

DECEMBER 2005

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

OCTOBER – The October meeting was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m.

The agenda was made up of four items :

- Philatelic Terms – An Update
- More on Postal History of Mauritius
- Several Exhibition Panels
- Notice Board – The latest world wide

**Philatelic Terms** was a five-page updated 2005 A-Z glossary of terms used in philately. **More on Postal History** included Carrier and Delivery Marks such as a November 1926 Phoenix Delivery Mark, rainfall data on postal stationery dated 1900 and 1901 addressed to Dr Edwards at Curepipe Road and Réduit and several Qantas 1952 First Flight Covers. Several layouts and write-ups prepared for the **Colonial Period 1847-1968 Stamp Exhibition** were previewed. **The latest world wide** on the notice board featured many stamps and covers as well as QSL cards.

The October Outing was cancelled as the date clashed with the Exhibition.

Attendance was very good and sales from the Bid Board and Purchase List satisfactory.

NOVEMBER – The November Society meeting was held at Collège du St Esprit, Quatre Bornes, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 2 p.m.

There were five items on the afternoon's agenda :

- Philatelic News and New Issues World Wide
- Mauritius UPU – World Post Day
- Stone Buildings Stamps
- Some Exhibition Panels
- Indian Ocean Islands ... by Mico Antoine and Steve Pendleton

Several French award winning stamps and the new environment friendly French stamp printed on recycled paper were shown under the first item as were some recent Russian stamps. The second and third items are dealt with elsewhere in this "News Items". Many attractive privately made illustrated covers for both the **World Post Day** event and **Stone Buildings** stamps were displayed. All the Arms, Type I and Type II, from the October Exhibition were shown and explained (due to the interest in these definitives) under the fourth item.

The 75-page monograph on **INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS – HISTORY AND PHILATELY OF RODRIGUES, AGALEGA, ST. BRANDON, ZES AND ILES EPARSEES** by Mico Antoine and Steve Pendleton was reviewed and firm orders for the publication were taken.

Several new members, signed up during the October Exhibition, showed up. Two potential members were also invited and one signed up during the meeting.

Sales from the Bid Board and Purchase List were good. Attendance was very high.

DECEMBER – The last meeting of 2005 was held at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m. on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005.

The Management Committee at its November meeting decided that a JUMBLE SALE would be held in December where only things philatelic would be traded. The convocation made this very clear and members were instructed on how to present their lots. Conditions of the CASH ONLY sale, – payment on the spot by buyers and cash settlement on the spot to vendors, – the Society's 10% commission and other procedures were described.

The first JUMBLE SALE was a total success. Vendors, buyers and all present conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. Stamps, covers, accessories, albums, collections, books, brochures and other philatelic material were offered and the turnover was the highest for the year, as was the Society's commission. Material offered by the Society sold well and proceeds from some items were donated to the Society by a couple of members.

The attendance was the highest for the year – a good ending to 2005.

Mico Antoine set up a display as a backdrop to the day's get together on aspects of French philately, Indian Official First Day Covers and the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bicentenary stamps and artworks by Patrice Offman as well as some signed covers.

New member, Derek Taylor, at the time (in 2000) President of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, gave a short interesting talk on the background to the first triangles of Mauritius. It was he who first suggested a set of triangle stamps for the Chamber's bicentenary and when the "competent authorities" turned down the triangle stamps request, the Chamber consulted the Mauritius Philatelic Society. The two met twice and the Society can jointly claim some (not all of course) credit for the subsequent issue of the first triangles of Mauritius.

### MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 1 p.m. at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

### THE SOCIETY – PRIVATE WEBSITES

Members are hereby advised that the Mauritius Philatelic Society has as from April 2005 withdrawn from and terminated all arrangements with three individuals who had at one time offered their website facilities to the Society.

The websites in question were:

- A Singaporean website operated by Vikram Chand.
- A Mauritian website operated by Sanjit Teelock
- A Mauritian website operated by Pravin Bhowanydeen.

The operators of these sites were informed officially to remove all material, logos, data of or references to the Society from their websites and to cease using the Society's name on their websites.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following joined the Society between April and December 2005.

