



# News Items MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY 2002.2

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JUNE 2002

## MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

APRIL - The April meeting was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius commemorative stamps were reviewed and the English and French write-ups for the issue (the insert) were examined. It was decided that this matter be brought to the attention of the Postmaster General as grammatical and other mistakes, including incorrect information, in both languages were not acceptable any more.

A R.L.O. (Returned Letter Office) cachet on a letter registered from Quatre Bornes in December 2001, its itinerary until its final recovery in March 2002 was the main subject of the afternoon. The complete story of this interesting item of mail will be published in the Society's News Bulletin.

Victory 46 by Sanjit Teelock, the last item on the afternoon's agenda, was postponed to June.

MAY - The usual monthly meeting was not held in May. On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May members who had signed up for the **Outing** met in the car park of London Supermarket, Vacoas at 9.30.

- The first stop, Bois Cheri Tea Factory and Museum. In the museum dominated by a locomotive boiler, the history of tea and a video film, followed by a guided tour of the factory where the complete process of tea manufacturing was explained and finally a drive to another site for tea tasting "at the chalet with a breathtaking panoramic view of the south of the island".
- Bel Air Sugar estate to see the "restored and preserved" Mauritius Government Railway passenger carriage and a sugar estate owned light railway locomotive followed by lunch and the May Committee meeting.
- La Vanille Crocodile Park at Rivière des Anguilles for a guided tour of the park where apart from "over 1000 Nile crocodiles, there are also a whole range of animals and reptiles of the Mascareignes islands: monkeys, fruit bats, stags, tenrecs, mongooses, chameleons, iguanas, lizards, fish." Also within the park a giant Aldabra tortoise farm and the new Insectarium.

The outing ended at 4.30.

JUNE – The June meeting was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at the usual venue and at the usual time.

Two topics were on the programme, **Sébastienopol** by Mico Antoine and **Victory 46** by Sanjit Teelock.

When Valery Chavyrko found Sébastopol on the map of Mauritius he decided that he must find out as much as he could about its postal history from the Mauritius Postal Services. When he found out that he had gone to the wrong source he wrote to the Society. **Sébastienopol** will be published in the 2002 News Bulletin. The ten points raised in Valery's letter as well as other additional data were discussed.

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Sanjit Teelock gave a talk on the Victory stamps of 1946. As Sanjit is also a member of the King George VI Study Circle, the completeness of the subject, the level of the oral presentation, the range and quality of the stamps (including varieties) and the peripheral material displayed were of a very high standard.

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#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The monthly Management Committee meetings were held on 13<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> June at the residence of the President at 88 Club Road, Vacoas at 1.00 p.m. The May meeting was held under a huge tree at Bel Air Sugar Estate on 11<sup>th</sup> May at around 1 p.m.

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#### ON THE MOVE

The Postal Services placed Post Office Notices in the local press for the rental of new premises for the following Post Offices: Quatre Cocos (28/3/2002), Montagne Longue (7/6/2002), Grand Bay (21/6/2002) and Vacoas (24/6/2002).

*Dates on which the Notices appeared in the press are shown in brackets.*

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#### A NEW ATR 72-500 FOR AIR MAURITIUS

A brand new ATR 72-500, registration number 3B-NBG named "**Port Mathurin**" arrived in Mauritius on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2002. The new 66-70 seater plane flew from Toulouse (France) with stop overs in Malta, Cairo, Djibouti and Seychelles. The new ATR 72-500, which will operate on the inter-islands routes, replaces the older and smaller ATR 42-300, registration number 3B-NAP, also named "**Port Mathurin**".

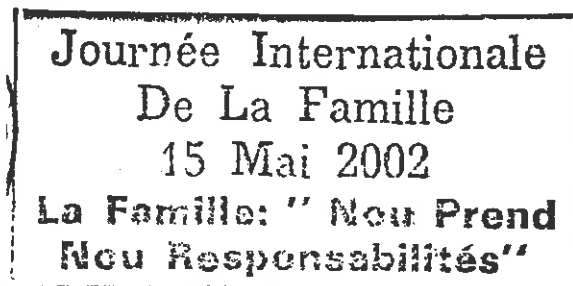
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#### JOURNEE INTERNATIONALE DE LA FAMILLE

A large rubber handstamp reading in five lines; "**Journée Internationale / De La Famille / 15 Mai 2002/ La Famille: "Nou Prend / Nou Responsabilités"**"; was issued to fifteen post offices in Mauritius: GPO Sorting, Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Vacoas, Curepipe, Forest Side, Phoenix, Eau Coulée, Goodlands, Central Flacq, Mahébourg, Triolet, Rivière du Rempart and Rose Belle: for application on the "**maximum number of correspondence (Inland and Foreign) during the period 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2002**".

The handstamp was not issued to any post office in Rodrigues.

*Ed. Note: I have come across only a single cover from Curepipe from over 400 covers that I handled from the period the handstamps were in use. Another member of the Society has also come across only one item from the many he gets from his source, a multinational receiving large volume of mails.*



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## WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY

The propaganda rubber handstamp used in May 2000 and May 2001 to mark World Communication Day (17 May) was **not** used in Mauritius or Rodrigues in 2002.

