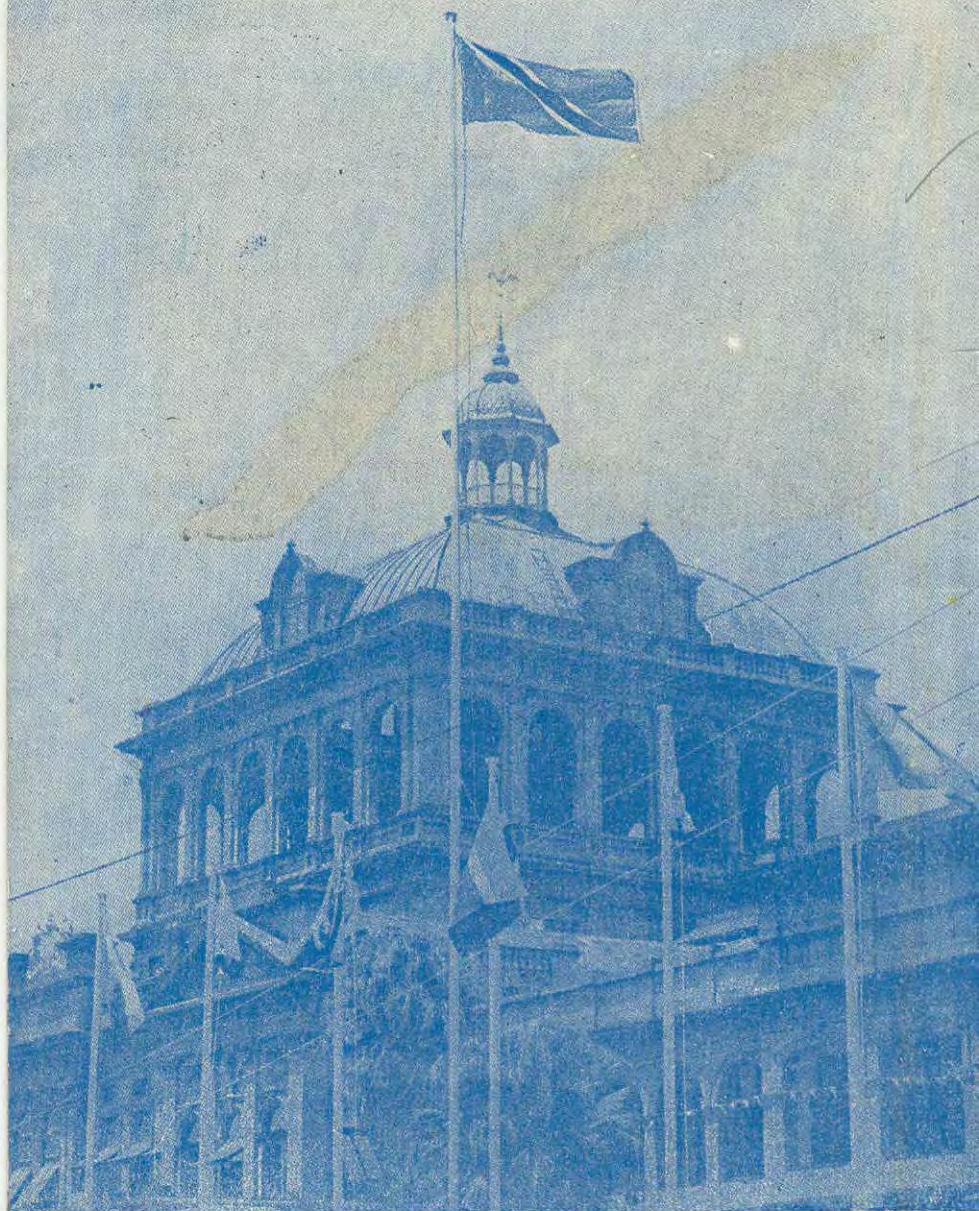




OUR FLAG

and other National Emblems

AN INDEPENDENCE PUBLICATION
GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, AUGUST 31, 1962.



National Flag over Parliament Building (Red House) after inauguration by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, of the first Parliament of the Independent Nation of Trinidad and Tobago — Independence Day, August 31, 1962.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

“ YOUR National Flag has been hoisted, to the strains of your National Anthem, against the background of your National Coat of Arms, and amidst the beauty and profusion of your National Flower. . . .

“Our National Flag belongs to all our citizens. Our National Coat of Arms, with our National Birds inscribed therein, is the sacred trust of all our citizens. So it is today. Please, I urge you, let it always be so. Let us always be able to say, with the Psalmist, behold, how good and how pleasant it is for bretheren to dwell together in unity.”

Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams's Broadcast to the Nation — Independence Day, August 31, 1962. (Excerpt)

OUR NATIONAL FLAG

At the stroke of the midnight hour chiming in our Independence our National Flag was unfurled for the first time, ushering in the dawn of a new era. Immediately before this the Union Jack was lowered, reverently and with dignity, closing the final chapter of our history as a British Colony.

Our National Flag is the proudest emblem of our country. It is the sign by which we shall be known to all the world; the new star set in the heavens joining its sisters stars in that constellation which gleams upon the Free Nations of the earth. It is the People's Flag; the Flag appointed by Destiny to fly over our land unto eternity. This is the Flag to which we pay homage from this day forward.

A National Flag is held in reverence by the citizens of a country. It is, therefore, our duty to ensure that our Flag is accorded the honour and respect due to it, that it is not subjected to any form of indignity or humiliation.

We have also a responsibility towards the Flags of other countries that we may wish to honour on occasion. We must remember that it is possible that an unconscious breach of etiquette in their use may have the opposite meaning to that which is intended and may well be construed as an insult to those friendly countries whose flags are in our midst.

This timely booklet serves as a guide to the use and display of our National Flag in accordance with the Code of Flag Etiquette adopted by Government. It is important that our citizens in displaying the Flag should observe the rules; indeed, their duty and loyalty to the country should urge them to do so.

We have also been presented with a new Coat of Arms and Motto. The design of the Arms has for our country a deeper and clearer meaning with the motto attached to it — "Together we aspire; together we achieve" — a motto so much in accord with the purpose and spirit of our new Nation.

As we turn a new page we must not forget the story of our historic Flags and other emblems which are now part of our heritage. We need to know that story, which is told here briefly, in order that we may the more fully appreciate the value and significance of our present national emblems.

