

# News Items S 2001.3

Founder Members: Yvan Martial-Mico Antoine  
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SEPTEMBER 2001

## MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

**JULY** - The July meeting was held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July in the hall of College du St. Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m.

There was a charged programme for this get-together. The nine page survey of **Mauritian Mails** from News Bulletin No. 18 of April 2001 was the main item for discussion. The problem of "Illegal" stamps were examined and for new members, aspects of stamp collecting dealt with by **Linn's** were explained with an appropriate display of supporting articles. The Purchase List and Bid Board offered a wide range of covers and stamps.

News Bulletin No. 18 of April 2001 and News Items 2001.2 of June 2001 were distributed.

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**AUGUST** - The August meeting was held at the usual venue at the usual time. Two items were on the agenda:

1. **Royal Visit 1901,**
2. **Metermarks.**

Yvan Martial gave a talk on the centenary of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Mauritius in 1901. We got to know that the future King George V was more interested in hunting down Mauritian deer than attending official functions. It appears that his passion for stamp collecting began in Mauritius after his meeting with Albert Rae.

Mico Antoine dealt with metermarks and provided much facts and figures as well as the official rules and regulations governing the licencing and the use of Franking Machines in Mauritius.

From the Purchase List and the Bid Board a completely new range of covers, stamps (mint and used), minisheets and other items were on offer. Auction catalogues, magazines, pamphlets and brochures were distributed free on a first come - first served basis.

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**SEPTEMBER** - The September meeting was held at College du St. Esprit on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2001 at 2 p.m.

Mr Hervé Sylva who once worked as a teacher in Agalega and who served on the board of Outer Island Development Corporation was the guest speaker. He gave a most interesting talk about life on **Agalega** and then spent 45 minutes answering questions from members. A special report on Agalega is planned for the next News Bulletin, in which all the details of the September meeting will be published.

Special covers of the **Gloucester** and **Floréal** visit were shown, as well as photographs and the official programme of the visit. Details of the functions held in memory of Nicholas Baudin and Matthew Flinders and the speeches delivered at these functions were on display.

The Purchase List and the Bid Board offered a wide range of items. On special offer was the United Nations 1979 International Year of the Child collection of 260 plus covers in three albums.

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### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee Meetings were held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> August and 8<sup>th</sup> September at the residence of the President at 88 Club Road, Vacoas at 1.00 p.m. in the afternoon.

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### NEW MEMBERS

The following joined the Society between July and September 2001.

<b>Ingemar GOLLUNGBERG</b>	Kalamata, Greece
<b>David W. GIBBON</b>	Wilts. UK.
<b>Richard N. WILSON</b>	Quatre-Bornes

David William Gibbon is the Chairman of the Indian Ocean Study Circle. He was in Mauritius with his wife Carol from 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August after having visited Reunion and Rodrigues.

Whilst in Mauritius he met Mico Antoine and Sanjit Teelock on two separate occasions. He was introduced to the Acting Postmaster General and he visited Curepipe Post Office. He also visited the Mauritius Commercial Bank where the curator showed him the "Post Office" One Penny and Two Pence stamps.

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### STAMPS

#### Achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

A set of four commemorative stamps were issued on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2001. This is the year 2000 Millenium set which was carried forward to year 2001 because the Postal Services messed up the 2000 stamp programme.

The achievements of Mauritius in the 20<sup>th</sup> century are represented by:

- Rs 2 Hotel School of Mauritius
- Rs 3 Steel Bar Milling
- Rs 6 Solar Energy - Agalega
- Rs 10 Regional Cooperation IOR-ARC

IOR-ARC is the acronym for Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation in which "Mauritius together with six states of the Indian Ocean spearheaded" cooperation. The official First Day Cover, priced at Rs 30.00, shows an illustration of the interior of Port Louis Theatre. The stamps and FDC illustration feature a perplexing hash of Mauritian achievements.

The stamps designed by Nick Shewring and printed by Jon Enschede of Holland do not bear the Coat-of-Arms of Mauritius and that is some "achievement".

## NEXT COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

### Métiers Traditionnels Copra Trade

The next programmed commemorative set of stamps is scheduled for November 2001. The stamps will feature:

- Dehusking
- Deshelling
- Drying
- Oil extraction

All the four stamps will be about the Agalega coconut industry.

