Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago
(Founded May 1942)
P.O. Box 596, Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I.
Bulletin
Meetings: Second Wednesday of every month, 6:00 - 7:30pm
St. Mary's College, Frederick St., Port of Spain
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The Columbus Definitive stamp design of 1976: A Time Line of the Issue

by Capt. AWB Sydney





On 22 April 1974 the Secretary of the Stamp Advisory Committee wrote to the President of the Historical Society of Trinidad & Tobago informing them that the Government Appointed Stamp Advisory Committee would like to know whether the Society possessed any suitable pictures which could be used as designs on commemorative postage stamps, and if the reply was in the affirmative the Committee would be extremely grateful if it could be supplied with some of these pictures for developing a library of subject matters for commemorative stamps.

On 29 May, 1974 the Hon. Secretary wrote to the committee enclosing a Christmas card which depicted Columbus' visit to Trinidad in August 1498 which was reproduced from an original oil painting by one of its members, Mr. Adrian Camps-Campins. He indicated that this theme has never before been portrayed by any artist, anywhere, and it was unanimously agreed at the last meeting of the society that it would be a most appropriate subject for reproduction on a commemorative postage stamp.

On 18 November 1974, the Ag. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Utilities wrote to Mr. RD Archibald, President of the T&T Historical Society that he was directed to inform him that Mr. Camps-Campins reproduction of Columbus' visit to Trinidad in 1498 has been selected by the Stamp Advisory Committee for a definitive stamp to be issued in 1975.

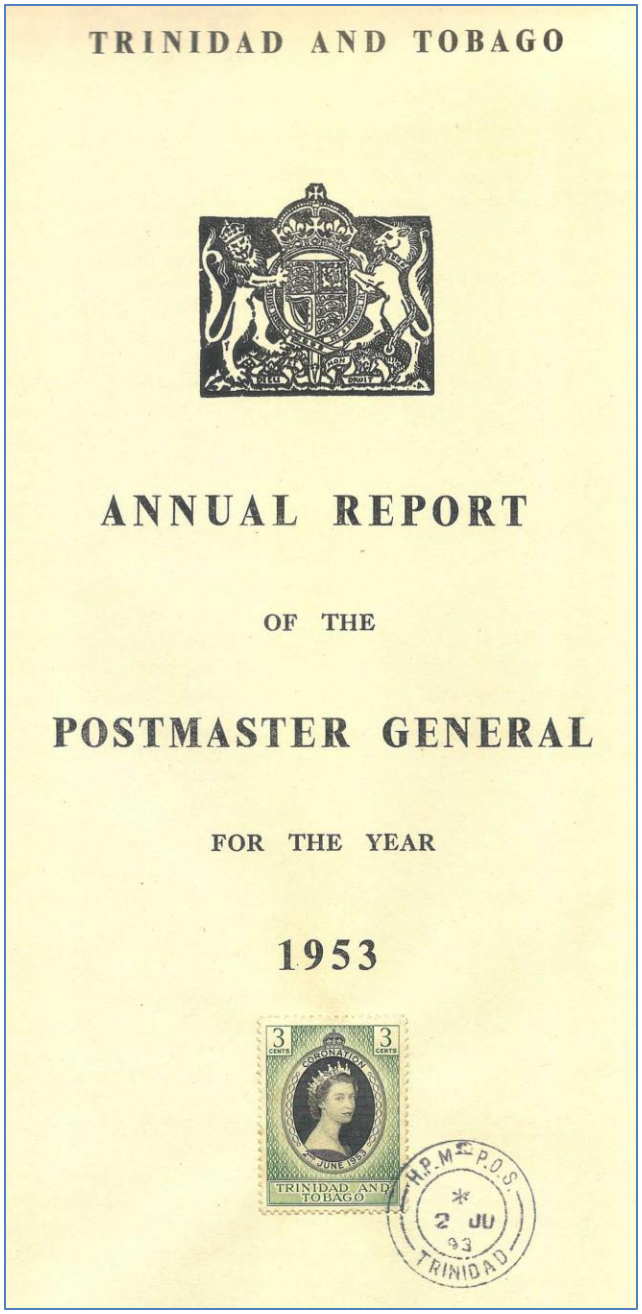
On 18 December 1974, the Ag. Permanent Secretary sent a Memorandum to the Government Archivist with the Subject titled Authenticity of painting advising that the Stamp Advisory Committee proposes to use the attached painting of Columbus' ships on a 1975 stamp and asked him to advise on its authenticity, because the committee considers that it could be embarrassing if the painting is not a true reproduction of Columbus' ships.

