

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founder Members - Mico Antoine - Yvan Martial



~~Secrétaire - Sylvain Esmerais~~
Président : Yvan Martial

~~Treorier - Pascal Linaud~~

NEWS BULLETIN

No 3 - 1992 - OCTOBER

EDITED BY MICO W. ANTOINE

"LETS KEEP IN TOUCH"

Dear Member

By the time you receive this News Bulletin the Post and Telegraphs Department will have held its first UPU - World Post Day Stamp Exhibition.

The Word Post Day Stamp Exhibition may, in the future, become an annual event and with the annual Society Stamp Exhibition Mauritius may well have not one, but two stamp exhibitions every year.

After the Society staged its first stamp exhibition in June 1991 another stamp exhibition was held, unexpectedly, a week later. In 1992 there will have been three stamp exhibitions held in Mauritius including the Society's exhibition and the assistance and the participation of the Society was sought on the two occasion a non-society stamp exhibition was held.

The future promises a lot for Mauritian philately; apart from stamp exhibitions we can all expect a good year in 1993 as new philatelic products will be introduced by the Department of Post and Telegraphs as from the end of this year.

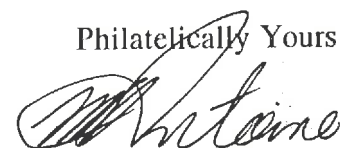
The object of the Society, from its inception, was the promotion of Mauritian philately and the development of the hobby (in Mauritius) in the right direction. In this regard the Society has held discussion with the Postmaster General on ways and means of improving and upgrading philatelic services in the General Post Office. The Committee will continue to work for the interest of the Society despite the grumblings of some of our distractors within and outside the Society.

The December members only Thematic Competition will be held as scheduled. The Committee wishes to thank all those members who responded to the invitation. Ten different topics will be on display and there will be two prizes, one for the winner and another for the runner-up.

Until the next News Bulletin.

I remain

Philatelically Yours



Mico W Antoine

JULY MEETING SATURDAY 11TH JULY

The July meeting was held at the usual venue, College St. Esprit (College of the Holy Ghost) Quatre Bornes at 14.00hrs. The June 1992 Society Stamp Exhibition closed on 27th June so it was decided to hold the July meeting, exceptionally, on the second Saturday of the month.

A SUBDUED MEETING

Patrick Kwan (the Secretary) and Ah Lan Lam (the Treasurer) ensured that the afternoon's activities ran smoothly as your Editor was not able to attend, being retained elsewhere.

Since no specific topic was scheduled for 11th July the Secretary asked Peter Ibbotson to arrange a "filler" display of some items of postal history, thus Peter gave a talk on the small display that he hastily put up.

Stamps loaned to the Society for its Expo by various members were offered for sale. These included full definitive sets of sea related topics such as marine birds, ships, shells and fish amongst other items. They were offered for sale at fixed prices and 11 "lots" were sold for Rs 1,800.

A kilogram of stamps was raffled for a total of Rs 650; Etienne Sinatambou was the lucky winner. The Society is grateful to Sanjit Teelock, Michel Cervello and Yvan Martial for their donation of stamps; very few members give used stamps for the kiloware raffle.

A selection of photographs taken at the June Expo were shown and members placed their orders.

Preliminary details of the "members only" thematic competition scheduled for December

were given by the Secretary and members were advised to begin their preparations. Finally members were advised that the President, after holding office for a period of three months, had resigned for personal reasons.

Total proceeds from the sale of accessories and the purchase list totalled Rs 5,900.

25 members signed the attendance register. The meeting ended at 16.30 hrs.

AUGUST MEETING SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

The August meeting was held at College St Esprit at 14.00hrs.

CANCELLED! OR CANCELLED?

At the end of June, two separate requests were made by two members of the Society to two members of the Committee - separately. The requests were that the two members, who had purchased items from Phillips (May 1992) auction featuring the Peter Ibbotson collection, put up a display. These two proposals were discussed at Committee and the following decisions was taken:

- (a) That all members, not two only, who purchased items from Phillips auction be invited to display at the August meeting.
- (b) That the Secretary inform all members concerned, as well as the coordinator of the project by letter, of the Committee's decision.
- (c) That those concerned in (b) confirm their participation and advise the Secretary so that the programme for 1st August be scheduled accordingly.

