

DECEMBER 2004

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

OCTOBER – The October meeting was held on Saturday 2nd October at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m.

This **Open Day** when members were to have brought one friend along, preferably someone who would at the end of the day enrol and thus increase the membership list turned out to be the direct opposite of expectations – the lowest attendance of 2004 with 14 members and two guests. The call to members to bring along their stamps, covers and philatelic items properly arranged for display was not heeded. Only two members, Patrick Kwan who showed a collection of inland registered commercial covers from some 40 post offices franked with the single COI Rs 10 value (his aim is to get one registered COI franked cover from every post office in Mauritius and Rodrigues) and Mico Antoine with a lot of jumbo size incoming covers, saved the day.

The warning to members not to trade their personal material during the monthly meeting was clearly understood, the member targeted did not show up.

Sales of all items on offer were poor and the meeting ended earlier than usual.

NOVEMBER – The November meeting was held on Saturday 6th November at the usual venue and at the usual time.

The agenda for the afternoon was made up of:

- The **Rodrigues Regional Assembly** stamps and several special covers prepared in Rodrigues by Patrick Kwan including some signed by the Chief Commissioner of the island were displayed.
- **World Post Day** featured special covers cacheted with the Philatelic Bureau World Post Day cachet and the Exhibition cachet, specimen strikes of all World Post Day rubber stamps used in October 2004 plus several other items including covers from previous years.
- **Walking around Mauritius Part II** was presented by Gaëtan Bouchet. This was a photographic and historical presentation of three stages of the walk from Casela to Grand River North West (August), Baie du Tombeau to Pointe aux Piments (September) and Pointe aux Piments to Cap Malheureux (October). Souvenir covers were made at post offices along the route – Pointe aux Sables, Port Louis, Tombeau Bay, Grand Bay and Cap Malheureux. Members contributed to the presentation with interesting comments and anecdotes.
- Several decisions were taken with regard to 2005;
 - i. A visit to the Terre Rouge Estuary before the migratory birds return to Europe in May

- ii. A climb to the summit of Le Pouce Mountain
 - iii. New members for the Management Committee
 - iv. Parts III & IV of Walking around Mauritius
- News Items 2004.3 of September was distributed.

The Purchase List, Bid Board and Spot Auction were not on offer and attendance was good.

DECEMBER – The Management Committee decided that there would be a break in December. Consequently the Monthly Society Meeting was not held. However several members of the Committee met on two separate occasions in addition to the Monthly Committee Meeting.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings were held on Saturday 2nd October, Saturday 6th November and Saturday 4th December at 13.00 hrs at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined the Society during the period under review.

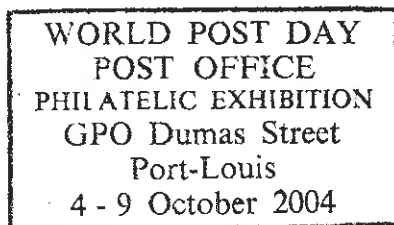
Dr Pradeep Kumar MUNGUR of Floréal
Ravin Kumar BUCHOO of St Pierre
Louis ALAIN of Phoenix
Pascal CHAN YOU FEE of Port Louis



WORLD POST DAY – 2004 – RUBBER STAMPS

On the occasion of **World Post Day 2004** rubber stamps were issued to 16 offices for application on the maximum number of correspondence from 1st October to 12th October.

The offices were:- GPO Sorting, Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Vacoas, Curepipe, Mahebourg, Phoenix, Eau Coulée, Rose Belle, Réduit, Goodlands, Triolet, Port Louis Centre, Central Flacq and the Philatelic Bureau located in the New GPO Building on Dumas Street. Note that a brand new rubber stamp issued to the Philatelic Bureau was the **ONLY** World Post Day rubber stamp with the date, month and year - 9th October 2004. **ALL** the other 15 World Post Day rubber stamps do not have year they simply have the date and month - 9th October.



WORLD POST DAY - 9TH OCTOBER 2004

A Press Notice dated 6th October 2004 informed the public that on **World Post Day**, Saturday 9th October 2004, and in the context of the celebration of the event, **ALL** Post Offices will be closed on that date.

Several events were held at Taher Bagh, Champ de Mars, from 9.00 to 12.00 hrs for the Postal Services personnel and their families as well as a limited number of invited guests.

