

2009



# NEWS ITEMS 2009.3

The Journal of the Mauritius Philatelic Society

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

## MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

**JULY** – The July meeting was held at College du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 14.00 hrs on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

Mico Antoine put up the display for this meeting; no one else contributed a thing. The subjects on show were, an array of “specimen” Postal Stationery of Mauritius from the pre-independence British period composed of embossed and imprinted envelopes, postcards and wrappers; registered covers addressed to the Traffic Branch of Mauritius Police at Line Barracks Port Louis from 60 years old plus drivers from all over Mauritius on the occasion of the renewal of driving licences accumulated by the late Kaliparsad Ramharai; Revenues of Mauritius – a layout of embossed stamp papers (*papier timbré*), including Mico Antoine’s birth certificate proving that he was born in Mauritius after all. A copy of “The Impressed Duty Stamps of The British Colonial Empire” (Mauritius section) 2009 by William A Barber with the editorial assistance of Norman Siedelman was also on display.

The Notice Board showed amongst other items, a cover from the USA to Mauritius via Egypt and Madagascar, a June 2009 Diego Garcia cover postmarked with a U.S. Navy FPO AP 96595 canceller on 2<sup>nd</sup> June cacheted with a British Indian Ocean Territory Post Office handstamp and finally an interesting on official business Mauritius Fire Services cacheted item.

Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon who had won the Alphabet Competition which ran for the months of February, April, May and June was presented with his winning cheque of Rs1000 by the Vice-President Nassar A Maderbokus.

15 members attended the July meeting; the horse racing season is attracting a lot of punters, the economic downturn is no doubt biting deeper.

**AUGUST** – The August meeting was held at the usual venue and at the usual time on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009.

The two exhibition type aspects of Mauritius put up by Mico Antoine to demonstrate the quality as well as level expected for competition entries dealt with the City of Port Louis and the Provisional Stamps of Mauritius (1885-1891). The 10 leaves on the City of Port Louis focused on the Natural History Museum (The Mauritius Institute) at *La Chaussée* as the central point, then moved out to the immediate vicinity of the Institute, then the harbour and further out to the outskirts of Port Louis. The stamps featured personalities, institutions, installations, historic sites and the many facets of the capital.

The Provisional Stamps of Mauritius (1885-1891) used in the main K.A. Baker’s handbook with updates to reflect the current position. This was a five page display on five stamps, one page per stamp and featured FOUR-PENCE on GREEN SG26, HALF-PENNY ON 9 d SG76, 2 CENTS on 13c SG117, TWO CENTS on 38c on 9c (SG120) and ONE CENT on 16c SG124.

The Extinct Mauritian Giant Tortoises stamps were examined jointly by Mico Antoine and A.N. Maderbokus. The official launching of these stamps was graced by the presence of Dr. the Hon. A. Rashid Beebejaun, G.C.S.K., Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities and the Hon. M. Asraf Ally Dulull, Minister of Information and Communication Technology at Boulevard Pitot Post Office, Port Louis on Thursday 16 July 2009 at 10.30. Political launchings of new issues has become the norm since the corporatisation of Mauritius Post Ltd.

Other items were; the Environment Day cachet of 5<sup>th</sup> June on commercial covers, Cardinal Margeot's death covers of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009, the postal rate increases of 8<sup>th</sup> July and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Man's visit to the Moon on 20<sup>th</sup> July for which a single Mauritian stamp is scheduled for release sometime in December 2009. To refresh memories the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Moon Landing stamps were issued as a set on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1979 in booklet form.

18 members attended the August meeting. The Purchase List and Bid Board offered a small range of philatelic items and accessories.

SEPTEMBER – The meeting was held at College du St Esprit on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 14.00 hrs.

The only item of business was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mauritius Philatelic Society presentation by Tarkesswarnath Greedharrie. The Revenue Stamps of Mauritius was postponed to October.

Tarkesswarnath put up an excellent show and surprised everyone with his three bound volumes of the complete collection of the Society's Newsletters, News Bulletins and News Items from 1989 to 2008. This caused quite a stir. As far it is known he is the only member who has preserved a collection of the Society's journals in beautiful personalised bound volumes.

He titled his display "The Mauritius Philatelic Society 1989-2009, a Porcelain Jubilee" and the contents were (1) The People (2) the Meetings (3) Activities (4) Publications (5) Special Mention. The list of Stamp Exhibitions began with the first June 1991 Exhibition in Rose Hill to the seventeen one held in Port Louis in October 2005. He listed thirteen Outings and Visits between 1994 and 2008, the seventeen Guest Speakers which began with Alfred de Pitray in 1990 to Cyril Rose up to 2007 and in between a couple of Postmasters General, University Professors and Museum Curators. In short an overview of the Society's 20 years – the longest continuous period of any other philatelic society in Mauritius.

He paid tribute to the "real founder" and "mentor" of the Society and for his presence at over 200 monthly meetings and to the original 27 founder members who attended the first meeting of the Society in Quatre Bornes. He named nine members, past and present, for special mention for their exceptional contributions. Alas many are no longer with the Society, some by choice, some by circumstances and some by demise.

He displayed the special covers and cachets produced and used by the Society as well as a range of photographs, postcards, posters, banners and other society paraphernalia.

