



# MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

# News Items S 2000.2

*Founder Members : Ivan Martial - Mico Antoine.  
Address: P O Box 89 Quatre Bornes Mauritius*

**JUNE 2000**

## **MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS**

**APRIL** - The April meeting was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m.

Watermarks, E-mail stamp trading, Aerophilatelic material and Fly-specks were displayed and discussed. A collection of 1970 Lufthansa covers, including the complete set of the 24<sup>th</sup> April LH590 and the 25<sup>th</sup> April LH 591 First Flight Covers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> May stamps, including imperforate blocks, were shown and explained.

The first "News Items" of year 2000 was distributed.

**MAY** - The May meeting was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May in the school hall of Collège du St Esprit at 2.00 p.m.

Dots, Fly-specks and Bars was the main subject of the afternoon. Sanjit Teelock gave a talk on the various varieties of the 1935 Silver Jubilee Windsor Castle (Mauritius only) stamps designed by Harold Fleury.

Three video films, *L'Ile Maurice à travers ses timbres* (1991), Mauritius College of the Air – A Stamp Exhibition (1999), and *Bulthaupt in ... Mauritius* (1999) which contains some footage of the President being interviewed about Mauritian stamps (in German) were shown.

News Bulletin No. 17 of April 2000 was distributed

**JUNE** – The June meeting was held at the usual venue at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Judex Adrien showed his personalised covers made to commemorate various events many signed by personalities involved with the events commemorated.

Patrick Kwan showed old picture postcards of Mauritius.

Mico Antoine showed Rhodesia UDI (1966 - 1980) and spoke about the events prevailing in Zimbabwe at June 2000. Flowers from Monaco were shown as an example of how to present a thematic subject for the competition.

Also shown and discussed for the benefit of our newer members matters raised at the May meeting such as errors of design and other curiosities on Mauritian stamps were discussed.

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## **OCTOBER COMPETITION**

*The 2000 competition will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> October.*

**STAMPS + POSTAL HISTORY + THEMATICS + PICTURE POSTCARDS and more...**

**Compete and win prizes!!!**

2000

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June at the residence of the President in Vacoas.

Anil Hurdyal, who has assumed certain specific responsibilities has attended Committee meetings as from April 2000.

## NEW MEMBERS

Three new members joined the Society between April and June 2000.

**Yvon CUPIDON** of Mahé, Seychelles  
**M. CRIBIER** of Nantes, France  
**Maurice FLACK** of Rochester, England

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## EXCHANGE

**Saïd KURMAULLY**, of Mauritian origin, wishes to exchange material with fellow collectors as follows: Mauritius, Seychelles and Commonwealth countries. Stamps, covers, used envelopes, postal history, postcards, books and more.

Interested members can contact him at:

33 THE PARK  
TRE HARRIS  
MID GLAMORGAN  
SOUTH WALES, UK

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## LETTERS

The Society sometimes receives very special letters. Here is an extract from one such letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 2000.

...*"I need to ask you a certificate that my son was a member of the Society. I need it to submit for University application for my son"*... May the young man one day become the first Mauritian to obtain his Ph.D. in philately.

Another dated 19<sup>th</sup> December 1999 from a Czech philatelist after his first visit to Mauritius ... *"I found the grave of the Governor Gomm (quite neglected unfortunately) in Reduit"*... May the Governor rest in peace at Rotherhithe, England,... and at Reduit!

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## A LARGE VERMEIL FOR DAVE TARRY

UK member David Tarry won a Large Vermeil at The Stamp Show 2000 held at Earl's Court, London, for his entry "**MAURITIUS – The Sterling Period 1811-1877**" in the Postal History section. This was the first time that David has exhibited at international level.

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## COLLECT MAURITIAN POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

2000

## WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY

A temporary propaganda rubber handstamp was issued to eight post offices in Mauritius and one post office in Rodrigues for use on "the maximum number of correspondence (Inland and Foreign)... on 16 and 17 May 2000" only. The rubber stamps had to be returned to Headquarters on 18 May.

