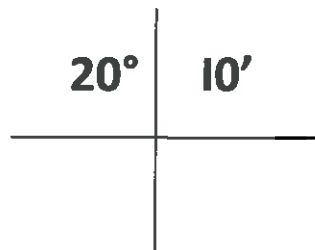
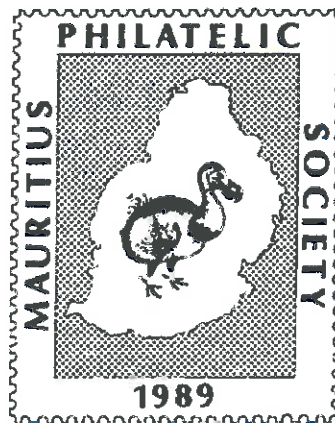


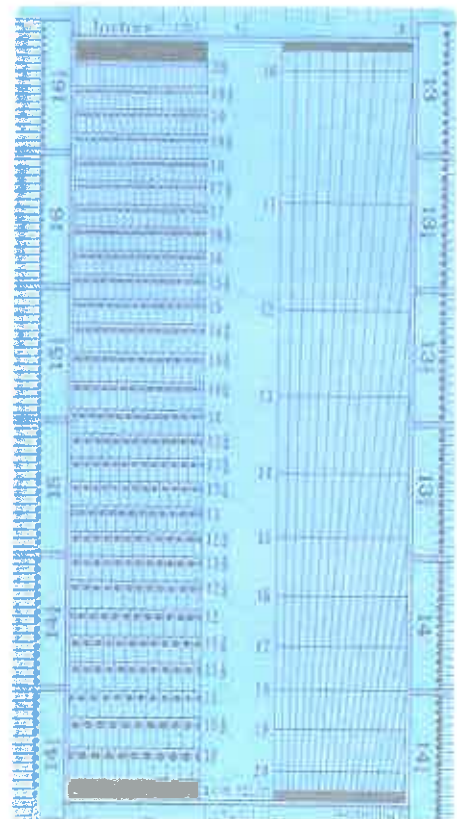
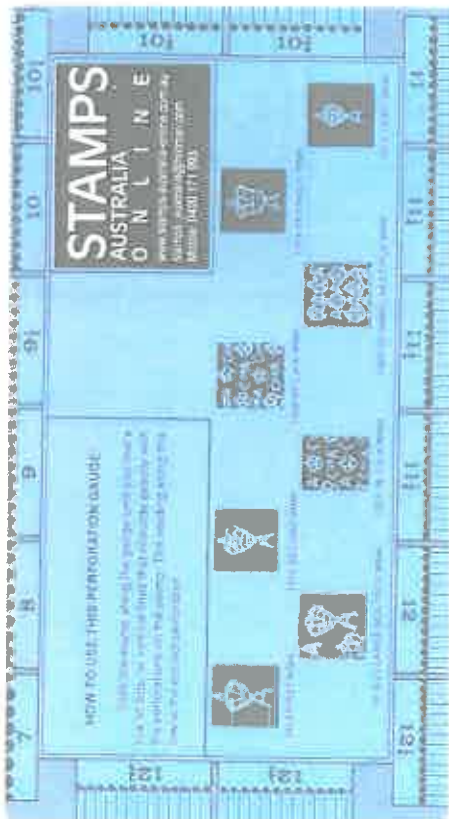
# 2010

Issue No. 4 – APRIL 2011



THE JOURNAL OF THE MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Recto and verso of a typical perforation gauge reduced to 90%

## From the Editor's Desk

### A Promise...to keep

Dear Member

The Society, formed in November 1989, will soon begin its twenty third year of continuous engagement in promoting philately within Mauritius as well as outside Mauritius. Our record and reputation have been more than satisfactory as we have always progressed during almost a quarter century.

The main medium of communication with our members has been our monthly convocations (to all our local members) and our news bulletins to our overseas members as well as to our local members.

During the last year the arrangements that were in place regarding the preparation and production of the Society's current 2010 have become strained and we have taken the decision to dispense with the services of a collaborator. The decision has inevitably caused some delay in the appearance of the 2010 for the current year.

We are determined however to move ahead and in this context we wish to assure all our members that the three 2010 bulletins of the current year will be produced and distributed as follows:

No. 1 and No. 2 during the first quarter of 2012 and No. 3 during the second quarter of the year.

We wish to take the opportunity to invite suggestions from members with a view of making improvements to the Society's bulletins.

We regret any inconvenience caused and we assure you of our best attention at all times.

Mico W Antoine

*For the record, we reproduce the President's letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 that was sent to all members.*

## MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

**JANUARY** – There was no Society meeting in January 2011 as the more or less general year end shutdown in Mauritius which extends to around the middle of the month guarantees a very low turnout.

