

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items 2004.3*Founder Members: Yvan Martial – Mico Antoine**Address: P.O. Box 89 Quatre Bornes Mauritius*

SEPTEMBER 2004

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JULY – The July meeting was held on Saturday 3rd July at 2 p.m. at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

Four items were on the agenda: *Petits métiers*, *Le Transit de Vénus*, *The May Outing* and *La Poste Centrale*.

The *Petits métiers* stamps, the second set after the one issued on 1st December 1997 all depict traditional trades. The *Petits métiers* stamps of 2004 are significantly unlike those of 1997. Different designers, Nick Shewring in 1997, Andrew Robinson in 2004. The 1997 stamps describe the trades in English and Creole, the 2004 stamps in French only. The Coat of Arms is on the 1997 stamps but is not on the 2004 stamps. Colours subdued in 1997 are much harsher in 2004. Were the 1997 stamps looked at when the 2004 stamps were being prepared?

The tradespersons used as models for the 2004 stamps are from Curepipe (Tinsmith) Rose Hill (Cobbler) Palmar (Blacksmith) and Brisée Verdière (Basketmaker).

In 1995 it was decided that traditional trades were not appropriate for a twelve stamp definitive set, consequently a compromise was reached – they would be issued as three commemorative sets. Now that the second set has been released – will there be a third set?

For *Le Transit de Vénus* see the June 2004.2 News Items : **A Special Private Cover and Comments**. For the *May Outing* and *La Poste Centrale* see the June 2004.2 News Items: **Annual Outing** and a report on *La Poste Centrale*.

Sales were poor but attendance was very good.

AUGUST – The August meeting was held on Saturday 8th August at the usual venue and at the usual time.

All the six display units were taken up so the classroom blackboard had to be utilised to accommodate photocopies of the **Rodrigues Exhibition 2004**.

Mico Antoine gave a talk on the French *Marianne d'usage courant* stamps and the *Liberté* and *Sabine* stamps. The next *Marianne* series will replace the *Marianne du 14 Juillet* on 1st January 2005. The new *Marianne de Lamouche* was selected from 100 finalists shown at the meeting. 50,000 proposals submitted by the public aged 4 to 94 were trimmed down to 500 by regional juries. 250,000 persons voted for the final 10 best designs from which the eventual winner emerged. Other aspects of France accompanied the *Marianne* display.

Walking around Mauritius Part I was a display of photographs and a talk by Gaëtan Bouchet and Mico Antoine. The first three stages of the year long project which started in

Souillac in May, followed by Bel Ombre in June and Case Noyale in July were on average 18 kilometre hikes along the coastal road. Post Offices along the way were Souillac, Baie du Cap, Case Noyale, Black River and Tamarin in the sparsely populated South and South West of the island. All the historical sites, every picturesque spot or place of interest had been photographed and were commented on. Part II is scheduled for November for the three stages from Casela to Cap Malheureux.

Rodrigues Exhibition 2004. Photocopies of some of the 29 panes (over 100 album leaves) were affixed to the blackboard. As Patrick Kwan was not in Mauritius, Mico Antoine previewed the display.

News Items No 2004.2 of June was distributed. Sales were average and attendance was good.

SEPTEMBER – The September Meeting was held on Saturday 4th at 2 p.m. at Collège du St Esprit.

A busy afternoon where five items had to be dealt with – **Souillac France – Mauritius, Ecoute ou pou tende, One Penny Black, SADC stamps and Rodrigues Exhibition.**

Yvan Martial showed some covers, data sheets and press cuttings on the exhibition organized at *La salle Saint-Martin à Souillac en France, du 17 au 21 juin à l'initiative de l'Association du Jumelage Souillac – Ile Maurice / Souillac – France. L'Ile Maurice à travers ses timbres* was composed of some 130 stamps of Mauritius.

A tape recording of an address delivered by Yvan Martial to a joint meeting of the Common Front of some four Postal Worker's Unions at a packed Rabita Hall Port Louis was played. An inventive discourse, interestingly philatelic, historical and political. *Ou finn ecoute – ou finn tende.*

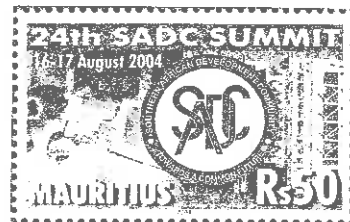
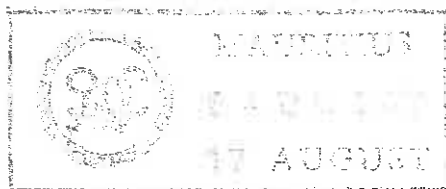
Hans Bigler, who recently joined the Society showed a couple of examples of the first postage stamp of 1840, the One Penny Black and he gave a talk on the history of the stamp.

