

1989-1999



MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items 99.2

*Founder Members : Yvan Martial - Mico Antoine. Secretary : Patrick Kwan
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JUNE 99

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

APRIL - The April meeting was held on Saturday 3rd April at 2 p.m. in the school hall of College St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes. Only 5 members responded to the invitation to display a minimum of four album leaves on any subject. The members were J Adrien, S Ragoo, S Teelock, P Kwan and M Antoine. J Adrien showed special covers signed by local dignitaries. S Ragoo showed British stamps of the Millennium, Royal Mail and Jersey Post Office. S Teelock showed Britannia stamps of Mauritius - the Perkins Bacon and the De La Rue printings. P Kwan showed specimen overprints, perforated specimen stamps of Mauritius and specimen postal stationery. M Antoine showed "Red Ink" - manuscript markings (crayon and pen) and date stamps, handstamps and franking marks struck in red.

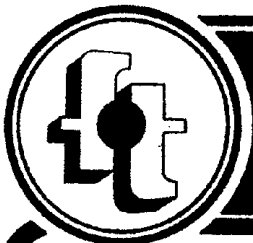
Attendance was poor, the Easter weekend may have been the reason; in Mauritius everybody goes off to the seaside at Easter.

MAY - The May meeting was held on Saturday 8th May at 2 p.m. at the usual venue. S Teelock put up a comprehensive display of Mauritius King George VI stamps. The 10th anniversary News Bulletin was distributed.

JUNE - The June meeting was held on Saturday 5th of the month at College St Esprit. A display of some of the exhibits prepared for the 10th Anniversary Expo was shown.

At every meeting a Spot Auction is held and items at fixed prices are on offer in the Purchase List. Covers, stamps and other material on offer are predominantly from Mauritius, Seychelles, BIOT and France. As from April the Spot Auction is held under a new regime - members make offers by putting their names next to the lot they wish to purchase. When more than one member go for the same lot an outbidding is held.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held at the residence of the President in Vacoas on 17th April, 22nd May and 26th June.

At the Management Committee meeting of 26th June, **Sanjay Motah** replaced **Mustafa Khan** on the Committee as per Article 5 para 7 of the Rules and Regulations of the Society. Mustafa Khan has stepped down because of professional obligations.

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VISITOR TO MAURITIUS

Member **Robert Marion** of Castelginest, France visited Mauritius during April. He called on the President and the Vice-President.

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NEW MEMBERS

The following joined the Society between April and June 1999.

Derek Payen of Rose Hill
Sandra Leung Kan Hing of Port Louis
Khemil Gobin of Rose Hill
Henry Loo Chit Moy of Beau Bassin
Joseph Wong Keng Yuen of Port Louis
Anil Hurdyal of Vacoas
Pravin Bhowanydeen of Quatre Bornes
Marilyn Osman of Vacoas
Marie Suzanne Seevathian of Rose Hill
Serge Agin of Entraigues, France

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OBITUARY

Gilbert Bolaram, caretaker at College St Esprit died as a result of a road accident at the end of May 1999. He was not a member of the Society. We have known him for nearly 10 years as he was always in attendance during our monthly meeting - preparing the classroom or hall before the meeting and putting away the Society display boards and cleaning up after the meeting.

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POST OFFICES

TRANSFER OF NOTRE DAME POST OFFICE

As from Monday 12th April 1999, the Notre de Dame Post Office began to operate in new accommodation situated on Royal Road, a few metres from its former location.

GOODLANDS POST OFFICE

The Goodlands post office resumed its operation as from Wednesday 12th May 1999. The Goodlands and Forest Side post offices were damaged by fire during the February 1999 riots. Forest Side post office is still closed at 30th June 1999.

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STAMPS

MAURITIUS

Mauritius Through Artists' Eyes

On 18th June a commemorative set of stamps announced in press releases and in the Postal Services posters as "Mauritius Through Artists' Eyes" and on the official First Day Cover as "Mauritius Local Artists" was put on sale. The four stamps feature :

- Re 1 *Les lavandières* - Hervé Masson
- Rs 3 *Le casino* - Gaetan de Rosnay
- Rs 4 *Les quatre éléments* - André Poilly
- Rs 6 *Sortie de messe* - Xavier Le Juge de Segrais

The official First Day Cover offered at Rs 25 (Rs 11.00 for the envelope) is illustrated with *Le dodo bleu* by Malcolm de Chazal.