The Notice Board carried details on the New Quatre Bornes Post Office and the new printing of the Rs7.00 Flowers definitive. The special Quatre Bornes Post Office covers were offered for sale.

The nomination of Hans Bigler as a member of the Management Committee and the resignation of the Society's secretary was announced.

23 members attended the meeting due to the pulling power of Tarkesswarnath Greedharrie even if there was no horse racing on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> as the Mauritian classic, *Le Maiden*, the Mauritius Turf Club's racing event of the year was ran on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- The Management Committee of the Society met at Collège du Saint Esprit on the first Saturday of the three months during the third quarter as follows: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 13.00hrs. Attendance was 7, 5 and 7. The quorum is 5.
- Hans BIGLER has been designated by the Management Committee to fill the vacancy created by the death of Kaliparsad RAMHARAI. Following his acceptance to serve as an ordinary member of the Management Committee, the designation was ratified at the meeting of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009. (Article 5)
- The resignation of the Secretary of the Society, Georges A.D. Gérard LOUIS, called for by the Management Committee, was ratified at the Committee meeting of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Vikash RUPEAR, Assistant Secretary, will carry out the duties of the Secretary until further notice. (Article 11)

### NEW ADDRESS

The seat of the Mauritius Philatelic Society is found at the residence of the Treasurer, Judex Leu ADRIEN, 49 Farquhar Street, Rose Hill as from 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

### CABINET DECISIONS

At the Cabinet meeting of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009 the Council of Government Ministers of Mauritius took note that Mauritius Post Ltd would review tariffs as from 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009, as follows –

- (a) Inland letter (i) first 20 grammes – Rs7; (ii) each additional 20 grammes or fraction thereof Re1
- (b) Other mails, inland and foreign, an average increase of 40% for the first weight – step; and
- (c) letter mails between Mauritius and Rodrigues would henceforth be considered as local mail and not as airmail.

The Cabinet also took note that Mauritius Post Ltd along with 13 other postal operators forming part of the Southern African Postal Operators Association (SAPOA), would participate in the joint issue of a commemorative stamp of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup to be held in South Africa.

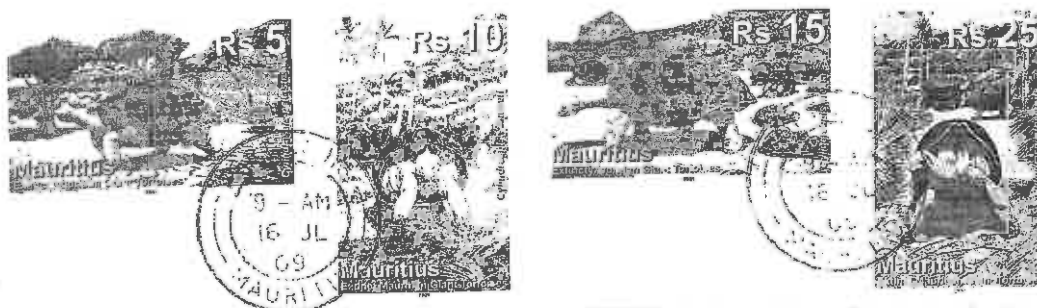
### EXTINCT TORTOISES

The Extinct Mauritian Giant Tortoises set released on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009 one week after the upward revision of the standard inland rate from Rs5 to Rs7 included a Rs5 denomination (the old standard inland rate) but not a Rs7 denomination (the new standard inland rate....) and that is very poor planning or no planning at all!!

Four stamps and one miniature sheet were issued “depicting the extinct giant tortoises of Mauritius and Rodrigues” (sic). The four stamps and m/s as well as the Official First Day cover however are inscribed “Extinct Mauritian Giant Tortoises”... Rodrigues is not mentioned. These stamps were initially programmed for 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008 on the occasion of World Environment Day.

The stamps and m/s are as follows:

Rs5	<i>Cylindraspis peltastes</i>	-	(Rodrigues Domed Tortoise)
Rs10	<i>Cylindraspis vesmaeri</i>	-	(Rodrigues Saddleback Tortoise)
Rs15	<i>Cylindraspis inertia</i>	-	(Mauritius Domed Tortoise)
Rs25	<i>Cylindraspis triserrata</i>	-	(Mauritius Saddleback Tortoise)
M/S R50	<i>Cylindraspis peltastes</i>	-	(Rodrigues Domed Tortoise)



Only the scientific names appear on the stamps and m/s whereas on the data sheet (in the FDC) the endemism of the species is given, thus the inscription of the stamps and m/s deliberately misinforms on the two islands of origin of the species. Two stamps depict Rodriguan species, two Mauritian species and the m/s show a herd of Rodriguan tortoises only, therefore the title “Extinct Mauritian Giant Tortoise” is a lie.

[The current datestamps of Rodrigues and other postal frankings and cancelling devices of Rodrigues are all inscribed Rodrigues, not Mauritius.]

In the Official Stamp Issue Programme 2008, the set is listed as “June 5<sup>th</sup> – Tortoises (Extinct Tortoises) – World Environment Day”; in the Official Stamp Issue Programme 2009, the stamps are listed as “Giant Extinct Tortoises – June 2009.”

