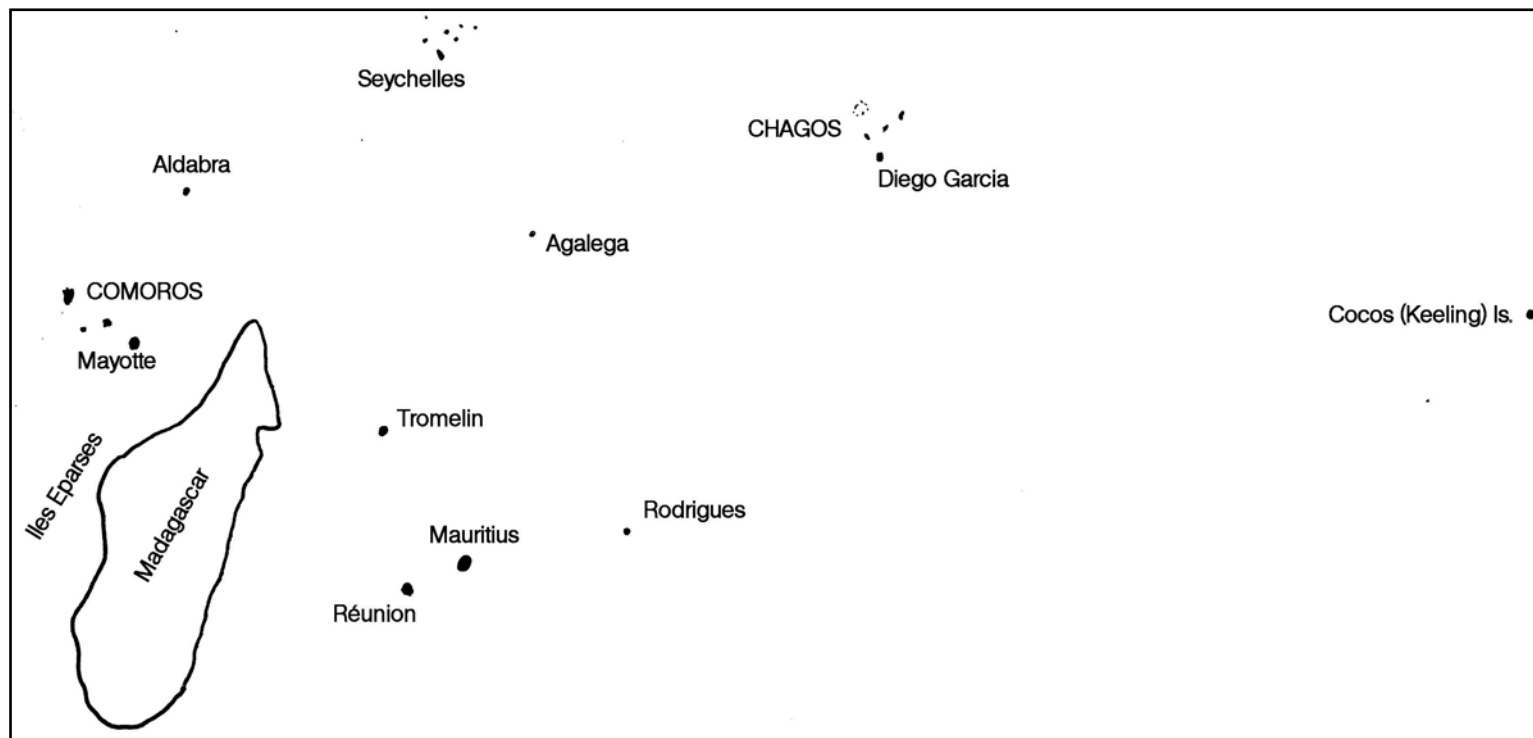


A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY FROM MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, RÉUNION AND OTHER WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS



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The following references were originally published in *The London Philatelist* and included as facsimile with permission:-

1936--2 "*His Late Majesty King George V*", first published in *The London Philatelist* Vol 45, Issue January 1936, No. 529, pages 1 to 4

1937-D-1 "*The Romance of the Post Offices of Rhodesia and their Postmarks*" by H. C. Dann, FRPSL, first published in *The London Philatelist* Vol 46, Issue December 1937, No. 552, pages 294 to 298.

