

2007



NEWS ITEMS 2007.1

The Journal of the Mauritius Philatelic Society

P.O. Box 89 - Quatre Bornes - Mauritius - Indian Ocean

MARCH 2007

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JANUARY – The first meeting of the year was held at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m. on Saturday 6th January 2007.

In November 2006 the Management Committee decided to hold the first meeting of the new year in January 2007 instead of taking the usual new year break. Not a very clever decision perhaps as only 13 local members turned up. However Neil Carpenter our Sussex based UK member who was on holiday in Mauritius attended the meeting and he brought along the brand new INDIAN OCEAN stamp catalogue for the Society.

The main subject of the get together was a review of the year 2006, STAMPS, COVERS AND POSTAL HISTORY. All the stamps, Official First Day Covers, privately produced day of issue covers, all known events and matters concerning the Mauritian Postal Services were either on display or were discussed and explained. The 2007 stamps programme and a preview of 2007 was not dealt with as no official confirmation of such a programme had yet been announced by Mauritius Post Ltd at the date of the meeting. The Non-marine Crab set of stamps was examined and data downloaded from “Wikipedia” on the Coconut or Robber Crab of Agalega and the Chagos Archipelago (the Rs25 value) was discussed and compared with earlier B.I.O.T. issues.

Christian le Comte’s book titled “The Stamps of Mauritius” was reviewed by Mico Antoine.

The Purchase List and Bid Board offered a range of mainly Mauritian material and sales were moderate.

FEBRUARY – The February meeting was held on Saturday 3rd of the month at the usual venue and at the usual time.

The main items on the agenda were: THE COLONIAL PERIOD OF MAURITIUS and a THEMATIC DISPLAY – THE BRITISH ROYALS.

The Colonial Period of Mauritius was a fairly comprehensive range of the Arms and the King’s Heads in blocks of four, complete sets of singles, George VI varieties and aerophilatelic covers put up by Mico Antoine. The aerophilatelic part was expanded and enhanced with later issues in view of the 50th Anniversary of the Air France agent in Mauritius (Rogers & Co.) and featured the very first known Air France cover up to the latest flown cover.

Items from a two album collection, from one of our long standing member, of the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II Omnibus of 1978 featuring day of issue covers, booklets, sheetlets, imperforates, cards and postcards, gutter pairs and gutter strips, overprints, reprints, self-adhesives from such places as AITUTAKI, COMORO ISLANDS, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, MAURITANIA, OCCUSSI – AMBENO, TCHAD, TANZANIA as well as from most of the Commonwealth countries of the time (including cards from SOUTH AFRICA and S.W.A. both out of the Commonwealth at the time) were on show.

This was a good opportunity to explain the range of philatelic products and gimmicks that generally accompany modern Royal issues, evident in this omnibus by the overkill from TURKS and CAICOS.

The latest news on Mauritius included specimen strikes and commercial covers cancelled with several brand new Type D double circle circular datestamps from Port Louis Delivery, Flic en Flac, Rediut (misspelt), Solferino, Port Louis Counter, Floreal, Port Louis Eastern and the re-introduction of Delivery cds at Port Louis.

The "provisional" 2007 Mauritius stamp programme of five commemoratives was affixed to the Notice Board together with the newspaper list of four "confirmed" sets for 2007.

Sales of covers, stamps and accessories were good. 20 local members and one Swiss visitor, Andreas Beutler, brought along by Hans Bigler attended the meeting. Andreas made a nice gesture towards the Society, he dropped a big bank note into the Society's "begging bowl" – we normally find small coins in it!

MARCH – The Annual General meeting of the Society was held on Saturday 10th March 2007 at 2 p.m. at Collège du Saint Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

The quorum was assured with 24 members in attendance.

The agenda as published in "*L'express*" on 15th February 2007 read as follows:

- (1) To read and approve the minutes of proceedings of the last General Meeting.
- (2) To receive, consider and approve the report of the President and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2006.
- (3) To consider and approve the Budget for the year 2007.
- (4) To elect the Committee Members and Office Bearers for the year 2007.
- (5) To appoint an Auditor for the year 2007.

