

2008



NEWS ITEMS 2008.2

The Journal of the Mauritius Philatelic Society

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

JUNE 2008

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

APRIL – The April meeting was held at Collège du Saint Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m. on Saturday 5th April.

Four items were on the April agenda namely a review by Dr A.N. Maderbokus of two books on Mauritian philately, the presentation of the March AGM backdrop display on British East and Central Africa by Mico Antoine, collecting mint and/or used of Mauritius Part I and the latest from Mauritius and the rest of the World also by Mico Antoine.

Doc reviewed and compared Alfred de Pitray's 1990 original English book **The "Post Office Mauritius" and its Legend** and the 2007 French translation **Le "Post Office Mauritius" et sa Légende** – about the only words not translated from the original version were "Post Office Mauritius".

The meaning of many *annexes* mainly by Peter Ibbotson and from official 1840's English language official correspondence into the French language got lost in translation. When Alfred de Pitray wrote his book in 1990 he wrote it in English; he knew better than to publish the many original English annexes used in the book in the French language. The 2007 book at Rs150 is worth what it's worth.

Mico Antoine's East and Central Africa presentation was in the main a "dead countries" lay out of Southern Rhodesia/Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Bechuanaland and K-U-T Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika issues.

Part I of collecting mint and/or used stamps of Mauritius dealt with the ease of acquiring or purchasing modern mint stamps and the difficulty of obtaining good quality collectable used sets. The History definitive/commemorative set of 1978 SG (529A-548A) with its many new printings between 1983 and 1989 and the 1982 Postage Due overprints were used as an example.

The March 12th "**40th Anniversary of Independence of Mauritius**" cover was shown. Press cuttings on the cover and on the ceremonials to mark the event were also appended to the notice board. (See News Items 2008.1 of March for complete details on the cover).

The latest from France and BIOT, additions to and the extension of the *WebRiposte* counter automatic system and other philatelic news were on the Notice Board. 30 members attended the April meeting.

MAY – The May meeting was held on Saturday 3rd May at the usual venue and at the usual time The 2008 Stamp Programme, the Postal History of Rodrigues and a discussion on collecting mint and/or used stamps of Mauritius Part II was on the afternoon's agenda.

At 3rd May not a single stamp had been issued by Mauritius Post notwithstanding that the programme proposed by the Stamp Advisory Committee in December 2007 listed a new definitive series on **Flowers** and four commemorative sets. **Flowers** scheduled for 12th March 2008 and **Mauritius in World Literature**, scheduled for April 2008, a total of 18 stamps should have been issued. None were as the 2008 programme had not been approved nor officially announced, a direct outcome of the 'Osman Error' debacle resulting in total philatelic inertia by the management at Mauritius Post.

The Postal History of Rodrigues was in the main an array of covers, stamps, postal stationery, postcards, airmail and maritime mail, receipts, and other aspects of Rodrigues related philately put up by Mico Antoine. Photographs and first day of business covers of the five post offices in Rodrigues at Port Mathurin, La Ferme, Mont Lubin, Rivière Cocos and Grande Montagne and their locations, their walks and staff complement were revealed. Inland Express Delivery, Registered and Certificate of Posting, Official Mail and various examples of inland items were examined. Mauritius-Rodrigues and Rodrigues-Mauritius airmail, registered items, ship sailing notices, mailbag tags and a fairly wide range of postal items were explained. The collecting and studying of the postal history of Rodrigues were examined especially the dearth of material which makes the acquisition of early Rodrigues extremely difficult.

Collecting Mauritius Part II mint and/or used was a presentation by Mico Antoine to demonstrate the preference for the relative ease of collecting mint material as opposed to the more satisfying and much more difficult facets of collecting used and the wisdom of building up a parallel mint and used Elizabethan collection of Mauritius.

The colours of Mauritius used on the 12th March 2008 special cover shown at the April meeting gave rise to various comments and interpretations of the red, blue, yellow and green flag of the Republic. A bit of searching turned up some surprising definitions however not one reference to the political parties colours symbolism. One patriotic member tried to interrupt the proceedings and he was promptly silenced. He does not miss any chance to voice his opinion on any subject of a "political" nature.

Only 16 members attended the May meeting. Sales were poor.

