



African Studies Centre Leiden

African Postal Heritage

APH Paper 29

Ton Dietz and Isabelle Ramdoo

MAURITIUS
Postmarks and Iconography since 1847

Version February 2018

Introduction

Postage stamps and related objects are miniature communication tools, and they tell a story about cultural and political identities and about artistic forms of identity expressions. They are part of the world's material heritage, and part of history. Ever more of this postal heritage becomes available online, published by stamp collectors' organizations, auction houses, commercial stamp shops, online catalogues, and individual collectors. Virtually collecting postage stamps and postal history has recently become a possibility. These working papers about Africa are examples of what can be done. But they are work-in-progress! Everyone who would like to contribute, by sending corrections, additions, and new area studies can do so by sending an email message to the APH editor: Ton Dietz (dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl). You are welcome!

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African Studies Centre Leiden
P.O. Box 9555
2300 RB Leiden
The Netherlands

Telephone	+31-71-5273372
E-mail	asc@asc.leidenuniv.nl
Website	http://www.ascleiden.nl
Facebook	www.facebook.nl/ascleiden
Twitter	www.twitter.com/ascleiden
Countryportal	http://countryportal.ascleiden.nl

Illustrations cover page:

ASC Leiden postage stamp Nederland (2011): ©African Studies Centre Leiden

Cape of Good Hope postage stamp 1853:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg

Egypt postage stamp 1914:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg

Ton Dietz: asc@ascleiden.nl

Isabelle Ramdoo: isaphilately@gmail.com; Mauritius Philatelic Corner; see
<https://stampsofmauritius.org/>

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APH 27 deals with Mauritius before Independence, hence before 12 March 1968

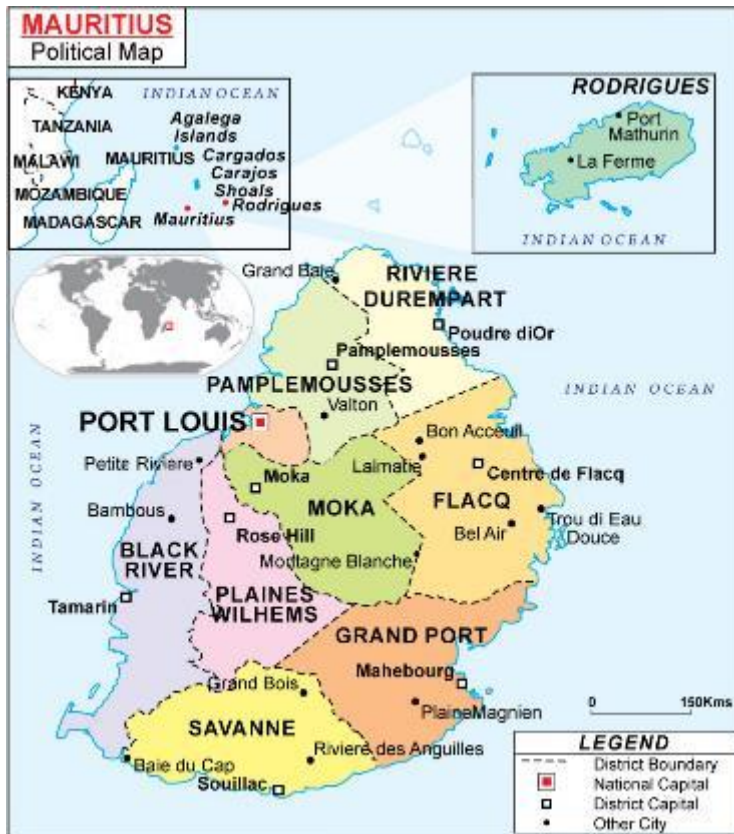
APH 28 deals with Mauritius after 12 March 1968, the period of Independence.

