

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

QUARTERLY UPDATES

No. 2 – 2017

APRIL - JUNE

APRIL:

The April members meeting was held on the 1st of the month at St Esprit College, Quatre Bornes at 14:00 hours. The convocations were posted from Midlands post office on 22nd March 2017.

The management committee met at the same venue between 13:00 and 14:00 hours to discuss the affairs of the society.

The members meeting agenda listed three items namely: the Coat of Arms of Mauritius by A N Maderbokus and M Antoine, King George VI varieties by Alain Louis and the review and distribution of newsletter No.17. The convocation also announced that as from May 2017 one display unit would be at the disposal of members in the hope of encouraging greater participation in the activities of the society.

The Coat of Arms display and presentation was spread over four display units with A N Maderbokus dealing with the pre-1968 arms and M Antoine with post-1968 arms on stamps, banknotes and coins. Four distinctive types of arms were shown and explained beginning with the L Duverge 1898 Diamond Jubilee arms, the Type I 1895-1907 arms, the 1910-1992 Type II arms and the P Cuttaree 1992-2017 republic arms. Many other tinkering with the official arms of Mauritius on banknotes, stickers, letterheads and other printed papers were also dealt with.



MIDLANDS POST OFFICE

Opened 1879
Current Location :
Royal Road
Postcode : 52501



The convocations dated 22nd March 2017 were posted from Midlands on the same day.

Due to a last minute impediment/*empesement* Alain Louis George VI varieties was rescheduled for June.

The December 2015 No.17 20^o10' newsletter was reviewed and distributed as announced.

Other issues dealt with were updates on the Green Turtle (2014) and the 300 years of the French Landing (2015) stamps, the blunt facts on the choice of 12th March as the national day of Mauritius, the role of the Colonial Postmaster James Stuart Brownrigg in the local production of the stamps of Mauritius and his departure from Mauritius under a rather heavy cloud.

15 members attended the April meeting.

MAY:

The May meeting was held on 6th May at the usual venue and at the scheduled time. The convocations were mailed from New Grove post office on 27th April 2017.

Two items were on the agenda. These were: a talk on photography by Reyaze Sher Mohamedkhan and several aspects of Mauritius.

Diane Sher Mohamedkhan is an English girl who enrolled as a member of the society in 1991 and after a few years absence re-enrolled in 2014. Her suggestion that her husband address our members on his hobby was accepted by the management committee.

Reyaze brought along some 20 plus cameras as well as photographic accessories, apparatuses and products. Amongst the items on show were – Kodak autographic and pocket cameras, an Elgy Luminaire 35 mm spy camera, a Voightlander 35 mm camera, a Coronet 3-D camera, a Seagull twin lens reflex camera, a Polaroid land camera, a stereo viewer and view cards, various types and brands of films, negatives, plates, flashers and other items. The range of material dated from the early 1800s to more recent times. Reyaze gave a talk on his collection and exchanged ideas on modern photography with those interested. Diane and Reyaze also brought along some freshly prepared hot snack and very hot sauces.

A N Maderbokus supported our special guests' display with an interesting and appropriate range of early black and white postcards of 20th century Mauritius together with a rather unique batch of black and white original photographs from a South African source after a chance meeting in a hospital ward. He keeps on surprising us with the type of stuff that he began collecting at a very early age.

The notice board carried some more bad press on Mauritius Post Ltd such as a list of outstanding and unpaid parastatal borrowings from government. A complaint addressed to the society from a Czech philatelist on his postal experience in Mauritius together with the society's response was posted on the board and discussed at length.

Sales of the material on offer was very poor with an attendance of only 12. Rain was mainly responsible for the low turnout in spite of the cancellation of the day's race meeting because of rather bad weather during the whole of the week.



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| <p>NEW GROVE POST OFFICE</p> <p>Opened 02.08.1915 Current Location : Deux Bras Road Postcode : 51222</p> |
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The convocations dated 26th April 2017 were posted from New Grove on 27th April.

JUNE:

The June meeting was held on the 3rd at College du St Esprit at 14:00 hours. The convocations were posted from Quartier Militaire post office on 23rd May 2017.

The main topic was the George VI Mauritius varieties item rescheduled from April. It was expanded to include other George VI stamps of the British Commonwealth.

Alain blew up several King’s Heads of the period 1938-49 from his collection in order to show very clearly the many varieties of the multiple printings of these stamps. He has over the years examined and studied not only the George VI stamps but also both the franking machine metermarks and the digitals meters of Mauritius. He showed many unlisted varieties of the 2c olive grey and the 5c slate lilac such as shades, broken frames, battered letters, fly specks, dots, lines and other varieties and freaks.

Mico Antoine assisted with the listed 10c rose-red sliced S at top on a March 1947 aerophilatelic flown cover of Mauritius franked with a strip of five 10c stamps and the Victory omnibus pair (recto) plus four other George VI stamps (verso), some George VI definitive of African countries and George VI commonwealth omnibus stamps. Using the “GEOSIX – Study Paper No.6 – Mauritius 1938-50” for reference he provided detailed data on key plates, duty plates, selvedge imprints, printing plates, paper types, release dates and other related issues.

