

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founder Members – Mico Antoine – Yvan Martial



NEWS BULLETIN

No 2 - 1992 - JULY

EDITED BY MICO W. ANTOINE

«LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH»

Dear Member

THE NEWSLETTER

It is regretted that the Newsletter will not be published in future. The financial burden cannot be sustained by the Society any longer, therefore the No 9 Newsletter will be the last edition. The Newsletter will be replaced by a quarterly bulletin and a Year Book of no less than 150 pages will be published in early 1993 for the year 1992. The quarterly bulletin will be distributed to local as well as overseas members and shall contain information on the activities of the Society, namely a report on every monthly meeting, decision of the Committee affecting the Society and philatelic news.

The Year Book will also contain articles on Mauritian philately as well as relevant and pertinent philatelic news and other items. We shall keep members informed of further developments regarding the Year Book.

In this bulletin we call on our members to submit suitable articles for publication so do not wait for an "invitation".

The decision to discontinue the publication of the Newsletter was taken at a Committee meeting on 8th May 1992 after the matter was discussed previously at a Committee meeting held on 24th April 1992.

1992 STAMP EXHIBITION

The 1992 Stamp Exhibition was held from 19th to 27th June at Rose-Hill. It is the Society's earnest wish that its Expo becomes an annual event.

Visitors already acquired from the 1991 Expo turned up again and new visitors who called at this year's Expo meant that the two Expos had popular public support. The 1993 Expo can only be an even bigger success than the 1992 Expo. A full report will be published in the Year Book.

Until the next bulletin.

I remain
Philatelically Yours

Mico W. Antoine

APRIL MEETING SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

The April meeting was held at 2 pm at College St Esprit, Quatre-Bornes.

ORCHIDS

The Society invited a special guest speaker, Dr Majeed Khadaroo, whose brother Rashard has been a member of the Society from the very beginning. The idea of inviting Dr Majeed Khadaroo came from Mrs Seeta Takoor, they are both members of the Orchids Society of Mauritius.

Dr Majeed Khadaroo well known for his orchids in Mauritius as well as abroad, showed his stamps on orchids from all over the world on two display boards. The display was enhanced by ceramics and medals on orchids. Our guest gave a very interesting talk about his flowers to a captive audience. This was followed by the projection of slides and then a lively question and answer session was held.

Members of the Society will start collecting orchids on stamps, some will begin growing orchids and others will be going into orchids in the hope of making some money.

Two stamps in the display were not of orchids, Chantal Chung identified them and won some orchid stamps offered by our guest. Dr Majeed Khadaroo is now a member of the Society. Thanks Doc.



CHESS

Steve Siew Tu plays chess and wanted to know how to go about getting stamps on chess. Ronald Raimbert of "L'Express" writes a column on chess, so we got in touch with Ronald Raimbert and he kindly lent us some correspondence chess cards, as he plays chess by correspondence. The Society displayed these chess cards primarily for Steve but also for other members. The Society tries to do its best for its members, now Steve knows how to go about collecting chess, thereby channelling one interest into another.



The Republic of Mauritius (12th March 1992) official FDCs which were produced in insufficient numbers to meet «an unanticipated demand» and the speculative buying by some meant that a few of our members were unable to purchase a cover. The Society with

the cooperation of the G. P. O was able to acquire covers for all the members who needed them. The Society did not mark up the price of these covers, they were sold at cost.

New issues from Zambia and the U.K. were shown on the display board. Also shown were personal covers made by various members on the occasion of Republic Day.

The No 9 Newsletter was distributed. This newsletter features almost exclusively the 1991 Stamp Exhibition.

Proceeds from the afternoon's sales were:-

	Rs
Spot Auction	5,260
Purchase list	2,740
Accessories	2,250
Society Sales	1,060

35 members attended the April meeting which ended at 5.30 p.m.

MAY MEETING SATURDAY 2ND MAY

The May meeting was held at the usual venue, College St Esprit, one day after a public holiday (the 1st May being Labour Day) and 38 members turned up.