1938--1 "*Philatelic Societies' Meetings – The Royal Philatelic Society, London*", first published in *The London Philatelist* Vol 47, Issue December 1938, No. 564, pages 339 to 342

1944--2 "*The Royal Philatelic Society, London*", first published in *The London Philatelist* Vol 53, Issue December 1944, No. 634, pages 198 to 200.

1947--5 "Discovery Of A "Post Office" Mauritius", first published in *The London Philatelist* Vol 56, Issue April 1947, No. 653, page 89.

1948--3 "Reviews", first published in *The London Philatelist* Vol 57, Issue February 1948, No. 663, pages 23 to 25.

1951--3 "*The Royal Philatelic Society, London*", first published in *The London Philatelist* Vol 60, Issue June 1951, No. 703, pages 92 to 96.

1952--2 "*Philatelic Notes and Comments*", first published in *The London Philatelist* Vol 61, Issue August-September 1952, No. 717-718, page 121.

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INTRODUCTION

This bibliography includes the Islands of the Western Indian Ocean as covered by the former Indian Ocean Study Circle.

The Bibliography is listed by year, and author within year. I have assigned one or more keywords(see following page) to every entry, and there are also my notes.

The presence of illustrations, maps, photographs or photocopies of covers/stamps etc can be an important part in the usefulness of a reference, so these are indicated by [i] for illustration or photocopy, [p] photograph, [m] map, [t] table following the appropriate keyword.

I also give the complete start/end page for each reference, as a multi-page article normally means more information on the subject.

How to use this bibliography

The USB card contains the bibliography as a single combined spreadsheet, and PDF scans of some 1700+ references.

Depending on what you are looking for make use of the filters on the various columns, which can be combined or used singularly as required. I suggest “text filters”→“contains” is the most useful for keywords, and also for searching the “notes” column. If you only have access to certain journals then on the “journals” column, filter un-tick (Select All), and tick just the journals you have access to, for my abbreviations see the journals included in the bibliography list, below.

One in 6 of the references concerns announcements or details of newly issues of stamps! For those using the Excel spreadsheet you can choose to exclude these by using a “text filter”→”Does not contain” to the title column heading and entering the words new issue, likewise if that is what you are interested in do the reverse “text filter”→”Does contain” new issue

COLUMN HEADINGS

Reference	<p>e.g 1974-B-1 year of publication, first letter of authors surname, sequence number within first letter of authors surname or year.</p> <p>Anonymous or multiple authors omit the letter, e.g. 1974--14</p> <p>An * asterisk after indicates reference unseen by me, e.g 1894--1*</p> <p>If a reference looks like 1879-4 these are clickable links within the spreadsheet to open up the reference as a PDF file, obviously only applicable within the Excel spreadsheet, and having access to the "References" folder contained on the USB card</p>
Journal	See Journals included in bibliography list, and my abbreviations.
Vol	Volume [omitted within printed/PDF part 1 books]
Whole No	[omitted within printed/PDF part 1 books]
Page(s)	All pages listed
Author	As given in reference, so for example may be just initials, or include forenames. Pen-names or non-de-plumes are treated as anonymous.
Title	From reference, if none given I have included something in square brackets
Country	Omitted for printed/PDF parts 3 to 9, see page heading instead
Keywords	See my keyword list, may be appended with [i] for illustration or photocopy, [p] photograph, [m] map, [t] table
Notes	<p>If the reference is short, most of the details can be given. And if the author has assigned sub-headings I give those.</p> <p>I may pick out an interesting fact or two, with ... meaning follows on. May also include other references like [see 1950–10] or [reprinted see 1960-C-3]</p>

Note comments within {} are NOT part of the keyword, but an aid to detail the intended scope of the keyword, or abbreviation.