2004

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

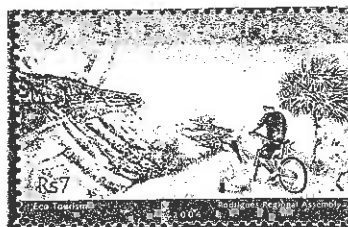
The Society made the **Rodrigues Exhibition** available to The Mauritius Post Ltd for use at Dumas Street for the initial period of 4th to 9th October and a subsequent extension to 15th October. A special boxed cachet reading in six lines World Post Day/Post Office/Philatelic Exhibition/GPO Dumas Street/Port Louis/4-9 October 2004 was in use at the Philatelic Bureau ONLY for the initial period of the exhibition.

STAMPS

RODRIGUES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A set of four special stamps was released on 12th October 2004 to mark the 2nd year of the **Rodrigues Regional Assembly**. The stamps feature:

- Rs 2 Plaine Corail Airport
- Rs 7 Eco Tourism
- Rs 8 Agricultural Products
- Rs 10 Coat of Arms



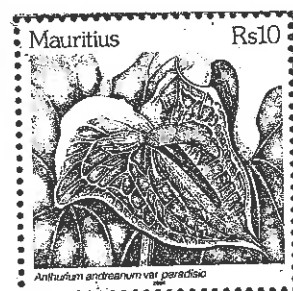
The set was designed by Nick Shewring and printed by BDT International Security Printing Ltd of Ireland. The Official First Day Cover priced at Rs 35.00 is illustrated with birds on Ile aux Cocos a designated bird sanctuary. The FDC cachet incorporates the words Port Mathurin Rodrigues and a map of Rodrigues.

ANTHURIUM

A set of four stamps depicting four species of *Anthurium* was put on sale on 1st December 2004. The stamps feature:

- Rs 2 *Anthurium andreanum* var *acropolis*
- Rs 8 *Anthurium andreanum* var *tropical*
- Rs 10 *Anthurium andreanum* var *paradiso*
- Rs 25 *Anthurium andreanum* var *fantasia*

The stamps were designed by Ian Loe and printed by Joh Enschedé Stamps of Holland. The Official First Day Cover is illustrated with a bunch of six flowers and the FDC cachet also feature an Anthurium bloom. The official title of this issue is Anthurium however each stamp carries the title *Anthurium andreanum* followed by var (for variety) and then the name of the flower, e.g. *paradiso*. The data sheet contains very incomplete and superficial information. The FDC is priced at Rs 55.00.



STAMP PROGRAMME 2005

The Mauritius Post Ltd proposes four series of special stamps during 2005 as follows:

ROUND ISLAND – March	POSTAL SERVICES – June
Juvenile Scale Boa – <i>casera dussumieri</i>	Mail Sorting
Hurricane Palm – <i>dictyosperma album var conjugatum</i>	Mail Transfer
Round Island Petrel – <i>pterodroma arminjoniana</i>	Mail Distribution
Mazembron – <i>lomatothylum tornentorii</i>	Counter Services
OLD STONE BUILDINGS – September	SHIP MODELS – December
Carnegie Library – Curepipe	Roman Galley
District Court – Curepipe	Drakkar
Post Office Headquarters – Port Louis	Sampan
Vagrant Depot – GRNW	74 Gun Vessel

THE PRESS

Le Matinal	02.10.2004	Start a stamp collection
Week-End	03.10.2004	La poste citée en exemple
Le Mauricien	06.10.2004	Expo de timbres à thèmes
Le Matinal	08.10.2004	Exposition philatélique pour le World Post Day
Le Matinal	10.10.2004	La célébration du World Post Day
Le Matinal	12.10.2004	Ramcharitar félicite Moteea pour son « sens de dialogue »
Week-End Scope	13.10.2004	L'amour du timbre
Le Matinal	04.11.2004	Le bureau de poste de Ste Croix se fait braquer
Le Matinal	06.11.2004	Le Front Commun des postiers : non à la conversion de la poste centrale
Le Défi-Plus	13.11.2004	Préserveons la Poste centrale
Le Matinal	28.11.2004	FedEx et Mauripost Post scellent une alliance
L'express	28.11.2004	La poste veut parler affaires
L'express	13.12.2004	Deuxième vol à la Poste de Ste-Croix
Le Matinal	21.12.2004	Préserveons le bâtiment historique de la poste centrale
L'express	22.12.2004	Non-lieu pour l'ancien postier devenu policier
Le Défi-Plus	25.12.2004	Braquages à la poste
Le Défi-Plus	25.12.2004	Non-lieu accordé à un policier
L'express dimanche	26.12.2004	Attention aux pigeons

NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Mr Hafez Amir, the last Postmaster General of Mauritius and the first General Manager of The Mauritius Post Ltd retired from the Postal Services on 30th November 2004 after 40 years of service.

