



MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items 99.3

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

SEPTEMBER 99

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JULY - The July meeting was held, exceptionally, on the second Saturday of the month 10th July at 2 p.m. at College St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue. The programme for the afternoon included a review of the 10th Anniversary Stamp Exhibition, a display of photographs of the inauguration of the exhibition and specially for our new members a talk on "Some dos and don'ts about stamp collecting".

Members also showed their own "Mauritius Through Artists' Eyes" covers, their exhibition covers and their photographs of our Expo. News Items 99.2 of June 1999 was distributed and all new members received back issues of the Society's Newsletters.

AUGUST - The meeting was held on Saturday 7th August at 2 p.m. at the usual venue. For the benefit of new members an "Introduction to Postal History" and "Thematics - How and where to start" were the subjects discussed at the meeting. A comprehensive five boards display of relevant covers, stamps and other material was put up.

SEPTEMBER - In September the meeting was held on Saturday 4th at 2 p.m. at College St Esprit. Two topics were shown and explained :-

- (a) Fiscals - Bills of Exchange, Internal Revenue and Insurance Stamps - by Sanjit Teelock.
- (b) B53 Obliterators - by Patrick Kwan.

During the third quarter of this year attendance has been very good with the September attendance being the highest for the last two years.

Sales of covers and stamps have also been good with a range of quality items offered on the Bid Board and in the Purchase List.

The October meeting will be a "Share what you know - Learn what you don't" get together.

In November the Society expects to have a guest lecturer to give a talk on Chimneys, accompanied by a video recording.

The year end recess means there will be no Society meetings in December 1999 and January 2000. The Committee has decided to repeat the December 1998 lunch experience at the same venue and under the same conditions. Overseas members (two have confirmed their year-end Mauritian holidays) are hereby advised to contact the Secretary at P.O Box 89 Quatre Bornes from 8th November 1999 to 31st January 2000 on their arrival should they be visiting Mauritius during this period.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held as follows:-

24th July at the residence of the President in Vacoas.

7th August at College St Esprit Quatre Bornes.

18th September at the residence of the President in Vacoas.

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VISITOR TO MAURITIUS

Member **André de Kervern** of Paris, France, visited Mauritius during July and August. He attended the August meeting.

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NEW MEMBERS

Three new members joined the Society between July and September 1999.

Herbert Stephen Louis of Rose Hill

Ahmad Nasser Maderbokus of Curepipe

Nadiah Beekun of Quatre Bornes (USA citizen)

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DEPARTURE FROM MAURITIUS

The United States of America ambassador to Mauritius, H.E. **Harold Geisel**, left the island in July at the end of his term of office. He joined the Society as soon as he arrived here three years ago. H.E. **Harold Geisel** passed on to the Society all his Linn's Stamp News, Global Stamp News, Scott Stamp Monthly, The American Philatelist as well as several catalogues.

Thank you, Sir, and all the best to you and yours. Keep in touch.

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MCA PROGRAMME

On Saturday 16th October the Mauritius College of the Air will show a 7½ minute recording made during the Society's June 1999 10th Anniversary Stamp Exhibition in its morning and evening programmes. This will be televised on M.B.C. Channel 3. Consult the official programme for details of actual times of transmission and record our Expo on your video.

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SADC DAY

A special rubber stamp to commemorate the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Day - 17 AUGUST 1999 - was used "for impressing on as many items of correspondence as possible posted and received at your post office during the period 12th August to 20th August 1999, particularly on 17th August 1999". The rubber stamps had to be returned to Headquarters by 25th August. (Circular letter PS/P/200 of 6th August 1999).

The boxed rectangular three lines mark measuring 25 x 58mm incorporates a SADC logo and the words MAURITIUS SADC DAY 17 AUGUST which are 3mm high. In Rodrigues only Port Mathurin post office was supplied with a SADC rubber stamp.

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STAMPS

OLD CHIMNEYS

On 17th September a commemorative set of stamps featuring four chimneys was released.

- Re 1 Old Chimneys - *Alma*
- Rs 2 Old Chimneys - *Antoinette*
- Rs 5 Old Chimneys - *Belle Mare*
- Rs 7 Old Chimneys - *Grande Rosalie*

A souvenir sheet of the four stamps with Mon Désert Alma Sugar Factory shown in the background is titled **Old Sugar Mills Chimneys**.

Two official First Day Covers, each priced at Rs 25, are (both) illustrated with a chimney at Beau Séjour.

Stamps and souvenir sheet designed by Nick Shewring; printed by The House of Questa.