- To search for: keywords used
- Countries: **Agalega, B.I.O.T, Cocos, Comores, Diego Garcia, Iles Eparses, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles, St Brandon, ZES, Indian Ocean**{other}, n/a
- Cancellations: **cds, B32, B44-B49, B53, B64, B65, BONC, numerals in circles, pillar box, transit**{cancellations, e.g. A124, other foreign}, **cancellation**{all other}
- Handstamps: **carrier marks, delivery marks, packet letter, slogan, to pay, handstamps**{all other}
- Individuals: **philatelists, postmasters** {and other postal employees}, **obituaries, persons**{all other}
- Issued stamps: **1847 PostOffice, 1848 PostPaid, 1859 Dardenne, 1852 typeset**{of Réunion}, **1859 Lapirot, 1859 Sherwin, Britannia no value, Britannia value, NMP**{Norwegian Missionary Posts}, **BCM**{British Consular Mail}, **BIM**{British Inland Mail}, **QV decimal, QV new currency, QV arms, 1898 Diamond Jubilee, 1899 Labourdonnais, KEVII arms, KEVII definitives, KGV arms, KGV definitives, 1935 Silver Jubilee, 1937 Coronation, KGVI definitives, 1942 Tercentenary, 1946 Peace, 1948 Centenary, 1948 RSW, 1949 UPU, 1953 Coronation, QEII definitives, QEII commemoratives, definitives**{all others}, **commemoratives**{all others}, **booklets, express delivery, postage dues, revenue stamps, forgeries, stamps**{all other}
- Local history: **aircraft, anniversary**{for centenary, 1935 etc}, **companies**{Blyth Brothers, Pipen Bell etc}, **correspondence**{facsimiles/transcripts}, **currency, maps, postcards, railways, ships, history**{all other}
- Maritime mail: **BISNC**{British India Steam Navigation Company}, **British packet, French packet, German EAL**{East Africa Line}, **GSSSC**{General Screw Steam Shipping Company}, **KPM**{Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij}, **Messageries Maritimes, overland routes, P&O, paquebot, ship letters**
- Overprints: **Cancelled, L.P.E.1890, provisionals, perfin, specimen, overprints**{all other}
- Postal administration:
crown agents, UPU {Universal Postal Union}, **statistics** {includes quantities of stamps printed, sold etc}
forms {used by post offices/postal administration}
notices {Government acts / Post office notices}
postal deliveries {for local and rural posts, mailcarts etc}
reports {for colonial reports, commissions, stamp committees, postal reforms etc}

Note comments within {} are NOT part of the keyword, but an aid to detail the intended scope of the keyword, or abbreviation.

To search for: keywords used (continued)

Postal History: **accountancy, air mail, etiquettes, airgraphs, censorship, FDC, forwarding agents, metered mail, official mail, PO Box 1000, registered, reply coupons, disinfection, postal labels**{WebRiposte, PostGlobal}, **postal rates, leaflets**{aerial propaganda}, **express delivery**{speedpost}, **covers**{all other}

Postal Stationery: **aerogrammes, telegrams, postal stationery**{all other}

Post Offices: **A.P.O.**, {Army Post Offices or BFPO}, **T.P.O.**, **post offices**{all other}

Stamp collecting: **exhibits**{and museums}
meetings{of societies/study circles},
references{bibliographic information, reference sources, indexes etc},
societies{and study circles},
stamp dealers{and auctioneers},
reviews{of publications}
collecting{all other aspects}

Stamp production: **De La Rue, Perkins Bacon, errors, local printers, proofs**{essays/trials}, **plates, stamp production, reprints, watermarks**

Miscellaneous: **phone cards, postal orders, arts**{fiction, plays, poems, cartoons etc}

Most sections have a catch all keyword, e.g. **stamps**{all other} or **history**{all other} which is used if none of the proceeding keywords fit, or article is introductory and covers multiple keywords.

Keywords can be appended with one or more of [i] illustration, [m] map, [p] photograph, [t] table

Some keywords, although not duplicated above have multiple implied meanings, e.g. while 'pillar box' is listed under cancellations, I have also used it when physical pillar boxes are mentioned.

