

SOMETHING FOR THE LADY MCLEOD ENTHUSIASTS

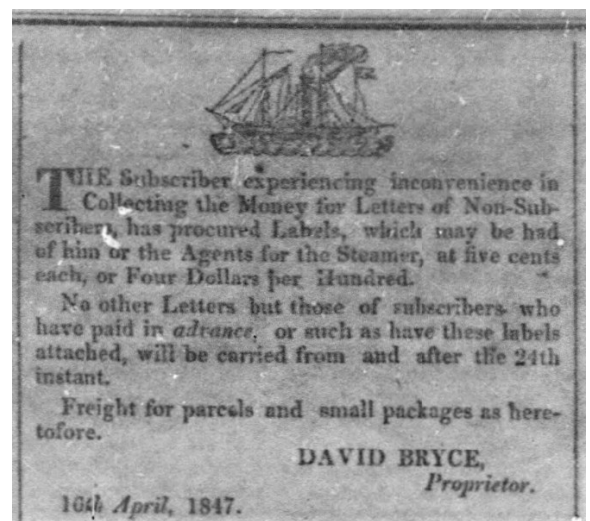


Anyone with a Trinidad collection will aspire to owning a Lady McLeod, like this one above. The thing that makes the Lady McLeod stamp so alluring is the fact that it has a story. Not only is it SG 1, and the first label used for postage in the British Empire, there is a wonderful social history around the triple-masted steamer which the stamp was used on, her Captain David Bryce, and the businesses associated with the Lady McLeod covers that exist. But Lady McLeods are expensive to buy and hard to come by!

John Lamont, Trinidad plantation owner, was unhappy about the poor communications between Port of Spain and San Fernando, where his plantations lay. So Lamont purchased the 'Blue Belle', an iron paddle steamer 109.2' long and 13.5' wide with a shallow draft of 6.2' (important for Trinidad's waters), and renamed her 'The Lady McLeod', after Lady Henrietta MacLeod, wife of the then Governor of Trinidad. Lamont engaged David Bryce as the steamer's captain

With a reputation for making crossings to Trinidad, the adventurous captain set off from Clydeside on 5 September, stopping in Cork to take on coal, and arriving in Port of Spain on 23 October 1845.

Bryce, who became the vessel's owner, announced the introduction of labels that would be required for any letters or parcels carried, in April 1847. The captain had been experiencing difficulties in obtaining small change for customers mailing letters. His stamps sold for 5c individually, or \$4 for 100.

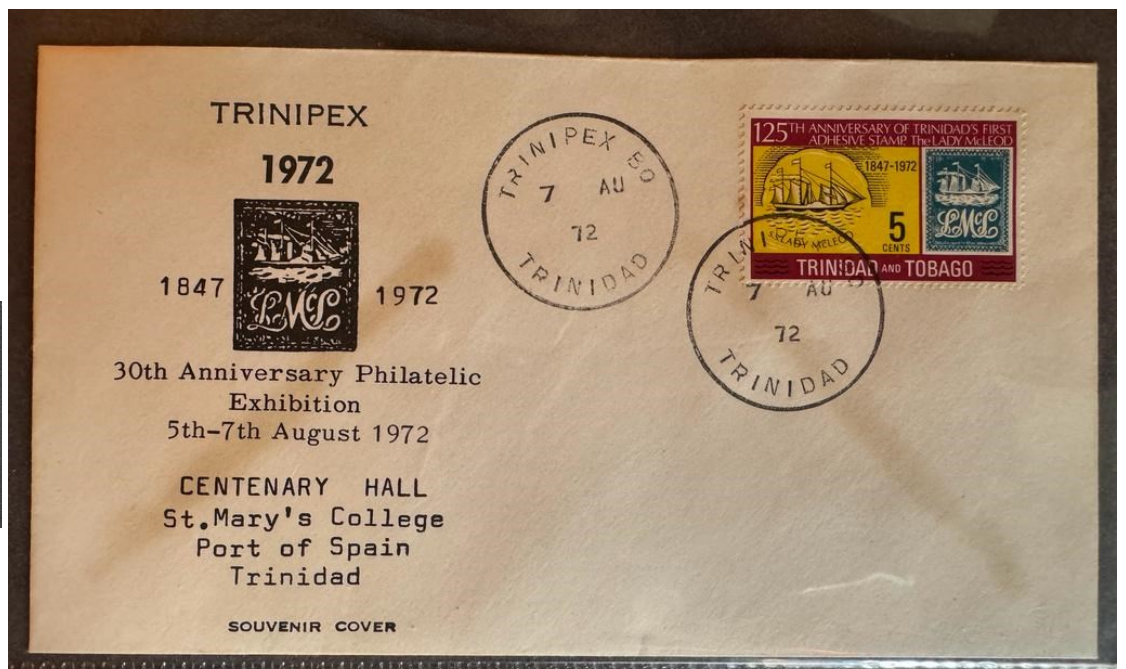
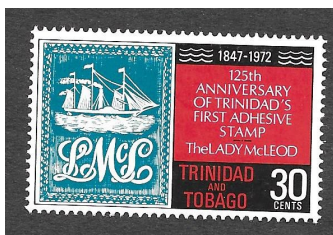


The steamer commuted between Port of Spain and San Fernando carrying passengers, parcels and mail until 1854, when she foundered near San Fernando and was abandoned. Trinidad collectors imagine the steamer sailing out of San Fernando at eventide—a magnificent spectacle.



