

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items 99.1

Founder Members : Yvan Martial - Mico Antoine. Secretary : Patrick Kwan
Address: P O Box 89 Quatre Bornes Mauritius

MARCH 99

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JANUARY - There was no meeting in January. Everyone and everything, including the Mauritius Philatelic Society, takes it easy in Mauritius in January.

FEBRUARY - The February meeting was held on Saturday 6th February at 2 p.m. in the school hall of College St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes. Many items were on display, even if some were not strictly philatelic, such as Mauritius Telecom phonecards, Mauritius banknotes, Mauritius Xmas cards, postcards and maxicards. The main display MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT RAILWAY put up by Mico Antoine was so extensive that Patrick Kwan's announced participation with "Registered Covers and Postal Stationery" had to be rescheduled for March. Shradanand "Sam" Seetapah*, Senior Postal Controller (retired) and former Travelling Postman was our guest and he told us about his work. Raj Boodhoo*, lecturer at the University of Mauritius, was our special invitee. Laurent Dindar, from Reunion Island, attended the meeting and was most impressed. He had some very nice things to say about the MPS in his *BREVES DE MAURICE* of *L'A.P.O.I. (L'Association Philatelique de l'Ocean Indien)*.

* - See News Bulletin No. 16 of April 1999.

MARCH - The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 6th March at 2 p.m. at College St Esprit. Society business was carried out as follows :

1. The minutes of the 1998 AGM were read and approved.
2. The report of the President and the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1998 were approved.
3. The budget for 1999 was approved.
4. The new Management Committee was elected.
5. The Auditor for the year 1999 was appointed.

Accumulated funds at 31st December 1998 stood at Rs 35,209.41, an increase of Rs 4,248.16 over the previous year. The audited accounts and balance sheet will be published in News Bulletin No. 16.

Patrick Kwan put up a display of "REGISTERED COVERS AND POSTAL STATIONERY" which included some very rare and very interesting pieces.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held at the residence of the President in Vacoas on 16th January, 20th February and 20th March 1999.

COLLECT THE STAMPS OF MAURITIUS

1999 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following were elected to serve on the Committee at the AGM held on 6th March 1999.

Yvan MARTIAL	President
Mico ANTOINE	Vice President
Tarkesswarnath GREEDHARRYE	Treasurer
Judex ADRIEN	Assistant Treasurer
Patrick KWAN	Secretary
Gaetan BOUCHET	Assistant Secretary
Sanjit TEELock	Member
Jean Marie HURON	Member
Mustapha KHAN	Member

Randhir MUNGRA did not stand for re-election.

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VISITORS TO MAURITIUS

Richard Lockyer from Bournemouth, UK visited Mauritius for 12 hours on Friday 29th January when the ocean liner "Oriana" docked at Port Louis on its round the world cruise. Richard of the King George VI Collectors Society and his wife Sheila were met by Sanjit Teelock.

Laurent Dindar from Reunion Island visited Mauritius in February 1999 and he attended our February meeting.

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NEW MEMBERS

The following joined the Society between January and March 1999.

Rajiv Kumar Panchoo of Pointe aux Piments
Alain Huron of Floreal

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POST OFFICES

TRANSFER OF FOND DU SAC POST OFFICE

As from Monday 18th January 1999, the Fond du Sac Post Office began to operate in new accommodation in Dallas Building nearly opposite its former location.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE - FOREST SIDE & GOODLANDS POST OFFICES

A Postal Services' Post Office Notice dated 1st March 1999 informed the public that Forest Side and Goodlands post offices had been "damaged by fire during the recent incidents which occurred in the country" and that postal services would not be available pending repairs to the buildings. At Forest Side a number of letters, incoming and outgoing, were burnt.

Civil disturbance (rioting and arson) broke out in Mauritius on Monday 22nd February 1999.

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NEW POST OFFICE - GRANDE MONTAGNE

A new post office at Grande Montagne in Rodrigues was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister for Rodrigues, Benoit Jolicoeur, on 22nd February 1999.

There are now five post offices in Rodrigues at Port Mathurin, La Ferme, Rivière Cocos, Grande Montagne..... and Mont Lubin which now operates from a building in Malabar where the sign on the building reads Malabar Post Office.