Journals included the bibliography

abbreviation	Journal title	Notes on publication	issues examined for bibliography
AF	Aero Field	1926-30(Vols 1-3); 1937-83(Vols 1-47ns)	all published (except vol 1)
AirPost	Airpost Journal	1930-to date	1930-2022(vols 1-93)
APC	American Philatelic Congress	1935-to date	1935-2022
AP	American Philatelist		All to 2022
auction	Various auction catalogues		[very small sample]
book			
CAC	Crown Agents for the Colonies	Stamp Bulletin Nos 1(19??) to ??(1949)	Nos 17(1924) to Nos 54(1933)
CAG	Crown Agents Gazette	"From 1971 to Sept 1983 included within GSM [Can be freely reproduced with acknowledgment]"	Vol 1. No 6(1972) to Vol 12. No 9(1983)
CCP	Collectors Club Philatelist	1922-to date	All to 2022
CCSGB	Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin		1995-2005 (vols 23-32)
chapter			
FPHS	Forces Postal History Society	"1953-todate	No. 1-334(1953-2022) except 1960/1
Geosix			All to 2022
GSW	Gibbons Stamp Weekly		Vol. 1 (1905) to Vol 11(1910)
GSM	Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular	I have combined all variations in title from 1890 onwards under the abrievation GSM, except from vol 3ns the independently edited and issued Crown Agents Gazette included with GSM, see CAG	Vol 1-4 (1919-23)
	Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal		Vol 1-22(1890-1914) Vol 1-4ns 1923-1927
	Gibbons Stamp Monthly		Vol 1-43 1927-1970, 8-49ns 1977-2019
	Stamp Monthly(gibbons)		Vol 1-7ns 1970-77
HSH	Harmer's Stamp Hints		Vol 1(1941) to ????
IAG	Imperial Airways Gazette	???	2003(issue 24) to 2021(issue 59)

Journals included the bibliography

abbreviation	Journal title	Notes on publication	issues examined for bibliography
internet	[articles published on Internet]		
IO	Bulletin of Indian Ocean Study Circle	1970-2022. Early numbers up to whole number 69 (summer 1991) omit contents page, from whole number 85 onwards pagination continues until next volume starts.	all published
JSIM	Journal of Small Islands Management	published by the Seychelles Institute of Management.	not checked, 1 article received
LP	The London Philatelist	1892-todate	All to 2022
MalayanP	The Malayan Philatelist	1959-todate	All to 2022
Mekeel	Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News	Started in 1891, still published today as Mekeel's & Stamps	1894 to 1940
MP news	The Newsletter of the Mauritius Post Ltd	2003-2016 (noted)	not seen
MPS/2010	20° 10' The Journal of the Mauritius Philatelic Society	2010 to 2016; issues 1 to 19	all published
MPS/25th	Mauritius Philatelic Society 25th anniversary souvenir magazine	a single publication	checked
MPS/NB	Mauritius Philatelic Society News Bulletin	No 1 April 1992 to No. 18 April 2001 Majority of articles in English some in French	all published
MPS/NI	Mauritius Philatelic Society Newsitems	98.1 to 2009.4 followed by MPS 2010	all published
MPS/NL	The Mauritius Philatelic Society Newsletter	Vol. 1 No.1 to Vol. 2 No. 8 1990-1	all published
MPS/QU	Mauritius Philatelic Society Quarterly Updates	2016 No. 1 to 2019 No. 3 & supp.	all published
MSSGOP	Mauritius-Seychelles Study Group Occasional Papers	1957 to 1962	all published
Oceania	Postmarked Oceana	formerly Australian Chit Chat	1976 (vol 11)

