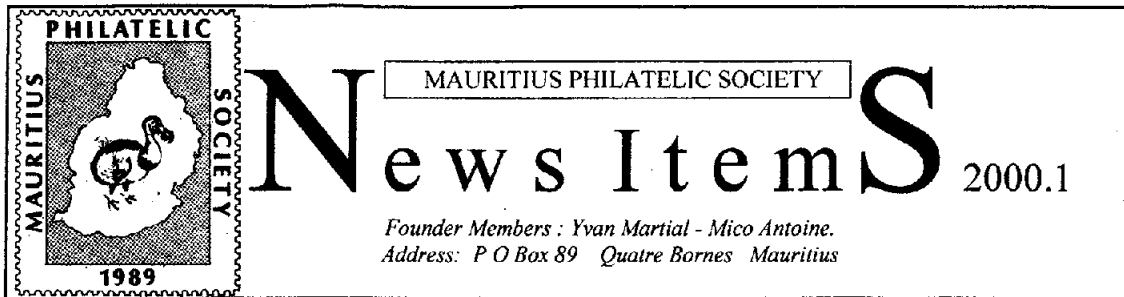


2000



MARCH 2000

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JANUARY - The Society did not hold a meeting during the first month of the new millennium.

FEBRUARY - The February meeting was held on Saturday 12th February at College du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m. This meeting was held on the second Saturday as the 5th February was a public holiday – the Chinese Spring Festival.

The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry 150th Anniversary commemorative stamps was the main topic. The first triangle stamps ever issued by Mauritius, the background story to its release, the advisory role of the Society (to the MCCI) and a collection of triangle stamps from South Africa, USA, Monaco, Kenya, Republik Maluku Selatan, Poland, Ecuador, Gabon, Hungary, Congo, “Free Croatia” and Patrice Offman’s original and final artwork (courtesy of MCCI) were shown and explained.

France and UK 1999 issues and some millennium material were also shown.

MARCH – The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 11th March 2000 at 2.00 p.m. in the school hall of College du St Esprit. The first Saturday of the month, 4th March was a public holiday – Maha Shivaratree.

The agenda for the AGM was:

- a. Approval of minutes of 1999 AGM.
- b. Report of the President for the year 1999
- c. Approval of Accounts ending 31st December 1999.
- d. Approval of budget for the year 2000.
- e. Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers for the year 2000.
- f. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2000.
- g. Any other business.

All the business of the Society were carried out at the AGM.

Patrick Kwan put up a display of Canada. Latest millennium material, such as items postmarked on 29.02.00, the first leap year of the new millennium were also shown.

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ATTENDANCE AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Attendance at the February and March meetings has been very high. Proceeds from the Bid Board and Purchase List have been excellent; good material have been on offer at very competitive prices. This bodes well for year 2000, the members and the Management Committee must be doing something right.

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2000

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held on 15th January, 19th February and 18th March at the residence of the President in Vacoas.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE YEAR 2000

At the AGM of 11th March, the following were elected to serve on the Committee for the year 2000/2001.

Yvan MARTIAL	President
Mico ANTOINE	Vice President
Judex ADRIEN	Treasurer
Pravin BHOWANYDEEN	Assistant Treasurer
Patrick KWAN	Secretary
Gaetan BOUCHET	Assistant Secretary
Sanjit TEELOCK	Member
Jean Marie HURON	Member
Ahmad Nasser MADERBOKUS	Member

T GREEDHARRYE and **S MOTAH** did not stand for re-election.

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VISITORS TO MAURITIUS

Roger MORITZ visited Mauritius from mid January to mid February. He met some members of the Society for lunch at Casa Pizza, Quatre Bornes on 12th February after which he attended the Society meeting before his departure for France.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS

Three new members joined the Society between January and March 2000.

John WILSON of West Sussex, UK
Malcolm HALL of Leeds, UK
Feizal NABEEBACUS of Port Louis, Mauritius

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BUYING - SELLING - TRADING

ERIC YENDALL – e-mail address : eyendall@aha.ru

Wants to buy King George VI material such as

- used King George VI 4c postal stationery wrapper.
- King George VI 12c postal stationery registered envelope used locally
- any King George VI postal stationery and censored covers either single items or accumulations.

AL BERTRAND – e-mail address : coeden@home.com

Wants to trade his used Belgium, Canada, Australia, France, USA for your MAURITIUS used definitives and commemoratives – by catalogue value or in packets of 100.

