



News Items 2002.3

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founder Members : Yvan Martial - Mico Antoine.

Address: P O Box 89 Quatre Bornes Mauritius

SEPTEMBER 2002

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JULY - The July meeting was held on Saturday 6th July at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m.

The Society's guest was the new **Postmaster General**, Hafiz Amir, who was presented to the members by Mico Antoine. The PMG addressed the Society and the rest of the afternoon was devoted to questions and answers.

Amongst matters raised were: killer and poor cancellation marks, high value definitive stamps of Rs 25, Rs 50, Rs 75 and Rs 100, Agaléga, International Money Orders, Postage Dues stamps and taxing of letters, Official First Day Cover gumming, the "Cicadas" special stamps, postage stamps policy, the low standard of the contents of FDC inserts and pre-release publicity, the Port Louis Central Post Office building and privatisation of the Postal Services.

The second item on the agenda, **Grading of Stamps**, was rescheduled to August.

AUGUST - The August meeting was held on Saturday the 3rd of the month at the usual time and at the usual venue.

The agenda was :

1. **Grading of Stamps** by Mico Antoine
2. **Agaléga Post Office**
3. **Aerogrammes of Mauritius** - Corals, Lighthouses, Birds and the Environment
4. **Distribution of News Items 2002.2**
5. **Special Commemorative Covers** - Monetisation of Agaléga and opening of Post Office and I.B.L. 30 years.

The Postmaster General had carried some covers for several members of the Society to Agaléga on the occasion of the opening of the Post Office at Vingt Cinq. These were postmarked on the first day of business on 10th July 2002. Some covers were signed by the PMG and a couple by the President of Mauritius. Photographs of the inauguration ceremony at the Post Office building were shown.

Grading of Stamps examined the contents of a pamphlet produced by Professional Stamp Experts of the USA on various components of grading - centering, soundness, eye appeal, gum condition, etc.

Aerogrammes dealt mainly with the last locally printed Environment aerogramme and the more recent Birds, Lighthouses and new Corals aerogrammes which were all manufactured outside Mauritius. Many varieties of the Environment aerogramme were on display - these included missing colours, missing texts, major colour shifts, missing gum and many shades of blue.

SEPTEMBER - The September meeting was held on Saturday 7th at 2 p.m. at Collège du St Esprit.

Several items prepared for the **Society's Exhibition** were previewed by members.

2002

Latest news from various magazines such as Linn's, Scott Stamp Monthly, Stanley Gibbons Monthly and *Timbres Magazine* were shared. Local press cuttings on the Central Post Office were affixed on the notice board and the contents discussed.

Sales from the Purchase List and Bid Board were good as were sales of the Agaléga and SAFE special covers that the Society had purchased for its members from O IDC and Mauritius Telecom respectively.

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MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The monthly Management Committee meetings were held at 1 p.m. on the following Saturdays - 13th July, 10th August and 28th September at the residence of the President at 88 Club Road, Vacoas.

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NEW MEMBERS

The following applied for and were accepted as members of the Society during the 3rd quarter of 2002 :

Bernard BERTE – Basecles, Belgium
Lakhi OUMAR – Port Louis, Mauritius
Sandy THUPOSY – Forest Side, Mauritius
Sheik M. S. RAYMODE – Vacoas, Mauritius
Patrick MARTEL – Neuville-en-Ferrain, France

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EXCHANGES

Patrick Martel whose address is : 43 Rue Victor Hugo, 59950 Neuville-en-Ferrain, France wishes to exchange stamps with you.

He wants used and mint stamps of Mauritius and he offers used stamps of France – recent and ancient – in exchange.

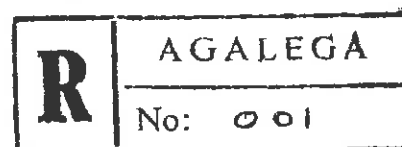
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NEW POST OFFICE – AGALÉGA

A post office was opened in the village of Vingt Cinq, North Island, Agaléga on 10th July 2002. The President Hon. Karl Offman officiated at the opening ceremony together with the Postmaster General, Hafiz Amir Esq, officials of O IDC and several guests.

The postal services available at Agaléga are limited to :

- Sales of stamps and Stamped Stationery
- Acceptance and Delivery of ordinary and registered mail
- Money Orders – Issue and Payments
- Savings Bank – Deposits and Withdrawals



Postal charges for correspondence transmitted by air to and from Agaléga is the same as for Inland Service. Flights to and from Agaléga are not scheduled on a regular basis and mail will be conveyed as and when flights are available.

The Air Mail rate for correspondence transmitted by air is the same as those for Rodrigues which is letters R 1 for each 5 gms, postcards R 0.50 and 2nd class air mail each 10 gms R 0.50.

Source: Mauritius Postal Services – H.Q. Port Louis



STAMPS

MAPS OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN

A set of four stamps showing Maps of the South West of the Indian Ocean was released on Wednesday 18th September 2002 in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The stamps depict maps by the following:

- Re 1 Alberto Cantino (1502)
- Rs 3 Jorge Reinel (1520)
- Rs 4 Diogo Ribeiro (1529)
- Rs 10 Gerard Mercator (1569)

The stamps were designed by Julian Vasarhelyi and printed by BDT International Security Printing Ltd. The Official First Day Cover, affixed with the four stamps of a total face value of Rs 18.00, was offered at Rs 30.00.