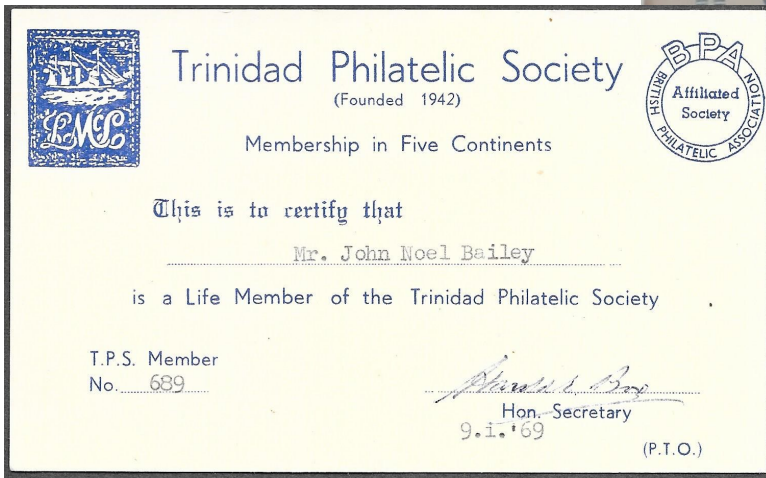
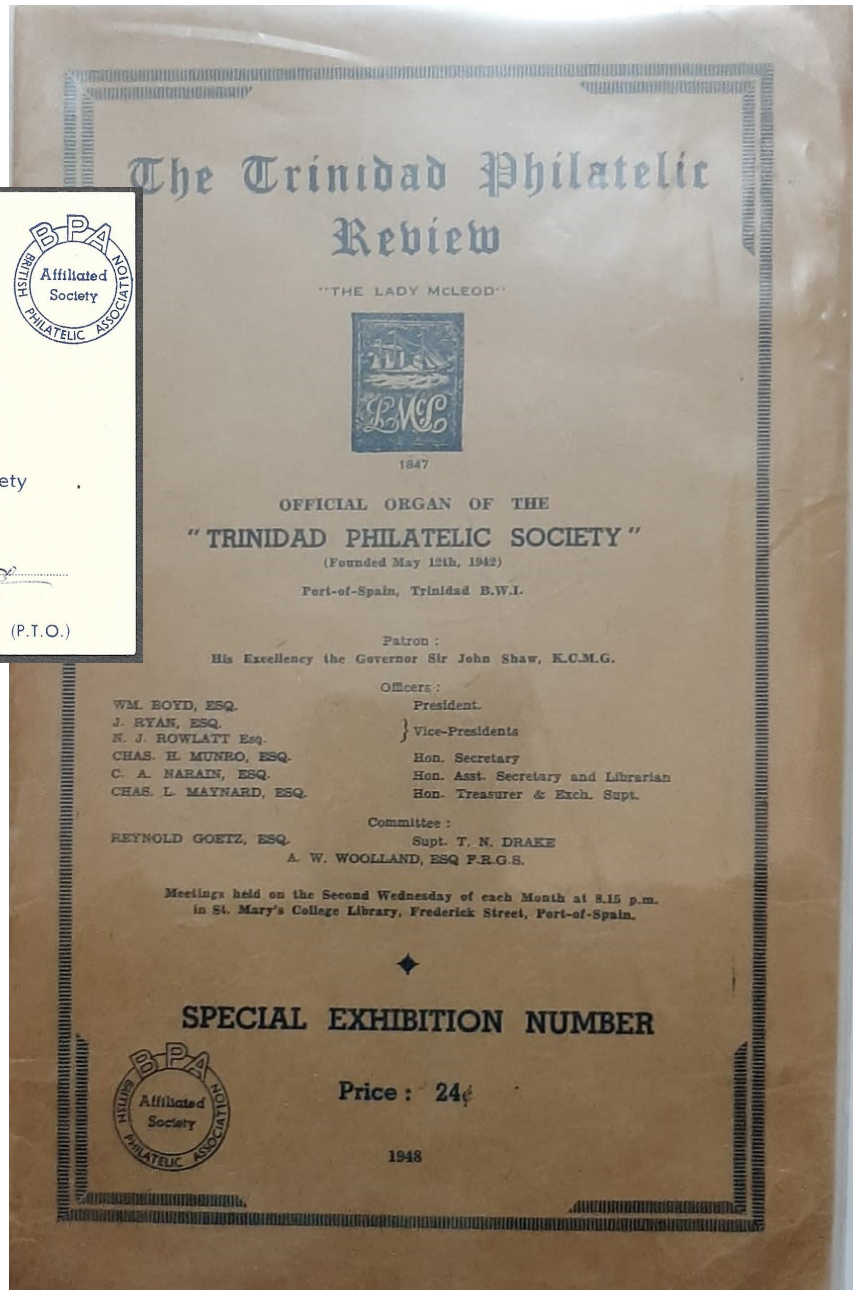
The Lady McLeod ship as it would look at sunset today, off Farrallon Rock, San Fernando, Trinidad

The Lady McLeod (LMC) stamp symbolises the Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago. Below a gold members badge. The country itself has issued many stamps over the years to commemorate 'SG1'.