**FEBRUARY** – The first Society meeting of the new year was held at College du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 14.00 hrs on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February. The convocation listed three topics on the agenda namely,

- Mauritius 2010 – Stamps, Postal History, Covers, Others
- The Bicentenary of the British Invasion/French Capitulation – some historical facts, some historical nonsense, related coverage of the event
- The Society – an overview of 2010, a preview of 2011.

An extensive chronological array of all known and seen postmarks, new datestamps strikes and cachet, official and non-official covers produced by Mauritius Post, and all the postage stamps issued in 2010, press cuttings on relevant items dealing with postal matters were appended to the six display units and explained. Also on shown were a range of cacheted 'Census 2011' commercial covers, postally used and philatelically prepared covers from the new Albion Postal Agency and a couple of copies of "Roland Garros" 1937 first flight covers sent in by Klaus D Hahn of Germany.

The two December 2010 British Invasion Bicentenary stamps, the comparatively low key celebrations and press coverage of the event were compared with the hysteria of the Battle of Grand Port commemoration – on the scale of 1 to 10, Grand Port 10 : Invasion 1. "The contribution of the Indians in the conquest and consolidation of the British rule in Mauritius" published by Indradhanush Sanskritic Parishad in August 2010 makes very interesting reading. Mico Antoine briefly reviewed the whole English part of this trilingual magazine.

The activities of the Society during 2010 were reviewed and plans for the new year were disclosed; those present contributed to a lively exchange.

24 members attended the February meeting.

**MARCH** – The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March at College du St Esprit in Quatre Bornes at 14.00 hrs. In conformity with the Rules and Regulations of the Society and all the provisions of the articles as laid down by the Registry of Association business began on schedule as the quorum was in order. The press notice published in *l'express* on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 read as follows : "The Annual General Meeting of the MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY will be held at St Esprit College, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 2 p.m. to transact the following business: (1) To read and approve the minutes of proceedings at the last General Meeting, (2) To receive, consider and approve the report of the President and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010, (3) To consider and approve the Budget for the year 2011, (4) To elect the Committee members and Office Bearers for the year 2011, (5) To appoint an Auditor for the year 2011. Any member wishing to serve on the 2011 committee should send his/her letter of candidature to the Secretary by latest 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011. By order of the Secretary.

All relevant documents, audited accounts, budget and letters of candidature were affixed to the notice board. The seven outgoing Committee members who stood for re-election and the two new members were elected by a show of hands. The status quo was maintained as far as the office bearers were concerned. The items on the agenda were adopted unanimously by the 18 members present at the meeting in addition to the 11 proxy votes held. The AGM ended at 14.55 hrs.

A display of Mauritian commemorative stamps together with some reference material such as photographs, illustrations, copies of artwork and other details from which the stamps of 1995 to 1997 were produced, railways and locomotives thematic and some aerophilatelic items served as a backdrop to the 2011 AGM.

**APRIL** – The monthly Society meeting of April was held at the usual venue and at the usual time on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The main and only item mentioned on the agenda of the convocation dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 was Gutters and Blocks of Mauritius by Dr A Nasser Maderbokus and was described as being a comprehensive display of stamps of Mauritius in gutter pairs, gutter strips and blocks of four or more from various parts of panes of Mauritian stamps. Five display units showed an assortment of complete

panes, unusual recent complete half sheets of single panes of 25 as well as other interesting gutter strips, some decorative, from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century up to the latest 2010 issues. The correct philatelic terms of the material on display were explained as were the circumstances surrounding the more unusual items. Mico Antoine reviewed the February 2011 special Stamp Pack released by Mauritius Post to mark their participation in a stamp exhibition in New Delhi, India. This pack was compared with the only other two similar modern stamp year packs issued in 1994 and 2002. The latest effort compared very unfavourably with the earlier packs being an unimaginative inferior product.

The notice board carried a range of current commercial covers and philatelic related items such as a couple of politically inspired private covers, press cuttings on railway infrastructure in Port Louis including some reckless reporting under something by-lined 'Gare du Train', a misnomered 'Blue Penny' stage play account and the Expo in India. The railway related articles led to a lively exchange which was interrupted by a very ill-advised interjection from a bore.

19 members signed the attendance register.

#### 2011 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee of the Society was constituted on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011 after the Annual General Meeting.

The members for 2011 are:

President – Mico Wilfrid Antoine

Vice President – Nasser Ahmad Maderbokus

Treasurer – Judex Leu Adrien

Vice Treasurer – Chrishnanand Cushmajee

Secretary – Tarkesswar Nath Greedharrye

Vice Secretary – Assenje Ismael Kara

Members – Hans Christian Bigler

– Saoud Mauthoor

– Albert Koenig

**2010**

3 x A YEAR

APRIL – AUGUST – DECEMBER

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Management Committee Meetings of the Society for the period January to April 2011 were held as follows : Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at the residence of the President, 3A La Louise Avenue, Quatre Bornes, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at College du Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

The quorum of the four respective meetings were assured by the attendance of 7, 7, 7 and 9 members; the minimum of 5 members constitutes the quorum. For the period January to March 2011 the Management Committee was composed of 7 members after the resignation of one member and the removal of another member towards the end 2010. The meetings which begin at 13.00 hrs and end at 14.00 hrs were attended by all the seven members of the Management Committee during January to March. If any evidence was needed of the loyalty and dedication of all the remaining serving members, here is the evidence.

