



MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items

S 2000.3

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SEPTEMBER 2000

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JULY - The July meeting was held on Saturday 8th July at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m.

Sports and Olympic stamps were displayed. The notice board was taken up completely with articles and material relating to Stamp Show 2000- London.

Nadiah Beekun was the main speaker as July was her's and Rafik's last month in Mauritius before returning home to Nevada, USA. Rafik Beekun is a local (Mauritian) boy made good and was here for a year as a Fullbright scholar. Nadiah told us that she and her family thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Mauritius. She said that the Society is a great society where she has learned much. Nadiah was particularly impressed with the open approach adopted by the Society such as the use of Linn's and Scott's (American) articles for promoting philately.

AUGUST - The Society did not hold the usual monthly meeting. Instead a strictly members only outing was organised for August 2000.

At 10.30 a.m. on Saturday 5th August, a convoy of four vehicles left Manhattan Shopping Complex in Curepipe for Mahébourg.

In Mahébourg members visited the newly re-opened and re-named National History Museum (formerly the Naval Museum), the Fishery Post (*debarcadère*), Place de Regatte, the Magistrate Court, *L'abreuvoir*, the old railway shed, the Dutch Landing site at Ferney, Frederik Hendrik Museum and the ruins at Vieux Grand Port and Bois des Amourettes.

Sixteen members signed up for the outing. Eleven turned up. Those who did not come missed out on a very nice time – super weather, good food and snacks, great fun and lots to see.

SEPTEMBER – The September meeting was held on Saturday 2nd at College du St Esprit, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m.

Mico Antoine showed a wide range of “Stampless Covers” or covers without postage stamps; commercial meters, Postal Services official covers, various Government departments printed window envelopes and officially authorised free frankings. Additional covers were brought along by Pravin Bhowanydeen and Dr Nasser Maderbokus.

MARCOPHILY and PHILOMETRY were the main subjects of the afternoon.

Also shown CONCORDE British and French first flight covers, many other flown covers, Concorde meter marks, cachets, postage stamps and the Mauritian Concorde cover.

The Concorde may never fly again commercially and Concorde material may become highly desirable.

The crash killed a Mauritian hotel maid – on the ground.

2000

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held as follows:-

July - on the 15th at the President's residence in Vacoas.

August – on the 5th at Bois des Amourettes on the south east coast.

September – on the 18th at 88 Club Road, Vacoas.

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MEMBERS NEWS

Saïd KURMAULLY of South Wales UK has become a member of the Society.

Maurice FLACK of Rochester, England who holds office in three philatelic societies sent us the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Bulletin. It was shown to members at the September meeting.

David NORMAN from New Zealand was a student at College du St Esprit in the 1960s and has lived in Quatre Bornes. His residence in Taradale, Napier is named QUATRE BORNES.

Andre DE KERVERN was in Mauritius in August.

Patrick KWAN was on leave visiting Canada during August.

Seesambah RAGOO and **Idriss NUJJOO** were on holiday in the UK during July and August.

Jean DEQUAIRE has been in Antalaha northern Madagascar for the last few months.

Etienne SINATAMBOU was an unsuccessful Labour Party candidate in the General Elections held on 11th September. He stood in constituency No. 15 – La Caverne/Phoenix and finished 5th in a field of 23.

Hilary YIP TONG stood as an Independent candidate in the General Elections. He was unsuccessful in constituency no. 5 – Pamplémousses/Triolet, where he stood against the Prime Minister and finished in 13th in a field of 34.

The Society has had a Cabinet Minister, a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and a couple of unsuccessful parliamentary candidates amongst its members.

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EXCHANGE

Member **Markku HARKONEN** of KORSPLASSEN 24, 3408 TRAMBY, NORWAY wishes to exchange stamps with other members. He will reply to all letters.

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NEW MINISTER

The new government has appointed the Honourable Pradeep Jeeha as Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology. The Postal Services falls under the responsibility of this ministry.

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ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETINGS

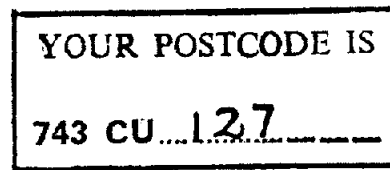
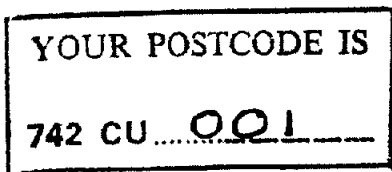
2000
POST CODE

The Post Code scheme which is being introduced to facilitate the identification and the sorting of postal items was launched in Curepipe on 24th July 2000.