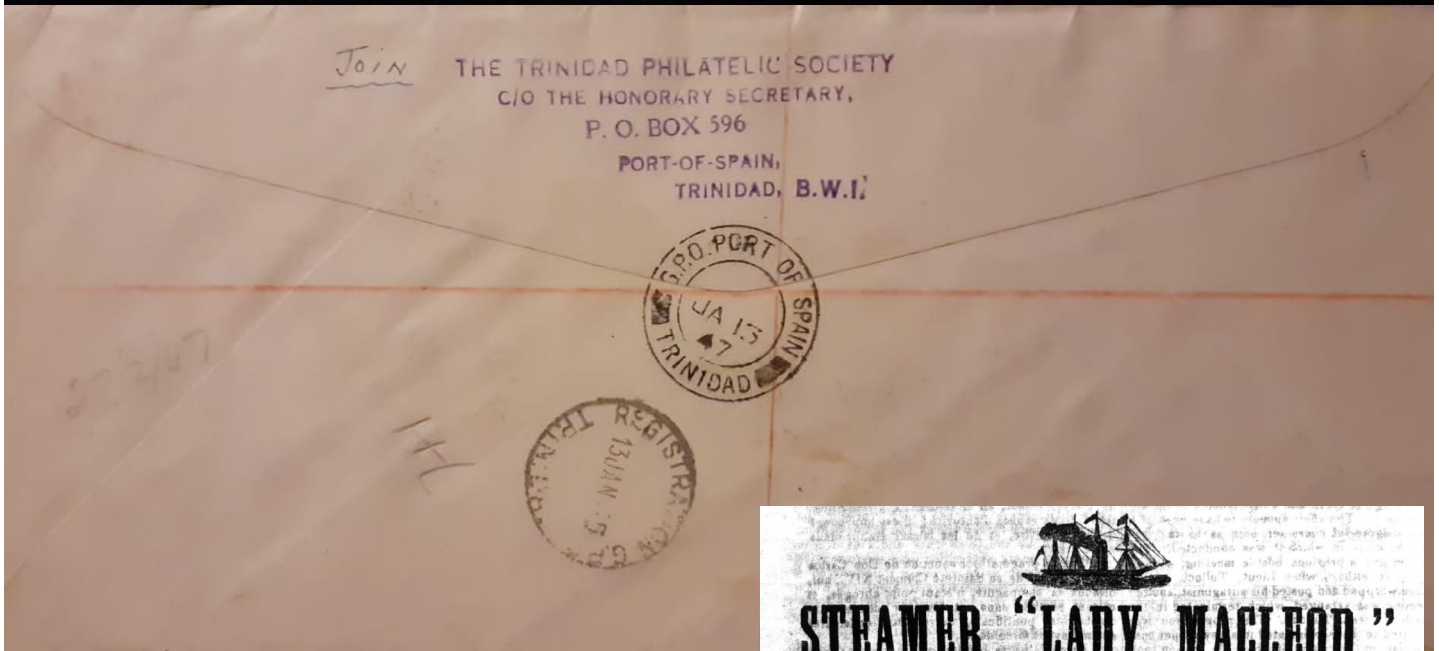


24 April 1972 SG 413 to 415 . The 5 c shown above on a TrinipeX Stamp Society Cover

The philatelic society has issued many LMC covers and its membership card bears an image of the LMC label. The LMC bell, rescued from the wreck, is a treasured item, kept in San Fernando's city hall.



One option, available to philatelists specialising in Trinidad and Tobago is that of collecting stamps, covers and memorabilia associated with steamer and label. The below philatelic cover is an early example of someone doing exactly that. It was posted in 1947, only five years after the inauguration of the Trinidad and Tobago Philatelic Society.



An on line visit to the University of Florida's Digital Library of the Caribbean quickly brings you to the Port of Spain Gazette over the years of the Lady McLeod's existence and it can be fun to build a collection of the many adverts that David Bryce placed for the services the steamer provided (as well as explanations about the vessel being out of service for maintenance).

STEAMER "LADY MACLEOD."

ON and AFTER MONDAY the 10th instant, the Steamer will leave Port of Spain for San Fernando with light Freight and Passengers.

On MONDAY'S and WEDNESDAY'S at 9 o'clock, A. M. precisely
 .. TUESDAY'S and THURSDAY'S at 11 ..

She will leave San Fernando for Town at 3 o'clock, P. M., each Day as formerly.
 She is intended to start from Port of Spain every SATURDAY Morning at 7 o'clock, for Cedros, touching on her way both Up and Down at San Fernando and La Brea.

Goods and Money must be sent alongside Half an Hour before the time of Sailing; and Passengers are earnestly requested to be on board 5 Minutes before the Hour, to prevent delay and the risk of accidents.

Passengers to and from Couva and Point-à-Pierre must be taken off and brought on board by their own Boats.

FARES—

Couva or San Fernando	Saloon,	\$1 00	Fore Cabin,	80 50
La Brea	Ditto,	2 00	Ditto,	1 00
Cedros	Ditto,	3 00	Ditto,	1 50

Passengers from Port of Spain for La Brea, returning the same day, will be only charged one-half Fare on their return.

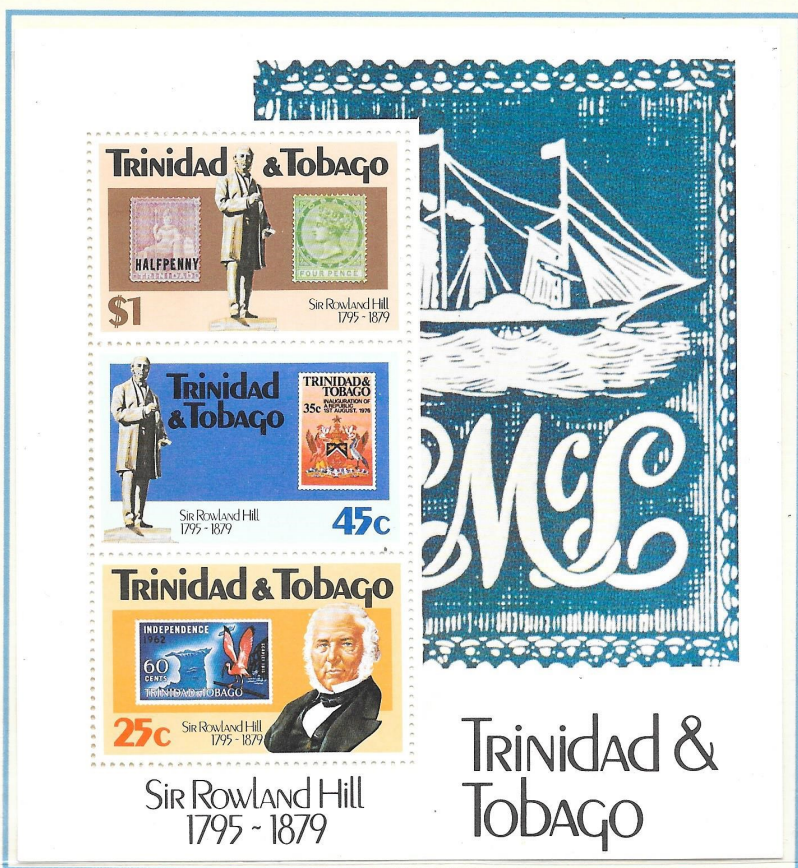
FREIGHT—

Any Package not exceeding 200 pounds weight will be taken on Freight at double the usual Drogheraga rates.