Any member wishing to serve on the 2007 Committee should send his/her letter of candidature to the Secretary by latest 28th February 2007.

By order of the Committee.

All the items on the agenda were presented, proposed, seconded, voted upon and approved in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Society. The President reported that the monthly attendance at the Society meetings was on average 20 members per meeting with highs of 25; that the membership list was stable; that the Jumble Sales procedures had improved; that the annual outing and year end lunch were well organised and that the quarterly "News Items" were issued as scheduled.

The Management Committee for 2007 was constituted as follows:

President – Patrick Kwan Cheung	Vice-President – Nasser Ahmad Maderbokus
Treasurer – Judex Leu Adrien	Vice-Treasurer – Saoud Mauthoor
Secretary – Mico Wilfrid Antoine	Vice-Secretary – Indradev Curpen
Members – Assenje Ismael Kara, Soorooj Ramdewor and Vikash Rupear	

Man Fen Lam Hang, FCCA, was reappointed auditor for year 2007.

A display of stamps from France and the USA, the latest about Mauritius such as new computer labels, new Type D double circle circular datestamps strikes, very distinct and impressive shades of the Rs5 and Rs10 Traditional Games stamps served as a backdrop to the AGM. Other matters were also discussed after all AGM business were completed. News Items 2006.4 of December 2006 was distributed before the meeting broke up.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The monthly Management Committee Meetings of the Society were held on Saturday 6th January, Saturday 3rd February and Saturday 10th March at 1 p.m. at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

VISITORS TO MAURITIUS

UK member NEIL CARPENTER visited Mauritius from 4th to 27th January 2007. He attended the January meeting, he managed to fill in some gaps in his Mauritius used stamps and covers collection, he picked up a couple of bargains and he met with Mico Antoine on several occasions.

French member ROGER MORITZ, deputy mayor of Osny, has once again renewed the Society's annual subscription to *TIMBRES* magazine. Thanks.

Swiss member STEPHAN ANDRÉ has ensured that the Society continues to receive the French philatelic journal *Timbres Atout*. Thanks.

STAMPS PROGRAMME 2007

At 31st March 2007 the official and definite commemorative stamps programme for 2007 has not yet been released by Mauritius Post Ltd, the privatized successor to the General Post Office. A "provisional and not yet finalised" stamps programme from the Philatelic Bureau dated 23rd January 2007 lists five commemorative series thus:

Anniversaries & Events – 4 stamps – for March 2007
Coral Reefs – 6 stamps – for June 2007
24th UPU Congress – 1 stamp – for September 2007
The Dodo – 4 stamps – for October 2007
Mauritius in World Literature – 4 stamps – for December 2007

On 14th February a local daily published the Annual Stamp Issues for 2007 "approved by the Postal Authority" as three commemorative series of four stamps each and a single stamp for the UPU commemorative.

The scant details and the month of issue were announced as follows:

- (i) Coral Reefs – April 2007
- (ii) The Dodo – June 2007
- (iii) 24th UPU Congress – October 2007
- (iv) Anniversaries and Events – December 2007

NEW TYPE D DOUBLE CIRCLE CIRCULAR DATESTAMPS

Several new Type D double circle circular datestamps have been introduced in Mauritius as from the fourth quarter of 2006. These cds measure 27cm in diameter with the name of the post office at the top and Mauritius at the base and the two digit hour and two digit minute with AM or PM at the top, the two digit date and two alphabet month at the centre and the two digit year at the bottom of the inner circle.

The most interesting of these devices are the PORT LOUIS DELIVERY 2 and PORT LOUIS DELIVERY 3 cds. They are in use at the Delivery Section located in the former GPO HQ near the harbour. They were introduced on 8th December 2006 and have been seen on

incoming mail from abroad, on mail from Rodrigues and on inland mail. Note that the Type D DELIVERY double circle cds were last used in the 1950s.