BERMUDA

Judex Adrien, whom we have not seen for a long while, had offered at the April meeting to put up a display of covers on Bermuda. This display of Bermuda covers had been collected over the years and began when Judex's wife was a girl guide. She met another guide from Bermuda at a Jamboree and the exchanges of letters, stamps and covers between girl guides culminated in a member of the Mauritius Philatelic Society, Judex Adrien showing islanders in Mauritius in the Indian Ocean some philatelic gems from a Caribbean island in the Atlantic Ocean.

We all know (in Mauritius) that Mauritius is shaped like a pear or a pearl according to some. Very few at the Society meeting of 2nd May knew that Bermuda was shaped like a fish-hook.

Judex exhibited approximately 50 covers showing the main aspects of Bermudan philately.

It can only be hoped that other members will show their collections. Judex showed how easy it was. Thank you Judex.



The notice board showed the latest stamps of Zambia, B.I.O.T and the U.K.

The object of the notice board is for members of the Society attending the monthly meetings to show other members their latest acquisitions. There are not many members who showed their latest acquisitions despite repeated requests to do so. We do hear a lot of noise about this or that member's acquisition so it can be concluded that not many members want to show their acquisitions, for reasons best known to themselves.

Hilary Yip Tong though showed an item found in some church kiloware purchase and another member recognized the item as having been addressed to a member of his family. Patrick Kwan showed some U. K covers.



The Society does not normally get involved in numismatic. However the Mauritian Rs 20 bank note issued on 20th April on the occasion of the Prime Minister's wife's birthday and featuring the Prime Minister's wife was discussed and one of our member made some special covers to commemorate Lady Sarojini Jugnauth's birthday.



The Secretary had rigged up a T.V. and video and two films on British philately were shown. Saturday 2nd May was rather a busy afternoon.

Proceeds from sales were as follows:-

	Rs
Spot Auction	4,780
Purchase list	5,460
Accessories	1,275
Society Sales	-

Peter Ibbotson ran the Spot Auction and 21 lots offered were all sold. He has been and will be in Mauritius for a long holiday.



JUNE MEETING SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

The June meeting was held at College St Esprit Quatre Bornes at the normal time, 2 p.m., and as usual the afternoon's activities did not really start until 2.30.

MUSIC

Ah Lan Lam put up a display of stamps on the theme music. When Ah Lan joined the Society he collected mainly Mauritius, he subsequently started to collect the stamps of the United Nations Postal Administration. A few months ago, he began to collect stamps on music. Ah Lan's daughter has recently completed her university studies and she majored in music. So Ah Lan thought it was a good idea to honour her achievement by collecting stamps on music. More important than anything else is that Ah Lan has enjoyed assembling together the equivalent of 16 album leaves of stamps over a relatively short period and he showed these to the members. The display included musical instruments, composers, theatres, singers and other aspects of music.

THE ORIENT

Ah Lan also showed a dozen attractive Chinese illustrated air-mail covers separately and Seesambah Ragoo showed some Indian FDCs. It has been some time since Indian or Chinese material have been shown. Patrick Kwan showed some covers he had made - he has been fooling around with his computer and the results are quite fascinating. A few members showed their Rio Conference covers and Yvan Martial's was particularly impressive - the full set of Mauritius Environment definitive cancelled on a large envelope, salvaged from the waste paper basket, illustrated with United Nations emblems.

OTHERS

Mico Antoine showed some aspects of U. S. San Francisco FPO 96464 (Diego Garcia), new G.P.O counter meter marks and the Camp de Masque Pavé cover. 30 Camp de Masque Pavé covers purchased for our members were offered at cost and all 30 were sold.

The Ministry of the Environment special Rio Conference covers made in very limited numbers and offered to Mico Antoine by the Honorable Mahen Utchanah, Minister of Energy and Postal Services were shown. The Society will be acquiring some of these for its members and they will be offered for sale at the Exhibition.

Specially prepared blank Society envelopes were on sale for those who wished to prepare their own covers for cancellation at the Expo in June 1992 on the opening day where special postal services would be provided by the G.P.O.

Two boards containing 30 album leaves of Expo material on "La Mer" were shown and Mico Antoine spoke about the Expo.