### DELIBERATIONS / DISCUSSIONS

#### JANUARY

- The minutes of the last meeting of 2010 held on 4<sup>th</sup> December were approved.
- The College du St Esprit Junior Philatelic Club project was discussed.
- The high incidence of still unpaid dues for year 2011 was noted and it was decided to take firm action.
- The annual outing was proposed for the month of May.
- Attendance at the monthly meeting during 2010 was reasonable and it was decided to maintain the one Society meeting a month frequency.
- Ravi Bhotooa of Mahebourg was admitted as a member of the Society.

#### FEBRUARY

- The minutes of proceedings for the meeting of January were approved.
- The College du St Esprit Junior Philatelic Club was not operating as expected and more effective measures are needed from the College.
- A visit to the battlegrounds of Long Mountain was projected for the month of May in the context of the Bicentenary of the British invasion of Mauritius commemorative stamps.

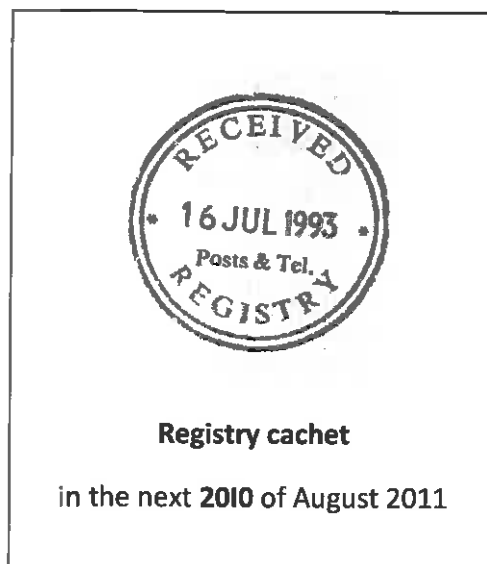
- A guest speaker, a local stamp and antique dealer was proposed for the second half of 2011.
- Preparations for the Annual General Meeting were under control.
- Proposals by Chrishnanand (Vicky) Cushmajee for the Mauritius Philatelic Society website were examined.

#### MARCH

- The minutes of the Committee meeting of February were approved and the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting was examined.
- Cognizance of all matters relating to the AGM were taken and were found to be in order.
- The programme for the April and May monthly meetings were fixed.
- Further details about the Society's website project were examined.

#### APRIL

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the April agenda was tabled.
- Note was taken that the AGM of March was held in accordance with the Society rules and regulations and that all business were dealt with expediently.
- All statutory obligations were complied with well in advance of deadlines viz. the Registry of Associations, the Society's bankers and other institutions.
- Note was taken that Vicky Cushmajee had purchased and registered the Society website domain name.



## OVERSEAS MEMBERS

NEIL CARPENTER from Surrey, UK was in Mauritius from 5<sup>th</sup> January to the end of February 2011. He met with the President on a couple of occasions. He got the elusive SAPOA World Cup sheetlet and other items from the President. He paid his subscription but was unable to attend the February Society meeting and to meet with other members because of other commitments.

JEAN PRINS of Roquebrune-sur-Argens, France visited Mauritius from 13<sup>th</sup> January to 12<sup>th</sup> February. He met the President during his stay on the island. He brought along a folder "*que j'ai réalisé en photocopie couleur, plus de 100 pages...*" of his Mauritian collection. His want list is now down to 15 to 20 stamps of Mauritius as compared to 46 when he visited us a year ago.

PATRICK KWAN from Gold Coast, Australia was in Mauritius from early December to 10<sup>th</sup> January. This was his first visit to Mauritius since his departure some three years ago. A lot of philatelic work was accomplished during the visit as the former President and the current President met on many occasions, whether at Flic en Flac or at Quatre Bornes to review and update all aspects of Mauritian philately. Four times a week visual lessons on the marine life of Mauritius, under the guidance of the President, in the lagoon of Flic en Flac was proof that the Mauritius Philatelic Society is more than just about stamps and covers.

## 2011 CALENDAR

The timetable of the Society meetings and the Management Committee meetings was established as follows. These meetings are held on the first Saturday of every month at College du St Esprit in Quatre Bornes. In the event of a public holiday, cyclone or other '*force majeure*' occurring on the

scheduled first Saturday the meetings are automatically re-scheduled for the second Saturday of the month.

