

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founder Members - Mico Antoine - Yvan Martial

P.O BOX 89 - QUATRE BORNES - MAURITIUS - INDIAN OCEAN

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 6

APRIL - JUNE 1993

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Dear Member,

The Society held its 3rd consecutive Annual Stamp Exhibition from 14th to 20th June. The theme this year was aerophilately and the exhibition was the most successful exhibition that the Society has held to date. It was well prepared, properly organised and it was generously supported by Air Mauritius. Although opened for six days only the number of visitors and the level of sale of stamps and covers were very high. We can look forward with confidence to our 4th Annual Stamp Exhibition in 1994.

A stamp exhibition was held in April. The exhibition was the brainchild of Ah Lan Lam and his exhibition, supported by the Society, was modest but extremely well planned. We are grateful to Ah Lan Lam for his very good effort and his contribution to the propagation of philately in Mauritius.

At today's date the Society has been invited to participate in the Orchid Society show in October to put up a display of stamps on Orchids. Also in October the Society will participate in the World Post Day and Francophonie stamp exhibitions which will be staged by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

The Society is able to stage exhibitions of its own and contribute to stamp exhibitions held by other organisations because its members participate actively and lend their material to the Society for this purpose.

The Society intends to maintain the momentum of the last three years and other stamp exhibitions are scheduled for 1994.

Until the next Bulletin,

I remain,
Philatelically yours,

W Mico Antoine

APRIL MEETING - 3RD APRIL 1993

The April meeting was held at College St Esprit (College of the Holy Ghost) in Quatre Bornes at 14.00 hrs.

Meter Marks by Patrick Kwan and the Antarctic and Islands of the Mascarene by Mico Antoine were the subjects displayed.

Patrick Kwan showed some 40 covers franked with commercial users meter marks. The covers were mainly from business houses such as banks, insurance companies, hotel groups and manufacturers. The envelopes had either the firms' addresses or logo printed on them or the firms' logo incorporated in the meter marks which made identification of the user easier to establish.

The covers showed meter marks impressions made by various types of franking machines such as the Universal, Frankopost, Neopost, Alcatel and Pitney Bowes.

Patrick talked about the different types of simulated perforations, the different value tablets, the various numeral and lettering characteristics and town names. The range of covers displayed featured all the common inland postal rates such as the 30c, 40c, R4.40, R 6.40 and R 10.40 as well as some overseas postal rates.

At the end of March 1993, 181 franking machines were in use in Mauritius; 21 GPO electronic franking machines excluded. Postage fees collected from users, under licensing agreements with the GPO, represented approximately 20% of total revenue earned by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs from the sale of stamps and postal fees for the financial year 1991/1992.

Patrick said that he has collected and identified some 100 of the 181 meter marks at March 1993.

Mico Antoine showed several covers of the Antarctic, Reunion, Mayotte, Comores, Seychelles, Madagascar, BIOT and South Africa. Also shown were several stamps of Terres Australes et Antarctique Francaise (TAAF), British Antarctic Territory and Australian Antarctic Territory.

Covers posted at sea on Le Var, L'Astrolabe, Marion Dufrense, Albatros (French), Agulhas (South African) and Mancen (Pakistani) in the Antarctic region were also shown. A talk on the Indian Ocean and the Antarctic accompanied by maps, photographs and information received from Steve Pendleton of California was given.

The notice board was filled with members latest acquisitions. Items displayed were the £ 10 GB definitive stamp, the latest stamps from Jersey, France's Journée du Timbre carnet and Series Nature 1993, various privately made covers on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of National Day (12th March 1993) and a special private cover made on 15th March 1993 - the day Cardinal Jean Margot retired. Press cuttings from various countries were also put on the notice board.

The Spot Auction offered 29 lots of British Commonwealth islands. 18 lots were sold for Rs 2100.

The Purchase List offered a wide range of British Commonwealth covers and stamps from Seychelles, Mauritius, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, St Helena, Cayman Islands, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu. Proceeds were Rs 1800.

Accessories and Society covers brought in Rs 355.

28 members attended the April meeting which ended at 16.30 hrs.

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MAY MEETING - 1ST MAY 1993

The May meeting was held at College St Esprit, Quatre Bornes at 14.00 hrs.