As citizens of this new Nation let us all be proud of our Flag, preserving its honour and dignity and holding it always in reverence.

P. V. J. SOLOMON,
Minister of Home Affairs.

Independence Day,
31st August, 1962.
Trinidad and Tobago.

Errata:

Page 1, para. 2, line 7-8, read: 'Behold unity' "
line 8 read: brethren for bretheren.

line 4, paragraph 2, page 2.
read sister for sisters



Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago

PART I.

THE STORY OF OUR HISTORIC FLAGS AND OTHER EMBLEMS

See the power of National emblems: some stars, lilies, leopards, a crescent, a lion, an eagle, or other figure (which came into credit God knows how, on an old rag of bunting blowing in the wind on a fort at the ends of the earth) shall make the blood tingle under the rudest or the most conventional exterior.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803-1882.

The Royal Standard of Spain



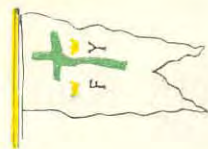
ROYAL STANDARD OF SPAIN³

The first flag to be unfurled over Trinidad, indeed the very first flag to wave over the Caribbean, was the Royal Standard of Spain. Four hundred and seventy years ago Columbus brought to the Caribbean the symbol of Iberian culture—the gold castle of Castile on a field of blood and the ruddy lion of León rampant on silver.

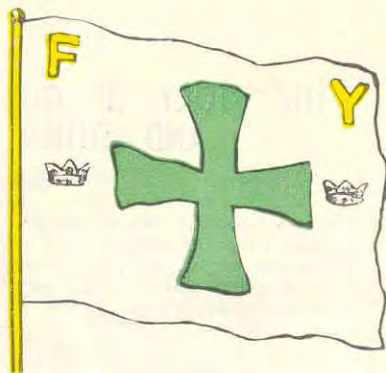
On his third voyage Columbus discovered Trinidad. He landed at Punta de la Playa (Erin Point) on August 1, 1498. We are in-

debted to the historian de Lorgues¹ for a rare account of the formalities by which Columbus took possession of Trinidad for his Catholic Sovereigns. According to his custom, as soon as Columbus stepped on the beach he erected a tall cross, hoisted the Royal Standard and proclaimed the *Requerimiento*. This explained that the Pope as universal sovereign had granted the newly discovered land to Ferdinand and Isabella and they had sent their loyal subjects to save the heathen inhabitants who would be required to acknowledge the overlordship of the Catholic Sovereigns.²

- (1) De Lorgues, *Histoire de C. Colomb*. I. III. Ch. I. p. 8. See P. G. L. Borde, *Histoire de l'île de la Trinidad sous le Gouvernement Espagnol*, Paris, 1876, Vol. I, p. 25.
- (2) In those days Church and State were inseparable. Treason was heresy and heresy treason.
- (3) As depicted in paintings of Juan de la Cosa: see F.M. Bigotte, *Colón su Descubrimiento: El Nuevo Mundo o la Gran Colombia*, vol I. p. 132-3.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



HIS BANNERS

Banners and Arms of Columbus

Columbus wore his famous white banner bearing a cross with the initials "F" and "Y" (for Ferdinand and Ysabel) on his three vessels¹ as he explored the southern coast of Trinidad and the Gulf of Paria; and as he sighted in the distant horizon, after leaving the Bocas del Dragón, the beautiful hills of Bellaforma (Tobago).²

Columbus's banner as well as his Arms are also part of our history. The Capitulations (contracts) Isabella made with Columbus in the Spring of 1493 stated that he was to be "Admiral of the Ocean Sea" which meant he would have admiralty jurisdiction over the Ocean and any lands he might discover. The Capitulations further stated that he was to be Viceroy and Governor over those lands which would in time include Trinidad and Tobago.

When Columbus returned from his famous First Voyage Ferdinand (King of Aragon) and Isabella (Queen of Castile and León) joint sovereigns of Spain conferred on him and on his descendants, by letters patent dated May 20, 1493, the right to bear arms.

- (1) Historians have variously named the vessels as follows: The Flagship as Santa Maria or as La Castilla (112 tons) and the caravels, as El or la Correo ("The Mail", 78 tons) and La Vaqueño, La Yachina, or Vaqueños (less than 78 tons). Columbus himself referred to his Flagship as La Nao (The Ship). Reference: Descubrimientos, descripciones, población, conquistas y pacificaciones, 1486-1574, Sección I, Patronato Real, 8-18, Archivo General de Indias de Sevilla; and Hermano Nectario María, Historia de Venezuela, Caracas, 1960, p. 27.
- (2) There is some dispute concerning the Discoverer's sighting Tobago. See S. E. Morrison, Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus, Boston, 1942, Vol II, p. 261.

Banners and Arms of Columbus (Cont'd).



ARMS OF COLUMBUS

Columbus's Arms of 1493 comprised "the gold castle of Castile on a green field in the upper dexter quarter of the shield and in the other upper quarter (on the sinister hand) the purple lion of León rampant with green tongue on a white field; in the quarter below on the dexter hand some gold islands in waves of the sea, and in the other quarter below (on the sinister hand) his own Arms."

Later, Columbus altered the design slightly, and our knowledge of the now familiar representation of the Arms of the Discoverer (reproduced here) is due to the historian Oviedo. ¹

The Spanish Flag over Trinidad

We have no records of the fate of the Royal Standard of Spain between 1498 and the arrival of Governor Antonio Sedeño in 1530; but certain it is that Sedeño flew it over his small settlement, Cumucurape (present-day Mucurapo).

There was no permanent Spanish settlement on the Island of Trinidad until 1592 when Domingo de Vera, advance agent for Governor Antonio de Berrio, founded San José de Oruña (St. Joseph). The Flag of Spain watched proudly over this settlement, which was intended as de Berrio's base for the exploration of the mythical land of El Dorado. ²

(1) Oviedo, *Historia de las Indias*, Seville, 1535.

(2) British Museum, Add. Mss. MDCCCC — MDCCCCV, Venezuela Papers, 36316, 2-4.

The Spanish Flag over Trinidad (Cont'd).



