

DECEMBER 2006

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

OCTOBER – The October meeting was held at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m. on Saturday 7th October.

The four main items on the agenda were **SPECIAL SIGNED COVERS**, **A CLASSIC SWISS STAMP**, **LA POSTE 1944-2000**, **PAST INACCURACIES** and **THE MAURITIUS PRIMITIVES**.

Soorooj Ramdewor presented his collection of special private covers and official FDCs of Mauritius signed by various personalities such as the President of the Republic, religious dignitaries, politicians and heads of corporations. Hans Bigler showed his **BASEL DOVE** stamp of Switzerland issued on 1st July 1845 accompanied by comprehensive historical data on its origins. **LA POSTE 1944-2000** was the complete sequence of stamps on the French postal services. **PAST INACCURACIES** presented jointly by Indradev Curpen and Mico Antoine dealt with the many fabrications, myths and blatant rubbish about Mauritian stamps from the “Post Office” stamps to the latest issues. The **MAURITIUS PRIMITIVES**, the book by Arnold Rudge was shown and some aspects of the primitives were explained. Several Post Paids and Dardennes from Dr A N Maderbokus’ collection were on display.

The Bid Board and the Purchase List offered a good range of Mauritian stamps, covers and items of postal history. Sales were good. 19 local members and Swiss member Stephan André, on holiday in Mauritius, attended the meeting.

NOVEMBER – The November meeting was held at the usual venue and at the usual time on the first Saturday of the month, the 4th November. The following were on the afternoon’s agenda – **NON MARINE CRABS** and **WORLD POST DAY**, the 1937 **CORONATION OMNIBUS**, **RECENT ACQUISITIONS** and **POSTAL RATES INCREASES**.

The Mauritian **NON MARINE CRABS** stamps were examined and compared with the Diego Garcia **CRABS** set of 2004 which featured two identical species namely *Cardisoma carnifex* and *Birgus latro*.

Press cuttings and invitation cards and covers serviced at the Postal Museum and Philatelic Bureau on 7th and 9th October cacheted with the years’ two **WORLD POST DAY** rubber stamps were shown – the cover of the 7th with the last day of the old postal rates and the cover of the 9th with the first day of the new postal rates.

Indradev Curpen showed his almost complete collection of the 1937 **CORONATION Omnibus** on registered covers all addressed to a member of the Daruty family in Curepipe from all the participating countries except India bearing registration labels or rubber stamped or manuscript registered markings serviced or mailed on the day of issue in 1937. All were backstamped with Mauritian postmarks as well as Delivery or Carrier marks.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS included more censor marks from Patrick Kwan, a **CASCADE ROAD** mark on a cover addressed to a railway clerk at Rose Hill in 1948 from Mico Antoine and the latest stamps issued by B.I.O.T. and South Africa.

The **POSTAL RATES INCREASES** especially the inland ordinary letter rate from Rs2 to Rs5 as well as other inland rates and to some extent lesser increases of other rates were examined.

All the display boards were used with a small "Stamp on Stamp" thematic serving as a filler. The Notice Board carried the latest news which included a preview on the December main topic **BLUE MAURITIUS** by Helen Morgan. The Bid Board and Purchase List offered a wide range of Mauritian covers and stamps. Sales were average. 19 members attended the meeting.

DECEMBER – The December meeting was held on Saturday 2nd December at Collège du St Esprit, Quatre Bornes at 1 p.m.

The last meeting of the year began one hour earlier at 1 p.m. to allow for the examination, acceptance and registration of lots for the **JUMBLE SALE**. 232 lots were offered of which 86 were sold. The range was from the very mundane to the fairly exceptional with some good and some not so good bargains. All the transactions were completed on time, all payments made on the spot, all unsold lots returned to their owners, and all accounts balanced.

In addition to the Jumble Sale the programme of the afternoon included several displays and all the boards were filled.

Two Omnibus series were on display, one of stamps and souvenir sheets commemorating Princess Diana issued in 1997 and the other covers on the Coronation Anniversary of 1978.

A range of covers chronicled the problems and anomalies caused by the October rates increases such as meters of Rs6 and Rs10 instead of Rs5, inland registered letters rated at Rs20 instead of Rs15. One rarely seen "More to Pay" handstamped cover was despatched without the shortfall collected from the sender.