Rajiv C. LUTCHMIAH	of	Port Louis, Mauritius
Goolam M. NAHABOO	of	Beau Bassin, Mauritius
Georges A. LOUIS	of	Rose Hill, Mauritius
Ahmad E. MAHMAUD	of	Pailles, Mauritius
Bernard CHAN LIN FAT	of	Grand Bay, Mauritius
Li Tsang CHUNG	of	Beau Bassin, Mauritius
Lakhi O. ISMAIL	of	Port Louis, Mauritius
Jean G. O. LALOUETTE	of	Grand Bay, Mauritius
Derek J. A. TAYLOR	of	Floréal, Mauritius

During the same period the Management Committee turned down one application.

Ed note. If a couple of names are familiar it is because a couple of ex-members reapplied for membership after ... lapses.

## OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Roger MORITZ of Osny, France, has once again renewed the Society's subscription to "*Timbres magazine*" for 2006. Thanks Roger.

Stephen ANDRE of Biel Switzerland, who joined in early 2005, has been passing on to the Society his "*Atout Timbres*" after he has been through them. That means the Society gets a free French stamp journal and Stephen recovers his fine used Swiss stamps and covers. Thanks Stephen.

During the month of December 2005 the President, Patrick Kwan Cheung, visited Australia where he met members Helen MORGAN and John SHAWLEY in Melbourne.

The following overseas members intend to visit Mauritius during 2006.

Niel CARPENTER of Surrey, England – January  
 Stephen ANDRE of Biel Switzerland – March/April  
 David GIBBON of Wiltshire, England – August  
 Helen MORGAN of Melbourne, Australia - October

## EXCHANGES

The following wish to exchange stamps, covers and other philatelic items with members of the Society.

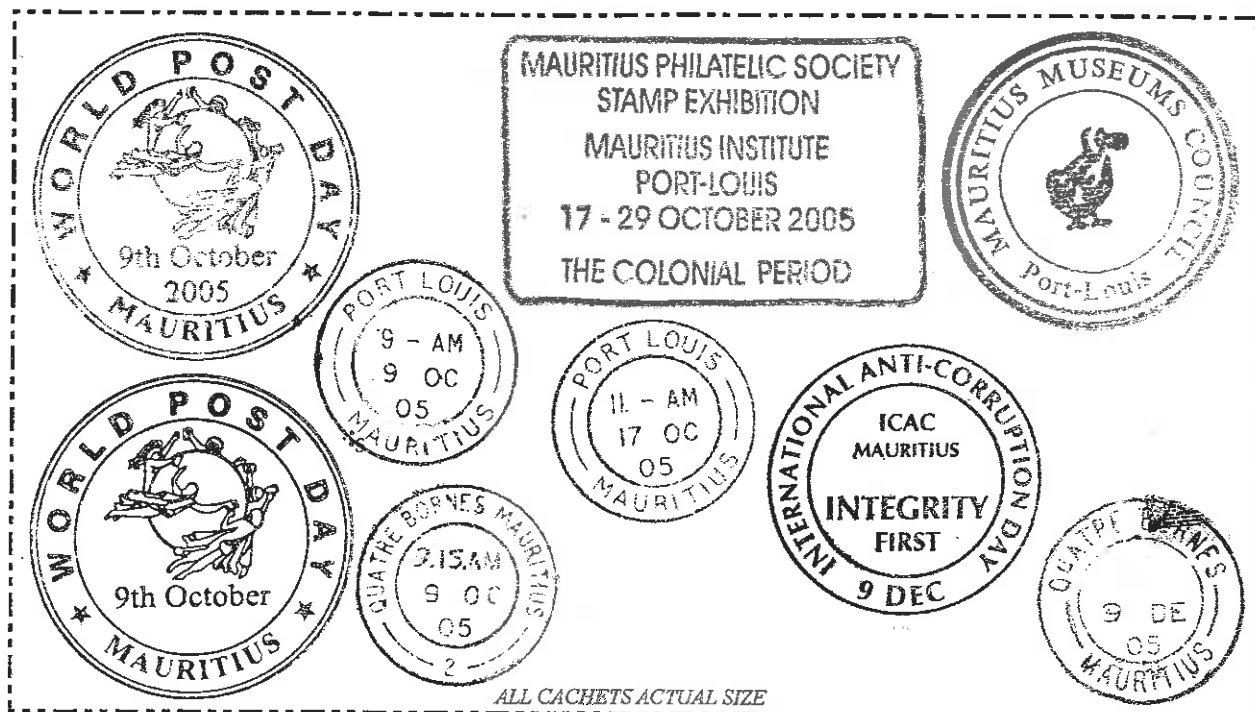
Nick SUDORGIN  
 P.O. Box 1581  
 SARATOV – 28  
 410028, RUSSIA

Serious Russian collector seeks exchange partners in Mauritius. He offers stamps of the whole world.