No one contacted the Secretary about their intentions. The Secretary's letter was simply ignored.

In view of the lack of courtesy from intelligent, literate, people the display was "cancelled" and the parties concerned advised in writing. Notwithstanding this decision two boards were set aside in case anyone wanted to show their acquisitions.

On the afternoon of 1st August the two boards remained vacant - no one put any items on them. At 14.30 the Secretary opened the afternoon's proceedings and advised the members of the reasons for cancellation of the display.

A member whose name was previously mentioned as being one of the two who wanted to show their acquisitions by both initiators of the project decided to say something.

He stated that the Committee does not take the suggestions of members into consideration. In his justification of the attitude of the "participants" regarding the non-communication of their intentions he said that letters must not be sent out as postage costs money the Society cannot afford to spend. He raised un-related matters concerning a letter sent out to 15 members, a confidential letter the contents of which was known only to the addressees and the Committee. He repeatedly stated that the Committee was legally right whilst the Committee was wrong to cancel the display, and so on ...

The coordinator of the now un-shown "display" made a feeble statement about his domicile.

Sanjit Teelock called for a break and the dissatisfied member left the room during the break after an exchange with Mico Antoine. This contretemps, unwarranted, created deliberately with the intention of provoking a bigger incident ended abruptly. This unnecessary disturbance was the first such incident at a meeting. Members were advised to refer to the Society's constitution (No I Newsletter) and to abide by the rules of the Society, thus avoiding any repetition of such incidents.



Affixed to the notice board were the latest stamps of Great Britain and France, the latest acquisition of some members (China, India and Mauritius) as well as philatelic news from around the world.

No 2 and 3 boards remained vacant. Mico Antoine showed some Mauritian stamps featuring various aspects of mint stamps for the benefit of new members. Sheet construction, gutters, blocks of four and six, sheet positions, re-prints, over-prints, varieties (listed and unlisted) and other features were explained. This was followed by a question and answer session. Only one member went to sleep or appeared to be asleep.

Sanjit Teelock asked if it was possible to hold another postal auction. Mico Antoine replied that there were certain constraints and as the first postal auction was not very successful the Society does not envisage holding another postal auction in the near future. The question will be studied at the next Committee meeting and any decision taken will be communicated to members at the next meeting.

T. Coothen, T. Greedharrye, T. Dieudonné and K. Seegobin took care of the purchase list accessories and Society sales.

Proceeds from sales were:-	Purchase list	Rs	4,400
	Accessories	Rs	700
	Society Covers	Rs	1,000
	Spot Auction	Rs	3,600

The purchase list offered a wide range of material from Mauritius and British Commonwealth islands such as Tuvalu, Cocos and Keeling, Tokelau, St. Vincent as well as British Antarctic and Australian Antarctic Territories.

35 members, including two overseas members, and one guest attended the meeting which ended 17.00 hrs.

SEPTEMBER MEETING SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

The September meeting was held at College St Esprit, Quatre Bornes at 14.00 hrs and 34 members were in attendance.

The Secretary announced that Yvan Martial has accepted to reassume the Presidency for the year 1992 (Article 5 Managing Committee) and that the disturbance at the August meeting had been dealt with at Committee level.

Mico Antoine advised that the General Post Office had solicited the assistance of the Society in staging a stamp exhibition scheduled for October on the occasion of World Post Day and that the Society had agreed to participate and to render every assistance possible. He advised members to take note that on U.P.U. day, 9th October, special postal services would be available and that commemorative cachets would be applied to mails posted in the exhibition hall.

ANDRE de KERVERN

André de Kervern, a member resident in Paris, addressed the meeting on his handbook "Mauritius - No 8 Cartes Postales - Picture Postcard 1901-1905" published by the Indian Ocean Study Circle in June 1992 (Price UK £11) and on his book "HISTORICAL POSTCARDS - MAURITIUS" co-authored with Yvan Martial published in November 1991

(Price Rs 475) available in English and French.

André explained how he began collecting post cards at an early age and how over the years he built up his collection of postcards of Mauritius. He said that the classic period of Mauritian post cards was 1901 to 1955 even if the first plain post card was issued in November 1879 and that a small post card issued in August 1901 on the occasion of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York (featured on the History definitive Rs 5 value) is considered as being the first Mauritian picture post card.