Proceeds from the afternoon's sales were:-

	Rs
Spot Auction	8,790
Purchase List	4,985
Accessories	385
Society Sales	595

At every meeting members help out otherwise there would be no meetings. Thanks to all - if your name is not mentioned here, may be I forgot to list you for which I apologise - or may be it is because you don't help out at all.

Thanks to Etienne Sinatambou, who has effectively taken over the catering services, S. Ramdewar who is always early so that he can help, Steve Siew Tu and Jacques Cho Ah Yin our two "accountants" who take care of the purchase list, Thonyno Dieudonné and T. Coothen, who take care of the accessories and Society sales and all the other nameless members.

The Horse Racing season began in May and attendance will be affected through to November. 28 members attended the June meeting which ended at 4.30 p.m. The stag hunting season has also opened and some will be banging away at Cerfs.



NEW MEMBERS

The following were admitted as members of the Society between April and June 1992:-

- Jacques Desvaux
- Kevin Li Miu Fong (Junior)
- Sadaseeven Tayelamay
- Rajendra Harry

- Denis Moothoosamy
- Vijay Mathuvirin
- Jeeran Goodoorah
- Majeed Khadaroo
- Willi Bregnard (Switzerland).

The Society welcomes new members. Ask for a membership form from the Secretary, fill it in and you will be accepted as a member. Anyone can join the Mauritius Philatelic Society.

NEW POST OFFICE

Camp de Masque Pavé has a new post office as from 4th May 1992. A post office existed at Camp de Masque Pavé between 1952 and 1954. The re-opening of a post office, in a new building, was commemorated by a special cover released by the GPO and sold at Camp de Masque Pavé Post Office on the 4th of May only and at the Philatelic Bureau, Port-Louis as from 4th May at Rs 15.- per cover.

The covers show a colour illustration of the post office and bear two stamps, the 40c value of the Republic of Mauritius set featuring the President and the R1.50 value of the 60th Birthday of the Prime Minister set featuring the Prime Minister. The stamps are cancelled with a double circle circular date stamp; the name place, Camp de Masque Pavé, is shown, within the double circle, on the sides and top with Mauritius at base.

PITNEY BOWES METER MARKS FROM THE GPO

In May 1992 10 additional post offices were equipped with Pitney Bowes franking machines. The post offices, their identification codes and first day of use of the machines are:-

Port-Louis (GPO)	PT0013	5 May 1992
Port-Louis Western Suburb	PT0018	7 May 1992
Beau-Bassin	PT0016	7 May 1992
Port-Louis Eastern Suburb	PT0017	7 May 1992
Curepipe	PT0020	8 May 1992
Vacoas	PT0015	8 May 1992
Triolet	PT0022	13 May 1992
Port-Louis Centre	PT0014	13 May 1992
Central Flacq	PT0021	18 May 1992
Mahebourg	PT0019	20 May 1992

The value tablet and place and date marks are similar to the Pitney Bowes (Model 6900) franking machines introduced in May 1990. Complete details and illustrations of these marks will be published in the Society's Year Book. The first day of use is from GPO records, courtesy of the Post Master General.

COMMERCIAL USERS METER MARKS

The use of franking machines by business and other organisations which handle large volumes of mail is on the increase in Mauritius. Some of the meter marks incorporate very attractive publicity slogans of the user and a fair number of them are from towns and villages outside the main commercial centre of Port-Louis.

Commercial meters marks have recently turned up on mail from Quatre-Bornes, Britannia, Terre Rouge, Pamplemousses, Trou d'Eau Douce and Grand Bay. The only one seen thus far from Grand Bay has Grand Bay spelt as GRAND BAIE whereas the GPO date stamps are all GRAND BAY.

REGISTRATION MARKS

The common recorded letter, label or mark used in Mauritius is either a registration label or a rubber stamp mark. Another, not common at all, is O.G.S. (On Government Service) pre-printed registered envelopes. Those from the Treasury are relatively plentiful those from individual ministries not so. I don't even know if all ministries use them maybe one of our members can work on this.

A new way of recording registered letters was shown to me recently - the computer label. The label incorporates the user's reference number, allocated by the GPO, the reference number of the registered item and the address of the receiver - all on one adhesive label.