Mr. Enos Sewlal, Government Archivist sent a Memo to the Permanent Secretary indicating that certain corrections to the painting were necessary and that he thought it wise to call in the artist, Mr. Camps-Campins for a discussion. The latter was most cooperative and amended his original painting and prepared a colour print which he certified as acceptable.

He also made suggestions as to the legend or caption to be used on the stamp and the positioning of other inscriptions and indicated that it was good to see stamps depicting historical themes being issued.

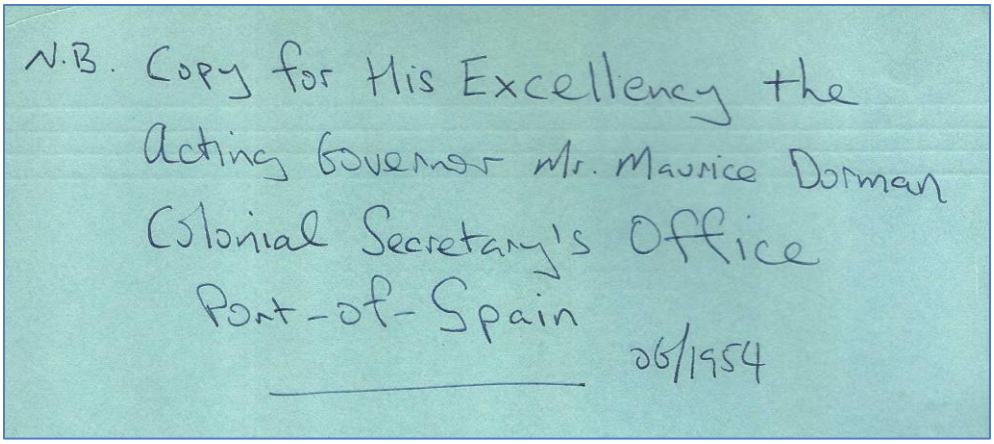
The original designs were amended to reflect the change in direction of the sails of the outward caravel on the right side of the painting and the addition of crosses on the sails as featured on the national Coat-of-Arms as well as the change to flags on the main and other ships to include the Standard of the Catholic Monarchs of the Crown of Castille and the Captain's Ensign of Columbus' Ships.

The original designs of the entire definitive series (including the additional four Cazabon designs), featured a David Gentleman cameo portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on the top right corner but this was removed after the country became a republic in August of 1976. The original title of the painting was "Christopher Columbus and his Fleet in the Bocas Del Dragon August 1498" and was changed to the existing "Columbus Sailing through the Bocas." Images of the First Boca were previously featured on the 1c stamps of the 1935, 1938, and 1953 Definitive issues.



An Interesting Twist in the Tale of the H.P.M. – P.O.S. CDS

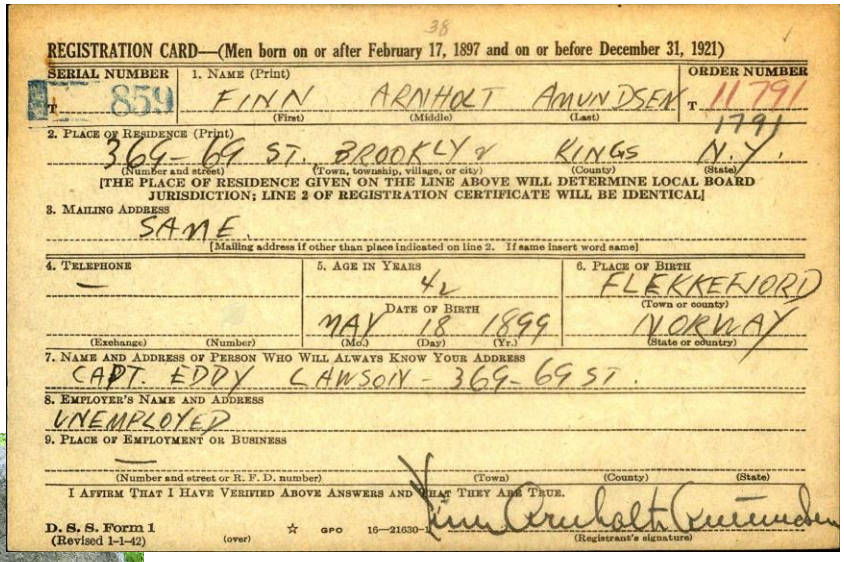
This interesting item was sent in by a society member (left). Here the H.P.M. – P.O.S. cancel was used by a forger to manufacture an appealing fake. Its date is set to give the impression that the QEII Coronation stamp was applied by the Post Master General and cancelled on its first day of issue (2nd June 1953). There is the added appeal that this Annual Report was seemingly the Governor's official copy. It is not clear whether this is so, (how the forger would get their hands on such an official reference document would be another troubling question!) Since we know the cancel was made in 1968, this is clearly a fake. The cancel may not have even had the 5 included in the decade dial since it was unnecessary in 1968. The forger tried to hide this by obscuring the number so it could be mistaken for a 5. The appearance of this CDS on a blatant fake suggests that the cancel has ended up in the hands of a forger – again how this happened is anyone's guess.