Mico Antoine showed the SADC stamps of 17th August, the SADC Day cachet used at 19 offices in Mauritius from 14th to 17th August and several cacheted commercial covers. Comprehensive profiles and essential data of the 12 African mainland nations of the South African Development Community were provided. The 24th Summit of SADC was held in Mauritius from 9th to 17th August.

Patrick Kwan ran a video on the **Rodrigues Exhibition 2004**. In the film the long speech by Patrick (who is usually very short) was philatelically correct whereas the longer address by the Education Commissioner of Rodrigues, Lelio Roussety, was politically average and philatelically wanting.

The very attractive **Rodrigues Exhibition 2004** special commemorative cover was offered at Rs 50 a unit.

Attendance was very good and sales were rather on the low side.



THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee was reconstituted as follows as from 3rd July 2004.

President	Y Martial	Members	S Teelock
Secretary	M Antoine		Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon
Treasurer	J Adrien		P Kwan Cheung
Vice President	J Auguste		
Vice Secretary	G Bouchet		
Vice Treasurer	P Bhowanydeen		

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings were held on Saturday 3rd July, Saturday 7th August and Saturday 4th September at 13.00 hrs at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined the Society.

Hans BIGLER, Quatre Bornes, MAURITIUS.
Claude PELLETIER, Geneva, SWITZERLAND.

EXCHANGES

The following wish to get in touch with Mauritian collectors with a view to obtaining mint and used stamps of Mauritius.

Matima KOUVOUSSIS, B.P. 456, Antananarivo 101. MADAGASCAR wishes to obtain stamps and First Day Covers.

Robert LIGNY, 529, Rue du Contrôle, 34670 Baillargues, FRANCE, wishes to exchange mint and used stamps.

Interested members may contact the above directly and set up their own mode of exchange. The Society will not get involved in any arbitration.

PORT LOUIS STATION POST OFFICE

The last day of business at Port Louis Station Post Office was 3rd August 2004. During the night of 3rd/4th August arsonists burnt down the whole of the Victoria Station building in which the Post Office was the lone tenant. This Post Office which offered Bulk Posting Services only as from 31st May 2004 was located only 65 paces from the entrance of the new General Post Office on Dumas Street. Counter No 4 at the new G.P.O. has provided Bulk Posting facilities since its inauguration on 31st May 2004.

It took an arsonist to terminate the Bulk Posting Service at Port Louis Station Post Office and that was something the Management of the Postal Services could not do!

There is a Post-Office-Red Cochrane & Co (1861) UK manufactured Pillar Box still standing outside the entrance to the burnt out Port Louis Station Post Office. There is no Pillar Box outside the new G.P.O. 65 paces down the road! Watch this space as this Pillar Box could disappear!

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY = POSTAL HISTORY OF MAURITIUS

LAVENTURE POST OFFICE

A Post Office Notice dated 2nd August 2004 informed the public that the **Laventure Post Office** will be transferred to new accommodation, located at Royal Road, Laventure, near the "Royaume les gosses" pre-primary school on Monday 9th August 2004.

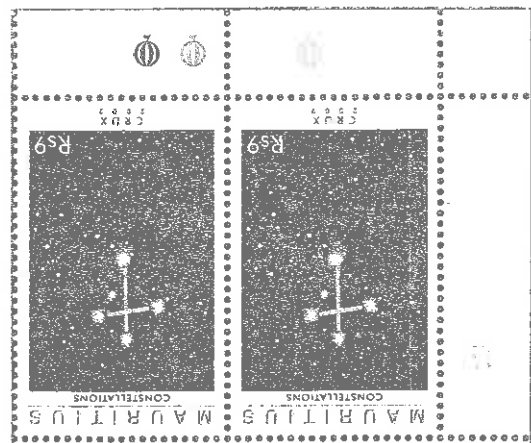
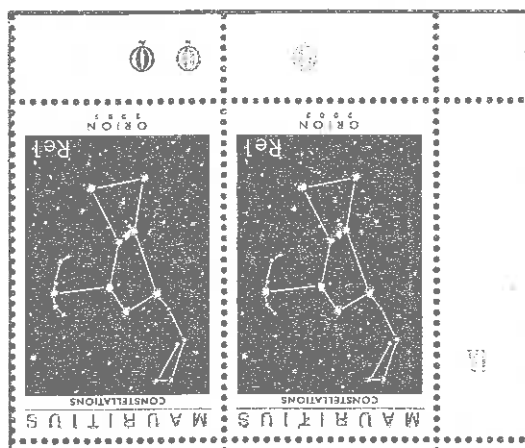
MAURITIUS TELECOM SMART CARDS

