



MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

News Items

S 2000.4

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DECEMBER 2000

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

OCTOBER - The October meeting was held on Saturday 7th October at Collège du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m.

Patrick Kwan put up a display of his Year 2000 acquisitions composed mainly of World War II military censored covers and early picture postcards. A wide range of stamps and covers were on offer as well as Elizabethan control blocks of four in the Purchase List. Material on the Bid Board included errors and varieties as well as used and unused postal stationery.

NOVEMBER - The annual members only competition was held on Saturday 11th November at 2.00 p.m. at College du St Esprit. Eight entries were received.

Pravin Bhowanydeen - Indian FDC and Stamps
Gaetan Bouchet - South Africa 1994
Anil Hurdyal - Birds of the World
Patrick Kwan - Civil Censorship of Mauritius
Judex Adrien - Cacheted and Signed Special Covers
Sanjit Teelock - Seychelles Colony of Mauritius
Stephen Louis - France
Mico Antoine - The Society Outing August 2000.

The overall winners from votes cast by members and visitors were first Sanjit Teelock and joint second Pravin Bhowanydeen and Anil Hurdyal. Special prizes were awarded to Stephen Louis and Anil Hurdyal.

DECEMBER - The last Society meeting for the first year of the new millennium was held on Saturday 2nd December at the usual venue and at the usual time. To close the year members were invited to bring along any items from anywhere on any subject released during year 2000. All the stamps and covers of Mauritius issued during 2000 (less the still to be issued Personalities set) were shown and reviewed. Other countries that were well represented were the UK, France, Canada, South Africa and BIOT.

The Bid Board offered Mauritius postal stationery and a wide range of stamps, covers and some philatelic accessories (clear and black stamp mounts) were on sale from the Purchase List.

Neil Carpenter from the UK and Louis Laurenty from Belgium attended the December meeting.

SOCIETY LUNCH

Fourteen members turned up for the annual December members lunch at *Dragon Vert Restaurant* Louise at 12.30 p.m. on 9th December. Overseas members Neil Carpenter and André de Kervern attended. The menu : Crispy Chicken, Prawn in Batter, Spring Roll, Special Fried Rice, Fish in Ginger Sauce, Squid in Shi Thuan Sauce, Chicken Chop Suey, Ice Cream and lots of wine.

POSTAGE STAMPS 1ST QUARTER 2001

The official postage stamp programme for the 1st quarter of 2001 is as follows:

January – Textile Industry - 4 stamps – Computer, Pull-over, Tee-shirt, Embroidery.

February – Abolition of Slavery and Termination of Indentured Labour - 1 stamp - Composition by local artists.

March – Natural History Trees - 4 stamps - Bois Puant, Bois d’Ebene, Manglier des Hauts, Bois d’Eponge.

The Slavery/Indentured Labour stamp is a political addition to mark a new public holiday as from year 2001 namely the Abolition of Slavery on 1st February; the Indentured Labour bit is inappropriate and is unrelated to the new public holiday as the date of this event (if it is to be commemorated) is 2nd November.

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STAMPS 2000

FISHES OF MAURITIUS

On 9th October 2000 the “**Fishes of Mauritius**” definitive set of twelve stamps were issued as follows:

Value	Local name	Scientific name	Family
50cs	Cateau	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>	<i>Scaridae</i>
Re 1	Vielle	<i>Cephalopholis sonnerati</i>	<i>Serranidae</i>
Rs 2	Licorne	<i>Naso brevirostris</i>	<i>Acanthuridae</i>
Rs 3	Capitaine	<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>	<i>Lethrinidae</i>
Rs 4	Ange	<i>Centropyge debelius</i>	<i>Pomacanthidae</i>
Rs 5	Débouetteur	<i>Amphiprion chrysogaster</i>	<i>Pomacentridae</i>
Rs 6	Pavillion	<i>Forcipiger flavissimus</i>	<i>Chaetodontidae</i>
Rs 7	Chirurgien	<i>Acanthurus leucosternon</i>	<i>Acanthuridae</i>
Rs 8	Laffe Volant	<i>Pterois volitans</i>	<i>Scorpaenidae</i>
Rs 10	Anguille	<i>Siderea grisea</i>	<i>Muraenidae</i>
Rs 15	Requin	<i>Carcharhinus wheeleri</i>	<i>Carcharhinidae</i>
Rs 25	Voilier	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	<i>Istiophoridae</i>

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

Three Official First Day Covers with four stamps per cover and another three Official First Day Covers each with a miniature sheet containing four stamps per cover are all illustrated with the same drawing. The official FDC cancellation cachet shows a Sea Horse.

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PERSONALITIES

A set of four commemorative stamps were released on 13th December featuring four **Personalities** from four distinct Mauritian ethnic groups.

Re 1 Affan Tank Wen (1842-1900)

Rs 5 Alphonse Ravaton (1900 – 1992)

Rs 7 Idrice Goumany (1859-1889)

Rs 9 Anjalay Coopen

Depicted in order are Chinese community leader, *Ti Frère* Creole “Le Roi Séga”. Moslem Medical doctor and Indo- Mauritian “Labour martyr”.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held as follows:-

October – on Saturday 14th October at 88, Club Road, Vacoas

November – on Saturday 11th November at the President's residence in Vacoas

December – on Saturday 9th December at *Dragon Vert Restaurant* in La Louise

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TRANSFER OF POST OFFICES

Petite Rivière

As from 16th October 2000 Petite Rivière Post Office began to operate in the renovated ex-village market building situated opposite the Police Station.