Journals included the bibliography

abbreviation	Journal title	Notes on publication	issues examined for bibliography
PFA	Philately from Australia		
PHS	The Bulletin of the Postal History Society	1936-todate	All to 2022
PJGB	Philatelic Journal of Great Britain		all published
PLR	Philatelic Literature Review		
PM	Philatelic Magazine		
PR	Philatelic Record	1879-1914 (Vols. 1-36)	all published
RJ	The Revenue Journal (of Great Britain)	1990-todate	All to 2022
RPHJ	Rossiter Postal History Journal		Vol 1-4
RPSL	Royal Philatelic Society London	From archives or held only by them, except The London Philatelist, listed separately	
SAP	The South African Philatelist	1923-to date	All to 2022
SC	Stamp Collecting	1913-1984(Vols 1-149)	all published
SCF	Stamp Collectors Fortnightly	1894-1958(Vols 1-64)	all published
SCM	The Stamp Collectors Magazine	1863-74 (Vols 1-12)	all published
SCR	The Stamp-collecting review and monthly advertiser	1863-64 (Vol 1-2, Nos 1-19)	all published
Seapost	Journal of the Maritime Postmark Society		1939-2009
SL	Stamp Lover	1909-todate	All to 2022
SM	Stamp Magazine	1934-????	
SN	The Stamp News	1882-1895 (vols 1-11)	all published
SNA	The Stamp News Annual	Being a Christmas number of "the Stamp News"	1891-1896
SPH	Society of Postal Historians, Postscript	1951-todate	All to 2022
TP	The Philatelist	1938-1980	all published
TPO	Journal of the T.P.O. & Seapost society	1947-????	Vols 1-67 (1947-2013)
TPS	The Postage Stamp	1907-1929 (vols 1-32)	all published
WCP	Watercraft Philately		2018
WEP	West End Philatelist	1904-1964 (vols 1-54)	all published

ADDITIONAL NOTES

the USB card	The USB card also contains out of copyright references as PDFs (i.e. author died over 70 years ago) or where the author has given permission, Mekeel's published in the U.S. never renewed their copyright, so I can include them all.
Books...	I have allocated one reference to each book, then separate references to each chapter, if I feel it is needed.
Non English ref.	References are restricted to those in English, but some foreign language books have been included, normally because a review appears in an English publication. Also because EVERYTHING published by the Mauritius Philatelic Society has been referenced, they published some articles in French which I have included.
Adverts	Included if mentioning some rarity, also from stamp dealers, particularly early ones, specializing in any island covered by the bibliography
Auctions	Only illustrated lots are noted, apart from occasional items when I have seen and quote an interesting description.
Countries:	You will find the odd one or two countries not listed in my keywords, this is because I have chosen to index everything published by the IOSC (Indian Ocean Study Circle) and the MPS (Mauritius Philatelic Society), note the IOSC covered Ceylon in it's early years. Madagascar includes just that, not the Malagasy period.
Limitations:	The "Issued stamps" keywords are heavily biased towards Mauritius/Seychelles named issues, Madagascar gets three early types, and Réunion one, (this reflects my personal knowledge, maybe in the future this can be redressed, if someone with more knowledge of this island's issues can help me choose and reclassify the entries for Réunion and Madagascar.)
Thank You's	For the idea of using an year-author-seq reference, thanks to <i>A Bibliography on Meteorites</i> ed. Harrison Brown, pub. 1953. And also James Negus's <i>Philatelic Literature</i> , Pub. 1991 for guiding me, and providing many starting points for compiling this bibliography.
Online version	Look on my web site www.mauritiuspostalhistory.com for copies of the two PDF parts and the Excel spreadsheet version.
Updates	As and when I have time, or if others wish to update and republish the copyright terms allow for this.
Feedback:	Try contacting me at erichutton76@gmail.com