The Curepipe Post Office delivery area has been divided into two Municipal areas and 127 blocks and has been allocated the following alpha/numeric characters.

- a) 7 – the official code for Plaines Wilhems
- b) 42 and 43 – the two Municipal areas
- c) CU – the code for Curepipe Post Office
- d) 001 to 127 – the block where the addressee is located

The Post Code following the full address in the Curepipe delivery area is composed of eight numerals/alphabets from 742 CU 001 up to 743 CU 127.



As from 27th July, two rubber stamps (actual size as above) have been applied to mail advising addressees of their post code.

The scheme will be gradually extended to other regions including rural areas where the characters will represent the Village Council area.

Curepipe Post Office delivery area is a relatively small area as three other post offices Forest Side, Floreal and Eau Coulée are located nearby. The delivery area has six walks. The six walks have been subdivided into 127 blocks and are serviced by six postmen.

[For comparison the Quatre Bornes delivery area has fifteen walks and sixteen postmen – walk six has two postmen. La Louise (Postal Agency) and Belle Rose (Post Office) deliveries are made from Quatre Bornes post office and there are no other post offices in the Quatre Bornes area.]

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SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT (SADC) DAY – 17 AUGUST 2000

The SADC rubber stamp was used again in August at several post offices in Mauritius and in Rodrigues -
...for impressing on as many items of correspondence as possible posted and received at your office during the period 11 August to 17 August 2000, particularly on 17 August 2000 "...

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*We take this early opportunity to wish all members
a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year*

2000

STAMPS

PERSONALITIES

The initial Personalities set of stamps was officially announced for September 2000. The set was then amended by removing the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam stamp. This action was followed by the announcement of a four stamp set for the Birth Centenary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam for 18th September 2000.

The Personalities set was then amended again by including a new personality, Anjalay Coopen, to replace SSR so as to “establish some balance... four stamps each set” as predicted in our March 2000 “News Items”. The new Personalities set will now be issued in December 2000, will have some gender and ‘community’ balance and will portray:-

- Ti-Frère –Alphonse Ravaton
- Idrice Goomany
- Ah Fan Tank Wen
- Anjalay Coopen

Four distinct Mauritian ethnic groups are each represented by a Creole, a Muslim, a Chinese and a Hindu personality.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 20th CENTURY

This set of stamps featuring four themes

- Industrialisation
- Regional Corporation
- Energy
- Education

officially announced for December 2000 has been rescheduled as the fifth set for year 2001.

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THE PRESS

Le Défi Plus – 1st July 2000 – La poste échappe aux griffes de la privatisation.
Impact News – 2nd July 2000 – Retrouvez les First Day Covers sur l’internet.
Le Défi Plus – 29th July 2000 – Une lettre destinée à Cité Briqueterie, Sainte Croix, transite par l’aéroport SSR.
Le Mauricien – 1st August 2000 – Des timbres-poste de SSR réceptionnés bientôt.
Le Défi Plus – 5th August 2000 – Un timbre à l’effigie d’Anjalay Coopen 2001
L’express – 14th August 2000 – Comme un colis à la poste.
Le Mauricien – 18th August 2000 – Management of Postal Services.
L’express – 24th August 2000 – Menace d’action syndicale à la poste.
Le Défi Plus – 26th August 2000 – Les postiers expriment publiquement leur frustration le 1er septembre prochain.
Le Mauricien – 31st August 2000 – Du haschisch dans du chocolat découvert à la poste centrale.
News on Sunday – 3rd September 2000 – Frustration in the mail.
News on Sunday – 3rd September 2000 – Drugs in chocolate boxes
Le Mauricien – 16th September 2000 – SSR : centenaire en 4 timbres-poste.

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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 2000.3

**STAMP PROGRAMME 2000
(ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS)**

BIRTH CENTENARY OF SIR SEEWOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM

A set of four commemorative stamps were "officially" released on 18th September, on a day which has been specially declared a public holiday in Mauritius for year 2000.

Only three outlets, Port Louis (Counter) Post Office, Bel Air Post Office and the Philatelic Bureau in Port Louis were opened from 8.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. to sell stamps, the official FDCs and to service covers.

On 19th September the stamps and official First Day Covers were put on general sale at post offices throughout Mauritius and Rodrigues in greatly reduced numbers and were promptly sold out.

The stamps portray Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam as follows:

- Re 1 – Welcoming Mother Theresa, 1984
- Rs 2 – Elected Member of the Legislative Council, 1984
- Rs 5 – Student, London, 1921
- Rs 15 – First Prime Minister, 1968

The stamps were designed by Ross Watton and printed by Cartor of France.

