



Numeral Postmarks of Trinidad, 1851 thru 1891

Plan of Exhibit

Type 0.1 a & b:	Pg 2
Type 0.2:	Pg 3, 4
Type 0.3:	Pg 5
Type 0.4:	Pg 6,7
Type 0.5:	Pg 8
Type 0.6:	Pg 9
Type 0.7:	Pg 10, 11
Type 0.7a	Pg 12
Type 0.8:	Pg 12
Type 0.9:	Pg 13, 14
Reallocated	Pg 15
& Late Use:	Pg 15
Epilogue:	Pg 16

Rarity Rating

Red - Exceedingly Rare
(< 3 known)
Purple - Very Rare
(< 5 known)
Blue - Rare
(5 to 10 known)

Types & Use Dates

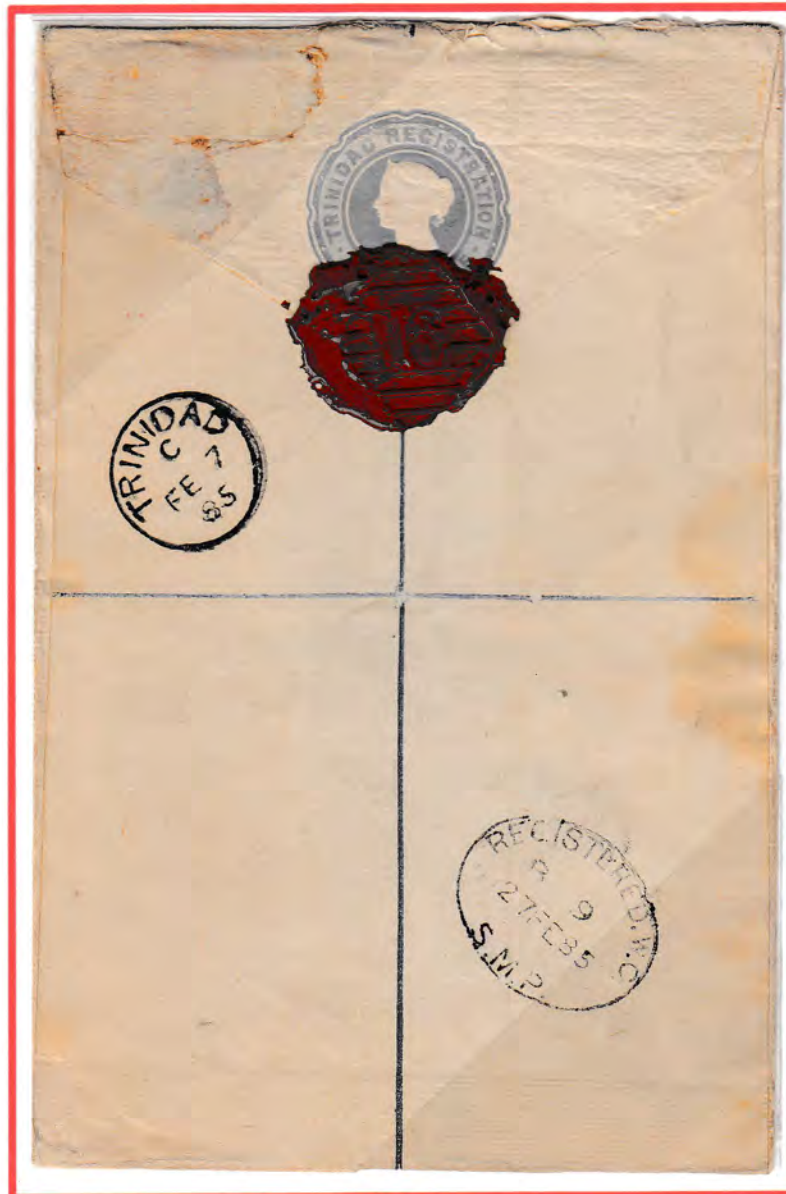
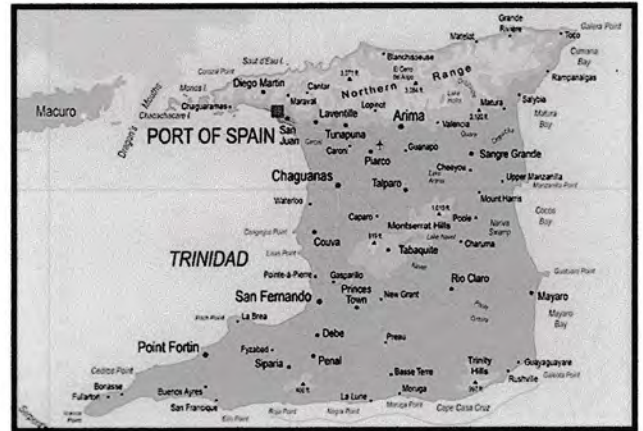
Type 0.1a	Aug 1851 to Mar 1853
Type 0.1b	Aug 1851 to Jul 1853
Type 0.2	Jan 1853 thru 1879
Type 0.3	Nov 1858 to Dec 1869
Type 0.4	Mar 1866 thru 1876
Type 0.5	Sep 1870 thru 1879
Type 0.6	Mar 1883 to Jul 1884
Type 0.7	Nov 1853 to Mar 1882
Type 0.7a	Apr 1864 thru 1871
Type 0.8	1876 thru 1881
Type 0.9	Mar 1882 to Jul 1891