JUNE – The June meeting was held on Saturday the 7th at 2 p.m. at College du Saint Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

The Environment and Fish Definitives – Mint and Used, Postal History of the Outer Islands of Mauritius, *Les Etats Généraux de la Philatélie*, the 2008 Rs10 new printing of the Fish definitive and the distribution of News Items 2008.1 were the main business of the afternoon.

The complete collection of the 15 stamps three-part original Environment definitive set of 1989, 1990 and 1991, the 22 new printings and the 1 overprint, a total of 38 stamps and the 12 original printing and 3 m/s of the Fish definitive of 2000 as well as the single 2008 new printing were shown mint and used, on Official FDCs and philatelic day of issue covers as well as postally used covers. The 2008 new printing of the Rs10 value produced specifically to meet the standard (small) overseas postcard rate was compared with the original 2000 first printing. This is the first new printing of a stamp from the 12 values Fish definitive set.

The postal history of the Outer Islands by Mico Antoine was in the main Mauritian postage stamps on and philatelic maritime mail carried to Agalega, BIOT and St Brandon, philatelic and air mail covers flown to and from Diego Garcia and Agalega and the single (FSAT) TAAF stamp, covers, cachets and datestamps of French occupied Tromlin.

Les Etats Généraux de la Philatélie was an exposé by Doc Maderbokus on the state of affairs of Mauritian philately with a good dose of what is happening in France (*TIMBRES* May 2008) and the UK (*STAMP MAGAZINE* November 2007).

From *TIMBRES* he quoted liberally from "*Les Etats Généraux de la Philatélie*" article viz *Le timbre et la philatélie, La collection et le collectionneur* and *L'avenir de la philatélie*. From Stamp Magazine he made reference to the « For Better or Worse » talking point feature by Richard West on the partnership between the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau and Harry Allen.

23 members attended the June meeting. Sales were very good with some very nice lots on the Bid Board and a range of moderately priced covers and stamps from the Purchase List on offer.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Management Committee met at Collège du St Esprit at 13.00 hours on Saturday 5th April, Saturday 3rd May and Saturday 7th June. The quorum of five was met with the presence of 8, 7 and 8 members for the three respective meetings.

NEW MEMBERS

The following applied for and were proposed and admitted as members of the Society by the Management Committee at the sitting of 7th June 2008.

Rhonda RICHARDSON	of	Tupelo Mississippi	USA
Robert HALL	of	Plantersville Mississippi	USA
Kervin VENPIN	of	Roches Brunes	Mauritius

MEMBERS NEWS

Roger MORITZ of OSNY France has renewed the Society's subscription to *TIMBRES* magazine for 2008.

Stephan ANDRE of BIEL/BIENNE Switzerland has assured that the Society continues to receive *ATOUT TIMBRES* during 2008.

The Society appreciates the contributions of these two overseas members.

WATERFRONT POST OFFICE

The Waterfront Post Office located in *La Poste Centrale* building on Quay Street in Port Louis was closed temporarily as from 29th April 2008.

THE PHILATELIC BUREAU

The Philatelic Bureau located in *La Poste Centrale* building on Quay Street in Port Louis was temporarily transferred to the Postal Museum a few metres north as from 29th April 2008.

FISH DEFINITIVE

A 2008 new printing of the Rs10 denomination of the Fish definitive (described as Fishes in 2000 on the official Mauritian FDCs and accompanying literature) was put on sale in Mauritius on 27th May 2008.

This is the first new printing of any stamp from the 12 stamps Fish set originally released on 9th October 2000. Printed by BDT International Security Printer Ltd of Ireland the new printing has the same watermark as the original printing (Ww 14 sideways CA multiple crown CA diagonal) and the new colours are not significantly different from the 2000 stamp.

The printer's traffic lights and other imprints are different from the original which were printed by the House of Questa. There is however a perforation change and the central gutter strip bears the logo of Mauritius Post on three of the five gutters. Other stamp sheets this far have had a single logo imprinted on the middle gutter only. The 2008 imprint is in the bottom stamp margin.

Ed note. At the Cabinet meeting of Friday 15th December 2000 the Government of Mauritius decided ... "that as from July 2001 the Mauritius crest (Coat of Arms) will no longer appear in the Design of Stamps as recommended by the Stamp Advisory Committee..." (*sic*) This information was published by the Society in its 2001 News Bulletin N°18 on page 52.