Ed Note: On Alberto Cantino's original map of 1502 from which the stamp is reproduced, Madagascar is shown but not named; on the stamp Madagascar is named. Mercator, who was of Flemish origin and who died in Germany has his first name Frenchified to Gerard on the stamps.

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NEXT STAMP ISSUE

A set of four special stamps is scheduled to be released in December 2002. Described, in the official Postal Services stamps programme as "Astronomy – Constellations", the stamps are to feature Crux, Orion, Scorpio and Sagittarius.

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SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVERS

O.I.D.C., Outer Islands Development Corporation prepared an attractive Special Commemorative Cover to mark the occasion of the "Monetisation of Agaléga and Opening of Post Office". The cover is illustrated with the Post Office building in full colour on the left and the Post Office and map of the two islands of Agaléga in pale blue and white on the right. Three values, Re 1 Rs 5 and Rs 6 from the "Copra Trade Agaléga" set of stamps of December 2001 are affixed to the cover and cancelled with one strike of the new single circle Agaléga Post Office datestamp dated 10 JL 02 without the time die. The cover was on sale at the seat of O.I.D.C. in Port Louis as from July 10th at Rs 30 per cover. An insert provides background information on the event and stamps. 1000 covers were made.

I.B.L. (Ireland Blyth Limited) made a special cover "To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the incorporation of Ireland Blyth Limited on 14 July 1972". The cover bears the emblem of the company, is illustrated with the group's Caudan Headquarters, is franked with two stamps and postmarked at Port Louis on 13 JL 02 (the 14th July was a Sunday) and the cover is signed by the Chief Executive of I.B.L. A "Bon Anniversaire" memo dated 15th July 2002 is addressed to the 3000 employees of the group. 3000 covers were made.

On 13th September 2002, the Mauritius Philatelic Society made 110 special covers on the occasion of the inauguration of its stamp exhibition in Port Louis. The covers are franked with two "Cicadas" stamps (Re 1 and Rs 7) and are cacheted with three separate markings, the seal of the Mauritius Museums Council, the seal of the Mauritius Institute and the special Society exhibition cachet. The covers were either distributed or sold during the exhibition as from 13th September 2002.

MAURITIUS TELECOM PHONECARDS

A new 115 units Smart Card featuring "*La fête du foot 2002*" with the manufacture date June 2002 was released in order to coincide with the World Cup matches played in South Korea and Japan.

The card's green football ground with white line markings has an out of proportion black and white football in the centre.

30 000 cards were produced. The value, Rs 100 exclusive of VAT.

Ed Note: The Complis World Cup Scratch Card has an attractive full colour design – much more appealing than the bland Smart Card.

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THE PRESS

- Le Mauricien* – 06.07.2002 – Développement à Agaléga.
Le Défi – 06.07.2002 – Agaléga à l'heure de la monétisation.
Week-End – 07.07.2002 – La monnaie officiellement introduite à Agaléga.
Le Mauricien – 11.07.2002 – Monétisation à Agaléga.
L'express – 12.07.2002 – Agaléga découvre la couleur de l'argent.
L'express – 14.07.2002 – Comme une lettre à la poste.
Week-End – 14.07.2002 – L'usage de la monnaie à Agaléga.
Week-End – 14.07.2002 – La POSB opérera comme banque commerciale début 2003.
L'express – 18.07.2002 – La boîte aux lettres obligatoire.
Le Défi – 20.07.2002 – Les services des poste "corporatized".
Le Défi – 03.08.2002 – Un officier de la Poste Centrale rappelé à l'ordre.
L'express – 04.08.2002 – Tarif promotionnel au Blue Penny Museum.
L'express – 05.08.2002 – Les timbres mauriciens s'affranchissent à New York.
Le Dimanche – 11.08.2002 – Blue Penny Museum, le samedi à Rs 50 durant le mois d'août.
Sunday Vani – 08.09.2002 – Rs 200 millions pour un centre culturel Rs 2 million pour les autres.
Le Mauricien – 16.09.2002 – Dépôt fixe à la poste bientôt.
Week-End – 29.09.2002 – La Post Office Savings Bank lance son *fixed deposit* le 9 octobre.
L'express – 29.09.2002 – Expertise indienne pour la poste.

THE PRESS-OTHERS

- L'express* – 14.08.2002 – A notice announcing the three winners of the "Postal Tower – International Architectural Competition"
L'express – 10.09.2002 – An advertisement : "Job Opportunities – Mauritius Post Ltd" for six "Key Positions"

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ON THE MOVE

Postal Services, Post Office Notice of 7th September 2002 announcing proposals for rental of new accommodation for Belle Vue Maurel Post Office and Post Office Notice of 20th September 2002 calling for offers for rental of new accommodation for Laventure Post Office.

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COLLECT SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVERS OF MAURITIUS