The main subject was **BLUE MAURITIUS** the book on Mauritian philately by Helen Morgan which went on sale in Mauritius on 20th October 2006. Some background information was disclosed, the draft of the first chapter created on 1st November 2003 was shown and the role of the Society was explained. The afternoon was consecrated to the "Biographies of the Stamps" pages 229 to 254 and in particular to the stamps numbered III, X, XX, XXIV and VII. Albert Rae's article from "**MAURITIUS ILLUSTRATED**" was also explained and the two biographies of the stamps by Rae and Morgan were compared in depth.

26 members attended the last meeting of the year.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The monthly Management Committee meetings were held on Saturday 7th October and Saturday 4th November at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes. The December meeting was held on Saturday 9th December at noon at the Red Apple Restaurant, Royal Road, Rose Hill.

DECEMBER LUNCH

A group of 10, 13 had signed up, got together at the Red Apple in Rose Hill at noon for lunch on Saturday 9th December.

Menu

Starters:	<i>Calamar Croustillant. Poulet Croustillant. Spring Rolls.</i>
Non-Vegetarian:	<i>Poisson au Gingembre Aigre Doux, Poulet Samtung aux Champignons, Calamar Sze Chuan with Black Beans, Légumes à l'Ail.</i>
Vegetarian:	<i>Croquettes Champignons, Hot Pot Taikon, Légumes Sautés aux Champignons Noirs, Riz Frit Légumes, Bringelle Chatini.</i>

VISITORS TO MAURITIUS

Swiss member STEPHAN ANDRE visited Mauritius from 23rd September to 13th October. He attended the October Society meeting held on 7th October and he met Mico Antoine on several occasions.

UK member DAVID GIBBON visited Mauritius from 15th to 30th August. He and his wife Carole met several members of the Society at Quatre Bornes on 28th August and he also met with Mico Antoine on several occasions. Before coming to Mauritius David met the President, Patrick Kwan Cheung, in Rodrigues.

Australian member and author of **Blue Mauritius** HELEN MORGAN visited Mauritius from 15th to 23rd October. She met with Patrick Kwan Cheung and Mico Antoine on several occasions and her book was launched in Port Louis during her stay in Mauritius.

FASCINATING POSTAL HISTORY



A phenomenon in the history of one of the world's most popular hobbies, the 'Post Office' stamps are synonymous with fame, wealth and mystery. Helen Morgan's book *Blue Mauritius: The Hunt for the World's*

Most Valuable Stamps tells their story, from the birth of the stamps on a tropical Indian Ocean island, to Bordeaux, India and the hushed atmosphere of the modern auction room in Great Britain and Switzerland, into the hearts and imagination of collectors everywhere.

* * * * *

'The extraordinary story of the world's most sought-after postage stamps makes fascinating reading in the hands of art historian Helen Morgan, who has turned what so easily could have been a highly-specialised treatise on the birth of philately into an intriguing slice of social history.' *Yorkshire Post*, August 2006.

'This book is not just an entertaining and meticulously researched history of Mauritius and its stamps, but also an absorbing look at the early development of one of the world's most widespread hobbies.' *The Sunday Business Post* (Ireland), August 2006.

'As exciting and full of suspense as any thriller, this is a ground-breaking book that brings stamp-collecting into the mainstream.' *The Good Book Guide* (United Kingdom), September 2006.

STAMPS

Non Marine Crabs

A set of four special postage stamps was released on 9th October 2006 on the occasion of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) – World Post Day. None of the stamps bear the stamps title NON MARINE CRABS, they do however carry the scientific and the English or local name of the species. The stamps and Official First Day Cover were launched by the Hon. Etienne Sinatambou, the minister responsible for the Postal Services at the “Ex-GPO Post Office”, Waterfront, Port Louis at 10.45 hrs on 9th October 2006.

The stamps feature:

- Rs 2 - Touloulou Crab - *Cardisoma cariflex*
- Rs 7 - Land Crab - *Geograpsus grayi*
- Rs 8 - Freshwater Crab - *Veruna litterata*
- Rs 25 - Coconut Crab - *Birgus latro*

The illustrated Official First Day Cover portrays a berried female crab.