Alberto ARRIGONI  
 P.O. Box 170  
 33100 UDINE  
 ITALY

Visitor to Mauritius wishes to obtain Mauritian stamps by "want list". He will buy or exchange from his huge worldwide collection.

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



### THE PRESS

L'express	3.10.2005	Comme une lettre La Poste: ce cachet qui fait foi Anand Ramdhenee, facteur impressionniste
Le Matinal	17.10.2005	Journée Mondiale de La Poste
Le Défi Plus	8.10.2005	Le World Post Day célébrée
L'express	9.10.2005	Le timbre dans tous ses états Le 'Blue Penny'
L'express	10.10.2005	Les postiers ne devront bientôt plus pédaler Comme une lettre à la poste
Le Matinal	10.10.2005	Les facteurs bientôt munis de bicyclettes électriques Aide aux victimes du tsunami Trois timbres sur le marché
Le Mauricien	11.10.2005	Projet de 'community hubs' régionaux liés à la Poste
Le Matinal	15.10.2005	L'île Maurice en effigie Thèmes de timbres Le timbre à Maurice
L'express	17.10.2005	Bilan de 100 jours: La Poste Centre Nelson Mandela Ce ministère amer
Le Mauricien	28.10.2005	Des syndicalistes accusent le GM d'incompétence
L'express	12.12.2005	Hommage à T Callychurn, premier 'Postmaster General'
L'express	17.12.2005	Arnaud Godère à la présidence de Mauritius Post
L'express	23.12.2005	Précision – A propos de premier 'Postmaster General'

### MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY = POSTAL HISTORY OF MAURITIUS

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

Edited by Mico W Antoine

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2005

## News ItemS 2005.4

### STAMPS

#### Stone Buildings

A set of three special stamps titled **Stone Buildings** was released on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October. The stamps feature :

- Rs 2 Vagrant Depot GRNW
- Rs 7 Postal Museum Port Louis
- Rs 16 Carnegie Library Curepipe

A fourth stamp (Curepipe District Court) was dropped from this set because the structure 'looked too much like Carnegie Library' which happens to be round the corner from the building on the third stamp. 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 50 is illustrated with the former Port Louis Main Post Office known locally as *La Poste Centrale*.

#### Ship Models

A set of four special stamps titled **Ship Models** was released on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2005. The stamps feature :

- Rs 7 100 Gun Ship
- Rs 8 Sampan
- Rs 9 Roman Galley
- Rs 16 Drakkar

On the untitled data card the design of the set is attributed to a graphic designer employed by the Corporate Office of the Mauritius Post Ltd. The stamps were printed by BDT International Security Printing Ltd of Ireland.

The Official First Day Cover was offered on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at Rs 75 per unit and the price was increased to Rs 100 as from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

A souvenir sheet, not described or titled in the insert, shows a jumble of model ships on a "work desk" with a close-up of the Drakkar's "dragon's head" perforated as a stamp with the face value of Rs 25. This has got to be the ugliest souvenir sheet ever issued by Mauritius.

A set of five stampless postcards depicting the four stamps and the souvenir sheet were also produced and priced at Rs 10 per unit, Rs50 for the set.

### WORLD POST DAY

The Board and Management of the Mauritius Post Ltd with the collaboration of the Post Office Benevolent Fund, the Postal Employees Cooperative Credit Union and the Common Front Trade Unions of Mauritius Post Ltd celebrated **World Post Day** at the Post Office Building (*La Poste Centrale*), Quay Street, Port Louis on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2005 from 10.00 to 12.00 hrs with Hon. Etienne Sinatambou, Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications (responsible for postal matters) gracing the function by his presence.

This was a postal workers' get together (with a few invited guests) to witness the release of the **Stone Buildings** stamps, the official repossession of *La Poste Centrale* by the Postal Services and the return of the Philatelic Bureau which transferred back from Dumas Street.

[The Mauritius Postal Services returned home to the General Post Office Building on World Post Day 9<sup>th</sup> October 2005 after departing to Dumas Street on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2004.]