The official First Day Cover is illustrated with "the official logo of the Centenary Celebrations of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam in Mauritius" and is priced at Rs 30.

FISHES OF MAURITIUS

Further additions and amendments to the 2000 stamp programme have been announced as follows:

On 9th October 2000, to coincide with World Post Day, a new Fish definitive set of twelve postage stamps will be released. The denominations are 50c, Re1, Rs 2, Rs 3, Rs 4, Rs 5, Rs 6, Rs 7, Rs 8, Rs 10, Rs 15 and Rs 25.

There are also three miniature sheets composed of the following values:

- (1) 50c, Re 1, Rs 2, Rs 25
- (2) Rs 3, Rs 5, Rs 6, Rs 15
- (3) Rs 4, Rs 7, Rs 8, Rs 10

In a move targeted at the collector's wallet the issue will include:

The set of 12 postage stamps	Rs 86.50
FDC (set of three at Rs 35 each)	Rs 105.00
Souvenir Sheets (set of three)	Rs 86.50
Souvenir sheets on FDC (set of three at Rs 35 each)	Rs 105.00

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

In a circular dated 28 June 2000 ref PS/FD/10/E from the Philatelic Bureau, Port Louis, announcing the **FISHES OF MAURITIUS** definitive, a "Stamp Pack price to be informed later" (*sic*) is also mentioned.

"Gibbons Stamp Monthly" September 2000 announced the set as **NEW DEFINITIVE – FISH : OCTOBER.**

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2000

STAMP PROGRAMME 2001

Five sets of commemorative stamps are to be issued in 2001 as follows:

- Textile Industry
- Endemic Trees
- Bicentenary Baudin's Visit
- Petit Métiers – 2nd series
- Achievements 20th century

The Achievements set is carried over from year 2000 and will feature:

- Education – Ecole Hôtelière
- Development of Outer Islands – Electrification
- Development of Industry and Commerce – Logos
- Regional Cooperation – Indian Ocean Rim

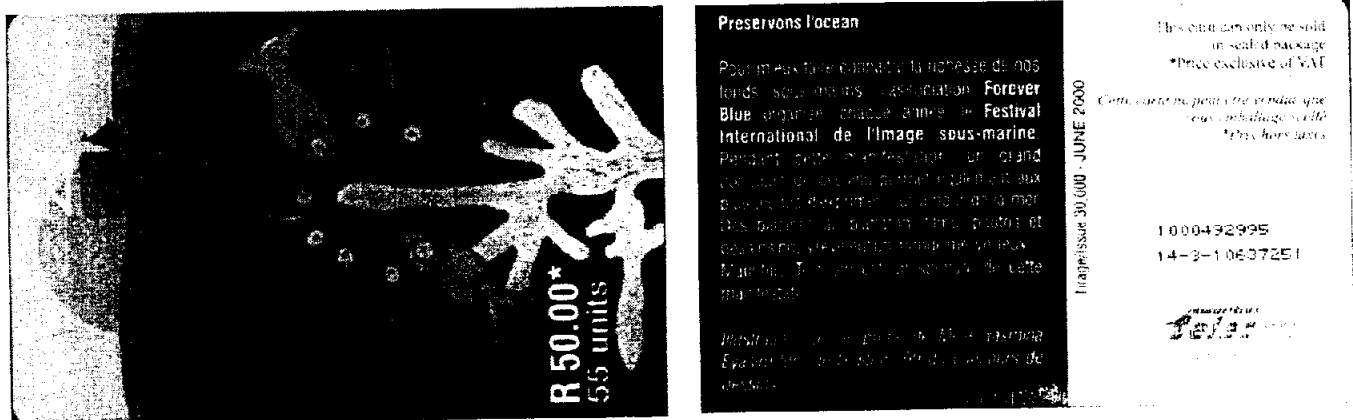
FDC – Illustration – Cultural Life - Interior Port Louis Theatre.

The 2001 Stamp Programme is published with the usual reserve. During the last few years the announced Stamp Programmes have been subjected to many changes – particularly in this current year.

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TELECOM SMART CARDS

In June 2000 Mauritius Telecom re-issued 30,000 units of the *Préservons l'océan – Forever Blue* Smart Card. The difference between the first issue and the new one can be identified by the dates printed on verso.



Tirage/Issue 30.000 - DEC 1999

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DECEMBER 2000 / JANUARY 2001 ACTIVITIES

Unlike previous years, a special society meeting will be held in December and some kind of get together is scheduled in January for the benefit of overseas members visiting the island during December or January and who may wish to attend our monthly meeting. Overseas members who are planning to be in Mauritius in December/January are kindly requested to get in touch with the Secretary.

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