Two similarly illustrated Official First Day Covers show “a Mauritian long necked *Cylindraspis triserrata*” with a short neck; one cover has four stamps affixed to it, the other the m/s. These were priced at Rs100 and Rs75 respectively for the face value of Rs55 for one and Rs50 for the other. The stamps and m/s are cancelled with a special cachet incorporating the title of the set – “Extinct Mauritian Giant Tortoises – Mauritius – 16 July 2009 – First Day of Issue”. This cachet also features a Mauritian *Cylindraspis triserrata*... with a short neck which when stretched ...could reach up to about 1.4 metres.

The sheet format is 50 stamps in two panes of 25 separated by a central gutter strip with the middle gutter only imprinted with the logo of Mauritius Post for both the horizontal and vertical sheets.

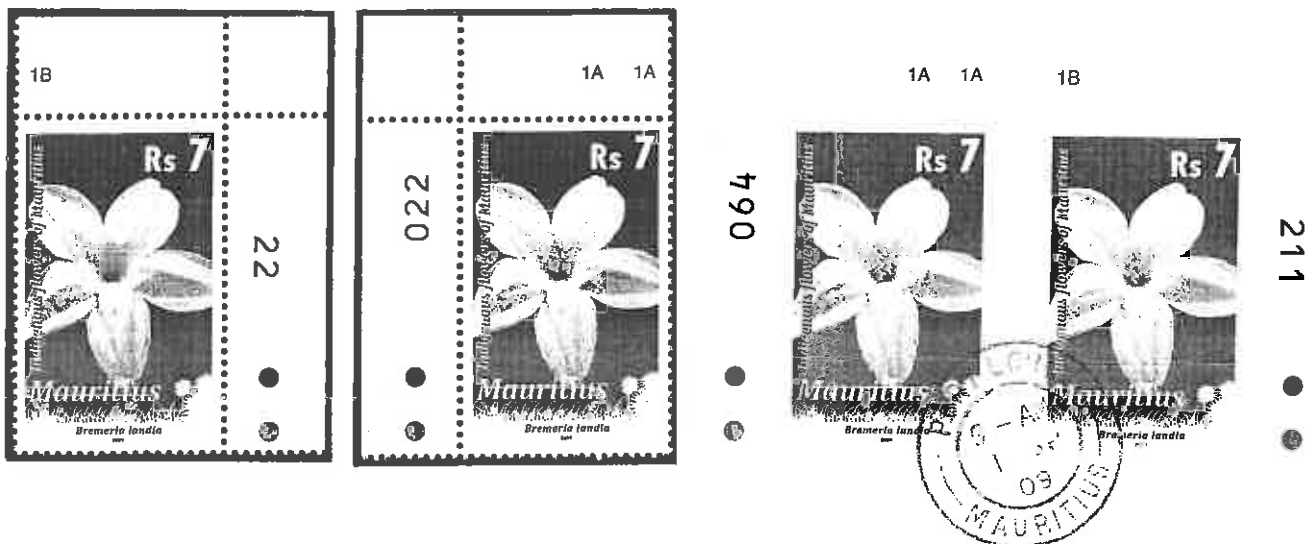
The technical details are: Designer – Julian Pender Hume, Printer – BDT International Security Printers of Ireland, Process – lithography, Stamp size – 44.45 x 27.94 (Rs5 and Rs15) 27.94 x 44.45 (Rs10 and Rs25), Stamp Format – landscape (Rs5 and Rs15) portrait (Rs10 and Rs25), Perforation 14, Gum PVA (polyvinyl acetate), Watermark – CASCO.

M/S size - 116mm x 72mm.

### INDIGENOUS FLOWERS OF MAURITIUS

The original printing of the Rs7 denomination and the eleven other stamps of the Indigenous Flowers of Mauritius definitive set of twelve stamps released on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were produced in such ridiculously low numbers that a new printing had to be rushed from CAPCO, UK, to meet the new Rs7 inland standard rate which came into force on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

The new printing which at first view is similar to the original printing has one hardly visible feature, the white petals of the flower are very slightly paler. The new printing was done by the same printer, B.D.T. International of Ireland, has the same font for the 2009 year imprint at the bottom stamp margin; has all the same sheet imprints such as the gutter logo imprints, traffic light and the same watermark as well. The only visible distinguishing difference is the sheet number position which was placed on the side selvedge of stamp 10/1 on the original printing and which has been moved to the other side of the sheet, the side selvedge of stamp 1/10 for the new printing. Therefore only two out of every fifty stamps, provided the stamp had the selvages attached, are easily identifiable. On sheet number 22 the original printing numerals on the selvedge is 22 and for the new printing the new sheet is numbered 022. This additional 0 is only on sheets numbered 001 to 099.



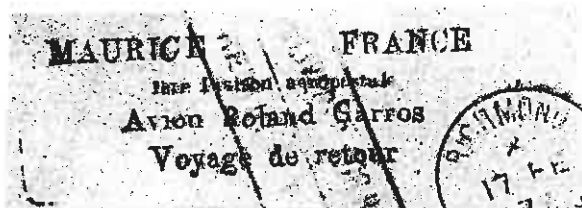
More new printings of the Rs7 denomination as well as of other denominations are inevitable, which hopefully will have visibly distinguishing features such as 2010 year imprints for 2010 new printings. The Rs7(2009) new printing was put on sale locally on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009, five months after the Rs7(2009) original printing released on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Only 100,000 original stamps of this denomination were produced whereas 1,000,000 were produced for the new printing.