The handstamp read in three lines –

**World Telecommunication Day  
17 May  
Mauritius**

The nine post offices to which the handstamp was issued were :

Port Mathurin (Rodrigues)	Quatre Bornes
Rose Hill	Curepipe
Beau Bassin	Vacoas
GPO Sorting (Port Louis)	Goodlands
Central Flacq	

Very few of the propaganda marks have been seen on mail. From one source, on over 400 covers handled, not a single cover had been stamped. Of these 400 covers, over 75% were from the eight post offices in Mauritius to which the handstamp was supplied.

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## STAMPS

### SYDNEY 2000

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2000 a commemorative set of stamps featuring the following was released.

Re 1 Handball  
Rs 2 Archery  
Rs 5 Sailing  
Rs 15 Judo

The stamps were designed by Andrew Robinson and were printed by the House of Questa.

The Official First Day Cover priced at Rs 30 is illustrated with a "discus thrower". The special cancellation cachet "specially designed for application on the official first day cover only" incorporates, in the design, the Olympic flame.

## NEXT COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

### PERSONALITIES

No new development have been announced regarding the Personalities stamps scheduled for September 2000 apart from the information published in News Items 2000.1 of March 2000. -

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## THE MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

### TALK ABOUT US

### GET YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN UP

2000

## TELECOM SMART CARDS

In March 2000 Mauritius Telecom issued 30,000 Smart Cards on .... **Dutch Settlement in Mauritius**. The card, to which courtesy is extended to the MCB (Mauritius Commercial Bank) for the illustration, depicts an almost similar scene to the one from which the 15 cent 1978 "History of Mauritius" stamp SG 530 was adapted.

The Smart Card is of a Rs 100.00 value (excluding VAT/TVA) and is of 115 units.

In June 2000 a Rs 200.00 value, exclusive of VAT/TVA, 240 units Smart Card featuring a magnificent MAURITIUS KESTREL was put on sale.

40,000 units were produced in May 2000. The back of the card carries the logo of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, an appeal for support and a short story on "the Rarest Falcon in the world."

The Mauritian Kestrel has appeared on the following Mauritian postage stamps SG 324, 560 and 678-681.

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## THE PRESS

*Star* – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2000 – Un Postmaster perd toutes les clés d'un bureau de poste, y compris celle du coffre-fort.

*Le Mauricien* – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2000 – 'Waste Water Charges' – paiement refusé à la poste de Curepipe.

*Le Défi Plus* – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2000 – Un nouveau code postal en vigueur bientôt.

*L'express* – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2000 – Le code postal introduit en juin.

*News on Sunday* – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2000 – Problems aplenty at post office.

*L'express* – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2000 – Who cares ? Le temps suspendu à la poste centrale.

*Week End* – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2000 – Les chauffeurs des fourgons postaux désorientés.

*Le Dimanche* – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2000 – Bureau de poste new-look à partir de janvier 2001.

Style One-Stop-Shop: paiement de toutes les redéances et facilité fax, E-mail..

Lancement du code postale à base pilote à Curepipe le mois prochain

*Le Mauricien* – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2000 – Timbres mauriciens en vedette.

*Le Défi Plus* – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2000 – Les chauffeurs des fourgons postaux se plaignent.

*Le Defi Plus* – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2000 – La 'Post Office Savings Bank' maintient son taux d'interêt à 8%.

*L'express* – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2000 – Pas d'exode prévu vers la Poste.

*Week end* – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2000 – La couleur de l'encre.

*L'express* – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2000 – Les services postaux ne seront pas privatisés.

*L'express* – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2000 – Les Jeux Olympiques ornent les timbres.

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## AUGUST 2000

The normal monthly meeting will not be held on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Instead members will be visiting historical sites in the south east and weather permitting a boat ride to one of the islets off Mahebourg.

The outing is strictly for members only.

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

Edited by **Mico W Antoine**.