The UK printed colour poster has the set titled **Old Chimneys**; the same title as on the stamps and in the official programme. The locally printed Government Printers (green) poster describes the stamps as **Old Sugar Mills Chimneys** the same description as on the souvenir sheet. The Postal Services press release of 3rd September 1999 announced the issue as **Old Sugar Mills Chimneys**.

The official 1999 stamp programme describes the Old Chimneys set of stamps as - Mount, Belle Mare, Antoinette and Alma.

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NEXT COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 20th CENTURY

The next commemorative set of stamps is scheduled for December 1999. The official programme describe these as:

- Emancipation of Women (Judge and Pilot)
- Special Sugars
- Sprayer with inset mosquito
- Centre de Conference Grand Baie with flags

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LIGHTHOUSES AEROGRAMMES

A new pictorial aerogramme illustrated with three lighthouses (SG 926 Ile Plate, SG 927 Pointe aux Caves, SG 928 Ile aux Fouquets) from the Lighthouses set of commemorative stamps of 1995 was put on sale on 16th June 1999.

In November 1998 the contract for the production of 1,000,000 units of these aerogrammes was awarded to ENSCHEDE of the Netherlands. 360,000 units had been delivered at mid August 1999, the balance to be dispatched on an agreed schedule.

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COLLECT THE STAMPS OF MAURITIUS

PRESS NOTICES

TEMPORARY CLOSURE - PORT LOUIS STATION POST OFFICE

As a result of an attempted burglary at Port Louis Station Post Office, Victoria Square, the public was advised by a press notice of 9th August that the post office "will be temporarily closed until further notice". The break-in occurred during the night of 5th August and the post office was closed as from 6th August.

Another press notice of 23rd August 1999 informed the public that Port Louis Station Post Office, Victoria Square, resumed its operations as from 21st August 1999.

FOREST SIDE POST OFFICE

A press notice of 25th August 1999 informed the public that Forest Side Post Office "will resume operations as soon as the repairs to the building are completed."

"In the meantime correspondence bearing the appropriate postage may be posted in the letter box of that office."

WEST AFRICAN FRAUD/419 LETTER SCAMS/NIGERIAN LETTERS

A police communiqué bearing the above title warned the Mauritian public about the "*advance fee fraud... operated by Nigerian fraudsters*".

The Society dealt with this subject in November 1998. See News Items 98.4 of December 1998. These scam letters continue to arrive. One addressed to a member's home address is "meter marked" **LOME RP 9 8 99 - Republique Togolaise** with a poor fraudulent purple rubber stamp strike. Earlier scam letters seen had fake Nigerian stamps with fake obliterations from Nigerian towns.

THE PRESS

L'express - 6th July 1999 - L'appel d'un facteur rejeté.
Le Défi Plus - 10th July 1999 - Des postiers dénoncent l'incompétence de leur supérieurs.
Impact News - 1st August - A la poste centrale; Un Roméo maniaque à l'oeuvre.
La Vie Catholique - 6th August - Maurice récompensé pour ses timbres.
Le Défi Plus - 21st August 1999 - ISO 9002 pour le bureau de poste de Curepipe.
L'express - 21st August 1999 - La poste transformée en une compagnie.
Scope - 25th August 1999 - Monstrueux et immoral.
L'express - 30th August - Timbre -poste : mémoire sur miniature.
Scope - 1st September - Overheated postman wears skirt (Holland).
L'express - 4th September 1999 - La gestion de la poste centrale critiquée.
Le Mauricien - 4th September 1999 - La FSSC réclame la révocation du Postmaster General
Le Défi Plus - 11th September 1999 - Les employés de la poste inquiets de leur sécurité d'emploi.
L'express - 15th September 1999 - Courrier.
Scope - 15th September 1999 - La vapeur "Governor Higginson"
L'express - 15th September 1999 - Poste - Des cheminées timbrées
L'express - 22nd September 1999 - Pointe aux Caves Lighthouse.

L'express - 1st August 1999 - Un "musée du train" crée à Mapou
L'express - 30th August 1999 - Le vieil homme et le cheval de fer.

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

Edited by Mico W Antoine.

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BANKNOTES

The redesigned Rs 1000. Sir Gaëtan Duval banknote was put in circulation on 24th August 1999 thus completing the new series of new banknotes that went in circulation on 1st July 1999. The new Rs 1000 banknote shows a smiling Sir Gaëtan Duval (replacing the scowling portrait on the former banknote of 30th October 1998) recto, and verso has State House (*Le Reduit*) replacing female sega dancers.

Other major modifications on all the new banknotes are :

- (a) the re-establishment of the order of Tamil and Hindi inscriptions,
- (b) the signatures of the new Governor and the new Managing Director of the Bank of Mauritius namely Messrs Basant Roi and B R Gujadhur replacing those of the former post holders Messrs Dan Maraye and B Gujadhur, and
- (c) the complete colour change of the Rs 100 banknote from green to pink.