Redit

As from 18th December 2000 Redit Post Office began to operate from a newly constructed building situated almost opposite the building it previously occupied. The old Redit Post Office occupied the whole of the small building which was once the Governor of Mauritius private railway station.

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WORLD POST DAY

On the occasion of World Post Day on 9th October 2000 an exhibition of stamps was held at the Postal Museum and at the General Post Office in Port Louis from 5th to 9th October excluding Sunday 8th.

World Post Day rubber stamps were used from Thursday 5th October to Monday 9th October at several post offices.

The “**Fishes of Mauritius**” definitive set of postage stamps was issued on 9th October, World Post Day.

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DEFINITIVE ON ENVIRONMENT

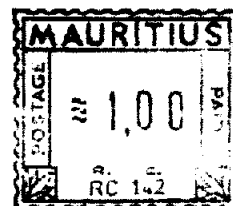
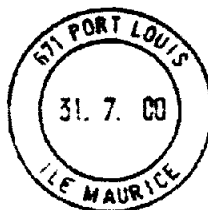
From Circular Instruction No. 30/2000 reference PS/FD/952 dated 29th September 2000.

Item 5. “ All unsold postage stamps of the current definitive on Environment should be returned to Headquarters as a remittance to the Postmaster General by first available mail on Tuesday 10th October. These stamps will still be available at the Philatelic Bureau and Postal Museum only.”

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METER MARK – ILE MAURICE

A new meter mark struck in red reading “671 PORT LOUIS ILE MAURICE” from B.C.M. (Secretaries) Ltd of Chaussée, Port Louis is the first such meter mark using the French Ile Maurice instead of the traditional Mauritius. Earliest date seen is 31.7.00; anyone know of an earlier date?



The stamps were designed by Ray Hutchins and printed by the House of Questa..

The Official First Day Cover is illustrated with a composite drawing incorporating an Abacus, a *Ravane*, a Stethoscope and a Sickle described as “the tools and instruments associated with the personalities”. The musical instrument associated with *Ti Frère* is the “*triangle*” and not the “*ravane*”.

Note: the spelling of the names Affan and Goumany on the stamps and the missing dates on the Rs 9 stamp.

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TELECOM SMART CARDS

A new Smart Card featuring the 15th Century Portuguese vessel “Sao Gabriel” and a map to mark the “500th anniversary of the discovery of Mauritius” was put on sale in October. The card is of 115 units, bears the date August 2000 and is an issue of 30,000 units.

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THE PRESS

- Le Défi Plus* – 7th October 2000 – *Le World Post Day* sera célébré le 14 octobre.
Le Mauricien – 7th October 2000 – Lancement d’une série de timbres sur les poissons locaux.
L’express – 11th October 2000 – La frustration s’installe chez les postiers.
Le Mauricien – 12th October – Le FCSP réclame la démission du Top Management.
L’express – 12th October 2000 – Un atelier de travail sur le service postal bientôt.
L’express – 12th October 2000 – Une lettre perdue qui reste lettre morte.
Le Défi Plus – 14th October 2000 – Les syndicats des postiers ont rencontré leur ministre de tutelle mercredi.
L’express – 15th October 2000 – Des lettres de l’étranger ouvertes.
Week End – 29th October 2000 – Un nouveau timbre pour le 1^{er} février.
Le Défi Plus – 11th November 2000 – Une lettre destinée à un habitant de Camp Diable déposée dans une boîte aux lettres à La Tour Koeing.
Le Défi Plus – 18th November 2000 – Certains officiers réclament un enquête de l’ECO.
L’express – 25th November 2000 – La poste livrera des livres audio gratuits.
L’express – 26th November 2000 – Est-il dangereux de lécher des timbres ?
Le Défi Plus – 2nd December 2000 – Une paralysie totale de service postal envisagée
Le Défi Plus – 2nd December 2000 – Le ministre Jeeha « *Faire de la poste une self financing organisation* ».
Le Défi Plus – 2nd December 2000 – Le *Postmaster General*, Pritlall Luckana « *La poste fait face à un problème d’absenteisme.* »
Le Défi Plus – 2nd December 2000 – En l’an 2000 655 localités pas desservies par le service postal.
Le Défi Plus – 2nd December 2000 – Atelier de travail.
Week End – 10th December 2000 – Durant la semaine précédent Noel le service postale pourrait être perturbé.
L’express – 17th December – Distribution – Le tri postal ne sera pas mécanisé.
Le Dimanche – 17th December 2000 – Le bureau de poste de Réduit transféré.
Le Défi Plus – 23rd December 2000 – Manque de postiers...

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FREE ADVERTISEMENT

One full page in the April 2001 News Bulletin will be at the disposal of members on a first come first served basis for advertisements which must not exceed thirty words, address excluded. The Editor’s decision regarding layout, content and size is final.

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Edited by **Mico W Antoine**.

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