

JUNE 2001

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

APRIL - The April meeting was held on Saturday 7th April at College du St. Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre-Bornes at 2 pm. The agenda for the afternoon was:

A display of stamps on **Nature and Natural History** of Mauritius and the African States of Zambia, Malawi, Rhodesia (pre-Zimbabwe), the former Homeland States of Southern Africa (Transkei, Venda, Ciskei and Bophuthatswana) and recent French Natural History sets (from 1983 onwards) by Mico Antoine.

Trees stamps of Mauritius and the other countries on display were compared and discussed. The general consensus was that the Rs 3 *Bois d'Ebène* Mauritian stamp was the ugliest and lousiest of all the trees.

Sanjit Teelock gave a very detailed and very advanced exposé on the **Georges V** definitives. He disclosed how as an uninitiated philatelist he was removing margins and selvages from his George V acquisitions so that the stamps could fit in mounts without realising he was discarding precious identifications and information as well as value and how he had to go back to his auction catalogues and invoices to retrieve data so as to identify several George V items.

News Items 2001.1 of March 2001 was distributed.

MAY - The first Outing of the year took place in May therefore the normal monthly meeting was not held. In March the Ministry of Public Utilities, Water Resources Unit, had agreed to the Society's request for a visit to the site of the Midlands Dam Project. Permission was granted subject to certain conditions which the Society accepted.

On Saturday 5th May members who had signed up were at Manhattan Shopping Complex in Curepipe together with two engineers from the Water Resources Unit waiting for that special member who is always late. The group left for the dam site some time after 10 am.

The dam site is located in the centre of the island at the foot of Lagrave Mountain in the upper course of Grand River South East at an elevation of about 380 metres. The total project cost is estimated at US \$ 60 million and will be completed in December 2002.

A full report of the Outing will be published in the next News Bulletin. Due to the success of the last two Outings, members have suggested that another Outing be organised. The Management Committee is planning another Outing in October 2001.

JUNE - The June meeting was held on Saturday 9th June at College du St. Esprit at 2 pm, on the second Saturday of the month because a special school function was held on 2nd June.

Dr A. N. Maderbocus talked about **Orchids** on stamps and showed actual plants and flowers which he had brought along.

Yvan Martial, the only member who knew who Baudin was at the November meeting, gave a talk on the "Bicentenaire de l'exposition Baudin" set of stamps scheduled to be released on 13th June 2001. He raised some interesting points on the role Nicolas Baudin played in respect to Matthew Flinder's problems with the authorities in Mauritius.

Mico Antoine showed the Mauritius Telecommunications Day and Macoss cachets, the ISO 9002 cachet, the ISO 9002 Special Cover and informed the meeting about the Curepipe Post Office ISO 9002 function.

The meeting also took note of press reports on the Port Louis Central Post Office building regarding the decision of Government to use the building for another purpose. The society is totally opposed to the decision of the Government of Mauritius.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held on 14th April, 19th May and 16th June at the residence of the President in Vacoas at 1.00 pm in the afternoon.

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NEW MEMBERS

The following joined the Society between April and June 2001.

David J WILBUR .New York .USA
Pritiviraj BHOLLAH .Nouvelle France

Siew Wai NG .Hertfordshire .UK
Jean Paul LEE FOOK CHOY .Port Louis

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EXCHANGES

MALAY BHAUMIK
UCO BANK
P-1 8 DOBSON LANE
HOWRAH-711 101
W. B. INDIA
e-mail: malay@caltiger.com

He wants Mauritius used and mint sets and preferably old covers. He offers Australian stamps and from India mint and used stamps, telephone cards, postal stationery, cinderellas, fiscals and bank notes in exchange. Stamps—he will give 10 Australians for 1 Mauritian. He also wants Birds on stamps mint and used.

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STAMPS

Bicentenaire de l'Expédition Baudin

A set of four stamps were released on 13th June 2001 to commemorate the bicentary of the expedition of Nicolas Baudin, French navigator and explorer, who dropped anchor in Mauritius from 15th March to 25th April 1801 and from 7th August to 16th December 1803 on his otgoing and incoming voyages to Australia.

The stamps depict:

- Re 1 *Géographe Naturaliste*
- Rs 4 *Jtinéraire du voyage*
- Rs 6 *Phedina Borbonica*
- Rs 10 *Récit de Péron*

The stamps were designed by Anthony Theobald and printed by the House of Questa.

The Official First Day Cover illustrated with a work of J. Milbert titled "*Habitation de Mme Querivel*" was offered at Rs 30. Three values are in the landscape (horizontal) format and the top value is in the portrait (vertical) format-to annoy the collector.

NEXT COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Local Events-Achievements in the 20th Century

The next issue of commemorative stamps (officially titled as above) is scheduled for release on 12th September 2001 and will feature:

- Industrialisation
- Education
- Energy
- Regional Cooperation

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BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

Centenary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service

A six-stamp sheetlet was issued on 28th May 2001 to commemorate the Centenary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service. The stamps feature:

- 26p HMS Turbulent
- 26p HMS Churchill
- 34p HMS Resolution
- 34p HMS Vanguard
- 60p HMS Otter
- 60p HMS Oberon

The sheetlet was designed by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau from photographs provided by the Ministry of Defence.