Purpose and Scope:

This numeral postmark exhibit illustrates the nine types of cancellers used during the period 1851 thru 1891. Variations in canceller shapes are shown for comparison. The display illustrate rarities, errors, numeral reallocation, and late usage of the cancellers.

History and Background:

On August 1st 1851, the first Post Office opened at Port of Spain. It was designated Numeral 1. As the Postal system expanded, additional numerals were assigned for the growing villages as seen on the map. The late **Sir John Marriott**, FRPSL, developed the naming & categorizing system for the numeral cancellers (*Marriott, Ramkissoon, and Medlicott: Trinidad, A Philatelic History to 1913*). There were **nine** known types of numeral cancellers including one roller version, the Type 0.5. Each numeral was assigned to a specific village.



Research, Discoveries, & Rarities

The exhibitor has discovered the **only known example of the Type 0.6, numeral 16**, on a wax sealed Registration envelope. Additionally discovered is the **only known Type 0.7, numeral 14**.

Despite the **Type 0.5 roller cancel** being reported as used till 1879, evidence of it being used on the 1883 thru 1894 **Surface Printed De La Rue stamps** have been observed by the exhibitor.

To emphasize the rarity of the postmarks, **bold color text and color coded borders** have been used throughout this exhibit.

Marriott Type 0.1a

August 1851 to March 1853



This is one of the earliest numeral cancellers. It's cancels are some of the rarest variety. There were eleven reported village numerals. The Marriott numerals were not issued in sequential order for this Type. The numerals issued were 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 17, 18, 20, and 21.

Solid Circle surrounded by eight or more smaller holes enclosing a numeral. External diameter measures 23 - 25 mm.



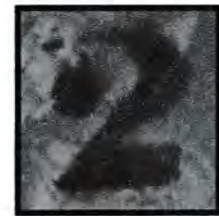
20 - La Brea



2 - San Fernando, "curve foot"



"curve foot"
vs
Normal



2 - San Fernando, large "2"



2 - San Fernando, small "2"



Marriott Type 0.1b

August 1851 to March 1853

Three reported villages for this device, however numerals 2 and 3 have never been seen.

Having an external diameter of 24 mm, this circular obliterator has eleven thick horizontal bars surrounding the numeral.



1- Port of Spain

Circular in shape with 3 sets of horizontal and vertical bars enclosing a boxed numeral. External diameter measures approximately 23 - 24 mm.



There were twenty numerals reported for this canceller, numerals 1 thru 21, there was no numeral 9 issued. Numeral 12 and 15 have never been seen. They are assumed to exist.



Numeral 20, village of La Brea, on cover front to local merchant in Port of Spain.