Stamp borders designed by Nick Shewring; printed by Joh Enschede, Holland.

The official 1999 stamp programme announced Poilly's stamp as 'Country side'.

NEXT COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

The next commemorative set of stamps scheduled for September 1999 is tentatively titled OLD CHIMNEYS and will show chimney stacks of the following sugar factories:

- Mount
- Belle Mare
- Antoinette
- Alma

Anybody notice the price of Official First Day Covers of 1999?		
Tricentenaire Labourdonnais	- face value of stamps Rs 7.00	FDC Rs 25.00
Endemic Flowers	- face value of stamps Rs 17.00	FDC Rs 25.00
Local Artists	- face value of stamps Rs 14.00	FDC Rs 25.00

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BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

Ships Definitive

2p	Westminister (barque) 1837	60p	Mentor (East Indiaman) 1789
15p	Sao Cristovao (Spanish galleon) 1589	80p	H.M.S. Trinculo (brig) 1809
20p	Sea Witch (US clipper) 1849	£1	Enterprise (paddle-steamer) 1825
26p	H.M.S. Royal George (ship of the line) 1778	£1.15	Confiance (French privateer) 1800
34p	Cutty Sark (clipper) 1883	£2	Kent (East Indiaman) 1820

Designed by J Batchelor, printed by Walsall Security Printing, date of issue 1st February 1999.

AUSTRALIA '99 World Stamp Exhibition

60p Thermopylae (clipper)

Miniature sheet 150x75 mm designed by J Batchelor printed by the House of Questa. Date of issue 19th March 1999.

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SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVERS

EMTEL, the communications company that introduced the first cellular telephone service in Mauritius and the first commercial cellular phone service in the Southern Hemisphere on 29th May 1989 commemorated its 10th anniversary by issuing a special cover. The cover bears the 60 cents and the Rs 4 value of the "Post Office" 150th anniversary stamps of 1997 and the insert gives details of "a decade of innovations". A number of covers were offered to the Society. The cover is on sale at Emtel Customer Service Centre at Rs 25.00 each.

The MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY prepared a limited number of covers on the occasion of the 10th anniversary stamp exhibition. The cover is datestamped on 11th June 1999, the day the Society's 10th Anniversary Expo was inaugurated at Max Boullé Art Gallery in Rose Hill. Franked with a Rs 5 Endemic Plant stamp, the cover is cacheted with the special Expo rubber handstamp.

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THE PRESS

- L'Affiche (L'express)* - 10th April 1999 - La Pointe aux Canonniers fière de son phare.
- Le Mauricien* - 30th April 1999 - 12 kilos d'héroïne expédiés d'Allemagne par voie postale.
- Week-End* - 2nd May 1999 - Le suspect Z.J disposerait de plusieurs boîtes postales, dont une à Floréal.
- Le Défi Plus* - 8th May 1999 - Les mésaventures d'un facteur.
- Expresso (L'express)* - 9th May 1999 - Les collectionneurs.
- Le Défi Plus* - 15th May 1999 - At Goodlands - A damaged post office.
- Le Défi Plus* - 5th June 1999 - Allégation d'impolitesse au bureau de la P.L. Centre.
- Le Mauricien* - 5th June 1999 - Quatre timbres de peintres mauriciens.

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NEW SMART CARD

A new 55 units (Rs 50.00 + VAT) Mauritius Telecom Smart Card was put on sale as from May 1999. This card commemorates the 300th anniversary of the birth of François Mahé de La Bourdonnais and the issue is of 30,000 units.

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BANKNOTES

On 28th June the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, Basant Roi, announced that six new banknotes would be introduced on 1st July 1999 to replace those put in circulation on 30th October 1998. In the main the order of Tamil and Hindi inscriptions are re-established, some colours have been changed and other improvements made. The Rs 1000.00 Gaëtan Duval banknote which has been redesigned, recto and verso, will be released later. Full details will be published in the next News Items in September 99.

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

Edited by Mico W Antoine.

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