

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

QUARTERLY UPDATES

No. 1 – 2016

Dear members and visitors to the site,

In order to upgrade the Society's website we will, as from now, post summaries of our activities, news of postal and philatelic events, titles of local press report on postal matters ... a *repertoire* of events as they occur.

The first quarterly update covers the period January to March 2016. This will allow for a more up to date link with our members as it bridges the gap between the Society's two annual news bulletins. We trust this new initiative will receive your approval and your appreciation.

We are considering other improvements to the website and we shall introduce more features in the near future.

Contact us via our new e-mail address mru.philatelic.society.1989@gmail.com

The Management Committee.

JANUARY - MARCH

JANUARY:

The Society did not hold the usual members monthly meeting during the first month of 2016. The January interruption has now become a not unusual tradition as almost everyone in Mauritius takes a break at the beginning of each year – so does the Society.

The Management Committee did however meet on 23rd January at 13:00 hours at the residence of the president at 3A La Louise Lane, Quatre Bornes. The affairs of the Society for the whole of the previous year were reviewed and matters to be dealt with during the new year were examined.

Two important resolutions were taken; the date of the Annual General Meeting was fixed for the 5th March 2016 and it was determined that the Society's website be managed and operated from Mauritius as soon as the transfer of all data and files from Australia were completed.



February convocations were posted on 26th January 2016 from L'Escalier Post Office.

FEBRUARY:

The first members' monthly meeting of 2016 was held on 6th February at College du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 14:00 hrs. A.N. Maderbokus reviewed the stamps of Mauritius issued during 2015 and he showed a range of his acquisitions and additions to his collections which included bills of lading, B53 and Packet Letters and entires. Randhir Mungra showed several historical postcards of Mauritius and modern incoming registered covers from Argentina, Italy and the UK addressed to him. An update of the 300 years of the "Peoplement of Mauritius" event of September 2015 was made by Mico Antoine. He also showed two inland covers struck with new publicity handstamps; one to mark a University of Mauritius (UOM) anniversary and one with an (ICAC) Independent Commission Against Corruption message. A.N. Maderbokus provided some fine sweets and scented refreshments for the 16 members in attendance.

TRANSFER OF CENTRAL FLACQ POST OFFICE

A press notice in "Le Week-End" of 28th February 2016 announces the relocation of Central Flacq Post Office to **Flacq Coeur de Ville** (Super U Complex) as from Monday 29th February 2016 from its previous site.

The Quarterly Update is presented by Mico Antoine assisted by Randhir Mungra and Arnaud Guibert.

The Society website managers are Randhir Mungra and Arnaud Guibert.



March convocations were posted on 24th February 2016 from Britannia Post Office.

MARCH:

The Annual General Meeting was held on 5th of March 2016 at College du St. Esprit at 14:00 hours.

The press notice was published in “L’Express” on 16th February 2016 and the convocation dated 24th February 2016 was posted to members from Britannia on even date.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes of 2015 AGM.
2. Report of the President for the year 2015.
3. Approval of Accounts ending 31st December 2015.
4. Approval of Budget for the year 2016.
5. Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers for the year 2016.
6. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2016.
7. A.O.B.

All AGM business were completed without any contestation and all decisions were adopted and were unanimously approved.

The nine Committee members were elected by acclamation and will hold office until March 2017 in the following capacity:

W.Mico ANTOINE	President
A. Nasser MADERBOKUS	Vice President
Saoud MAUTHOOR	Treasurer

Alain LOUIS	Assistant Treasurer
Sachitanand MUNGRA	Secretary
Arnaud GUIBERT	Assistant Secretary
Jean Joseph AUGUSTE	} Members
Thonyno DIEUDONNE	
Jaswant JHURRY	

A display of the latest digital frankings and several commercial covers, a peep at some Mauritian cinderellas, an interesting display of pictorial postcards on *Maisons Coloniales* by Francoise Nozaïc and Mauritius scenery by T.Bradshaw and a small range of postal history covers from a few well-known collectors such as Roger Giraud, Maurice Maurel and A.G.A. Raman served as a backdrop to the AGM.

18 members attended the March AGM of 2016.

Before the AGM, the outgoing Management Committee met at 13:00 hrs to discuss the arrangements and the agenda as well as to examine all the returns and other documents relating to the AGM. Everything was deemed to be in order.

THE PRESS AND THE POST

- 12.01.2016 Le Défi Quotidien: Rs 15M d'héroïne pure saisie a la poste centrale.
- 14.01.2016 L'Express: Le ministère des Finances injecte Rs 500 millions dans la Poste.
- 16.01.2016 Le Mauricien : MauBank : polémique sur les Rs 510M de la Poste.
- 16.01.2016 Le Défi Plus : Services postaux : (*union matters re vacancies*)
- 20.01.2016 L'Express : Nominations à la Poste L'ICAC enquête.
- 22.01.2016 Le Défi Quotidien : Rs 2.7 millions de drogues saisies.
- 23.01.2016 L'Express : Lutte antidrogue : La Poste met le paquet.
- 27.01.2016 Le Défi Quotidien : Trafic de drogue – La voie postale privilégiée.
- 13.02.2016 L'Express : La Poste en pagaille : (*Parcels Office*).
- 27.02.2016 L'Express : Un facteur violent devant un comité disciplinaire.
- 19.03.2016 L'Express : Poste : polémique autour d'une soixantaine de transferts.

The first quarter press coverage of 2016 on Mauritius Post Ltd was negative on most fronts viz: the toxic loans of the Mauritius Post and Cooperative Bank Ltd (MPCB), drug trafficking via the postal services and staff problems but complete silence on serious operating setbacks and the dire financial situation of the corporation in spite of the 2015 postal rate increases.

STAMP PROGRAMME 2016

At 31st March 2016, Mauritius Post Ltd has not released any details of the stamps of 2016 nor has any decision been approved by the “Cabinet” of the Government of Mauritius.

When and if Mauritius Post Ltd, the Stamp Advisory Committee and the Cabinet informs the nation we shall in turn advise our members.

During 2015 the “Stamp Issue Programme 2015” incorrectly listed four “themes” for the period June-December. The November 2015 single stamp on Joseph Guy Rozemont and the four Fauna and Flora stamps scheduled for December, both “proposed by SAC in 2014”, were never released. The single National Archives bicentenary stamp proposed for October was released on 7th December 2015.

The four stamps issued during 2015



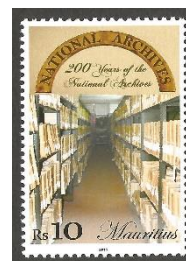
Disaster Risk Reduction



9^e Jeux des Iles de l’Océan Indien



300th Anniversary of the French
Landing in Mauritius (1715–2015)



200 Years of the National Archives

(Note: the French Landing stamp was a joint issue with France)

Mauritius Post Ltd did take the liberty of issuing a single pedestrian “logo” stamp on 1st August 2015 on the whim of the CEO to mark a Réunion, France and by extension Mayotte game. This *Jeux des Iles de l’Océan Indien* was never on the 2015 programme nor was it approved by the Cabinet and it was not on the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation (responsible for the postal services) listing issued on 1st April 2015; most importantly the games were not held in Mauritius. Some communication innovation!

Watch this space for the 2016 stamp programme in the next quarterly update.