The main post office in Port Louis has been known by various names, such as Port Louis GPO (General Post Office), *La Poste Centrale*, Central Post Office and Port Louis Counter. It was located on Quay Street, Port Louis from 1870 to 2004. On 31st May 2004 it began to operate from premises on Dumas Street adjacent to the former (now gutted) Central Railway Station of Port Louis. During the fourth quarter of 2006 three new Type D cds were introduced and they clearly designate the Dumas Street post office as Port Louis Counter. The datestamps read PORT LOUIS COUNTER 1, PORT LOUIS COUNTER 4 and PORT LOUIS COUNTER 5.

Two new Type D double circle cds were introduced at Flic en Flac post office on 28th December 2006. FLIC EN FLAC and FLIC EN FLAC 1 replaced the screw-up locally manufactured Metal Cast FLIC EN FLAC and FLIC EN FLAC 1 devices which were in use from the time of the opening of Flic en Flac post office on 28th July 2003 up to the end of December 2006; the characters on the two different Type D cds are easily distinguishable as the local Metal Cast cds strikes are thick and generally smudgy, the strikes of the new UK supplied cds are thin and generally sharp.

Two Type D double circle cds were introduced at Réduit post office on 6th October 2006. These are numbered 1 and 2 with Réduit misspelt as REDIUT. At 31st March 2007 the REDIUT 1 and REDIUT 2 cds are still in use despite the fact that attention had been drawn to the management of Mauritius Post Ltd about the error.

Other new Type D double circle cds have also been seen during 2007 reading FLOREAL 4, PORT LOUIS EASTERN 1, SOLFERINO 2, GRAND BAY 4 and PLAINE DES PAPAYES 2 at the top with Mauritius at the base.

All the new devices listed are similar in design with thin lines at sides between the name of the post office and Mauritius; none so far seen have slugs.

No doubt more are out there and the Society will keep members updated.

THE PRESS

Le Matinal	4.1.2007	Baisse des tarifs postaux
Le Mauricien	8.1.2007	Hausse entre 10% et 20% du tarif pour l'envoi des colis
News on Sunday	12.1.2007	MPL honours Senghor
Week-End Scope	16.1.2007	Hausse du tarif
Le Mauricien	30.1.2007	Poste indigne*
Le Mauricien	8.2.2007	Des fuites d'eau provoquent la fermeture de la poste
Le Matinal	14.2.2007	Annual Stamp Issue programme for 2007
Le Défi-Plus	10.3.2007	Interrogation sur le paiement des pensions
Le Mauricien	16.3.2007	Paiement des pensions à la poste : renvoi réclamé
Le Défi-Plus	17.3.2007	Ils demandent plus de sécurité

*Unrestrained comment on rates increases.

MAURITIUS POSTAL HISTORY = MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWS ITEMS is a publication of the **Mauritius Philatelic Society**

Edited by **Mico W. Antoine**

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PERFINS UPDATE
MAURITIUS FIRE INSURANCE
(MFI/C^{OL}D)

