

AN OLD TIN OF STAMPS FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Introduction

My late father, John Bailey, was an avid philatelist. Like many others, he collected all of the envelopes arriving at his workplace. On Sundays he would 'soak and sort' these stamps. Unusually Dad was working in Trinidad, British West Indies, in the 1960's.

This old tin of stamps dates from those times. It contains only three types of stamp: the 1 cent, 2 cent and 5 cent stamps from the 1960 Queen Elizabeth Definitive Series - these were most commonly used for local postage at the time.

The tin was sitting at the back of a shelf when an article in October's 2021 Gibbons Stamp Monthly Magazine by Edward Barrow caught my attention. I had the full set of these Definitives in my collection, so was able to add what I found in the tin to build an interesting display.

This exhibit describes the 1960 Queen Elizabeth Series. It also demonstrates how much interest can be found in an old tin containing stamps of that era.

The QE2 series included a number of inverted watermarks, several shades, differing perforations, and some interesting print error varieties. The same series of stamps was used with overprints to mark the fifth anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence. Stamps from this series appear on Trinidad and Tobago's Southpex 1968 Philatelic Cover. At the time of the series 'Banner' postmarks were very popular and in sorting through the tin it was possible to find a number of examples. Furthermore, Trinidad and Tobago had a large number of Post Offices and Sub Post Offices in the 1960's and it was possible to find examples of many postmarks in amongst those 1c, 2c and 5c stamps..

Whoever would have thought an old tin could reveal so much, or that one series could provide so much interest?



SG 284



SG 285



SG 286

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Printed by Harrison & Sons and issued on 24 September 1960 the original series show no ultra violet fluorescence, whereas stamps issued from October 1964 onwards do. The stamps were designed by D. Whiteley (1c, 2c, 12c, 35c, 60c, \$4.80), J. Matthews (5c), H. Baxter (6c, 8c, 10c, 15c), and M. Goaman (25c, 50c, \$1.20). The 15c stamp was redesigned and issued on 15 September 1964 - shown below as 291a. The series 'showcased' the country's economy and attractions. These included the Pitch Lake, Treasury, Oil Refinery, and the Queen's Hall.



SG 284



SG 285



SG 286



SG 287



SG 288



SG 289



SG 290



SG 291



SG 291a



SG 292



SG 293



SG 294



SG 295



SG 296



SG 297

1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Watermarks

Harrison & Sons used a photogravure printing process and Multiple St Edward's Crown Block CA paper (shown here) was used throughout, except for the 1c which was changed in 1966 to sideways. The below SG 317 block of six has the sideways watermark (with the crown to the left) It also has an example of a retouch flaw (from the right hand of the statue to the top of the pedestal) in the top right stamp...and... a flaw at the base of the pedestal in the bottom left stamp.



The above SG 317w has the sideways watermark inverted (to the right). Examples are only known on used stamps.



SG 285w
inverted wmk



SG 286w
inverted wmk



SG 292w
inverted wmk

1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Shades



SG 284
standard



SG 284
shade



SG 285
standard



SG 285a
blue



SG 285b
new blue



SG 286
standard



SG 286
shade



SG 286 shade



SG 287
standard



SG 287a
pale chestnut



SG 287
shade

Stanley Gibbon's Commonwealth Catalogue does list some shades—but not all of them. The 1960 Definitives were used for up to ten years and had 15 printings in the period 1960 to 1968 that are known of. It is therefore not surprising that colours changed slightly over the years.

1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Perforations On the 60c SG 295a



SG 295
standard
perforations
13.5/14.5



SG 295a
perforations
14.5 used



SG 295a
perforations
14.5 unused

Stanley Gibbon's Commonwealth Catalogue does list the changed perforation of 14.5 on the 60 cents stamp as dated 17 July 1965 since this is the earliest known usage of a printing, thought to have been despatched on 3 December 1964. Edward Barrow writes in his article that the perforation variety was discovered almost two years after its release, which prompted a search of remote post offices by local collectors seeking remaining mint copies. My father would have been one of the people searching and clearly he had some success.

1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Varieties



SG 284 retouch
hand to top of
pedestal



SG 284...it may have faded, or it may be shading...
but the stamp on the right is certainly different.



