

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founder Members – Mico Antoine – Yvan Martial



Président : Yvan Martial

NEWS BULLETIN

No 4 - 1992 - December

Edited by Mico Antoine

"LETS KEEP IN TOUCH"

Dear Member

Another year is behind us.

After the Society was formed in 1989 we held our first meeting in May 1990 with 40 odd members. At the end of 1992 the Society had tripled its membership to 120. In 1992 alone 34 new members joined the Society including two expatriate (from Taiwan and from Canada) working in Mauritius and two overseas members from France and Switzerland.

We discontinued the Newsletter in 1992 and replaced the Newsletter with four News Bulletins and a Year Book. The Year Book is on schedule and all thing being equal it will be out at the end of February.

The fourth News Bulletin for 1992 is enclosed with this letter and all local members will have noticed that it comes in a special wrapper and the four News Bulletins for the year have been posted to you from a different locality each time as have the monthly notice of meetings.

The Society has been involved in three successful Stamp Exhibitions and the December competition was equally successful.

We have, unfortunately, had some unnecessary internal "political" problems during the year.

During 1992 the Department of Posts and Telegraphs held its first World Post Day Stamp Exhibition. It issued its first set of post office cards, it opened its first philatelic counter at the Port Louis post office, it introduced its own courier service, its post-offices were featured on the official Government of Mauritius calender and the Department released its first Year Book.

No less than four Stamp Exhibitions are scheduled for 1993. Other projects are in the pipeline as it is the intention of the Society as well as that of the postal administrators to promote philately in Mauritius as partners.

In mid-November I accepted an offer from the Government of Mauritius to work for a specific period of time. My function is philately related. Prior to my acceptance of the offer only the Committee and a few close friends were aware of my intentions.

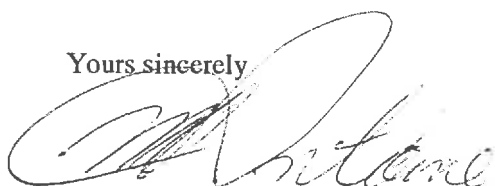
The Society has had a good year in 1992 and the Committee will work to achieve greater things in 1993.

The Committee wishes its members a prosperous 1993.

Until the next News Bulletin.

I remain

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'W. Mico Antoine', written in dark ink.

W. Mico Antoine

OCTOBER MEETING SATURDAY 2ND OCTOBER

The October meeting was held at College Saint Esprit (College of the Holy Ghost) Quatre Bornes at 14.00 hrs.

OCTOBER GUESTS

The Deputy Postmaster General MOHUNPARSAD DYALL, Assistant Postmasters General HAFIZ AMIR and PRITLALL LUCKANA, Senior Postal Controller-Planning PAJANIYANDY RAMSAMY and Postal Controller BALKRISOON BABANAH were guests of the Society at the October meeting.

It was fitting that in October, the month during which Universal Postal Union (U.P.U) Day is commemorated, senior officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department accepted the Society's invitation to attend our meeting and to address the members.

A nice meeting on a glorious Mauritian afternoon, after a period of bad weather, sea-side outings and the absence of a group of members (for personal reasons) contributed to a lower than average turn-out of 24 members.

The Secretary introduced our guests to the members and invited the Deputy P.M.G. to say a few words.

M. Dyall gave a brief talk on the Mauritius postal services, the changes envisaged, the forthcoming World Post Day - Week programme, EXPEDITED MAIL SERVICE - EMS - SPEED POST a new international express mail service, the contribution of the Mauritius Philatelic Society to the development of philately in Mauritius and the cordial relationship that prevails between the authorities and the Society and finally improvements regarding philatelic services provided by the post office.

After his address a question - answer session took place.

Some pertinent questions were posed amongst which were:-

- The unavailability of certain denominations of recently issued stamps including the current definitive set at most post offices.

- The limited quantities of new stamps on the day of issue at some of the main post offices which caused tremendous inconvenience to users wishing to send covers with full sets to their correspondents.
- The lack of advance notice of new issues; example no publicity brochures; the ministerial press conference given on the eve of new issues.
- The "irregular" services provided by the Philatelic Bureau and the need for philatelic counters at main post offices.
- The need for an insert in First Day Covers due to the limited numbers of Stamp Pamphlets. The ratio of pamphlet to covers being in some cases 3 to 10 means in effect that 7 buyers of First Day Covers out of every 10 don't have any information on the stamps.
- The range of philatelic products such as Stamp Booklets, Maxicards, Year Packs and Year Books; Aerogrammes; the total absence of Postal Stationery.
- The condition of postmarks and the range of explanatory postal markings. Examples of French, British and U.S. postal markings were cited.
- The Deputy P.M.G. and his senior staff answered to the queries raised and undertook to improve on the services offered. The postal administrators promised that in the coming year, 1993, new philatelic products would be introduced.