Eric Hutton, December 2025

Reference		Major auctions
1910	Mauritius	J.C. Morgenthau and Co. of New York Apr 14 1910; John F. Seybold
1921	Mauritius	Gilbert in Paris Jun 23 1921; Ferrary
1921	Mauritius	Gilbert in Paris Oct 13 1921; Ferrary
1922	Mauritius	Gilbert in Paris Apr 5 1922; Ferrary
1923	Mauritius	Gilbert in Paris Apr 25 1923; Ferrary
1933	Mauritius	Plumridge in London Mar 10 1933;
1933	Mauritius	Plumridge in London Jun 29 1933; Praportchetovitch
1934	Mauritius	H.R. Harmer Ltd. In London Jun 11 1934;
1937	Mauritius	H.R. Harmer in London Oct 25 1937; Stephens
1956	Madagascar	Robson Lowe Mar 14 1956; Hunt
1958	Mauritius	H.R. Harmer Inc. in New York Feb 24 1958; Caspary
1964-H-1	Mauritius	H. R. Harmer(London); April 15, 1964 The "A. J. Stevens" Mauritius 1301 lots
1967	Madagascar	H.R. Harmer Apr 3 1967; Harvey Pirie
1970	Mauritius	H.R. Harmer Inc. in New York Mar 16 1970; Dale-Lichtenstein
1971	Madagascar	Robson Lowe May 4 1971; Danson
1976	Mauritius & Seychelles	Robson Lowe 9 Nov. 1976
1977-L-1*	Seychelles	Robson Lowe May 11, 1977; The H.V. Farmer Collection of Seychelles:
1978	Seychelles	Robson Lowe 26 April 1978 (Cdr. M. Burnett collection)
1984	Seychelles	Stanley Gibbons 11-13 April 1984 All World:
1984-H-13*	Réunion	The John R. Boker, Jr. collection of Réunion Island, the First Issue, Dec 4th, 2004
1988	Seychelles	Sotheby's 24 Nov. 1988 Postage Stamps of the World: (vendor Muller)
1990	Seychelles	Harmers 16 Jan 1990 British Commonwealth:
1992	Mauritius	Phillips 21st May 1992; Peter Ibbotson FRPSL Collection of Mauritius 212 lots
1993-F-16	Mauritius	David Feldman; Mauritius classic postage stamps and postal history including the entire collection formed by Hiroyuki Kanai; 452 lots
1996	Seychelles	Sotheby's 19 July 1996 Postage Stamps of the World (R.A.F. Winchester collection)
2005-C-1	Seychelles	Cavendish 22nd-23rd September; Brian McCloy Collection of Seychelles Stamps & Postal History 187 lots, 90 illustrated
2010-F-1	Madagascar	David Feldman Thursday, May 20. Madagascar specialised collection of British, Norwegian & French issues , 2010, 516 lots
2013-S-4	Mauritius	Spink November 14, 2013. The Robert Marion collection of Mauritius stamps and postal history, 654 lots illustrated
2017-F-1	Mauritius	David Feldman Dec 7th, 2017, Mauritius including the "Adamastor" collection, 279 lots
2019-A-25	Cocos (Keeling)	Abacus Auctions 3 March 2019; Colin Riddell Cocos Islands Postal History 207 lots, 176 illustrated
2019-S-1*	Madagascar	Spink November 13-14, 2019. Dr. Edward Grabowski postal history collection of French colonies:

Reference		Major auctions (continued)
2020-F-2	Mauritius	David Feldman April 1, 2020, Mauritius the "Tatiana" collection,
2020-F-3	Mauritius	David Feldman Oct 28th, 2020, Mauritius the "Tatiana" collection (part 2),
2022-F-1	Mauritius	David Feldman Dec 7th 2022, The "Art of Sperati" collection, Geneva,

