



# MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY News Items S 2001.4

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DECEMBER 2001

## MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

OCTOBER – The October meeting was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at Collège du Saint Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m.

Two main subjects were on the agenda; firstly illustrated special covers from all over the world featuring the **International Year of the Child 1979** commemoratives. This collection of over 270 covers was subsequently offered for sale.

Secondly aspects of Dave Tarry's TS 2000 Earl Court entry composed of a selection of photocopies of album leaves from the five frames of "**The Sterling Period 1811-1877**".

The Purchase List offered stamps and covers; the Bid Board a good range of better than average material.

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NOVEMBER - The November meeting was held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November at the usual venue and at the usual time. It was held on the second Saturday as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November (Thursday and Friday) were new public holidays, thus members had an exceptionally long week-end to themselves.

At this get-together, members were able to display **Acquisitions** made during the year or to show any other **Special Aspects of Mauritian Philately for Year 2001**. Amongst the items on view were:

- Agalega Covers – by sea and by air – and news of latest developments at Agalega.
- The 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dutch Landing in Rodrigues and related material.
- The **Duyfken** visit to Rodrigues and Mauritius; photographs, cacheted signed covers and the facts.
- The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd. Museum; pre-inaugural news.
- Special Covers 2001 by Jude Adrien.
- Overprints, Varieties, Freaks – Victoria, Arms, George V and George VI stamps from Sanjit Teelock.
- The stamps of France 2001 – courtesy of *La Poste* and *Ambassade de France*.

Sales from the Purchase List and Bid Boards were good.

**MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR POSTAL HISTORY**

DECEMBER – The December meeting was held at Collège du Saint Esprit on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2001 at 2 p.m.

**Mauritius 2001**, an overview of the stamps and postal history for the year was the main subject. Special private covers, postal markings of 2001, the stamps issued during the year, official posters and other related items were on show. The abysmal quality of insert contents, the nonsense written about the Copra Trade, the absurdity of some of the year's commemoratives were discussed; the consensus another bad year.

Another aspect of Mauritius philately on the afternoon's agenda was, **All about Perfins of Mauritius** by Sanjit Teelock and Mico Antoine.

Other matters shown and discussed:

- The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd. Museum
- News on “**The Postal History of Mauritius**” by Edward B. Proud accompanied by photostats of several pages from the book.

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#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monthly Management Committee meetings were held on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> November at the residence of the President at 88, Club Road, Vacoas at 1 p.m. The December committee meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month during the annual Society lunch at *Le Bon Choix*, St. Jean Road, Quatre-Bornes.

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#### NEW MEMBERS

Between October and December 2001, a new member joined the Society:

**Patrick BRÉGRE** Aurillac, France.

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#### ANNUAL LUNCH

The Society lunch took place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2001 from noon to 3 p.m. at *Le Bon Choix*, St. Jean Road, Quatre Bornes.

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#### VISITORS TO MAURITIUS

**Roger MORITZ**, from Paris, France, was in Mauritius for the whole of the month of December. He attended the December meeting and he also joined other members for the annual lunch.

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

**MAURITIUS  
STAMPS**

**Centenary of Gandhi's Visit to Mauritius 1901-2001**

A single Rs.15 commemorative stamp was issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> October on Gandhi. The stamp features a reproduction of another stamp issued in Mauritius on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1969 to mark the occasion (then) of the Birth Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The 2002 stamp was designed by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau (CASB) Studio, printed by the House of Questa and the official First Day Cover was offered at Rs.25.

A couple of observations:

Gandhi was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1869 and the 1969 stamp was issued on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1969. The 2001 stamp, commemorating the **Centenary of Gandhi's Visit to Mauritius 1901-2001** was issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the 132<sup>nd</sup> birthday of Gandhi. Gandhi arrived in Mauritius on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1901.

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**Copra Trade Agalega**

A set of four stamps were issued on 5<sup>th</sup> December "on the theme "*Métiers Traditionnels*"... according to the Mauritius Postal Services.

The **Copra Trade Agalega** is represented by:

- Re. 1 Dehusking of Coconuts
- Rs. 5 Deshelling of Coconuts
- Rs. 6 Drying of Copra
- Rs.10 Oil Extracting

The stamps were designed by Ross Watton, printed by BDT International. The official First Day Cover was offered at Rs.30.