1 - Port of Spain



2 - San Fernando



3 - St. Joseph



4 - St. Juan



5 - Santa Cruz



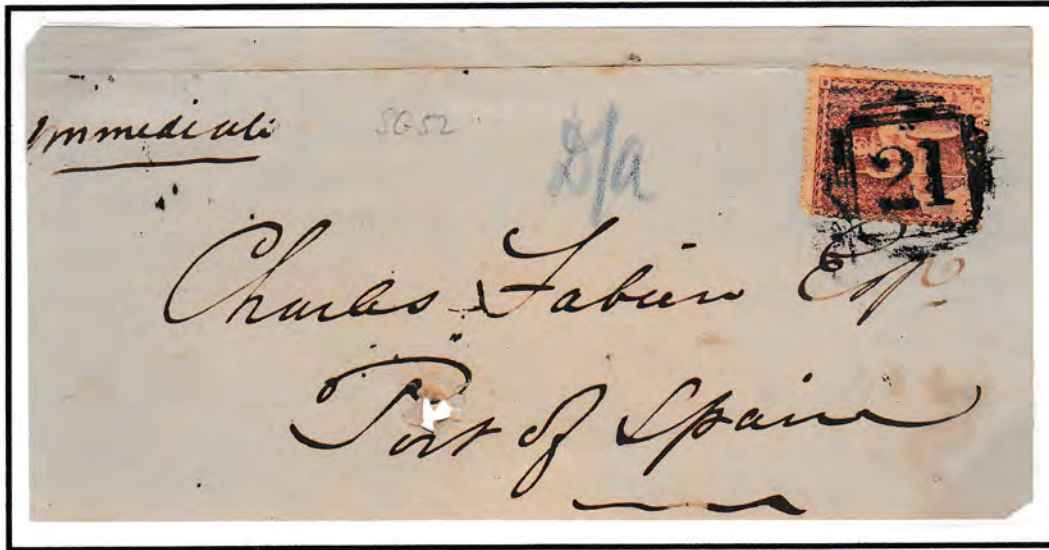
6 - Arouca



7 - Arima



8 - Turure



Numeral 21, village of Cedros, on cover to merchant Charles Fabian in the capital, Port of Spain.



13 - Diego Martin



16 - Chaguanas



17 - Couva



18 - Savanna Grande



19 - Oropouche



20 - La Brea



21 - Cedros

This canceller for some odd reason was only assigned to two villages.

Oval Shaped with four horizontal bars above and below the numeral. On either side of the numeral there are three curved bars.



1- Port of Spain



2 - San Fernando



Numeral 1, Port of Spain, inter island cover to Dominica.



Square in overall shape, similar to Type 0.2 with 3 sets of horizontal and vertical bars enclosing a boxed numeral. External diameter measures approximately 19 - 20 mm.

Type 0.4 was assigned to twenty six known towns. As in the case of the Type 0.2, they were not listed in sequential order. Numerals 2, 3, 17, 25, and 26 were not issued. Some were re-allocated in the early twentieth century to other Post Offices for reasons not fully understood. The location of the re-allocated towns remain largely unidentified.



Numeral 23 was originally used on a Coastal Steamer sailing around the island. It was later re-allocated to the Longdenville Post Office and was held there until the 1990's. The handle is made of wood and the bottom portion is a metal insert. Author was privileged to have been shown this surviving canceller.



23 - Cedros Steamer



23 - Cedros Steamer



Numeral 1, Port of Spain, cover to Glasgow Scotland.



4 - St. Juan



8 - Toco



9 - Manzanilla



10 - Mayaro



14 - Moruga



15 - Tacarigua



18 - Savanna Grande



20 - La Brea



21 - Cedros



22 - Claxton Bay
Long Tail



22 - Claxton Bay
Short Tail



27 - Monos



28 - Mucurapo

This canceller was unique in two ways:

- 1. It was the only roller type
- 2. Assigned to one town, Port of Spain

Type 5 is rectangular in overall shape and consists of a square oriented 45 degrees enclosing the numeral. The numeral is surrounded by 3 bars on each side.



1- Port of Spain



Numeral 1, Port of Spain, in town mail used on bisect and provisional to Marine Square.



Upright diamond shape, with thick horizontal bars enclosing a numeral. Measures 20 – 21 mm horizontally across the diamond. Vertical height measures approximately 27 – 28 mm.

Type 0.6 had twenty seven numerals with twenty four known assigned to towns. Numerals 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 36 were not issued or has never been reported. Like Type 0.4, some were re allocated in the early twentieth century to other towns.



14 - Moruga



Numeral 9, village of Manzanilla, on cover to Legge in Port of Spain.