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2000

## News ItemS 2000.2

### HELDERBERG UPDATE

The “Helderberg”, a South African Airways Boeing 747, crashed in Mauritian waters on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1987. The aircraft was under the command of Davie Uys, the well known South African aerophilatelist, on a flight from Taiwan to South Africa via Mauritius. There were no survivors. Crash mail destined for Mauritius was recovered.

The “Helderberg” was in the news again in May and June. Here are some titles.

*Le Mauricien* – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2000 – La SAA transportait des armes et du matériel hautement explosif dans les années '80.

La veuve du commandant Uys aurait des informations ‘top secret’.

*L'express* – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2000 – Les familles mauriciennes poursuivraient la SAA.

*Le Dimanche* – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2000 – Rebondissement dans l'affaire du crash de l'Helderberg.

IATA pourrait sanctionner la SAA

“Nous avons ‘assassiné’ les passagers de l'Helderberg” confesse

Brian Walkins ancien senior route manager de la SAA.

*Le Mauricien* – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2000 – “Mon père savait probablement que le vol retour était une mission suicide” avance Pieter Uys

*L'express* – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2000 – L'enquête réouverte la semaine prochaine.

*L'express* – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2000 – Rapport préliminaire dans deux semaines.

*L'express* – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2000 – Crash de Helderberg: Pas de nouvelle enquête.

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### MOBILE POST OFFICE SERVICE

A press notice of 12 June 2000 from Post Office Headquarters, Port Louis, advised the public that “the Mobile Post Office Service on the Grand River South East / Mahébourg sector has been restored since 8<sup>th</sup> June 2000”... after a two-year break.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 1998 the Mobile Post Office van was involved in a fatal accident and the service was suspended as from that date.

The Mobile Post Office serves the following localities with some basic postal services including Savings Bank facilities:

Rivière des Créoles, Bois des Amourettes, Anse Jonchée, Bambous Virieux, Petit Sable, Grand Bassin, Quatre Soeurs, Deux Frères and Beau Champ.

The base of operation of the Mobile Post Office is Mahébourg.

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### ADDITIONAL (NON) POSTAL SERVICES

In its quest to provide “one-stop-shop” facilities to the population and in addition to providing normal postal services the Mauritius Postal Services has taken on additional functions in this case the collection of water bills years after this service has been abandoned by or withdrawn from commercial banks.

Water bills collection was introduced at Vacoas and Solferino Post Offices on 21<sup>st</sup> March and at Curepipe and Quatre Bornes on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2000. Goodlands, Triolet, Rivière du Rempart, Bambous, Port Louis Eastern Suburb (Plaine Verte) and Beau Bassin Post Offices have been providing this service for some time.

2000

On 19<sup>th</sup> April a press notice from the Waste Water Authority advised the public that payment of waste water tax (green colour) will be accepted at Port Louis Eastern Suburb (Plaine Verte), Beau Bassin, Quatre Bornes, Vacoas and Curepipe. (See **THE PRESS**)

This measure was introduced because post offices were refusing to accept Waste Water Authority payments on behalf of the Ministry of Public Utilities.

*Ed note:* The Central Water Authority and the Waste Water Authority fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Utilities to which the Mauritius Postal Services was once attached. The Mauritius Postal Services is now attached to the Ministry of Telecommunication and the management of the Central Water Authority has been or is in the process of being privatised.

The Postal Services in Mauritius is already a collecting agent for Mauritius Telecom and a paying agent for the National Pensions Scheme as well as providing certain services to some government departments.

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### POSTCODE

Despite press reports, the introduction of post codes in Mauritius, with a pilot project reported to have been introduced in Curepipe in June 2000, did not materialise.

Our source has it that the proposed post code, in addition to the full address, will have an eight digit numeral and alphabet combination as follows ( i ) district ( ii ) locality ( iii ) post office ( iv ) personal number thus 1 23 AB 456.

It is unclear whether or not additional numerals are to be used, e.g. for Rodrigues the 10<sup>th</sup> district or how 26 letters of the alphabet will be utilised for 100 plus post offices without confusing everybody, postmen included.

We will keep members posted.

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