



NEWS ITEMS 2009.1

The Journal of the Mauritius Philatelic Society

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

MARCH 2009

NOT SO UNIQUE 150TH ANNIVERSARIES

The only Mauritian stamps that commemorate a 150th year event as a "sesquicentenary" are the set of four stamps issued on 11th January 1961 on the occasion of the **150th Anniversary of British Post Office in Mauritius** (SG I.O. cat. title). The inscription on the stamps is however **Sesquicentenary British Post Office Under British Administration**. The four stamps of similar design portray Queen Elizabeth II and King George III (after Lawrence) with the years 1811-1961. The denominations are 10c, 20c, 35c and R1 and the respective colours are described as black and brown-red, ultramarine and light blue, black and yellow and deep maroon and green. The stamps were lithographed by Jos Enschede of Holland.

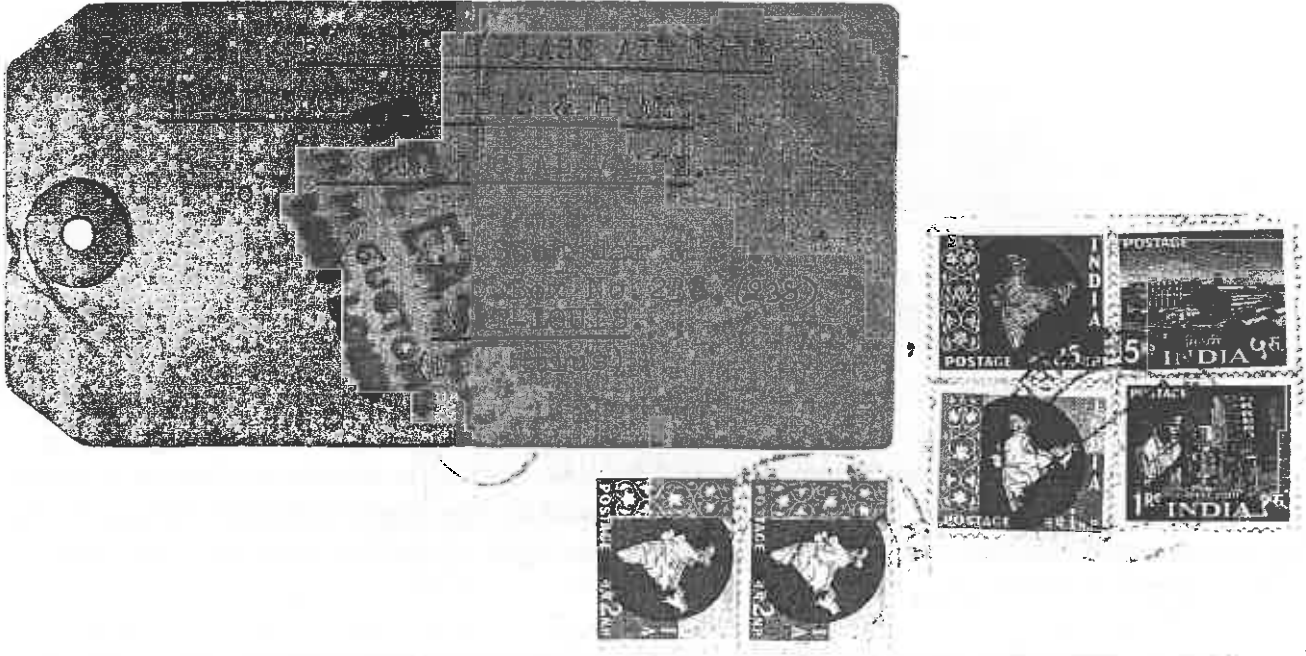
The only Mauritian Official First Day Cover issued as a "sesqui centenary" FDC is the official cover released on 22nd December 1969. Described in SG's Indian Ocean catalogue as "**150th Anniversary of Telfair's Improvements to the Sugar Industry**" the cover carries the inscription "**Sesqui Centenary / Commemorative / Issue of / Telfair's Improvements / In The Sugar Industry**". Sesquicentenary is one word and the five stamps in the set do not bear either of the two versions of the titles. The stamps are inscribed as follows: 2c Vertical Cane Crusher (Early 19th Century); 15c 18th Century Cane Crusher (Frangourinier) (1710-1815), 60c Beau Rivage Factory (1867); Re1 Mon Desert Alma Factory 1969 and Rs2.50 Charles Telfair (1778.1833). The stamps were issued by the Crown Agents on 15th December 1969 one week earlier than the Mauritius release date of 22nd December 1969.