B.I.O.T.

British Indian Ocean Territory issued a set of stamps on 6th February 1992 to commemorate the 40th year of the accession of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II to the British throne.

The first three values feature the Plantation Church (15p), the Plantation Manager's House (20p) and the Harbour (30p). The 34p value is a montage of the portraits of H. M. featured on the three lower values and the top value (54p) is the portrait of H. M. which is common

to the omnibus series packaged by the Crown Agents for the occasion.

U.S. POST OFFICE - DIEGO GARCIA

New cancelling devices and rubber stamps were introduced as from July 1991 at the U.S. Navy Post Office in Diego Garcia. These new devices are in use simultaneously with the older devices already in use.

The new devices have a new code number, FPO 96464 and this new code will replace FPO 96885 as from July 1992 when the latter will be withdrawn.

MAURITIUS

The 8th African Athletics Championship Games was held in Mauritius in June. A set of four stamps was released on 25th June to commemorate this event.

The stamps feature:-

- 40c The Games Mascot (Ticolo)
- R4 Sir Anerood Jugnauth Stadium (where the games were held)
- R5 High Jump
- R6 The African Athletics Organisation official emblem

7000 First Day Covers were put on sale and were promptly sold out.

EXCHANGES

Any member who wishes to have his or her name, address, interest and mode of exchange he or she desires published in the Year Book should write to the Secretary.

THE YEAR BOOK

Do you wish to write an article or to provide interesting information suitable for publication in the Society's Year Book?

If you do, please submit your article/information to the Newsletter Editor before the end of September 1992.

THEMATIC WANT LIST

Do you have any stamps, covers or philatelic items that you don't really need or that you don't know what to do with on the following subjects:-

- (1) Food/Cooking/Fruit - all aspects
- (2) Music, Composers - all aspects
- (3) Railways - all aspects
- (4) Bread, Cereals, Cakes - all aspects
- (5) Birds - all aspects

If you can help, kindly send them to the Honorary Secretary who will pass them on to the interested parties.

<p>MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY EXHIBITION 1992 «LA MER» 19TH - 27TH JUNE</p>

As far back as October 1991, the decision to stage the 2nd Society Exhibition was taken and a sub-committee was appointed to coordinate all the activities related to the holding of the Exhibition.

As far back as October 1991, the Society called for members to participate in the Exhibition and as far back as October 1991 it was clear to the committee as to who would respond favourably and as to who would not respond.

In March 1992 a new executive committee was elected and the real work began immediately after the «Mauritius Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals» Stamp Exhibition was held in February.

No members can now turn round and say that they were not invited to participate or that they were unaware of the Exhibition and their mode of participation.



On 19th June 1992 the 2nd Society Exhibition was inaugurated at Max Boullé Gallery, Rose-Hill by the Mayor, Honorable Jocelyne Miverve M.N.A. The Society had successfully staged its second Exhibition. Plans for the 1993 Exhibition are underway and it is hoped

that the Society Exhibition will become an annual event.

The management committee thanks all those who provided material for the Exhibition and all firms and institutions for their contribution towards the cost of staging the Exhibition as well as those who provided services.

A full report of the 1992 Exhibition will be published in the Society's Year Book together with a list of participants, acknowledgements of all financial contributions and a list of those who provided exhibits and momentos for a successful Society exhibition.

1992 EXHIBITION COVERS

Two special covers were made on the occasion of the 1992 Expo:-

- (1) A special illustrated cover cancelled at 5.15 p.m. in the Exhibition Hall, at the GPO counter, with the special exhibition mark applied in blue. Price: Rs 20.-
- (2) A standard Society cover cancelled at the Exhibition Hall, Rose-Hill with the special exhibition mark applied in red plus the SHIP LETTER and PAQUEBOT marks applied in Port-Louis in red by courtesy of the GPO. An explanatory card is inserted in this cover. Price: Rs 30.-

The Society is grateful to the Post Master General and his staff for their assistance.

BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

**1991 ACCOUNTS: 1992 BUDGET
SEE APPENDIX**

**The Management Committee
MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
PORT-LOUIS, MAURITIUS
15TH JULY 1992**

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
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