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2000
STAMPS

150th Anniversary of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry

On 25th January 2000 a commemorative set of stamps was released on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The first set of stamps of the new millennium are triangular in design and are the first triangular stamps issued in Mauritius.

- Re 1 Coat of Arms of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Rs 2 Unity Vision Service - Vision of Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Rs 7 Francis Channell First Secretary 1850-1872 of Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Rs 15 Louis Léchelle First President 1850 of Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Official First Day Cover priced at Rs 30 displays a picture of the façade of the Chamber's seat at 3, Royal Street, Port Louis.

The stamps were designed by Mauritian graphic artist Patrice Offman, whose name is misspelt by the Postal Services on their bright orange poster as Patrice Hoffman. The stamps were printed by Joh Enschede of Holland, and were produced se-tenant in sheets of 60 stamps with some interesting perforations and selvages on several stamps in the two panes.

The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry 150th anniversary commemorative stamps were printed in very limited quantities; the lowest printing for any recent commemoratives.

The quantities (made available to us) are as follows:

Re 1	510,000	Rs 2	35,220
Rs 7	35,220	Rs 15	35,220

At mid-March three values (Rs 2, Rs 7, Rs 15) were almost sold out.

BEETLES

On 29th March, a special set of stamps featuring the following was released.

- Re 1 *Cratopus striga*
- Rs 2 *Cratopus armatus*
- Rs 3 *Cratopus chrysochlorus*
- Rs 10 *Cratopus nigrogranatus*

On the stamps only the scientific names of the species are mentioned. However on the two posters announcing the stamps the title of the set is **INSECTS (BEETLES)**. The two Official First Day Covers are illustrated with *Cratopus flavomaculatus* and beneath the illustration is the set title **INSECTS (BEETLES)**.

Note that *Cratopus armatus* was not announced in the official programme and that *Cratopus flavomaculatus* which illustrates the cover was announced as the fourth stamp.

A miniature sheet incorporating the four stamps has a foliage border.

Two Official First Day Covers, one with the stamps and the other with the miniature sheet are priced at Rs 30 each.

The stamps were designed by Ross Watton and printed by The House of Questa.

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2000

NEXT COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

A set of four stamps will be issued in June on the occasion of the Olympics Games to be held in Sydney, Australia. The official Postal Services programme describes the designs as :

- Judo
- Archery
- Handball?
- Sailing

With a ? after Handball.... and in June we will find out what discipline Sailing is!

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The grapevine has it that the **Personalities** set scheduled for September is to be split into two. One set of four stamps will be devoted exclusively to the "Father of the Nation" Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, whose birth centenary falls this year. This event merits a full set (by Mauritian standards) and should have been foreseen by the competent authorities.

Another set is to be issued for the remaining three personalities, selected for ethnic balance as none of them are in the same league as S.S.R., Dr Idrice Goomany – Moslem social worker, Alphonse Ravaton – Creole *segatier*, A Tank Wen – Chinese trader. As the last two are from the General Population other ethnic groups may be justified in being felt left out, even if a fourth personality is brought in to establish some balance ...four stamps each set.

The grapevine also has it that the long overdue **FISH** definitive stamps, prepared as far back as and initially planned for release in 1996, will be released in October 2000.

Time will tell whether or not the rumours or local *palabres* are true.

THE PRESS

Le Mauricien – 6th January 2000 – Les employés attendent toujours leur uniformes.

Weekend – 9th January 2000 – Les sucres spéciaux à l'honneur.

L'express – 16th January 2000 – Hausse de 86% du courrier local.

Weekend – 16th January 2000 – De Louis Léchelle à Derek Taylor: la plus ancienne institution commerciale au service du pays – L'enveloppe du premier jour.

Le Mauricien – 17th January 2000 – Emission de quatre timbres le 25 janvier.

L'express – 18th February 2000 – Passer une lettre à la poste ne se fait plus.

Impact News – 20th February 2000 – Disparition des mandats postaux.

Le Défi Plus – 4th March 2000 – Courrier retardative à un homme d'affaires.

Le Défi Plus – 18th March 2000 – Vols à Poudre-d'Or Hamlet.

L'express – 18th March 2000 – La poste et l'état civil visités.

L'express – 23rd March 2000 – Paiement des factures de la CWA à la poste.

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CORRIGENDUM

News Items 99.4 of December 1999

Re: 2000 MEETINGS 1st QUARTER

The first line should read – No meeting will be held in January 2000 - instead of – No meeting was held in January 2000.

We were too quick off the mark.

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

Edited by **Mico W Antoine**.

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