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MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items 99.4

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DECEMBER 99

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

OCTOBER - The October meeting was held on Saturday 2nd October at 2 p.m. at College St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes. This was a special "Share what you know, Learn what you don't" meeting where members shared what they knew with each other. A wide range of subjects were discussed such as gums, watermarks, hinges, dry-prints, errors and varieties, etc... Many interesting covers and other philatelic and postal items were shown. Want lists were submitted and already many gaps have been filled. The Purchase List and Bid Board offered lots of items.

NOVEMBER - The November meeting was held on Saturday 6th of the month at the usual venue. Matters arising from the October meeting such as additional information or queries raised and actual physical examples and evidence of outstanding issues were shown or dealt with. Some "Nigerian Scam" letters and a South African newspaper report on the tragic demise of a "Mauritian" victim of such a scam were shown.

Raj Boodhoo gave an interesting talk on Chimneys with a vast range of his own photographs of Chimneys serving as backdrop. The video was not yet ready and will be shown at a 2000 meeting.

Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation Television (MBC-TV) covered the meeting.

Our Hindu members who were to celebrate Divali, the Festival of Lights, the next day brought along lots of Divali cakes and sweets.

A large range of covers and postage stamps as well as Fiscal stamps, Insurance stamps, Bill of Exchange stamps and other material were on offer at the last Society meeting of the Millennium.

DECEMBER - There was no Society meeting in December. Instead the Society lunch was held at Casa Pizza, Murphy Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 12.30 on Saturday 4th December 1999 for those who responded to the invitation. Each member brought along a bottle of wine and as we were not able to drink all the wine we have a stock of good wine left over. We now have a good reason to consider a mid-year Society lunch.

Photographs and more information on the December 1999 Society lunch will be published in the year 2000 News Bulletin of April 2000.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held as follows:-

9th October at the residence of the President in Vacoas.

20th November at the residence of the President in Vacoas.

4th December at Casa Pizza, Murphy Avenue, Quatre Bornes.

Our tenth year, 1999, has been a great year

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VISITORS TO MAURITIUS

The following overseas members visited the island during the fourth quarter of the year.

Neil Carpenter of Sussex, UK

Louis Laurenty of Comblain-au-Pont, Belgium

Markku Harkonen of Tranby, Norway

André de Kervern of Paris, France (his second visit this year)

All these members have been here before and are now regular visitors to the island.

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NEW MEMBERS

Two new members joined the Society between October and December 1999.

Vijay Kumar Gujadhur of Port Louis

Rafik Beekun of Quatre Bornes (USA citizen)

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2000 MEETINGS – 1st QUARTER

No meeting was held in January 2000.

The February meeting will be held on Saturday 12th February 2000 at College St Esprit, Quatre Bornes, as Saturday 5th is a public holiday – Chinese Spring Festival. The main subject of this meeting will be “The Mauritian Triangles – the inside story – and other Triangles”.

The March meeting will be held on Saturday 11th of the month as Saturday 4th March 2000 is a public holiday – Maha Shivaratee. This meeting will deal exclusively with the Annual General Meeting agenda.

Exceptionally the February and March meeting will be held on the second Saturday of the month. In the unlikely event, since it is the cyclone season, of Class II to Class IV warnings being in force on those dates, the meetings will automatically be re-scheduled for the following Saturday.

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ATTENDANCE

The attendance at the Society meetings since July 1999 has been very good with around one third of total membership attending. In the year 2000 let's all try to do better.

Attend your Society meetings as a lot of work goes into preparing them.

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PROSI

PROSI Magazine, published by the Public Relations Office of the Sugar Industry has on the cover of the October 1999 edition a reproduction of the Official First Day Cover of the **Chimneys Souvenir Sheet**; in the November 1999 issue, on page 33, the 1990 set of stamps of the **350th Anniversary of Introduction of Sugar Cane to Mauritius** (SG 832/5) is used for the article “*En feuilletant le PROSI Magazine*”; the December 1999 cover features the Rs 9 Special Sugars value of the **Achievements in the 20th Century** set.