The stamps were designed by Ian Loe and printed by BDT International Security Printers Ltd on CA watermarked paper. The Mauritius Post logo is printed only on the middle gutter of the gutter strip separating the two panes of 25 stamps and the sheet is formatted in 5 horizontal rows of 10 stamps. At 30mmx25mm these stamps are the smallest postage stamps since 1950, apart from the 1966-1972 Postage Dues. The Official FDC is priced at Rs70 (the stamps have a face value of Rs42) and carries the logo of the corporation on the ungummed back flap. The covers, of which only 3500 were produced, are the lowest numbers of the last decade for any commemorative stamps for which FDCs were produced and is indicative of the declining philatelic sales of modern Mauritius. It must also be noted the programmed and officially announced souvenir sheet was **not** produced.... “because of technical reasons.”

Traditional Games

A set of four special stamps were released on 7th December 2006 titled TRADITIONAL GAMES. The stamps which supposedly reflect “ a multiracial population and its traditional games....derived from everyday life” (*sic*) feature children from one section of the population only, the Indo-Mauritian, notwithstanding the fact that Sapsiwaye and Kite Flying “originated from China” and that Hopscotch (spelt Hop Scotch on the stamp and written as Hopscotch on the insert) was “introduced by the French”. The traditional games are described on the stamps as:

- Rs5 - Sapsiwaye
- Rs10 - Marbles
- Rs15 - Hop Scotch
- Rs25 - Kite Flying

The Official First Day Cover is illustrated with three marbles and a “hopscotch pattern”.

The stamps were designed by Nick Shrewing and were printed by BDT International Security Printing Ltd on CA watermarked paper. The Mauritius Post logo is printed only on the middle gutter of the gutter strip separating the two panes of 25 stamps. The Official FDC is priced at Rs75 (face value of stamps – Rs55) and the back flap is ungummed.

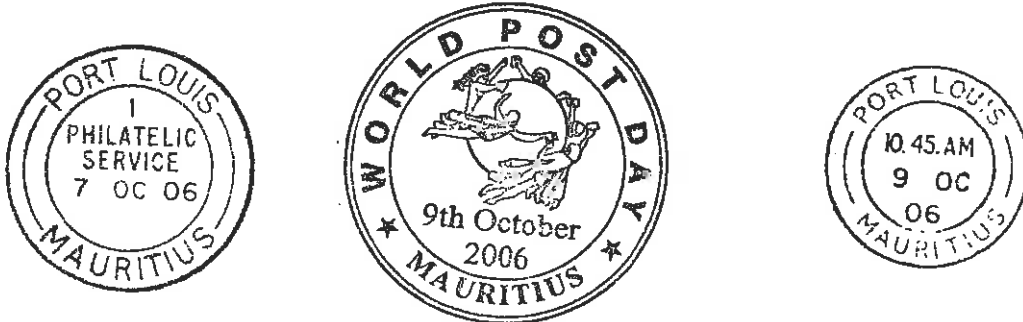
The stamp size is 27.94x44.45mm; two (Rs5 and Rs25) are in the “portrait format” and two are in the “landscape format” (Rs10 and Rs15).

Ed Note. If the **Postal Services** postage stamps of 2005 reflect the true situation at Mauritius Post where over 90% of the staff is from the Indo-Mauritian community at least one customer on the Rs2 stamps features a non Indo-Mauritian, a Sino-Mauritian – no other communities are represented on the other three stamps. The question is how can and why do the deciders continue to use postage stamps to promote Mauritian communal domination whilst hiding under the cover of the reflectiveness of a “multicultural population” in “everyday life” as with this Traditional Games set? Did it cross the minds of the members of the Stamps Advisory Committee and Mauritius Post to show the games without any children!

WORLD POST DAY

- World Post Day was celebrated by the Board, Management and Staff of Mauritius Post Ltd at Taher Bagh, Champ de Mars, Port Louis on Saturday 7th October 2006 from 9.00 hrs to 12 hrs. The Hon. Etienne Sinatambou, the Minister responsible for the Postal Services graced the function by his presence.
- In the context of the World Post Day 2006 the Board and Management of Mauritius Post Ltd sent out invitations to several guests for the official opening ceremony, on 9th October 2006, of the renovated Parcel Post Office at the Ex-Post Office Headquarters Building (Postal Museum) Quay Street, Port Louis. The Hon. Etienne Sinatambou graced the function by his presence.
- During the World Post Day celebrations Mauritius Post Ltd held a “Stamps and Photos Exhibition” at the Ex-GPO building, *La Poste Centrale*. The Hon. Etienne Sinatambou officially opened the exhibition on 9th October 2006.

Ed note. The Parcel Office simply moved from the back side of a building to the other side of the same building... it is however now equipped with CCTV cameras... sniffer dogs and dog handlers.