STAMPS

Tricentenaire de la naissance de MAHÉ DE LA BOURDONNAIS 1699-1999

The Mauritius Postal Services released a single commemorative stamp on 11th February 1999 on the occasion of the "Tricentenaire de la naissance de MAHÉ DE LA BOURDONNAIS 1699-1999". The Rs 7 stamp on stamp adhesive features the reproduction of the 13th December 1899 ultramarine stamp (SG 136) against a purple background.

The official First Day Cover priced at Rs 25 and affixed with a single Rs 7 stamp (Rs 18.00 for the envelope) is illustrated with "an oil painting of La Bourdonnais by Lepaille" and carries, in the lower bottom right corner, the Tricentenary Logo.

Designed by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau; printed by Cartor (France).

Endemic Plants

On 10th March a commemorative set of four stamps titled "Endemic Plants" was put on sale. The four stamps feature flowers rather than plants.

- Re 1 *Cloredendrom laciniatum* (bois cabri)
- Rs 2 *Senecio lamarckianus* (bois chèvre)
- Rs 5 *Cyclindrocline commersonii*
- Rs 9 *Psiadia pollicina*

The official First Day Cover offered at Rs 25 (Rs 8.00 for the envelope) is illustrated with flowers of the gravely endangered endemic Rodriguan *Ramosmania rodriguessi* plant.

Designed by Lynn Chadwick; printed by BDT International Security Printing Ltd (Ireland).

NEXT COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

A set of stamps titled "Mauritius through Artist's Eyes" is scheduled for June 1999

- Xavier Juge de Segrais (Sortie de Messe)
- De Rosnay (Photo Casino)
- Poilly (Country side)
- A Masson (Lavandière)

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The 1999 News Bulletin - out soon

THE PRESS

Le Mauricien - 9th January 1999 - Les services postaux transférés (Fond-du-Sac).
L'express - 27th January 1999 - Déposition de Peerun contre un Nigérian.*
Le Défi - 30th January 1999 - La liste des privilégiés.
Le Mauricien - 6th February 1999 - Poste opérationnelle. **
L'affiche - 6th February 1999 - Le Mauritius Postal Museum. Une collection de 50,000 timbres.
L'express - 9th February 1999 - Un facteur se suicide.
L'express - 10th February 1999 - A la découverte de La Bourdonnais.
L'express - 2nd March 1999 - Gde-Montagne, Rodrigues : nouveau bureau de poste.
Weekend - 14th March 1999 - 300eme anniversaire de Mahé de La Bourdonnais à travers les timbres.
Le Défi - 20th March 1999 - Un facteur allègue avoir subi des abus au travail.
L'express - 25th March 1999 - L'ICP vous répond - Colis pas pressé.

*Nigerian Scam Letter

**Grande Montagne; Mont Lubin-Malabar

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800B "1994" - WHERE IS IT?

Does the 800B Protection of the Environment 30 cents "1994" imprint date stamp exist?

In Stanley Gibbons catalogues mention is made of the stamp thus; "1994" Nos. 798B, 800B/1B, 804B;

We at the Mauritius Philatelic Society have never seen this stamp; we can confirm however the existence of 800B with imprint date "1995" which is (also) correctly mentioned in Stanley Gibbons catalogues.

Your editor and Sanjit Teelock discussed this issue and Sanjit wrote to Stanley Gibbons on 20th December 1998 offering to purchase an example of the 30 cents 800B with "1994" imprint date stamp..... the reply "We are out of stock. Sorry".

In March 1999 a UK based stamp dealer offered on page 21 of its MODERN BRITISH COMMONWEALTH STAMP sale the 800B as follows:"800B dated 1994 Mint £1. Used £1".

Sanjit faxed an offer on 22nd March 1999 for "800B 30c Imprint 1994 (not 1995) 10 copies mint and 3 copies used."

The dealer's undated reply reads:

"Many thanks for your fax - regret that we are unable to supply as we are out of stock - And the Crown Agents in London destroyed their stock on the 15th March".

Sanjit phoned the dealer to ask whether or not the dealer had actually seen any 800B 30c "1994" imprint stamp - the answer NO! Why offer something not to hand? - No answer.

Has anyone got an answer? Can anyone provide us with a 800B Protection of the Environment 30c "1994" imprint date stamp?

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

Edited by Mico W Antoine.

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