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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NEW ISSUE NEWS



Figure 1: INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON - ISTANBUL MODEL

The seventh issue of 2017 consisted of a new design International Reply Coupon (IRC) released on the 18th December. The theme of the new IRC illustration was 'The Post and Sustainable Development'. It was designed by Nguyen Du of Viet Nam. The artwork featured a dove and a pair of hands against an Arctic backdrop. This IRC is known as the 'Istanbul' model as it was approved at the 2016 Universal Postal Union Congress in Istanbul. The IRC has an illustration of the T&T flag in colour, which is the first time this has been done. The IRC was sold at $7.50 each.

As with previous IRC's, this IRC is redeemable in any UPU member country. A foreign IRC redeemed at TTPost would receive a $5.25 stamp which will pay the postage for a 20g airmail letter to any country. This IRC is valid until 31st December 2021. The previous IRC, no longer valid, was reported in Bulletin #263/6. For more information on IRC's check the Universal Postal Union website: www.upu.int.



Figure 2: PREPAID WINDOW ENVELOPE (SMALL)

A new design indicium was noted on the prepaid envelopes. The map of Trinidad and Tobago in this design was drawn with many thin vertical lines closely spaced. On the back was printed: 'TO BE USED ONCE WITHIN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ONLY'. There is a perforation across the back flap for ease of opening. On the inside of the envelopes is the usual pattern of TTPost logos. The new designs of the indicia in the last few years were apparently caused when TTPost changed the printers. When a new printer is awarded the contract they would do new artwork similar but not identical to the old design.

The small window envelope's earliest known date (EKD) on sale is January 2017. The medium window and without-window envelopes were placed on sale sometime in 2017. The small envelopes were sold at $1.32 and the medium envelopes at $1.38 each (VAT inclusive).

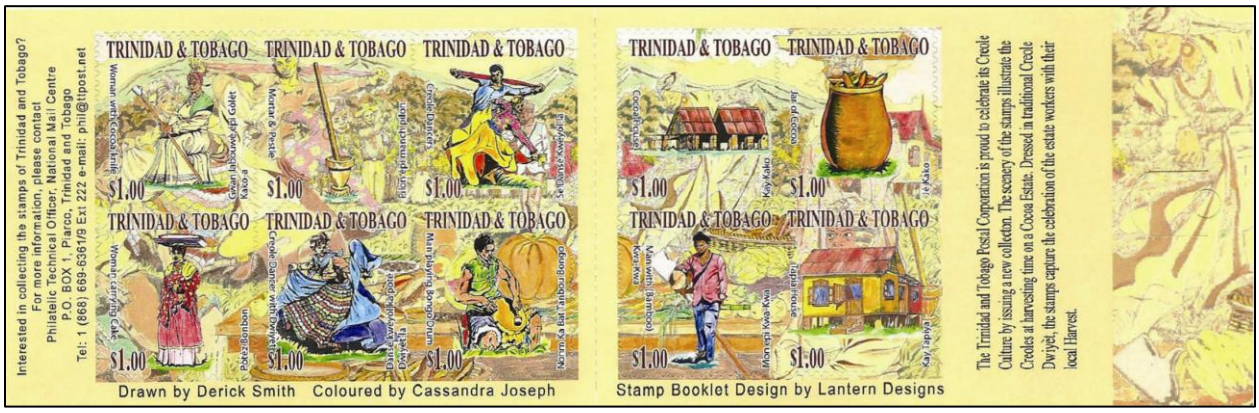

Figure 3: INSIDE OF THE CREOLE HARVEST BOOKLET

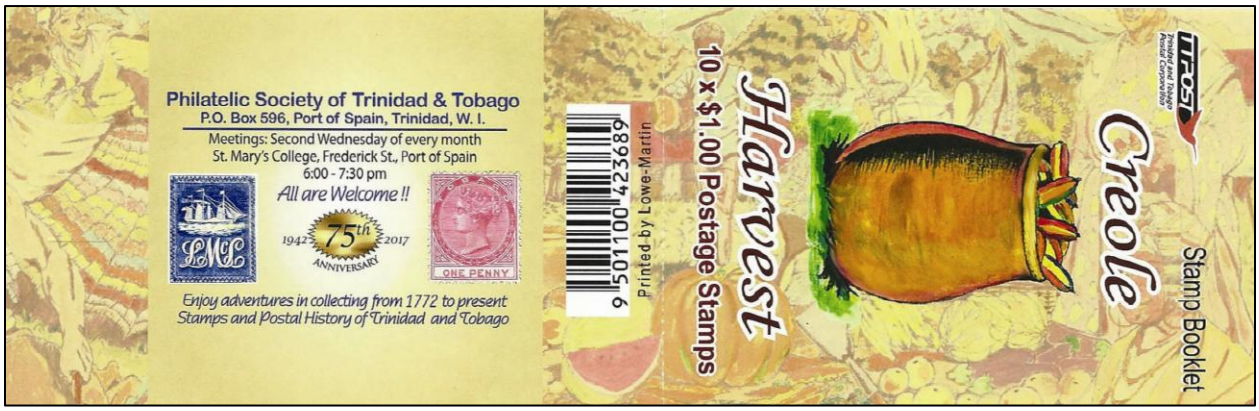

Figure 4: FRONT & PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF T&T ADVERTISEMENT ON BACK COVER OF BOOKLET