The notice board carried explanatory notes on key plates and duty plates, the early key types of Mauritius, Barbados and Trinidad standard Britannia design (1848-54) and later (1950) Leeward Island key plates.

An “Item Tracking” list of a registered letter from Tampere (Norway) to Curepipe (Mauritius) proved beyond any doubt that the item posted on 21.4.2017 arrived at the airport in Plaisance on 26.4.2017 and was delivered only on 12.05.2017. 5 days from Europe to Mauritius and 16 days from SSR airport via the Port Louis Office of Exchange to Curepipe. Mauritius Post’s handling of mail from counter to delivery and its core letters business has

become an absolute disaster primarily because of its ridiculous “More than just letters” motto and its misguided policies.

Local press cuttings on the “Metro Express” project and Agalega were also appended to the notice board – loads of disinformation and rubbish.



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| QUARTIER MILITAIRE POST OFFICE |
| Opened 15.11.1880 Current location : One Way / Traffic Centre Postcode : 81106 |
| A circular postmark from Quartier Militaire, Mauritius. The text inside the circle reads "QUARTIER MILITAIRE", "9. - AM", "23 MY", and "MAURITIUS". |

The convocations dated 23rd May were posted from Quartier Militaire on the same date.

STAMPS OF MAURITIUS COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

175th ANNIVERSARY OF KWAN TEE PAGODA

The second stamp on the 2017 stamp programme announced for May was issued on 20th June 2017. The stamp commemorates the 175th anniversary of Kwan Tee Pagoda. The actual anniversary date of the original pagoda was 29th January as the edifice was inaugurated on that date in 1842.

The data card headed “The KWAN TEE Pagoda 175 years History 1842-2017” contains some brief notes on the pagoda such as “the oldest Chinese temple in the southern hemisphere and the first on the African continent”. The original building was destroyed by a 1960 cyclone. Rebuilding began only in 2006 and 10 years later after completion the new pagoda was declared a national monument on 3rd May 2016. The 150 years furnace used for burning “hell money” and other paper offerings and the back part of the building were restored during renovation which include the addition of a new section, new façade and arches. The stamp is the reproduction of a photograph of the façade of the main pagoda building only.

The Official First Day Cover (OFDC) is illustrated with a black and white photograph of the old pagoda. The Rs 10.00 stamp affixed to the right top corner of the cover is cancelled with a single strike of the standard Type D 27mm First Day of Issue / Mauritius circular date

stamp at 8:15 AM / 20 JU / 17. No other additional cachet is applied to the OFDC. However a small scroll type printed label bearing the title and dates of the occasion adorns the cover and fills up some space. A small logo of the pagoda is printed at the bottom right corner of the cover. The logo of Mauritius Post is imprinted on the gumless back flap.

The OFDC went on sale at the usual postal outlets as from Tuesday 20th June 2017 at Rs 60.00 per unit.



TRANSFER OF GRAND BAY (COUNTER) POST OFFICE

A press notice from The Mauritius Post Ltd dated 28th April 2017 advised the public that Grand Bay (Counter) post office would be relocated in a new modern building within **Grand Bay Coeur de Ville (Super U Complex)** as from Tuesday 2nd May 2017. It was previously located within the Richmond Hill Complex.

The official opening of the “New Grand Bay Post Office” took place on Thursday 18th May 2017 at 15 hours by **The Hon YOGIDA SAWMYNADEN**, Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, who happens to be the third or may be even the fourth minister responsible for postal matters during the last 30 odd months.



THE PRESS AND THE POST

- 03.04.2017 L'express : Rs 510 millions pour sauver la poste.
- 05.04.2017 Le Défi Plus : La poste livre du poulet frit (New Zealand).
- 05.04.2017 L'express : 90% des corps parapublique ne rendent pas de comptes.
- 06.04.2017 Le Défi Quotidien : Colis non livré et endommagé.
- 14.04.2017 Le Défi Quotidien : Braquage à la poste de Grand Gaube.
- 23.05.2017 Le Défi Quotidien : Nomination : Le beau-frère du ministre à la Mauritius Post Ltd.
- 24.05.2017 Le Défi Quotidien : Nominations : Le beau-frère ... à la Mauritius Post.
- 26.05.2017 Le Défi Quotidien : Nominations : H. Vydelingum ne figure plus sur le site de la Mauritius Post Ltd.
- 02.06.2017 Le Défi Quotidien : Certificat d'excellence ... poste de Curepipe.
- 02.06.2017 Le Défi Quotidien : Affranchissez vos lettres au supermarché
- 03.06.2017 Le Défi Plus : Difficile redressement pour la Mauritius Post Ltd.
- 11.06.2017 Week-end : Achat en ligne ... un service de messagerie.
- 15.06.2017 Le Défi Quotidien : Air Mauritius lance un SCC.
- 21.06.2017 L'express : Stamping a 20th Anniversary (Hong Kong).

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ATTEND YOUR SOCIETY MEETINGS ATTENDANCE FIGURES 2017

**JAN - MARCH 2017 - JANUARY N/A, FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 17
APR - JUNE 2017 - APRIL 15, MAY 12, JUNE 14.**

Mauritius Philatelic Society P.O. Box 89 Quatre Bornes Mauritius

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Visit our website : www.mauritiusphilatelicsociety.com