The dates are 5<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> March (AGM), 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

## THE COLLEGE DU ST ESPRIT JUNIOR PHILATELIC CLUB

The first two meetings of the College du St Esprit Philatelic Club were held on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Both meetings were held from 8.15 to 9.15 a.m.

- On 20<sup>th</sup> April, 42 Form I and Form II students attended the first meeting. The Rector (Jacques Malié) and the Dean (Deveena Moonshiram) were present. Judex Adrien and Monique Fok Shan from the Society helped out. Member Mustapha Khan's collection of the 2010 FIFA World Cup covers and the Society thematic Sports collection were on display.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> April, 31 students from the two forms attended the second meeting of the Junior Philatelic Club. Various aspects of philately were on display and the fundamentals of the hobby were explained. Official Mauritian first day covers, donated by member Dr Santosh Kalachand were distributed free to all the boys present on the day. Judex Adrien and Monique Fok Shan again assisted in getting 31 noisy boys to listen to what philately was all about. There is a lot of work ahead.

## " BLUE PENNY NEWS "

The glossy annual overview of the activities of Mauritius Post for the year 2010 with its *Sommaire* listing the contents of messages, evolutions, developments, performances, training schemes, philately, events and other aspects in a colourful in-house publication. The heavily illustrated bilingual annual, devoid of essential record of postal and philatelic matters, is however a useful chronicle of the management style and the 'socio-cultural' role of the much politicised organisation in today's Mauritius.

## STAMP PROGRAMME 2011

'Stamp year programme 2011' is the heading of a plain unheaded and unreferenced loose page without any indication of its source that was handed out by the Philatelic Bureau in Port Louis to those who sought details of the stamps of Mauritius for the new year. This information was available as from February 2011. The theme, proposed date, number of stamps and details contained therein are as follows:

Theme	Proposed date	No. of stamps	Details
Mauritius World Heritage	March-April	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appravasi Ghat -2</li> <li>• Le Morne Heritage -2</li> </ul>
Events and Anniversaries	May- June	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population census</li> <li>• GMD Atchia</li> <li>• M Ah Chuen</li> <li>• M Curé</li> <li>• Medine S.E. (centenary)</li> <li>• Customs</li> </ul>
International Events	August	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Year of Chemistry</li> <li>• Year of Forestry</li> <li>• Transit of Venus</li> </ul>
HIV Awareness Campaign	October (in the context of World Post Day)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the discovery of the virus AIDS</li> <li>• Post Office of Rodrigues (anniversary)</li> </ul>
Tea Industry	December	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme details not yet selected.</li> </ul>

### CACHETS

A special cachet approximately 42mm in diameter, as illustrated was used in Mauritius and Rodrigues at selected post offices to sensitize the public about the 2011 Housing and Population Census. The message in the outer circles read "PARTICIPEZ AU RECENSEMENT NATIONAL DES BATIMENTS ET DE LA POPULATION". Within the inner circle is found the logo of the census. Circular Note of 21 January



2011, Ref PS/8/654 gives instructions for the application of the cachets to mails in red ink from 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February as well as from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011. The instructions appear to have been observed as much commercial mail has been seen struck with the message from many post offices in Mauritius as well as Rodrigues during the first campaign.

#### ANYTHING SMALLER?

This small envelope measuring 80 mm x 43 mm has 3 different Mauritian postmarks from Olivia / DE. 30 1902, Bel Air /31 DE. 1902 and Rivière Seche / DE 31 1902.

Do you have a smaller envelope from Mauritius? Send a copy to the Editor.

## COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

A set of four stamps titled **Mauritius in World Heritage** on two Mauritius heritage sites were issued on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The stamps feature the following in a messy disorder and are inscribed Appravasi Ghat (The Steps), Le Morne (The Mountain), Le Morne (The Monument), and Appravasi Ghat (The Hospital Kitchen) and are denominated Rs 7, Rs 14, Rs 15 and Rs 25. The former Immigration Depot steps have been used on almost everything promoting the often distorted portrayal of the portals of today's Appravasi Ghat. The "Mountain" shows excessive forestry and greenery in the foreground with Le Morne mountain relatively distant in the background thus deforming the legend or fact of what the mountain represents to the descendants of slaves; the picturesque view does not convey the insert message of dangerous mountains, frightening heights, hazardous conditions nor the choice of death over captivity. "The Monument" is blurry and devoid of any details. "The Hospital Kitchen" shows a fireplace where one is told in the accompanying literature "medical examinations were conducted" and where "medical instruments were sterilised" – it does not show any cooking or eating, nor medical instruments. If the colourful literature was to convey unacceptable food preparation conditions, it should say so.

The stamps were issued on World Heritage Day and the UNESCO and the World Heritage logos which adorn the data card are absent from the stamps. This is a major omission and an affront to the organization that favoured Mauritian heritage sites over other candidates.