Figure 5: FRONT & GUY & GORDON LTD. ADVERTISEMENT ON BACK COVER OF BOOKLET

The first issue of 2018 was the Creole Harvest Booklet (Fig.4,5,6) on the 22nd January. The booklet contained ten self-adhesive $1.00 stamps which featured various picturesque scenes from an estate: Woman with Cocoa Knife, Mortar and Pestle, Creole Dancers, Cocoa House, Jar of Cocoa, Woman carrying Cake, Creole Dancers with Dwiyet, Man Playing Bongo Drum, Man with (Bamboo) Kwa Kwa and Tapia House. The Stamp Booklet was designed by Lantern Designs, the drawings by Derick Smith and the colouring by Cassandra Joseph. The booklet was sold at $10.00 each.

The booklet was printed by Lowe-Martin of Toronto, Canada. The back cover of the booklet has two varieties in the advertisement. One advertisement was for our Society which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. The other advertisement was for the well-known company, Guy and Gordon Limited, located in Woodbrook, Port of Spain. The quantity of booklets printed with the PSTT advertisement was 52,400 and with the Guy and Gordon Limited advertisement 47,600. No official FDC's or brochures were prepared.

Three new $1.00 overprinted stamps are expected to be released in the second/third quarter of 2018. An issue to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the PSTT is under consideration.

SOCIETY NEWS

Edward Barrow has moved back to Trinidad and he is busy with Society work. He did the artwork for the new Bulletin masthead and prepared Bulletin #279 & #280.

Ed is working on the PSTT website: trinidadstamps.org. The name was chosen to ensure a high ranking by search engines and to be easily remembered. Existing members are asked to submit an online membership form on the website and register for access of the member's area. This will allow us to have an up-to-date email list of members and allow us to set up a Society Whatapp group.

We are also in the process of building a reference section on the website in the member's area. This will include back copies of the bulletin, articles from other sources and stamp brochures. If you are willing to help scan or load information on the website, contact Ed as we have many projects to undertake.

The Society has produced a lapel pin with our logo. It is an engraved type (not painted/printed) with a gold-look finish. Illustrated is the Lady McLeod and the measurements are 30mm x 30mm. Albert Sydney did the work. It is available at $100.00 each at the meetings or US$20.00 postpaid.

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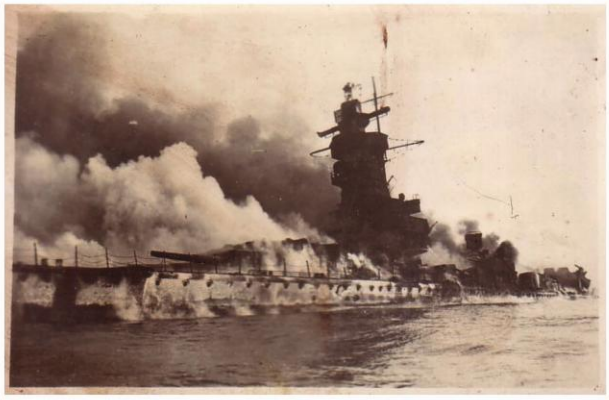
Free world -wide stamps are available at all our monthly meetings.

TRINIDAD CALYPSO AND CHURCHILL IN WORLD WAR II

By Capt. Albert Sydney, FRSA

"Old England has maintained indisputably
That she is still the mistress of the sea
The scuttling of the Admiral Graf Spee
Must remain incontestably
A monumental testimony
Of Britain's naval supremacy"



In September of 1939 the inhabitants of Trinidad were nervously introduced to the prospect of being a part of the conflict of the Second World War by Air Raid Sirens and blackout drills. The first blackout happened on Thursday September 14 in Port of Spain, the industrial capital of San Fernando and the Trinidad Leaseholds Oil Refinery in Pointe-a-Pierre and the United British Oilfields Refinery in Point Fortin. WWII was the most mechanised the world had ever seen and oil from Trinidad played a vital role in the lifeline of the British Empire. This became flagrantly clear to the inhabitants of the loyal Colony just before Christmas of 1939 when news of the German battleship the "Admiral Graf Spee" had been scuttled by its Captain after the Battle of River Plate, the first naval battle in the Second World War and the first one of the Battle of the Atlantic in South American waters close to the coast of Uruguay. The fact that the German Navy could reach as far as Uruguay and Argentina meant that the little island of Trinidad could also be under threat, and that the possibility of German submarines in Trinidad waters could exist. The "Admiral Graf Spee" incident led to an intensifying of war defence precautions to protect the oil production and supply of tankers that sailed through the Bocas.