A special preview of some of the material to be displayed at the U.P.U. World Post Week Stamp Exhibition were shown. The material included items from the British Commonwealth Rowland Hill commemorative series of 1979/80, the 1949 Universal Postal Union (British Commonwealth) Omnibus set, postmarks, propaganda meter marks no longer in use and postal stationery.

Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon showed some United Nations and Saudi Arabian stamps featuring the Wonders of the World and Preserved Building Heritage and Emmanuel Petit showed some stamps on Fruit and Vegetables. These three displays served as a back drop to the afternoon's programme as there was no time for the exhibitors to talk on their stamps.

What was expected to be a short exchange between our members and the officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department lasted for over one and a half hours.

The notice board featured items from the U.K., latest philatelic news from around the world and special panels of French stamps received from the French Embassy.

The Spot Auction offered 43 lots featuring printed post cards of Mauritius, British Commonwealth definitive sets, stamps of the Seychelles and of France and some 1935 Silver Jubilee and Royal Silver Wedding 1948/9 sets. 33 lots were sold for Rs4830.

Proceeds from the Purchase list was Rs1370 and Society Sales and Accessories Rs760.

The meeting ended at 17.30 hrs.

NOVEMBER MEETING SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

The November meeting was held at College Saint Esprit at 14.00 hrs.

The notice board as usual showed the latest stamps of Great Britain, philatelic news from around the world, the latest issue from Mauritius (the Bank of Mauritius commemorative set) and an example of a locally manufactured faced album leaf amongst other items.

PHILATELIC ACCESSORIES

The Society does not import any philatelic accessories for its members nor does the Society intend to do this in the future. We do however sell philatelic accessories brought in mainly by two members. These accessories are subject to import duty and sales tax - whether or not the two suppliers acquit these charges is irrelevant.

We have always advised our members that they should acquire their own philatelic accessories as the Society can only offer what the two suppliers provide, at the price

at which the accessories are placed on consignment with the Society plus a 10% mark-up for Society funds; sometimes the mark-up is less than 10%.

If some members find this arrangement unsatisfactory because of the range of accessories offered and the price exorbitant (prices are always "exorbitant" when checked against prices shown in accessories catalogues - without freight, without import duty and sales tax) they have the choice of not purchasing any accessories offered by the Society. They are free to make their own arrangements for their philatelic accessories requirements, and they are also advised to reserve their comments. It is strange that those who are supposedly "well off" make the noise. One can only speculate as to the price they would offer for their accessories if they imported them.

The Society however did inquire from two local manufacturers if First Day Cover Albums, Stock Books and Stamp Mounts could be produced locally. One manufacturer made some samples. The quality was not up to required standards and the material utilised unsuitable. The Society is grateful to Michel Cervello for the time he spent on this project.

The Society does however make its own album leaves. These are cheap, at half the price of similar album leaves from Singapore.

Patrick Kwan has improved on this by adding a rib and by using tracing paper he has produced a satisfactory faced album leaf. This album leaf was shown to the members.

1992 - BY MICO ANTOINE

Mico Antoine put up a four board display on various subjects to demonstrate the importance of corresponding with other philatelists and to show some of his 1992 acquisitions.

Air-mails to and from the U.S.A. 1950 to 1992 were shown. From the West Coast and the East Coast of U.S.A postal markings, incoming and outgoing, a comparison in delivery time in the 1950's and 1990's between the U.S.A. and Mauritius was made.

The U.S.A. - Mauritius connection was enhanced with F.P.O. San Francisco (Diego Garcia) postmarks and cachets; a range of philatelic and commercial covers from Mauritius, franked with the R2 Diego Garcia stamp and back-stamped F.P.O. San Francisco (Diego Garcia), commemorative covers with Mauritian postmarks made on the occasion of U.S.A. related events such as the "Mars Observer" flight (these covers were carried on the special tracking flight and signed by crew members) and the U.S. presidential election (this cover was signed by the U.S. Ambassador) and non postal U.S. cachets on Mauritian covers were also shown.

Other items shown were:-

- Covers from Tromelin, Juan de Nova, Reunion and Mayotte that bore French markings; carried by vessels of the French Navy.
- Covers with ship cachets of all French Navy vessels visiting Mauritius during 1992 - up to October.

These warships were:

LA BOUDEUSE
JEANNE D'ARC
ENSEIGNE DU VAISSEAU HENRY
LE VAR
L'ALBATROS
LE GARONNE

- Covers of British, Swedish and Australian Navy ships which visited Mauritius in 1992 - up to October.
- Covers from Terres Australes at Antarctiques Françaises (T.A.A.F).
- World War II censored mail from Madagascar to Mauritius addressed to Frère Irlide Antoine of Rose Hill (only acquired for the name-sake) and early Mauritian meter marks.