The annoying mix of vertical and horizontal stamps in a single issue is now the hallmark of Mauritius Post unimaginative portrait and landscape commemoratives. Collectors deserve better.

Technical details are :- Design: Mauritius Post Ltd, Printers: BDT International Security Printing Ltd, Process: Lithography, Size: 27.94 x 44.45, Perforation : (and not

"Perforation gauge") 14, Gum: PVA, Watermark: CASCO Large Crown, Sheet Format: 50 stamps in two panes of 25 with central gutter strips of five, Sheet Details: (portrait) gutter imprint of Mauritius Logo on 2,3,4 only, Printers imprint: selvedge 3/5 or middle stamp of each pane and sheet number on selvedge 1/1, (landscape) gutter imprint on gutter 1,3,5 only; Printers Imprint under middle stamp on each pane.

A miniature sheet 12 cm x 10 cm with the two Appravasi Ghat vertical stamps (top) and the two horizontal Le Morne stamps (bottom) in denomination disorder with the national colours to the right and a rainbow of the same colours in the background over Le Morne was sold at Rs 61, the face value of the stamps.

The Official First Day Cover with the four stamps affixed to the right of the cover is cancelled with a special cachet, 27 mm in diameter, reading Mauritius Heritage (top), Mauritius (bottom) and the date 18 April 2011 in the centre. A second strike cancelling nothing is applied to the left of the stamps. The FDC illustration is very colourful with magnified views of the two sites and the Mauritius Post logo on the back flap. It was priced at Rs 85 per unit.





## PHILATELIC TERMS

Perforation (perf) – one of the holes punched between stamps to render them detachable from each other. The holes are punched clean through the paper and the little discs that result fall away like confetti during the mechanical process of separating stamps.

Perforation gauge – a useful universal philatelic accessory made of card, plastic or metal showing a graded scale of the main stamp perforations in two centimetre sections by a series of dots and lines. A gauge is simply an instrument for the regulating of measurement, quantity or content.

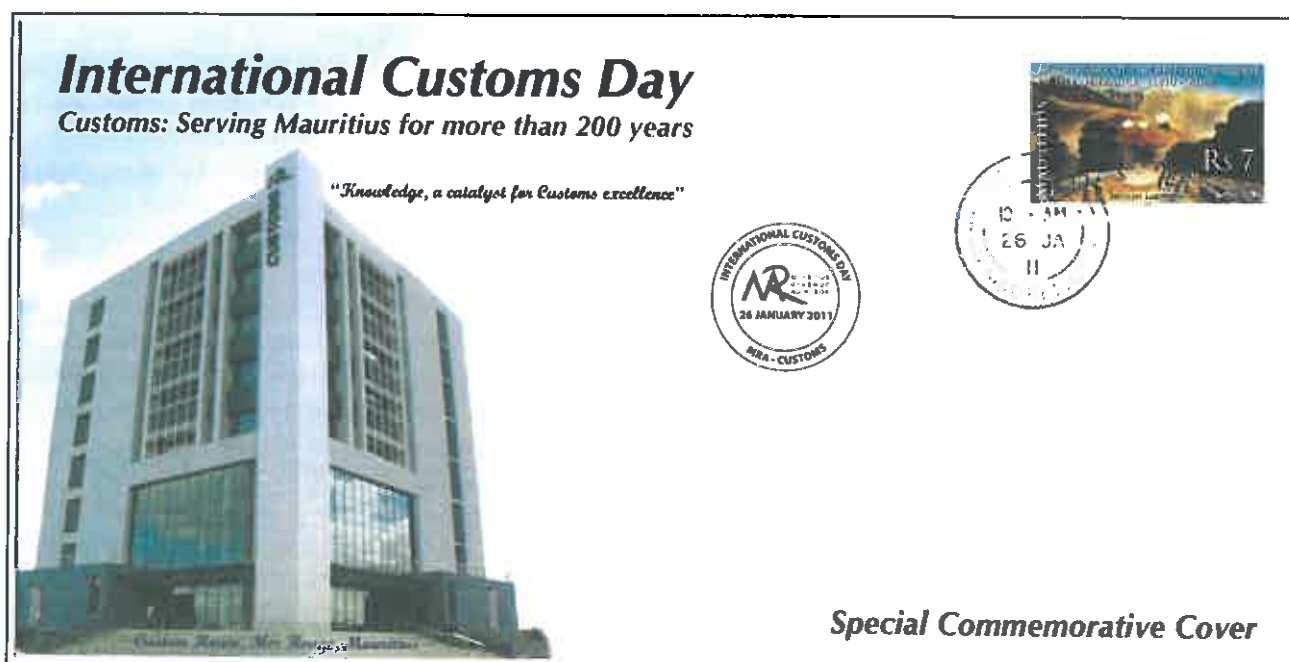
NB. Mauritius Post does not dish out perforation gauges when it issues stamps (as it makes one believe in its data card) nor has it ever issued any Mauritian stamp with square perforation (as it claims).

## SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVER

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 a special commemorative cover went on sale to mark International Customs Day. The cover is illustrated with the new Customs House building at Mer Rouge and is franked with the Bicentenary of the British conquest of Isle de France (1810-2010) Rs 7 stamp of December 2010. The stamp cancelled with the Philatelic Bureau standard Type D (Port Louis- Mauritius) double circle circular datestamp at 10 AM on 26 JAN 11. A special cachet 25mm in diameter reading International Customs day (top) MRA Customs (bottom) with the MRA Mauritius Revenue Authority logo dated 26 January 2011 in centre is also applied to the cover. See illustration.

The data card inserted in the cover provides some details of the Customs Department and a reproduction of the "letter from Christopher Teesdale – 1<sup>st</sup> Controller of Customs in Mauritius" dated 18 June 1811. The Mauritius Post logo is printed on the back flap.

The cover was on sale at the Philatelic Bureau in Port Louis at Rs 35 per unit.



International Customs Day cover – reduced to 80%

## 2010 STAMP YEAR PACK

Mauritius Post Ltd issued a stamp year pack for 2010. In the form of two thick A3 size paper folded down the middle into four A4 recto and verso stapled together into a six page layout of information on the stamps of 2010 enclosed in a back and front cover featuring the whole of the façade of the Mauritius Postal Museum. The cover photograph is attributed to Mr I Govind and the graphics credit awarded to Nitish Peechen. The price is Rs 400 whereas the total face value of the eight stamp mounted in the pack is Rs 208 – Rs 100 for one stamp and Rs 108 for the remainder. Nine other stamps issued in the format of a souvenir sheet only with a face value of Rs 63 are not included in the pack. The 2010 Stamp Year pack is therefore not complete and the notation “Gold Foil Souvenir Sheet unavailable due to exhaustion of stock” on page 1 is no excuse. Mauritius Post have produced a Stamp Year Pack that is not a Stamp Year Pack.

The 2010 Stamp Year Pack is a poor product and cannot be compared in concept nor contents to the two previous year packs of 1994 and 2002. Instead of improving on the past the “re-introduced” year pack is a gaudy sub-standard incomplete product. It is a hash put together to justify the showing of something on the range of Mauritian philatelic items to an Indian public in New Delhi.

The background information on each stamp is bland and often excessively submissive; the typo errors unacceptable territories (territories) goil (gold), wrong and strange language such as a soccer ball (football) kick-off match (inaugural match or more simply opening game); the rank of captain for all the eight battleship commanders densely naïve and “following the coast” to march to Port Louis is not what the arrows on the map of the official FDC of the event indicate.

The continuous misuse by Mauritius Post of one term “Perforation gauge” instead of Perforation is senseless. A perforation gauge is a philatelic accessory used to indicate the number of holes punched between stamps. The 1994 and 2002 stamp packs use the correct definition, the ridiculous addition of “gauge” is cleverness taken too far ... and none of the World Cup stamps have any “square perforation”; this is a stupid invention from Mauritius Post.

All the stamps are mounted in black-backed mounts however behind or under the black back there is a

colour illustration of the actual stamp in the mount. Worse is the fraudulent use of the “goil foil” stamp of the World Cup for the illustration behind the mount when it is the Rs 7 ordinary stamp of Mauritius that is in the mount. Since the gold stamps were exhausted, this misrepresentation is called cheating.

The gold postage stamp with embossed portrait of SSR described as “Embossed Genuine 22 carat gold” is 60mm x 49mm in size. Mauritius Post mounted this 60mm x 49mm stamp in a black 55mm mount. The top of the stamp is outside the mount unprotected. With the humidity of Mauritius the exposed section of the Rs 100 ‘highest ever denomination’ of Mauritius will get damaged. Not the way to treat the Father of the Nation!

A final word on mounts – when and if colour or even black and white illustrations are used in stamp albums leaves or packs of any kind clear backed mounts are the norm. This is common sense.

During 2010 four stamps from the Flowers definitive set of 12 stamps were printed anew. These were the Rs 7, Rs 8, Rs 15 and Rs 25 denominations. They should have been included as an annex to compensate for the ‘goil foil’ souvenir sheet and the Rs 400 price tag of the pack.

The Mauritius Post Ltd – “Committed to Green Growth” green cachet is shown on the cover of the 2010 year pack – it does not belong there and nowhere is any explanation or reason given for its presence on the cover. If propaganda cachets are to form part of any year pack then all these types of cachet used in the year should be incorporated within the year pack.