The printing figures for the original printing of the Indigenous Flowers of Mauritius set of twelve stamps are:

Rs3, Rs4, Rs6, Rs7, Rs8, Rs9, Rs22, Rs25, Rs50 (9) 100,000 // Rs10, Rs15 (2) 200,000 // Rs5 (1) 2,000,000.

### ROLAND GARROS

*Roland Garros* left Mauritius on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1937.... and 50 letters were carried on this flight from Mauritius for France.... all mail from Mauritius received a four line cachet - / Maurice France / 1ère Liaison aeropostale / Avion Ronald Garros / Voyage de retour / - in Reunion (Source P.I.)



UK auction catalogues often repeat this figure of 50 covers, sometimes with some embellishment. For example – “First Flight Cover to Germany.... Only 50 covers flown” (January 2003) and “First Flight Cover to Reunion Island.... Very scarce only 50 covers flown” (September 2004).

How many covers were flown to France, as the flight stopped in France, and then sent to other destinations by other means of transport? How come there are so many UK addressed covers that keep on coming up in auctions? How come there are so many of these covers in Mauritius alone, never mind elsewhere?

Someone in the Society wants to disprove the 50 covers “for France” claim. Can you help!! If you can, kindly send a good photocopy of your cover, even if the cachet is poor to very poor, c/o The Secretary, P.O. Box 89, Quatre Bornes. You will receive an acknowledgement. It does not matter if your cover is addressed to countries other than France.

### NEW CANCELLER

A new postmark measuring 28mm in diameter reading G.P.O. SORTING at top and MAURITIUS at base with two lines at sides and the date in a straight single line in the centre was recorded on a postal item dated 10.09.2009\* addressed to Quatre Bornes from a Port Louis source. The item was cancelled at the GPO Sorting Office in Port Louis by an OMRON table top automatic canceller which was in use for a “few days” in September 2009.

The equipment was removed from the GPO Sorting Office sometime in September only to reappear at another venue....



\*earliest date seen

**MAURITIUS**  
including Rodrigues and Outer Islands  
**POSTAL CHARGES AS FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009**

**INLAND MAIL**

	Rs cs
<b>Letters:</b>	
First 20 grammes -----	7.00
Each additional 20 grammes or fraction of 20 grammes -----	1.00
Postcards -----	4.00
<b>Printed Paper</b>	
First 50 grammes or fraction of 50 grammes -----	6.00
Each additional 50 grammes or fraction of 50 grammes -----	4.00
Literature for the Blind -----	Free
Express Delivery Fee -----	20.00

**OVERSEAS MAIL – SURFACE**

	Rs cs		Rs cs
<b>Letters</b>		<b>Printed Paper</b>	
Not exceeding		Not exceeding	
20 grammes -----	7.00	20 grammes -----	4.00
50 grammes -----	14.00	50 grammes -----	6.00
100 grammes -----	17.00	100 grammes -----	8.00
250 grammes -----	34.00	250 grammes -----	17.00
500 grammes -----	70.00	500 grammes -----	28.00
1000 grammes -----	126.00	1000 grammes -----	56.00
2000 grammes -----	224.00	2000 grammes -----	84.00
Postcards -----	6.00	For each additional 1000 grammes	
Literature for the Blind -----	Free	or fraction of 1000 grammes -----	42.00
<b>Newspapers and periodicals (published in Mauritius)</b>		<b>Small Packets</b>	
Not exceeding		Not exceeding	
100 grammes -----	4.00	100 grammes -----	11.00
250 grammes -----	8.00	250 grammes -----	17.00
500 grammes -----	14.00	500 grammes -----	28.00
1000 grammes -----	22.00	1000 grammes -----	50.00
2000 grammes -----	35.00	2000 grammes -----	70.00

**OVERSEAS AIRMAIL**

Destination	1 <sup>st</sup> Class		Postcards Max size (105x148mm)	2 <sup>nd</sup> class		Air letters (Aerogrammes)
	First 5 gms	Add 5 gms		First 10 gms	Add 10 gms	
	Rs cs	Rs cs	Rs cs	Rs cs	Rs cs	Rs cs
<b>ZONE 1</b>						
Comores, Reunion, Madagascar and Seychelles	14.00	10.00	14.00	11.00	8.00	10.00
<b>ZONE 2</b>						
Africa, Bangladesh, Europe, Far East, India, Middle East, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and South East Asia	15.00	11.00	14.00	13.00	9.00	10.00
<b>ZONE 3</b>						
Australia, Canada, New Zealand, North, Central and South America and Pacific Islands	17.00	12.00	14.00	14.00	10.00	10.00

**OTHER RELATED TARIFFS**

	Rs cs		Rs cs
<b>INLAND</b>		<b>FOREIGN</b>	
Certificate of posting -----	8.00	Certificate of posting -----	8.00
Registration Fee -----	14.00	Registration Fee -----	40.00
Advice of Delivery (AR) -----	14.00	Advice of Delivery -----	14.00
Postage Prepaid (per item) -----	2.00	Reply Coupons (sale per unit) -----	40.00*
Business Reply Service (per item) -----	3.00	Reply Coupons (exchange per unit) -----	17.00*
Postage Due Fee (by Govt. Dept. – per item) -----	2.00	Conveyance charge for parcels -----	50.00
Withdrawal Fee -----	10.00	Demurrage per diem after 14 days -----	35.00
		Clearance Fee dutiable items / parcels -----	56.00