The Mauritius Philatelic Society continues to collaborate with PROSI Magazine and we acknowledge the contribution of PROSI to Mauritian philately.

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POST OFFICES

Vallée des Prêtres Post Office

A new Post Office was opened at Vallée des Prêtres on 1st December 1999.

"The Post Office, housed in a multi-purpose building, situated on Bernardin de St Pierre Street of the locality provides the full range of postal transactions normally available at any standard Post Office, including Savings Bank and payments of Basic Retirement Pensions."

Forest Side Post Office

By a Post Office Notice dated 15 December 1999 and published in *L'express* on 16 December 1999 the public was informed that Forest Side Post Office had resumed operation as from Wednesday 15 December 1999.

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STAMPS

On 7th December 1999 a commemorative set of stamps featuring the following was released.

- Re 1 Eradication of Malaria – *Anopheline Mosquito*
- Rs 2 Emancipation of Women
- Rs 5 International Conference Centre
- Rs 9 Special Sugars

The Official First Day Cover priced at Rs 25 "*illustrates the use of satellite for communications*" (sic).

The Re1, Rs 5 and Rs 9 values were designed by Owen Bell and the Rs 2 value by Nick Shewring. The stamps were printed by Cartor of France.

The write-up (on the insert) identifies the Re 1 stamp as "**Anopheles Mosquito**" and not as **Eradication of Malaria** which is the main title on the stamp. Note the spelling *Anopheline* and **Anopheles**.

The Official 1999 Stamp Programme described the stamps as:

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

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MILLENNIUM POSTMARK

A Post Office Notice dated 22 December 1999 informed the public of the Millennium Postmark thus:

"To mark the end of this millennium and the beginning of the new one, the Postal Services will arrange to datestamp prepaid covers bearing names and address with the Philatelic services cachet bearing the dates 31 December 1999 and 1 January 2000.

Philatelists interested to obtain these postmarks are requested to send their prepaid covers to the Philatelic Bureau, Port Louis before noon on 30 December 1999.

All date-stamped covers will be delivered to addressees as from Wednesday 5 January 2000."

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EXPEDITED MAIL SERVICE (EMS)

By a Post Office Notice of 16 November 1999, the public was informed that EMS Service will be available at Port Louis Centre Post Office situated in the Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Jules Koenig Street, Port Louis with effect from Monday 22 November 1999.

As of that date EMS service was available from the following Post Offices in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Beau Bassin	Port Mathurin (Rodrigues)
Bel Air	Quatre Bornes
Central Flacq	Reduit
GPO Counter	Rose Belle
Goodlands	*SSR OE (for Freeport Operators only)
Grand Bay	Triolet
Port Louis Centre	Vacoas

* Sir Seewosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) Office of Exchange (OE)

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THE PRESS

- L'express (Expresso)* – 3rd October 1999 – Les plus affranchis.
L'express – 4th October 1999 – Manif des employés de la poste samedi.
L'express – 8th October 1999 – Contrefaçon – Deux faux billets de Rs 50 trouvés à la poste centrale.
Le Mauricien – 9th October 1999 – Décisions (Le conseil de ministres).
Le Défi Plus – 9th October 1999 – Où sont passées les lettres enregistrées?
L'express – 9th October 1999 – Service postaux. Célébrations prévues pour le 30 Octobre.
Le Défi Plus – 16th October 1999 – “Absurdité au service postal”.
Le Dimanche – 24th October – Les services postaux de l'An 2000.
L'express – 24th October 1999 – Atelier sur la modernisation des services.
Le Mauricien – 29th October 1999 – Un front commun des syndicats des postes constitué.
L'express – 30th October 1999 – Mare Tabac; A quand un bureau de poste?
L'express – 31st October 1999 – La colle des timbres et des enveloppes est-elle digeste?
L'express – 31st October 1999 – Hausse de tarifs postaux préconisée.
News on Sunday – 31st October 1999 – Going private....
Le Mauricien – 2nd November 1999 – KPMG propose la privatisation des services postaux.
Impact News – 21st November 1999 – Une enquête sur les agissements d'un haut responsable réclamée.
Weekend – 21st November 1999 – En raison d'une perte de courrier.
Le Défi Plus – 27th November 1999 – Manque de personnel à la poste de Rose Hill.
L'express – 4th December 1999 - Poste – Une fin de siècle bien timbrée.
Le Mauricien – 12th December 1999 – UPS Maurice reçoit le certification ISO 9002.
L'express – 23rd December 1999 – Emission de pièces pour les 150 ans de la CCI.
Le Mauricien – 24th December 1999 – Rareté philatélique. Cachet postal en date du 31 décembre et du 1 janvier.
L'express – 27th December – Rs 350,000 d'héroïne saisies à la poste centrale.