The Committee had decided to hold the May meeting on 1st May, Labour Day, a public holiday expecting that the turnout would be higher than average.

After all what does one do with an extra half day since very few work on normal Saturday afternoons?

Some go to Labour Day political rallies!

13 members attended the May meeting.

Jean Dequaire, retired agricultural engineer, who had spent his better days in the French Polynesian islands of Tahiti (Raiatea and Moorea), Tonga, Hawaii, Madagascar and Reunion specialising in the cultivation and production of vanilla put up a very interesting display of stamps of Polynesie Francaise. With maps and charts he gave a fascinating talk on the people of Polynesia and their migration. His first hand knowledge of these people, his personal experience of the culture of the Polynesians, his research and study of their language and his observations confirm the theory of early migration of the Polynesians to the islands of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Jean explained how the same linguistic and cultural characteristics were found in Madagascar and in the Pacific islands. The maritime charts showed how the Polynesians sailed these two oceans and how the sea currents brought them to various islands of the two oceans. The stamps shown featured the French influence, native traditions, boat building, fishing methods, tourism and early European visitors such as Captains Cook and Bligh.

Mico Antoine showed some cacheted covers of warships that had called at Port Louis in 1993 and a cover carried on the M.V. Mauritius Pride on its first voyage to Agalega and Seychelles.

The notice board showed stickers from France's Post and Telecoms (PTT) blood donors association, photographs of the three Rodrigues post offices (Port Mathurin, Mont Lubin and La Ferme), the new Port Mathurin-Rodrigues double circle circular date stamp impressions Nos 1,2 and 3 and photographs taken at Ah Lan Lam's stamp exhibition held in April.

The Spot Auction was not held but a few items were purchased at posted prices plus 10% commission. The Purchase List was not offered as the turnout was rather low.

The meeting ended at 16.00 hrs.

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WANTED

A member from France wishes to acquire unmounted mint stamps of wild animals world wide. If you wish to sell, write to the Secretary with your offers.

A local member wishes to exchange stamps used and mint of wild animals world wide. Contact the Secretary for details.

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NEW MEMBERS

The following were admitted as members of the Society between April and June 1993.

Wolfgang GROSSMANN (German expatriate)

Abeda PAHALA

Willy GOSSELIN

Kaliparsad RAMHARAI

Sanjay MOTAH

JUNE MEETING - 5TH JUNE 1993

The June meeting was held at the usual venue at 14.00 hrs.

The main display for the afternoon was on the theme MANNED FLIGHT/AEROPHILATELY. Ten days before the scheduled opening of the Society's annual exhibition the members were given a preview of the exhibition. A number of frames were affixed to four display boards and these frames contained a wide range of stamps, covers, postcards and photographs.

These items came from the following:

Air Mauritius and La Sentinelle - Photographs
Michel Cervello - Postcards and first flight covers from France
Seesambah Ragoo - Stamps world wide
Diane Sher Khan - Soviet Space
Jean Dequaire - Reunion, Madagascar and French Polynesia - Poste Aeriennne
Dr Santosh Kalachand - British Commonwealth
A.N. Dilmohamed - Special covers
Mico Antoine - Africa, USA, and Europe
Patrick Kwan - UK

The range of material available made it relatively easy to select stamps, covers etc.. where the subject of manned flight covered almost every aspect - from Anguilla to Zimbabwe, montgolfiers to space crafts, Wright's flyer to supersonics.

Amongst the aircraft shown were the stamps and mini-sheets of the 75th anniversary of the Royal Air Force issue of April 1993 and the 25 aircraft of the South African set on aviation history issued in May 1993. Some complete sets from the 1983 Manned Flight Bicentenary worldwide releases featured almost every type of civilian aircraft manufactured.

Photographs from Air Mauritius and L'Express (La Sentinelle) and postcards from airline companies represented in and operating to Mauritius illustrated the progress of civil aviation in Mauritius.

Mico Antoine gave a talk on Air Mauritius from information supplied by the national airline. The 3rd annual stamp exhibition scheduled from 14th to 20th June at Max Boulle Gallery, Rose Hill was timed to coincide with the release of a set of stamps to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the creation of Air Mauritius.