The book and handbook are indispensable works of reference for Mauritian philatelists. We hope to see André again next year and if any member wishes to have any information about early Mauritian post cards André will be glad to help.

COMMEMORATIVE COVERS

Unusual, esoteric, inimitable and great fun - that is what Patrick Kwan's commemorative covers are about. In June 1992 on the occasion of the Rio Conference on the environment Patrick Kwan began to make his own commemorative covers. Patrick illustrated these covers on his computer, he obtained relevant postage stamps from various sources and went around Mauritius to have the covers post-marked at appropriate post offices. Patrick showed 20 covers made between June and September including one post-marked 5th September at Mahebourg (on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of Tasman's visit to Mauritius) franked with the 15c Dutch Settlement and 20c Van Keulen map stamps from the History definitive series.

Other illustrated covers shown were the 1992 local anniversaries issue of 13th August on 6 separate envelopes:- 2 (40c) covers postmarked at Rose Hill and Belle Rose respectively, and one of each of the other values postmarked at (R1) Pamplemousses, (R2) Rose Hill, (R3) Quatre Bornes, and (R15) Rivière du Rempart; these localities being closest to the events depicted on the set.

Patrick gave a short talk about his covers and explained that he not only prepared his covers but also did his write-up on computer and in some cases illustrated his album leaves. Most members were impressed and no doubt some will start their own collection of illustrated commemorative covers.

USED STAMPS AND THEMATICS

Mico Antoine showed, for the benefit of new members, aspects of used stamps. Fine used, poor used, stamps on piece, stamps on commercial covers and c.t.o's were some of the items display. He explained the difficulties in collecting Mauritian used stamps in complete sets and advised members to correspond with other philatelist outside Mauritius as anybody can buy mint stamps but that collecting fine used stamp can be extremely difficult. He showed examples of used stamps obtained by exchanging with overseas collectors.

A thematic collection of Railway stamps of East and Central Africa were shown as an example of how to go about preparing for the members only thematic competition scheduled for December 1992. This was followed by a discussion on the subject.

THE NOTICE BOARD

The notice board carried latest philatelic news from around the world and the latest stamps issued by U.K, France and Mauritius. Covers and post cards from Rodrigues made to commemorate the participation in the Llangollen International Music Festival by the *Groupement des Artistes Rodriguais* were shown together with a letter from Craft-Aid.

Sanjit Teelock showed some unlisted George VI varieties and some unlisted Elizabethan inverted watermarks.

Seeta Takoor showed the illustration of a calendar from which the R2.00 Local Events stamp was adapted. She had affixed the relevant R2.00 value to the calendar, posted it to her address and obtained a first day of issue momento.

Lin Yu Tung (from Taiwan, resident in Mauritius) showed air mail tags, registration labels and two stamps, a 10 cent Mauritian stamp and a 100,000 Yuan Chinese stamp and he got the whole room laughing with him as he spoke in "brave" Creole since he does not speak either English or French.

Proceeds from the afternoon's sales were:-

Spot Auction	Rs	3350
Purchase List	Rs	1770
Accessories	Rs	1215
Society Sales	Rs	1645

Louis Pierre Varigny (from France resident in Mauritius) re-appeared after an absence of 14 months and Bernard Young Ten also showed up after a long absence.

The meeting ended at 17.00 hrs.



1993 STAMP PROGRAMME

In August the government approved the stamp programme of Mauritius for the year 1993. Four commemorative sets of postage stamps will be released as follows:-

- (i) 25th Anniversary of Independence - March
- (ii) 25th Anniversary of Air Mauritius - June

- (iii) Francophone Summit Conference - September/October
 (iv) Centenary of External Communications - December

DONATIONS

The Society received a donation of stamp magazines and philatelic bulletins from Ghanty Silk House. This is the second time the Society has received such a donation from Ghanty's and we are extremely grateful.

G.P.O EXPO

World Post Day, 9th October, will be commemorated by a philatelic exhibition at Max Boullé Gallery, Rose Hill scheduled from 6th to 12th October. This is the first time that the General Post Office stages a stamp exhibition on U.P.U day.

In mid-August the Post Master General solicited the assistance of the Mauritius Philatelic Society and the Society agreed to participate in the first World Post Day Stamp Exhibition. This type of cooperation can only cement the cordial relationship that exists between the General Post Office and the Society and contribute towards the development of the hobby in Mauritius. Plans are underway to make this first World Post Day exhibition an annual event in the future.