1 Postmarks of Mauritius



<https://stampaday.files.wordpress.com/2017/04/mauritius-map-2a.jpg?w=700&h=960>

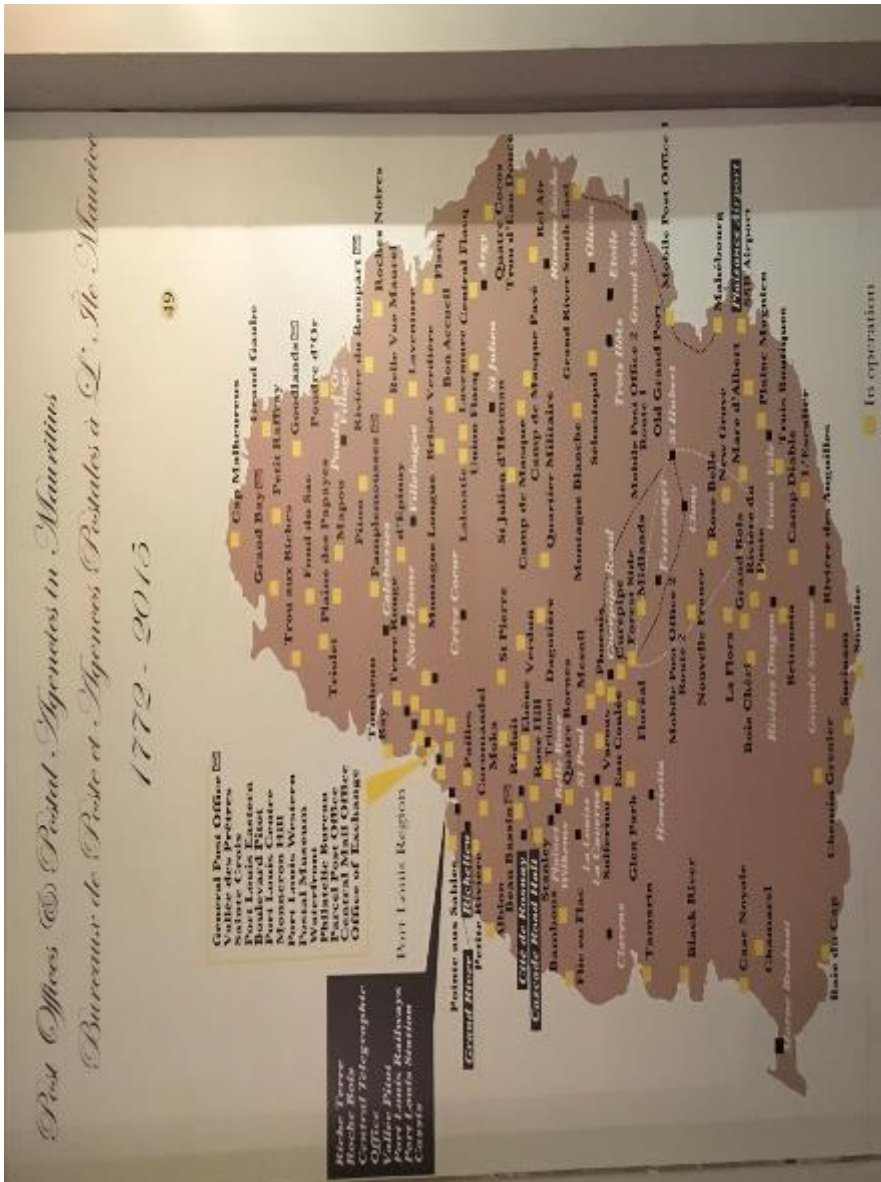
Map of the Political Administration



https://www.bizbilla.com/assets/img/gd_images/country-maps/mauritius-political-map.jpg



Source: From the Postal Museum in Mauritius and referenced in the book: Huron J. M. and R. Marion (2002): "The Story of the Mauritius Post Office".



Source: From the Postal Museum in Mauritius and referenced in the book: Huron J. M. and R. Marion (2002): "The Story of the Mauritius Post Office".

Post Office/ postal agency	Date of opening/ closure ¹	District and current postal code ²	Other information and numerals ³	Postmarks illustrated in APH papers 27 and 28, with year
Achim Bank		Port Louis	(1879, fiscal)	1879
Adam & Co		Port Louis	At least since 1899, fiscal	1899, 1900, 1904, 1910
Agalega		Outer Islands; A1101-1103; A2101	At least since 2002	2002, 2009, 2015
Albion Postal Agency		Black River; 91001	(2010)	2010
Argy	1868	Flacq;	II: "11".	1863, 1878, 1882, 1953
Baie du Cap	1892	Savanne; 60101		1900, 2004
Bambous		Black River; 90102	>1868; II: "29".	1863, 1885, 1968, 2004
Base (Pay) Office		Port Louis	At least since 1938	1938, 1950
Beau Bassin	1868	Plaines Wilhelms; 71504	>1855?; II: "27".	1860, 1882, 1895, 1909, 1910, 1971, 2004
Bel Air	1894 – 1944; Re-opened in 1952	Flacq; 40101		1895, 2004
Belle Rose	1948 – 1950; 1951	Flacq		1953, 2004, 2014
Belle Vue Maurel		Riv. du Rempart; 30104	(2004)	2004
Black River (transferred to Black River village)	1847	Black River; 90601	1847-48; 1851-55; 1857-64; 1866-77, >1889; I: "12"; II: "13".	1860, 1863, 1950, 1995, 2004
Bois Cheri		Savanne; 60203	(2004)	2004

¹ According to: Proud, T. (1990) "The Postal History of Mauritius". Most information can be found online on: www.postmarks.co.za; Mauritius; CURRENT POST OFFICES: <http://www.mauritiuspost.mu/contact-us/list-of-post-offices>

² <http://www.mauritiuspost.mu/products-and-services/post-code-finder>

³ Information from www.postmarks.co.za ; Mauritius; <http://www.cwiakala.com/numerical.cancel.html#mau> : "Worldwide Numerical & Lettered Cancellations", and other sources, given in the references for each postage stamp. I = prior to 1869; II = after 1869.

Bon Accueil	1920 - 1937	Flacq; 40205	Also 1945-47?	2004
Boulevard Pitot		Port Louis; 11402	(2004)	2004
Brisée Verdrière	1915 – 1920; 1937	Flacq; 42403		1950, 2004
Britannia		Savanne; 61201	(2004)	2004
Calebasses	1869 – 1876; 1885 – 1919; 1920 – 1922; 1937	Pamplemousses; 20201	Il: “3”.	1860, 1899, 1900
Camp de Masque	1882	Flacq; 41203	Il: “B45”.	1885, 2004
Camp de Masque Pave	1952 - 1954	Flacq; 40401	and at least since 1992	1992, 2004
Camp Diable	1951	Savanne; 60304		1953, 2004
Cap Malheureux		Riv. du Rempart 31706	(2004)	2004
Carrier Boxed		(Port Louis)	At least since 1885	1885, 1898
Cascade Road Halt	1945 - 1956	Black River		1950
Case Noyale	1879	Black River; 90302	Il: “39”.	1882, 1895, 1904, 2004
Cassis	1904 - 1908	Port Louis; 11303-11305	1864-1905?	1900
Central Flacq	1905	Flacq; 40606		1926; 1995
Central Telegraph Office		Port Louis	(1937)	1937
Chamarel	1879	Black River; 90402	Also: 1879-80; >1885; Il: “36”.	1882, 1924, 2004
Chemin Grenier	1877	Savanne; 60413	Il: “35”.	1878, 1895, 2004
Cité de Rosnay		Plaines Wilhelms	>1956	1971
Clarens	1896 - 1909	Black River		1895
Cluny	1868	Grand Port; 50504	Il: “20”.	1860, 1863, 1891, 2004
Colonial Fire Insurance Co.		Port Louis	(1904)	1904
Coromandel	1868 – 1914; Re- opened	Black River; 71616	Il: “31”.	1885, 1910, 2004

	since 1995			
Crève Coeur	1952	Pamplemousses; 20401		2004
Curepipe	1847	Plaines Wilhelms; 74431	I: "6"; II: "21".	1860, 1863, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1890, 1896, 1898, 1900, 1902, 1953, 1965, 1990, 2004
Curepipe Road	1879	Plaines Wilhelms	II: "37".	1882, 1885, 1900, 1902, 1972
Dagotière		Moka; 80202	(2004)	2004
D'Epinay	1951 - 1954	Pamplemousses; 20503		2004
[Diego Garcia, BIOT]		BIOT	(In 2007 and 2017)	2007, 2017
Eau Coulée	1991	Plaines Wilhelms; 74321		2004
Ebene		Plaines Wilhelms; 72201	?	Not yet found
Etoile/L'étoile	1904 - 1908	Pamplemousses		1902
Flacq	1847	Flacq; 41518	Also: 1847-1919; >1919; I: "2"; II: "2"; B10	1847, 1848, 1858, 1860, 1863, 1882, 1885, 1961, 2004
Flic en Flac		Black River; 90502	At least since 2004	2004, 2012
Floreal	1934	Plaines Wilhelms; 74112		1950, 2004
Fond du Sac	1952	Pamplemousses; 20602		1953, 2004
Forest Side	1884 – June 1929; Sep.1929 -	Plaines Wilhelms; 74438	II: "B48".	1882, 1896, 1898, 1985, 2004
Fres(s)anges	1880 or 1890 - 1914	Plaines Wilhelms?		1885