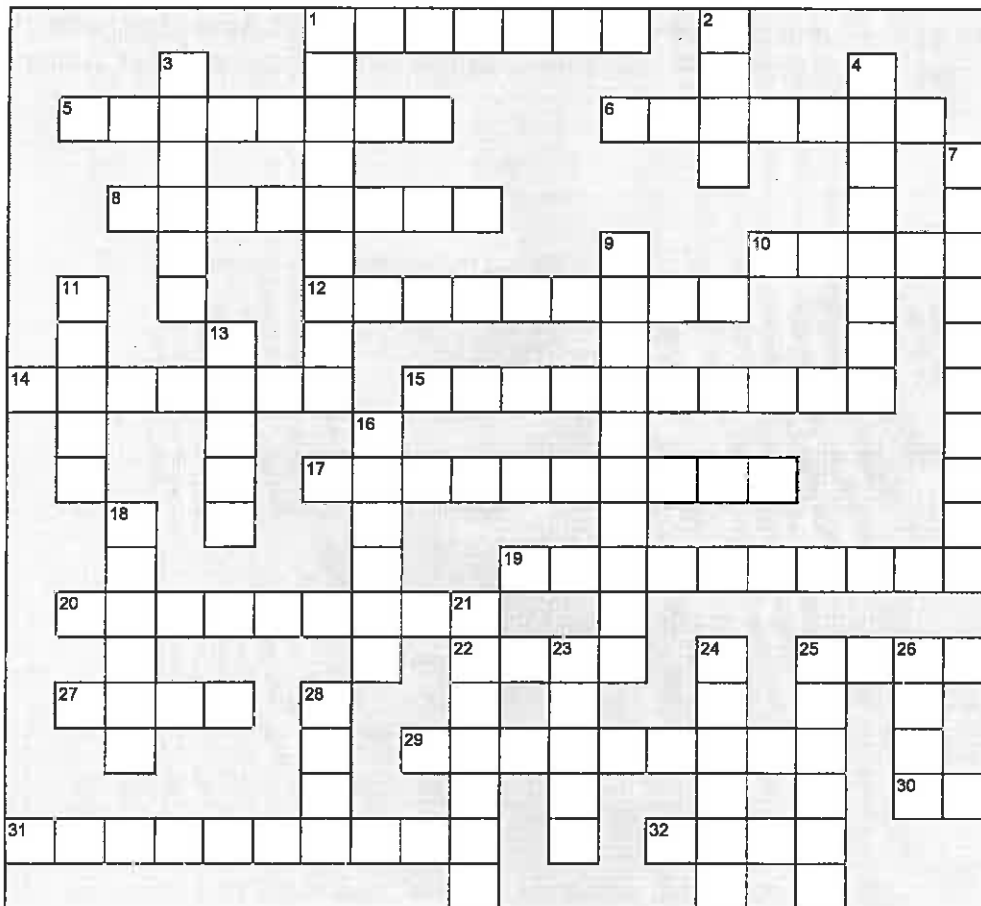
**OTHER RELATED TARIFFS**

SMALL BOX Rs700 per annum	BIG BOX Rs1,000 per annum	KEY DEPOSIT FEE Rs700
N.B. * Purchase price of a Mauritian International Reply Coupon as from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2009		Rs55.00
• Recovery value of all IRCs (including Mauritius) in Mauritius as from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2009		Rs17.00

A MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY PRESENTATION

**CANCEL THIS PUZZLE !**

(Some answers require compound words – Others require only a part of compound words)

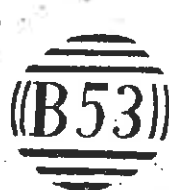
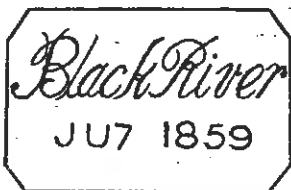


**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

1 23	19 30	1 Successor of A	16 42
5 36	20 14	followed by 53	18 Part of 24
6 29	22 Part of 16 & 25	2 Part of B45	21 Part of 35
8 19	25 Part of 17	3 22	23 Part of 13
10 7	27 11	4 21	24 Part of B47
12 15	29 Part of 34	7 8	25 Part of B45
14 32	30 Part of B45	9 39	26 Adjoined to 21
15 40	31 6	11 10	will produce 37
17 2	32 Part of 27	13 20	28 26

