



CENTRAL BANK OF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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OPENING REMARKS

at the

Launch of the

“Numismatic and Philatelic Exhibition”

by

*Ewart S. Williams,
Governor, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago
November 08, 2005*

SALUTATIONS:

The Honourable Arthur N. R. Robinson, former President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

The Honourable Penelope Beckles, Minister of Public Utilities & the Environment

Ms. Theresa Batty, Curator, National Institute of Culture and History, Belize

Mr. Ray Brathwaite, Executive Chairman of the Solid Waste Management Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SWMCOL)

Members of the Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am extremely delighted to welcome you here this afternoon to the Opening Ceremony of this Numismatic and Philatelic Exhibition which is being hosted by the Central Bank.

Since its inception, the Central Bank has sought to be involved in a number of community outreach initiatives. In recent times we have been attempting to expand our outreach agenda, in part, centered around our new Money Museum. This Numismatic and Philatelic Exhibition is a natural extension of the Money Museum initiative and a way of broadening our educational focus.

(We think) This exhibition is the first of its type in Trinidad & Tobago and the Bank is particularly pleased to be partnering with the **National Institute of Culture and History of Belize**, the **Craig Family of Belize**, as well as with our own **Solid Waste Management Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SWMCOL)**.

I visited Belize in June this year and was captivated by a philatelic display that I saw at the National Museum.

Belize has a rich flora and fauna, much like Trinidad and Tobago and the country's stamps and currency portray this, as well as its varied endowment of historic sites and wildlife, including some rare and endangered species of birds and animals.

Ms. Theresa Batty, thank you very much for all you have done to make this exhibition possible. Please convey our appreciation to the relevant authorities in Belize.

When Trinidad and Tobago achieved Republican status in 1976, a new series of banknotes was issued, with the national coat-of-arms replacing the Queen's portrait, and with the incorporation of a general design highlighting our flora and

fauna as well as some of our historical sites. These notes inspired the vibrant collection of our other partner the **Solid Waste Management Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SWMCOL)**.

This collection is a most unique one, incorporating a wide range of postage stamps, banknotes, gold and silver proof coins, postcards and phonecards, all **focussing on the theme of the environment and conservation of Trinidad & Tobago**.

We are indeed privileged to have the SWMCOL display as part of our exhibition and I thank **Ray Brathwaite**, SWMCOL's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, for his generous assistance and collaboration.

This evening we are also delighted to release to the general public a **special philatelic Commemorative Cover**, to celebrate this momentous occasion. It portrays a rare watercolour painting of the port of Port of Spain from the harbour, and the first official Treasury Building, way back in 1850. The painting was drawn by one of our icons, **Michel Jean Cazabon**. The current Treasury Building is still on this site which became the first home of the Central Bank when it was established.

The Cover depicts a \$1.00 stamp of 2003, with a portrait of our former President, the **Honourable Arthur NR Robinson**, and UN Secretary General, **Kofi Annan**, celebrating the Inauguration of the International Criminal Court. We are delighted that the former President is present with us today. Our country is richer for his 45 years of public service during which he served as President of the Republic, Prime Minister, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly and in various ministerial posts including as Minister of Finance at the time of the inauguration of the Central Bank. He has also played a key role in the creation of the International Criminal Court.

I would like to congratulate our philatelic consultant, **Mr. Albert Sydney**, Executive Director of Sydney & Sydney Associates, who was responsible for the concept and design of the Commemorative cover.

Let me take the opportunity also to congratulate and thank **Mr. Geoffrey McLean** for his creative and artistic contribution in the mounting of the display.

We at the Central Bank truly believe that our corporate responsibility extends beyond our role as regulator for the financial system and guardian of the integrity and stability of the currency.

The Museum has provided an alternative learning experience for students and visitors in general and our visitors' book includes several complimentary remarks on the value of the museum. We plan to create further learning opportunities and experiences for the national community using the Money Museum as the catalyst. It is our hope that the numismatic and philatelic exhibition which will run from today until November 30, will serve as a catalyst for the establishment of a **National Numismatic Society**.

Honourable Minister Beckles, I trust that with your assistance and tremendous influence, such a development may materialize.

On behalf of the Central Bank, let me again thank each of you for attending this Opening Ceremony. I am sure you will be very impressed and thus I hope that you will encourage your friends and the public to come and savour of the experience.

Thank you.