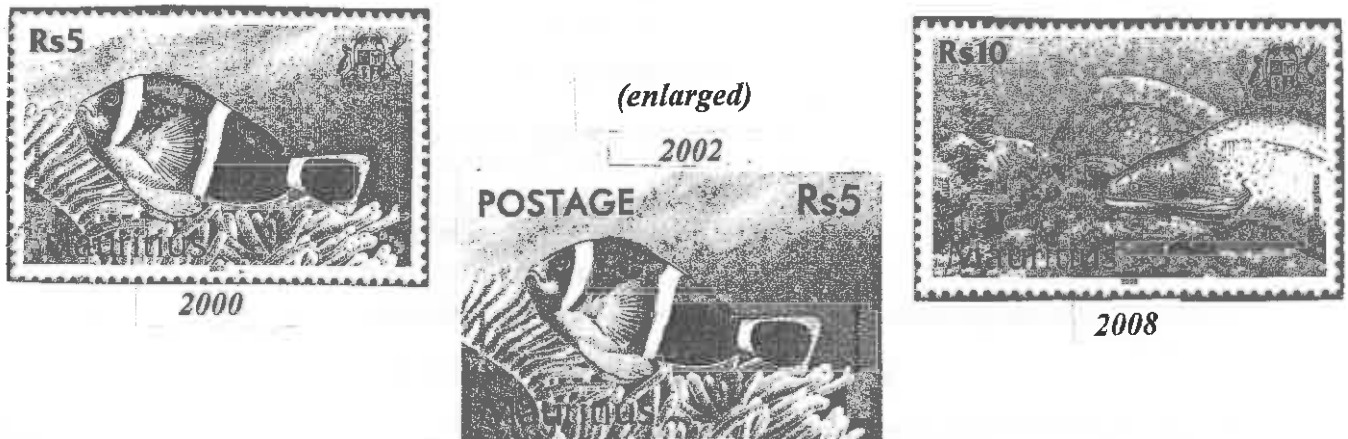
In the June 2002 News Items the Society reported on the Coral Aerogramme put on sale on 4th June 2002 as follows:

"The new aerogramme is imprinted with the Rs5 value from the 2000 Fish definitive series. The imprinted stamp is without simulated perforations and margins thus it does not have the (year) 2000

imprint. The Coat of Arms or Crest has been removed altogether and the value Rs5 has been shifted from the left to the right, occupying the space liberated by the Crest. The word POSTAGE has been added to the top left of the stamp. The value Rs5 (on the imprint) is larger than that of the stamp and the species' name (local and scientific) is thick and smudgy unlike the thin, clear print of the actual stamp."

Those in charge of the Postal Services in 2002 got it right, those in charge of Mauritius Post in 2007/08 got it wrong. The Coat of Arms on the May 2008 new printing of the Fish Rs10 denomination and on the two Osman stamps of 4th and 27th December 2007 are good examples of the many philatelic "errors" made by Mauritius Post.

No government of Mauritius has yet reversed the Cabinet decision of 15th December 2000 therefore the Coat of Arms should not have been included on any stamp of Mauritius issued after July 2001.



THE PRESS

Le Matinal	4.2.2008	Le musée de la poste élira domicile dans l'ancien bagne
Scope	5.3.2008	Jayraj Ittoo – Homme de principes
L'express	11.3.2008	Roger Palmyre – Motherland man
Le Matinal	13.3.2008	Expo au Musée de la poste
L'express	15.3.2008	Histoire timbrée
Le Défi-Plus	17.5.2008	Faux billets de Rs500
Week-End	18.5.2008	La Banque et la Poste pas sur la même longueur d'onde
Le Matinal	19.5.2008	Rs50,000 in fake notes received by Mauritius Post
Le Matinal	30.5.2008	Edouard Dayan "L'Afrique, ma priorité"
Le Défi-Plus	31.5.2008	"J'ai raté une promotion à cause de la poste"
Le Défi-Plus	7.6.2008	Amende de Rs10,000 à un assistant facteur
Le Matinal	9.6.2008	Arnaud Godère – La communication dans le sang
Le Défi-Plus	14.6.2008	Braquage à Sebastopol
Le Matinal	23.6.2008	Jean-Clément Sinneya – la passion timbre

MAURITIUS POSTAL HISTORY = MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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