Update on the Story of the MT Leiv Eiriksson from Bulletin 290

Our resident Norwegian expert, Kolbjorn Schjolberg, added some interesting context to the story of the MT Leiv Eriksson. He thought it likely that Finn Amundsen who was Alf's elder brother was stationed in New York at the time; such family emigration was not uncommon at the time. The brothers were from Flekkefjord - which together with Sandefjord are the 'whaling cities' of Norway. People there were seafarers and it is more than likely one of the brothers was working for such a marine supply company while his brother was a captain.

Following up on this lead I managed to find this US registration card which shows that Finn was resident in the US. I also found a picture of this Norwegian headstone, erected in memorial of his brother Alf Amundsen. I am not certain if his remains were returned from Barbados to Norway after the war.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

SERIAL NUMBER T 859 | 1. NAME (Print) FINN ARNHOLT AMUNDSEN | ORDER NUMBER T 11791

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 369-69 ST. BROOKLYN KINGS N.Y.
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME
[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]

4. TELEPHONE — (Exchange) (Number)

5. AGE IN YEARS 42 DATE OF BIRTH MAY 18 1899 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)

6. PLACE OF BIRTH FLEKKEFJORD (Town or county) NORWAY (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS CAPT. EDDY CAWSON - 369-69 ST.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS UNEMPLOYED

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS —
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.
(Registrant's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) (over) ☆ GPO 16—21630-1



International Audubon Fund and Trinidad & Tobago Bird Stamps of 1990.

The use of 4 values of this popular definitive series on commemorative IAF first day covers was noted in a previous bulletin. Now accompanying pages have also been found. So far the only ones seen have French text, but it is thought that English versions must also exist.



Photo Researchers, Inc./Helen Williams

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Date d'émission : 17 décembre 1990

Sorte de balise flamboyante dans une mer verte, le toucan à bec fuselé se repose sur une branche, peut-être entre deux périodes consacrées à la recherche de nourriture. Cet oiseau, fort courant en Amérique du Sud, fréquente également les Antilles, et notamment Trinidad et Tobago, au large des côtes du Venezuela.
Son dos noir est identique à celui d'autres membres de la même famille qui en compte dix au total. Bien que ce ne soient pas spécialement des oiseaux sociaux, ils semblent aimer jouer à divers jeux entre eux.

IAF
International Audubon Fund

- *Tangara gyrola*



des arbustes de pays comme la
nt leur existence au petit tangara
du genre Tangara, ces oiseaux
nt. Mais ils n'en digèrent pas
donc ici et là. A l'époque de la
ne tandis que celle-ci couve ses
se et très profond. Une fois nés,
eux parents. Plus grands, ils
-mêmes leur nourriture dans les
son de la proximité de Trinidad
a République n'a pas l'exclusivité de ces petits oiseaux
ales de l'Amérique Latine.

ogularis



u qui s'adapte aisément aux
igine humaine. A Trinidad et
ximité des habitations. Bien que
la femelle jouent des rôles fort
ds et couve les œufs de la ponte
iennes, le mâle se chargera de
. Mais pas le loriot mâle qui se
elle, en la laissant se charger
rriture. L'alimentation du loriot
jaune des tropiques comprend de nombreuses variétés d'insectes, des graines et des fruits, selon la saison et la disponibilité de ces aliments.