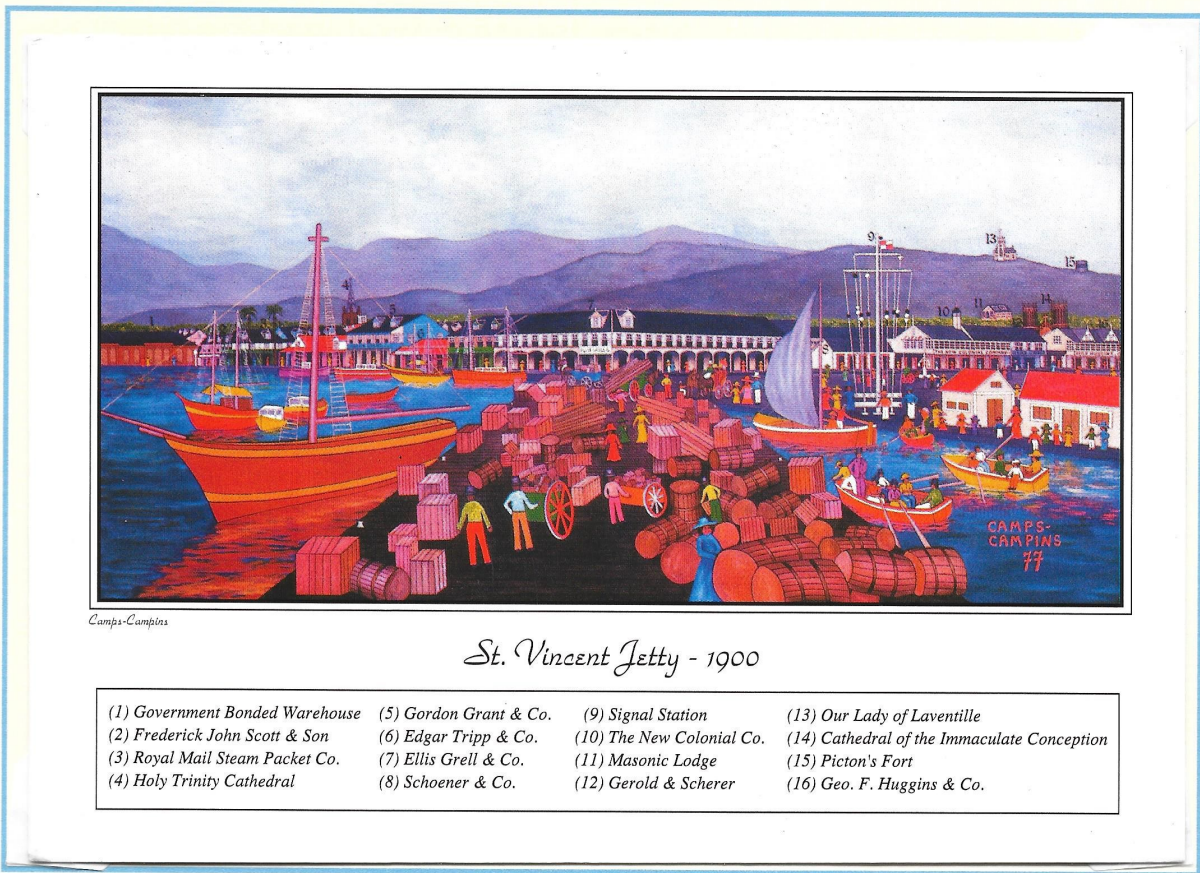
TURNBULL, STEWART, AND Co.
 Agents.
 Port of Spain, November 7th, 1845.

SIR ROWLAND HILL

Trinidad & Tobago's miniature sheet issued in 1979 to commemorate Sir Rowland Hill's life includes a Lady McLeod in the background. Below Twinings and Ardath Tobacco cards for the Lady McLeod.



The below leaflet includes a detailed plan of Port of Spain Harbour in the early 20th century



175th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LADY MCLEOD

In 2022 the 175th Anniversary of the Lady McLeod was marked by a 50c overprint that included a star grass flower and a miniature of the Lady McLeod stamp, as shown below. Two blocks of 4 are shown.

Also shown are examples of the advertisements placed in the Port of Spain Gazette for the Lady McLeod during the 1800's, including one where McLeod puts the steamer up for sale.

The Lady McLeod stamp is known to come in several shades as illustrated below (enlarged).



STEAMER FOR SALE.

WILL be put up for Public Sale at the Queen's Wharf, Port of Spain, at the hour of one o'clock, on THURSDAY, the 1st January next, if not previously disposed of by private bargain.

THE IRON STEAMER
"LADY MCLEOD."

60 Tons Register, Engine 10 Horse power, Tubular Boiler built in 1845, by NARRON, of Glasgow, Boiler thoroughly repaired in 1875, with an entire set of new Tubes and Tube Plates.

The Engine has just been put in complete repair, Piston Rods turned, new Bushes to Stuffing Boxes and Cylinder Covers, Metallic Packing put in order, Slide Valve faced, &c. &c. &c.

Will be sold cheap to a Cash Purchaser.

For further particulars apply to the undersigned.

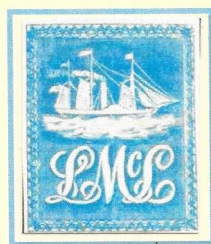
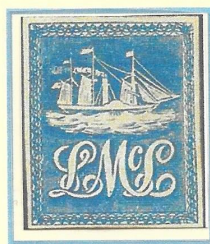
DAVID BRYCE, Proprietor.
Trinidad, 21st December, 1847.

LADY MCLEOD.

IN consequence of necessary repairs, the Steamer will lay up on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday next, 23, 24, and 25th instant. On Saturday morning she will sail as usual at seven o'clock.

DAVID BRYCE
Proprietor.

18th June, 1847.



STEAMER "LADY MCLEOD."

ON and AFTER MONDAY the 10th instant, the Steamer will leave Port of Spain for San Fernando with light Freight and Passengers.

On MONDAY'S and WEDNESDAY'S at 9 o'clock, A. M. precisely
" TUESDAY'S and THURSDAY'S at 11 " " "

She will leave San Fernando for Town at 3 o'clock, P. M. each Day as formerly.

She is intended to start from Port of Spain every SATURDAY Morning at 7 o'clock, for Cedros, touching on her way both Up and Down at San Fernando and La Brea.

Goods and Money must be sent alongside Half an Hour before the time of Sailing; and Passengers are earnestly requested to be on board 5 Minutes before the Hour, to prevent delay and the risk of accidents.

Passengers to and from Couva and Point-a-Pierre must be taken off and brought on board by their own Boats.

FARES—

Couva or San Fernando	Sailon,	81 00	—	Fore Cabin,	80 60
La Brea	Ditto,	2 00	—	Ditto,	1 60
Cedros,	Ditto,	3 00	—	Ditto,	1 50

Passengers from Port of Spain for La Brea, returning the same day, will be only charged one-half fare on their return.

FREIGHT—

Any Package not exceeding 200 pounds weight will be taken on Freight at double the usual Drogherage rate.

