



News Items 2001.1

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

MARCH 2001

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

JANUARY - The January meeting was held on Saturday 13th at College du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2.00 p.m. Generally Society meetings have not been held during the first month of the year. This year, however, due to the high monthly attendance Society meetings were held both in December 2000 as well as January 2001.

Yvan Martial gave a critical appraisal of the unpopular **Personalities** set issued in December 2000. He elaborated on the historical worthiness or otherwise of the personalities depicted and recalled anecdotes of *Ti Frère* whom he had known personally. The Bid Board and Purchase List offered a wide range of Commonwealth souvenir sheets. Stamp Auction catalogues, Stamp Bulletins and pamphlets from South Africa (Setempe), Mauritius, Canada, USA and Jersey accumulated by the Society and donated by some members were given away to those attending the meeting.

FEBRUARY - The February meeting was held on Saturday 3rd February at 2.00 p.m. at the usual venue. The main subject was **Registered Letter 5218** by Mico Antoine with a supporting display on **Gandhi** by Pravin Bhowanydeen and "**Post Office**" paraphernalia by Sanjit Teelock.

Registered letter 5218 was posted in Rose Hill in December 1999 and never arrived at destination in Zambia. Correspondence between the sender and the Postal Services dragged on from January 2000 to January 2001 when compensation was finally paid. Letters exchanged between the Postal Services, the Ministry responsible for the Postal Services and the sender and regulations governing registered packages were shown and discussed. The January "Textile Industry" and the "Abolition of Slavery and Indentured Labour" Rs 7 stamp were also discussed.

MARCH - The **Annual General Meeting** was held on Saturday 10th March 2000 at 2.00 p.m. at College du St Esprit, Quatre Bornes.

The agenda for the AGM was:

- a. Approval of minutes of 2000 AGM.
- b. Report of the President for the year 2000.
- c. Approval of Accounts ending 31st December 2000.
- d. Approval of budget for the year 2001.
- e. Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers for the year 2001.
- f. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2001.
- g. Any other business.

Mico Antoine put up a display of USA stamps. The Notice Board was full of interesting news from all over the world. Members' attention was drawn to an article on Vikram Chand's MAURITIUS exhibition at the British Library, London.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held on 20th January, 10th February and 3rd March at the residence of the President in Vacoas and on 10th March at College du St Esprit Quatre Bornes.

2001

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE YEAR 2001

At the AGM of 11th March, the following were elected to serve on the Committee for the year 2001/2002.

Yvan MARTIAL	President
Mico ANTOINE	Vice President
Judex ADRIEN	Treasurer
Pravin BHOWANYDEEN	Assistant Treasurer
Patrick KWAN	Secretary
Gaetan BOUCHET	Assistant Secretary
Sanjit TEELock	Member
Anil HURDYAL	Member
Ahmad Nasser MADERBOKUS	Member

Jean Marie HURON did not stand for re-election.

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OVERSEAS MEMBERS VISITING MAURITIUS

Five overseas members were in Mauritius at the end of year 2000 and the beginning of year 2001. They were:

Yvon CUPIDON – Seychelles
André de KERVERN – France
Roger MORITZ – France

Neil CARPENTER – UK
Louis LAURENTY - Belgium

On his return home **Roger MORITZ** offered the Society a year's subscription of the French Stamp publication - "Timbres Magazine".

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NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined the Society:

Soorooj RAMDEWOR – Plaine des Papayes
John SHAWLEY - Australia
Johnny Percy MUNGROO – Curepipe

Jaswant JHURRY – Quatre Bornes
Sebastien TEYCHENEY – Beau Bassin
Keng Lee TEO – Malaysia

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EXCHANGES

S.C. JAIN
F.402 AMAPRALI OPP. GHB. ANKUR
NARANPURA
AHMEDABAD – 380-013
INDIA

S C Jain seeks exchange partners from Mauritius. He wishes to trade stamps from India and other Asian countries for Mauritian stamps. He has been collecting stamps for the last 10 years.

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METERMARK – ILE MAURICE

Between January and March 2001, two more "Ile Maurice" metermarks have been recorded. These are from Oberoi Hotel - value tablet reference RC 144 (22.2.01) and Mauritius Network Services Ltd - value tablet reference RC 135 (5.3.01).

2001

STAMPS

Textile Industry

Four commemorative stamps were released on 10th January 2001 on the **Textile Industry** in Mauritius.