THE WORLD POST DAY CACHET

To mark UPU World Post Day two brand new special rubber stamps were produced for use at two venues only namely the Philatelic Bureau and the Postal Museum during the World Post Day celebrations on 7th and 9th October 2006, 8th October was a Sunday. The rubber stamps are similar in design to the other 2005 rubber stamps (see News Items 2005.4 of December 2005) except that the two new rubber handstamps carry the date 9th October 2006. The undated (2005) rubber stamps were not issued to **any** post offices or other offices in Mauritius, Rodrigues or Agaléga in 2006 therefore there are **no** commercial covers cacheted with the World Post Day cachet in 2006 from **any** offices apart from the two venues; if commercial covers do exist they have been manufactured.

Philatelic covers were serviced at the Philatelic Bureau or Postal Museum mainly on 9th October 2006 and the cachet was also applied to the Official First Day Cover at the two

venues upon request. This is the first time in the last decade that World Post Day rubber stamps were not issued to the main post offices in Mauritius. This oversight or whatever is one of the contributing factors to the decline in interest in contemporary Mauritian philately.

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVER

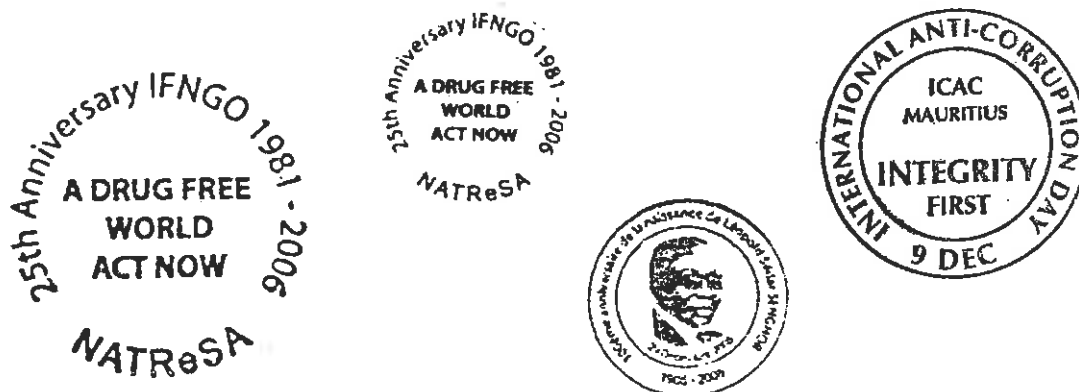
A Drug Free World

The 25th anniversary of IFNGO (International Federation of Non Government Organizations) was celebrated on 6th November 2006 in Mauritius. NATReSA (National Agency for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Substance Abusers) affiliated to IFNGO commemorated the occasion by the use of a round rubber handstamp reading "25th Anniversary IFNGO – 1981-2006 NATReSA" (as shown) with A DRUG FREE/ WORLD/ACT NOW in the centre of the uncircled handstamp in three lines. The temporary propaganda cachet was applied to correspondence passing through 15 offices on 6th November 2006 **only**. The offices were Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Phoenix, Vacoas, Solferino, Eau Coulée, Curepipe, Floréal, Forest Side, Mahebourg, SSR O/E (the Airport Office of Exchange), GPO Delivery (Port Louis), GPO Sorting (Port Louis). Proving covers have been seen from several of the listed post offices.

The design of the NATReSA Special Commemorative Cover rubber stamps and the cachet cancelling the stamps on the cover are similar and both have the same inexplicable omission, they do not have the date of the 25th Anniversary of IFNGO, the event they commemorate on 6th November. The special cover therefore is undated, the two postal markings confirm this not once but twice.

The "Press Paper" issued by NATReSA on 3rd Nov. 2006 states the following "the launching of 1000 Comemorative Envelopes and 15 Rubber Stamps which would enable all mails to be stamped promoting Mauritius worldwide....15 rubber stamps distributed to 15 main Post Offices throughout Mauritius to be used over 15 days as from today 6 November 2006". The instructions issued by the Deputy Head of Postal Operations on 3rd November 2006 to the 15 offices of Mauritius Post states "...in full support.... in the campaign.... affix the enclosed rubber stamp on the correspondence.... on 6th of November 2006" followed by "The stamp is to be returned to me on the following day by registered post."