The Notice Board showed a number of latest issues from various parts of the world amongst which were aerogrammes from India and South Africa. More and more members are showing their latest acquisitions and this is a welcome development.

Mico Antoine showed two special covers he made on the 300th anniversary of the departure of Francois Leguat from Rodrigues and his arrival to Mauritius - one postmarked at Port Mathurin and one at Port Louis.

28 lots were offered in the Spot Auction and 14 were sold for Rs 1600.

The Purchase List had items from Mauritius, France and British Commonwealth countries and sales brought in Rs 1500.

Society sales and accessories totalled Rs 590.

The June meeting ended at 16.30 hrs.

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DATE STAMP NEWS

New double circle circular date stamps were put in service at Terre Rouge and Rose Belle. The single circle circular date stamps formerly in use at these two post offices have been withdrawn.

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The La Caverne postal agency was burgled on the night of 26th - 27th May 1993. The last day of use of the date stamp was 26th May 1993 as the postal agency was closed as from 27th May. The safe containing the date stamp and postage stamps was recovered intact.

On 29th May 1993 the building housing La Caverne postal agency was destroyed by fire. There are no plans to re-open another postal agency at La Caverne. Postal services are available at the nearby Solferino post office.

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Three new double circle circular date stamps were put in use at Port Mathurin post office in Rodrigues. These three date stamps read PORT MATHURIN 1, PORT MATHURIN 2 and PORT MATHURIN 3 respectively at the top with RODRIGUES at the base. The circular date stamp reading RODRIGUES - MAURITIUS introduced in October 1990 was withdrawn in January 1993.

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NEW STAMP ISSUE

MAURITIUS

On 14th June the Department of Posts and Telegraphs issued a set of four postage stamps to mark the 25th anniversary of the national airline - Air Mauritius.

The set titled "The Silver Jubilee of Air Mauritius" features:

40c: Bell Jet Ranger 206 B Helicopter
Rs 3: Boeing 747 SP
Rs 4: ATR 42
Rs 10: Boeing 767 - 200ER

The helicopter used for airflips and sugar cane spraying is shown flying over a beach.

The Boeing 747 is shown landing at SSR International Airport.

The ATR 42 used on regional flights is pictured flying over Port Mathurin, Rodrigues.

The Boeing 767 is shown with Le Morne mountain in the background. This is a montage from the 1992 Christmas card of Air Mauritius.

A miniature sheet of the four stamps was also issued.

Four types of aircraft, two Bell helicopters, two ATR 42, four 747's and two 767's form the fleet of Air Mauritius at June 1993.

BIOT

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Royal Air Force, British Indian Ocean Territory issued eight stamps on 1st April 1993.

The values and planes of this set are :

20p VICKERS VIRGINIA
24p BRISTOL BULLDOG
34p SHORT SUNDERLAND
54p BRISTOL BLEINHEIM

A miniature sheet composed of four stamps each with a face value of 20p featured:

DOUGLAS DAKOTA
GLOSTER JAVELIN
BLACKBURN BEVERLEY
VICKERS VC10

The RAF 75th anniversary commemorative stamps totalling 66 stamps, all depicting military aircraft were issued by nine different British Commonwealth postal administrations - Jersey excluded.

STAMP PROGRAMME 1994/1995

Four commemorative sets of stamps will be issued by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs during 1994 and 1995.

The official programme will be as follows:

1994

- March - Mammals featuring Hedgehog (Tenrec), Mongoose, Hare and Monkey
- June - Events and Anniversaries featuring World Cup (football), Death Centenary of Dr Charles Edward Brown-Sequard, International Family Year, 50th Anniversary of I.C.A.O (civil aviation)
- August - 250th Anniversary of the wreck of Saint Geran
- November- Paintings by Mauritian children.

1995

- March - Spices and Plants featuring nutmeg, cloves, cardamon and coriander
- June - Events and Anniversaries featuring 200th anniversary of the construction of the Curepipe -Grand Port road, 100th anniversary of the fire at La Chaussée, 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, 50th anniversary of the construction of Mare Longue reservoir.
- October - 50th anniversary of the United Nations
- November- Lighthouses

The issue dates are subject to change and whilst the programme has been officially approved amendments or adjustments are possible if warranted by circumstances.