SIR WALTER RALEIGH

Although the sovereignty of Spain over the island was never seriously challenged until 1797, the security of her paramourty was often threatened. Sir Walter Raleigh (Gualtero Reale or Count Milor Guaterral to the Spaniards) sacked San José in 1595. The Flags of the Dutch and the English waved in isolated pocket settlements at Punta de Galera and Moruga between the 1630's and 1650's until they were discovered by the Spanish Governor, Diego López de Escobar, who promptly removed them.¹ In 1670 a Dutch

attempt against the island was repulsed. The year 1672 witnessed the ill-fated attack of Sir Tobias Bridges. In 1677 the Marquis d'Argennes de Maintenon with his **filibusters** ravaged the island but a French attack in 1690 under Commandant le Vassor de la Touche was frustrated.² In 1716 Edward Teach, the notorious pirate "Blackbeard", raided Spanish shipping in the Gulf of Paria.

Dutch, French and English Flags in Tobago

The fabled island of Tobago has a history of many Flags, national and piratical. British seamen had reached the island as early as 1580. Not until 1591 was it explored by the Spaniards.³ The Dutch were much in evidence in the early 1620's and by 1629 the Spanish Governor of Trinidad and Guayana informed the Council of the Indies in Madrid that the Dutch were in complete control.

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- (1) The Warwick Settlements with their English governors belong to this period.
(2) Borde, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 63.
(3) British Museum, Add. Mss. MDCCCC — MDCCCCV, Venezuela Papers, 36315: 23

Dutch, French and English Flags in Tobago (Cont'd).

Jan de Moor of Flushing established his first settlement, under Maersz, at New Walcheren (now Plymouth) in 1628. It was strengthened in 1632 by 200 Zeelanders only to be wiped out in 1636 by the Spanish governor Escobar.

The Flag of Courland, a cray-fish on a scarlet field, was hoisted in the early 1640's but had a chequered career, for it was displaced at intervals by flags of other interested powers.

The 1600's saw the waving of many flags in this island. The ups and downs of Tobago's history during this period are chronicled in the exploits of those English, Dutch and French adventurers and soldiers whose names are inseparably associated with this island: the Englishmen, Leverton (1637), Marsham (1639), Poyntz (1666, through many years), Sir Tobias Bridges (1672); the other Dutchmen — Cornelis and Adrien Lampsins (1654-1662);¹ Peter Constant (1667), Admiral Binkes (1677); and the Frenchman Comte d' Estrées (1677).

FRANCE'S TRICOLOR: REVOLUTION — 1830



FRENCH SOLDIERS IN TOBAGO.

(C. 1781 - 1793; 1802 - 1803)

For the next two centuries Tobago's history is a struggle between the English and the French, the Dutch having quit the stage. In 1763 Tobago was ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Paris.

In 1781 the French captured the island and kept it until 1793 when it was taken back by the British. The Peace of Amiens restored the territory to France in 1802. The next year, however, war broke out again and Britain permanently wrested Tobago from the French.

(1) Cornelis Lampsins was created "Baron of Tobago" by Louis XIV in 1662. The original warrant conferring this title on him is held in the Zealand Archives, Middelburg (Coll. of Mss. Verzameling Handschriften, No. 500).

The Union Jack over Trinidad and Tobago



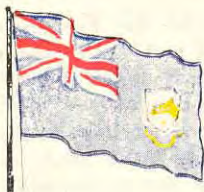
GRAND UNION FLAG, 1606 - 1800.



UNION FLAG, 1801 -

The Spanish Flag, originally the Standard of Castile and León, which had spanned three hundred years of Trinidad's history, gave way in 1797 to another flag from Europe - the Union Jack borne by Sir Ralph Abercromby. The present Union Jack with its design dating from 1801 is almost coeval with our British connection. For all these years it has stood sentinel over the destinies of these islands with all their momentous changes.

Flag of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago



THE COLONY FLAG
1959 - 1962

In 1959 the Government felt that the territory should possess its own distinctive flag, to which it had long been entitled. This flag (which had not been used previously) was designed in that year and contained the Blue Ensign emblazoned with the Arms of the Colony. It was hoisted for the first time on July 10, 1959. The flag-raising ceremony was a memorable occasion for it coincided with the inauguration of the Cabinet system of Government in this territory.

Our Colony Seals, Flag-Badges, Mottoes and Coat of Arms

On October 13, 1958 the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago was for the first time assigned Armorial Ensigns by Her Majesty the Queen. The Royal Warrant recorded in the College of Arms reads in part:



ARMS OF THE COLONY OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO

the Flag Badge of the COLONY of TRINIDAD and TOBAGO, together with the Motto *Misericorie Probat Populos et Foedera Jungi* as the same are in the painting hereunto annexed more plainly depicted to be borne for Our said COLONY of TRINIDAD and TOBAGO on Seals, Shields, Banners, Flags or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms.

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE therefore is that you the said Bernard Marmaduke, Duke of Norfolk, to whom the cognizance of matters of this nature doth properly belong do require and command that this Our Concession and Declaration be recorded in Our College of Arms

“WHEREAS for the greater honour and distinction of Our COLONY of TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO We are desirous that Armorial Ensigns should be assigned for that Colony.

KNOW YE THEREFORE that We of Our Princely Grace and Special Favour have granted and assigned and by these Presents do grant and assign the following Armorial Ensigns for Our said COLONY of TRINIDAD and TOBAGO that is to say:- A Seascape having a Mountain in the middle distance a Jetty and Shipping on the Water proper as represented in

Our Colony Seals, Flag-Badges, Mottoes and Coat of Arms (Cont'd).

to the end that Our Officers of Arms and all other public functionaries whom it may concern may take full notice and have knowledge thereof in their several and respective Departments. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

GIVEN at Our Court at St. James's this Thirteenth day of October 1958; in the Seventh year of Our Reign.

Alan Lennox-Boyd"

The Great Seal of the Colony of Trinidad

The design of the Arms of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, granted in 1958, was not new, nor was the motto which formed part of it. In our Archives we have a document dated June 22, 1803 which describes the device containing the familiar mountain, ship and motto on the Great Seal that was being engraved for Trinidad at the time. The document tells us that the King's Most Excellent Majesty (George the Third) at the Court of St. James's gave his approval for the engraving of the Seal which is described as follows:

"A Representation of a Town and Harbour full of Shipping, with this Motto or legend underneath — *Misericordie probat populos et foedera jungi*. And this inscription round the circumference — *Sigillum Insulae Nostrae Trinitatis*. On the reverse: His Majesty's Arms, Crown Garter, Supporters and Motto, with the inscription round the circumference — *Georgius Tertius Dei Gratia — Britanniarum Rex, Fidei Defensor*."