General Post Office Mauritius (also see Port Louis)	1772	Port Louis; >11000		1860, 1883, 1913, 1935, 1938, 1948, 1949
Glen Park		Plaines Wilhelms; 73116	?	Not yet found
Goodlands	1946	Riv. du Rempart; 30401		1950, 1996
Grand Bay/Baie	1847	Riv. du Rempart; 30548; 30515	I: "10"; II: "5".	1860, 1885, 1893, 2004
Grand Bois	1952	Savanne; 60505		1953, 2004
Grande Montagne		Rodrigues; R6413	(2007)	2007
Grande Rivière Nord Ouest/Grand River North West	1851	Port-Louis	Also: 1856; 1859- 1919; >1920; I: "13"; II: "13"	1860, 1895, 1910
Grand Gaube	1895	Riv. du Rempart; 30617		1910, 2004
Grand River Sud Est/ or G.R.S.E.	1868	Flacq; 40906	Or only since 1873?	1895, 2004
Grand Sable	1924 - 1928	Grand Port; 50603		Not yet found
Grande Savanne	1856 - 1877	Savanne	II: "18".	1860, 1863
Henrietta		Plaines Wilhelms; 73120	(2004)	2004
La Caverne	1947 - 1956	Plaines Wilhelms		1950
La Ferme		Rodrigues; R1318	(2005)	2004
La Flora		Savanne; 61704	(1997)	1997
Lallmatie	1947	Flacq; 42601		1950, 2004
La Louise		Plaines Wilhelms; 72326	(2004)	2004
(La Réunion à Marseille)		French maritime vessel	(1910)	1910
Laventure		Flacq; 41001	(2004)	2004
L'Escalier	1905	Grand Port/Savanne; 61412		1953, 2004
L.L. Toorawa & Co		Port Louis ? "3"?	(1885 fiscal)	1885
Mahebourg (incl. Pillar Box)	1847	Grand Port; 50810	I: "1"; II: "14"	1848, 1859, 1860, 1863, 1879, 1882, 1895, 1891,

				1892, 1898, 1904, 2004
Mapou	1869	Riv. du Rempart; 31804	II: "7".	1863, 1878, 1882, 1910, 2004
Mare d'Albert	1858 - 1859	Grand Port; 51006	I: "17"; II: "17".	1860, 1879, 1900, 2004
Mauritius (= Port Louis GPO) (also see Port Louis)		Port Louis; >11000	Pre-stamp period and >1847	1845, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1859, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1904, 1910, 1948 (and others)
Mauritius Commercial Bank		Port Louis	At least since 1869, fiscal	1869, 1878, 1880, 1885, 1900
Mauritius Insurance Company		Port Louis	At least since 1869, fiscal	1869, 1879
Mauritius Packet Letter		Port Louis	(1852)	1852
Mauritius (mistake)		Port Louis	(1919)	1910
Mesnil		Plaines Wilhelms; 73627	(2004)	2004
Midlands	1879 - 1928	Plaines Wilhelms; 52501	II: "38".	1882, 1891, 1910
Military Head Quarters		Port Louis (?)	(1947)	1938
Mobile Post Office		various	(2004)	2004
Moka	1847	Moka; 80827	I: "11"; II: "26".	1848, 1882, 1895, 1987, 2004
Monneron Hill		Port Louis; 11410	>1993	1993, 1997
Montagne Blanche	1882	Moka; 80902	II: "B44".	1882, 1885, 1904
Montagne Longue (transferred to railway station in 1904)	1884 - 1904	Pamplemousses; 20801	II: B46".	1885, 1921, 2004
Mont Lubon		Rodrigues; R3218; R5218	(2004)	2004
Morne Brabant		Black River; 91202	(1998)	1998
New Grove	1915	Grand Port; 51222	Also: 1915-19; >1919	1910, 2004

Notre Dame	1949	Pamplemousses; 22008		1953, 2004
Nouvelle France	1951	Grand Port; 51309		1951, 2004
Old Grand Port	1888	Grand Port; 51406		1895, 1969, 2004
Olivia	1894 – 1947; 1952 - 53	Flacq; 41414		1893
Oriental Bank Mauritius		Port Louis	(1869)	1869
Pailles	1868 - 1953	Port Louis; 11221	Also: 1868-76; 1878-1953; II: “32”.	1882, 1938, 1952
Pamplemousse(s)	1847	Pamplemousses; 21014	; I: “3”and/or “4”	1848, 1860, 1882, 1883, 1913, 1925, 1969, (1980)
Parcel Post (Office) Quay Street	1926 1930	Port Louis; 11320	various	1912, 1921, 1950, 2005
Petite Rivière	1851 – 1856; 1908 - 1954	Black River; 90808	Also: 1851-56; 1858-60; >1868; I: “7”; II: “28”.	1860, 1863, 1878, 1882, 1904, 2004
Petit Raffray		Riv. du Rempart; 30711	(2004)	2004
Philatelic Bureau, Quay Street		Port Louis; 11320	At least from 1971 onwards	a.o. first day covers
Phoenix	1869	Plaines Wilhelms; 73550	II: “23”.	1904, 1938, 2004
Piton	1872 – 1879; Reopened in 1947	Riv. du Rempart; 30804		1953, 1965, 2004, 2010,
Plaine Magnien (transferred to Union Vale in 1868)	1853 - 1868	Grand Port; 51516	Also: 1851-68; >1947; I: “14” or “15”.	1860, 2004
Plaine de Papayes	1947	Pamplemousses; 21213		1953, 1969, 2004
Plaines Wilhelms (transferred to Rose Hill in 1868)	1847 - 1868	Plaines Wilhelms	Also: 1853-60; I: “5”	1860
Plaisance Airport		Port Louis	>1956	1953, 1971
Pointe aux Sables		Port Louis; 11129	(2004)	2004