SG 286 Flagpole on
corner of building



SG 286 Strut of 'A' on
'Tobago' is malformed



SG 286 'Jack Spaniard
Nest' on top of building

The 'Jack Spaniard' is a large nest-building wasp of the Caribbean.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1967 OVERPRINTS ON THE 1960 QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES TO MARK THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE



SG 318



SG 319



SG 320



SG 321



First Day Cover 31 August 1967

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES Southpex Silver Jubilee Exhibition

The Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago was established in 1942. Its first ever 'Intercolonial Stamp Exhibition' took place in the Whitehall - as featured on the 5c definitive 6-9 May 1948. The Society remains active today.

SOUTHPEX 1968



STAMP EXHIBITION
SOUTHERN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO FESTIVAL
TOWN HALL
SAN FERNANDO
5TH MAY, 1968
SOUVENIR COVER



This overprint of gloved hands matches that on the Southpex Envelope. It is the Trinidad & Tobago Festival Slogan used exclusively by the GPO in 1968. The Trinidad Guardian also featured the banner that year.



FIRST CARIBBEAN INTERCOLONIAL
STAMP EXHIBITION

SPONSORED BY
THE TRINIDAD PHILATELIC SOCIETY
IN WHITEHALL, PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, B.W.I.



WHITEHALL.

SOUVENIR COVER
MAY 6TH TO MAY 9TH 1948



Mrs. H. Mc GOVERN,
Hotel Splendid
San Fernando,
Trinidad, B.W.I.



Whitehall
SG 286

Guardian

No. 15622 ** Wednesday, May 1, 1968



Remember
this is Your
Festival...
Support it

1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Banners/Slogans

On the Queen Elizabeth Definitives

Slogans, or 'Banner' Postmarks were very popular in Trinidad & Tobago in the 1960's. Unfortunately Dad had soaked the stamps in the tin off their covers –but it is possible to show what they were about. The below slogan was all about Trinidad & Tobago's Tourist Industry.



Here is an example of a complete slogan featuring the 35c Pitch Lake stamp from the QE2 Definitive Series



This cover dates from 1964.

'Back the attack on Traffic Accidents'.

The stamps feature 'Post early in the day',

'Dream in bed, not on the road',

and 'Your safest investment an account at the Post Office Savings Bank'.



1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Trinidad and Tobago Post Offices



Arima



Belmont



Chaguanas



Caroni



Caparo



Curepe



Diego Martin



Fyzabad



Freeport



George St.



Indian Walk



Laventille



Marabella



Maraval



Newtown



Pointe A Pierre



Princes Town



Port of Spain



Port of Spain



Rio Claro



Rose Hill



1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Trinidad and Tobago Post Offices continued



St. James



San Juan



Savannah Grande



Siparia



St Vincent St



San Souci



Scarborough



Tabaquite



Tunapuna



Tacarigua.



University



Woodbrook



Newtown PO



Marabella PO

1960's Post Offices

Rio Claro PO



San Fernando

1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Trinidad Port of Spain Paquebot Postmark



SG 285



This was a nice find, in amongst all of the other stamps in the tin. 'Paquebot' is French for 'ship'. Trinidad & Tobago letters postmarked with Paquebot in Trinidad would have been posted from a ship that was in the harbour of Port of Spain. Normally paquebot stamps are additionally hand stamped with the originating ship's mark. What a shame it is that Dad did not keep this cover.

Below is another example of a Paquebot from the 1960's using one of the QE2 Definitives.. This time from a Palm Line ship. Addressed to Robson Lowe , 50 Pall Mall. Lowe (1905-1997) is regarded by philatelists as the father of postal history, having published many definitive works on the subject and having introduced the term in his first major book *Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680-1900* in 1948. In 1970 he was awarded the Lichtenstein Medal by the Collectors Club of New York.



1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Trinidad and Tobago SG 284

Captain Arthur Andrew Cipriani

Captain Cipriani's statue stands in Port of Spain, and appears on the 1 cent SG 284 stamp of the QE2 series.

Cipriani (31 January 1875 to 18 April 1945) was a labour leader and politician who served as Mayor of Port of Spain, and was an elected member of the Legislative Council. Cipriani was the leader and founder of the country's Working Men's Association, and a founder of the Trinidad Labour Party.