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MACOSS

On the occasion of the *Quinzaine de la Courtoisie* campaign by the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS) the Postal Services used a special oval rubber stamp from the 1st to 9th June 2001.

The rubber stamps were issued to one post office in Rodrigues, Port Mathurin, and to eight post offices in Mauritius -Rose Hill, Beau-Bassin, GPO Sorting, Quatre Bornes, Curepipe, Vacoas, Goodlands and Central Flacq.

From my regular source of envelopes and covers, out of 500 plus items, only one item postmarked in Port Louis was struck with the MACOSS mark.



World Telecommunication Day
17 May
Mauritius



WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY

The temporary propaganda rubber stamps used for the first time in year 2000 were used again in May 2001 to mark World Telecommunication Day. The rubber stamp was used at the same post offices as last year, one in Rodrigues and eight in Mauritius.

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MAURITIUS TELECOM PHONECARDS

A new Smart Card featuring **Salt Pans** bears the manufacture date of April 2001. 40 000 units were produced; they cost Rs 100 each exclusive of VAT/TVA and are of 115 units.

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THE PRESS

<i>Le Défi-Plus</i>	14 th April 2001	"A nou redresse nou la poste!" clament des Assistant Postmen.
<i>L'express</i>	18 th April 2001	Le centre Mandela au Musée de la Poste.
<i>Le Défi-Plus</i>	28 th April 2001	Quand SAJ devient sage!
<i>Week-End</i>	29 th April 2001	Non à l'aménagement du Centre Nelson Mandela à l'immeuble de la Poste
<i>L'express</i>	12 th May 2001	Le QG de la poste et de l'informatique à Réduit.
<i>Le Défi-Plus</i>	12 th May 2001	Postal Tower.
<i>Le Dimanche</i>	13 th May 2001	La Postal Tower dans le Triangle d'Ebène.
<i>Le Défi-Plus</i>	19 th May 2001	Des officiers attendent leur promotion en vain.
<i>Le Défi-Plus</i>	26 th May 2001	Post Office Service (Rose-Belle) style!
<i>Le Défi-Plus</i>	26 th May 2001	Le courrier d'un Quatrebonais décacheté pendant 33 ans.
<i>Le Défi-Plus</i>	26 th May 2001	Un habitant de Trois-Boutiques consigne une déposition pour missive égaré à la SIC.
<i>L'express</i>	29 th May 2001	L'expédition de Baudin célébrée par la poste.
<i>Le Mauricien</i>	9 th June 2001	L'attente passe de 9 à 4 minutes au comptoir.
<i>Week-End</i>	10 th June 2001	Possible perturbation du service postal.
<i>Le Défi-Plus</i>	16 th June 2001	Services postaux.
<i>Le Dimanche</i>	17 th June 2001	Des kiosque informatiques dans des bureaux de poste.
<i>L'express</i>	24 th June 2001	Curepipe: le cachet de sa poste fait foi.
<i>L'express</i>	24 th June 2001	"Je suis facteur et j'en suis fier."
<i>L'express</i>	24 th June 2001	Le cachet de la poste.

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**THE MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
TALK ABOUT US
GET YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN UP**

The Mauritius Philatelic Society, P O Box 89, Quatre Bornes, MAURITIUS
Edited by **Mico W Antoine**.
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CUREPIPE POST OFFICE

ISO 9002 CERTIFICATE

On 7th June 2001 Curepipe Post Office was the venue for a ceremony for the award of the ISO 9002 Certificate "in accordance with Quality System Standards". This function was announced by a press notice from the Postal Services dated 30th May 2001 which advised the public that the Curepipe Post Office "will be closed at noon on that date."

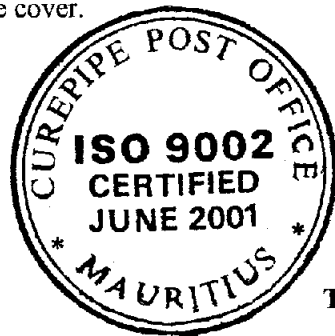
The ceremony took place at 2 pm with speeches by the Postmaster General, Hafiz AMIR, the Chairman of the Mauritius Standards Bureau, Sunil BANYMANDHUB, the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications, Hon. Deelchand JEEHA and the Minister of Civil Service Affairs, Hon. Ahmad JEEWAH.

Immediately after the speeches by the guests of honour, a certain Louis Espitalier-Noël jumped up and gave his speech, notwithstanding that he was not listed as an official speaker, to the amusement and amazement of those present. He introduced himself, praised the Postmaster of Curepipe whom he embraced before presenting him with a watch.