The press notice in *l'express* of 12 February 2011 reads inter-alia “Mauritius Post participating in the World Philatelic Exhibition – Indipex 2011, New Delhi, India under the patronage of the ‘Federation Internationale de la Philatelie’ sic. The Indian exhibition was used by Mauritius Post as an excuse to announce the Mauritius 2010 Stamp Year pack and the pack was put on sale in Mauritius and in New Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The Indian Indipex 2011 logo was incorporated in the press notice of the same day. No coincidence that the 2010 Mauritius Stamp Pack and the Indian Exhibition were respectively par products and par events. They deserved each other being of relatively equal quality.

## POSTMARKS

### IRREGULAR CANCELLING DEVICES

#### FLACQ

Another type of datestamp almost similar in design in font sizes and other features to the one introduced at the **Albion Postal Agency** on 16 December 2010 has been seen on a cover from the post office designated as **FLACQ** in Mauritius Post's official list of post offices.

This new irregular single circle circular datestamp reads **POSTE DE FLACQ** top, lines at sides and **MAURITIUS POST** at base. The three line hour, date and year dies in the centre of the device are similar to the dies of the standard type D double circle circular datestamp of Mauritius.

The earliest date seen is struck on a registered cover on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011. This new postmark is struck on an equally new **FLA WebRiposte** computer label. The post office is officially designated as **FLACQ** therefore bears two different name places. The country designation is correctly **MAURITIUS** on the new label and incorrectly **MAURITIUS POST** on the new irregular cancelling device! What next?

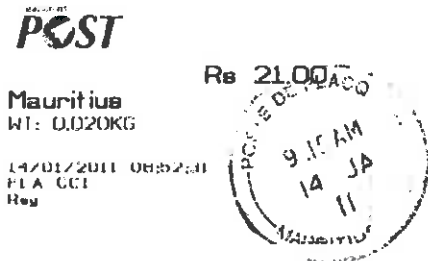
They all measure 28mm in diameter with a boxed die 38mm wide x 28mm high incorporating the logo of Mauritius Post in the right top corner. Proving covers have been recorded by the Society as follows:

Port Louis Centre dated 05.02.2011 and 11.04.2011

Flic en Flac dated 06.04.2011

Grand Bay dated 23.04.2011

The boxed slogan message in all three cases read: **Mauritius Post Offices / International Express / Mail Service – EMS** in three lines as shown. The canceller at Port Louis Centre is the larger Pitney Bowes model 4901 canceller, the one at Flic en Flac the smaller Pitney Bowes 4900 canceller and the one at Grand Bay has not yet been identified.



### AUTOMATIC CANCELLERS

New table top cancelling machines have been installed at Port Louis Centre, Grand Bay and Flic en Flac post offices during the period January to April 2011 or more correctly new postal markings have been recorded from these offices during this period.

The name place and time strikes are all similar in size and design to the G.P.O Sorting one as shown in the No.3 December 2010 Society journal.



## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

Extracts from Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at St Esprit College, Quatre Bornes.

- Approval of minutes of 2010 AGM

The minutes were approved on a proposition of Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon seconded by Vijay Gujadhur.

- Report of the President for the Year 2010

The President welcomed the members for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Two members of the Management Committee were unable to complete their term of office thus the depleted Committee continued to carry out the business of the Society during the remaining few months before the AGM, Another member was on extended leave consequently the quorum was only assured because of the dedication of our loyal serving members, all seven of whom are standing for re-election. Saoud Mauthoor, after having sorted out certain personal matters makes a return after a year's absence and Albert Koenig makes a welcome comeback after many years.

There was an average attendance of 17 members at our monthly meetings, with the highest in February (24) and the lowest in July (11) mainly because some very regular members did not turn up only several occasions. Only three members joined in 2010 compared to four in 2009. Membership of the Society is steady and satisfactory however a rise in the incidence of late payment of annual subscription is some cause for concern.

11 monthly Society meeting were scheduled for 2011. The January break will be maintained and there will not be any reduction on the number of meetings during 2011 as both total membership of the Society and the average monthly attendance during the year are well above the minimum requirements. Hence the status quo will prevail for at least another year.

The philatelic problems of Mauritius Post were highlighted in the three 2010 and in November an intervention was made by the Society at a very high level to draw attention to some very real and very serious threats posed to Mauritian philately by the amateurism and incompetence of those involved in philatelic related decision making.

- Approval of Accounts ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts, a copy of which was affixed onto the Notice Board. The deficit of Rs 6,099 was mainly due to the high cost of postage, magazines, general expenses as well as the lower profits on sales. Note also the increase in stock as a result of the purchase of postage stamps for resale. The accounts were approved on a proposition of Assenjee Ismael Kara seconded by Thonyno Dieudonné.

- Approval of Budget for the Year 2011

The budget of Rs 65,000 Income and Rs 75,000 Expenditure for the Year 2011 was presented by the Treasurer (a deficit of Rs 10,000) and was approved on a proposition of Albert Koenig seconded by Derek Taylor.

