

TRINIDAD POSTAGE PAID POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES

By Steve Zirinsky and Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon

Two new types of postal stationery envelopes were introduced by TTPost in 2001 and 2004 respectively. The first of these is represented by Figures 1A & 1B, being a Prepaid small envelope postmarked with Type 17, (Tragarete Road) oval date stamp on 7 November 2001. Heretofore, only two hand-painted Essays of unmissed One Penny postal stationery envelopes are recorded (25 August 1891) for Trinidad. Formula Registration postal stationery envelopes were used as early as 1880, and on June 1, 1884, a complete set of UPU imprinted TRINIDAD registration envelopes was placed in general use.

The new stationery envelopes introduced in 2001 by TTPost consisted of 5 varieties of postage paid envelopes, imprinted within a rectangular space in the upper right corner, "Postage Paid / within / Trinidad / and / Tobago." The envelopes came in three sizes (types) and two subtypes, as follows:

Type	Size (in inches)	Subtype	Price / 25	Price / 100*
Small	3 7/8 x 7½ inches	window	\$30.25	\$117.00
		Non-window	29.25	115.00
Medium	4 1/8 x 9½	window	30.75	120.00
		Non-window	30.25	117.00
Large	12 x 10 inches	Non-window	60.50	240.00

**15% VAT is charged on the value of the envelope and not the prepaid postage*

The rectangle and 'Postage Paid' enclosed space shows a background map of Trinidad & Tobago printed in red. The inside of the envelope shows a continuous repetitive pattern of the TTPOST logo which is readily seen in the 'window' version (Figure 1A). The reverse flap carries a line of perforation for ease of opening, above and below which are these instructional messages (Figure 1B):

Above perforation: "TO BE USED ONCE WITHIN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ONLY."

Below perforation: "SENDER" followed by four parallel lines (77 cm)

The location of the above printed instructional messages is different for the large size (12 x 10 inches) envelope. In this type, the flap is located on the right side which is folded under the front "Postage Paid, etc" rectangle. The "SENDER" with the four parallel lines is located in the upper center of the top half of the envelope at right angle to the message, "TO BE USED ONCE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ONLY." The EKD postmarked example in purple in reads CITY GATE POST OFFICE / NOV - 7 2001 / TTPOST

The TTPOST red and white / black-bordered packaging label for the 25-count Small Prepaid Envelopes is shown in Figure 2, and is similar to those of the other types.

These domestic mail prepaid envelopes have been used for international mail with the addition of affixed \$3.75 postage to USA addresses (3 April 2002). The 75c prepaid postage rate was not allowed for foreign use (Figure 3).

Reprints of the Prepaid Envelopes

Type	Size (in inches)	Subtype	Price / 25	Price / 100*
Small	3 7/8 x 7½ inches	window	\$30.25	\$117.00
Medium	4 1/8 x 9½	window	30.75	120.00
		Non-window	30.25	117.00

**15% VAT is charged on the value of the envelope and not the prepaid postage*

The small size window envelope has been reprinted, and can be readily differentiated by the deletion of the word "SENDER" and the four parallel address lines on the reverse side. While the print on the front and on the inside of the envelope remains unchanged in text, the red color of the ink is in a deeper shade. Another feature of the reprinted envelopes is that the paper is white, while the original paper is off-white (coral?).

Domestic usage of the reprinted medium envelope is shown in Figures 4A (front) with the sender's imprinted address and machine cancellation 22 02 2007; Figure 4B (reverse) the caption "SENDER" with the four parallel lines provided for the sender's name and address is omitted.

The small and medium size envelopes—both regular and window--have also been reprinted, showing all of the differentiating features outlined for the medium size type. The earliest known date of use is August 5, 2004.

Community Post Postage Paid Envelopes--*Reaching Out to Our Communities*

Developed by the then TTPost Managing Director, Chris Abley, was a new service of postal sponsorship of community based non-governmental not-for-profit organizations, which was launched on 10 February 2004. This TTPost sponsorship project consisted of the donation of quantities of Community Post envelopes (240 x 106 mm) to 112 organizations represented at the launch session held at the La Joya Complex, St. Joseph. Usage is shown in Figure 5.

Eligible organizations are classified into five categories—environmental, health, arts and culture, education and training, and sports. Among the initial recipients of envelopes at the launch were: Kids in Need of Direction (KIND); Child Welfare League; Hispanic Women's Group; Trinidad Muslim League; National Basketball Federation; Care and Respect for Youth (CRY); Christian Union Church; and the Guardian's Neediest Cases Fund. Some of the larger organizations received as many as 5,000 envelopes; lesser entities were given 200. The Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago was given 300 covers.

The initial print run for Community Post Paid Courtesy envelopes was reported as TT\$ 50,000 for a quantity of 100,000.

Community Post Postage Paid Envelope—*Delivering the Future*

Similar in style, format and size to the 2004 emission of Community Post Postage Paid envelope, a 2006 version differs only in the substitution of a new slogan—*Delivering the Future*. An example bearing The Salvation Army corner card has been reported with a Machine 2 (7 x 50 mm parallel straight-line) cancellation, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO / MAIL CENTER / 17.11.2006. The PSTT were not able to obtain any envelopes, as supplies had already been exhausted.

Acknowledgments:

This writer (RAR) acknowledges with thanks the kindness of John Chay in supplying information as well as some examples illustrated; and to Dr. & Mrs. Sam Rambissoon for covers received.

Illustrations:

Figure 1A. Prepaid small envelope postmarked with Type 17, Tragarete Road November 7, 2001 oval date stamp (EKD). The window allows viewing of the TTPost logo which is printed in a continuous pattern.

Figure 1B. Reverse side shows SENDER and four lines for sender's name and address

Figure 2. TTPOST red and white / black-bordered packaging label for the 25-count Prepaid Envelopes

Figure 3. Prepaid domestic 75c rate is not valid for international mail, so the full air mail rate of \$3.75 was paid to the U.S.A.

Figure 4A. Printed sender's address on reprinted medium domestic cover addressed to San Fernando; on the front side.

Figure 4B. Reverse side: "SENDER" and four parallel lines are omitted on the reprinted envelope.

Figure 5. Usage of the first Community Post Postage Paid envelope

Notes for scanned illustrations

e-mail attachments of scanned images:

Cover illustrations, figure 4A, 1st image

4b, scan A0., Steve Zirinsky

Cover illustrations, figure 5, Steve Zirinsky

References:

Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago Bulletin, New Issue News—Prepaid Envelopes
215/4-6, October-December 2001

--Community Post Postage Paid Envelopes 225/3, April-June 2004

--Postage Paid Envelopes—Reprints 228/5, 6, January-March 2005

--New Issue News: Community Post Envelope 236/1, January-March 2007