



MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items 2002.1

*Founder Members : Yvan Martial - Mico Antoine.
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MARCH 2002

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JANUARY - The first meeting of the new year was held on Saturday 12th at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m.

There was a display of stamps from various Commonwealth countries. However the main subject of the afternoon was a review by Mico Antoine of two recently published books, namely **History of Mauritius** by Sydney Selvon and **The Postal History of Mauritius** by Edward B. Proud. Several members placed orders for Proud's book; some members had already acquired Selvon's book.

Also discussed were latest philatelic news from around the world and the M.C.B Museum.

The Bid Board and Purchase List offered a whole new range of Mauritian stamps, covers and other Mauritian items.

FEBRUARY - The February meeting was held on Saturday 9th February at 2.00 p.m. at the usual time and at the usual venue. Pravin Bhowanydeen showed his collection on **Gandhi**. This is an ongoing venture which he had updated up to the end of 2001.

Mico Antoine showed **Aspects of Africa** featuring mainly David Livingstone and Rock Paintings. This display was prepared specially, on request, in commemoration of the 1st February, End of Slavery, public holiday.

News Items 2001.4 of December 2001 was distributed to members. Auction sales catalogues and other philatelic journals and publications donated by members and accumulated by the Society were given away on a first come first served basis.

MARCH - The **Annual General Meeting** was held on Saturday 16th March 2002 at 2.00 p.m. at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

The agenda was:

- a. Approval of Minutes of 2001 AGM.
- b. Report of the President for the year 2001.
- c. Approval of Accounts ending 31st December 2001.
- d. Approval of Budget for the year 2002.
- e. Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers for the year 2002.
- f. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2002.
- g. Any other business.

The minutes, accounts and budget were approved, the President's report was adopted, the Auditors were appointed and Committee Members were elected; all business were carried out.

The new Committee for year 2002 is made up of the 2001 members who were all returned unopposed.

Yvan Martial – President
Mico Antoine – Vice President
Judex Adrien – Treasurer
Pravin Bhowanydeen – Vice Treasurer
Patrick Kwan – Secretary
Gaetan Bouchet – Vice Secretary
Sanjit Teelock – Member
Dr Nasser Maderbokus – Member
Anil Hurdyal – Member

The display boards carried latest philatelic news from around the world including the problems of Irradiation of Mails in the U.S.A., the Queen's Collection and the 10th Anniversary of the Republic commemorative stamps.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held on 19th January, 16th February and 23rd March at the residence of the President at 88 Club Road, Vacoas at 1.00 p.m.

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VISITORS TO MAURITIUS

Member LOUIS LAURENTY from Belgium was in Mauritius during January and February. He dropped in on February's Society meeting.

Member MARKKU HARKONEN from Norway visited Mauritius and Rodrigues during February and March. He made it a point to attend the AGM of 16th March with his wife Calina. He left Mauritius in the evening of the 16th a couple of hours after the AGM ended.

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WANTED STAMPS OF MAURITIUS

Member SAID KURMAULLY: 33 The Park, Treharris, Mid Glamorgan CF46 5RH, Wales, UK. Telephone 01 44 3410 847, email saidkurmaully@hotmail.com is interested in exchanging or buying stamps from Mauritius. Get in touch with him, he will be glad to hear from you.

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EXCHANGE

IMRICH VARGA whose address is 95177 Ladice 262, Slovensko, Europe is interested in obtaining stamps of Mauritius, Reunion and Madagascar.

He offers Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and European countries. His other collecting interests include Postcards, Telephone Cards, FDCs and Coins.

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INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON

A new International Reply Coupon went on sale in Mauritius as from 3rd January 2002, (officially as from 1st January 2002); 1st and 2nd January are public holidays in Mauritius. The sale period of the new coupon will be limited to four years, up to 31st December 2005 and the coupon will be valid for exchange up to 31st December 2006. The former International Reply Coupon was withdrawn on 31st December 2001.

The new coupon is priced at Rs 22.50. If you redeem your coupon at a Mauritian post office you get back Rs 7.00.