### *Hors programme*

A single "stamp on stamp" stamp has been sneaked into the year 2001 programme. This stamp will feature a reproduction of the 1969 R1 value of SG 404 ("Gandhi in Mauritius, 1901") from the **Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi** set. The new stamp will have a face value of Rs 15.

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## BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

### STARFISH

B.I.O.T. issued a set of four stamps on August 1<sup>st</sup> on **Starfish**, each stamp bears the World Wildlife Fund panda emblem and the stamps depict:

- |       |                    |                              |
|-------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| • 19p | Cushion Star       | <i>(Culcita novaguineae)</i> |
| • 26p | Azure Sea Star     | <i>(Linckia laevigata)</i>   |
| • 34p | Crown-of-Thorns    | <i>(Acanthaster planic)</i>  |
| • 56p | Banded Bubble Star | <i>(Echinaster callosus)</i> |

The stamps were designed by Andrew Robinson and printed by BDT International.

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## SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) DAY 17 AUGUST 2001

Unlike the previous two years, 1999 and 2000, there is no evidence that the SADC rubber stamps were used in any post office in Mauritius and in Rodrigues to mark the occasion of SADC Day in August 2001.

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# 1989 - 2001 OVER A DECADE OF SERVICE TO MAURITIAN PHILATELY

## MAURITIUS TELECOM PHONECARDS

A new Smart Card featuring a male and female **Echo Parakeet** (*Psittacula echo*) bears the manufacture date of August 2001. This is the third Smart Card to carry the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation logo after the **Mauritius Kestrel** and the **Mauritius Fody** Smart Cards.

60,000 of these were produced; the price is Rs 50-00 exclusive of VAT/TVA and the cards are of 55 units.

SG 322, 354 and 372 of Mauritius feature a pair of **PARRAKEET** (*sic*) - *GROSSE CATEAU VERTE* and SG 826 (1997) of Jersey Island features a pair of **Echo Parakeet** - *Psittacula eques echo*. The **Echo Parakeet** (*Psittacula eques echo*) was also depicted on the front of all three printings of the Endangered Birds aerogrammes of Mauritius issued between 1995 and 1997.

A new Smart Card featuring a **Pink Pigeon** (*Columba Mayeri*) was put on sale as from September 2001. This issue is of 40,000 cards manufactured in August 2001, the cards are of 240 units and are valued at Rs 200-00 each exclusive of VAT/TVA. The card is the fourth in the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation series.

The **Pink Pigeon** has featured on many Mauritian postage stamps such as: SG 325, 357, 708, 708, 710, 711 and on Jersey Island SG 217 as well as on QE II Mauritian aerogrammes of 1965 and 1967. The 1985 SG 708 - 711 Mauritian set were used on four special illustrated First Day Covers and on four special Maximum Cards by the WWF - World Wildlife Fund in 1985.

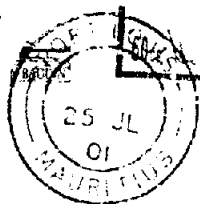
The **Pink Pigeon** is also depicted on the 1995/1997 Endangered Birds aerogrammes.

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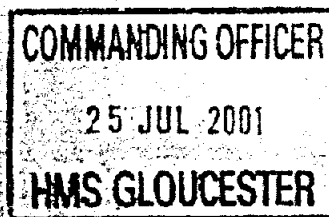
## THE FLORÉAL AND THE GLOUCESTER

The French frigate the **Floréal** and the British destroyer **HMS Gloucester** visited Mauritius from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2001. Local newspapers incorrectly described this Anglo-Franco joint naval visit as "*c'est la première escale franco-britannique depuis la bataille de Vieux-Grand-Port en août 1810 (L'express 26/7/2001)*" and "*la première escale conjointe franco-britannique en Afrique... depuis la bataille de Vieux-Grand-Port de 1810 (Le Défi-Plus 21/07/2001)*". The French battleship **Duquesne** and the British battleship **Effingham** were in Port Louis harbour at the same time on 17 May 1929.

Two members of the Society are known to have made covers to commemorate the **Floréal/Gloucester** visit.



Frégate  
FLOREAL



HMS Gloucester  
BFPO 289



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Edited by Mico Antoine

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