The First Day Cover caption and the insert title of the set is **Copra Trade Agalega** and not *Métiers Traditionnels*. The cover is illustrated with a bizarre "picking of coconuts" drawing which bears absolutely no relation to the way coconuts are actually harvested in Agalega. None of the four stamps bear the stamp title, only the function is described.

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**MAURITIUS  
STAMP PROGRAMME 2002**

The official programme will be as follows:

March 2002 – Anniversary – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Republic (4 stamps)

June 2002 – Nature Fauna – Cicadas (4 stamps)

September 2002 – History – Maps of South West Indian Ocean (4 stamps)

December 2002 – Astronomy – Constellations (4 stamps)

Whilst the Mauritius Postal Service make no provisions for changes to the programme, one should expect additions and revisions.

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### NEXT COMMEMORATIVES

The proposed “designs” for the Anniversary set of March 2002 is listed as:

1. Midlands Dam in construction
2. Port Development “portiques”
3. Road Development Rduit Roundabout
4. Financial Service Computer

The Midlands dam will still be under construction in March 2002 and will not have any water in it as the dam will only be ready to impound water in July 2002...some realisation issuing the stamp in March.

The old roundabout at Rduit has been replaced by underpasses and flyovers for a few years now....it is going to be some achievement to get a non-existent roundabout thrown into the stamp.

Watch that Computer servicing Finance, it may crash by the time the stamp is issued.

Since the Postal Services appears not to know the English term for “portiques” (if they did they would have used it) the Mauritius Philatelic Society will tell you; “portiques” are ship container gantry cranes.

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### WORLD POST DAY

On Tuesday 9 October 2001 all Post Offices, including those in Rodrigues, were closed. No postal services were provided on that date as Mr. Paul Raymond Bérenger G.C.S.K. was the chief guest at the laying of “the foundation stone of the Postal Tower at Ebene, Rduit”. Postal Services personnel were expected to attend the ceremony.

In October 2001 no **World Post Day** cachets were available on the 9<sup>th</sup> October or during the period before or after the 9<sup>th</sup> October as the handstamps were not issued to any post offices in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

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| <p><b>THE MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY</b><br/><b>TALK ABOUT US</b><br/><b>GET YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN UP.</b></p> |
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**The Mauritius Philatelic Society, P O Box 89, Quatre Bornes, MAURITIUS**  
Edited by **Mico Antoine**  
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### POSTAL TOWER

A simple forlorn white structure stands...in the cane field at Ebene near Baden-Powell Hall. The engraved marble plaque has been removed for safekeeping since 10<sup>th</sup> October 2001. The plaque reads in 10 lines: **POSTAL TOWER/ This foundation stone was laid by/ Hon. PAUL R. BERENGER G.C.S.K./ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance/ in the presence of / Honourable DEELCHAND JEEHA/ Minister of Information Technology & / Telecommunications/ ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD POST DAY/ ON TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2001.**

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### MAURITIUS POST LTD.

A new company, Mauritius Post Ltd., was registered on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October according to press reports. The authorised capital is Rs.25,000 or 250 shares of Rs.100 per share. The Government of Mauritius owns 249 shares and the Government owned State Investment Corporation 1 share. This is called privatisation.

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### *MON CHOISY*

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2001, a brand new 132-seater (120 Economy and 12 Business Class) Airbus Industry A319 **Air Mauritius** aircraft touched down at Pliasance Airport. This middle distance plane is to be used on the airline's regional routes: - Madagascar, Southern Africa, Reunion and Seychelles. Christianed *Mon Choisy* the twin-engine airliner bears the registration 3B-NBF.

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### **DUYFKEN 1606 REPLICA**

The Australian built replica of the 1606, 60 ton **DUYFKEN** (which is not that of the 1594 built ship of the same name which happened to be one of the ships that called at Rodrigues on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1601 and which is referred to as the **DUIFJE** in the info sheet of the **400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dutch Landing In Rodrigues** special cover) called at Rodrigues from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October and at Mauritius from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Signed and dated covers made by a couple of members of the Society at both ports of call attest to these dates. Members are advised to ignore all other dates (published in the local press) that are different from the dates mentioned above.

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### **THE MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK LTD. MUSEUM**

The Mauritius Commercial Bank Museum was inaugurated at Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2001 at 7 p.m. by the Hon. Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth K.C.M.G.

