



# Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago

(Founded May 1942)

P.O. BOX 596, PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, W.I.

PRESIDENT & BULLETIN EDITOR: MR. JOHN CHAY, 42 ELIZABETH ST., ST. CLAIR, PORT OF SPAIN  
TEL: 622-1673

HON. SECRETARY: MR. ROBERT FRANCO, 33 VERBENA RD., VICTORIA GARDENS, DIEGO MARTIN  
TEL: 637-3603

PORT OF SPAIN MEETINGS: 6pm second Wednesday every month, St. Mary's College, Frederick St.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016

VOL.6 BULLETIN NO.275

## NEW ISSUE NEWS



### FOUR STAMPS OF 2000, 2001 & 2002 CHRISTMAS ISSUES OVERPRINTED \$1

The first issue of 2017 consisted of four overprinted stamps which were released on the 16th January 2017. All four stamps were overprinted in black ink '\$1.00' with a rectangle obliterating the original denomination. The stamps overprinted were 2000 Christmas \$5.25 (SG #891/Sc #608); 2001 Christmas \$5.25 (SG #922/Sc #637); 2002 Christmas \$2.50 (SG #943/Sc #656) and \$5.25 (SG #945/Sc #658).

The overprints were done by Trinidad & Tobago Printing Works Ltd. The following quantities were overprinted: 2000 Christmas - 100,000; 2001 Christmas - 150,000; 2002 Christmas \$2.50 - 75,000 and \$5.25 - 125,000. No FDC's were produced.

Below are the printing quantities of some recent overprints courtesy of TTPost:

\$1.00 overprint on 1¢	Cocoa Industry	-	400,000
\$1.00 overprint on 3¢	Sugar Industry	-	1,000,000
\$2.00 overprint on 25¢	Herbal Medicine	-	300,000
\$3.25 overprint on 95¢	Flower definitive	-	150,000

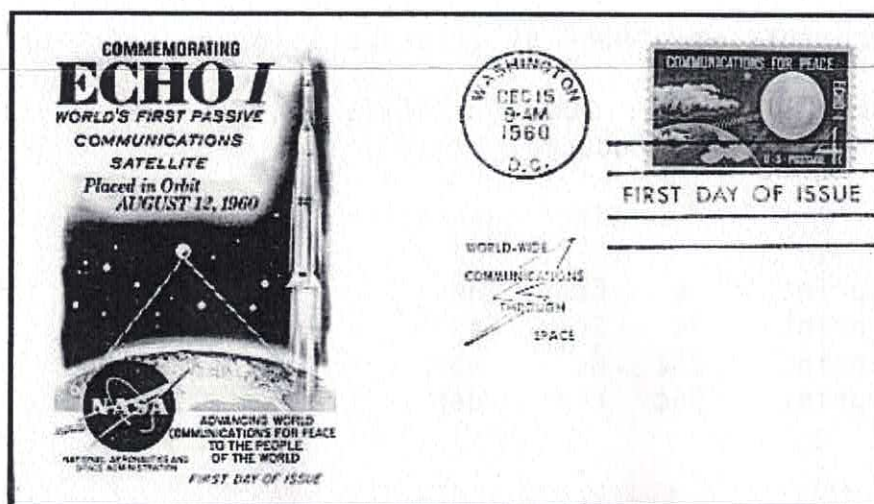
## ECHO PROJECT by Roger Edghill

People today may take for granted our high-tech world of the internet, cell phones, GPS and the satellites high above the planet that make instantaneous communication possible. But it all began approximately 56 years ago with the launch of Echo 1 space satellite.

The Echo 1 satellite was a 100ft diameter inflatable sphere (balloon) of aluminized Mylar plastic film 0.5 mil thick. It was outfitted with beacon transmitters and these transmitters were powered by nickel-cadmium batteries that were charged by solar cells mounted on the balloon. Its total weight was approximately 150lbs.

The satellite was designed as a passive communications reflector or 'radio mirror' for the transcontinental and intercontinental telephone (voice), radio, and television signals. The Echo 1 satellite was first launched on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1960, but was destroyed after a failure in the rocket designed to launch the giant ball into space.

Following the failure of the launch vehicle carrying Echo 1, Echo 1A (now commonly referred to as Echo 1) was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on August 12<sup>th</sup> 1960. It was the world's first communications satellite capable of relaying signals to other points on Earth, and it went into a near circular orbit 1000 miles above the earth and helped lay the foundation for today's satellite communication.



On December 15<sup>th</sup> 1960 the US Post Office issued a stamp (Sc# 1173) to commemorate the World's First Communication Satellite, Echo 1, which was placed in orbit by NASA. An error

was made in the artwork; the artist could be forgiven for placing clouds in orbit with the satellite as the space age was now beginning.