AH LAN LAM YAN FOON'S STAMP EXHIBITION

Ah Lan Lam with the collaboration of the Society staged his own stamp exhibition in Port Louis from 15th to 24th April this year.

The Society's role was supportive. Thus the Society's auspices were used for providing certain facilities such as the presence of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (because of our cordial relations), the supply of display boards from the Municipality of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, the British Council and the Russian Cultural Services and for securing the Port Louis Town Hall for staging the exhibition.

All the other works and preparations were done by Ah Lan Lam.

Ah Lan has been thinking about his project for quite a while and he finally decided that the time has come for a member of the Society to stage a stamp exhibition. In his address to those gathered on the opening day of the exhibition he said " I have taken a year to prepare this exhibition. It demands a lot of time and sacrifices. It has nevertheless been an enriching experience and I really enjoyed it."

The exhibition featured many themes among which were Flowers, Fish, Birds, Animals, the Royal Family, the United Nations, the Red Cross, Sports, Paintings and Music. The 'Post Office' stamps of Mauritius, philatelic terms, stamps of various sizes and shapes and other aspects of philately were also shown.

Ah Lan's object can best be summed up in these words : " all the stamps you see around you are stamps of no high value. They are readily available on the market. We must think of stamp collecting as a pleasurable hobby - an enjoyable past time, but not of money making."

He achieved his objective and he firmly intends to hold other stamp exhibitions.

A cover was made on the occasion of the first private stamp exhibition ever staged in Mauritius. (If there were others before, we are unaware of them). A special cachet was applied on mail posted in the exhibition hall.

3rd ANNUAL STAMP EXHIBITION

The Society held its third consecutive annual stamp exhibition at Max Boulle Gallery in Rose Hill from 14th to 20th June.

The Municipality of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill once again put at our disposal the Max Boulle Gallery and provided the Society with all necessary facilities.

The British Council let us have the use of their display boards and these added a particular touch to our exhibition.

The GPO once again was present and provided postal and philatelic services for the duration of the exhibition.

The exhibition held for six days opened on 14th June, the day the Silver Jubilee of Air Mauritius stamps were released.

The 1993 exhibition on the theme " Manned Flight - Aerophilately " was sponsored solely by Air Mauritius. The National Airline financed all costs in staging the exhibition for Rs 25,000.

The Society is grateful to Air Mauritius for the financial and other assistance in the form of posters, postcards, photographs and information. "A chronology of aviation in Mauritius " was of particular interest to visitors at the exhibition.

The 3rd annual exhibition was the most successful held to date. We are improving as the years go by and because of the cooperation of the members who provided material, all panels were prepared in good time. Special thanks to Patrick Kwan who prepared the write-up on his computer.

A special commemorative cover designed by Patrick Kwan was a big hit and was quickly sold out.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Mayor of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, Mr John Dacruz and Sir Harry Tirvengadam, chairman of Air Mauritius was the chief guest. The Honorable Minister of Energy, Water Resource and Postal Services graced the occasion by his presence.

The Society's annual exhibition would not be held without the support of its members and to S. Ragoo, T. Greedharrye, E. Petit, S. Ramdewar, S. Pointu, D. Sherkhan and J. Adrien who volunteered for duties during the exhibition, we say a special thank you.

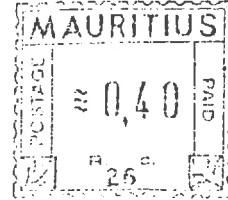
The Society will hold its 4th Annual Stamp Exhibition in June 1994.

BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

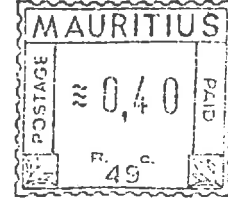
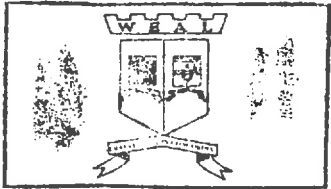
The Management Committee
Mauritius Philatelic Society
P O BOX 89
Quatre Bornes
MAURITIUS

23rd AUGUST 1993.