TURNBULL, STEWART, AND Co.,
Agents.

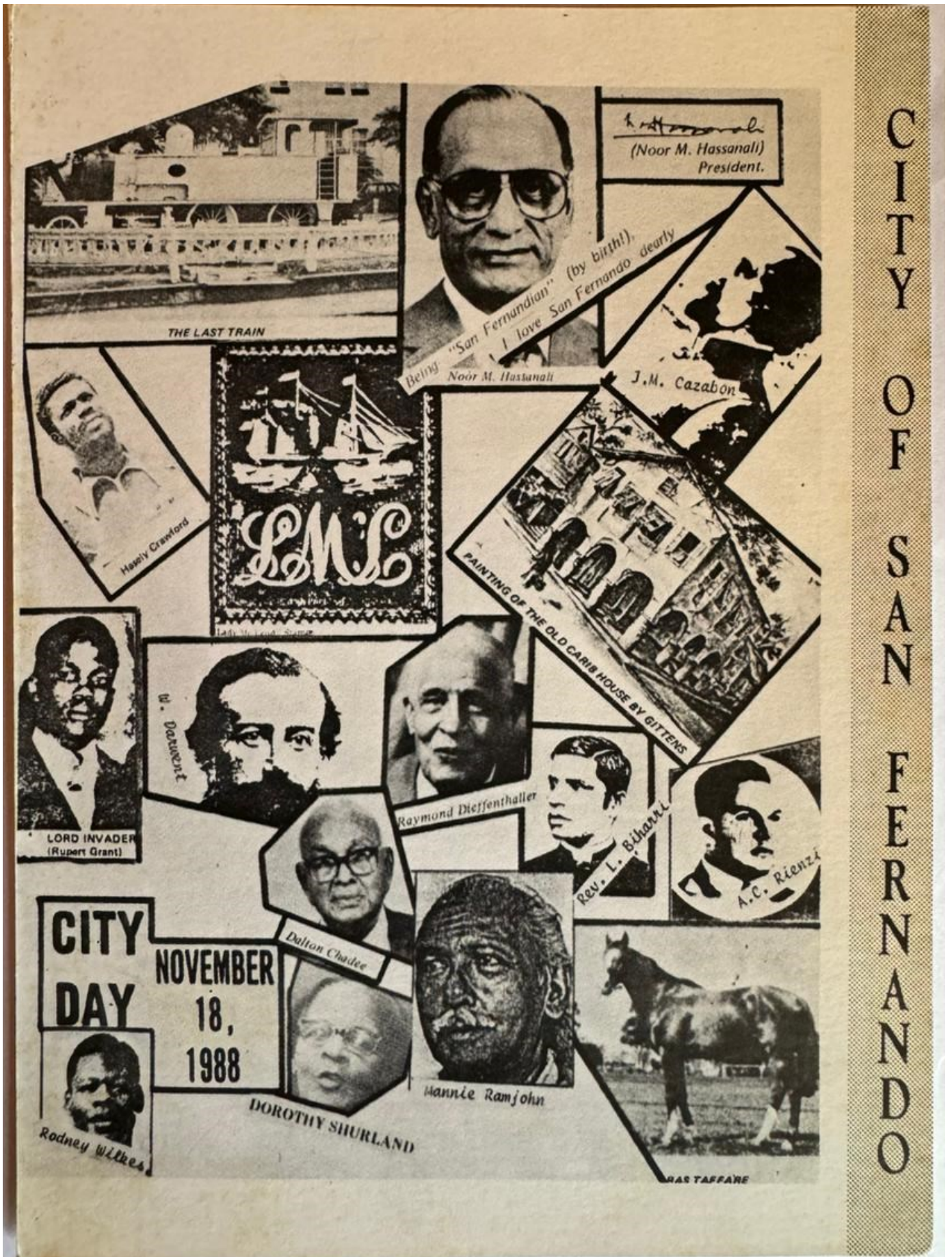
Port of Spain, November 7th, 1845.

It has been possible to purchase facsimiles of the LMC label in a variety of colours on the internet, but of course nothing beats a real one.