The Society can confirm that the 15 rubber stamps were used on mails for one day **only** on 6th November 2006 at Quatre Bornes because when the Editor called at the post office on 7th November the rubber handstamp had been returned to Port Louis by the first mail van. The same applies to all the other rubber stamps at the 14 other offices.



100ème Anniversaire de la naissance de Léopold Sédar Senghor 1906-2006

The *100ème Anniversaire de la naissance de Léopold Sédar Senghor 1906-2006* was commemorated by the release of an *envelope commemorative* on 29th December 2006. The cover carries a framed portrait of the West African personality, bears a single Rs7 denomination of the **Bicentenary of Mahebourg 1806-2006** commemorative and is cacheted with two strikes of a special canceller incorporating the release date and a repeat of the cover's title. A data card with a brief CV of the personality, in French, is inserted in the cover and we are informed that Senghor was born on 9th December 1906.

700 covers were produced by Mauritius Post Ltd. 500 were purchased by the Mauritian Ministry of Culture, 100 were put on sale at the Philatelic Bureau and 100 were on offer at the Postal Museum in Port Louis at Rs30 per unit. The logo of Mauritius Post is printed on the ungummed back flap to affirm the corporation's involvement in the production of Mauritian philatelic products notwithstanding that this cover was a political order, restricted in numbers and availability – contrary to UPU's philatelic ethics – i.e. a political command, manufactured by Mauritius Post but not available to the general public.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

To mark the above event, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) organized "a set of activities from 4th December to 9th December 2006" and Mauritius Post gladly offered its collaboration for the second successive year.

During the period rubber stamps were issued to 20 offices – GPO Sorting, GPO Delivery, SSR OE, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, Beau Bassin, Vacoas, Phoenix, Triolet, Central Flacq, Mahebourg, Chemin Grenier, Petite Rivière, St Pierre, Rivière du Rempart, Goodlands, Réduit, Floréal, Eau Coulée, Forest Side – to be impressed on as many ordinary items of correspondence both inland and foreign in red ink. The double circle circular cachet measures just over 3.5cm and has the words International Anti-Corruption Day 9 Dec within the circle and in the centre the message "ICAC/Mauritius/Integrity/First" in four lines. Proving covers have been seen from Quatre Bornes, Port Louis Centre and Vacoas all impressed with red ink.

ON THE MOVE

Mauritius Post Ltd made several moves during the month of September 2006 – in an amazing 15 day period.

On 16th September the Delivery Section of the Postal Services was transferred **from** Albion Docks, Trou Fanfaron, back to the former GPO Headquarters buildings (on the first floor previously housing administrative offices) on Quay Street, Port Louis.

On 23rd September the Sorting Section of the Postal Services was transferred **from** Albion docks, Trou Fanfaron, back to the former G.P.O. Headquarters building (on the ground floor, its original site) on Quay Street, Port Louis.

On the 21st April 2003 the Sorting and the Delivery Sections were transferred **from** the GPO Headquarters building to Albion Docks, Trou Fanfaron and inaugurated with pomp and ceremony at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday 23 April 2003. The refurbishing, air-conditioning and the rental of the premises cost millions, one of the reasons why Mauritius Post Ltd is still in the red at September 2006.

On 20th September 2006 the GPO Stores were transferred **from** the new Headquarters on Dumas Street near Victoria Square back to the former General Post Office *La Poste Centrale*

on Port Louis Waterfront, Quay Street. On 29th May 2004 the Stores moved to Dumas Street when *La Poste Centrale* moved from Quay Street to the ex-Cooperative Bank Building near Victoria Square.

Eventually *La Poste Centrale* should house the Postal Museum, the Corporation's Board Room and whatever else can be crammed into it in addition to the Philatelic Bureau, the Waterfront Post Office and the Stores.

Ed Note. One project that is not moving in any direction is the transfer of the Mauritius Postal Museum from the old Headquarters building to *La Poste Centrale*. More than one full year has now elapsed since the building was returned to Mauritius Post. The biggest mistake the African Cultural Centre made was the total absence of any structural or other development of *La Poste Centrale* when it was gifted to them by the former government led by Paul Raymond Bérenger. Mauritius Post's tinkering at *La Poste Centrale* may well cost them the building as other institutions are interested and these institutions have the financial means and the clout. Mauritius Post can't even fix their clock! ...