Amongst the many other 150th Anniversaries commemorated on the stamps of Mauritius are: 150th Anniversary of Mauritius Commercial Bank, 150th Anniversary of "POST OFFICE" Stamps, 150th Anniversary of Port Louis Theatre, 150th Anniversary of Charles Darwin's Voyage, 150th Anniversary of the Post Office Ordinance. These stamps, their covers as well as other 150th Anniversaries are not described as sesquicentenary or sesqui centenary.

RELEASED / HM CUSTOMS / PORT LOUIS

A mail tag attached to a parcel the contents of which are described as "Samples of Potatoes & Grams. No Commercial Value" sent by "Second Class Air Mail" from a Bombay trader to a Port Louis, Mauritius, merchant postmarked in Bombay on 18th April 1958 was cleared with a handstamp reading (as shown) "Released / HM Customs / Port Louis" in three lines on arrival in Mauritius. There is no Port Louis Mauritius arrival datestamp on the label. The label is franked with six stamps: a 5R^s and 1R^e value from the 1955 (rupee) definitives and four stamps from the 1957 (naya paise) Map of India set (1x25N.P., 2x2N.P. and 1x1N.P.)



MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JANUARY – The Society did not hold a members' monthly meeting in January 2009.

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

The agenda was Social Philately by Mico Antoine, a repeat of the December 2008 display by special request, Mauritius in World Literature – the only Mauritius Commemorative stamps of 2008 – and the letter A kicked off the Alphabet Competition with only two participants, Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon on Aerophilately and Judex Adrien on Animals of Australia. 24 members attended.

MARCH – The AGM was held at College du Saint Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes on 7th March at 14.00 hours. The Annual General Meeting agenda as published in the press contained seven items as follows: (a) Approval of minutes of 2008 (b) Report of the President for the year 2008 (c) Approval of Accounts ending 31st December 2008 (d) Approval of Budget for 2009 (e) Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers for the year 2009 (f) Appointment of Auditors for the year 2009 (g) Any other business.

The rules, regulations and procedures of the Society were respected and all AGM business was concluded to the satisfaction of the members. Hans Bigler proposed a vote of thanks to the Management Committee.

21 members were in attendance and 5 proxies were nominated.

In the context of the Members Alphabet Competition Mico Antoine put up a backdrop display on Birds, B.I.O.T., Botswana and Big Stamps as a guide to members – the letter B is for April.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The January Management Committee meeting was held at the residence of the President, 3A La Louise Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 13.00 hrs on Saturday 17th January 2009.

The February meeting was held on 7th February at Collège du Saint Esprit at 13.00 hrs; the March meeting was held on Saturday 7th March at Collège du Saint Esprit. Attendance was respectively 8, 9, 7; the quorum is five.

MAURITIUS REVENUES

Norman Seidelman – whose address is 9240 Quick Fox, Columbia, Maryland 21045 – 5312, U.S.A. – collects Revenue Stamps. Norman is a member of ARA (American Revenue Association) and RS (Revenue Society of Great Britain) and he wishes to get in touch with collectors from the Society. He will buy or trade. His email address is niseide@aol.com

MAURITIUS FOR FRANCE

New member **Jean Prins**, of 14 Impasse des Grillons, Le Parc La Bouverie, 83520 Roquebrune Sur Argens, France wishes to establish long term exchange arrangements with collectors from the Mauritius Philatelic Society. His email address is jean.prins@live.fr. He has visited Mauritius often in the past and he hopes to come again in the future. He will respond to all collectors who may wish to exchange aspects of Mauritius for same of France.

STAMP PROGRAMME 2009

In News Items 2008.4 of December 2008, the 2009 stamp programme of Mauritius was listed as follows:

- Endemic Flowers of Mauritius
- Mauritian Painters
- Evolution of Police Uniforms
- Events and Anniversaries

This information was gleaned from a “Cabinet Decisions” paper released by the Prime Minister’s Office dated 5th December 2008.