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## SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVER

Mauritius Telecom commemorated the "Inauguration of the SAT3/WASC/SAFE Submarine Fibre Optic Cable System 6<sup>th</sup> June 2002" by a special cover datestamped at Chemin Grenier on 6 JU 02. The cover is franked with two stamps, the Re 1 value of the **Baudin** set and the Rs 10 value from the **Achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century** set. It is illustrated with a map and a cable laying ship exact in design to that on the 55 units Smart Card. A leaflet (inserted in the cover) provides information on the SAFE system.

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## CORAL AEROGRAMME

A new aerogramme went on sale as from 4th June 2002. The front and back (when folded) is illustrated with coral from "Site Blue Bay Marine Park" (sic). Measuring (when folded) 175 x 100 mm, the aerogramme is "customer friendly" as it comes pre-folded, reportedly for the very first time, in packs of 25. The packs are broken and single units are sold at post office counters at Rs 5 each, the Mauritian international aerogramme rate.

The new aerogramme is imprinted with the Rs 5 value from the 2000 **Fish** definitive series. The imprinted stamp is without simulated perforations and margins thus it does not have the (year) 2000 imprint. The Coat of Arms or Crest has been removed altogether and the value Rs 5 has been shifted from the left to the right, occupying the space liberated by the Crest. The word POSTAGE has been added to the top left of the stamp. The value Rs 5 (on the imprint) is larger than that of the stamp and the species' name (local and scientific) is thick and smudged unlike the thin, clear print of the actual stamp.

The total quantity printed is 1,000,000 of which 200,000 units were delivered in February 2002 and the balance of 800,000 confirmed for delivery in July 2002.

The new Coral aerogramme was printed in Moonah, Tasmania (Australia) by PMP Print.

*Ed. Note: I became aware of the new aerogramme on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2002 and that is the earliest date I used one. At 30<sup>th</sup> June the Coral aerogramme was not available at Quatre Bornes, the "old" Lighthouses airletter was still on sale.*

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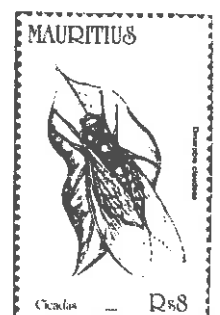
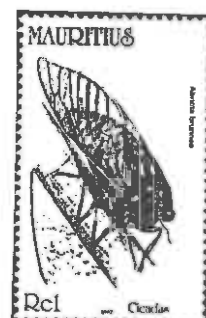
## STAMPS

### CICADAS

A set of four stamps featuring endemic Cicadas was put on sale locally on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2002 in all post offices in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

The stamps depict:

- Re 1 *Abricta brunnea*
- Rs 6 *Fractuosella darwini*
- Rs 7 *Distantata thomaseti*
- Rs 8 *Dinarobia claudeae*



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The stamps were designed by Ian Loe and printed by BDT International Ltd, Ireland.

A miniature sheet (100x130mm) incorporating the four stamps was also released.

Two Official First Day Covers were offered, one with the stamps, the other with the miniature sheet, at Rs 30 each.

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#### NEXT STAMP ISSUE

A set of four special stamps is scheduled for release in September. The official programme describe the stamps as **History – Maps of South West Indian Ocean:**

- *A Cantino 1502*
- *G Mercator 1569*
- *J Reinel 1520*
- *Anonymous 1538*

*Anonymous 1538* has now been given a name, *Diogo Ribeiro 1520*.

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#### MAURITIUS TELECOM PHONECARDS

A new 55 units Smart Card featuring SAFE, the South African Far East submarine Fibre Optic Cable System, with the manufacture date of April 2002 went on sale as from June 2002.

The card has a design of a map showing the cable link and a cable laying ship.

60 000 cards were produced. The price is Rs 50 exclusive of VAT.

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#### THE PRESS

- Le Défi Plus* – 06.04.2002 – Le désaccord persiste entre les membres exécutifs de l'UPOW.
- L'express* – 11.04.2002 – Le facteur-artiste.
- L'express* – 16.04.2002 – For a public letter box at Brisée Verdière.
- Week-End* – 19.05.2002 – Frustration autour d'un exercice de promotion.
- L'express* – 10.06.2002 – L'Internet sera accessible dans les bureaux de poste.
- Le Mauricien* – 13.06.2002 – Philatélie : des cigales des Mascareignes enchantent le monde.
- L'express* – 22.06.2002 – La poste change de look et de vocation.
- Week-End* – 23.06.2002 – Injustice to one is injustice to all.
- L'express* – 27.06.2002 – Modernisation de la poste.

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#### STOP PRESS

At 30<sup>th</sup> June the Port Louis Central Post Office (*La Poste Centrale*) continues to operate from premises it has always occupied since 1870. The Society is opposed to any plans to transfer ownership or occupancy of the building to any other organisation. The building is listed as a national monument and it should remain the property of the Mauritius Postal Services/Mauritius Post Ltd.

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

Edited by Mico W Antoine.

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