



NEWS ITEMS 2009.2

The Journal of the Mauritius Philatelic Society

P.O. Box 89 - Quatre Bornes - Mauritius - Indian Ocean

JUNE 2009

MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

APRIL – The April meeting was held at Collège du Saint Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 2 p.m. on Saturday 4th April.

The horses began running early in 2009 and the first Saturday of April was the day on which the first race meeting of a longer than usual season at the Mauritius Turf Club, Champ de Mars, Port Louis. The turn out was low, only 16 members attended the April meeting and only three entered the Member's Alphabet Competition, Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon, Judex Adrien and Khan Mustapha who entered respectively Birds, Birds and Banking under the letter B. Mico Antoine put up a supporting *hors concours* 10-page "Black" display. At the end of the day Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon led the field with 510 points, followed by Judex Adrien 406 points for two consecutive participations and Khan Mustapha 111 points for his first participation.

Other items dealt with were 1972 press reports on the then Mauritius Philatelic Society, an inland registered letter from Réduit posted on 5/2/09 delivered to Quatre Bornes on 1/4/09 without any reasons given for the delay, Indian "Special Adhesives" of 1937 and 1960s Approval Books. The Purchase List and Bid Board offered a varied range of philatelic material.

MAY – The May meeting was held on 2nd May 2009 at the usual time, at the usual venue.

Four participants entered the Members' Alphabet Competition. Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon, Judex Adrien, Pascal Chan You Fee and Khan Mustapha who showed respectively Cinema / Covers – Special Private Commemoratives / Comic Characters / and Covers – Financial Institutions under the letter C. Mico Antoine put up a 10-page *hors concours* Christianity display. The secret ballot produced these results; Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon 241 points, Judex Adrien 220 points, Pascal Chan You Fee 204 points and Khan Mustapha 141 points.

Also on the afternoon's agenda; Mauritius Philatelic Society 1989-1991 formative years, wrongly rated "Postage Paid" (pre-paid licence fee) oddities, the "Indigenous Flowers of Mauritius" definitives of 9th April 2009 presented by Dr A.N. Maderbokus and BIOT Sea Cucumbers by Mico Antoine.

20 members and 1 uninvited guest attended the May meeting; the Purchase List and Bid Board offered the usual lots and range of covers, stamps and accessories.

JUNE – The June meeting was held at College du Saint Esprit on 6th June 2009 at 2 p.m.

The fourth and last Member's Alphabet Competition, the letter D, had only three participants, Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon with Dancing, Judex Adrien with Dodo and Khan Mustapha with Diana. The sole winner of the four events was Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon with 978 points. The other results were Judex Adrien 822 points, Khan Mustapha 395 points and Pascal Chan You Fee with 204 points. Only Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon and Judex Adrien entered all four events, Khan Mustapha three and Pascal Chan You Fee only one. Apart from Mico Antoine's *hors concours* entries no other members made any effort to participate.

Dr A.N. Maderbokus gave a talk on the "SPECIMEN" stamps of Mauritius; their origin, purpose, rarity, difficulty and prices. The Notice Board was garnished with an array of topics such as the sale of

the "Post Office" One Penny Red in May, latitude errors Hawaii-Mauritius, the future of the stamps of Mayotte and CASCO's (new) watermark.

The horse racing season is in full swing, the economic downturn is beginning to pinch and only 17 members turned up. Bid Board and Purchase list sales were negligible.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Management Committee of the Society met at Collège du St Esprit on the first Saturday of the three months during the second quarter as follows: Saturday April 4th, Saturday May 2nd and Saturday June 6th at 13hrs. Attendance was 7, 9, and 7. The quorum is 5.

OBITUARY

The Society regrets to announce the death of committee member Kaliparsad "Vijay" Ramharai (1947-2009) on 26th May 2009.