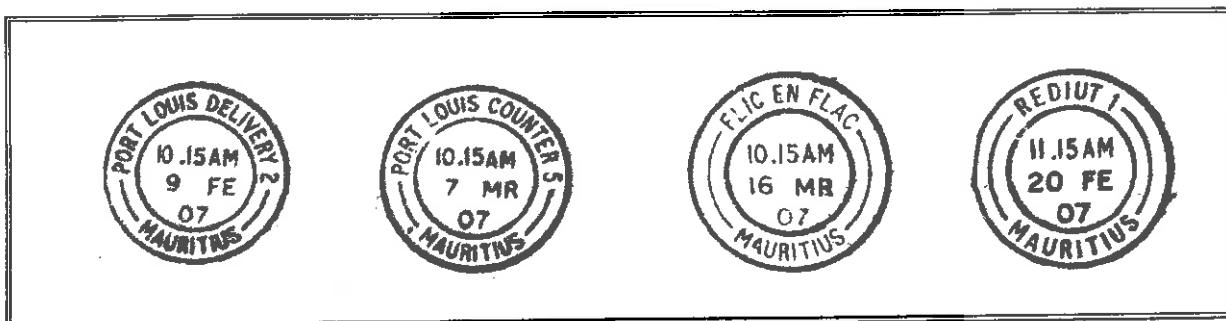
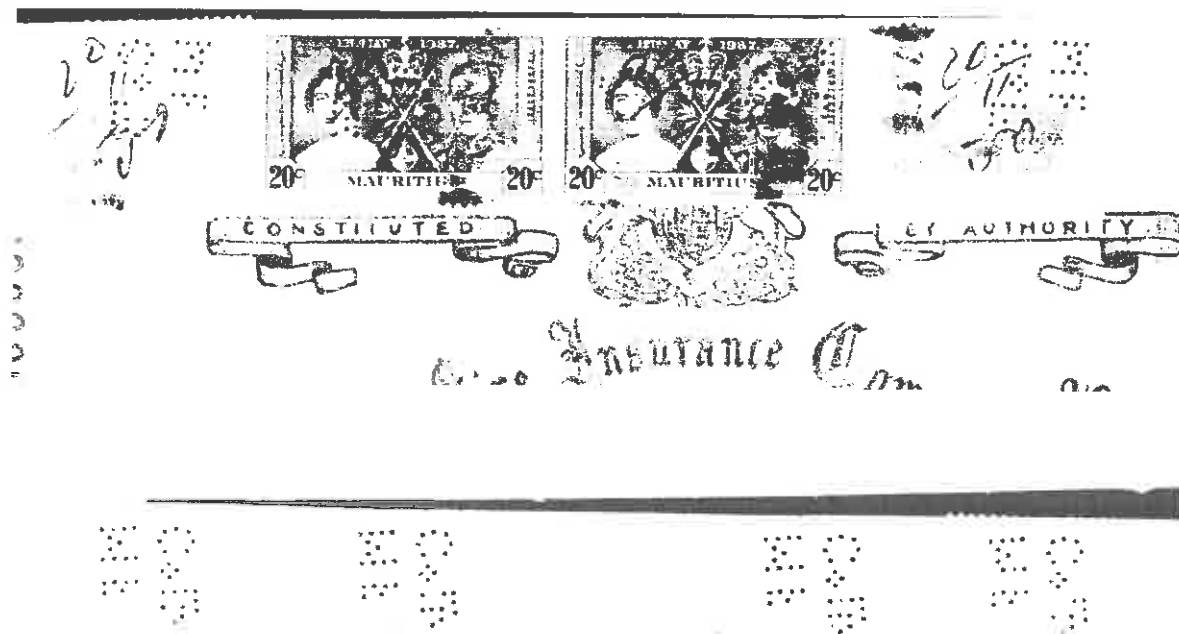
The following have been observed on Mauritius Fire Insurance Company Limited receipts.

- Temporary Receipt No.30201 dated 23.7.1943 George VI keyplates (1x10c) – 1 stamp
- Receipt No.113675 dated 19.11.1946 George VI keyplates (1xRs2.50+2x10c plus 2x20c Coronation 1937) – 5 stamps
- Receipt No.117764 dated 20.11.1950 George VI pictorials (1xRs2.50+2x10c plus 2x20c Coronation 1937) – 5 stamps

The three receipts were issued to the same client for the payment of the insurance premium on a building situated at the corner of Félicien Mallefile and Poudrière Street in Port Louis.

All the stamps have been perfined from the front, face-up, **after** being affixed to the receipts. Each stamp has been perfined individually – one at a time – after being gummed to the receipt. The I of MFI/C^{OL}D on all the three receipts do not have all the holes punched clean through as the chads are still attached (pregnant chads) probably caused by the misalignment or mismanipulation of the device.

Apart from being perfined all the stamps are fiscally cancelled on the face by a handstamp and they are all dated by hand.