A new 115 units Smart Card featuring **Chamarel Coloured Earth**, similar to the one bearing the manufacture date April 2003, has been in use since July 2004. The new card does not have the manufacture date nor the quantity issued on back and the dark area on back is of a slightly deeper red-brown. On front the new card is of a slightly brighter red-brown colour than the old card and the new card has the additional tele card logo which is not found on the old card.

The price is Rs 100 plus VAT per unit.

THE PRESS

L'express	01.7.2004	Le Mauritius Post secoue l'Internet
Le Mauricien	01.7.2004	Quatre timbres-poste sur des « Petits métiers »
L'express	09.7.2004	Maurice à travers ses timbres
Week-End	11.7.2004	L'Ile Maurice présentée à travers ses timbres à Souillac en France
Week-End	22.8.2004	La première carte postale Agaléga
L'express	24.8.2004	Poste restante...
La Tribune	27.8.2004	L'histoire de Rodrigues et de Maurice à travers des timbres
Ici Rodrigues	28.8.2004	Exposition philatélique 2004
L'express	30.8.2004	Agaléga à la carte... postale
L'express	14.9.2004	World Post Day – Writing Competition
Le Matinal	16.9.2004	Vers une décentralisation des services de la NTA et de La Poste
L'express	20.9.2004	Cachet de modernisme pour Mauritius Post
L'express	20.9.2004	L'Etat minimal
Le Mauricien	30.9.2004	Le métier de postier célébré



The Mauritius Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 89, Quatre Bornes, MAURITIUS
 Edited by Mico W Antoine
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2004

News ItemS 2004.3

STAMPS

24TH SADC SUMMIT

Two stamps, similar in design and colour, except for the title (band) background colour, one of Rs 2 and the other of Rs 50 denominations were put on sale on 16th August 2004 the day of the Heads of States and Heads of Government Summit Meeting. The SADC conference was hosted by Mauritius from 9th to 17th August at Grand Bay.

The stamps show the logo of SADC, the Cyber Tower and I.T. training sessions ... themes common to all SADC countries.

The stamps were designed by CASB Studio and printed by BDT International Security Printing Ltd. The Official First Day Cover is illustrated with the Mauritian and SADC flags on a map of Mauritius. The cover was priced at Rs 65.00 per unit and 4000 covers were produced.

SADC DAY – (17 AUGUST 2004) – RUBBER STAMP

A special rubber stamp, previously used in 2000, was used again during the period 13th to 17th August 2004 “particularly on 17th August for impressing on as many items of correspondence as possible posted and received” at 19 offices. The rubber stamp incorporates the SADC emblem and in 3 lines, MAURITIUS/SADC DAY/17 AUGUST.

The Post Offices were:

GPO Sorting, Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Phoenix, Vacoas, Eau Coulée, Curepipe, St Pierre, Central Flacq, Bel Air, Mahebourg, Chemin Grenier, Bambous, Grand Bay, Triolet, Pamplemousses, Port Mathurin (Rodrigues) and SSR Office of Exchange – Plaisance Airport.

VARIETIES

TWO INVERTED WATERMARKS

A Russian correspondent has found a gutter pair of the **Constellations** Rs 9 value issued in December 2000 printed “upside down”. Since the discovery other inverted watermark of this value have been found in Mauritius. A complete sheet of 50 has been seen as well as remnants of sheet No 62 from which the Russian gutter pair originated.

Two complete sheets of the R 1 value of the **Constellations** have also been seen in Mauritius with the watermark inverted. All the reported I.W. **Constellations** stamps found so far belong to two members of the Society. More should be out there.

ROSÂTRE OR JAUNÂTRE

The same Russian correspondent has noticed that some of the **Mountains** stamps of March 2004 are either rose or yellow as follows:

La couleur des marges est rosâtre dans une et plutôt jaunâtre dans une autre.

He does qualify his find with:

Mais il est possible qu'il existe tout un tas de gradations intermédiaires et tout ça n'est pas très important.

