

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items 2006.3

P.O. Box 89 Quatre Bornes Mauritius

SEPTEMBER 2006

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JULY – The July meeting was held at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m. on Saturday 1st July.

The ECOLOGY stamps of 15th June were examined viz. the poorly conceived set supposedly “designed” by the Mauritius Post’s own graphic designer, the dodgy data and outright mistakes contained in the data card, the price of the Official First Day Cover and the change in the envelope from glossy to “recyclable” paper.

Four members displayed and presented four different subjects, out of the seven who had initially expressed their intention to participate. Ravin Buchoo brought along his computer-designed special illustrated covers, Alain Louis showed a mixture of stamps on cover or piece including an out of order Mesnil single circle datestamp cancellation on a Victoria era Queen’s Head together with a current stamp on cover, Patrick Kwan showed some B53 items and Mico Antoine showed 1960s slogan cancellation on piece, 1960s postmarks on piece and some contemporary non-events on covers such as a bizarre bank robbery franked with the bank’s own commemorative postage stamp.

A general thematic display of stamps from the African mainland served as a backdrop thus ensuring the full utilisation of all the display board.

20 local members and a foreign visitor who had solicited an invitation attended the meeting.

AUGUST – The August meeting was held at the usual venue and at the usual time on Saturday 5th August.

The main items on the afternoon’s agenda was THE RED CROSS, a presentation by the Diffusion and Dissemination Officer of the organisation in Mauritius and his colleague the Deputy Director General. This was a PowerPoint presentation supported by postage stamps provided by Ah Lam Yan Foon and World War II P.O. Box 1000 Red Cross covers from Patrick Kwan. The far too long tedious discourse and anecdotal interpositions did not go down too well; simply because the suggested three quarter of an hour session went on for almost one and a half hours, far too long to retain attention or interest.

DEAD COUNTRIES OF BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA was mainly about the political evolution of the Rhodesias, Nyasaland and Bechuanaland from the earliest colonial era to the self-government and post independence period including the rebellious Unilateral Independence (UDI) years in Southern Rhodesia on stamps, covers and maps.

The latest stamps and philatelic news from around the world and Mauritius were affixed to the Notice Board and the Purchase List and Bid Board offered a range of good material.

22 local members and the Society’s lone Reunion Island member of Mauritian origin attended the meeting.

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

The agenda was made up of THEMATICS: a presentation of stamps, covers, cards, photographs etc. POSTAL HISTORY – by Air, by Sea, by Land. NEWS ITEMS No 2, 2006: an examination of the contents of the June 2006 issue thus ensuring that those attending, at the very least, read the contents and finally news from Mauritius and the rest of the world.

Thematics included shapes and sizes of stamps as well as B.I.O.T. fauna. Postal History by air, sea and land was strictly limited to Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega items. The latest included computer-generated stamps/labels from Flic en Flac, Forest Side, Quatre Bornes and the Waterfront (Port Louis) post offices. The SADC (South African Development Community) and the 15th African Championship Games cachets on proving covers were shown. From the rest of the world came the South African “Wild Dog” FIFA 2010 World Cup souvenir sheet and the new 2006 Big Five booklet as well as recent stamps and philatelic news from France and Russia.

20 members were in attendance and proceeds from the Bid Board and the Purchase List were good.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

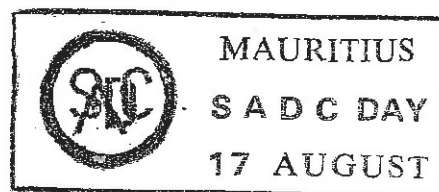
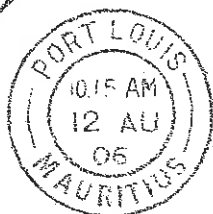
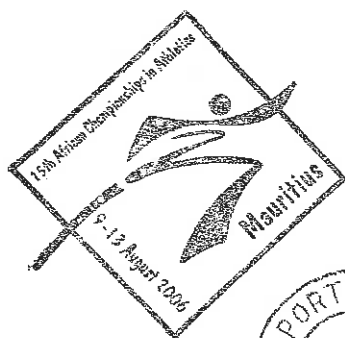
The monthly Management Committee meetings were held on Saturday 1st July, Saturday 5th August and Saturday 2nd September at 1 p.m. at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