TWO VIEWS

A 1966 handstamp applied to a M.B.C. (Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation) registered cover in blue ink reads:

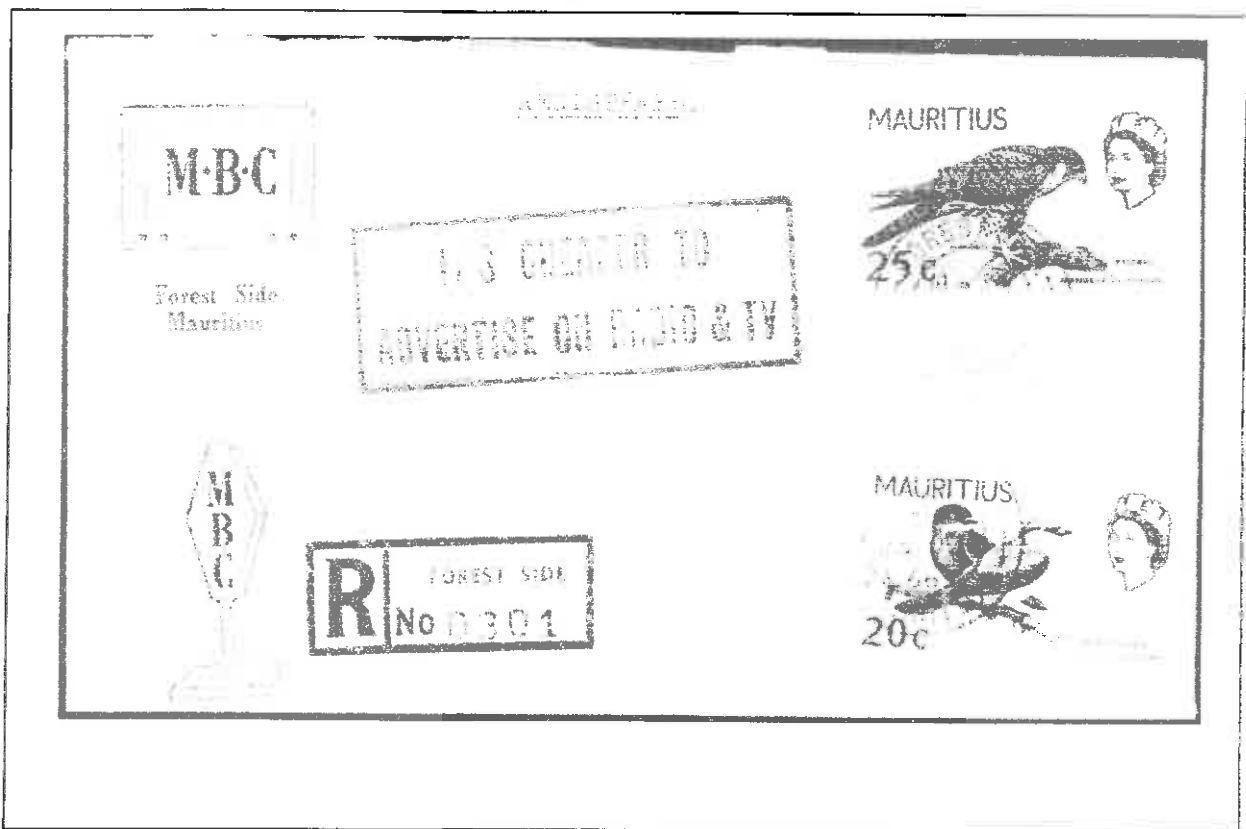
IT'S CHEAPER TO / ADVERTISE ON RADIO & TV in two lines

Where was it applied?

One version is that the rubber stamp was kept at and used in the mail room of the corporation, highly unlikely. The other version is that the rubber handstamp was supplied to the Forest Side post office by the corporation and it was the post office that marked incoming and outgoing mail with the handstamp, very likely.

Forty years on nobody seems to determine which is which with any conviction.... so far.

Can someone out there help?



WANTED

Members are advised to establish their mode of exchange with correspondents before they make any commitments. Under no circumstances will the Society intervene should disputes arise.

The following requests have been received and are published for information:

C.B.KRISHNAM, **Blk.161, Hougang Street 11, #13-51, Singapore 530161** wishes to collect/exchange used stamps of Mauritius. He can offer used stamps of Singapore, Falkland Islands, St Helena and others.

ALAIN GUILLON, **Ladegaillerie, 87300 Blond, France** wishes to purchase kiloware, provided the price is reasonable and that the kiloware is not made up of stamps of low values only.