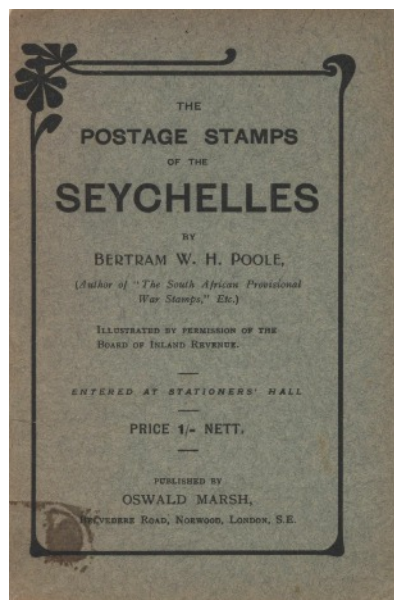
Reference		Checklists
1949-B-1	Indian Ocean	The mail boat cancellations of the Peninsular & Orient steam navigation company, covers carried by P&O described, 35 items
1983-F-4	Madagascar	British Consular Mail-list of covers(1870-1886) 16 items; British Consular Mail Cachets on mail from Antananarivo(1886-1888) 15 items; British Inland Mail from Antananarivo (Unless otherwise stated) 20 items; January 1895 issue sent from Antananarivo (Purple dated cancellations) (1895) 16 items; March 1895 issue sent from Antananarivo (1895) 15 items
1986-I-12	Mauritius	The Isle de France Handstamp; 8 covers
1991-43	Cocos (Keeling)	Cable postcards checklist (compiled by W.J. Edmonds) 27 items
1993-W-1	Seychelles	A checklist of pre-definitive covers 1845-1890; 85 covers
2006-R-10	Mauritius	Known unused 1d Dardenne stamps; 48 items Known unused 2d Dardenne stamps; 29 items Known 2d Dardenne stamps with major neck retouch; 21 items 2d Dardenne multiples in auction catalogues and sales since 1910; 75 items 2d Dardenne multiples showing sheet position and provenance; 161 items 2d Dardenne multiples in private and institutional collections; 69 items
2013-3	Mauritius	Spink, London 14th November 2013; The Robert Marion collection of Mauritius Stamps and Postal History; 653 lots

2022-2	Mauritius	Recorded Covers to and from Natal via Mauritius, carried by P&O Steamers between the UK and South Asia or Australasia; 18 covers
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Part 1 Books(all islands)

From hardback editions, to self-published spiral bound and stapled works. The earliest books referencing the stamps and postal history are the Almanac's (see 1851-1) and 'Blue books' (see 1900-29).

Seychelles sees the first publications, A.J. Foulger's 1905-F-2*, followed a year later by the much easier obtained 1906-P-2...



Allister Macmillan's wrote/edited Mauritius Illustrated, see 1914-M-1 the chapters on the commercial districts are useful for postal historians, and Albert Rae wrote a chapter on the famous stamps of Mauritius.



The first specific Mauritius book concerns the famous 'Post Office' stamps, see 1947-H-1.

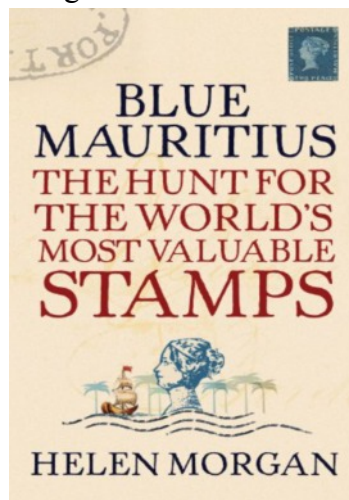
In the 1970s Ken Baker writes various small booklets on the B53 canceller, the provisional stamps, and the Coat of Arms issues, see 1974-B-6, 7 & 9

The 1980s see the IOSC publish various handbooks on Mauritius, Seychelles.

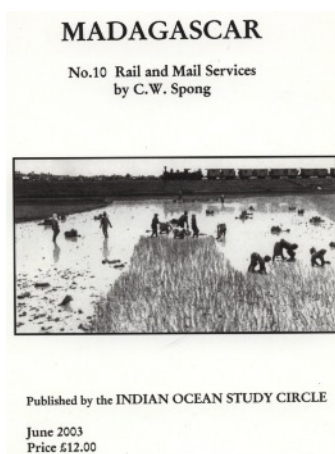
A comprehensive book on Mauritius has to wait until Perer Ibbotson's Postal History and Stamps of Mauritius, see 1991-I-18

Followed by Proud's Postal History 2001-P-5 although this only covers up to independence in 1968