- Elections of Committee Members & Office Bearers for the Year 2011

The following were elected unanimously by acclamation (18 members and 11 proxy votes) as members of the Management Committee for 2011: Mico Wilfrid Antoine, Judex Leu Adrien, Hans Christian Bigler, Chrishnanand (Vicky) Cushmajee, Saoud Mauthoor, Tarkesswar Nath Greedharrye, Assenjee Ismael Kara, Dr Ahmad Nasser Maderbokus and Albert Koenig.

- Appointment of Auditor for Year 2011

Man Fan Lam Hang, FCCA, was appointed as Auditor for 2011 on a proposition of Mico Antoine seconded by Hans Bigler.

**SUPPORT THE SOCIETY - SHOW UP AT THE MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

<b>STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS &amp; PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010</b>		
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	Rs	Rs
<b>CASH RESOURCES</b>		
Cash in Hand – 01.01.2010	500.00	1,500.00
Cash in Bank – 01.01.2010	<u>53,691.18</u>	<u>32,524.72</u>
	<b><u>54,191.18</u></b>	<b><u>34,024.72</u></b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Entrance Fees	300.00	400.00
Subscriptions	19,800.00	19,500.00
Sales	24,735.00	11,950.00
Donations/Sponsorships	10,000.00	57,278.72
Commissions on Sales	0.00	0.00
Interest received	0.00	193.49
Others	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>
	<b><u>54,835.00</u></b>	<b><u>91,122.21</u></b>
	<b><u>109,026.18</u></b>	<b><u>125,146.93</u></b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Cost of Sales	19,179.50	9,707.00
Exhibition Expenses	0.00	28,082.50
Newsletters/Bulletins	4,737.00	3,303.00
General Expenses	<u>40,517.50</u>	<u>29,863.20</u>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOW</b>	<b><u>64,434.00</u></b>	<b><u>70,955.75</u></b>
<b>BALANCE AT END</b>	<b><u>44,592.18</u></b>	<b><u>54,191.18</u></b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Cash in Hand – 31.12.2010	500.00	500.00
Cash at Bank – 31.12.2010	<u>44,092.18</u>	<u>53,691.18</u>
	<b><u>44,592.18</u></b>	<b><u>54,191.18</u></b>

<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS &amp; LIABILITIES @ 31 DECEMBER 2010</b>		
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	Rs	Rs
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Furniture & Fittings	7,735.00	7,735.00
Stocks	7,500.00	4,000.00
Cash in Hand	500.00	500.00
Cash at Bank	<u>44,092.18</u>	<u>53,691.18</u>
	<b><u>59,827.18</u></b>	<b><u>65,926.18</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	0.00	0.00
	<b><u>59,827.18</u></b>	<b><u>65,926.18</u></b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
Balance @ 01.01.2010	65,926.18	45,759.72
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	<u>(6,099.00)</u>	<u>20,166.46</u>
	<b><u>59,827.18</u></b>	<b><u>65,926.18</u></b>

<b>Budget 2011</b>			
Income	Rs	Expenditure	Rs
Subscriptions	20,000	Cost of Sales	20,000
Donations & Sponsorships	10,000	Postage	15,000
Society Sales	30,000	Stationery	4,000
Other Income	5,000	Catalogues & Magazines	4,000
		Cost of monthly meetings	7,000
		Other expenses	15,000
		Printing of News Bulletins	10,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>75,000</b>

### **COMPUTER AUTOMATION UPDATE**

Proving commercial covers have been seen from Flic en Flac as from January 2011 with the correct identification abbreviation FEF which was previously incorrectly allocated to Forest Side Post Office. The correct new FSI identification has been seen from Forest Side on commercial covers as from January 2011. The previous incorrect FLO identification used at Flic en Flac post office has been withdrawn.

See the No. 3 December 2010 for the listing of all WebRiposte IDs and the Editor's note on the Flic en Flac / Forest Side mis-designations. The annual update will be published in the December 2011 2010.

### **THE PRESS**

l'express	01.01.2011	A la lettre
The Independent	10.01.2011	Queen keep her head on stamps
The Independent	14.01.2011	All post offices to offer Internet...
The Independent	19.01.2011	MPL joins recycling campaign
Scope	19.01.2011	Collecte de batteries...
Le Défi Plus	12.02.2011	Under scrutiny
Samedi Plus	05.03.2011	Le marché de la philatélie en essor.
The Independent	07.03.2011	Rare Mauritius stamps displayed in Delhi
l'express	11.03.2011	Comme une lettre à la poste...
Le Dimanche	27.03.2011	Fidèle au poste.
l'express	28.03.2011	Mauritius, coups de théâtre...
Le Matinal	19.04.2011	Appravasi Ghat et Le Morne...
l'express	30.04.2011	La Poste soigne son look.

<b>MAURITIUS POSTAL HISTORY = MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY</b>
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