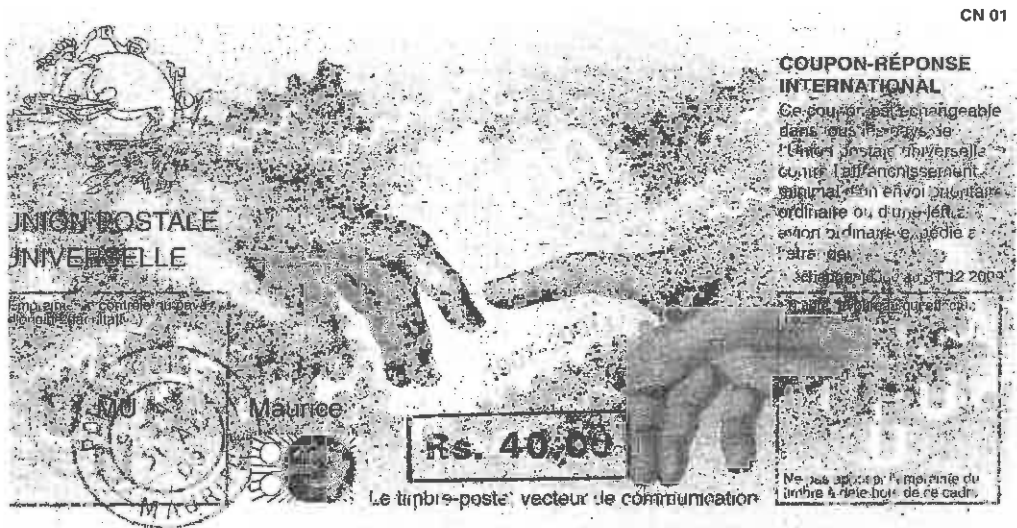
© JNWH (USA) 2009



We are sharing this freshly copyrighted puzzle in this issue of our News Items. Our correspondent hopes that members will find this activity interesting. Please let us know whether you find this beneficial by sending your comments. Solution to puzzle will appear in the next issue.

**INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON**

The MU Maurice, Universal Postal Union (UPU) International Reply Coupon (IRC) "exchangeable in any country of the UPU for the minimum postage for an unregistered priority item or an unregistered letter sent by air to any foreign country" Beijing model 2\* was withdrawn from sale at the close of business on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009. It will however remain valid for exchange against stamps up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.





A new MU Maurice UPU Nairobi model\* IRC which incorporate the national flag of Mauritius, the quadricolor, and additional security features went on sale as from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

The price of the Beijing model 2 UPU IRC was Rs40.00, the price of the Nairobi model IRC is Rs55.00. The recovery value of all UPU IRCs cashed in Mauritius is Rs17.00 at 31<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

\* The Mauritius IRCs as designated by Mauritius Post Ltd.

### STAMP BOOKLETS

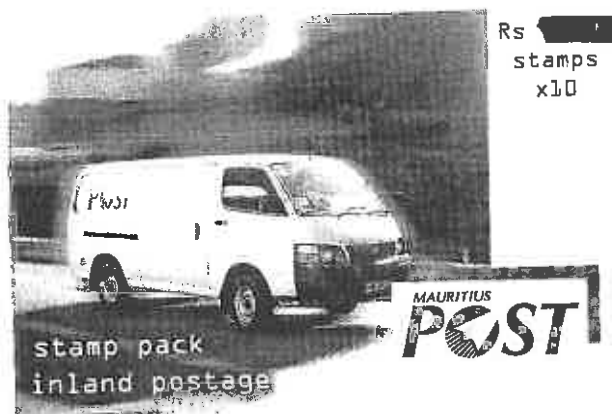
During September 2009 two types of stamp booklets have been on sale at three outlets namely The Bookcourt at Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis; Librairie Le Cygne, Royal Road, Rose Hill and Librairie Carrefour at La Louise. The date of their introduction is supposedly sometime in 2009 and the three outlets selling these booklets have a Mauritius Post Ltd notice advertising the availability of stamps on their premises. The two booklets are believed to be available at several other bookshops around the island.

The two types of booklets on sale at the three outlets are:

- (i) The Yellow Post Office Van Rs2 original 2005 booklet (cover) with 10xRs5 "Mauritius in World Literature" Bernardin de St Pierre stamps
- (ii) The Black River Post Office Rs7 original 2005 booklet (cover) with 10xRs10 "Mauritius in World Literature" Alexandre Dumas stamps.

The booklets are made up of stamps from normal 50 stamp sheets which are stuck in the booklet covers with the stamp selvedge.

The original usage instructions for the 2005 rates thus do not conform to 2009 rates.



These two booklets are easily distinguishable from the 2005 original booklets and the June 2007 booklets by the obliteration of the Rs2.00 and the Rs7.00 values printed on the covers with a black marker.

The restricted progressive promotion of stamp booklets referred to as stamp packs on all the three types from (a) supermarkets 2005 (b) two post offices Souillac and Petite Rivière 2007 and (c) bookshops (2009) still means these booklets have never been available to the public in the normal course of postal business service since their introduction by the corporatized postal services in 2005.

## RECAPITULATION

In News Items 2006.1 of March 2006 the Society reported on two booklets introduced on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2005. At that date one type of booklet for inland mail, the Computer Keyboard cover type, with 10xRs2 stamps "postage for the first 50 grams" and the 10xRs7 stamps "for overseas postage of postcards max. size 140x90mm" with the Black River Post Office cover were put on sale. The inland booklet contained Rs2 and the postcard booklet Rs7 denominations of the Fish definitive stamps. Both were constructed with stamps from standard sheets of 50 stamps.

In News Items 2007.3 of September 2007 an update on these stamp booklets was published after new types of the Rs2 inland and the postcard Rs7 Black River Post Office booklets were found at Souillac Post Office on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The new types of inland booklets were made up of 10xRs2 "Bicentenary of Mahebourg" stamps and the postcard booklet contained 10xRs7 stamps from the same commemorative issue. The three inland booklets with covers featuring a Yellow Post Office Van, the Central Post Office (La Poste Centrale) of Port Louis and Counter Service at Dumas Street Port Louis; the Computer Keyboard type was not amongst this batch of covers.