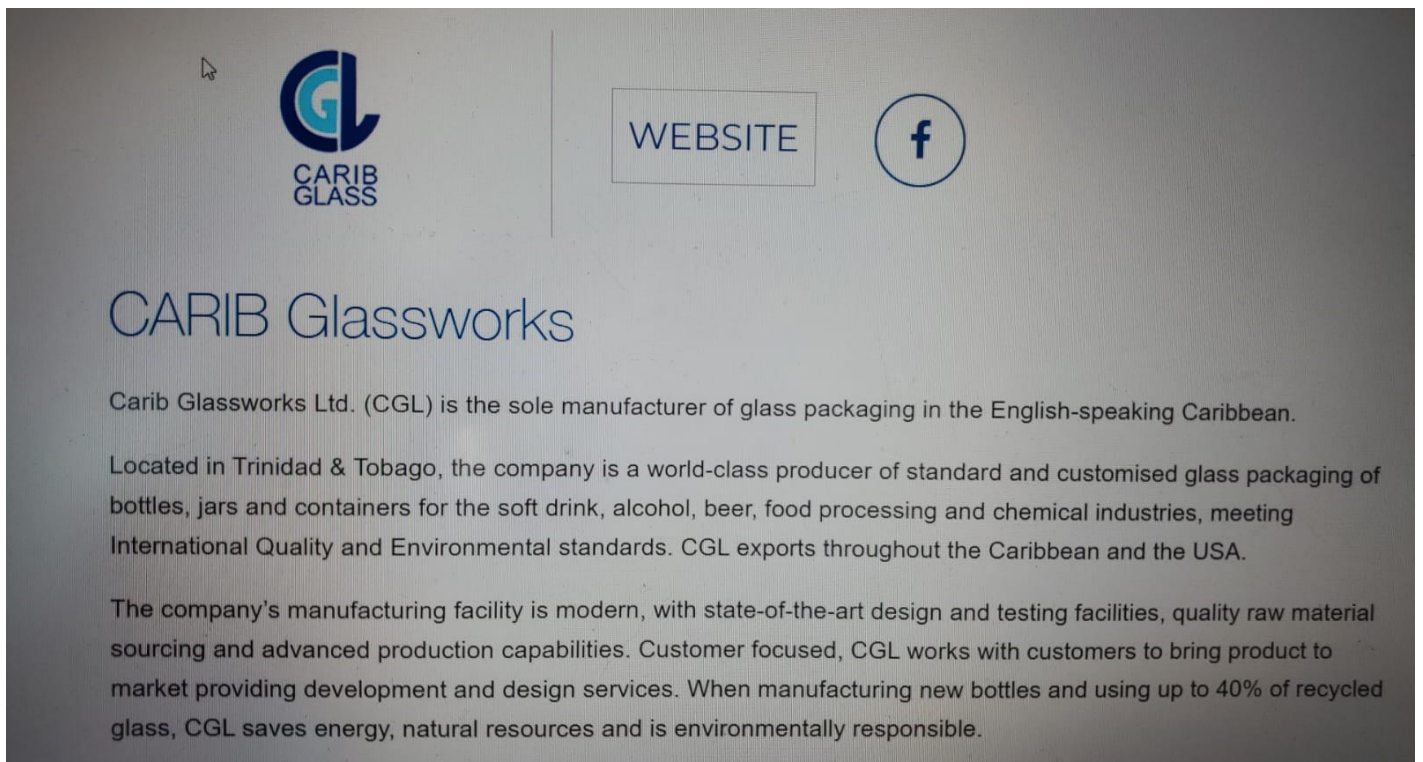


One member of the Philatelic Society of Trinidad and Tobago is lucky enough to own a whole sheet of the 2022 overprints.

The Port of San Fernando produced the below 'San Fernando City Day Postcard' featuring people and items of local pride, including the Lady McLeod label in 1988



The Carib Glassworks , the Caribbean's Primary glass and bottle manufacturer, produced a series of 'Bottles of Boats'. Amongst them was a 'Fatel Razak', which many indentured workers arrived in Trinidad on, and 'The Lady McLeod'. These really are works of art.



The image shows a screenshot of the Carib Glassworks website. At the top left is the Carib Glass logo, which consists of a stylized 'G' inside a blue circle with the text 'CARIB GLASS' below it. To the right of the logo is a rectangular button labeled 'WEBSITE' and a circular Facebook icon with the letter 'f'. Below these elements is the heading 'CARIB Glassworks' in a blue serif font. Underneath the heading are three paragraphs of text describing the company's role as the sole manufacturer of glass packaging in the English-speaking Caribbean, its location in Trinidad & Tobago, and its commitment to quality and environmental standards.

CARIB GLASS

WEBSITE

f

CARIB Glassworks

Carib Glassworks Ltd. (CGL) is the sole manufacturer of glass packaging in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Located in Trinidad & Tobago, the company is a world-class producer of standard and customised glass packaging of bottles, jars and containers for the soft drink, alcohol, beer, food processing and chemical industries, meeting International Quality and Environmental standards. CGL exports throughout the Caribbean and the USA.

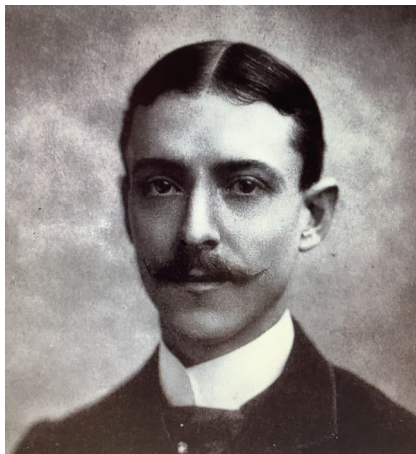
The company's manufacturing facility is modern, with state-of-the-art design and testing facilities, quality raw material sourcing and advanced production capabilities. Customer focused, CGL works with customers to bring product to market providing development and design services. When manufacturing new bottles and using up to 40% of recycled glass, CGL saves energy, natural resources and is environmentally responsible.



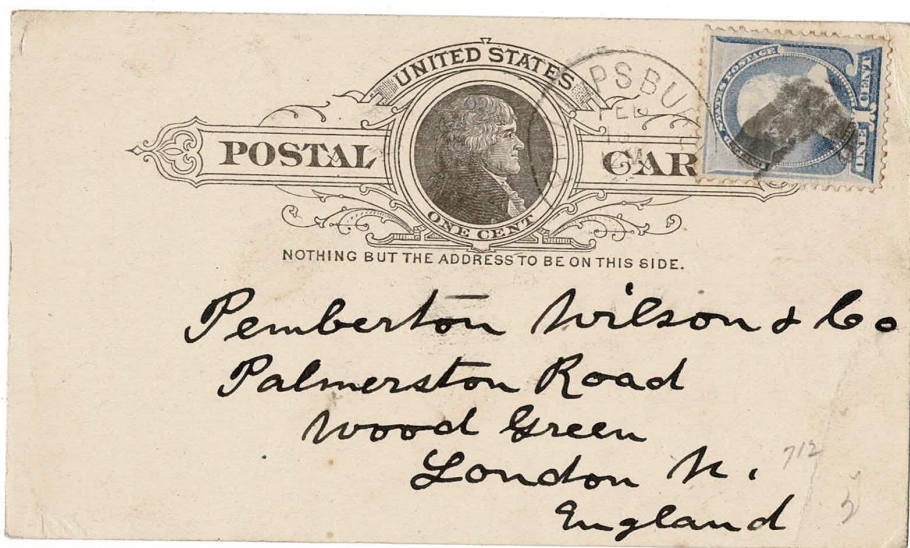
Some people even have a Lady McLeod tie! Do members of the WIPSG recognise this lucky gent?



It is possible to find old covers that are associated with the LMC story. For example the below cover is likely to have been sent by James Graham Taylor (Philatelist, and son of Alexander Taylor - who wrote many of the McLeod letters), who was based at this Wilson's address and who corresponded with the famous Denny Bacon.



Sirs
 I have an absolutely perfect specimen of the Lady McLeod stamp, used on the entire original letter
 Price £150.0 cash
 Can you use it - at that price? If so let me know & I will forward to you -
 Also have a complete set of all U.S. Officials unused price \$75.00 cash - Let me hear from you -
 Yours truly
 J. A. Petrie
 Phillipsburg
 2/15/89 - New Jersey -



This is a postcard sent by the forger James Petrie to Pemberton Wilson and Co after he had purchased some Lady McLeods, as per the attached press report from the Port of Spain Gazette.