## WORLD POST DAY CACHETS

New **World Post Day** cachets were used at the following offices to mark this occasion in October 2005; Beau Bassin, Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, Vacoas (Counter), the Postal Museum and the Philatelic Bureau in Port Louis and also at the SSR Office of Exchange (Plaisance Airport) and the Sorting Office at Port Louis from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October.

The **World Post Day** cachets used at the Postal Museum and the Philatelic Bureau incorporate the full date (9<sup>th</sup> October 2005), all the other cachets do not have the full date, only the day and month (9<sup>th</sup> October) appear.

On the fifteen older **World Post Day** cachets in use prior to 2005 the Red Indian and the four letter carriers encircling the globe are found in many different positions – each new order of cachets resulted in new positioning of the carriers. On the 9<sup>th</sup> October **World Post Day** cachets used in 2005 the logo of the UPU has been reproduced as per the official emblem on **all** the new cachets.

## WORLD POST DAY SERVICE

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, **World Post Day**, limited postal services, in the main the sale of stamps and the servicing of first day covers, were available from 8.15 to 9.15 hrs at the following post offices: Beau Bassin, Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, Vacoas (counter) and the Postal Museum.

The new Philatelic Bureau at *La Poste Centrale* Quay Street provided a special counter service from 8.15 to 11.00 hours.

N.B. The sale of the **Stone Buildings** Official First Day Covers was exceptionally extended to all post offices in Mauritius and Rodrigues on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005 only.

## INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

To mark the United Nations decreed **International Anti-Corruption Day** on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2005, the Mauritian Independent Commission Against Corruption ICAC (which has been in the news since its conception for all the wrong reasons) with the collaboration of Mauritius Post Ltd “**impressed** with a rubber stamp and red ink” (sic) on as many ordinary items of correspondence, both local and foreign posted during the period 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

The double circle circular cachets measures just over 3.5 cm and has the words “International Anti-Corruption Day 9 Dec” within the circles and in the centre the message “**ICAC/Mauritius/Integrity/First**” in four lines.

Twenty five rubber stamps were issued to 19 offices as follows, GPO Sorting (5), SSR OE (3), and one each at Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, Beau Bassin, Vacoas, Phoenix, Triolet, Central Flacq, Mahebourg, Chemin Grenier, Petite Rivière, Saint Pierre, Rivière du Rempart, Goodlands, Reduit, Floreal, Eau Coulée, Forest Side.

A memorandum dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005 contained instructions that the “the rubber stamps, inking pad and ink (if any)” be returned to headquarters under registered cover on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

Ed. Note. The cachet has been seen on covers struck in red from Floreal, Petite Rivière, GPO Sorting, Eau Coulée, Reduit and struck in blue from Quatre Bornes and an Eau Coulée cover struck twice – in red on departure from Eau Coulée and in blue on arrival at Quatre Bornes.

## SPECIAL COVERS

### “Bicentenary Commemoration of Al Aqsa Mosque”

A special commemorative cover was released by the Association for the Al Aqsa Bicentenary Commemoration to mark the 200 years of the founding of the mosque in 1805. The cover is illustrated with a view of Al Aqsa Mosque similar in design to that of the R1 value of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Port Louis stamp issued in 1985 (SG 717). Three stamps of the “Trochetia” commemorative set (Re1, Rs4 and Rs7 of June 2003) are affixed to the cover and the cover bears two strikes of the Port Louis E.S. (slug) double circle circular datestamp of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2005. An insert provides useful data in English and French. 1300 covers were produced and the price of a unit Rs25.00.

### The Colonial Period 1847 – 1968

A special commemorative cover was released at 11 a.m. on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2005 by the Mauritius Philatelic Society to mark the first day of the Exhibition held at the Mauritius Institute in Port Louis from 17<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The cover is franked with the full set of the Stone Buildings stamps and bears two strikes of a Port Louis double circle circular datestamp from the Philatelic Bureau. The cover is illustrated with the logo of the Society and the two types of the Arms stamps of the Colonial Period. Two special cachets were applied to the cover, the Society’s rectangular cachet made especially for the Exhibition and applied only to the 125 numbered covers (1 – 125) reading in six lines /Mauritius Philatelic Society/Stamp Exhibition/Mauritius Institute/Port Louis/17 – 29 October 2005/The Colonial Period/ and the circular Mauritius Museums Council Port Louis cachet. The covers were offered at Rs100.00 per unit and the proceeds used to defray the costs of staging the Exhibition.