... and everyone else is building at Ebène but not Mauritius Post "owners" of some land in Mauritius' own Cybercity, land made available to them on 9th October 2001 with much pomp and ceremony by Paul Raymond Bérenger's government for the construction of a "Postal Tower". The land and tower may go the same way as the other land and tower, the 1974 "New GPO Building Port Louis" as depicted on SG 474. That building was never built and today Air Mauritius' headquarters occupies that site in the heart of Port Louis.

TITBITS

UNLISTED SLOGAN?

...os enfants contre la Polio. Seen tied to piece across a 5c Rempart Mountain SG 296 postmarked Port Louis Mauritius on 26th August 1959 a straight line cachet in mauve as shown. Does any member know anything about this cachet. Could any member supply the details of the full slogan and or a copy or actual cover on which this slogan appears. Not mentioned in either Ibbotson books.

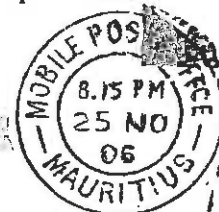
OPEN DAY

On Saturday 25 November 2006 with their new "Mauritius Post – more than just letters...." slogan held an open day at Trianon Shopping Park, Quatre Bornes in a tent with the Mobile Post Office van parked alongside. Proof of the event a Mobile Post Office postmark struck at 8.15 p.m. on 25 NO 06.

Ed Note. "More than just letters"... what about "...postmarks in the night"!

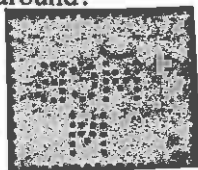


os enfants contre la Polio

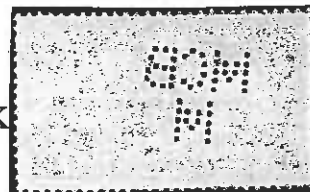


CASCADE ROAD CASCADE ROAD

A new straight-line seriffed CASCADE ROAD (not mentioned in either Ibbotson books) handstamp on an October 1948 cover postmarked at Rose Hill addressed to Michel Emmanuel Signolet, Railway Clerk, Rose Hill has come to light. The two other known straight line handstamps are CASCADE ROAD HALT and CASCADE HALT. Are there others around?



PERFINS UPDATE MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK MCB/M



An examination of five "Bills or Notes" from UK, USA and Indian banks drawn on the Mauritius Commercial Bank all with strips of three George V and George VI keyplates for the period 1933 to 1943 show that all the stamps were perforated **before** being affixed to the documents. All the perforations are punched clean through the stamps with all chads removed. All the stamps have been perforated individually and all are perforated from left to right in the horizontal position, i.e., the stamps are perforated from the front sideways, as the stamps are wider in that position. All the stamps are perfectly perfinned with all the MCB/M holes complete on each individual stamp including all the strips of three. Furthermore on the other four bills single keyplates (additional stamps to the strip of three stamps) are all perforated clean through and all are perfinned from left to right.



There is absolutely no evidence on the five bills of the reported folding of blocks of four into piles of four stamps in order to speed up the perforation process. However on several off paper single stamps perfinned MCB/M during a fifty year period (Arms Type II, George V and George VI Heads, and 1935 and 1948 commemoratives as well as 1950 George VI pictorials) the perfins are found in different positions especially those on the larger format commemoratives and definitives pictorials issued after 1950.

CARTON BOXES

On 23rd November 2006 the Head of Postal Operations introduced the sale of carton boxes at 16 selected offices in Mauritius at Beau Bassin, Chemin Grenier, Curepipe, Forest Side, Flic en Flac, GPO Dumas Street, Grand Bay, Mahebourg, Monneron Hill, Port Louis Centre, Parcels Post (Port Louis), Quatre Bornes, Réduit, Rose Hill, St Pierre and Vacoas. The boxes came in two sizes: 30x25x15cm (small) at Rs13 and 55x25x15cm (large) at Rs17.

The circular letter also contained the information that T-shirts and Caps painted (*sic*) with the "Red Penny Stamp" and the "Two Pence Blue Stamp" were available at the Postal Museum, Curepipe and Grand Bay post offices only at Rs175 and Rs150 per unit respectively.

Mico Antoine reviews THE STAMPS OF MAURITIUS by Christian le Comte

The presumptuous title of the little 78 page heavily illustrated book contains several full pages of blown-up stamps, photos and paintings. The sparse text – as there is simply not much space left after all the illustrations – is poor, haphazard and full of suppositions and errors. The reader is treated to 17 pages of generalities on philately totally unrelated to the title, a very long wending introduction before the story of the post office in Mauritius begins in earnest on Page 18.