So what if the colours are distinctly different! Have you seen any rose or yellow **Mountains**?

NEXT STAMP ISSUE

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

A set of four commemorative stamps will be issued on 12th October 2004 on the occasion of the second anniversary of autonomy in Rodrigues. The stamps will show **Plaine Corail Airport, Eco-tourism, Agricultural Produce** and the **Arms of Rodrigues**. The Official First Day Cover will be illustrated with a bird scene from Ile-aux-Cocos

STAMP EXHIBITION IN RODRIGUES

The Society staged its first exhibition on Rodrigues on the premises of *Alliance Française*, Pointe Canon from 21st August to 3rd September. The exhibition was inaugurated on 20th August under the aegis of *Le Président et le Conseil d'Administration de l'Alliance Française, antenne de Rodrigues*.

The 29 frames were made up of material from the collection of Patrick Kwan Cheung with a small contribution of contemporary postal history of Rodrigues from Mico Antoine.

The exhibition featured Rodrigues on stamps, France on Mauritian stamps, Rodrigues Aerophilately, Rodrigues Maritime Mail, Fauna and Flora, *La Poste Centrale*, the International Year of the Child (Indian Ocean Islands), World War II Censorship, Post Cards and BONCs.

A small number of covers were produced to mark the event. These covers are illustrated, and are cacheted with the *Alliance Française* emblem and postmarked at Port Mathurin on 20th August 2004.

Patrick Kwan Cheung has been working in Rodrigues since mid-2003 and he goes to work by plane every week. He got the show sponsored, he negotiated with the authorities in Rodrigues, he prepared all the frames and he took a very good philatelic display, the first of its kind, to Rodrigues.

The **Rodrigues Exhibition 2004** was on show at Loreto Convent in Vacoas on Sunday 5th September, for one day, during the school's Family Fun Day.

The **Rodrigues Exhibition 2004** will be on show at the new G.P.O., Dumas Street, Port Louis from 4th to 9th October on the occasion of the Postal Services World Post Day week-long series of activities.



2004

Exposition Philatélique 2004

Alliance Française
20 AOUT – 3 SEPTEMBRE
Pointe Canon
RODRIGUES

Organisée par la Société Philatélique de Maurice en partenariat avec l'Alliance Française de Maurice, Antenne de Rodrigues.

Les Thèmes Exposés

29 panneaux sont exposés sur les thèmes suivants :

Rodrigues sur timbres, La France à travers les timbres de Maurice, Aérophilatélie, Faune et Flore, La Poste Centrale, L'Année Internationale de l'Enfant, Censure Postale de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, Cartes Postales et BONCs.

Rodrigues sur timbres

Un bref rappel historique met l'accent sur l'histoire postale de l'île : les timbres de Maurice aux motifs rodriguais, les différents cachets d'oblitération et autres tampons en service dans les différents bureaux de poste, notamment Port Mathurin, La Ferme, Mont Lubin, Rivière Cocos et Grande Montagne. Sont également exposées des enveloppes commémorant des événements rodriguais.

La France à travers les timbres de Maurice

La France ayant occupé l'île Maurice (Isle de France) de 1715 à 1810, les sujets historiques sont nombreux et ont souvent été illustrés sur les timbres-poste de Maurice : le gouverneur Mahé de La Bourdonnais, l'écrivain Bernardin de St Pierre, le St Géran, l'Alliance Française, le Château du Réduit, le missionnaire Père Laval, le corsaire Robert Surcouf, le naturaliste Philibert Commerson, entre autres.

Aérophilatélie

Le premier vol de l'étranger vers Maurice et le service aéropostal à Rodrigues sont parmi les sujets exposés.

Faune et Flore

Thématique très populaire, la Faune et la Flore de Maurice et de Rodrigues sont largement représentées sur les timbres : on peut y voir entre autres le Pigeon Rose des Mares et la Grosse Cateau Verte.

La Poste Centrale

Depuis le 29 mai 2004, la Poste Centrale ou General Post Office, symbole de l'administration postale n'occupe plus le bâtiment plus que centenaire construit à cet effet. Un exposé de quatre panneaux retrace les cachets et libellés qui portent les mots 'GENERAL POST OFFICE' ou 'GPO'

L'Année Internationale de l'Enfant

Des enveloppes commémoratives émises par les différentes administrations postales en 1979 – année qui fut décrétée Année Internationale de l'Enfant par les Nations Unies.