STAMPS

NEW DEFINITIVE

Mauritius Post Ltd released a new definitive set of twelve postage stamps on 9th April 2009 on endemic and indigenous flowers titled **Indigenous flowers of Mauritius**. The title of the set, their denominations, the scientific names of the flowers are inscribed on the stamps as:

Rs3	<i>Myonima obovata</i>	Rs9	<i>Gaertnera longifolia</i> var. <i>longifolia</i>
Rs4	<i>Cylindrocline lorencei</i>	Rs10	<i>Dombeya acutangula</i> var. <i>rosea</i>
Rs5	<i>Crinum mauritianum</i>	Rs15	<i>Aphloia theiformis</i>
Rs6	<i>Eloecarpus bojeri</i>	Rs22	<i>Barleria observatrix</i>
Rs7	<i>Bremeria landia</i>	Rs25	<i>Roussea simplex</i>
Rs8	<i>Distephanus populifolius</i>	Rs50	<i>Hibiscus fragilis</i>

: the island's name, Mauritius, is at the base of the stamps so Mauritius appears not once but twice on each of the twelve stamps.

The stamps were photographed and designed by amateurs from Mauritius Post and lithographed by BDT International Ltd, Ireland. The sheet format is of 50 vertical stamps divided in two panes of 25 separated by a central gutter strip with the three middle gutter imprinted with the logo of Mauritius Post; the stamp at either end of the gutter strip does not have the logo imprint. The vertical stamp size is 27.94 x 44.45 mm and the technical details describe the watermark as "Casco Watermarked", perforation 14, gum PVC.

[The new all over embossed watermark in a spiral pattern with a large crown design produced as from June 2008 first used on Mauritian stamps for the **Mauritius in World Literature** set of five stamps of December 2008. The only other 2008 release, the new printing of the Fish Rs10 definitive, was printed on the old Multiple Crown CA Diagonal watermark paper w14.]

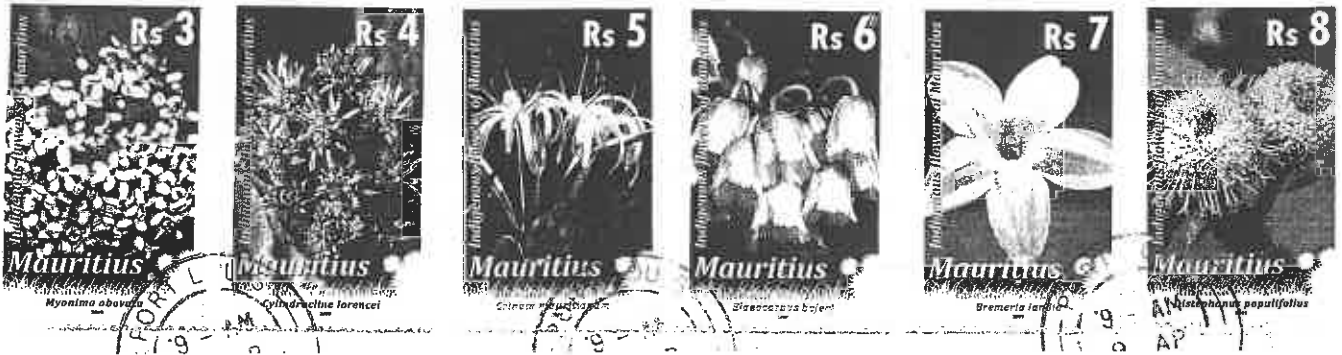
The three illustrated Official First Day Covers are listed as:

FDC1	<i>Ochna mauritiana</i>	(Rs3, Rs6, Rs7, Rs50)
FDC2	<i>Gagnebina pterocarpa</i>	(Rs4, Rs8, Rs15, Rs22)
FDC3	<i>Cordemoya integrifolia</i>	(Rs5, Rs9, Rs10, Rs25)

Each cover is struck with three impressions of a special cachet reading Indigenous Flowers of Mauritius – First Day of Issue – 09 April 2009. Note the capital **F** for flowers of the cachet whereas on the stamps and FDCs a small **f** is used. These covers with a total face value of Rs164.00 for the twelve stamps were offered at Rs240.00 the set of three.