Stamp Collectors.
 One of the passengers by the steamer *Barracouta* lately was Dr. Petrie, a stamp collector, who purchased from a gentleman in Port-of-Spain six Trinidad stamps of old dates for £ 0. These stamps are known as the "Lady McLeod." The *Philatelic Record* of December states that at a recent stamp auction the highest price was attained by a copy of the Trinidad private stamp—the Lady McLeod, which sold for £13 13s.

Gerald King, philatelic artist and author, designed and produced fantasy items for over 50 years. Among his range of topics are Wonderland, Elizatoria and Alternative Lundy. Using the Lady McLeod, as inspiration he produced a series he called the "Lundy McLeod". These were printed in sheets of 26 on cream paper and "Tete-beche" sheets on white paper. Neither of these indicated Lundy Island. However, the cover below showing a "tete-beche" pair and the large S.S. Lundy McLeod, addressed to Sir Robert Peel, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW, has some interesting cancellations:

1. Straight Line S S LUNDY MCLEOD
2. Barred L I, for Lundy Island.
3. Crowned SHIP LETTER LUNDY.
4. London cancel dated APR 1 47.



The Lady McLeod is not only celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago. This die of the stamp was made and marketed in Germany. Now someone sells a similar small silver die over the internet.



DIE "LADY McLEOD"

1847 gab der Kapitän des Dampfers "Lady McLeod" auf seinem Raddampfer in der Karibik eine eigene Briefmarke mit Abbildung seines Schiffes heraus. Für den Weg von Port of Spain nach San Fernando ordnete er für alle Postsendungen, die er beförderte, den Frankierungszwang mit dieser Marke an. Es war die erste Schiffpostmarke der Welt.

Diese Marke gehört heute zu den großen Raritäten der Weltphilatelie und es existieren keine fünf Dutzend Exemplare mehr. (Katalogwert: 35.000,- DM)

Small silver die



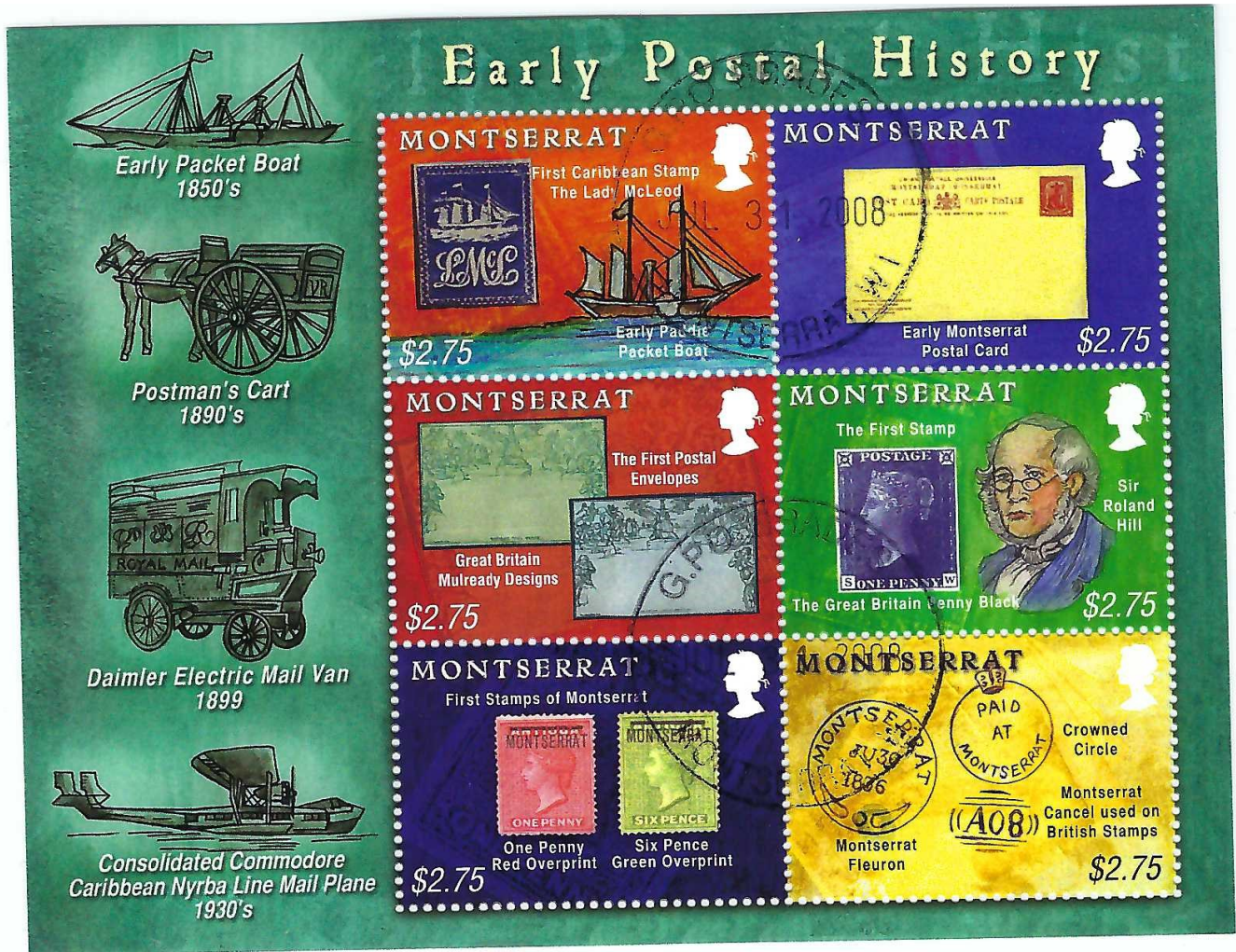
ZERTIFIKAT

Hiermit garantieren wir, daß alle Ausgaben der Reihe "Raritäten in Gold" mit 99,8% Feingoldauflage in excellenter Qualität hergestellt und verarbeitet wurden. Die Weltauflage ist jeweils unwiderruflich limitiert auf maximal 9.999 Komplettsammlungen.

Michael Göde
Dr. Michael Göde



Montserrat produced this miniature sheet in 2008, with a \$2.75 stamp showing the Lady McLeod.



Below is a Cadillac Post Office, Rio Grande, USA postal print celebrating 120 years in 1967.