TOUCAN A BEC FUSELÉ - *Rhampastos vitellinus*



Ces toucans naissent au sein d'un arbre creux, aveugles et sans plumes. Il leur faudra attendre trois semaines avant de pouvoir ouvrir les yeux sur les merveilles du monde tropical qui les entourent. Même alors, ils sont encore déplumés et sans force. Peu à peu cependant, apparaît l'extraordinaire plumage qui fait du toucan l'un des plus beaux oiseaux de la création. Les petits commencent à ressembler beaucoup à leurs parents, à ceci près que leur bec est plus court et moins coloré. Les toucans sont très joueurs, véritables clowns de la forêt vierge. On les a vu s'amuser à se lancer un morceau de fruit, comme une balle. Ils utilisent également leur gigantesque bec comme une parodie de rapière, et simulent des duels dans le feuillage des arbres tropicaux. S'ils ne sont pas grégaires, ils ne s'en regroupent pas moins par petites bandes ou, au moins, par couple. Leur alimentation est très variée, depuis les œufs d'autres oiseaux à toutes sortes de fruits.

OISEAU-MOUCHE A CROUPION CUIVRÉ - *Amazilia tobaci*



On a identifié 300 espèces d'oiseaux-mouches à travers le monde, dont celui à croupion cuivré, qui vit dans les îles de Trinidad et Tobago. Comme tous les oiseaux-mouches, celui-ci est connu pour son agilité en vol et sa taille minuscule, ainsi que pour son long bec qui lui permet de fouiller les fleurs pour en boire le nectar ou capturer des insectes qui s'y croyaient bien cachés. Il est capable de voler en avant comme en arrière, ce qui l'aide à "boire" les fleurs. C'est là une caractéristique qui ne se retrouve chez aucun autre oiseau. En vol, cette petite boule de cuivre emplumée bat des ailes si vite que l'œil ne peut s'en rendre compte. Dans des sites tropicaux comme Trinidad et Tobago, l'oiseau-mouche à croupion cuivré n'est qu'un oiseau-mouche parmi d'autres et il faut l'identifier avant qu'il s'envole pour se perdre dans le feuillage dense de la forêt.

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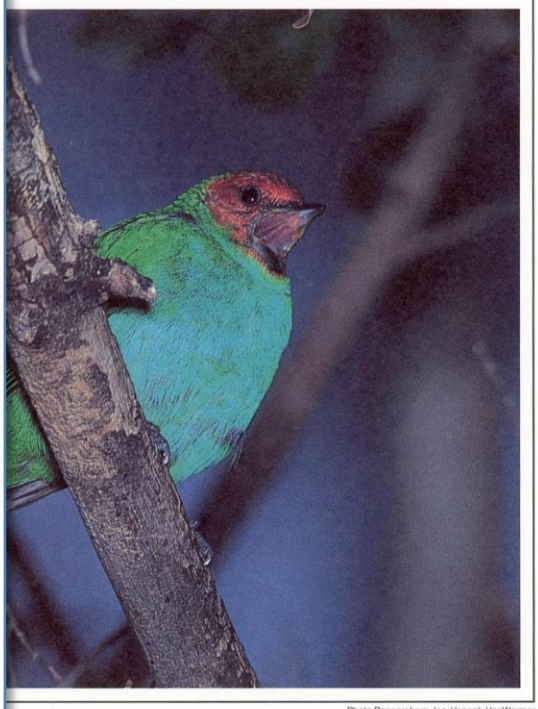


Photo Researchers, Inc./Joseph VanWormer

Dans une envolée de couleurs spectaculaires, les tangaras à tête rousse volent d'arbre fruitier en arbre fruitier, pour se nourrir. Les forêts de Trinidad et Tobago regorgent toute l'année de ces petits oiseaux. Même en dehors de la saison des amours, le tangara à tête rousse présente un merveilleux plumage qui allie l'aigue marine, le vert et le cramoisi. Oiseau qui migre peu, il ne se déplace guère que de haut en bas de montagnes, telles que le Mont Aripo, point culminant du pays, avec mille mètres d'altitude environ. Les forêts et les hauteurs humides de ces îles des Antilles offrent un habitat idéal à cet oiseau assez discret.

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