Ed. Note. Mauritius Post's data card describe four stamps as indigenous (Rs3, Rs7, Rs10 and Rs15) the other eight are described as endemic. In the process the indigenous and endemic flora have been mixed up as is the norm rather than the exception with other recent Mauritian stamps. The information in the insert identify the species (in the opening line) as either shrubs, plants, or trees. The data on the three FDCs illustrations however identify and describe the flowers.... as flowers. (See data card in FDC for details of the new Flowers definitives)

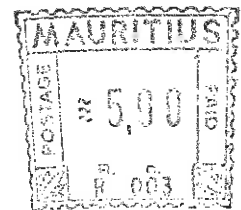
The range and choice of species whether endemic or indigenous, whether plants, trees, shrubs or flowers leaves a lot to be desired. No less than half the flowers have been "cut", the local in-house graphist/designer lopped off petals and leaves indiscriminately.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

A double circle circular rubber handstamp slightly under 4 cm in diameter was used by Mauritius Post Ltd on 5th, 6th and 8th June 2009 at three offices only namely Quatre Bornes Post Office and at Port Louis Delivery Office and Port Louis Sorting Office which are both located in the same building at the old ex GPO Headquarters on Quay Street, Port Louis.

The handstamp reads **The Mauritius Post Ltd** in the upper half **World Environment Day** in the lower half of the circle and in two lines in the centre of the inner circle, **5th June 2009 / Green Post**.



Instructions for the application of the handstamp to the maximum number of mails in green ink appear to have been followed in the case of the ink, however very few commercial mail have been recorded. A cover metermarked Port Louis on 4.6.9 (4th June 09) has been seen struck with the 5th June 2009 cachet.

[The Extinct Tortoises set of special stamps programmed for but not issued on World Environment Day 2008 was rescheduled for June 2009. The date was not specified in the Official 2009 Stamp Programme and the stamps, one year later, were **not** issued on World Environment Day 2009.]

CENTRAL FLACQ POST OFFICE

The post office at Central Flacq was transferred to a new spacious building with more modern facilities situated on François Mitterrand Street, Central Flacq (Centre de Flacq) opposite the District Court on Monday 6th April 2009. It was previously located in a side street (Post Office Road) off the main road (Royal Road).



THE PRESS

Le Matinal	08.04.2009	Braquage avorté à la Mauritius Poste de Belle-Rose
Le Matinal	08.04.2009	Rs60,000 raflées au bureau de poste de Laventure
Le Matinal	13.04.2009	Double célébration pour Mauritius Post
Expresso	19.04.2009	Nos plantes endémiques en timbre
Le Matinal	22.04.2009	Les timbres en fête
Le Matinal	04.05.2009	Vente aux enchères d'un timbre mythique
Le Matinal	08.05.2009	Rs20 millions d'héroïne saisie à la Poste centrale
Le Matinal	11.05.2009	Les Seychellois louent notre système postal
L'express	11.05.2009	Vente d'un des "Post Office One Penny Red" de Maurice
Le Matinal	11.05.2009	Un "One Penny Red" vendu 210,000 euros en Allemagne
Le Matinal	14.05.2009	Sécurité renforcée aux bureaux de poste
Le Matinal	22.05.2009	Intéresser les jeunes à la philatélie
Le Défi-Plus	23.05.2009	Série d'activités autour d'un musée
L'express	12.06.2009	En difficulté, la Poste compte augmenter ses tarifs
Le Défi-Plus	27.06.2009	Ah, ces facteurs

YOUR MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER

Book these dates in your diary.

OCTOBER 3RD – NOVEMBER 7TH – DECEMBER 5TH

MAURITIUS POSTAL HISTORY = MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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