One of Echo 1's achievements on its first orbit, was the relay of President Eisenhower's tape-recorded voice from California to New Jersey. In the radio message, Eisenhower said, "*This is one more significant step in the United States' program of space research and exploration being carried forward for peaceful purposes. The satellite balloon, which has reflected these words, may be used freely by any nation for similar experiments in its own interest.*"

Among Echo 1's other notable 'firsts' have been: relay of the first transoceanic radar signal from the Chaguaramas Radar Site to Floyd, New York, first relay of a trans-Atlantic wireless-code radio transmission; first relay of wire-photo transmissions; and first relay of a trans-Atlantic voice message. Other transmissions have included relaying of teletype signals, facsimile photographs, two-way telephone conversations using standard commercial equipment, and experiments to learn more about the effects of the ionosphere on radio signals. Echo 1 re-entered the Earth's atmosphere on May 24, 1968.

#### Trinidad Radar Site

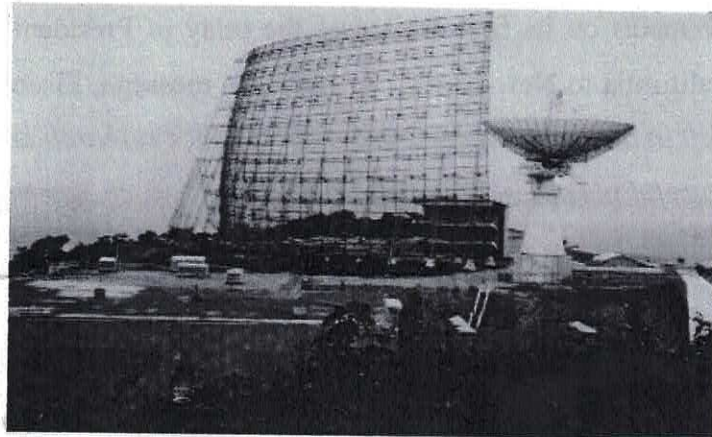
Post World War II, during what is referred to as the Cold War (1947-1991), tensions were high between the United States and the Soviet Union and resulted in the emergence of an arms race and a space race between the two superpowers.

With the development of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM's), the US needed to develop a Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) to guard against possible threat of Soviet aggression.

In order to develop this system, a prototype was required for testing, the Destroyers for Bases Agreement between the United States and Britain signed in late 1940 gave the US access to land in Chaguaramas. This location was selected by the US to construct the BMEWS prototype.

By 1958, a prototype of the BMEWS at the Trinidad site provided surveillance and tracking of ballistic missiles, as an overall step in the BMEWS development. The Trinidad Radar Site

commenced operation on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1959, gathering data on missiles fired on the Atlantic Missile Range, satellites and meteors.



CHAGUARAMAS SITE

The Trinidad radar supported the Atlantic Missile Range (AMR) testing and, in the 1960's, provided an operational warning capability for detecting submarine launched missiles in the Caribbean. The data that Trinidad provided to the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) was very valuable and made Trinidad worth more to the Air Force than just another sensor on the AMR.