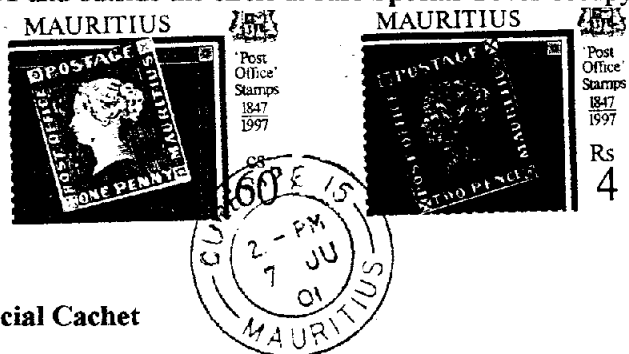
ISO 9002 Certificate Number RF042 dated 1st March 2001 and valid until 28th February 2003 was then handed over to the Postmaster of Curepipe Post Office, Yousouf SOOMAROO.

The Special Cover

A limited number of covers were produced, reportedly 100 only. These were distributed, one each, to guests and to members of staff of Curepipe Post Office during the function. The covers affixed with the 60 cents and Rs 4 "Post Office" stamps of 1997 are cancelled with a double circle circular date stamp reading CUREPIPE 15 top and MAURITIUS bottom (from GPO Stores in Port Louis) with the time 2 PM 7 JU 01. An illustration showing within a circle with **Curepipe Post Office** top, **Mauritius** bottom, in the centre in three lines reading **ISO 9002, Certified, June 2001** and outside the circle at base **Special Cover** occupy the left side of the cover.



The Special Cachet



A special circular cachet illustrated here was put in use as from 7th June 2001 at Curepipe Post Office.

Another Award

Curepipe submitted its Curepipe Post Office ISO 9002 Project to the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management C.A.P.A.M. for consideration. Out of 119 submissions to the International Innovations Awards Programme C.A.P.A.M. Biennial Conference held in South Africa in October 2000 the Curepipe project ranked amongst the top 30.

A special Certificate of Achievement was awarded to the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reform, Mauritius, through which the entry was submitted. The original certificate is held at the Ministry and a "good copy" was presented to the Postmaster of Curepipe Post Office by the Minister after the ISO 9002 Certificate had been handed over.

BEL AIR POST OFFICE

A press notice from Post Office Headquarters dated 21st May 2000 advised that Bel Air Post Office would be transferred to the building adjacent to Pancar Spare Parts shop, situated on Royal Road, Bel Air, on Monday 28th May 2001. Its new location - 300 metres from the actual Post Office.

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SATURDAY 30th JUNE 2001

A press notice dated 25th June 2001 from Post Office Headquarters advised the public that "all Post Offices will close at 09.00 hours on Saturday 30th June to enable Postal Staff to attend a workshop on the future of the Post Office" in Mauritius. Postal service was therefore available for 45 minutes from 08.15 to 09.00am on that date. Post Offices in Rodrigues operated normally, evidenced by a M.V. MAURITIUS TROCHETIA maiden voyage cover (return leg) postmarked 11.15 AM 30 JU 01 at Port Mathurin.

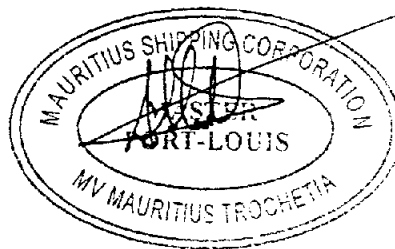
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"MAURITIUS TROCHETIA"

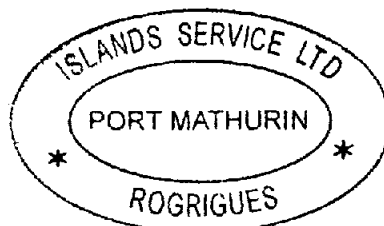
A brand new 5492 ton multipurpose vessel (passenger, hold, container) the M.V. MAURITIUS TROCHETIA was officially launched by the wife of the Prime Minister, Lady Sarojini Jugnauth, on Tuesday 19th June 2001. The new ship was built in China, is 107 metres long, has a crew of 35 and can carry 112 passengers as well as general cargo and containers.

Described by the local press as "*Le palace flottant*" (*L'express*, 20.06.2001), a "*paquebot*" (*LeDéfi -Plus*, 23.06.2001) and a "*transporteur*" (*Week-End*, 24.06.2001) the M.V. MAURITIUS TROCHETIA made its maiden voyage on 27th June 2001 to Port Mathurin, Rodrigues. The vessel will ply the sea routes of the Indian Ocean between Mauritius and Rodrigues, Reunion, Madagascar, South Africa, Mozambique.

M.V. MAURITIUS TROCHETIA
PORT- LOUIS



MAURITIUS TROCHETIA
CALL SIGN: 3BLL
OFF NO: MR161
NRT: 1647T
GRT: 5492T



"M.V. Mauritius Trochetia" Cachets on Maiden Voyage Cover

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MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR POSTAL HISTORY

REMINDER

All correspondence to the Society, on whatever subject, must be addressed to the Secretary.