

+ Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Postal History on Stamps

In a sort of twist from the usual topical category of Stamp-on-Stamp, two stamps from the tiny islands of Trinidad & Tobago feature Red Cross postal history covers.



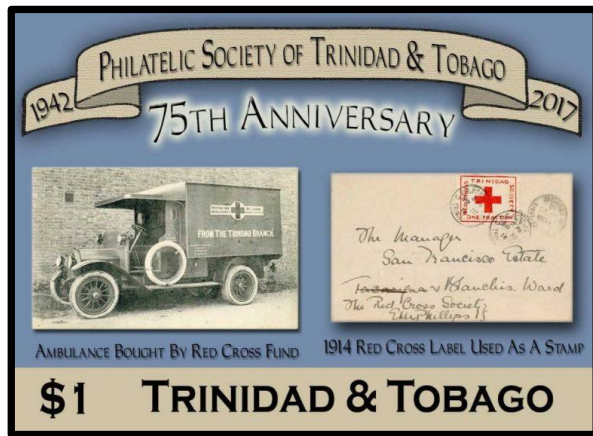
Red Cross Economy Labels for Envelopes

In June 1995, in remembrance of WWII (50 years), the 50 ¢ stamp highlights a cover utilizing a Red Cross economy label.

During the Second World War, it was common to conserve paper and reuse envelopes with “economy labels” which were gummed on the back and sized to just cover the front of a used envelope enough to handle a new address and postage stamp.

When a letter was received, it had to be split carefully along the top and not torn. Then, for the next use it was resealed with an economy label. Economy labels were too thin and lightweight to affect postage costs.

Red Cross Label that became a Stamp



In September 2018, the \$1 stamp honoring the 75th Anniversary (2017) of the Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago features the controversial 1914 Red Cross label that was authorized for use as a stamp.

Within days of the August outbreak of WWI, the Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society produced a crudely designed patriotic or envelope sealing label. This label / stamp raised significant monies for the Red Cross Fund. The anniversary stamp also highlights an ambulance purchased by the Fund.

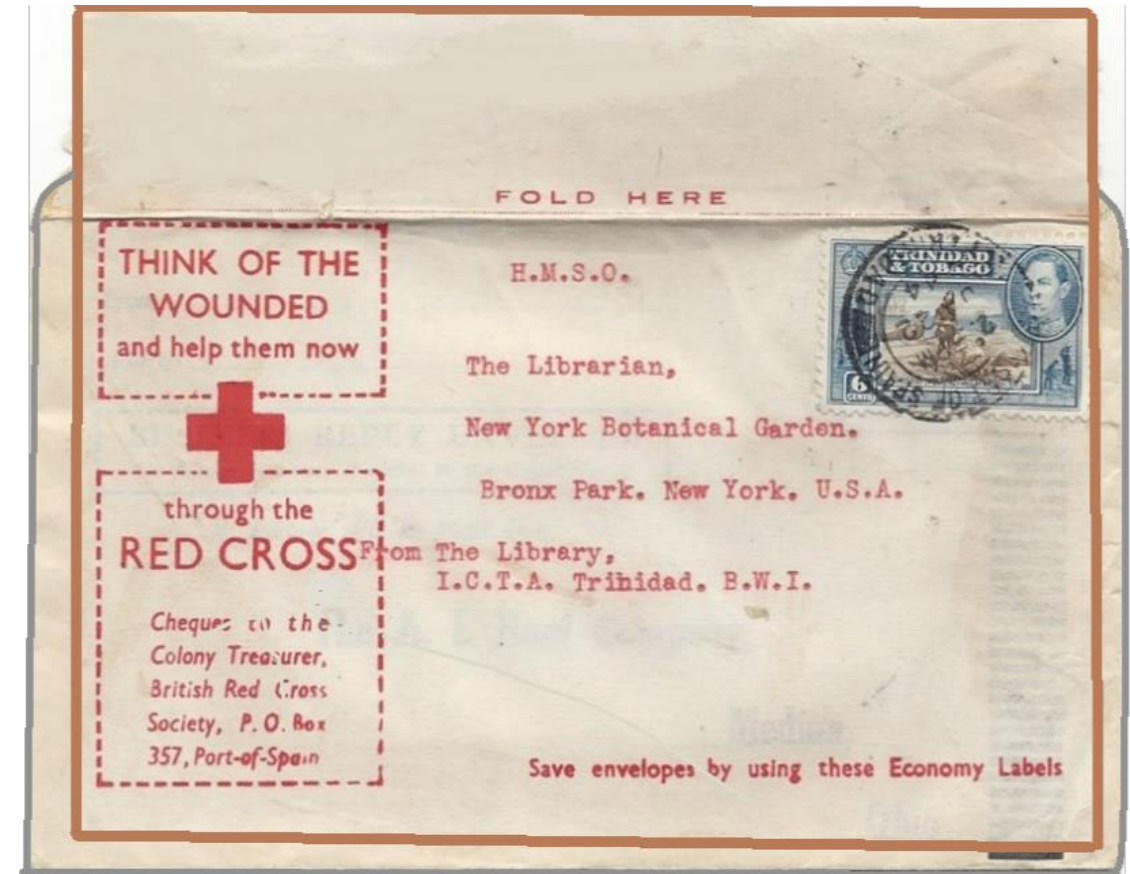
Good for one day only !

With the Governor’s and Postmaster General’s approval, the label became a ½d postage stamp to be used exclusively for one day on 18 September 1914 as part of the Red Cross Society’s charity mail appeal.

Only 900 envelopes, were hand addressed to land proprietors and managers of sugar, cocoa and other estates. Each contained an official letter of solicitation for the Red Cross Fund. The PM General directed that the stamp must receive a “cancellation date” to avoid being taxed.



18 September 1914 / Port of Spain



Example of label furnished or sold by the T&T Branch of the British Red Cross Society. Label pasted over preprinted business reply envelope / 22 January 1944 / Port of Spain.