Mico Antoine explained that whilst it was his interests in the U.S. presence on Diego Garcia that started him off on a study of the subject the collection of navy cachets, islands of the Indian Ocean and Antarctic mails was influenced by

correspondence with other philatelists sharing the same interest namely the Indian Ocean area of which Mauritius is after all the Star and Key. He stated that whilst he had to purchase some items most however were acquired by exchange e.g. a Jeanne D'Arc cover for an Antarctic cover or U.S.A. postage stamps for use on F.P.O. San Francisco covers acquired by exchanges with U.S. correspondents. Needless to say U.S. correspondents receive any F.P.O. San Francisco (Diego Garcia) covers made.

OTHER MATTERS

The December thematic competition rules were discussed and the number of participants confirmed. The Management Committee advised the members that it was hoped the competition would be open to the public and that it would be held in the Town Hall of the Municipality of Quatre-Bornes.

- Jean Cyril Appapoulay suggested that the Society hold a dinner at the end of the year. Mustapha Khan backed this suggestion. A Committee decision on the matter would be communicated at the December meeting.
- Louis Pierre Varigny made a donation of French stamps and brochures to the Society before his departure (once again) for France.

SPOT AUCTION

No Mauritian material were offered. 24 lots featuring British Commonwealth and other countries were offered. Only 9 lots were sold for Rs1485.

PURCHASE LIST AND ACCESSORIES

Proceeds from the Purchase List and Accessories were Rs1920 and Rs520 respectively.

30 members and one guest attend the meeting which ended at 17.00 hrs.

DECEMBER MEETING SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

THEMATIC COMPETITION

The December meeting was not an ordinary meeting and the venue was not College St Esprit.

The mayor of Quatre Bornes, Mrs Marie Marot, (the daughter of the well known philatelist the late Roger Giraud) was glad to put at the disposal of the Society the Hall of Quatre Bornes municipality for our December meeting.

Patrick Kwan arranged to transport the Society display panels from College St Esprit to the Town Hall. With the help of Lin Yu Tung, Thonyno Dieudonne, T. Greedharrye and S. Ramdewar all the preparations were ready by midday.

The following thematics were entered for the competition.

NO	THEME	COMPETITOR
1.	MUSIC	AH LAN LAM YON FOON
2.	UNESCO	AH LAN LAM YON FOON
3.	FLOWERS AND LANDSCAPE	SEESAMBAH RAGOO
4.	CHRISTMAS	PATRICK KWAN
5.	AERO PHILATELY (FRANCE)	MICHEL CERVELLO
6.	SOVIET SPACE	DIANE SHERKHAN
7.	CRUSTACEANS	JEAN MARIE HURON
8.	PORT LOUIS	JEAN MARIE HURON
9.	THE SEA	LIN YU TUNG
10.	FLAGS AND MAPS	ROSLYNE HAUCHLER
11.	TOURISM	ROSLYNE HAUCHLER
12.	ROYAL EVENTS	JEAN CYRIL APPAPOULAY
13.	FOOT BALL	JEAN CYRIL APPAPOULAY
14.	FRUIT AND VEGETABLE	EMMANUEL PETIT

The displays were written up in either French or English except for one which was not written up and another written up in Chinese characters.

The Society provided exhibition protectors for those who didn't have them and the album leaves were displayed against white bristol sheets provided by the Society.

A visitors book was opened as the event was opened to the public and entrance to the hall was free.

A raffle for one kilogram of stamps was held and this raised Rs 620. Stamps for the raffle were donated by Mico Antoine, Patrick Kwan, Michel Cervello, Yvan Martial, Diane Sherkhan, Sanjit Teelock and Dr. S. Kalachand.

Official First Day Covers of Mauritius were on sale. Sales totalled Rs 7,000.00 with 10% commission for the Society. Over forty members attended and there was a continuous flow of visitors.

Members of the Society and the public were impressed as evidenced by comments in the visitors book and questions asked by visitors on some of the material shown which included maps, charts, postcards, illustrations and of course lots of stamps.

The fact that 10 contestants showed 14 different themes demonstrates how far the Society has progressed during the last three years. The Management Committee thanks all the participants for making the first members thematic competition a success.

To designate the winner and runner up members voted for the first three places by secret ballot on the theme, the presentation and the write up. The total number of votes cast were added to arrive at an overall total; this mean that one theme could get three votes on one ballot - as they say in Mauritius VOTE BLOC.