Port Louis (G.P.O./Sorting Office) Dumas Street		Port Louis ; 11327	>1816 (on postage stamps: >1847); I: "1"; B32", and "B53" (and just "Mauritius").	1800s: 16, 47, 59, 60, 62, 63, 77, 778, 82, 83, 91 1900s: 04, 10, 26, 33, 48, 50, 51, 53, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 75, 79, 80, 84, 87, 89, 92, 93, 95, 97 2000s: 04, 05, 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17
Port Louis Centre; Emmanuel Anquetil building	1922 – 1943; 1948	Port Louis; 11328	I: "16"?	1921, 1925, 1950, 2004
Port Louis Est (Eastern Suburbs); Eastern Plaine Verte	1851 - 1856	Port Louis; 11612	Also: 1851-56; 1857-69; 1948- 56; >1958	1860, 1997
Port Louis (Railway) Station (Central railway station became Port-Louis Railway station in 1956	1929	Port Louis		1912, 1926, 1938, 1953, 1973, 1996,
Port Louis West (Western Suburbs); Quay Street (Waterfront)	1948 - 1951	Port Louis; 11320		1994
Port Mathurin		Rodrigues; R5126	At least since 2008	2008, 2015, 2017
Postal Museum Quay Street		Port Louis; 11320	At least since 1995	1995, 2004, (2005)
Poudre d'Or	1847	Riv. du Rempart; 31006	I: "9"; II: "8".	1860, 1882, 1953, 2004
Poudre d'Or Village	1903 - 1928	Riv. du Rempart; 30905		1910
Quartier Militaire	1880	Moka; 81106	II: "43".	1885, 1910, 1953, 2005
Quatre Bornes	1868	Plaines Wilhelms; 72249	II: "24".	1882, 1885, 1902, 1909, 1926, 1948, 1957, 1963, 1965, 2009
Quatre Cocos		Flacq; 41605	?	Not yet found

Réduit	1884	Moka; 80835	Il: "B49".	1891, 1896, 1902, 1926, 2004, 2005
Richelieu	1908	Plaines Wilhelms; 91304	Also: 1908-1958	Not yet found
Rivière Coco		Rodrigues; R2517	(2006)	2006
Rivière des Anguilles		Savanne; 61802	Il: "34".	1882, 1885, 1896, 1898, 1969, 2004
Rivière Dragon	1877	Savanne; 61204	>Il: "33".	1882
Rivière du Poste	1905	Grand Port; 60703	Also: 1905-19; >1921	1906, 2004
Rivière du Rempart	1852	Riv. du Rempart; 31106	Also: 1848-1919; >1919: I: "14", II: "9".	1848, 1858, 1860, 1863, 1882, 1885, 1952, 2012
Rivière Sèche	1856 – 1859; 1869	Flacq	Also: 1861-1956; I: "16"; II: "12".	1858, 1860, 1882, 1885, 1910
Roche Bois	1868 – 1919; 1922	Port Louis; 11614	Also: 1868-1919; 1922-55; > 1956; II: "1".	1885, 1910, 2004
Roches Noires		Pamplemousses; 31206	?	Not yet found
Riche Terre	1882 - 1922	Pamplemousses; 32002	Also: 1880-1919; 1920-22: "40".	1882
Rodrigues (Island)	(1861)	Rodrigues	>1861; II: "B65".	1860, 1882, 1885, 1899, 1935, 1953, 1991, (2004), 2007, (2014)
Rose Belle	1868	Grand Port; 51829	Il: "16".	1879, 1899, 1900, 1904, 2004
Rose Hill (formerly Plaine Wilhems)	1868	Plaines Wilhelms; 71347	Il: "25".	1882, 1902, 1909, 1992, 1999, 2004
Round Island		Outer islands	(2005)	2005
Sainte Croix		Port Louis; 11704	(2004)	2004
Saint Hubert	1951 - 1954	Grand Port; 51915		2004
Saint Julien (d'Hotman)	1884	Flacq/Moka; 81301	"B47".	1882, 1885, 1900, 2004
Saint Paul	1948	Plaines Wilhelms		1950, 1994

Saint Pierre	1880	Moka; 81420	II: "4" and "41".	1882, 1885, 1970, 2005
Sebastopol	1896 - 1930	Flacq; 42106	Also: 1896-1919; 1920-32; >1947	1895, 2004
Seychelles		SEYCHELLES	(1860-1878); II: "B64".	1860, 1872, 1878
Solferino		Plaines Wilhelms; 73304	(2004)	2004
Souillac	1847	Savanne; 60810	I: "4"; II: "19"	1847, 1860, 1882, 1885, 2004
S.S.R. International Airport		Port Louis	At least since 1989	1989, 1992, 1995
Stanley	1948	Plaines Wilhelms; 71170		1953, 2004
Surinam	1947	Savanne; 60917		2004
Tamarin	1908	Black River; 90921		1937, 2004
Terre Rouge	1868	Pamplemousses; 21416	II: "2"	1863, 1882, 2004
Tombeau Bay		Pamplemousses; 21733	(2004)	2004
TPO (Travelling Post Office)		Various	1925-26	1912
Trianon		Plaines Wilhelms; 72258	>2014	2014
Triolet	1947	Pamplemousses; 21503		1969, 2004, 2012
Tristan da Cunha (Island)		TRISTAN DA CUNHA	(1937)	1937
Trois Boutiques		Grand Port; 52011	(2004)	2004
Trois Ilots (former Olivia)	1930 - 1932			
[Tromelin, TAAF]		TAAF	(2015, 2017)	2015, (2017)
Trou aux Biches	1901 - 1917	Pamplemousses; 22322		1896
Trou d'Eau Douce	1956	Flacq; 42214		2004
Union Flacq		Flacq; 41903	>1973	1973, 2004, 2017
Union Vale (formerly Plaine Magnien)	1868	Grand Port	II: "15".	1882, 1885, 1898, 1900
Vacoas	1868	Plaines Wilhelms; 73360	II: "22".	1885, 1891, 1893, 1910,