PUBLICITY HANDSTAMPS

Several temporary propaganda rubber handstamps were applied to mails during August and September 2006 as follows:

- 15TH AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ATHLETICS

These championships were held in Mauritius from 9th to 13th August 2006 at Bambous in the west of the island and Mauritius Post Ltd “the official sponsor, in providing an EMS service...” issued rubber handstamps to the following offices, GPO Sorting (Port Louis), SSR Office of Exchange (the Airport at Plaisance), Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, Beau Bassin, Curepipe and Réduit. No handstamp was issued to Bambous post office in the village where the games were held. Officers were instructed to “impress as many items of correspondence as possible posted...” and the SSR OE was specifically ordered to “affix the stamp on correspondence mailed to the African Continent” from 8th to 13th August 2006 both dates inclusive. The handstamp impression is shown actual size.



- SADC DAY (17th AUGUST)

The regular rectangular SADC rubber handstamps were used again in Mauritius on the 16th and 17th August 2006 to commemorate the South African Development Community day which also marked the end of the one year tenure of the presidency of the organization by Mauritius. The handstamps were used at GPO Sorting (Port Louis), SSR Office of Exchange (the Airport at Plaisance), Quatre Bornes, Vacoas, Phoenix, Rose Belle, Rivière des Anguilles, Triolet and Bel Air. Instructions were given for the handstamps to be affixed on as many items of mail as possible, incoming and outgoing. The handstamp impression is shown actual size.

- 106TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIR SEEWOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM

To mark the 106th Birth Anniversary of the former Prime Minister and former Governor General of Mauritius several large circular rubber handstamps were issued to eight offices in Mauritius with instructions to affix the handstamps on items of correspondence posted and delivered on Monday 18th September 2006 only. Special instructions were however issued to SSR OE to apply the handstamp on "*incoming mail only*."

The offices in question were the Philatelic Bureau and the Postal Museum in Port Louis, SSR OE (Incoming mail only), Vacoas Delivery, Triolet, Bel Air, GPO Delivery and GPO Sorting in Port Louis. In effect these propaganda handstamps were used at two post offices only namely, Triolet, the parliamentary constituency of the former Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (Triolet also happens to be the parliamentary constituency of his offspring, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, the current Prime Minister) and Bel Air post office near Kawal Nagar the birth place of SSR. All the other offices are special services offices.

The commemorative cover cancellation cachet and the propaganda handstamp are shown actual size – they are similar in design; one small and one big.

Rodrigues was excluded from and spared of the three Mauritian propagations.

Proving covers impressed with the three handstamps have been seen with mainly Port Louis (GPO Sorting and GPO Delivery) postmarks.

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVERS

Two political figures featured on special commemorative covers produced by the Mauritius Post Ltd during the period July to September 2006.

- The "**Birth Centenary of Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed 1906-2006**" was the subject of a special commemorative cover of 1st August 2006. The cover is illustrated with a portrait of the young personality and the old Town Hall of Port Louis. The cover is struck twice with a special cachet and it is franked with two stamps, the Rs8 **Anthurium** and the Rs7 **Ship Models** values to symbolize "*the mode of traveling and the generous nature of this great patriot*", (the boat and the flower). 2000 covers were produced, 1000 were reserved for the Ministry of Arts and Culture (for official use) and 1000 were offered to the public at Rs25 per unit.



SOUTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

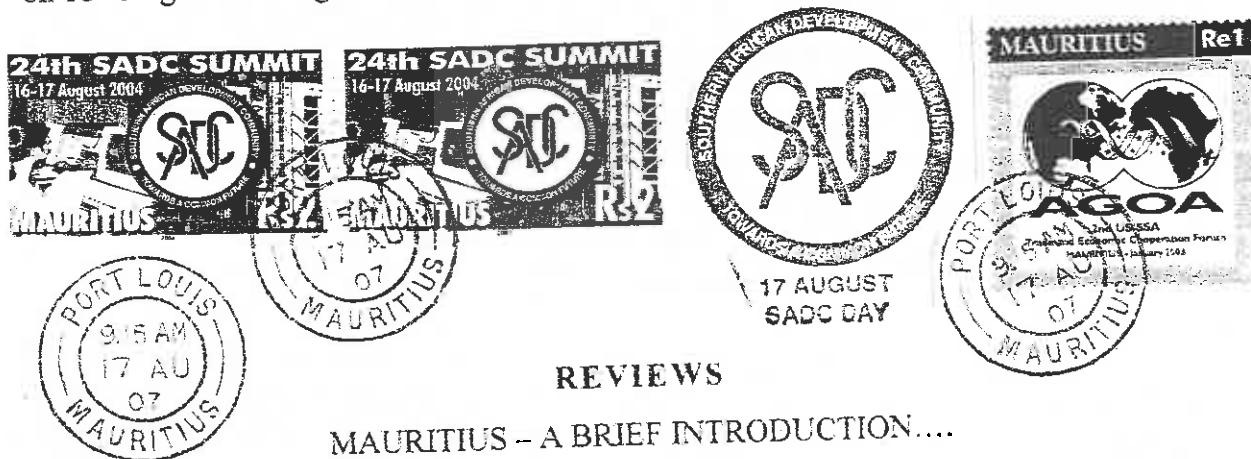
The circular SADC rubber stamp was used in Mauritius and in Rodrigues on the 16th and 17th August 2007 to commemorate the South African Development Community summit meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia.

25 rubber stamps in all were distributed to 20 post offices and to three other offices as follows:

Post offices: Beau Bassin, Bel Air, Central Flacq, Chemin Grenier, Curepipe, Eau Coulee, Floréal, Forest Side, Goodlands, Grand Bay, Mahebourg, Phoenix, Quatre Bornes, Rivière des Anguilles, Rivière du Rempart, Rose Belle, Rose Hill, Triolet, Vacoas and Port Mathurin.

Other offices: Office of Exchange (SSR Airport, Plaisance), GPO Delivery – General Post Office, Port Louis (2), CMO Sorting – Central Mail Office, Port Louis (2)

Instructions were issued to Regional Principal Postal Executives and to controlling officers on 6th August 2007 to apply the SADC cachet on the maximum pieces of correspondence on 16th and 17th August only and to return the rubber stamps to the Deputy Head of Postal Operations on 18th August. Proving covers have been confirmed by several members of the Society.



REVIEWS

MAURITIUS – A BRIEF INTRODUCTION....

A very fine accomplishment! I am very impressed by this production. Informative maps of the island, tying the postal development to the railway lines; pictures of various post offices; the listing of different cancellers, and accompanying illustrations; and much, much more. This will be seen as a real feast by all those who enjoy the different facets of Mauritius. **John Ng Wong Hing – Verdugo Vieja, California, USA.**

I received your comprehensive Mauritius monograph and enjoyed reading it. It obviously took a lot of research. I went to Scott Publishing on August 30 for my monthly visit with your monograph. Michael Baadke, editor, reviewed it briefly. He asked if he could keep the monograph, ultimately, placing it in the large Linn's/Scott library. **David Lodge, Contributing Editor, Scott Stamp Monthly – Ohio, USA.**

The monograph is a wonderful introduction to collecting Mauritian postmarks. I only wish something like it was available then when I started collecting way back in 1973 or even better when I was serving in Mauritius in 1954/56 I may have contracted the bug then. **David Tarry, Editor IO, Indian Ocean Study Circle – UK.**

MAURITIUS POSTAL HISTORY = MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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