The War Office signaled a warning to the Governor that, should the *Graf Spee* break out from Montevideo, its most likely target would be Trinidad oil, either by shelling at a distance or by sending in a landing party to destroy the oil installations. Trinidad took this warning seriously. Every available member of the Military and Police took part in coastal watches for the battleship which would have been a valuable prize because she was fitted out with secret equipment, including the very latest radar. The German pocket battle-ship had caused severe losses to British merchant shipping.

The sinking of the *Graf Spee* was a special victory for Great Britain and Trinidad shared in the joys of their Motherland. The event caused much jubilation in London and was celebrated in a Trinidad Calypso by Atilla The Hun (Raymond Quevedo) titled "The Admiral Graf Spee."

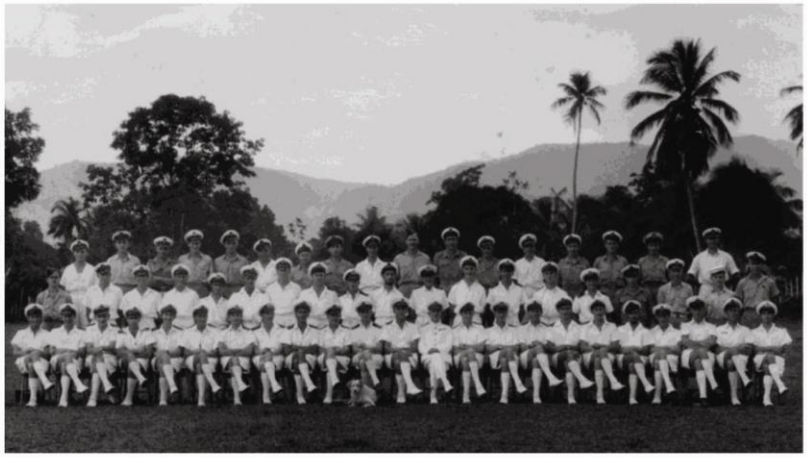
The Governor of Trinidad & Tobago Sir Herbert Young , KCMG, DSO, had sent to Sir Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty a copy of the lyrics of this Calypso by Atilla The Hun. Churchill responded with a signed one page Typewritten letter to Major Sir Hubert Young addressed from *Admiralty, Whitehall, dated 29 March 1940*, referring to the letter from Young and to some verses stating that *'The Scuttling of Admiral Graf Spee* is a refreshing little poem.'

On September 2, 1940, nearly a year after the World War II started, Prime Minister Winston Churchill agreed to allow the United States of America to establish and operate bases in several British Caribbean territories, including Trinidad.

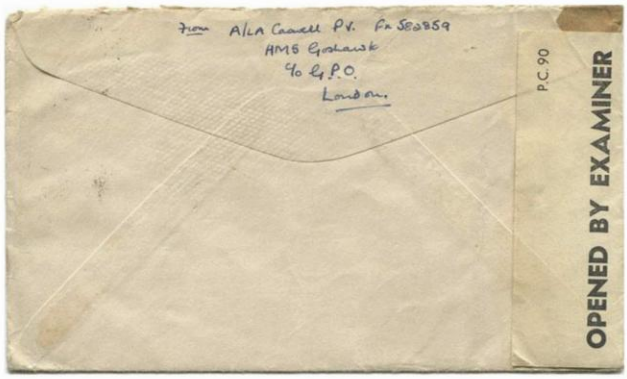
The Royal Naval Air Station at Piarco was opened on 1 August 1940 as part of HMS Malabar II and was commissioned as HMS Goshawk on 6 November, 1940 and was closed after the War on 28 February, 1946.



Christmas card and Group photo of Officers and senior ratings of RNAS HMS Goshawk at Piarco. The future Beatles producer Sir George Martin is also part of this shot as a RN navigator in 1945.















1944 Cover from HMS Goshawk in Trinidad to London and 1962 Independence New Terminal at Piarco (SG301), 1990 BWIA Vickers Viscount over Piarco (SG784), 1991 Fairey Barracuda and U-Boat (SG804) and 1996 Fairey Fulmar I over Trinidad (SG870). The two RAF Planes were based at the RNAS HMS Goshawk at Piarco. Additional information on HMS Goshawk can be found in PSTT Bulletin No. 173/1991.