- Re 1 Finished Pullover
- Rs 3 Computer Aided Machinery
- Rs 6 T-shirt Folding
- Rs 10 Embroidery Machine

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

The Official First Day Cover is illustrated with three spools of yarn (one red, one green and one blue – a fourth spool yellow would have completed the national colours) and was priced at Rs 30.

Note that the “Finished Pullover” has clearly got buttons down the front and is therefore a cardigan. The “Computer Aided Machinery” stamp depicts a computer, a factory worker admiring his country’s Coat-of-Arms but not any distinct machinery.

End of Slavery and Indentured Labour

A single Rs 7 stamp was issued on 1st February 2001, the date of a new public holiday, to commemorate the “abolition of slavery” in Mauritius. The title of the stamp is as mixed-up as the contents of the insert which clearly refers to “the abolition of slavery... in February 1835” and “the importation of Indian labour to Mauritius was discontinued in 1909”.

The stamp was designed by G.L. Vasarhelyi (after local artists failed to produce anything worthwhile – see the official programme reference to composition by local artists) and printed by the House of Questa.

The Official First Day Cover illustrations features “broken chains and whip associated with the abolition of slavery and indentured labour” and was on sale at Rs 15.00.

Gibbons Stamp Monthly of March 2001 described the stamp as “slaves of Indian and African descent leaving the darkness and emerging into the light of freedom.”

Trees of Mauritius

A commemorative set of four stamps were put on sale on 21st March 2001.

- Re 1 *Foetidia mauritiana* “Bois Puant”
- Rs 3 *Diospyros tessellaria* “Bois d’Ebene”
- Rs 5 *Sideroxylon puberulum* “Manglier des Hauts”
- Rs 15 *Gastonia mauritiana* “Bois d’Eponge”

The Official First Day Cover features the flowers and foliage of *Muthurina penduliflora* “Bois Gandine” and was priced at Rs 30.00.

The stamps were designed by Jennifer Toombs and printed by BDT International Printing.

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NEXT COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Bi-Centenaire de l’Expedition Baudin

The next issue is scheduled for June 2001 and will be of four stamps as follows:

- Le Géographe et le Naturaliste
- *Phedina borboica*
- La route de l’Expedition
- Page de garde de Péron

TELECOM SMART CARDS

A new Smart Card commemorating the "Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation", Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, was put on sale in January 2001. 30000 cards of 240 units each were produced in September 2000 as imprinted on the card and costs Rs 200 exclusive of VAT/TVA.

A second Smart Card in the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation series was put on sale at the end of January 2001. The card features the "Mauritius Fody", is of 500 units and costs Rs 400 exclusive of VAT/TVA. 40,000 cards were produced in September 2000.

Another (the third) issue of the "Préservons l'Océan- Forever Blue" was issued in February 2001. 30,000 units were produced in January 2001 as per the imprint on the card. Value Rs 50 plus VAT/TVA – (55 units).

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THE PRESS

Le Dimanche – 28th January 2001 – Les esclaves 'timbrés'.

La Vie Catholique – 9-11th February 2001 – Philatélie.

L'express – 23rd February 2001 – Le débat relancé sur la privatisation de la poste.

L'express – 1st March 2001 – Rs 600 pour un airmail.

Espresso – 4th March 2001 – Une boîte à lettres qui n'en peut plus.

5 Plus – 4th March 2001 – Des 52 lettres affranchies à la poste de Rose Hill, 23 lui ont été retournées.

L'express – 16th March 2001 – La faune*, thème des nouveaux timbres-poste.

L'express – 16th March 2001 – Calling for change in our post offices.

Le Dimanche – 25th March 2001 – Le projet de *Postal Tower* de Jeeha sur le Quai compromis.

La Vie Catholique – 30th March 2001 – Pas de place dans le Port Louis Waterfront pour une *Postal Tower*.

* "La flore" is the theme, not "La faune"

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B.I.O.T.

B.I.O.T. Collectors – New address

Diego Garcia Post Office
Training Officer Diego Garcia
British Indian Ocean Territories
BFPO 485
United Kingdom

On the occasion of the Hong Kong International Stamp Exhibition/Chinese New Year of the Snake. British Indian Ocean Territories issued a two stamp souvenir sheet on 1st February 2001.

26p *Precis orithya*

34p *Junonia villida chagoensis*

The souvenir sheet features a view of Hong Kong.

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

Edited by **Mico W Antoine**.

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