

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

QUARTERLY UPDATES

No. 2 – 2019

APRIL - JUNE

MAY 2019:

As per the established calendar only one members meeting was held during the second quarter of 2019. No members meetings were held in April and June.

The May meeting was held on the 5th of the month at College du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 14:00 hours. The convocation dated 25th April was posted from Chemin Grenier on 26th April 2019.

The agenda listed the following; Rescue and Life Saving issue of 13th March, Postmarks of Mauritius and Reply Coupons of Mauritius. The second item was not dealt with, instead an impressive postal stationery “specimen” overprints selection was shown. Postmarks of Mauritius was rescheduled to July.



CHEMIN GRENIER POST OFFICE

Opened : 01/01/1878
Current Location :
Lotus Road
Postcode : 60413



The convocations dated 25th April 2019 were posted from Chemin Grenier on 26th April.

The first item, the first stamp of 2019 was presented by A N Maderbokus. He spotted the bag toting fellow awaiting to be winched by the hovering seldom seen airborne whirly-bird of the “Mauritius Air Squadron”. Have a close look at the posture and position of the “shopper”, the chopper and the surrounding lunar landscape ... some very imaginative Mauritius Police Force rescue operation! Mauritius Post was heavily criticized for its handling of this barely disguised “51st Anniversary of Independence” stamp issued on a Wednesday, one day after the

event, 12th March 2019. In Mauritius, Tuesday 12th March, Independence Day was a public holiday. This ungainly stupid irrelevant stamp was issued only five months after the two equally poorly designed and inappropriate “Rescue and Life Saving” stamps issued on World Post Day 9th October 2018. Mauritius philately is being rubbished by Mauritius Post with a lot of nonsense (see Update No.1 - 2019).

The main display was also by A N Maderbokus, a comprehensive and well organized mint postal history collection of “specimen” overprints of Mauritius. The covers and postcards of the various overprints of the Victoria to George VI colonial period were presented in some 45 A4 double pocket protectors spread over three display boards, 15 pockets to each board. Doc delivered a well researched talk on the subject in his usual members exchange style.

Arnaud Guibert showed a selection of International Reply Coupons of Mauritius from the earliest to the latest types. He explained the rationale for the introduction of these negotiable items in 1908. A range of Imperial and Commonwealth Reply Coupon and the single purpose International Reply Coupon (IRC) of the UPU were shown.

Mico Antoine showed some “Metro Express” press cuttings. This Mauritian light railway, tramway, ground and above ground level passenger transport system, without one foot of underground “metro” rail land anywhere, will be the subject of a postage stamp in September on the occasion of its scheduled “soft launching” of the Port Louis - Rose Hill section. He gave a short talk on the Mauritius Government Railway (MGR) of yesteryears, the very few railway stamps of Mauritius and the railway-post office link and service of the past.

The Purchase List and Bid Board offered the usual lots of modern Mauritius, Commonwealth and Indian Ocean islands material. The meeting was attended by 12 members.

APRIL – MAY – JUNE

There was no members monthly meeting held in April and June. The management committee did however meet as follows:

APRIL: 6th April at the residence of the president, 3A La Louise Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 13:00 hrs.

MAY: 4th May at College du St Esprit, Quatre Bornes at 13:00 hrs.

JUNE: 15th June at the residence of the president, 3A La Louise Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 13:00 hrs.

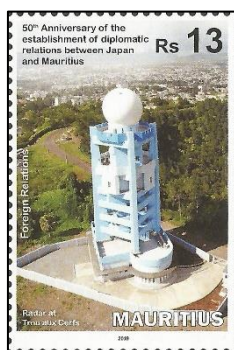
ATTEND YOUR SOCIETY MEETINGS ATTENDANCE FIGURES 2019

**JAN - MARCH 2019 - JANUARY N/A, FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 14
APRIL – JUNE 2019 – APRIL N/A, MAY 12, JUNE N/A**

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

FOREIGN RELATIONS

“50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Mauritius”, “Foreign Relations” and “Radar at Trou aux Cerfs” are all inscribed on the Rs 13.00 postage stamp issued on 30th April 2019.



The stamp portrays the S-Band solid State Radar that was “launched” or inaugurated on 3rd April 2019. “Historical Relations” between Mauritius and Japan started around “the 19th century by Japanese visitors”; Diplomatic Relations between “both countries” were established soon after the proclamation of the Independence of Mauritius. The “intimate relations” then “deepened in various domains” and even in “the famous Blue Penny Stamps”. The three or four “solid” events have all been consolidated into or mixed up on the 30th April 2019 stamp.

Only the blue and white radar building on the lip of Trou aux Cerfs the extinct volcano at the most visited tourist site of Curepipe dominates the stamp without any imaginary depiction of any historical or foreign events. The data card write up however is very informative with its Historical Relation and S-Band Doppler solid State RADAR story.

The Official First Day Cover is illustrated with the Japanese and Mauritius flags and Mauritius Post’s ubiquitous gold laurel now seen on almost every other 50th year event. The radar stamp affixed to the top right of the cover is cancelled with the First Day of Issue/Mauritius 27mm Type D double circle cds at 8:15 AM/30 AP/19.

The logo of Mauritius Post is imprinted on the gumless back flap of the OFDC. The cover was put on sale on 30th April 2019 at all the usual post office outlets and was priced at Rs 95.00 per unit.

