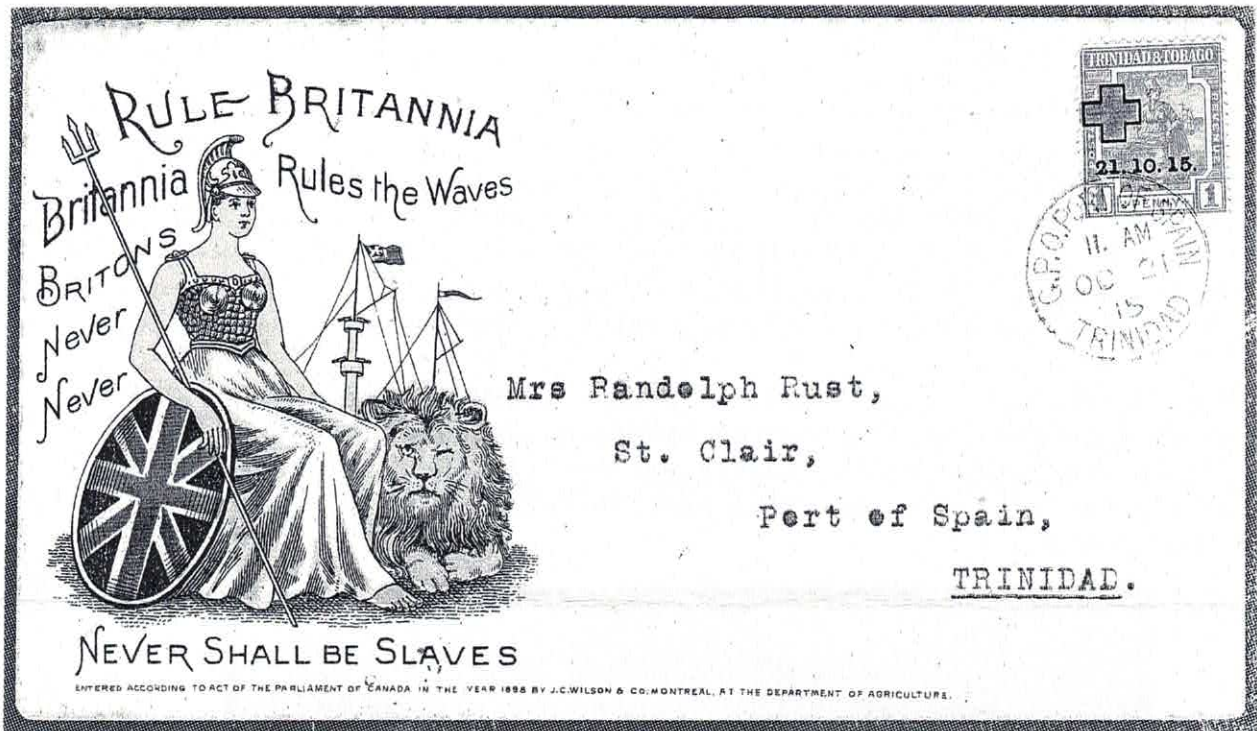


Fig.1: ONE PENNY STAMP OVERPRINTED RED CROSS 21.10.15 ON FDC



Fig.2: ONE PENNY STAMP OVERPRINTED RED CROSS 19.10.16 ON FIRST DAY