Censure Postale de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale

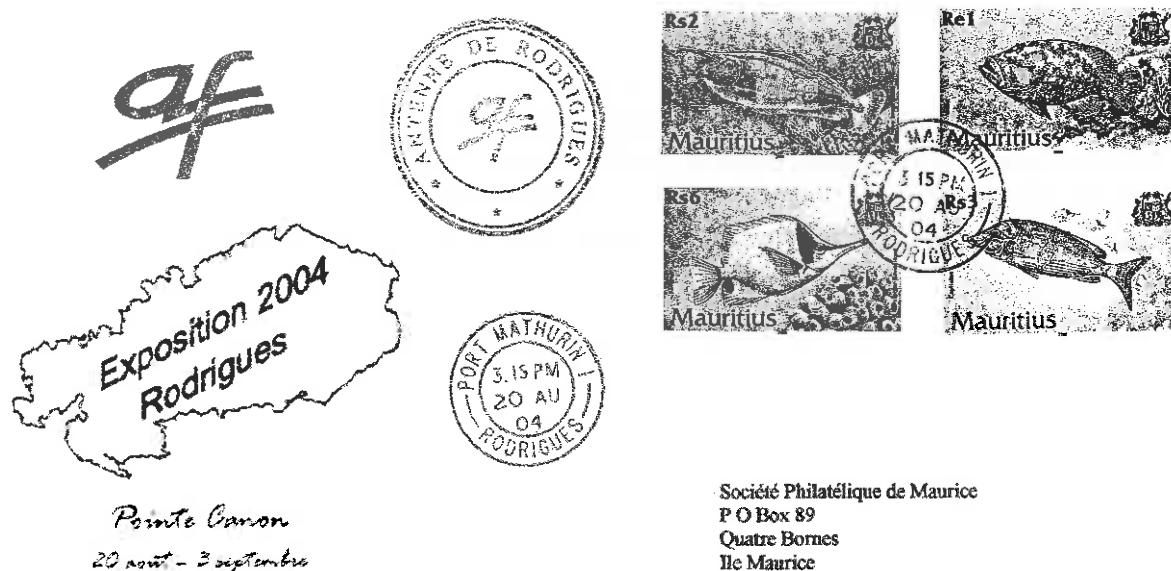
Sont exposés les différents cachets et bandes ayant servi pendant la censure postale en vigueur à Maurice de septembre 1939 à août 1945.

Cartes Postales

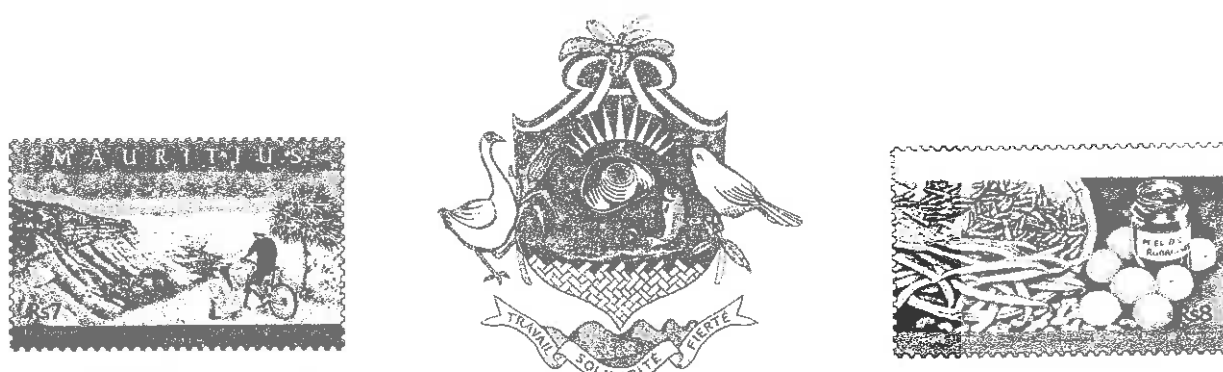
Au début du XX^e siècle, les cartes postales étaient très populaires et servaient principalement à transmettre les messages à travers l'île.

BONCs

BONCs ou Barred Oval Numeral Cancels – des tampons utilisés pendant les années 1865-1890 dans les bureaux de poste rattachés à la ligne ferroviaire.



Société Philatélique de Maurice
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 Quatre Bornes
 Ile Maurice



STOP PRESS

ANTHURIUMS

A set of four stamps featuring Anthuriums and Andreanums is scheduled for December 2004.

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 Edited by Mico W Antoine
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