The Origin of our Old Motto

Miscerique probat populos et foedera iungi

[Trans. He approves of the mingling of peoples and their being joined together by treaties].

The words are from the *Aeneid* of Virgil, Book IV, line 112, (modified by Sir Ralph Abercromby?) in the following context:



VIRGIL

. quis talia demens
'abnuat, aut tecum malit contendere bello?
'si modo, quod memoras, factum fortuna sequatur?
'sed fatis incerta feror, si Iuppiter unam
'esse velit Tyriis urbem Troiaque profectis,
'miscerive probet populos, aut foedera iungi.

lines 107 - 112.

[Translation :

'Who so mad as to reject these terms, choosing rather to strive with thee in war if only Fortune favour the plan thou speakest of? But the Fates rack me with doubt whether 'tis Jove's will that there be one city for the Tyrians and the wanderers from Troy, or whether he approves the blending of peoples and the treaty of union.]

From local sources it has not yet been possible to discover how this line from Rome's greatest poet, Publius Vergilius Maro, (70-19 B.C.), came to be adopted as Trinidad's motto (later, the motto of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago). It is quite likely that the choice was made by Abercromby, a man who was not unfamiliar with the Latin classics and who would no doubt have been reminded in 1797 of the comparable situation of Aeneas at Carthage.

The theme of a union and a pact between the two peoples - the strangers from Troy and the Tyrians (or Carthaginians) - runs right through the First Book of the *Aeneid* and is resumed in Book IV, culminating in the line that was selected and altered for use as the motto of Trinidad. There is the desire on the part of Juno, echoed warily by Venus, who actually speaks the line, that there should be a mingling of the incoming Trojans, Aeneas's people - or, by analogy, Abercromby's British and Dido's Tyrians of Carthage, identified in Abercromby's mind with the settlers of

The Origin of our Old Motto (Cont'd).

Chacón's Trinidad. Abercromby, with victory assured, did not want to shed blood needlessly and could well afford to think in terms of a fusion of the peoples.¹ His amicable relations with Chacón, which resulted in the peaceful transfer of power, must have been an added reason for him to symbolise this intended union by the verse he chose.

As the Fourth Book progresses we find Aeneas eager to forsake Dido and leave Carthage, which he finally does. That unhappy dénouement could not have been foreseen by the British Conqueror but is ironically presaged in the motto he selected for his newly-won possession. . . . These are mere speculations, but, nevertheless, interesting; for the truth surrounding the origin of the motto is unhappily unattainable.

The Motto, Seals and Flag-Badge of Tobago

Pulchrior evenit

[Trans: She emerges more beautiful.]



GREAT SEAL OF TOBAGO, (C. 1815)



TOBAGO SEAL (VICTORIA, C. 1860)

The motto of Tobago before 1889 when this island was administered as a separate Colonial unit distinct from Trinidad is engraved

(1) Sir Ralph Abercromby in a letter from Trinidad dated February 28, 1797: "The inhabitants are, a number of Spanish, English and French. I shall endeavour as much as possible to gain them by a mild and equal government." Lieut. Gen. Sir Ralph Abercromby K. B. 1793 - 1801 - A Memoir by his Son, James Lord Dunfermline, Edinburgh, 1861; p. 57.

The Motto, Seals and Flag-Badge of Tobago (Cont'd).

on the **Great Seal** of that island and appears on documents in our Archives dating back to the year 1815. However, in the London Mint there is an undated wax impression of a Tobago **Great Seal** which appears to be an earlier version although it belongs to the same period - the reign of George the Third. It shows on one side a harbour with four ships, three at anchor, one sailing; a fruited coconut tree on the left; hill, buildings and palm trees in the background. The top half portrays the face of the sun; the exergue contains the motto: **Pulchrior evenit**; and around the circumference the words - **sigil. ins. Tobag. recuperatae**.¹



FLAG BADGE OF TOBAGO (C. 1880)

The device which was used as the Colony's old **Flag Badge** is a ship at anchor in a harbour, with the rising sun and a coconut tree on some land in the foreground. The exergue encloses the inscription: **Pulchrior evenit**.

The Minutes of the Tobago House of Assembly dated July 13, 1815 record a Resolution of the House for the procuring of a "Great Seal and Seal at Arms" for the Island .

In a memorable speech the Speaker in the Tobago House of Assembly on January 12, 1816 eloquently referred to the motto in these terms:

" As a consequence of a lasting peace ² it may assuredly be expected that our interests as Colonists will be bettered, and we will willingly therefore, flatter ourselves with the same sanguine hopes as entertained by Your Honour and trust that the promise so long held out, and indeed alluded to in the device adopted by the island, **Pulchrior evenit** - may at last be verified .

- (1) A wax replica furnished by the London Mint is held in our Archives. (This is to be exhibited in the National Museum and Art Gallery during the Independence celebrations.)
- (2) The Treaty of Paris, 1814, had been signed and the island finally ceded to Great Britain, ending its long unsettled status.



The Flag Badge of Trinidad and Tobago

Before the administrations of Trinidad and Tobago were joined together in 1889 each island had its own Flag Badge, designed after its own Great Seal, and the Governors of the two Colonies flew their separate Standards, each of which consisted of the Badge of the island emblazoned on the Union Flag. The Trinidad Governor, however, did not receive his own distinctive Standard until 1875. ¹ After the union of Tobago with Trinidad only the Trinidad Badge was used on the Governor's Standard. But, curiously, the Badge of Tobago was impressed upon currency notes of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago until a few years ago.

The Last Standard of the Governor of the Colony



STANDARD OF LAST COLONIAL GOVERNOR

The Standard of the Governor of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, which for so many years proudly waved over his residence and accompanied him on his tours of our towns, boroughs and counties was the regular design prescribed for British Colonial Governors - the Union Flag with the approved Arms or Badge of the Colony emblazoned in its centre on a white ground surrounded by a green garland. ²

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- (1) Governor of Trinidad (Irving) despatch No. 61 of May 25, 1875 to Secretary of State.
(2) Colonial Regulations. 123

PART II

OUR NATIONAL FLAG, COAT OF ARMS AND OUR NATIONAL FLOWER

"Fling out the Flag. Let us hope that this splendid banner will give us a higher ideal of national character; an ideal that will dedicate the national conscience to a still deeper love of country, to a more reverent regard for its institutions, to a higher civilization and to peace, yea, to eternal peace among the nations of the earth. This Flag means that or it means nothing."