1- Port of Spain



2 - San Fernando



4 - St. Juan



6 - Arouca



7 - Arima



10 - Mayaro



13 - Diego Martin



26 - Erin



28 - Mucurapo

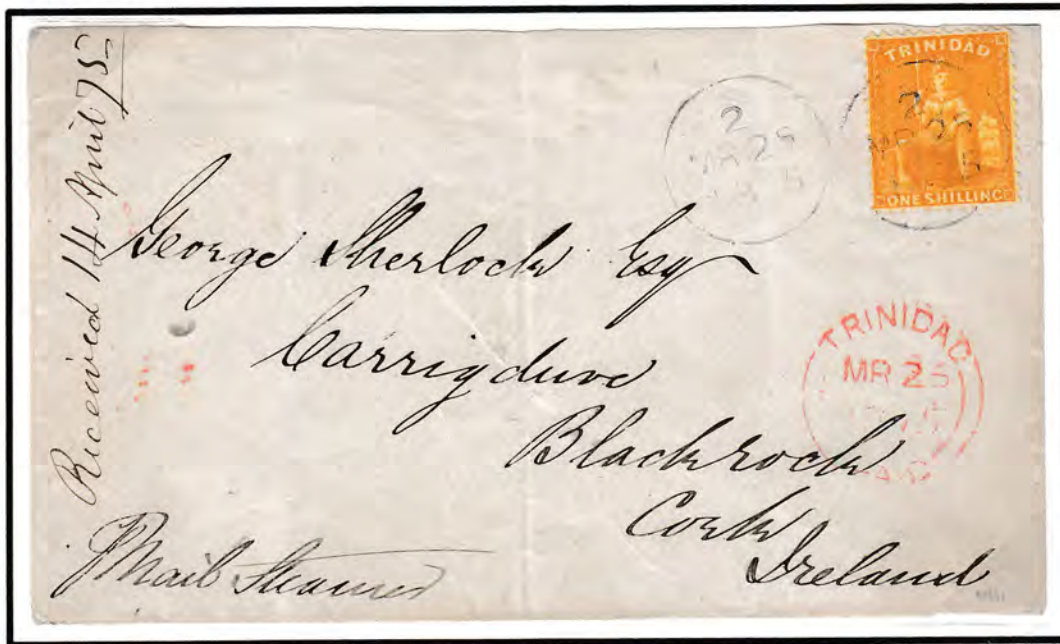


33 - Maraval

Type 0.7 is a circular date stamp measuring approximately 22 1/4 mm in diameter. The canceller's format is in three lines showing the numeral, date and year. The village numeral is found in first line in the 12 o'clock position with the month and date in the second line. The third line shows the 4 digit year.



Twenty three examples have been reported. Some villages had two font sizes for the same numeral. These include 18, small 18; 21, small 21; and 23, small 23. Numerals 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 25, 26, 29, 32, 33, and 34 were not issued.



Double strike of the Numeral 2, San Fernando, dated MR 25 1875 to Cork, Ireland.



1- Port of Spain



2 - San Fernando



2 - San Fernando
scare on 5/ stamp



6 - Arouca



7 - Arima



11 - Blanchisseuse



11 - Blanchisseuse



14 - Moruga

Only known copy



16 - Chaguanas



19 - Oropouche

"2 digit year"



20 - La Brea



22 - Claxton Bay



31 - Caroni

DIFFERENT FONT SIZES and ERRORS

Some villages had two font sizes for the same numeral. These include 18, small 18; 21, small 21; and 23, small 23. Very few examples (Numeral 17, Couva) are found with combinations of the village numeral, date and year, swapped, inverted, and in reversed positions.



21 - Cedros, *Small*



21 - Cedros, *Normal*



23 - Cedros Steamer, *Small*



23 - Cedros Steamer, *Normal*



2 - San Fernando



2 - San Fernando, incorrect year, *FE 25 "2874"*



17 - Couva



17 - Couva,
Numeral on bottom



17 - Couva,
Inv. numeral & date rev.



17 - Couva,
Manuscript date change



18 - Princes Town



18 - Princes Town
Small, Yr. transposed



18 - Princes Town
Small



18 - Princes Town
Small numeral reversed

Marriott Type 0.7a

April 1864 to 1871



Type 0.7a cancelled Postmarks were reportedly allocated to six villages. Most have never been seen with the exception of numeral 2 which are indeed scarce.

Type 0.7a is a circular date stamp, similar to Type 0.7, but smaller and measuring approximately 19 mm versus 22 1/4 mm in diameter.



2 - San Fernando



Marriott Type 0.8

Possibly 1876 thru 1881

Having an external diameter of 24 mm, this circular obliterator has eleven thick horizontal bars surrounding the numeral.



One of two duplex cancellers, with this type being solely used at Port of Spain.