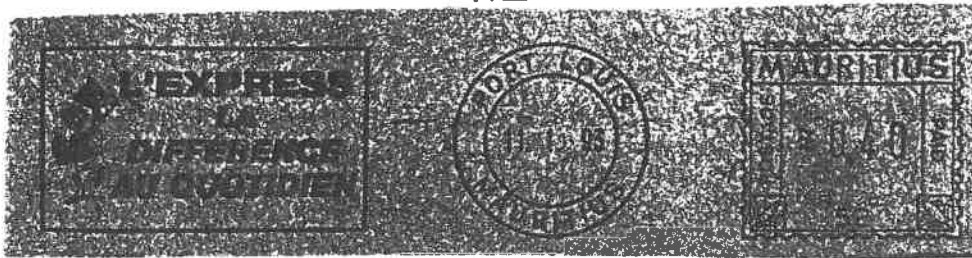
Commercial Users' Meter Marks



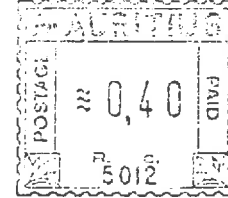
Hong Kong Bank



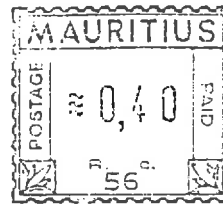
WEAL



L'Express



Union International Bank

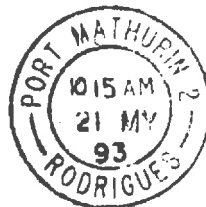


The Mauritius Union Assurance Company Ltd

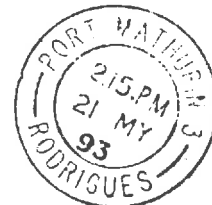
PORT MATHURIN RODRIGUES DOUBLE CIRCLE CIRCULAR DATESTAMPS



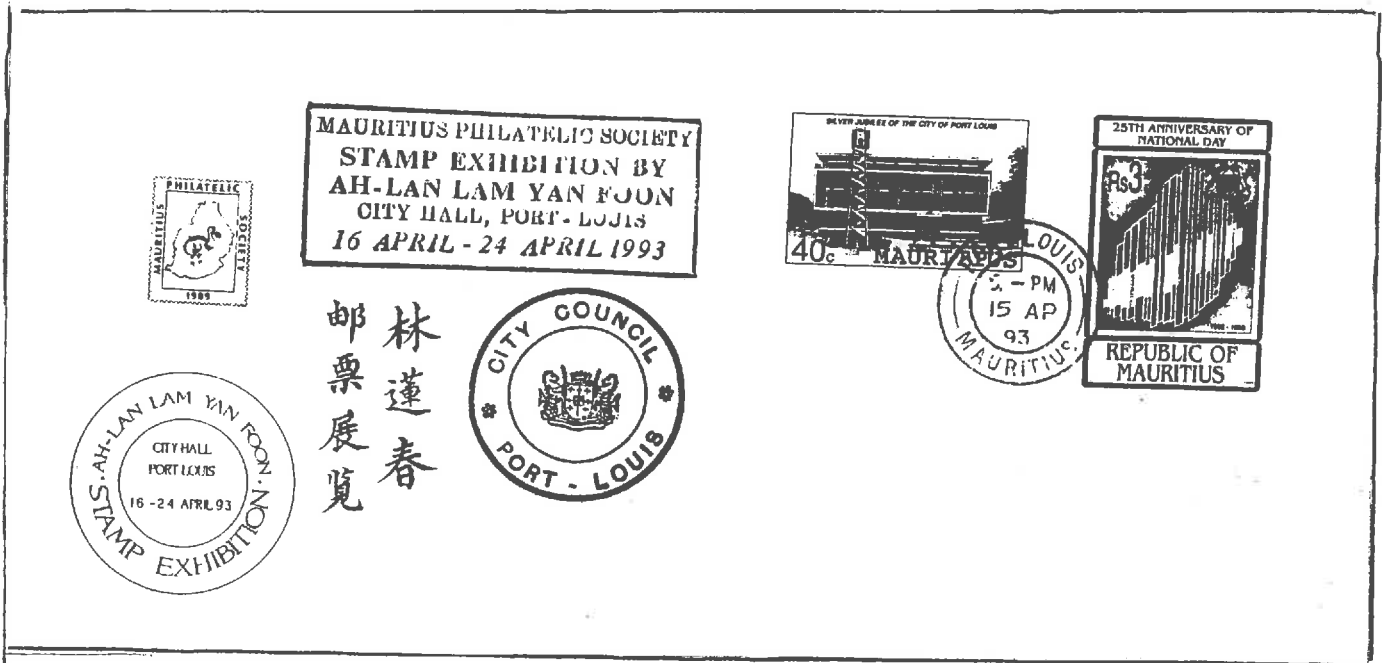
NO. 1



NO. 2