The “Stamp Issue Programme 2009”, released by the Philatelic Bureau of Mauritius Post, under reference PS/HPO/STP/2009 dated 19th February 2009 with the qualification that “The proposed issue months are subject to changes”, is different from the decision taken by the Cabinet. The new programme is:

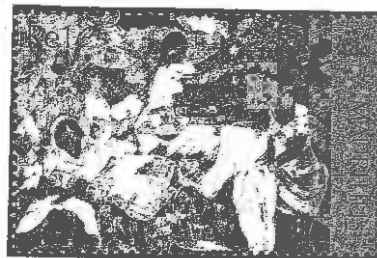
Definitive –

- Indigenous Flowers of Mauritius, March 2009
Denominations Rs3, Rs4, Rs5, Rs6, Rs7, Rs8, Rs9, Rs10, Rs15, Rs22, Rs25, Rs50. Set of 3 FDC.

Commemorative –

- Giant Extinct Turtles, June 2009
- Mauritian Painters, August 2009
- Evolution of Police Uniforms replaced by
Territory of Mauritius, October 2009
- Anniversaries and Events
Centenary of Chinese Chamber of Commerce, December 2009 / Mr. K. Hazareesingh / Space Exploration – The 40th anniversary of the first man landing on the moon / 200th Anniversary of the Conquest of Rodrigues by the British

Comment: Some of the changes are subtle; for example, four issues became five issues and Endemic Flowers of Mauritius became Indigenous Flowers of Mauritius. Some changes are not so subtle; the Evolution of Police Uniforms set is replaced by the Territory of Mauritius commemorative. The political reason for the Territory of Mauritius stamps is to re-establish and re-emphasize Mauritian territorial claims on Tromlin and the Chagos Archipelago in response to French (F.S.A.T.) and British (B.I.O.T.) stamps issued on the two respective Mauritian 'territories'. The re-introduction of the Giant Extinct Tortoises commemorative announced for but not released in 2008 is a simple but belated correction to an omission, oversight, or whatever by the Cabinet. As to what transpired between December 2008 and February 2009 there is only one comment.... No comment.



Past Flowers, Giant Tortoises and Painters of Mauritius

MAURITIUS POSTAL MUSEUM

Press notices placed in local papers by Mauritius Post Ltd invited Mauritian nationals for a free visit to the Mauritius Postal Museum from Monday 9th March to Saturday 14th March 2009 in the context of Independence Day celebrations.

YOUR MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETING REMINDER

Book these dates in your diary

JULY 4TH – AUGUST 1ST – SEPTEMBER 5TH.

THE PRESS

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--|
| L'express (Le Gratuit) | 14.2.2009 | Vol à main armée au bureau de poste de Ste-Croix |
| Week-End | 22.2.2009 | Rare stamp collection including items from Mauritius sold in NYC |
| Week-End | 22.2.2009 | Mauritius fait un tabac aux Etats-Unis |
| Le Défi-Plus | 21.3.2009 | Ecrivez une belle lettre |
| Le Matinal | 21.3.2009 | Hold-up à la poste de Notre-Dame |
| Le Matinal | 25.3.2009 | La poste en fête |
| Week-End | 29.3.2009 | Où sont passés les Rs 22 millions de la Poste ? |

MAURITIUS POSTAL HISTORY = MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

Edited by **Mico W. Antoine**

P.O. Box 89, Quatre Bornes, MAURITIUS

© Mauritius Philatelic Society 2009

**AUDITED ACCOUNTS - 2008****STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES @ 31 DECEMBER 2008**

| | <u>2008</u> | <u>2007</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Furniture & Fittings | 7,735.00 | 7,735.00 |
| Stocks | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| Cash in Hand | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Cash at Bank | <u>32,524.72</u> | <u>27,908.15</u> |
| | <u>45,759.72</u> | <u>41,143.15</u> |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| | Rs 45,759.72 | Rs 41,143.15 |
| ACCUMULATED FUND | | |
| Balance @ 1.1.2007 | 41,143.15 | 37,884.76 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | <u>4,616.57</u> | <u>3,258.39</u> |
| | Rs 45,759.72 | Rs 41,143.15 |