For cover, how else does one write about a subject one knows dangerously little about, Christian le Comte the self-anointed researcher, author, typographer, editor and designer guided and assisted by a roll of names, some cited without permission to give gravity to his work, has self-produced and self-published some 28 brief chapters of absolute reckless rubbish about Mauritian philately.

The contents of this book is a litany of oft repeated past inaccuracies amplified by hitherto unpublished inventions on almost every other page beginning with incorrect terminologies and new interpretations of established philatelic jargon ending with an advertisement for the misnamed Blue Penny Museum. This museum is in fact the Mauritius Commercial Bank Art Gallery full of their private collection of whatever with less than 10% of the total surface of the building devoted to Mauritian philately in a spooky corner hardly “the Mecca for philatelists” where the two “Post Office” stamps are supposedly on permanent display and are lit up for five minutes every hour. In between the beginning and the end an audacious attempt is made to give a new explanation – *une nouvelle explication* – for the “Post Office” to “Post Paid” change. The author’s conclusions are pompously justified by his assertion that “no other researcher has been able to explain the change”. What jejeune!

Some of le Comte’s recounts are outrageous. “Frankings were introduced in Mauritius in 1953” we are told. If the author has consulted an English dictionary (never mind the philatelic term for franking) he would not have written that sentence. It was franking machines, which produce metermarks, that were introduced in 1953. Frankings were used in Mauritius much earlier. He mindlessly allots a Rs50 value to an AGOA stamp, if he owns such a stamp, then he is a very lucky man. It is a SADC stamp which is of a Rs50 value. He carelessly colours the Broad-billed Parrot with stale-blue when the bird’s plumage was slate-blue. He gets all mixed up with his definition of commemorative, omnibus and definitive stamps. He ends the era of a security printer in 1947 when the printer was still printing Mauritian stamps in 1998 and he condescendingly “confirms” an outright Mauritian lie stupidly casting doubt about the existence of the only other unused “Red Penny”; the one safely outside Mauritius.

It is the right of Christian le Comte to be identified as the author of his work but he is well advised to use his talents elsewhere preferably outside Mauritius and on non-Mauritian matters notwithstanding the lucidity, enthusiasm and impetus of some of his collaborators... without whose tireless efforts the book would not have been possible. “The Stamps of Mauritius” has all the hallmarks of the profane’s claim to sagacity; an ill-advised speculative shot at a subject over which he has no mastery. The result is a work which at Mauritian Rupees 600 (US\$ 20.00) is unfit even for the gullible foreign tourist, the only possible target of le Comte’s aim. With his book, le Comte, the new “*seigneur des timbres*”, has written and published something of such abysmal philatelic value that no self-respecting philatelist will want to own his book and the fault for this lies squarely on the shoulders of a self-anointed expert in far too many fields who apparently fell from “*la planète du Petit Prince*”. He must have landed on his head; his only redemption is the withdrawal of his book from sale thereby repairing the damage caused to Mauritian philately.

2006

**MAURITIUS
POSTAL CHARGES AS FROM 9TH OCTOBER 2006**

INLAND MAIL

Letters:		Rs cs
First 50 grammes	-----	5.00
Each additional 25 grammes or fraction of 25 grammes	-----	3.00
Postcards	-----	3.00
Printed Paper		
First 50 grammes or fraction of 50 grammes	-----	4.00
Each additional 50 grammes or fraction of 50 grammes	-----	3.00
Literature for the Blind	-----	Free
Express Delivery Fee	-----	15.00

OVERSEAS MAIL - SURFACE

Letters		Rs cs	Newspapers and periodicals published in Mauritius		Rs cs
Not exceeding			Not exceeding		
20 grammes	-----	5.00	100 grammes	-----	3.00
50 grammes	-----	10.00	250 grammes	-----	6.00
100 grammes	-----	12.00	500 grammes	-----	10.00
250 grammes	-----	24.00	1000 grammes	-----	16.00
500 grammes	-----	50.00	2000 grammes	-----	25.00
1000 grammes	-----	90.00	Literature for the Blind	-----	Free
2000 grammes	-----	160.00			
Postcards	-----	4.00			
Printed Paper:			Small Packets:		
Not exceeding			Not exceeding		
20 grammes	-----	3.00	100 grammes	-----	8.00
50 grammes	-----	4.00	250 grammes	-----	12.00
100 grammes	-----	6.00	500 grammes	-----	20.00
250 grammes	-----	12.00	1000 grammes	-----	36.00
500 grammes	-----	20.00	2000 grammes	-----	50.00
1000 grammes	-----	40.00			
2000 grammes	-----	60.00			
For each additional 1000 grammes or fraction of 1000 grammes	-----	30.00			