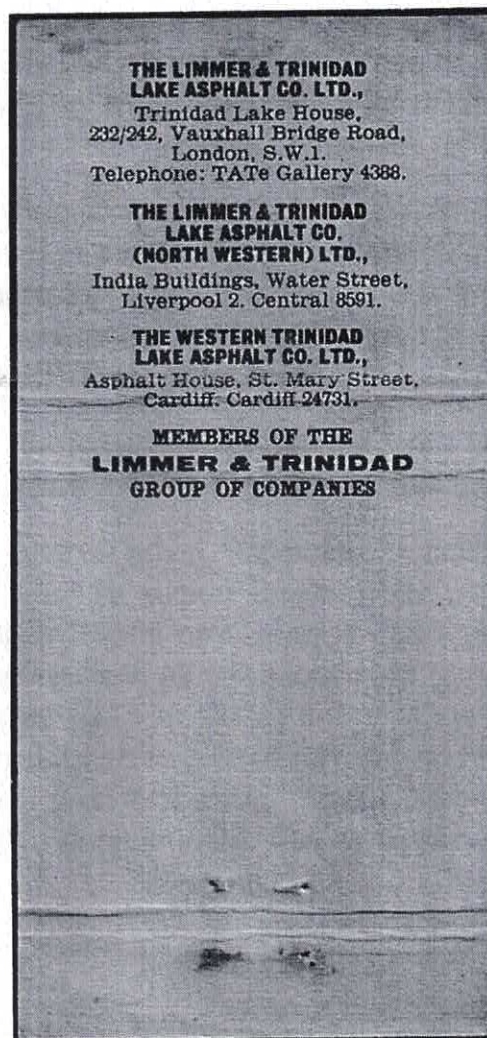
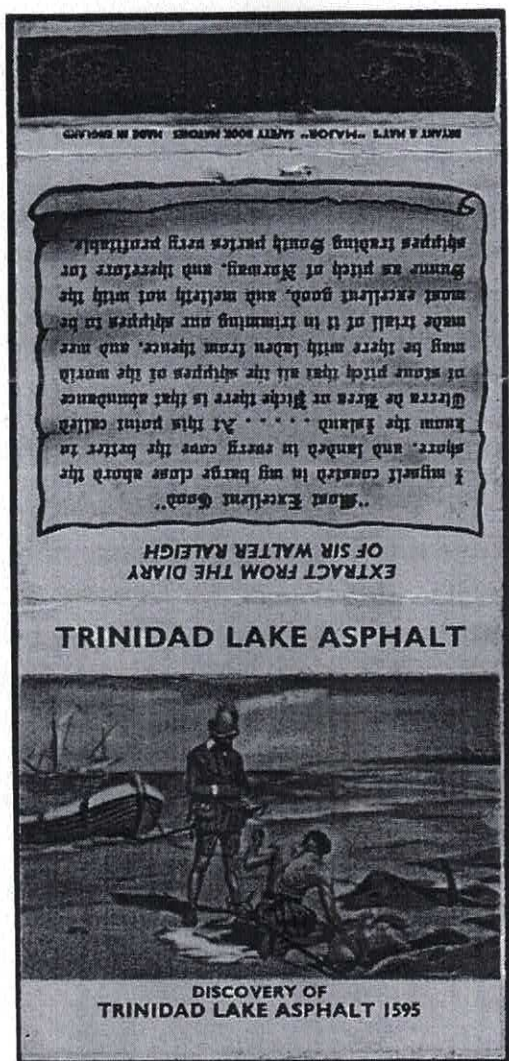
In August 1960, utilizing a 30-foot antenna, the US Air Force site at Floyd, New York received a message from the Chaguaramas site which had been bounced off the NASA aluminized balloon satellite, Echo 1. This marked the first international human voice reception from space for military purposes.

In February 1962 the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) assumed responsibility for the operation of the Trinidad Radar. At the time, Trinidad was a little known system, being modified from a BMEWS prototype to a one of a kind tracker.

The site continued to be of importance and was a key site in the development of the Polaris A3 Pen Aids program which was a time critical move against Russian hard targets. In fact, it is recorded that at this point in time, the only radar capable of supporting the requirements for this program was the Trinidad Site.

The Trinidad Radar Site was eventually closed down in 1971.

TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT MATCH BOOK



Above is illustrated the outside (left) and inside (right) covers from a book of safety matches. The book was produced by the Limmer and Trinidad Group of companies. The scene of Sir Walter Raleigh discovering the Pitch Lake 1595 was used on three 6¢ stamps of the 1935, 1938 and 1953 definitives (see Bulletin # 169/5). The scene was taken from a diorama commissioned by the Limmer and Trinidad Group.

The book had an extract from the Diary of Sir Walter Raleigh:

“I myself coasted in my barge close aboard the shore, and landed in every cove the better to know the island... At this point called Tierra de Brea or Pitche there is that abundance of stone pitch that all the shippes of the world may be there with laden from thence, and mee made trial of it in trimming our shippes to be most excellent good and melteth not with the Summe as pitch of Norway, and therefore for shippes trading South partes very profitable”.

## PSTT VICE PRESIDENT VIEWS ROYAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION IN UK

In June of 2016, our Vice President, Capt. Albert Sydney was invited to witness the historic Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Parade and Trooping of the Colour for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as a personal guest of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at Horse Guards in London.

Several days after the Parade, arrangements were made by Buckingham Palace for him to pay a courtesy call on the Duke of Edinburgh's Household at the Palace and to have a private visit to view the Royal Philatelic Collection of Her Majesty and meet with the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, Mr. Michael Sefi, LVO. He was accompanied by the Deputy Private Secretary to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

It is the most comprehensive collection of items related to the philately of the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth, with many unique pieces.

In addition to personally going through various leather-bound Green albums of the collection with several rarities of the Commonwealth, Mauritius, both Trinidad and Tobago, Capt. Sydney also inspected the Lady McLeod on cover and on piece in addition to the various proofs of stationery of the 1891 Visit of the Duke of York (later King George V, the philatelist King) as well as design proofs from the printers De La Rue in London. He also inspected the many Philatelic Medals and awards that were presented to Queen Elizabeth II over the many years that material from the collection were exhibited as part of international philatelic exhibitions worldwide.



The Royal Philatelic Collection was originally at Buckingham Palace but is now housed at St. James's Palace in London, immediately in view of the Proclamation Balcony for a new Sovereign.