Anon.

"A thoughtful mind, when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the nation itself; and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the government, the principles, the truths, the history, which belong to the nation."

Henry Ward Beecher. 1813 - 1887.

The Making of the National Flag

On May 28, 1962 in historic Marlborough House, London, the Independence Conference between the British Government and the delegations representing the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago took place.

On June 8, 1962 the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced from London that it had been decided at the Conference that the Colony was to be granted Independence on August 31, 1962.

This new status of nationhood meant that our Country would need to have its distinctive national emblems — a National Flag and Coat of Arms—by which it would be identified universally.

A Committee which had been appointed by Government to advise on the design of the Flag and the Arms of the new Nation, to choose a Motto for it, and to consider suggestions from the public on these matters, submitted its report on June 26. Cabinet immediately approved the report, and a picture of the National Flag was published.

The Making of the National Flag (Cont'd)



NATIONAL FLAG OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The official description of the Flag reads as follows :

“On a Red Field, a Bend Dexter Sable bordered Silver; that is to say, there is on the Red Field a diagonal from left to right in Black bordered with White. The width of the Black and White bands joined side by side at the upper dexter corner of the Flag is one - fifth of the full length of the Flag, and the width of each White band is one - sixth of the width of the White and Black bands together. The width of the Black is therefore four-sixths of the total width of the White and Black.

“The Black and White diagonals must always point to the peak of the staff.

“The dimensions of the National Flag shall be in the proportions of five to three (5 : 3). For flags carried at sea the dimensions shall be two to one (2 : 1).”

Meaning of the Flag

The choice of the Flag was not difficult to make for the main requirements of a National Flag had been satisfied in the selected design : simplicity of form ; a pleasing visual quality; and not least, the symbolism with which this emblem of the Nation was infused.

The confidence of a brave people accepting the challenge of Nationhood was best symbolised in the choice of a Flag of completely independent and not too orthodox design. Colours were picked that would interpret the philosophy of the new Nation, the principles for which it stood, its hopes and aspirations, and presiding over it all the Nation's supreme determination to preserve that harmony and unity of spirit which underlie the cultural variety of our peoples.

It is necessary to record here the symbolism approved by Government for the colours used in the Flag.

Meaning of the Flag (Cont'd).

"The Black represents for us the dedication of the people joined together by one strong bond. It is the colour of strength, of unity of purpose, and of the wealth of the land.

Red is the colour most expressive of our country; it represents the vitality of the land and its peoples; it is the warmth and energy of the sun, the courage and friendliness of the people.

White is the sea by which these lands are bound; the cradle of our heritage; the purity of our aspirations and the equality of all men under the sun,

Thus, the colours chosen—Black, White and Red—represent the elements of Earth, Water and Fire which encompass all our past, present and future; and inspire us as one united, vital, free and dedicated people."

Our Coat of Arms



OUR COAT OF ARMS
(outline)

Our Coat of Arms incorporates important historical and indigenous features of Trinidad and Tobago in a design approved by the College of Arms. It may be mentioned that what is commonly known as a Coat of Arms is more properly called an Achievement of Arms which comprises: (a) the Livery coat or colour on a Shield; (b) Charges or Devices on the Shield; (c) the Helm of special design; (d) the Mantle which covers the Helm; (e) the Wreath to hold the Mantle in place; (f) the Crest; (g) the Supporters; (h) the Motto,

Description and significance of the devices on the Arms

It will be noted that the same colours of the flag (Black, White and Red) are used on the Shield, where the same symbolism is attached to them. The three gold ships represent the Trinity; the discovery of the islands; the three ships of Columbus; the sea that brought our peoples together; the commerce and wealth of the country. The Humming-birds (conventional, after Guy's white-tailed Hermit or Brin-blanc) *Phaethornis guy guy* (Lesson) have been included for sentimental reasons.

The Helm is the Queen's — a gold helmet facing front and having five gold bars across the visor, the interior lined red. The Wreath which crowns the helmet carries, by tradition, all the colour of the achievement. For the Crest we have a ship's wheel gold in front of a fruited coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera* (L).

The Supporters are a Scarlet Ibis (or Flamant), *Eudocimus ruber* (L) for Trinidad, in the senior position, and a Cocrico (or Red-tailed Guan or Rufus-tailed Chachalaca), *Ortalis r. ruficauda* (Jardine) for Tobago. The Ibis and the Cocrico are shown in their natural colours.

Heraldic description of the Coat of Arms

The official description of our Arms, in the language of Heraldry, reads as follows:

Arms: Per chevron enhanced sable and gules a chevronel enhanced argent between a chief two Humming-birds respectant gold and in base three ships of the period of Christopher Columbus also gold the sails set proper.

Crest: Upon a Wreath argent and gules in front of a Palm Tree proper a Ship's wheel gold.

Supporters: Upon a Compartment representing two Islands arising from the sea, on the dexter side a Scarlet Ibis and on the sinister side a Cocrico, both proper and with wings elevated and addorsed.

MOTTO: Together we aspire; together we Achieve."

- (1) The Cocrico is indigenous to Tobago. One of the earliest references to its association with Tobago is found in the long-titled work of Captain John Poyntz, *The Present Prospect of the Famous and Fertile Island of Tobago with A Description of the Situation, Growth, Fertility and Manufacture of the Said Island to which is added - Proposals for the Encouragement of all those that are minded to settle there.* This work was published in London in 1663. Poyntz (at page 14) describes our bird in the following terms: "The Cockericco is the Indian name for the Tobago Pheasants, which are as large, and as fair as our English Pheasants; and those that have fed upon them, say, they are better food. They are easily taken in Glades with Nets, or struck with shot from the Bow of Trees."

Our Coat of Arms (Cont'd).

A most remarkable feature of our new Coat of Arms is the presence on it of the three peaks of the supporting island on the right and the fruited coconut palm on the crest.

The three peaks, now honoured with a lasting place on our Arms, are the same three hills that constituted the principal motif of Trinidad's early British Colonial Seals and Flag Badges that must originally have been chosen in commemoration of Columbus's decision to name the larger island after the Trinity; or perhaps they were meant to be the same three peaks (our "Three Sisters") that rose before the eyes of sailor Alonzo Pérez Nizaro from the Caribbean horizon as he casually climbed to the crow's-nest of the Discoverer's ship that midday of July 31, 1498.