## STAMP EXHIBITION – 2005

The Society held a stamp exhibition at the Mauritius Institute, La Chaussée, Port Louis from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2005 under the aegis of and with the participation of the Mauritius Museums Council.

The exhibition was opened to the public from 9.00 to 16.00 hrs daily Monday to Friday and 9.00 to 12.00 hrs on Saturdays.

The exhibition titled, **The Colonial Period 1847 – 1968** featured the Classics, the Queen’s Head, the Arms, the King’s Heads, Elizabethan Stamps, Aerophilately, World War II Censorship, the Railways and B53 on 27 wall-mounted panels. Stamps, covers and other exhibits were in the main provided by Mico Antoine and Patrick Kwan Cheung. Dr A. N. Maderbokus, Vicky Cushmajee and Randhir Mungra also provided several Post Pairs, Britannias and a few other stamps from their collections. The Mauritius Museums Council participated in the exhibition by putting on show, for the very first time in two display units, stamps and covers from Dr Vaughan’s collection. Reginald Edward Vaughan was a former director of the Mauritius Institute who donated his collection, housed in three albums, to the Institute.

The Society got good press and television coverage and many visitors, locals and tourists, visited the exhibition during the two-week period. A small sales counter offered Mauritian stamps and covers.

### EXHIBITION PRESS COVERAGE

Le Défi Plus	15.10.2005	Exposition
L'express	18.10.2005	L'île Maurice coloniale des timbres-poste
Le Matinal	19.10.2005	Expo Stamps
News on Sunday	21.10.2005	Stamp Exhibition
L'express	23.10.2005	Exposition. L'île Maurice coloniale en timbres
Le Mauricien	24.10.2005	Musée de Port Louis – expo de timbres retraçant l'histoire de l'île
Le Matinal	27.10.2005	The Hobby of Kings

### AN ANNUAL MAGAZINE

A new editorial team of the Mauritius Post Ltd released one new look magazine in December 2005. The former *Edition trimestrielle* of December 2004, only two of which were actually produced during the whole of 2004, has in 2005 become a single annual in-house magazine. Still carrying the title "*Blue Penny News*" the *Edition Decembre 2005* is a very colourful 16-page bulletin with plenty of pictures and very little of substance. The text is 90% French and 10% English. The two pages devoted to *Philatélie* have English titles for some stamps, French for others (when the actual stamps have English, scientific or Latin titles) and a First Day Cover becomes le *First Day Cover* in French, a 100 Gun Ship stamp of the Ship Models set becomes *Soleil Royal* in French then there are the in-house fabricated Stamp Booklets that are described as Stamp Packs.

Details of the Stamp Booklets will appear in the first "News Items" of 2006.

### TELECOM SMART CARDS

#### Chamarel Waterfalls (IV)

A new Smart Card featuring the Chamarel Waterfalls and exact in design on recto as the last Waterfalls (III) was put on sale in the first half of 2005. On verso the shaded blue area of the card has been redesigned; the blue is deeper and the area has been reduced to allow for the inclusion of the barcode number 6 091300 221077. The text is the same as that of all the previous Chamarel Waterfalls cards. The price of the 55 units card is Rs50 exclusive of VAT.

#### Chamarel Coloured Earth (IV)

A new Smart Card featuring Chamarel Coloured Earth (which just in case you did not know is a stone's throw from Chamarel Waterfalls) and exact in design on recto as the last Chamarel Coloured Earth (III) was put on sale in the second half of 2005. On verso the shaded reddish-brown area of the card has been redesigned; the colour is of a deeper hue and the area reduced to allow for the inclusion of the barcode. The number of this card is 6 091300 221084. The text is the same as that of all the previous Chamarel Coloured Earth cards. The price of the 115 units card is Rs100 exclusive of VAT.

#### Pamplemousses Gardens (IV)

A new Smart Card featuring Pamplemousses Gardens exact in design on recto as the last (III) card was put on sale in the last quarter of 2005. On verso the shaded area has been redesigned. The coloured area is reduced and is of a darker olive hue, the text has been shortened with three lines removed and the barcode number is 6 091300 221060. The price of the 240 units card is Rs200 exclusive of VAT.

**N.B. THE SOCIETY WILL NO LONGER LIST TELECOM SMART CARDS AS FROM JANUARY 2006.**