The inland postal rate at June 2007 was Rs5 and the postcard rate Rs10 after the revision of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006; the usage instructions printed in the booklets were for rates of November 2003. The booklets were available at only two outlets, Souillac in the south and Petite Rivière in the north-west. They were not on general sale at any other outlets in Mauritius, not at any supermarkets nor the 100 plus post offices.

The Editor would like to receive any additional data on these booklets that may be useful in updating, completing and establishing all relevant details on these products as the data gathered this far may be incomplete.

## PILLAR BOX

The two bright red British First National Standard type pillar boxes manufactured in the UK by Cochrane & Co., Woodside Works, Dudley in 1861 (P.I.'s description) placed on either side of the entrance to the former Mauritius Postal Museum in 1995 at the ex-GPO Headquarters on Quay Street, Port Louis, have been removed and relocated to two other sites during 2009.

(i) One has been placed to the left front corner of the former Central Post Office of Port Louis (La Poste Centrale) which now houses the new Postal Museum on Quay Street, Port Louis. This was done sometime in the first half of 2009.

(ii) The other has been placed outside the main entrance of the new Quatre Bornes Post Office at the corner of St Jean Road and Osman Avenue. It has been in use since 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009 when the new post office opened its doors at the new location.

Both have been repainted in bright post office red. No one has yet got around to daub them in the new Mauritius Post Ltd yellow and blue corporate colours; the colour of the new plastic square wall mounted letter boxes. Many of the old red metal letter boxes found all over Mauritius have been repainted yellow and blue, some however have been repainted red such as the one at La Louise Postal Agency. The colour of the agent's shop is red!

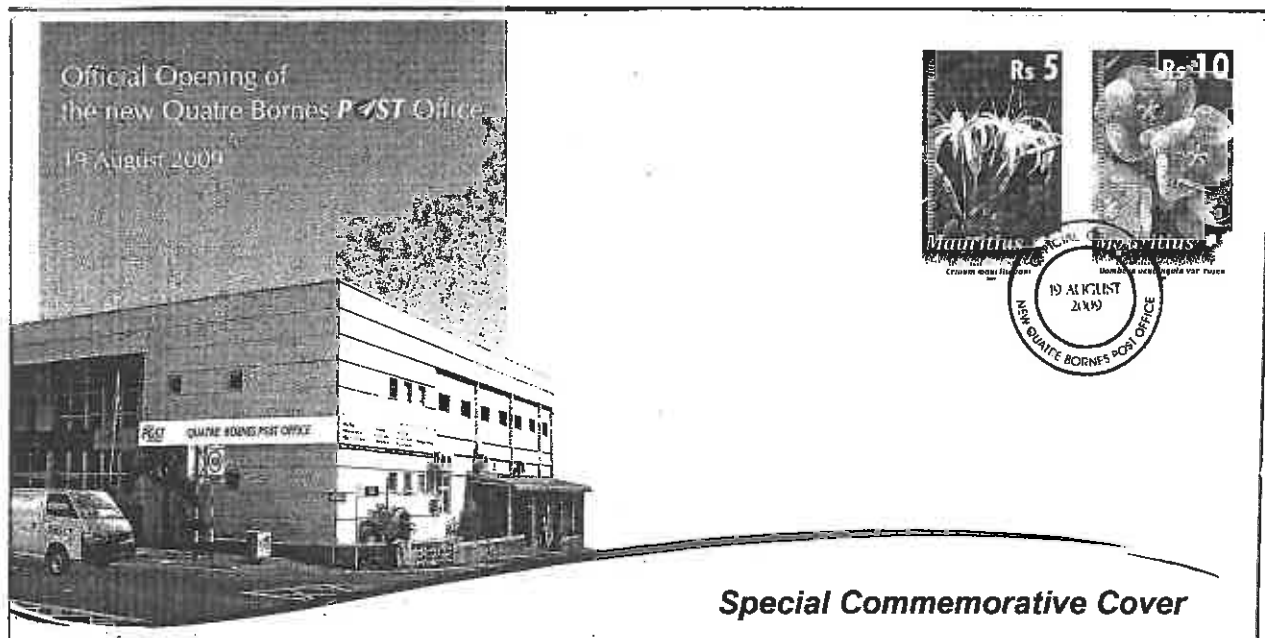
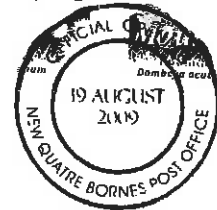
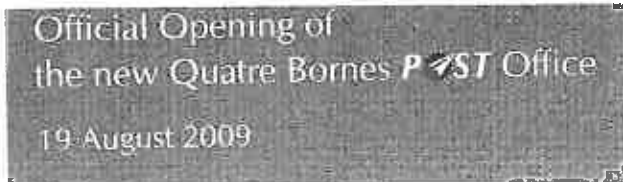
Several locally manufactured poor imitations of the 19<sup>th</sup> century metal pillar boxes of Mauritius have been placed in a couple of libraries and bookshops reportedly in 2009. These dirty brown-red plastic boxes, smaller than the old cast iron originals, bear the words The Mauritius Post Ltd in four lines in gold and have been seen at the Caudan Bookcourt, Port Louis and Le Cygne Bookshop, Rose Hill.