				1925, 1953, 1970, 2000
Vallée des Prêtres		Port Louis; 11817	(2004)	2004
Vallée Pitot		Port Louis; 11504	(2004)	2004
Verdun	1880	Moka; 81802	II: "42"	1885, 1891, 2004
Ville Bague	1847 - 1915	Pamplemousses; 21606/21607	I: "8"; II: "6".	1847, 1860, 1862, 1885
Waterfront		Port Louis (former G.P.O)	At least since 2007	2007, (2011)

Postmarks without illustrations yet:

EBENE, no further information

GLEN PARK, no further information

GRAND SABLE, 01.1.1924 to 01.12.1928

(<http://www.postmarks.co.za/PH%20Mauritius%20Grand%20Sable%20to%20Mapou.htm>).

QUATRE COCOS, no further information

RICHELIEU, 1908 to 31.05.1958

(<http://www.postmarks.co.za/PH%20Mauritius%20Quatre%20Bornes%20to%20Riviere%20Dragon.htm>).

ROCHES NOIRES, no further information

A Note on Numerical Cancellations according to "Worldwide Numerical & Lettered Cancellations";

<http://www.cwiakala.com/numerical.cancel.html#mau> : "MAURITIUS: From 1848 through 1860, seventeen post offices opened in Mauritius, all using ringed numerical oblits identified as the following towns (and postal districts). Several of the numerical oblits are considered as being rare: "7", "9", "10", "13", "15", and "17"." [This list is not at all complete].

"1 Mahébourg (Grand Port); 2 Centre de Flacq (Flacq); 3 Pamplemousses (Pamplemous); 4 Souillac (Savanna); 5 Plaines Wilhelms (Plaines Wilhelm); 6 Curepipe (Plaines Wilhelm); 7 Petite Rivière (Black River)[1851]; 8 Ville Bague (Flacq); 9 Poudre d'Or (Riviere du Remp); 10 Grand Bay (Pamplemous); 11 Moka (Moka); 12 Black River (Black River); 13 Grand River S.E. (Grand Port); 14 Rivière du Rempart (Rivière du Remp); 15 Plaine Magnien (Grand Port); 16 Rivière Seche (Grand Port); 17 Mare d'Albert (Grand Port).

In 1869, the number of post offices were increased and reorganized. They were given a new numerical obliterator, with the designated post office number being enclosed by a lozenge of bars. These new oblits were of two types: (1) with 3 bars above and below the number, and (2) with four bars above and below the number.

The numerical designations ran from "1" through "43", then preceded by the letter "B" running from "B44" through "65". Only several of the new oblits have been identified as to their origin, as the postal system of the time was very primitive, and record keeping was practically non-existent. Those post offices that have been identified include the following; 1 Port Louis; 2 Flacq; 4 St. Pierre; 5 Plaine Wilhelms; 7 Mapou; 8 Poudre d'Or; 9 Rivière du Rempart; 14 Mahébourg; 15 Union Vale; 16 Rose Belle; 20 Cluny; 21 Curepipe; 22 Vacoas; 24 Quatre Bornes; 25 Rose Hill; 26 Moka; 27 Beau Bassin; 28 Petite Rivière; 32 Pailles; 33 Rivière Dragon; 34 Rivière des Anguilles; 35 Chemin Grenier; 37 Curepipe Road; 38 Midlands; 43 Quartier Militaire; 45 Camp du Masque; B47 St. Julien; B48 Forest Side; B49 Réduit; B53 Port Louis; B64 Seychelles (a Dependency); B65 Rodriguez Island (a Dependency);

References: Mrs. M. S. Pierce, "Mauritius: Postmarks", Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Volume VI (Jamaica, NY: F. Fritz Billig., 1946), 88-91.

Rev. H. H. Heins, The Numerical Cancellations of the British Empire, 2nd ed. (London: Robson Lowe Ltd., 1960), 16".

Part 2: An iconographic inventory and analysis of Mauritian stamps

Introduction

Postage stamps are communication miniatures, with messages to users and receivers of postage stamps. And to the world. We have made an inventory of all postage stamps of Mauritius with a separate number in the Michel catalogue of 2005 (and our own numbers afterwards). Each separate number is treated as a separate entry. This excludes the many varieties (if they have the same number), and it excludes fiscal and other stamps that are not included in the Michel catalogue. But it does include the postage due stamps (Michel: "P") and the internal revenue stamps, which have also been used for postal purposes (Michel: "MS"). Together Mauritius has had 1186 different postage stamps between 1847 and the end of 2017 if we count this way.

We have used our own categories and subcategories of images, and the inventory below shows how we have done that. Many stamps have different images, which have been categorized under different rubrics. So the number of images goes beyond the number of separate stamps in the Michel catalogue; a total of 1600 images. We divide the period in two sections: before and after political Independence (so before and after 1968). And otherwise we use decades for a more fine-tuned inventory and analysis.

Inventory

Category	1840s	1850s	1860s	1870s
Political: Royalty (UK)	1-4 = 4	5-8 = 4	15-22; 27-33; 35-37 = 18	34; 38-60 = 24
Political: Coat of arms		9-14 = 6	23-26 = 4	
Total stamps	4	10	22	24
Total images	4	10	22	24

Category	1880s	1890s	1900s	1910s
Political: Royalty (UK)	61-71; MS 1-2 = 13	72-81; MS 3-4 = 12	93 = 1	138-153 = 16
Political: Coat of Arms		82-89; 91-92 = 10	94-116; 119-130 = 35	131-137 = 7
History: French period		90 = 1	117-118 = 2	
Total stamps	13	23	38	23
Total Images	13	23	38	23

Category	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s
Political: Royalty (UK)	164-172; 185-195 = 20	196-214 = 19	215-222 = 8	227-241; 243-257 = 30
Political: Coat of Arms/Flag	154-163; 173-184 = 22			
History: French period				