The results were :

1.	Christmas	Patrick Kwan	41 votes
2.	UNESCO	Ah Lan Lan Yon Foon	31 votes
3.	Port Louis	Jean Marie Huron	28 votes
4.	Royal Events	Jean Cyril Appapoulay	26 votes

44 votes were cast of which 3 were rejected

The winner and runner up prizes were one Gibbons Commonwealth catalogue 1993 (2 volumes) and Rs 1000.- worth of postage stamps respectively.

The kilo of stamps was won by S. Ramdewar. This is not the first time he has won the raffle and he says it won't be the last time either.

This special Society get together ended at 5 p.m.

The Management Committee wishes to place on record its gratitude to the Mayor of Quatre Bornes and to the staff of the Municipality for the assistance given to the Society on this occasion.

The Society plans to hold a major Stamp Exhibition at the same venue in the not too distant future.

NEW MEMBERS

The following were admitted as members of the Society between October and December 1992.

AHMAD MOTALA
MAMAD R. JUNGLEE
BIBI SHIREEN WADALEE
S. SIDHANEE
MARIO CASQUETTE
ISABELLA LINGAYA
DIDIER LI AH CHOON

SILVER JUBILEE - BANK OF MAURITIUS

A set of four stamps were issued on 29th October 1992 by the Posts and Telegraphs Department to commemorate the 25 years of the Central Bank.

The stamps depict the following:

40c The Bank of Mauritius Building

- Rs4 Dodo Gold Billion Coin
- Rs8 First Bank Note Issue
- Rs15 Foreign Exchange Reserves

PHILATELIC COUNTER

In October senior official of the Posts and Telegraphs Department were guest of the Society. The Deputy Postmaster General promised to improve philatelic services provided by the G.P.O.

On 3rd December 1992 a special Philatelic Counter was opened at the Main Post Office in Port Louis.

E M S (EXPEDITED MAIL SERVICE) SPEED POST

On 15th December the Posts and Telegraphs Department introduced its International Express Mail Service.

E M S (Expedited Mail Service) is a special post office service for express delivery of packages. This service draws upon the resources of post offices world wide and in the countries of destination E M S links into the post office domestic courier services, thus providing a fast and reliable courier service.

The first stage of E M S provides links with the following countries:

Australia	People's Republic of China
Belgium	Seychelles
India	Switzerland
Kenya	Tanzania
Madagascar	United Kingdom
Malawi	U.S.A

Other destinations will be added in the second stage.

STAMP YEAR BOOK 1992

The Departments of Posts and Telegraphs published its first Stamp Year Book in December 1992. The Mauritius Philatelic Society participated in this venture.

The book was launched by the Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Postal Services the Honorable M. Utchanah on 15th December and went on sale as from 23rd December. The Honorable Minister is a paid up member of the Society.

The 21 page Stamp Year Book was printed by Government Printer.

Further details will be published in the Society's Year Book.

GPO WORLD POST DAY STAMP EXHIBITION

A full report on the first World Post Day Stamp Exhibition will be published in the Society's Year Book together with the inaugural address of the Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Postal Services.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

Mr. MOHUNPARSAD DYALL was appointed Postmaster General effective as from 25th September 1992.

Mr JOGESH CHANDER DOMAN retired as Postmaster General on 24th August 1992.

END OF YEAR DINNER 1992

The year end dinner was a dinner that never was.

In November some member suggested that the Society hold a dinner at the end of the year. The Committee discussed the matter and a dinner was organised at the Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes, for 19th December despite reservations about

holding a dinner six days before Christmas.

Two weeks before the dinner only six members had confirmed and paid the Rs350 charge, so the dinner was "postponed" to a date to be fixed at a subsequent Society meeting. Maybe the Society will hold a dinner party some time in 1993.

It may be of interest to our members to know that the menu for the "postponed" December dinner was;

Snacks

- Mini chicken brochette
- Cheese pakoras
- Fish fingers

Open Buffet

- Mushroom soup
- Varieties of salads
- Chicken in mushroom sauce
- Coated fried fish
- Lamb stew
- Parsleyed rice
- Vegetables in season
- Tarte aux fruits - Charlotte Russe
- Fresh fruit salad
- Coffee

Drinks

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Beer | - Rs 20 per pint |
| - Juice | - Rs 18 per glass |
| - Soft drinks | - Rs 10 per glass |
| - Corkage fee on alcoholic drink | - Rs 75 per bottle of 75 ml |

Drinks were free or rather inclusive in the Rs350.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS CALENDER 1993

The official calendar for the year 1993 is a four sheet calender; four quarters of the year on a sheet. Each quarter has a large illustration of a post office of Mauritius reproduced from the four post cards released by the Posts and Telegraphs Department in October 1992.



BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
PORT LOUIS MAURITIUS

4TH JANUARY 1993

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 89
QUATRE BORNES
MAURITIUS