Both shops are vendors of Mauritius Post's stamp booklets. Five such plastic boxes have reportedly been produced. Anyone out there know where the others are sited?

P.S. [After one has posted one's letters in the Postal Museum pillar box outside the museum one can visit the museum wherein another relocated (UK) pillar box is one of the exhibits. One cannot post any letter in this pillar box!]

## QUATRE BORNES POST OFFICE

The Quatre Bornes Post Office moved from its former location at Sir William Newton Avenue, behind the town market, to new premises in “the Municipal Complex” at the corner of St Jean Road and Osman Avenue as from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The new Quatre Bornes Post Office was officially opened on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009 by the Hon. Charles Xavier Luc Duval, G.C.S.K., Vice-Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Rama Krishna Sithanen, G.C.S.K., Vice-Prime Minister; and Hon. Mohammed Asraf Ally Dulull, Minister of Information & Communication Technology (responsible for Postal Services), in the presence of other eminent personalities at 17.00 hrs.

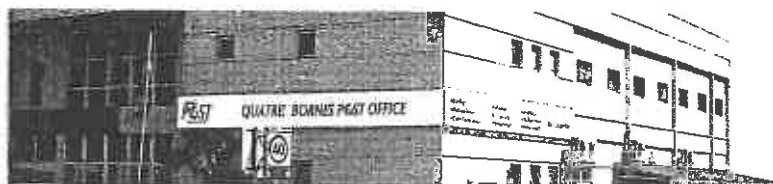


The new Quatre Bornes Post Office is amongst other things a “new pillar of the new modernization process since the corporatisation of the Postal Services with its added services such as Postshop, Photocopy, Sale of Philatelic items, Access to Internet through PIAP (Public Internet Access Point).... to bridge the digital divide” etc....; it is also *un joyau dynamique – Un look de mannequin – Cinq étoile ...etc....*

Two new Type D double circle circular date stamps, 27 mm in diameter, were introduced as from 10<sup>th</sup> August (on counters number 5 and 6) reading respectively Quatre Bornes 5 and Quatre Bornes 6 at top, Mauritius at base, and thin lines at sides.

A Special Commemorative Cover illustrated with the new Quatre Bornes Post Office franked with the Rs5 and Rs10 denominations of the Indigenous Flowers of Mauritius definitive and cancelled with a special cachet reading Official Opening at top Quatre Bornes Post Office at lower half with the date 19 August / 2009 in two lines in the centre was distributed free to “eminent personalities” during the official inauguration and only ten were on sale to the public at Quatre Bornes Post Office. 500 covers were produced and a small quantity was available from the Philatelic Bureau, Port Louis as from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August at Rs40.00 per unit.

An enclosed data sheet gives a brief history of Quatre Bornes Post Office as follows: Opened at the railway station around 1870... moved to a rented building at Beeltah House, St Jean Road, Quatre Bornes on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1969... in 1979 relocated to a complex at Sir William Newton Avenue, Quatre Bornes.



*Comment.* The organized reason for using a special cachet to cancel the two stamps on the 500 Special Commemorative Covers is known only to those managing Mauritius Post Ltd. Two brand new double circle circular datestamps were introduced and available for use on opening day. Plain common sense dictated the use of one of these cds, notwithstanding that the cachet used reads New Quatre Bornes Post Office. The text above the illustration of the new post office on the cover states this redundancy.

The yellow panel of the building (on the cover) reads *Quatres Bornes Post Office*. *Quatre* is written with an "s" so as to rhyme with the "s" of *Bornes*, thus two *esses*. All the 500 *esses* were painted over before the covers were put on sale, however if you scratch the space after the letter "e" in *Quatre* the "s" reappears.

One reason why "Mauritian Painters" (sic) stamps, announced for 2009, were not and will not be issued.... The Painters were too busy covering an error. What a messy lot!

#### THE PRESS

Le Défi-Plus	04.07.2009	Timbre commémoratif
L'express	09.07.2009	Affranchir le courrier coûte plus cher
L'express	09.07.2009	Facteur
Le Matinal	11.07.2009	Stamped In History
Le Défi-Plus	25.07.2009	Subita Pateera, un facteur au féminin
Le Défi-Plus	15.08.2009	Des taxis gênent près de la poste
L'express	20.08.2009	Un nouveau bureau de poste pour la ville des fleurs
Le Matinal	20.08.2009	Bouger avec la poste
News on Sunday	21.08.2009	QB new post office
Week-End	23.08.2009	Une nouvelle succursale de la poste voit le jour
L'express	31.08.2009	Inauguration de la nouvelle poste de Quatre Bornes
L'express	05.09.2009	Il reçoit ses lettres après 4 ans
Le Défi-Plus	05.09.2009	Le pigeon voyageur postal !
Week-End	06.09.2009	Polémique autour d'un lieu d'exposition
L'express	19.09.2009	Jujubier abattu à la poste centrale

MAURITIUS POSTAL HISTORY = MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWS ITEMS is a publication of the **Mauritius Philatelic Society**

Edited by **Mico W. Antoine**

**P.O. Box 89, Quatre Bornes, MAURITIUS**

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