History: postal history & symbols			217-220; 223-226 = 8	
Figures		P 1-7 = 7		
Buildings: In the UK		196-199 = 4	215-216 = 2	
Buildings: in Mauritius				227; 236; 243; 252 = 4
Transport: ships			223-224 = 2	228; 244 = 2
Transport: airplanes			223 = 1	
Geography: Globes and maps			223-226 = 4	233; 244 = 2
Geography: landscapes				230-231; 237; 239-240; 246-247; 251; 256 = 9
Biology: plants				229; 245 = 2
Biology: animals: mammals				232; 238; 248; 254 = 4
Biology: birds				233; 249 = 2
Total stamps	42	26	12	31
Total images	42	30	25	55

Category	1960-1967	1968-69	1970s	1980s
Political: Royalty (UK)	258-312 = 15		360-361; 383-384; 425-427; 436-455; 452; 456-458; 480-482 = 34	516-518; 532; 544-548; P14-P19; 600-604; 625-629 = 25
Political: Coat of Arms/Flag		313-318 = 6	454 = 1	511-515; 554; P19; 672 = 8
Political: Politicians (UK)	287-290 = 4			
Politicians (Mauritius)			455 = 1	502; 519-524; 575-578; 664; 688 = 13
Political: Politicians (Foreign)		349-354 = 6	362-363 = 2	692-696 = 5
Political : events and institutions				592-595; 651-655 = 9
History: (pre-) Dutch period			437-438 = 2	P14-P15 = 2
History: French period (or France)		325-330 = 6	369-370; 387-390; 398; 439-444 = 12	599; 683-686 = 5
History: British period			445-553 = 10	P17-P19 = 3

History: postal history & symbols	258-261 = 4		366; 401-402; 448; 452; 480-482 = 8	
Figures	P 8-13 = 6			
Buildings: In the UK	287-290 = 4			
Buildings: in Mauritius			366; 368; 381; 385-386; 391-393; 397; 401-402; 447; 453; 467-469 = 16	493; 503; 537; 540; 576; P17; 596; 598; 617-618; 638-643; 645; 656; 658-659; 661; 670-671; 689-690 = 25
Buildings: foreign			422 = 1	533-535; 683-684 = 5
Transport: ships			387-388; 390; 398; 411-415; 445 = 10	494-497; 543; 557; 567; 583-586; 620; 640; 647-648; 650 = 16
Transport: airplanes			364-365; 378-80; 432-435 = 9	662 = 1
Transport: cars; coaches; trains etc			370; 401; 470-473 = 6	639 = 1
Telecom	283-284 = 2			558-561 = 4
Geography: Globes and maps	265; 292 = 2		365; 377; 394-396; 407; 410; 419; 436; 438; 443 = 11	P15; 555; 562; 623; 669 = 5
Geography: landscapes	265; 267 = 2		364; 367; 369; 373-375; 441; 446; 451-452 = 10	489-492; 506; 531; 541; P14; 586; 599; 613-616; 620; 638-642; 659; 663; 678; 680-681 = 25
Biology: plants	262; 292 = 2		399; 409; 428-431; 461 = 7	489-493; 507-510; 549-552; 587-591; 634-637; 681 = 22
Biology: mammals	262 = 1		370; 400; 464 = 3	530; 542 = 2
Biology: birds	265; 268-282; 294-312 = 36	314-315; 318-324 = 8	458; 466; 481 = 3	579-582; 609-612; 618 = 9
Biology: fish/sea animals		331-348 = 18	360-361; 376 = 3	505; 568-569; 679 = 4
Biology: reptiles			465 = 1	682 = 1
Biology: insects			463 = 1	

Economy		355-359 = 5	387-390; 392-393; 400; 409-410; 442; 444; 449 = 12	529; P16; 556; 575; 578; 566-569; P18; 630; 668; 670-673 = 16
Social: Health and health care	263-264 = 2		381-382; 459-462 = 6	525; 549-553; 666-669 = 10
Social: Education and research(ers)		391 = 1	453 = 1	500-501; 576; 540-543; 553; 570-574; 621-624 = 17
Social: women's emancipation; care; children; scouting			408; 484-488 = 5	498-501; 530; 536-539; 667 = 10
Social: religion			474-476 = 3	526-528; 618-619; 687-691; 687-688; 691 = 13
Sports and games				605-608; 633; 648-649; 665; 674-677 = 12
Culture: literature; theatre; journalism	291= 1	385-386 = 2		504; 583-586 = 5
Culture: paintings		325-330 = 6	403-406 = 4	506; 657; 659-660 = 4
Culture: other	293 = 1		421-424; 456 = 5	503-506 = 4
International relations & events	285-286 = 2		371-372; 394-397; 400; 407; 416-423; 477-479 = 18	554-557; 562-565; 596-599; 613-616; 630-632; 666-669 = 23
Total stamps	61	47	129	214
Total images	84	58	205	304

Category	1990s	2000s	2010s	Total
Political: Royalty (UK)	719-720 = 2		1086; 1132-1133 = 3	248
Political: Coat of Arms/Flag/Symbol	741; 759 = 2	891; 979; 993; 1070 = 4	1123; 1159; 1175; 1177 = 4	109
Political: Politicians (UK)				4
Politicians (Mauritius)	701-705; 738-739 = 7	903-906; 919; 922; 1045 = 7	1089; 1097; 1126; 1146 = 4	32