## THE PRESS

|                       |            |   |
|-----------------------|------------|---|
| <i>L'express</i>      | 09.10.2001 | La Postal Tower prend forme dans le cybercité.                              |
| <i>L'express</i>      | 10.10.2001 | La dernière tournée de la poste traditionnelle.                             |
| <i>News on Sunday</i> | 12.10.2001 | Postal Tower.   |
| <i>Le Défi Plus</i>   | 13.10.2001 | Les employés en faveur de la privatisation.                                 |
| <i>Le Défi Plus</i>   | 13.10.2001 | Service Postal à Grand-Baie.  |
| <i>Week-End</i>       | 14.10.2001 | Privatisation des services postaux.   |
| <i>L'express</i>      | 20.10.2001 | Un timbre Post Office Mtius. de 1847 exposé.                                |
| <i>News on Sunday</i> | 26.10.2001 | Show to feature Rs40m stamp.  |
| <i>Le Mauricien</i>   | 27.10.2001 | Du courrier suspect reçu à Rogers et à Air Mauritius.                       |
| <i>Le Défi Plus</i>   | 27.10.2001 | Un colis expédié depuis le 4 octobre toujours pas reçu par le destinataire. |
| <i>L'express</i>      | 27.10.2001 | Anthrax: la poste demande des mesures de sécurité.                          |
| <i>Le Mauricien</i>   | 27.10.2001 | "Rien n'a été fait pour protéger les employés des postes".                  |
| <i>L'express</i>      | 01.11.2001 | Les postiers équipés contre l'Anthrax.                                      |
| <i>L'express</i>      | 23.11.2001 | Première pierre du bureau de poste – Flic-en-Flac.                          |
| <i>Sunday Vani</i>    | 25.11.2001 | Justice à deux vitesses de Paul Bérenger.                                   |
| <i>Sunday Vani</i>    | 02.12.2001 | Blunder to convert the Post Office building into a Cultural Centre.         |
| <i>Sunday Vani</i>    | 02.12.2001 | Les machinations de Paul Bérenger.  |
| <i>L'express</i>      | 09.12.2001 | Les postiers interdits de vacances jusqu'au 10 janvier.                     |
| <i>L'express</i>      | 21.12.2001 | Postes. Heures d'ouverture arrêtées.  |

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## THE MCB MUSEUM PRESS COVERAGE

|                        |            |   |
|------------------------|------------|---|
| <i>L'express</i>       | 02.11.2001 | Le Blue Penny Museum ou Voyage à l'Isle de France               |
| <i>Le Défi Plus</i>    | 10.11.2001 | Ouverture officielle du <i>Blue Penny Museum</i> le 22 novembre |
| <i>L'express</i>       | 07.11.2001 | Le Musée Blue Penny de la MCB                                   |
| <i>Le Dimanche</i>     | 11.11.2001 | Inauguration du <i>Blue Penny Museum</i> de la MCB              |
| <i>L'express</i>       | 01.11.2001 | La caravane de l'histoire sillonne nos plages                   |
| <i>L'express</i>       | 17.11.2001 | Ouverture du Blue Penny Museum                                  |
| <i>Le Mauricien</i>    | 17.11.2001 | Du théâtre pour un musée  |
| <i>L'express</i>       | 18.11.2001 | Les trésors du patrimoine mauricien                             |
| <i>L'express</i>       | 23.11.2001 | Inauguration colorée pour le Blue Penny Museum                  |
| <i>Le Dimanche</i>     | 25.11.2001 | Inauguration de <i>Blue Penny Museum</i> au Caudan Waterfront   |
| <i>Le Week-End</i>     | 25.11.2001 | Un superbe bijou qui fait vivre un patrimoine mauricien         |
| <i>L'express</i>       | 02.12.2001 | Enthousiasme du public pour le Blue Penny Museum au Caudan      |
| <i>Mauritius Times</i> | 21.12.2001 | Quand les criminels reviennent sur les lieux du crime           |

**NOTICE TO OVERSEAS MEMBERS**  
**2002 SUBS ARE DUE. PLEASE PAY UP.**  
**ANNUAL SUBS Rs 250 + POSTAGE Rs 120 PLUS BANK CHARGES**