POST OFFICE WEEK PROGRAMME

Monday 5 October

08 15 hrs

Display of Banners at main Post Offices.

Tuesday 6 October

17 30 hrs

Opening of Stamps Exhibition by Hon. M. Utchanah, Minister of Energy, Water Resources & Postal Services

Venue - Galerie Max Boullé, Rose-Hill.

Wednesday 7 October

Special Programme on Television.

10 00 hrs - 17 30 hrs

Stamps Exhibition - Galerie Max Boullé, Rose-Hill.

Thursday 8 October

08 15 hrs

Open Day - Visit of General Post Office by students of SC/HSC classes in the region of Port-Louis.

10 00 hrs - 17 30 hrs

Stamps Exhibition - Galerie Max Boullé, Rose-Hill.

Friday 9 October

08 15 hrs

Launching of post cards.

10 00 hrs - 17 30 hrs

Stamps Exhibition, Galerie Max Boullé, Rose-Hill.

16 30 hrs

Presentaiton of Special Awards by Hon. M. Utchanah, Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Postal Services at Centre Social Marie Reine de la Paix, Port-Louis.

Message on World Post Day by Hon. M. Utchanah, Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Postal Services on Television.

Saturday 10 October

10 00 hrs - 17 30 hrs

Stamps Exhibition, Galerie Max Boullé, Rose-Hill.

Sunday 11 October

09 00 hrs

Fun - Run for Post Office Staff and their families. Starting Point: In front Municipality of Quatre-Bornes. Arrival: Yard Municipality Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill.

10 00 hrs - 16 00 hrs

Stamps Exhibition, Galerie Max Boullé, Rose-Hill.

NEW MEMBERS

The following were admitted as members of the Society between July and September 1992.

Claude Blais - Canada

Hervé Govinden

Pravin Gopaul
 Jean Cyril Appapoulay
 Hossen Soleiman
 Manhaar Mungur - Junior
 Edouard Desvaux
 Catherine Marechal

GRAND GAUBE POST OFFICE

On 12th May 1992 Grand Gaube Post Office was transferred from its former location to new premises on Royal Road, Grand Gaube.

LOCAL EVENTS 1992

A set of five stamps were issued on 13th August 1992 by the Postal Administration to commemorate local events with the following values, topics and illustrations:-

- (1) 40c silver Jubilee "Fleurir Maurice" Competition
Logo of "Fleurir Maurice".
- (2) R1 - 25th year of arrival of Swami Krishnananji Maharaj - Portrait of the Swami.
- (3) R2 - 25th anniversary of Humane Education
Boy and Dog.
- (4) R3 - 10th Anniversary of the "Commission de l'Ocean Indien" - The seat of the commission at Quatre Bornes Mauritius.
- (5) R15 - Radio Telescope Project at Bras d'Eau - Antenna System.

Quantities Printed

40c	1,000,000
R1	200,000
R2	500,000
R3	300,000
R15	50,000

FDCs 7000



BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

THE SPOT AUCTION

André de Kervern was in Mauritius and he attended the August and September meetings. He suggested that the Society publish its Spot Auction results so that members who do not attend monthly meetings can get some indication of offers and realisations. The Committee discussed the suggestion and decided that the results of June 1992 and details of August 1992 Spot Auctions be published.

The Spot Auction held at every meeting was introduced in 1990. The idea came from an activity that proved to be very popular at the Lusaka Philatelic Society in Zambia.

At the beginning no limit was set as to the value of any given lot nor as to the number of lots offered by members. In June 1991 this was changed because of an incident which displeased the majority of members during the Society's first stamp exhibition.

Currently the Spot Auction offers between 20 to 50 lots per monthly meeting. Members submit approximately 10 items each and the price of any item offered does not exceed Rs 500.-, except in very exceptional cases. Generally material is offered by 5 regular vendors, however any member can offer items for sale and naturally any new vendor has priority over a regular vendor. The vendor indicates the minimum price of his/her lots but the auctioneer reserves the right to adjust the minimum price.

Lots offered are checked and listed. The list is affixed to board No 6 together with the lots and naturally only those members attending the meeting can bid. The lots are knocked down on the Spot, paid for and handed over to the successful bidder.