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

| | <u>2008</u> | <u>2007</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| CASH RESOURCES | | |
| Cash in Hand - 1.1.2007 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Cash in Bank - 1.1.2007 | <u>27,908.15</u> | <u>24,649.76</u> |
| | <u>28,408.15</u> | <u>26,149.76</u> |
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Entrance Fees | 900.00 | 500.00 |
| Subscriptions | 22,800.00 | 22,900.00 |
| Donations/Sponsorship | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Commission on Sales | 6,746.00 | 5,417.00 |
| Interest Received | 314.57 | 287.39 |
| Others | <u>340.00</u> | <u>800.00</u> |
| | <u>31,100.57</u> | <u>29,904.39</u> |
| | <u>60,508.72</u> | <u>56,054.15</u> |
| PAYMENTS | | |
| Newsletters/Bulletins | 5,323.50 | 3,807.00 |
| General Expenses | <u>21,160.50</u> | <u>22,839.00</u> |
| TOTAL OUTFLOW | <u>26,484.00</u> | <u>26,646.00</u> |
| BALANCE AT END | Rs 34,024.72 | Rs 29,408.15 |
| REPRESENTED BY: | | |
| Cash in Hand - 31-12.2007 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Cash at Bank - 31.12.2007 | <u>32,524.72</u> | <u>27,908.15</u> |
| | Rs 34,024.72 | Rs 29,408.15 |

| BUDGET 2009 | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Income | Rs | Expenditure | Rs |
| Subscriptions | 23,000 | Postage | 10,000 |
| Donations & Sponsorships | 20,000 | Stationery | 4,000 |
| Commissions & Society Sales | 7,000 | Catalogues & Magazines | 7,000 |
| Interest | 500 | Cost of monthly meetings | 7,000 |
| Advertising Revenue | 0 | Other expenses | 20,000 |
| Other Income | <u>4,500</u> | Printing of News Bulletins | <u>7,000</u> |
| Total Income | Rs <u>55,000</u> | Total Expenditure | Rs <u>55,000</u> |

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

Extracts from Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 7th March 2009 at St Esprit College, Quatre Bornes.

- **Approval of minutes of 2008 AGM**

The minutes were approved on a proposition of Khan Mustapha seconded by Hans Bigler.

- **Report of the President for the Year 2008**

The President welcomed the members to the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Mauritius Philatelic Society and noted that the Society will commemorate its 20th anniversary in November 2009. Some shortcomings during the last twelve months were noted namely the trip to Rodrigues that never happened, the low participation for the August Pamplemousses Outing, the tasteless Society lunch of July and the December bring-a-guest meeting that was a total waste of time. This was more than balanced by the very good attendance at meetings during the last twelve months which averaged 22 per meeting, with a high of 30 in April and a low of 16 in May. The state of Mauritius philately with only one commemorative set, the new printing of one value of the Fish definitive, the number of politically inspired special covers, the transfer of the Mauritius Postal Museum and the general performance of Mauritius Post were reviewed.

- **Approval of Accounts ending 31st December 2008**

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts, a copy of which was affixed onto the Notice Board. The accounts were approved on a proposition of Ahmad N Maderbokus seconded by Ismael Kara.

- **Approval of Budget for the Year 2009**

The budget of Rs55,000 Income and Rs55,000 Expenditure for the Year 2009 was presented by the Treasurer and was approved on a proposition of Saoud Mauthoor seconded by Khan Mustapha.

- **Election of Committee Members & Office Bearers for the Year 2009**

The following were elected unanimously by acclamation (21 members present and 4 proxy votes) as members of the Management Committee for 2009: Mico Wilfrid Antoine, Judex Leu Adrien, Georges Gérard Louis, Ahmad Nasser Maderbokus, Saoud Mauthoor, Vikash Rupear, Tarkesswarnath Greedharrye, Assenje Ismael Kara and Kaliparsad Ramharai.

- **Appointment of Auditor for Year 2009**

Man Fan Lam Hang, FCCA, was appointed as Auditor for 2009 on a proposition of Mico Antoine seconded by Tarkesswarnath Greedharrye.

The Management Committee

The Management Committee was constituted on the same day as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| President – Mico Wilfrid Antoine | Vice-President - Nasser Ahmad Maderbokus |
| Treasurer – Judex Leu Adrien | Vice-Treasurer – Saoud Mauthoor |
| Secretary – Georges Gérard Louis | Vice-Secretary – Vikash Rupear |
| Members – Tarkesswarnath Greedharrye, Assenje Ismael Kara and Kaliparsad Ramharai | |