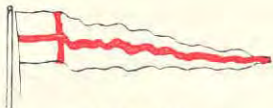
The fruited coconut palm had always been the central figure on the Great Seals of British Colonial Tobago and was an adornment to the Governor's Standard in the days when this island was a separate administrative unit. Removed by the accidents of history, it now returns resplendent, with a gold ship's wheel at its base on the very crest of this national emblem of Independent Trinidad and Tobago.

Other Flags of the Nation

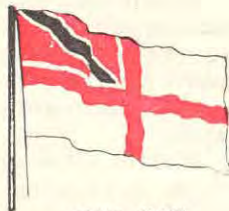


GOVERNOR—GENERAL'S STANDARD

The Governor General's Standard consists of St. Edward's Crown surmounted by crowned lion in gold; underneath, the words "TRINIDAD & TOBAGO" on a gold Scroll; the whole on a dark-blue background.



COAST GUARD
COMMISSIONING PENDANT



COAST GUARD
ENSIGN

Our National Flower - The Chaconia



THE CHACONIA

The honour of being chosen as our National Flower goes to a wild, forest flower — the Chaconia or “Wild Poinsettia” or “Trinidad’s Pride,” now re-christened “Pride of Trinidad and Tobago.” Our flower, which belongs to the family Rubiaceae, owes its botanical name, *Warszewiczia Coccinea* (Vahl) Kl., to the Polish-Lithuanian plant collector, Joseph Warszewicz. The title “Chaconia” was given to it in honour of the last, and certainly the most progressive, Spanish Governor of Trinidad, Don José María Chacón (1784 - 1797).

This flower; which is known by its long sprays of magnificent vermilion, will be in bloom on every anniversary of our Independence Day. As an indigenous flower it has been witness to our entire history; it shall be with us unto eternity. It can therefore be said to represent the imperishability of life and the continuity of our new Nation.

With its colour matching the flaming red of our Flag and Coat of Arms and bearing the same symbolism, the Chaconia completes our trio of National Emblems.

Acknowledgments

The Ministry of Home Affairs on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to acknowledge its gratitude to all those persons, institutions and Governments that assisted in the work of the two Committees appointed by Government to consider the design of the National Flag and Coat of Arms and to draft a Code of Flag Etiquette.

These Committees whose members have rendered invaluable service to Government were constituted as follows:

- (a) **Committee for designing of the Flag and Coat of Arms:**
Messrs. T. C. Cambridge (Chairman), Carlisle Chang, J. A. Bullbrook, J. Newel Lewis, Peter Bynoe, Andrew Carr, Alston Huggins, Harry Dow (Col). D. Samaroo, C. O'Brien, G. Bailey, F. Frederick and Enos Sewlal; Misses Sybil Atteck, M. E. Ottley, B. Armstrong; and Mr. M. P. Alladin (Secretary).
- (b) **Committee on Flag Etiquette:**
Mr. W. J. Boos (Chairman); Col. P. L. Pearce-Gould, Commander L. E. Peyton-Jones, Dr. R. Marcano, Dr. S. Moosai-Maharaj, Capt. D. F. Watson, Mr. E. Mahabir, Supt. A. Gentle, Lieut. Col. K. S. Gittens, Mr. K. Hudson-Phillips (Barrister-at-Law), and Enos Sewlal (Secretary).

Information on the Flag Etiquette of the following countries was received from the local representatives: United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, India and Australia. A summary of the Flag etiquette of British Commonwealth countries was received from the Commonwealth Relations Office, United Kingdom.

Research on the history of the Great Seals of Trinidad and of Tobago was carried out in Archives in London, mainly the Public Record Office, with the kind assistance of Mr. Eric Murray and Miss Kathleen Archibald of the Trinidad and Tobago London Office.

Government is especially grateful to the Public Record Office, London, for its help in providing useful documentary material, and to the London Mint in furnishing a wax replica of the Great Seal of Tobago (George III).

Drawings of the Flag of Castile and León 1492 and of Columbus's banner were obtained from records in the Venezuelan National Archives (Archivo General de la Nación) with the kind help of Mr. S. S. Lutchman, British Embassy, Caracas, Venezuela.

The cover and other illustrations in this booklet are the work of a young local artist, Nazir-al-Ghany of the Five Rivers Islamia School, Arouca.

Finally, Government wishes to thank Carlisle Chang for his assistance in preparing the drawing of the Committee's design of the Coat of Arms for submission to the College of Arms.

August 31, 1962.

HUGH A. HARRIS
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

PART III.

FLAG ETIQUETTE

The information in this section on the use and display of the National Flag is based on the Code of Flag Etiquette adopted by Government. While the study of Flag Etiquette is a rather wide one with many departments, this brochure deals only with the use and display of the National Flag by Government Departments, public institutions and by the ordinary citizen. No attempt has been made to deal with flag usage relating for example, to the Defence Forces or the Merchant Marine except perhaps for a brief reference as these are quite separate departments with their own specialised etiquette. Some notes on the flying of the Governor's General's Standard are included as a matter of public interest.

1. SPECIAL DAYS FOR FLYING THE NATIONAL FLAG

The dates of special significance for this country on which the National Flag may be flown freely by all citizens are as follows:

1. Anniversary of the Accession
to the Throne of Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II 6th February
2. Birthday of Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II .. 21st April or such other date
as may be appointed for the
official celebration of Her
Majesty's birthday
3. Commonwealth Day .. 24th May
4. Discovery Day .. First Monday in August
5. Independence Day .. 31st August
6. Remembrance Day .. Second Sunday in November
(Flags should be flown at full
mast all day)
7. Birthday of Prince Charles 14th November
8. Any other dates as may be prescribed from time to time by
Government.

2. GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S RESIDENCES

- i. The Governor-General's Standard is a personal standard and should fly continuously, day and night, as long as His Excellency is in residence.
- ii. The Governor-General's Standard should be lowered as His Excellency leaves the grounds of Government House *only* when he is to be away for the night. On such day when His Excellency is to be away for the night his Standard is, immediately on his departure, replaced by the National Flag between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. On His Excellency's return, as he enters the grounds, his Standard is hoisted and the National Flag (if flying) lowered.
- iii. When the National Flag is flown in place of the Governor-General's Standard it should be lowered at 6 p.m. and hoisted again at 6 a.m. daily. The National Flag should be flown from the same mast as that used for the Governor-General's Standard.
- iv. On the special days of national significance listed in Section 1 above the National Flag should be flown together with the Governor-General's Standard to the left of it and at the same height on a separate flagstaff. When the National Flag is flown with the Governor-General's Standard it should be hoisted at 6 a.m. and lowered at 6 p.m.
- v. The Governor-General's Standard being a personal standard should never be flown at half-mast except in the event of the death of the sovereign or of the Governor-General. When occasion demands that a flag be flown at half-mast, the National Flag should be used.

3. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

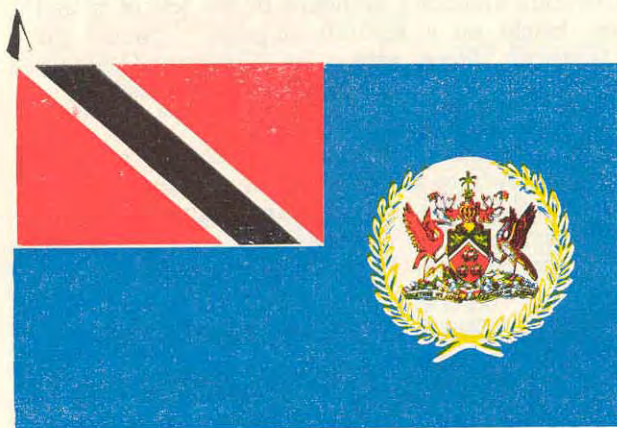
The National Flag should be flown daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Prime Minister's official residence.

**Notes and Drawings relating to Section 6,
Motor Cars (page 23, opposite)**



Prime-
Minister's
Flag

The Prime-Minister's Flag comprises on a white field, the National Flag in the first canton with the National Arms wreathed in gold emblazoned on the fly.



Ministers'
Flags

The flags of Ministers of Government show on a bright blue field, the National Flag in the first canton with the National Arms on a white ground wreathed in gold emblazoned on the fly.

4. GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The National Flag should be flown daily during working hours on or in the precincts of important Government Buildings. On the special days for the display of the Flag listed in Section 1 above, the Flag should be flown from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

5. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The National Flag should be flown on school days on or in the precincts of all state and state-aided educational institutions from 8 a.m. to closing time. On the first day of the term the flag should be ceremonially hoisted and on the last day, ceremonially lowered. In this context the term "ceremonially" should be taken to mean in the presence of all the students assembled, and with the singing of the National Anthem.

6. MOTOR CARS

The undermentioned persons may, besides their own distinctive flags, fly the National Flag on their official or private cars when occupied by them for travelling on official duty: At other times the National Flag on such cars should be removed or sheathed.

- (i) The Prime Minister
- (ii) The President of the Senate
- (iii) The Speaker of the House of Representatives
- (iv) Members of the Cabinet
- (v) Heads of the Country's permanent Oversea Missions.



Illus. 1

The Flag should be on a staff firmly affixed to the bonnet emblem the staff being of sufficient height to ensure that the Flag does not touch the body of the car. (Illus. 1)

7. OVERSEA MISSIONS

At Permanent Oversea Establishments of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the National Flag should be flown daily unless this is contrary to the law or custom of the country in which the Mission is located. In any event, the Flag should be flown on the special days specified in Section 1 above and on such other special occasions as may be prescribed by the responsible Minister.

8. PAYING RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL FLAG AND OTHER FLAGS



(Illus. 2)

(Standards or ensigns or emblems of institutional or voluntary organisations need only be paid respect by members of the institutions or organisations according to their individual customs.)

While the National Flag is being raised or lowered or while it is passing in a parade or review, all persons should pay respect to it by standing to attention and facing the Flag. Men in civilian dress should remove their hats. Persons in uniform should salute. The Defence Force Colours should receive the same respect. (Illus. 2)

9. GENERAL RULES FOR THE USE AND DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

(i) *Hoisting and lowering the Flag*

The Flag should be hoisted briskly to the top of the staff, care being taken to ensure that it occupies the correct position on the halyard, the right upper corner of the flag being at the peak of the staff.

The Flag is to be lowered slowly and with dignity.

(ii) *Display of the National Flag with other flags and emblems*

1. In this country and at its Oversea Missions no other flag, colour, standard, ensign, or other emblem should be displayed above or to the right of the National Flag, that is, the Flag's own right, or the observer's left. All other flags flown together with the National Flag of Trinidad and Tobago should be placed to the left of it. (Illus. 3)



Illus. 3

(Illus. 3)

GENERAL RULES FOR THE USE AND DISPLAY
OF THE NATIONAL FLAG (Cont'd).

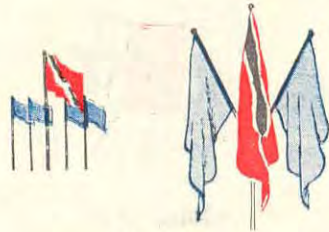
2. When the flags of two or more nations are displayed together they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height and all the flags should be as far as possible of the same size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another in time of peace.

(Illus. 4)



Illus. 4

3. When the National Flag is flown with other flags it must be the first to go up and the last to come down. It must never be lowered while other flags are flying or are being hoisted.
4. When the National Flag is flown in a group with local flags, standards, ensigns, or emblems, such as those belonging to our Townships, institutions, societies, organisations, it should be at the centre and at the highest point in the group.



Illus. 5

5. When the National Flag and any other flag or flags are displayed from crossed staffs against a wall the National Flag should be on the right (the flag's own right) with its staff placed in front of any other staff or staffs as the case may be. (Illus. 6)



Illus. 6

GENERAL RULES FOR THE USE AND DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG (Cont'd).

(iii) *Display of Flag in horizontal position or at an angle*

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from a window sill, balcony, or the front of a building, the upper dexter quarter of the flag (or more simply, the top right corner of the flag) should go clear to the peak of the staff provided the flag is not being displayed at half -mast.(Illus.7)



Illus. 7

(iv) *Display of Flag without staff*



Illus. 8

1. When the Flag is displayed otherwise than by being flown from a staff it should be displayed flat and fully extended, whether indoors or out, or so suspended that its folds fall as freely as if the Flag was staffed. (Illus. 8)

2. When the Flag is displayed over a street it should be suspended vertically with the upper dexter (right) quarter to the North in an East-West street or to the East in a North-South street.
(Illus. 9)

Illus. 9
same as
Illustration 8

GENERAL RULES FOR THE USE AND DISPLAY
OF THE NATIONAL FLAG (Cont'd).