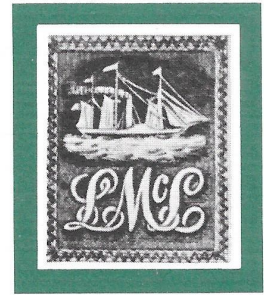


Antigua and Barbuda produced a limited edition of a gold facsimile of the Lady McLeod stamp on 4 April 1986.

Official 24kt Gold Postage Stamp
Issued by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda



\$6 Lady McLeod



Enlarged Reproduction of
Trinidad Stamp Issued in 1847.



Many philatelic and historical accounts exist of the Lady McLeod story:

Here 'Stamp Collecting—The King of Hobbies, The hobby of Kings' includes the label in a display of World Rarities.

'Trinidad A Philatelic History to 1913' by Sir John Marriott KCVO, RDP, FRPSL, Michael Medlicott FRPSL, and Reuben A Ramkissoon FRPSL includes an index of LMC's

'The Untold Story of The Lady McLeod' by S Taylor, N Mohammed, E Barrow and J Taylor tells the story of the businesses that used the LMC service, and includes an index of LMC covers.











SPECIALISING OR GROUP COLLECTING

When you have been collecting stamps for some time, you may find that there are certain countries or groups of stamps that you like better than others, and there is not enough space in this album to develop your collection. It is then that the time comes for you to get one of the blank loose-leaf albums which the F.G. Series make for the specialist.

Besides specialising in certain countries, there are many groups of stamps that might interest you. The most popular is Air Mail stamps, but others include commemoratives, pictorials, designs with ships or animals, trains, flowers, sports, etc., War stamps, triangular stamps, King George VI stamps, Charity stamps and Queen Elizabeth commemoratives.

In this way, you are able to acquire a deeper knowledge of stamps and learn quite a lot about the country or group you collect, its history, trade, customs, language and so on. You can write-up and arrange your pages in your own style, showing such things as shades of colour varieties, special postmarks, strips, blocks and covers. If you belong to a stamp club you will soon be the envy of all the members when you show them your pages and tell them all you know about the stamps. You will then be a philatelist.

SOME OF THE WORLD'S RARITIES AND THEIR VALUES

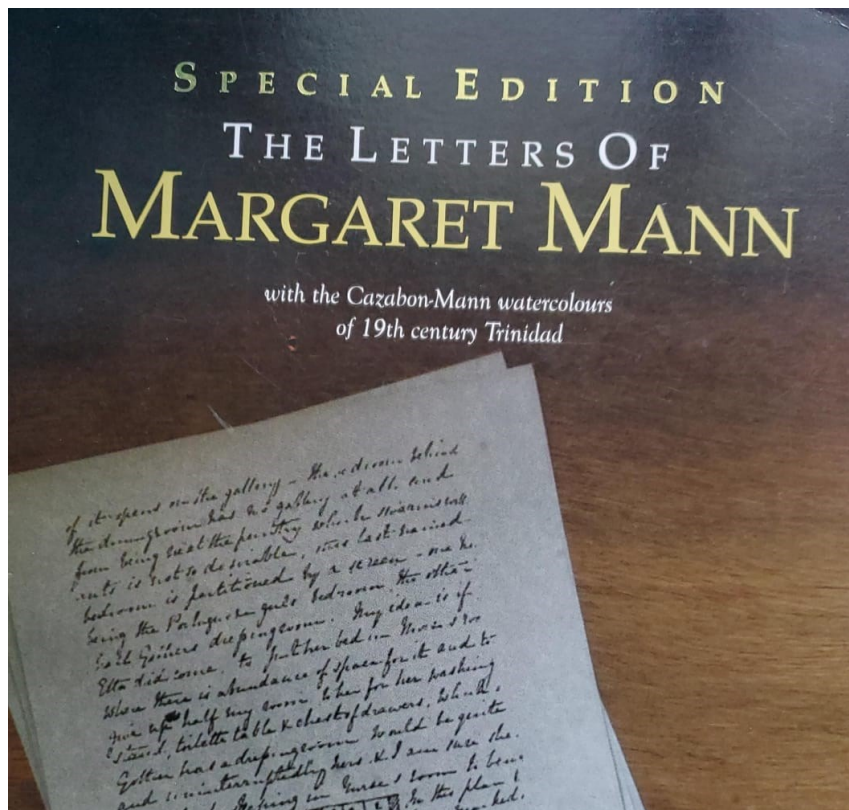
 Mauritius 1847 £15,000	 Cape of Good Hope 1861 £1,000	 Switzerland 1843 £1,000
 United States 1845 £7,500	 The World's most valuable Stamp British Guiana 1856. Realised £7,340 in 1922 Valued today at £75,000	 Nova Scotia 1851 £1,000
 India 1854 Inverted £1,250	 United States 1845 £1,500	 Trinidad 1847 £850
		 New Zealand 1855 £700

STAMP COLLECTING — THE KING OF HOBBIES, THE HOBBY OF KINGS

4

Margaret Mann is found writing about the Lady McLeod in 1847.

I hope this light article encourages Trinidad philatelists to broaden the scope of their collecting as they celebrate this wonderful steamer and the stamps and other memorabilia that mark her existence



Letter Twenty Three

Circa October, 1847

My dearest Mamma,

You know we were disappointed of letters by the last post so, as you may suppose, on Tuesday the 26th, the day on which the next packet became due, the signal post at *Fort George* was more anxiously watched than ever; but all our watching was to no avail - night hid from our view as bare as it had appeared at the dawn of day and we went letter-less to bed. The packet, however, came in at two the next morning and I had the pleasure of beholding her as she lay about a mile from shore, as I stood on the wharf whither I had gone for the purpose of seeing *Gother* on board the *Lady Macleod*¹ for San Fernando.

Nurse's breakfast was first

The Lady McLeod ship as it would look today at sunset,
King's Wharf, San Fernando, Trinidad.



THE 1847 LADY MCLEOD STAMP



King's Wharf, San Fernando, Trinidad and The Lady McLeod Ship - Jazz

With grateful thanks to the members of the WIPSG and Trinidad & Tobago Philatelic Society for so generously sharing scans of their memorabilia.

Contact: <https://trinidadstamps.org/> - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/192149624143122/>

Or

https://instagram.com/philatelic_soc_trinidad_tobago