The statue in memory of Cipriani was unveiled on 17 April 1959 by Dr Eric Williams, who later became Trinidad and Tobago's first Prime Minister. Williams declared "Captain Cipriani is the pioneer of the nationalist movement of Trinidad and Tobago. With the unveiling of this statue we commemorate our own historical development, our own positive action, our own native history made by native hands, and the aspiration of our native peoples." Cipriani is represented on stamps in 1960, 1969 and in 1971.



1960 SG 284

1969 First Day Cover Labour Year SG 355 & SG 356. 50th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation.



1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Trinidad and Tobago Birth Certificate

The 1960 Definitives were used to confirm payments at Government offices. Interestingly these two 50c stamps are being used on 9 January 1969, more than eight years after Trinidad and Tobago gained Independence.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

C No 143978


TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BIRTH IN THE *North*

No.	When born	Name (if any)	Sex	Name and surname of Father	Name and maiden name of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father
[REDACTED]						

107

g.p.



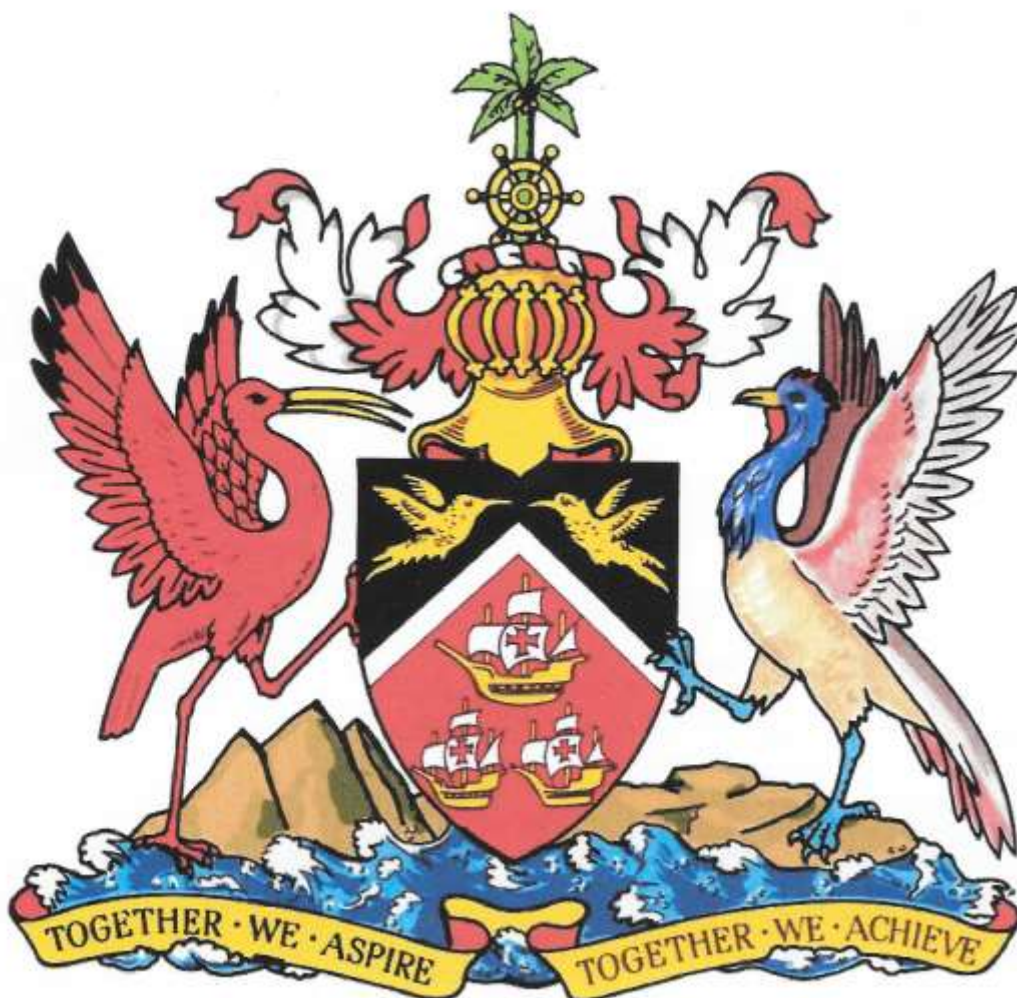
1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