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LA POSTE CENTRALE

At the end of March 2002 the Central Post Office is still housed in the premises it has occupied continuously since 1870. The Nelson Mandela African Cultural Centre did not move in on 1st February 2002 as the Vice-Prime Minister, Hon. Paul Raymond Berenger G.C.S.K., promised. *La Poste Centrale* was not transferred to temporary premises in Paille-en-Queue Court (Air Mauritius Centre), corner of President John Kennedy Street and Sir Celicourt Antelme Street, Port Louis, because "administrative procedures" had not been finalised.

ST HUBERT POST OFFICE

The St Hubert Post Office was "transferred to new accommodation near the Police Station of the locality" on 29th January 2002. This is as per Post Office Notice of 18th January 2002.

A friend of the Society told us differently, so we went to have a look and we found:

The **St Hubert Post Office** was transferred to its new location (1.2 kilometres from its former site) in the village of **St Hilaire** near the **Cent Gaulettes Police Station**. It is definitely outside the limits of St Hubert village... and there are two localities named Cent Gaulettes in Mauritius; Cent Gaulettes near the St Hubert Post Office in St Hilaire and Cent Gaulettes a locality in the delivery area of Sébastopol Post Office.

PETIT RAFFRAY POST OFFICE

The Petit Raffray Post Office was transferred to new accommodation, a few metres from its former location, near *Bazar 7 sur 7* along Royal Road as from Monday 18th March 2002.

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STAMPS

10th Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius

A commemorative set of four stamps was put on sale locally on 12th March 2002 in Port Louis at the Central Post Office and at the Philatelic Bureau only between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. as the 12th was a public holiday in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The stamps went on general sale at all post offices in Mauritius and Rodrigues on 13th March 2002. Someone forgot to tell the Postal Services that 12th March 2002 also happened to be the 34th Anniversary of Independence.

The stamps depict:

- Re 1 Port Development
- Rs 4 Financial Services
- Rs 5 Water Storage
- Rs 9 Road Development

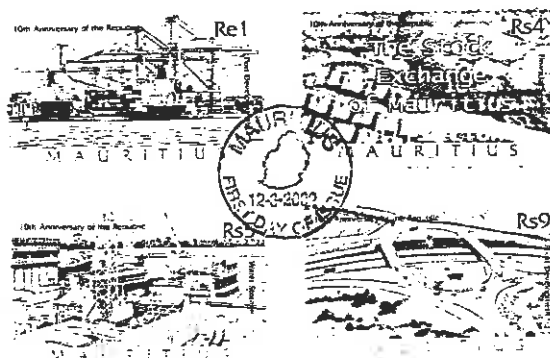
The stamps were designed by Nick Shewring and printed by BDT International.

The Official First Day Cover dated 12-3-2002 is illustrated with the National Colours and the Presidential Arms described as the "President's Flag". The cover was offered at Rs 30.

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10th Anniversary of the Republic of
MAURITIUS
Official First Day Cover



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NEXT COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

A set of four stamps is scheduled for June 2002. Described as **Nature Fauna Cicadas** the stamps will feature:

- *Abricta brunnea*
- *Fractuosella darwini*
- *Mauricia claudeae*
- *Distantata thomaseti*

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MAURITIUS TELECOM PHONECARDS

A new 115 units Smart Card featuring "*Cuisson des biscuits manioc*" in the series "*Petits métiers*" with the manufacture date November 2001 went on sale as from February 2002. The story on the back of the card pays tribute to H. Rault's unique Mauritian casava biscuit manufacturing techniques.

40 000 cards were produced. The value of the card is Rs 100 exclusive of VAT/TVA.

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THE PRESS

- L'express* – 10.02.2002 – La Poste Centrale déménagement.
- Le Défi Plus* – 16.02.2002 – L'Union of Post Office Workers dénonce la qualité des uniformes.
- Le Défi Plus* – 23.02.2002 – Guerre entre les syndique de l'UPOW.
- Le Défi Plus* – 02.03.2002 – Le Centre Nelson Mandela pour la Culture Africaine à l'Astor Court.
- Le Défi Plus* – 09.03.2002 – Offre spéciale au Blue Penny Museum.
- Le Mauricien* – 16.03.2002 – Petit Raffray – Le bureau de poste transféré
- L'express* – 21.03.2002 – Expo d'un facteur artiste.
- L'express* – 29.03.2002 – Hygiène.

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MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR POSTAL HISTORY

The Mauritius Philatelic Society, PO Box 89, Quatre Bornes, MAURITIUS

Edited by Mico W Antoine.

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