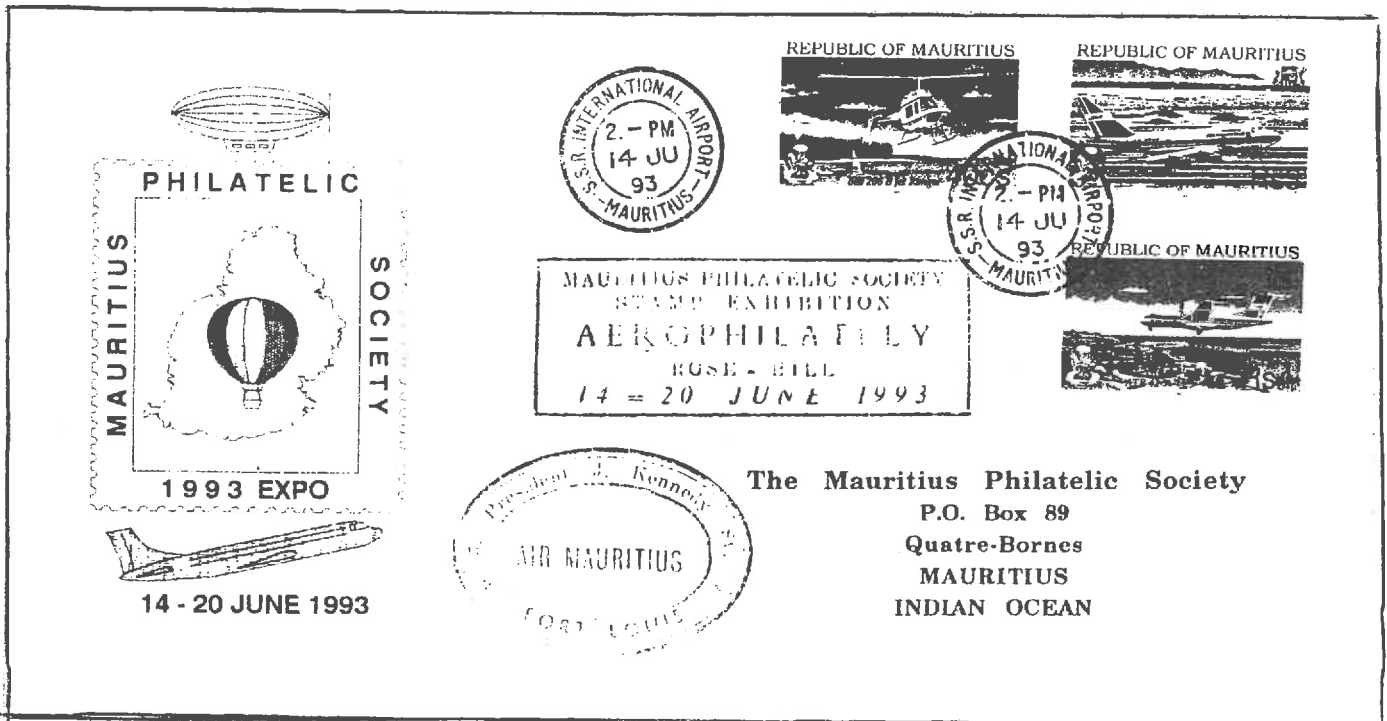


NO. 3



Ah Lan Lam stamp exhibition cover struck with exhibition cachet and additional City Council cachet.

Note: the cover is date-stamped 15 AP 93 as the exhibition was inaugurated one day earlier to accommodate the Lord Mayor's departure from the country.



Society's 3rd Annual Exhibition cover.
 Designed by P Kwan and cancelled at SSR International Airport
 with exhibition cachet and Air Mauritius cachet applied at Exhibition
 Hall only.