The Society takes a flat 10% commission of the price realised and the vendor is paid. There is no buyers premium.

Bidding steps are:-

Rs 10	-	Rs 100	x	Rs 5
Rs 101	-	Rs 500	x	Rs 10
Rs 500 and over	-		x	Rs 25

**JUNE 1992
SPOT AUCTION**

COLUMN 1 LOT NUMBER
COLUMN 2 ESTIMATE
COLUMN 3 REALISATION

ALL PRICES IN RUPEES

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	60	80	13	70	120	25	200	200
2	60	120	14	40	45	26	50	50
3	60	70	15	50	-	27	40	40
4	60	100	16	300	300	28	75	85
5	350	350	17	1200	-	29	75	85
6	250	250	18	1500	-	30	30	50
7	60	70	19	200	200	31	40	50
8	50	75	20	400	400	32	200	200
9	50	55	21	120	120	33	100	110
10	50	50	22	300	300	34	1500	1500
11	50	-	23	65	65	35	1500	1500
12	20	65	24	450	460	36	1000	1200
						37	300	330

37 Lots were offered.

4 Lots Nos 11, 15, 17, 18 were unsold.

Exceptionally 5 lots valued above Rs 1,000 were accepted. These were BRITANNIAS (17, 18) and major listed errors and varieties (34, 35, 36)

**SEPTEMBER 1992
SPOT AUCTION**

Lots offered	27
Lots sold	24
Lots unsold	3
Realisation	Rs 3,350

**SPOT AUCTION
AUGUST 1992**

LOT NO	DESCRIPTION	CAT VALUE	OFFERED RS	REALIZED RS
1.	Postcard Used Port-Louis & Mahebourg Cancellation marks	-	150	150
2.	Postcard 6c Arms Unused	-	60	75
3.	Postcard 2c on 6c Arms Unused	-	60	70
4.	Envelope Unused 5c on 8c Arms	-	70	100
5.	Coronation 1937 set on 3 separate covers cancelled on day of issue at Beau-Bassin.	-	60	60
6.	Registered Cover Curepipe with 25c Georges VI. Back stamped Curepipe and Curepipe Delivery Mark	-	120	120
7.	Port-Louis Railway Cancellation Mark FDC 2.JU.53. Coronation	-	40	45
8.	Qantas. Round The World First Flight Cover	-	150	210
9.	Qantas Cover cancelled Port-Louis Mauritius: Back stamped Cocos & Port-Louis: First Flight Cachet Flown to Cocos & Returned to Mauritius	-	100	150
10.	Qantas Cover Port-Louis to Jo'burg South Africa. Back stamped Jo'burg & Commemorative Cachet	-	100	170
11.	Qantas Cover Port-Louis to Jo'burg South Africa. Returned to Mauritius. Back stamped Port-Louis and Jo'burg & Commemorative Cachet	-	150	190

**SPOT AUCTION
AUGUST 1992**

LOT NO	DESCRIPTION	CAT VALUE £	OFFERED RS	REALIZED RS
2.	Victoria Used SG 110-114	9.45	150	230
3.	Victoria Used SG 125-127	5.60	100	210
4.	George V Silver Jubilee m/m	-	250	250
<u>SEYCHELLES</u>				
5.	1965 Surcharges 45c on 35c and 75c On 70c u/m	0.30	15	60
6.	1963 Red Cross u/m	1.00	30	70
7.	1967 Adult Education u/m	0.50	20	40
8.	1973 Royal Visit u/m	1.65	60	90
9.	1972 Birds u/m	10.00	150	150
10.	Zil-E-Sesel Definitives 1980 Complete u/m	8.00	200	250
<u>OTHER</u>				
11.	BIOT - Royal Society u/m	12.00	200	200
12.	BIOT - Nature Reserve 71 u/m	15.00	250	250
13.	BIOT - Shells u/m	5.75	125	125
14.	Nauru (Withdrawn)	-	-	-
15.	Seychelles Postage Due u/m	1.00	30	80
16.	Seychelles [Gutter Pairs] Islands u/m - with margins	5.00	150	180

26 LOTS OFFERED

26 LOTS SOLD

The Management Committee
MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
PORT-LOUIS, MAURITIUS
2ND OCTOBER 1992

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY
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QUATRE-BORNES
MAURITIUS