Other modifications and security improvements have also been made.

A press notice of the Bank of Mauritius dated 3rd August 1999 states that -
“ Banknotes issued by the Bank prior to 1st July 1999 will cease to be legal tender as from 1st October 1999”.

On Thursday 30th September Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation television and radio announced the postponement of the “cease to be legal tender” deadline.

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THE MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

According to a report in *L'express* of Sunday 26th September, the Government reshuffle of Saturday 25th September detaches the Postal Services from the Ministry of Public Utilities and appends it to the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology.

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DAMAGED MAIL

Recently (date introduced unknown so far) “damaged” mail is delivered in a plastic bag with the following explanation printed in red:

“ *Dear Customer,*

We are sorry that the enclosed item has been damaged during transmission and has been received in bad condition.

Such damage occurs occasionally because of the vast volume of mail processed.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Best regards

Yours sincerely
MAURITIUS POSTAL SERVICES”

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**POST OFFICES AND POSTAL AGENCIES
MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES
AT 30th SEPTEMBER 1999**

1	BAIE DU CAP	54	PAMPLEMOUSSES
2	BAMBOUS	55	PETIT RAFFRAY
3	BEAU BASSIN	56	PETITE RIVIERE
4	BEL AIR	57	PHOENIX
5	BELLE ROSE	58	PITON
6	BELLE VUE MAUREL	59	PLAINE DES PAPAYES
7	BLACK RIVER	60	PLAINE MAGNIEN
8	BOIS CHERI	61	POINTE AUX SABLES
9	BON ACCUEIL	62	PORT LOUIS CENTRE
10	BOULEVARD PITOT	63	PORT LOUIS EASTERN
11	BRISEE VERDIERE	64	PORT LOUIS <i>MAIN POST OFFICE</i>
12	BRITANNIA	65	PORT LOUIS <i>PARCEL POST OFFICE</i>
13	CAMP DE MASQUE PAVE	66	PORT LOUIS STATION
14	CAMP DE MASQUE	67	PORT LOUIS WESTERN
15	CAMP DIABLE	68	PORT MATHURIN (<i>RODRIGUES</i>)
16	CAP MALHEUREUX	69	POUDRE D'OR
17	CASE NOYALE	70	QUARTIER MILITAIRE
18	CENTRAL FLACQ	71	QUATRE BORNES
19	CHAMAREL	72	QUATRE COCOS
20	CHEMIN GRENIER	73	REDUIT
21	COROMANDEL	74	RIVIERE COCOS (<i>RODRIGUES</i>)
22	CUREPIPE	75	RIVIERE DES ANGUILLES
23	DAGOTIERE	76	RIVIERE DU POSTE
24	D'EPINAY	77	RIVIERE DU REMPART
25	EAU COULEE	78	ROSE BELLE
26	FLACQ	79	ROSE HILL
27	FLOREAL	80	SAINTE HUBERT
28	FOND DU SAC	81	SAINTE PIERRE
29	FOREST SIDE	82	SAINTE CROIX
30	GOODLANDS	83	SEBASTOPOL
31	GRAND BAY	84	SOLFERINO
32	GRAND BOIS	85	SOUILLAC
33	GRAND GAUBE	86	SSR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
34	GRANDE MONTAGNE (<i>RODRIGUES</i>)	87	ST JULIEN D'HOTMAN
35	GRAND RIVER SOUTH EAST	88	STANLEY
36	LA FERME (<i>RODRIGUES</i>)	89	SURINAM
37	LALMATIE	90	TAMARIN
38	LAVENTURE	91	TERRE ROUGE
39	L'ESCALIER	92	TOMBEAU BAY
40	MAHÉBOURG	93	TRIOLET
41	MAPOU	94	TROIS BOUTIQUES
42	MARE D'ALBERT	95	TROU D'EAU DOUCE
43	MIDLANDS	96	UNION FLACQ
44	MOBILE POST OFFICE	97	VACOAS
45	MOKA	98	VERDUN
46	MONNERON HILL		
47	MONT LUBIN (<i>RODRIGUES</i>)		POSTAL AGENCIES
48	MONTAGNE BLANCHE	1	CLUNY
49	MONTAGNE LONGUE	2	CREVE COEUR
50	NEW GROVE	3	HENRIETTA
51	NOTRE DAME	4	LA LOUISE
52	NOUVELLE FRANCE	5	ROCHE BOIS
53	OLD GRAND PORT		

Source : MAURITIUS POSTAL SERVICES

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