*a

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

A single Rs 38.00 postage stamp was released on 15th May 2019 to mark the UN “Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare” theme according to Mauritius Post. The simplistic concept of the corporation’s graphic works “stamp designers” supposedly illustrates the ideal Mauritian family of four, father, mother, boy, girl, an uninspired reworked colour copy of the 1994 Rs 4.00 silhouette stamp SG 904. The stamp faceless and colourless “white” or bland Mauritian family unfortunately does not portray the average rather swarthy

but authentic Mauritian family. The stamp and its OFDC are very pedestrian and unattractive. The very sparse write up in the data card is not worth much.



The stamp affixed to the top right of the cover is cancelled with the First Day of Issue/Mauritius double circle circular Type D datestamp dated 8:15 AM/15 MY/19 and the back flap of the cover bears the logo of Mauritius Post. The Official First Day Cover illustration is an oblong map of the world and of six separate families made up of a one child family of three, two children families of four and one extended family of six members all silhouetted in whites against the ochre and brown background map circled with the legend “Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare” the designation of the Mauritian government ministry responsible for family related affairs.

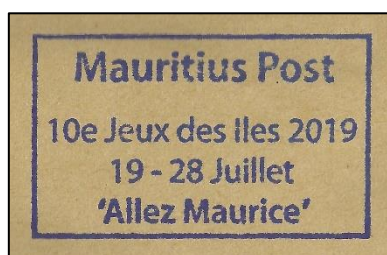
The stamp and the OFDC illustration are both third grade but “neutral” depictions of the Mauritian and the universal families; about average from the Stamp Advisory Committee, Mauritius Post, the UN and the ministry concerned to which courtesy is extended in the data card presumably for the very short write up.

The OFDC was offered for sale at Rs 125.00 from the usual postal outlets of the postal services.

10^{ÈME} JEUX DES ILES 2019

50 postal outlets were supplied with rubber handstamps on 31st May 2019 for application to “envelopes” posted as from Monday 3rd of June until and up to the end of the 10th Indian Ocean Inter Islands Games on 28th July 2019.

The games to be hosted by Mauritius from 19th July to 28th July 2019 will involve athletes from Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Maldives and by extension France represented by Mayotte and Reunion.



The 50 mm x 30 mm rubber stamp is a Mauritius Post initiative with the corporation's name in large font at top/10e Jeux des Iles 2019/ 19-28 Juillet/ 'Allez Maurice' in four lines. The instructions allows for the cachet to be applied in red or blue ink; both colours plus pink, mauve and other shades of red/blue have been seen. "Allez Maurice" literally translate into "Go Mauritius".

The handstamps were to be used from 3rd June to 20th June at 50 listed post offices which includes the five municipalities of Mauritius – Port Louis, Curepipe, Vacoas-Phoenix, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes - and thereafter at the remaining unlisted 50 + or – outlets which may mean that no main towns envelopes after 20th June will bear the cachets applied at the office of posting.

MOBILE POST OFFICE 3

A new Mobile Post Office service was introduced on Saturday 22nd June 2019 at Camp Levieux to provide three basic postal services namely:

- Sale of postage stamps.
- Acceptance of ordinary and registered letters, parcels and EMS; the post's courier Expedited Mail Service.
- Collection fees of parastatal utility bills for CEB/CWA/MT – Central Electricity Board, Central Water Authority, Mauritius Telecom.

Hours of business are Monday to Friday 8:30 to 11:15, Saturday 8:30 to 10:45.

The third Mobile Post Office 3 van will park in the yard of the Beau-Bassin/Rose Hill Municipal Funeral Parlour adjacent to the Camp Levieux Police Station to serve only Camp Levieux customers whilst Mauritius Post hibernates to "contemplate" serving other localities in the "near future". When not at Camp Levieux the van parks at its base – Stanley Post Office. The society has it that the "near future" localities will be Barkly, Palma and Roches Brunes.



Municipal Council of BB/RH Funeral Parlour



Mobile Post Office 3

Photographs Jean Auguste

The first Mobile Post Office 1 of Mauritius based at Mahebourg Post Office serves all the coastal localities from Ville Noire to GRSE (Grand River South East) on the east coast.

The second Mobile Post Office 2 based at Forest Side Post Office serves three localities south of its base.

The introduction of the new Mobile Post Office 3 serving suburban localities is a brainless decision and may explain its initial “bouge-fixe” immobility, at only one point out of four. These localities urgently need regular mail delivery services and not parastatal fees collection or EMS services.

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THE PRESS AND THE POST

17.05.2019	Le Défi Quotidien	À la Poste Centrale Rs 300,000 d’héroïne ...
18.05.2019	Le Mauricien	Un code « inutile ».
20.05.2019	Le Défi Quotidien	La contribution des bureaux de poste à la CSU.
31.05.2019	Le Défi Quotidien	Un deuxième colis ... Camp-de-Masque.
06.06.2019	Le Défi Plus	Drogue – Le facteur reste en détention.
15.06.2019	Le Défi Plus	Sacré plan.
23.06.2019	Week-end	Ces fameux timbres en question.
26.06.2019	Business Magazine	La poste se réinvente.
28.06.2019	Le Défi Quotidien	Il reçoit la lettre le 14 juin par la poste.

*a and *b Foreign Relations and Mobile Post Office 3 will feature in a special supplement in the Quarterly Update No.3 2019 together with a review of the period January to September 2019

Written by Mico W. Antoine – Layout Arnaud D. Guibert

Note: The material contained in this update has been compiled and collated in good faith for general information and no liability can be accepted for errors and omissions.