Mr Nunkishor Fakun who has been with the Postal Services for 25 years was appointed General Manager of The Mauritius Post Limited as from 1st December 2004.

The Mauritius Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 89, Quatre Bornes, MAURITIUS

Edited by Mico W Antoine

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2004

News ItemS 2004.4

LE BLUE PENNY

BLUE PENNY NEWS

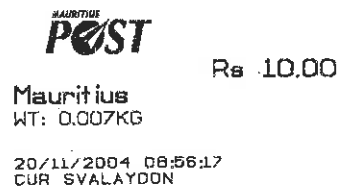
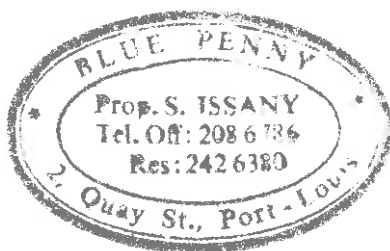
The Mauritius Post Ltd has, in the 2nd half of 2004, produced a new in-house bulletin. This "Edition trimestrielle" named **Blue Penny News** replaces the "Bulletin d'Information de la Mauritius Post Ltd" of which only Numbers 1 and 2 were issued in September and December 2003 respectively ... and then nothing until the new **Blue Penny News** of September 2004. The new in-house bulletin is of a very different format from the ones of 2003 and the cover layout of the September 2004 bulletin is different from that of the December 2004 bulletin.

A question in the **Blue Penny News** of September 2004 reads.... "In 1847, three countries issued postage stamps for the 1st time. They were: Mauritius, USA and?" Closing date 30th October 2004. The December **Blue Penny News** does not give any replies to the 6 questions of the September Quiz, nor does it announce any winners.... or losers! What third country - Mystified?

THE BLUE PENNY PROJECT

The Mauritius Post Ltd is an organisation on the move! On 8th November 2004 the five counters of Curepipe Post Office were computerised. This "pilot project" was followed by the computerisation of eleven counters at the GPO Dumas Street, Port Louis, on 29th November 2004.

The Mauritius Post Ltd opted for the Escher Group's *WebRiposte* counter automation system and we now have a brand new generation of self-adhesive "computer stamps" and other computer-generated labels in Mauritius.



OTHER BLUE PENNY BLUES

The **Blue Penny Project** the name given by The Mauritius Post Ltd to the Escher Group's *WebRiposte* counter automation system.

Other Blue Pennies are:

Blue Penny Museum more like The Mauritius Commercial Bank Art Gallery

Blue Penny Limited a locally incorporated company – a member of the Blue Penny Consortium

Blue Penny Consortium the name given to a group of 16 local companies all part owners of two Mauritius "Post Office" stamps.

Blue Penny the name of a shop near the northern underpass of the Port Louis Waterfront. The first user of the trade name "Blue Penny" in 1975.

The two Mauritius "Post Office" stamps of 1847 are the ONE PENNY orange-red and the TWO PENCE deep-blue SG1 and SG2.

GENERAL POST OFFICE BOX SECTION

A Press Notice from Headquarters dated 11th November 2004 informed the Public that after the transfer of the General Post Office (Counter Section) from the Old GPO in May 2004, the Post Office Box Section (i.e. letter boxes) will be transferred temporarily to new accommodation on the ground floor of the GPO Headquarters (at the back of the Post Office Museum) a few yards away from the Old GPO.

Box holders were requested to collect their mail at the new box section as from Saturday 13th November 2004 and that another transfer was envisaged "in a better and more spacious compound in a near future".

FEDEX AND MAURITIUS POST

On 26th November 2004 The Mauritius Post and FedEx launched a "monumentous alliance" in the history of both companies whereby FedEx Authorized ShipCentres are strategically located at nine Mauritius Post outlets.

The outlets are Port Louis New GPO Dumas Street, Port Louis Centre, Port Louis Western, Rose Hill, Curepipe, Central Flacq, Grand Bay, Mahebourg and Flic en Flac.

The FedEx partnership is supplementary to and is not in competition with the EMS Speedpost Courier Service of The Mauritius Post Ltd.

SAINTE CROIX POST OFFICE

The Sainte Croix Post Office was the scene of robberies in the months of November and December 2004. The double circular date stamp was also stolen ... or was it? The Postmaster has since appeared in a court of law.

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Some examples of the World Post Day rubber handstamps including the bashed one used at Rose Hill Post Office.