1- Port of Spain



Oval shape with three thick bars above and below a "T." and numeral duplex. Two thin bars are on either side of "T." and numeral. Circular Trinidad datestamp adjoining to the left "T." numeral. Index codes "C" within the Trinidad circular ring was used to indicate the shift or time period when the mail was cancelled.



Type 0.9 is the second duplex type and the last of the numeral cancellers. It had the most towns. There were thirty five numerals. Numerals 1 and 29 were not issued. Like Type 0.4 and Type 0.6 cancellers some were re allocated in the early twentieth century to other towns.

Numeral T.9 duplex, on strip of two plus one 1d red manuscript over 6d bisected 1882 cover, to Port of Spain.



T.2 - San Fernando



T.3 - St. Joseph



T.4 - St. Juan



T.5 - Santa Cruz



T.6 - Arouca



T.7 - Arima



T.8 - Toco



T.9 - Manzanilla



T.10 - Mayaro



T.11 - Tunapuna



T.15 - St. Mary's



T.16 - Chaguanas



T.17 - Couva



T.18 - Princes Town



T.19 - Oropouche



T.20 - La Brea



T.21 - Cedros



T.22 - Claxton Bay



T.23 - Cedros Steamer



T.24 - St. Madeline



T.25 - Unallocated



T.26 - Erin



T.30 - Carapichaima



T.31 - Caroni



T.32 - St. Ann's



T.33 - Maraval



T.34 - Cunupia

Numeral T.18 on mourning cover to England with dated February 27th 1883.

Re-allocated and Late Use

Re-allocated

Long after their designated usage period, many of the various numeral cancellers were still utilized for cancelling mail. For the majority of these cancellers, their designation at the reallocated Post Offices remain unknown. It is plausible that some uses may have been to accommodate the growing villages' need while awaiting its own village canceller. The cancellers listed below have been reported used:

Type 0.2

- 7 - Unknown
- 14 - Monos
- 17 - Unknown

Type 0.4

- 1 - Unknown
- 3 - Unknown
- 4 - Unknown
- 5 - Unknown
- 7 - Arima (Possibly)
- 12 - Unknown
- 13 - Unknown
- 18 - Forest Reserve (Possibly)
- 23 - Longdenville
- 28 - Chacachacare
- 29 - Unknown
- 30 - Carapichaima



7 - Unknown, possibly Arima

Type 0.9

- T.5 - Unknown
- T.15 - Unknown
- T.32 - Unknown
- T.34 - Unknown
- T.35 - California, reintroduced
- T.40 - Unknown



T.15 - Unknown



30 - Carapichaima



23 - Longdenville



T.34 - Unknown

Type 0.6

- 27 - Brothers Road
- 37 - Unknown, Purple Ink
- 38 - Unknown
- 40 - Unknown



27 - Brothers Road



37 - Purple Ink



38 - Unknown



40 - Unknown

Late Use

No mention found when researching the established Trinidad books, journals, and other publications discussing late use of the Type 0.5 roller type canceller. The Type 0.5 was used on the Britannia stamps until 1879. However, evidence exists where the canceller was used on the De La Rue 1d and 4d 1883 to 1894 issues.



Not recorded

Type 0.5

- 1d - DLR surface printed, not recorded
- 4d - DLR surface printed, not recorded



Not recorded

Epilogue

In 1851, under the supervision of Postmaster James O'Brien, numeral cancellers were used to identify towns and villages from which mail originated. They were used in conjunction with the Trinidad double line circle, Trinidad Paid, and Trinidad circular datestamps for dating dispatched mail. Over the next forty years, nine distinct numeral cancellers were used at their officially designated Post Offices.



Trinidad double line circle datestamp on reverse, dating mail No 17, 1851.

Numeral 1 cancelling one of the earliest known **Type 0.1a** numeral.

The End of the Numerals

Only three of the nine numeral cancellers had an extended life into the twentieth century. These were the Type 0.4, Type 0.6, and Type 0.9. Examples of these Types have been recorded on the De La Rue (DLR) issues of 1896 to 1906. The end of numeral era is found on cancels of the KGV issues, 1922 to 1928. Numeral cancellers were ultimately replaced with dated town and village cancellers such that the village and datestamp was combined into a single canceller.



Type 0.4, Numeral 7
on DLR Britannia



Type 0.4, Numeral 5
on DLR Britannia



Type 0.4, Numeral 18
on DLR Britannia.



Type 0.4, Numeral 28
on KGV



Type 0.9, T.15
on DLR Britannia



Type 0.9, Numeral 38
on DLR Britannia