3. When the Flag hangs over a side-walk from a rope extending from house to a pole standing at the edge of the sidewalk it is displayed vertically, the upper dexter quarter towards the pole.

(Illus. 10)



Illus
10

(v) *The National Flag in a Parade*

1. The National Flag should not be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free and borne to the front and middle of the standard-bearer. (Illus 11 & 12)

(Illus
11

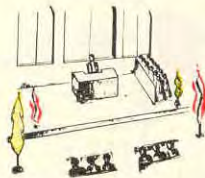


(Illus
12

2. The National Flag when carried in a procession with another flag or with other flags abreast should be on the marcher's right (the right being the position of honour) with the other flags to the left of it. If the procession takes the form of a line of flags, the National Flag should be at the front of the centre of that line. (Illus. 11 & 12)
3. The salute to the Flag in a moving column by those present in uniform-should be rendered at the moment the Flag passes.
4. When the Flag is displayed from a float or motor car the staff should be securely clamped to the chassis or the bonnet emblem.
5. The Flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of any vehicle, railway train or boat.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE USE AND DISPLAY
OF THE NATIONAL FLAG (Cont'd).

(vi) *Display of Flag in Church*



Illus. 13

tion's right facing the chancel or platform; any other flags in the body of the church should be to the left of the congregation.

(vii) *Display of Flag at public meetings, etc.*

1. When used on a rostrum the Flag should be placed if displayed flat, behind the speaker and high above his head and above all other decorations, the Flag occupying its normal position as when it flies from a staff, i.e., the upper dexter quarter should be uppermost and form the right side of the flag as it faces the audience. (Illus 14)



Illus 14

Illus 15

same as
Illustration 13

2. When the Flag is displayed from a staff on a speaker's platform it should be placed at the speaker's right in the position of honour; if displayed in the body of the auditorium, facing the platform, it should fly from a staff at the right of the audience. Other flags in the body of the auditorium

should be displayed from staffs standing to the left of the audience facing the speaker. (Illus 15).

GENERAL RULES FOR THE USE AND DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

- (b) On the day of the death and funeral day of:—
- (i) Members of the Royal Family other than the Sovereign;
 - (ii) the Governor-General;
 - (iii) the Prime Minister;
 - (iv) the President of the Senate;
 - (v) the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (vi) Members of the Cabinet;
 - (vii) other notable citizens and residents of Trinidad and Tobago as may be announced by the Minister of Home Affairs.
- (c) On other occasions as may from time to time be prescribed by the Minister of Home Affairs.
3. When any of these days of mourning on which the Flag is required to fly at half-mast falls on one of the special days of national significance referred to Section 1 above, the National Flag should nevertheless be flown at full mast on that day, unless special instructions to the contrary are received from the Minister of Home Affairs.
- (xi) *Flying the Flag at Night*

The National Flag should not be flown after sunset, except inside a building. However, on important ceremonial occasions the Flag may be displayed in the open after sunset when it should be flood-lit if possible.

10 PROHIBITED USES OF THE NATIONAL FLAG (Miscellaneous)

1. The National Flag must not be dipped to any person or thing; this honour will be rendered by the Defence Force Colours or where appropriate by the flags of institutions, organisations, etc.
2. The National Flag should not be used for purposes of adornment or advertising. It should not be printed or embroidered or otherwise reproduced on such articles as handkerchiefs, uniforms or clothing of any kind, or furniture, cushions, etc. It should not be printed or otherwise impressed on paper boxes or napkins or anything intended for temporary use and discard. It should not be used at any part of a disguise costume.

PROHIBITED USES OF THE NATIONAL FLAG (Miscellaneous)

3. The Flag should not have placed on it or attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing. It should not be used as a commercial trade-mark. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the National Flag is flown.
4. The Flag should not be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
5. The Flag should not be festooned over doorways, arches, etc., or tied in a bowknot, or fashioned into a rosette, or used as drapings. It should not be drawn back or drawn up in folds but always allowed to fall free.
6. The Flag should not be displayed, used or stored in such a manner as would permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.
7. The Flag should not be used as a covering for a ceiling.
8. The Flag should not be allowed to touch anything beneath it; such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

11. FLAG STATION

The National Flag will be flown under arrangements made by the Commander, Trinidad and Tobago Regiment at a Government Flag Station from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

12. THE COAST GUARD

On Coast Guard vessels flags will be flown in the following manner:

- (i) When in harbour daily from 8 a.m. to sunset, the National Flag at the bow and the Coast Guard ensign at the stern;
- (ii) When at sea, by day or night, the Coast Guard ensign at the stern;
- (iii) At all times whilst the vessel is in commission, a commissioning pendant at the mast head.

13. THE MERCHANT NAVY

The Merchant Shipping Act lays down that all British merchant ships should fly the designated flag of their country of registration when entering or leaving harbour and when required by Her Majesty's ships to do so. All merchant vessels registered in Trinidad and Tobago should fly the National Flag in the stern of the vessel in accordance with this requirement. In harbour the flag should be flown between the hours of 8 a.m. and sunset.

When visiting foreign ports merchant vessels flying the national flag should observe the custom whereby the national flag of the country visited is flown at the yard arm or mast head as a matter of courtesy.

14. SHIPS AND VESSELS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

All ships and vessels, or other craft, operated by Government should fly the National Flag at the stern when underway between the hours of sunrise and sunset. If desired, any departmental flag may be flown at the bow.

15. DESTRUCTION OF WORN FLAG

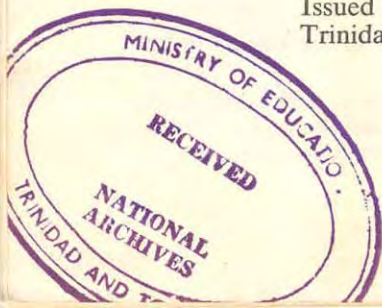
The National Flag when it is no longer fit for display should be disposed of by burning. It should not be left lying about with other unserviceable articles.

16. DIMENSIONS OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

The dimensions of the National Flag shall be in proportion of five to three (5 : 3) for flags flown on land. For flags worn at sea the dimensions shall be those recommended by the Admiralty i.e. two to one (: 1).

* * * * *

Issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs
Trinidad and Tobago, 31st August, 1962.





Our National Flower - The Chaconia