Political: Politicians (Foreign)	860 = 1	940 =1		15
Political : events and institutions	738-741; 758 = 5	990-993; 1044 = 5	1096; 1109-1112; 1118-1121; 1138 = 10	29
History: (pre-) Dutch period	861-864 = 4	953-956 = 4		12
History: French period (or France)	708; 767; 781- 784; 798; 834- 835; 870-874 = 14	932-935; 975- 976; 1013-1018 = 13		53
History: British period	722; 765; 836- 837 = 4	891-894; 927; 940; 977-978; 1044-1045; 1074 = 11	1087-1088; 1096- 1097 = 4	32
History: postal history & symbols	723; 826-829; 836; 839-842 = 10	1001-1004; 1043; 1075 = 17	1086; 1104; 1127-1133 = 9	56
Figures				13
Buildings: In the UK				10
Buildings: in Mauritius	698; 700; 701; 708-709; 721; 738-739; 743; 749; 751; 755; 780; 800-803; 829; 870-873; 883-886; 889 = 27	938; 947; 975- 978; 988-990; 993; 1005-1007; 1013; 1015; 1047 = 16	1092; 1094-1095; 1099; 1104; 1109; 1118; 1121; 1134-1137 = 12	100
Buildings: foreign	805 = 1			7
Transport: ships	769; 781-784; 795; 822-825; 850; 859; 861; 868 = 14	932; 945; 1009- 1011; 1014 = 6	1087; 1121; 1157 = 3	53
Transport: airplanes	724; 760-763; 796; 888 = 7		1164 = 1	19
Transport: cars; coaches; trains etc	828; 856-858 = 4	1003-1004 = 2	1131 = 1	14
Telecom	707; 750; 769- 772 = 6		1153 = 1	13
Geography: Globes and maps	702; 705; 712- 713; 757; 772; 779; 794; 806; 808-811; 834- 835; 863-864 = 17	933; 939; 953- 956; 961-962; 979; 1043; 1074 = 11	1087; 1100; 1184-1186 = 5	57
Geography: landscapes	725-729; 760- 764; 771; 796-	945; 980-983; 991; 1016; 1020- 1022; 1071 = 11	1091; 1093; 1155-1156 = 4	79

	799; 817; 862; 866-869 = 21			
Biology: plants/fruits /flowers	717; 735; 746; 790-793; 830- 833; 875-878 = 17	928-931; 967- 970; 994-998; 1000; 1032; 1037; 1053-1064 = 28	1102; 1104; 1142; 1144; 1147; 1165-1169; 1172-1173 = 12	90
Biology: mammals	722; 748; 773- 776; 829 = 7		1113; 1117; 1120; 1148 = 4	21
Biology: birds	716-718; 736; 837 = 5	934; 963-966; 999; 1020; 1038- 1041; 1042 = 12	1143 = 1	76
Biology: fish/sea animals	714; 756; 816; 737; 812-815 = 8	907-918; 971; 1024-1027 = 17	1160; 1162-1163; 1180-1183 = 7	57
Biology: reptiles	734; 852-855 = 3	997; 1023; 1065- 1069 = 7	1154 = 1	13
Biology: insects	730-733; 887 = 10	895-898; 949-952 = 8	1147; 1161 = 2	21
Economy	697-700; 751- 754; 797; 807; 848-851; 883- 886; 889 = 19	891-894; 922- 926; 937-938; 941-944; 946- 948; 972; 974; 984-987; 992; 1072 = 26	1093-1094; 1105- 1108; 1122; 1138-1139; 1178 = 10	88
Social: Health and health care	777; 887 = 2	919; 921 = 2	1140; 1174 = 2	24
Social: Education & research(ers)/ literacy/language	706; 710-713; 748; 765-768; 777; 804; 837 = 13	936; 957-960; 973-974; 1019; 1073 = 9	1085; 1100-1101; 1126; 1146 = 5	46
Social: women's emancipation; care; children; scouting	778; 838; 888 = 3	1046; 1073 = 2	1124; 1151 = 2	22
Social: religion	702; 747 = 2	903; 919; 1075 = 3	1150; 1152 = 2	23
Sports and games	742-745; 779; 818-821 = 9	899-902; 971; 1028-1031 = 9	1076-1084; 1113- 1117; 1141; 1156 = 15	45
Culture: literature; theatre; journalism		1048-1052 = 5	1125; 1145 = 2	15
Culture: paintings	786-789; 879-882 = 8		1179 = 1	23
Culture: other		920 = 1		11
International relations & events	765-768; 780; 794-796; 799; 804-811 = 17	939; 961-962; 979; 988-989 = 6	1123 = 1	67
Total stamps	194	185	110	1208
Total images	269	243	127	1596

Analysis

If we combine the subcategories, and calculate the relative importance of each category, we get the following tables.

Categories, 1847-1968

	1840s	50s	60s	70s	80s	90s	00s	10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	sT
Political	4	10	22	24	13	22	36	23	42	19	8	30	19	272
History						1	2				8		4	15
Numbers										7			6	13
Buildings										4	2	4	4	14
Transport											3	2	2	7
Geography											4	11	4	19
Biology												8	39	47
Economy														-
Social													2	2
Cultural													2	2
International													2	2
Total images	4	10	22	24	13	23	38	23	42	30	25	55	84	393

Categories, 1968-2017

	68-69	70s	80s	90s	00s	10s	sT	T
Political	12	38	60	17	17	21	165	437
History	6	32	10	32	45	13	138	153
Numbers								-
Buildings		17	30	28	16	12	103	117
Transport		25	22	31	8	6	92	99
Geography		21	30	38	22	9	120	139
Biology	26	18	38	50	72	27	231	276
Economy	5	12	16	19	26	10	88	88
Social	1	15	62	29	25	26	158	160
Cultural	8	9	13	8	6	3	47	49
International		15	23	17	6	1	65	67
Total images	58	205	304	269	243	128	1207	1600

Categories, 1847-1968, percentages

African Postal Heritage; African Studies Centre Leiden; APH Paper 29, Ton Dietz & Isabelle Ramdoo.
Mauritius : Postmarks and Iconography since 1847; Version February 2018

	1840s	50s	60s	70s	80s	90s	00s	10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	sT
Political	100	100	100	100	100	96	95	100	100	63	32	55	23	69
History						4	5				32		5	4
Numbers										23			7	3
Buildings										13	9	7	5	4
Transport											12	4	2	2
Geography											16	20	5	5
Biology												15	46	12
Economy														-
Social													2	1
Cultural													2	1
International													2	1
Total images														All: 100%

Categories, 1968-2017, percentages

	68-69	70s	80s	90s	00s	10s	sT	T
Political	21	19	20	6	7	16	14	27
History	10	16	3	12	19	10	11	10
Numbers							-	1
Buildings		8	10	10	7	9	9	7
Transport		12	7	12	3	5	8	6
Geography		10	10	14	9	7	10	9
Biology	45	9	13	19	30	21	19	17
Economy	9	6	5	7	11	8	7	6
Social	2	7	20	11	10	20	13	10
Cultural	14	4	4	3	2	2	4	3
International		9	8	6	2	1	5	4
Total images	All: 100%							