AIRMAIL

For Foreign correspondence transmitted by air:

Destination	Letters each 5 gms	Postcards Max size 105x148mm Min size 90x140mm	2 nd class mail each 10 gms	Air letters (aerogrammes)
	Rs cs	Rs cs	Rs cs	Rs cs
ZONE 1				
Comores, Reunion, Madagascar and Seychelles	10.00	10.00	8.00	7.00
ZONE 2				
Africa, Bangladesh, Europe, Far East, India, Middle East, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and South East Asia	11.00	10.00	9.00	7.00
ZONE 3				
Australia, Canada, New Zealand, North, Central and South America and Pacific Islands	12.00	10.00	10.00	7.00
RODRIGUES: For correspondence transmitted by air	5.00	3.00	4.00	
OUTER ISLANDS (Agalega, St Brandon, etc.): Same as Inland Mail				

OTHER RELATED TARIFFS

INLAND	Rs cs	FOREIGN	Rs cs
Certificate of posting	6.00	Certificate of posting	6.00
Registration Fee	10.00	Registration Fee	30.00
Advice of Delivery	10.00	Advice of Delivery	10.00
Postage Prepaid (per item)	2.00	Reply Coupons (sale per unit)	40.00
Business Reply Service (per item)	2.00	Reply Coupons (exchange per unit)	12.00
Postage Due (by Government Departments - per item)	2.00		

TAILPIECE

At the end of 2006 Mauritius Post took the decision not to open for any business on Saturday 30th December 2006 so they took the trouble to inform their valued customers and the public at large by way of a paid advertisement in a local newspaper on Tuesday 26th December 2006 of their intention. They should have stopped there but then they took the opportunity (more a risk) to wish all “a Prosperous New Year 2006”.

THE PRESS

News on Sunday	6.10.2006	World Post Day
L'express	6.10.2006	Comme une lettre à la poste
L'express	6.10.2006	POSTE Les tarifs augmentent
Le Défi-Plus	7.10.2006	Commission d'enquête
L'express	7.10.2006	Fidèle au poste
L'express	8.10.2006	Commémoration du “World Post Day”
Week-end	8.10.2006	Harish Boodhoo poursuit la poste
Week-end	8.10.2006	Diversifier davantage vers le non-core business
Le Matinal	9.10.2006	Sinatambou. “Les dettes de la poste auraient atteint Rs417m si rien n'avait été fait”
Le Mauricien	9.10.2006	Etienne Sinatambou justifie la hausse des tarifs
L'express	10.10.2006	Postage fees go up
Le Matinal	10.10.2006	ICP worried over hike in postal tariffs
L'express	10.10.2006	World Post Day
Le Matinal	10.10.2006	L'ICP condamne la Poste pour sa “mauvaise gestion”
L'express	10.10.2006	Les nouveaux tarifs postaux en vigueur
L'express	10.10.2006	Service rapide et sûr pour Poste rénovée
News on Sunday	13.10.2006	New stamps
Financial News	13.10.2006	Postage fees up
Le Défi-Plus	14.10.2006	Hommage aux postiers
Le Défi-Plus	14.10.2006	Hausse sur fond de gaspillage
Week-End	22.10.2006	Déposition de Nandkishore Fakun à l'ICAC
Le Matinal	23.10.2006	Quand la fiction et la réalité ne font qu'un
L'express	23.10.2006	Redécouvrir le Blue Penny
Le Mauricien	27.10.2006	Blue Mauritius : Helen Morgan
Le Mauricien	27.10.2006	Philatéliste : pas timbré pour un sou
Weekly	9.12.2006	Le facteur sonne toujours deux fois
Week-End	17.12.2006	Mauritius Post nous rappelle les jeux d'antan
Weekly	22.12.2006	Plus de 6.5 millions de lettres expédiées par Mauritius Post
Le Mauricien	30.12.2006	INTERNET. Mauritiuspost.net arrête ses activités

MAURITIUS POSTAL HISTORY = MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

Edited by Mico W Antoine

© Mauritius Philatelic Society 2006