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

Edited by **Mico W Antoine.**

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STAMP PROGRAMME FOR 2000

The Postal Services Stamp Programme For 2000 has been published as under, with (a), (b), (c), (d); a ? after Handball? and the discipline Sailing.

150th Anniversary of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Issue Date: 25 January

Triangular Designs representing

- (a) Vision of Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- (b) Coat of Arms of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- (c) First Secretary of Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- (d) First President of Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Insects

Issue Date : March

- *Cratopus nigrogranatus*
- *Cratopus chrysochlorus*
- *Cratopus striga*
- *Cratopus flavomaculatus*

Olympic Games

Issue Date: June

- Judo
- Archery
- Handball ?
- Sailing

Personalities

Issue Date: September

- Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam
- Dr Idrice Goomany
- Alponse Ravaton
- A. Tank Wen

Achievements in the 20th Century

Issue Date: December

- Industrialization
- Regional Cooperation
- Energy
- Education

COLLECT STAMPS OF MAURITIUS

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MAURITIUS

-An invitation-

A London, UK, meter mark seen in Mauritius on a cover has in the value tablet; Great Britain Postage Paid HT92794J; the date (10.12.99) and place name (London SW1); the publicity slogan reads in two lines MAURITIUS - *An invitation-*.

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125th ANNIVERSARY OF U.P.U.

World Post Day Cover

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union a special commemorative cover was released by the Postal Services on Saturday 9th October 1999. This illustrated cover franked with four postage stamps (40cs **Inland Transport**, 60cs **Petits Métiers**, Rs 7 and Rs 8 **400th anniversary of the Dutch Landing**) was on sale at all post offices on 9th October only... at Rs 25 per unit.

Display of Postage Stamps World Post Day 1999

"To mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Universal Postal Union and the celebration of the World Post Day, the Postal Services will display postage stamps at the General Post Office Counter on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th October during normal office hours".

Postal Services Press Notice dated 7th October 1999.

Memorandum PS/PMG/44/Vol III

On 30th September 1999 the Postmaster General issued the following memorandum:

"Please have the maximum number of correspondence passing through your office marked with the enclosed rubber stamp from Wednesday 6 October to Saturday 9 October 1999.

The rubber stamp should be returned to me on Tuesday 12 October 1999 by registered post."

(Ed note: This rubber stamp was in use at some of the main post offices only.)

World Post Day Cachet

All overseas members *News ItemS 99.3* of September 1999 were posted by registered mail from Curepipe Post Office bearing the 9 October World Post Day cachet with registration identification rubber stamp CUREPIPE 31 and stamps cancelled with double circle cds 6 of 6 October 1999 from counter 6.

All local members *News ItemS 99.3* of September 1999 were sent under wrapper bearing the 9 October World Post Day cachet and Forest Side double circle circular date stamp of 7 October 1999.

The Forest Side cds was applied at Curepipe Post Office and not at Forest Side Post Office. Even if letters could be posted in the Forest Side letter box as from 25th August, servicing of these were carried out at Curepipe Post Office.

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EXCHANGES

Bernard Berte
Rue Octave Bataille,33
7.971 Basecles
Belgique

USED Mauritius for USED stamps of Belgium or several other countries

Maurice Flack
24 Holly Road
Wainscott
Rochester
Kent ME2 4 LG
England

FINE USED stamps of Mauritius with circular cancels in exchange for your collecting requirements where possible.