Like most postal areas in the world, the first decades of postage stamps in Mauritius only showed political symbolism. For British colonies the usual image was the British Queens (Victoria, and later Elisabeth II) or Kings (Edward VII, George V and George VI), or images related to political symbols, like the coat of arms, or 'Britania'. And indeed, until the 1930s the dominant feature on postage stamps were either British royals, or the Coat of Arms of the Colony. The only exceptions were a few images of a former French (!) Governor of the island, which appeared around 1900. In the 1930s postage due stamps appeared, which only showed numbers, but in 1935 the first stamps appeared with other images added to the ones of the King: government buildings in London. During the 1940s the types of images widened, with historical images (related to the fact that Mauritius celebrated 100 years of postage stamps in 1947), buildings (again: in the UK), modes of transport, and the first geographical images, but these were globes and no images were included yet about Mauritian landscapes or people. In the 1950s this started to change. On the one hand the colonial masters still showed their power, with a relatively large percentage of images about British royalty. But on the other hand the first Mauritian landscapes and animals (particularly birds) appeared on Mauritian stamps. During the last years before Independence, the 1960s until 1968, the images started to cover other topics (including the first images of Mauritian buildings, many Mauritian animals (again: mainly birds), and the first stamps with social or cultural images, as well as the first ones showing Mauritian connections to international organisations, other than the Universal Postal Union. If we look at the pre-Independence period as a whole the political images very much dominate, followed by animals (birds particularly).

After Independence the images of the British royals did not yet disappear. Before 1992 (when the country became a Republic) Mauritius still acknowledged the British Queen as Head of State, and that was shown on some stamps. And after 1992 British royals (next to

the Queen also Lady Diana, and Prince Charles, the Queen Mother, and the Duke of Edinburgh) appeared on some Mauritian stamps. But in the decades after 1968 this was no longer a dominant category. The most dominant category became Mauritian plants and animals, with special attention for the dodo bird and for the giant tortoises, both extinct. Gradually social images also became important, with growing attention for various sports and games. Geographical images became important too, with many of those either maps of Mauritius, or Mauritian landscapes or buildings. Foreign buildings also appeared on some stamps, and these were no longer from the UK, but either from Asia, or from France. The orientation to France is also obvious if we look at the types of references to Mauritian history. Most images refer to the period of French colonization (1715-1810), and not to the period of British colonization (after 1810). It also took quite some time before the first historical images started to refer to the Dutch period (1595-1710). And only in the 1980s Mauritian stamps started to show Mauritian political heroes, and leaders, and started to refer to the emancipation of slaves, and the political agitation against the working conditions on sugar estates. Gradually the multi-ethnic composition of the Mauritian population was acknowledged, with specific attention for Indian and Chinese immigrants, and their culture, and religion. If we look at the geographical coverage of the Mauritian stamps most attention was given to the capital city Port Louis. But also Reduit, Quatre Bornes, and Curepipe are mentioned frequently. And at some point, but rather late, after 2000, the outer islands get recognition on Mauritian stamps: first Agalega, and then Rodrigues and Round Island. In 2017 Mauritius issued a strong geopolitical statement, by showing its claims on other areas: the French island of Tromelin, the British islands of the Chagos Archipelago, and the 'Maritime Zones' of the southwestern Indian Ocean as a whole (and its fish grounds, possible gas and oil deposits, and transport routes) that Mauritius wants to add to its internationally recognized territory. After 1992, when the Republic started, Mauritian stamps also clearly show the importance of its political leaders: presidents, (former) prime ministers, and leaders of political parties, a sign of bolder political positioning in the international arena. There is also a much greater emphasis on the political and economic connections in the region, and with Asia in particular, not so much those with Africa. It is interesting to note that the only African non-Mauritian politician on Mauritian stamps has been Mandela, while Indian leaders like Gandhi and Nehru (and once also Lenin!) got much more postal attention than African leaders. And Mauritius ever more showed its successes in the economy and in health care, education and research.

Indeed: one can see a shifting emphasis, and the iconography of Mauritian stamps first shows a hesitant decolonization, but after 1992 a much more proud national consciousness and political boldness.

Part 3: A Note on References

Mauritius is probably the most 'famous' African postal area, with its iconic 1847 and 1848 stamps as the first ones in Africa. There is a lot of literature about Mauritius and its postage stamps. For instance: see a long list of relevant literature about Mauritian postage stamps: <http://www.stampdomain.com/country/mauritius/>

For APH 27, 28, and 29 we have made use of a lot of different internet sources. Some internet sources specifically deal with Mauritius, like <https://stampsofmauritius.org/> (Isabelle Ramdoo); <https://stampsofmauritius.files.wordpress.com/>; <http://mauritianphilatelicblog.blogspot.nl/>; <http://www.mauritius.org.uk/>; or <http://boutiquedecollectionsmauricienne.chez.com> (made by Joseph Wong Keng Yuen). Other internet sources like online catalogues devote a section to Mauritius (e.g., www.stampworld.org/; <http://www.stampdomain.com/country/mauritius/>; <https://www.postbeeld.nl/media/catalog>; <http://www.postzegelblog.nl/>; <http://www.stampboards.com/>; <http://stampsoftheworld.co.uk/>; or <http://kayatana.com>). Wikipedia and Wikimedia have been imported sources of background material too, as well as <http://www.stampworldhistory.com>. We could use a lot of information provided by online auction websites, general ones like Ebay. Or specific ones for postage stamps like <https://www.davidfeldman.com/>; <http://www.chrisrainey.com/>; <https://www.hipstamp.com/>; <http://www.kelleherauctions.com/>; <http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/>; <http://img.bidorbuy.co.za/>; <http://stampauctionnetwork.com/>; <https://siegelauctions.com/>; <http://www.stamps-for-sale.com/>; <http://www.stevedrewett.com/>; or <https://cdn.globalauctionplatform.com/>. For information about fiscal stamps <https://www.revrevd.com> has been indispensable and for postmarks <http://www.postmarks.co.za/>, and <https://archive.is/M4Ah8>. The Postmarks website used the key source for that type of information: Proud T. (1990). "The Postal History of Mauritius". Another relevant source is: Huron J. M. and R. Marion (2002): "The Story of the Mauritius Post Office". Any additional information about sources, or other relevant information, is welcome!