Trinidad and Tobago the Coat of Arms



SG 319 1967
Overprint

Trinidad and Tobago's Coat of Arms was designed in 1962 at the time of Independence—which is why it did not appear in the 1960 Definitive Series. The Palm tree comes from Tobago's original Coat of Arms. The shield is black, red and white, the colours of the national flag. The 3 gold ships represent Columbus's Santa Maria, La Nina and La Pinta. The humming birds recognise the country being the 'Land of the Humming Bird'. The Scarlet Ibis and Cocrico are the two national birds. The three hills are the Trinity Hills of Trinidad—the reason Columbus named it thus. The island beneath the cocrico is Tobago. The national motto is 'Together we aspire, together we achieve'. The Coat of Arms has appeared in other issues since.



SG 346 1969
Definitive

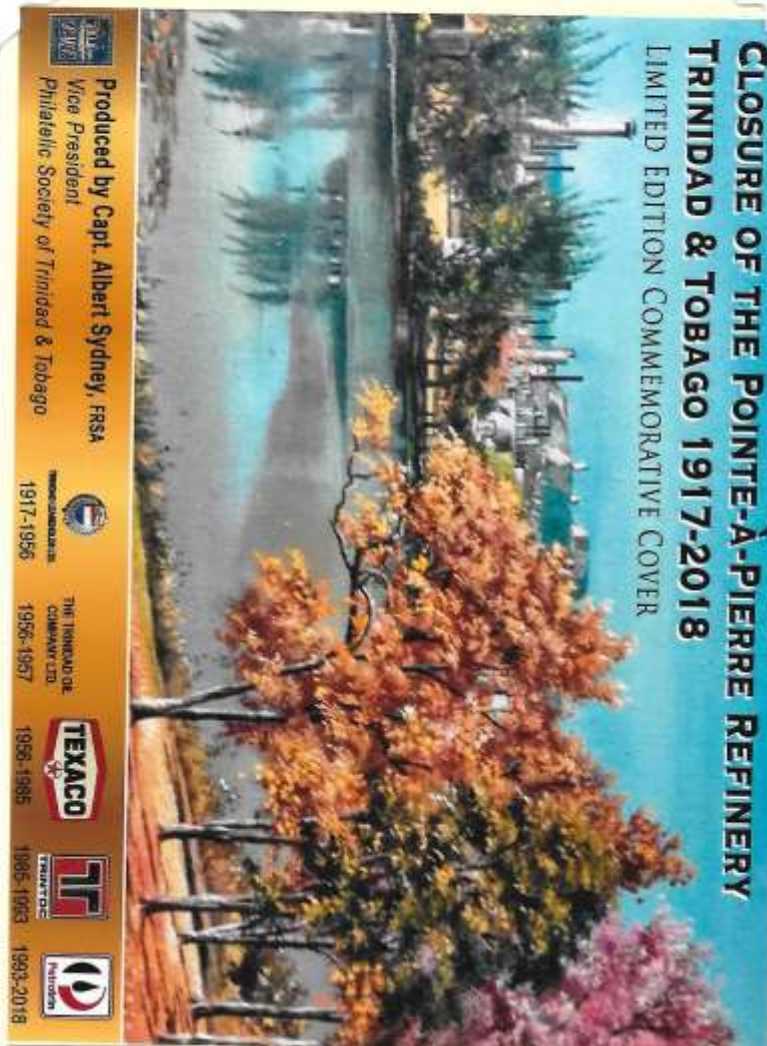


1960 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DEFINITIVE SERIES

An unusual 2018 usage of the 1960 SG 284 1c

Trinidad's Pointe-A-Pierre Refinery eventually closed in 2018. This unofficial Commemorative Cover was produced on behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago Philatelic Society and unusually included one of the 1c SG 284 stamps.

SG 290 the 12c in the 1960 series actually marked the existence of the Refinery.



So there you have it! Just one series of stamps...but isn't amazing how much there is to show.

So if you have an old tin of stamps, do dig it out!