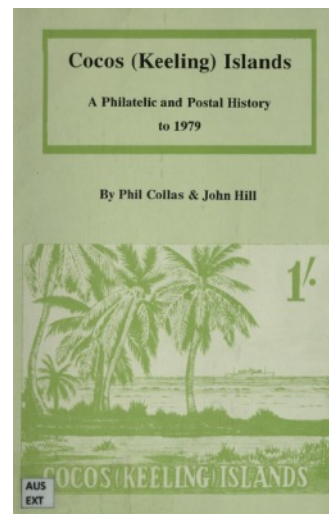
Mauritius has spawned a number of specialist books, on the early classic issues, including Hiroyuki Kanai's 1981-K-1, Arnold Rudge's 2006-R-3 and Helen Morgan's 2006-M-1



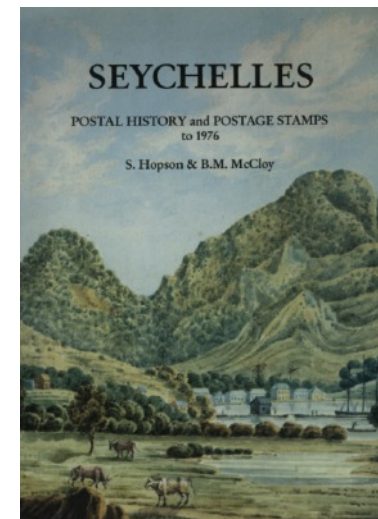
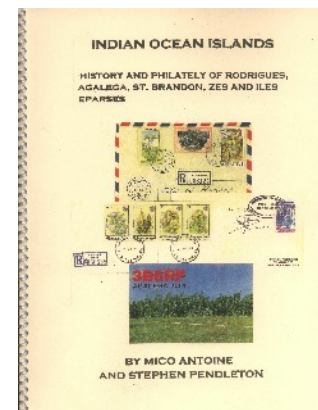
Madagascar is lacking in English language books on its stamps and postal history, except 2003-S-4



The Cocos Islands has A Philatelic and Postal History by Phil Collas & John Hill, see 1991-41



For the smaller islands the collector and author Stephen Pendleton has published a number of spiral bound handbooks, see 2005-13, 2007-P-3 and 2007-P-4



See 2002-4, above, written/edited by Sue Hopson and B.M. McCloy plus for revisions and additions 2015-30

There are many publications written on specific subjects such as Walter Morley's 1910 catalogue of revenue stamps, the work of Jean de Sperati (forgeries), Catalogues of reply coupons, postal wrappers, paquebot handstamps etc that include entries on the islands.

NOTE; some additional books, while listed when reviewed, typically foreign language books, books on birds etc, do not appear in part 1, for these you will need to search the individual parts for 'reviews'.

Part 2 Agalega, B.I.O.T, Comores, Diego Garcia, Iles Eparses, St Brandon, Indian Ocean



Handstamps for two of the outer islands, **Agalega and St Brandon**, Stephen Pendleton (see 2005–13) thinks these were probably kept on Mauritius, a point made by Col. J. Howard-Jones writing locally in Mauritius (see 1969-H-1) who illus. covers from the islands both with and without handstamps. For comments on the scarcity of these cachets see 1973-I-12



Two of the ships that supplied the outer islands, the *Zambezia* (above) used for about 30 years until 1955, see 1998-H-4 and the *Nordvaer* (left), see 1969-H-6

The **British Indian Ocean Territory**, created in 1965 to play an important part in Anglo-American defence arrangements, consisted of the Chagos Archipelago of which Diego Garcia is the largest island, together with Aldabra, Farquar and Desroches lying much further west, and Agalega 600 miles north of Mauritius.



Opening of the Post office 10 July 2002 see 2003–3, this was also the first time money was available to use on the island.

Postmarks were introduced for all the islands



The **Iles Eparses** are islands off Madagascar, Lie Europa, Bassas da India, Juan de Nova (see 1997-S-2), Nossi-Be (see 1899–20 and 1937–4) the **Comoro Archipelago** (including Mayotte), (see 1979-C-1) Iles Glorieuses (see 1995-R-1 and 1997-S-1) and Tromelin (see 2016-P-1)

Diego Garcia has a higher philatelic profile, set up as a secret flying-boat base (see 1957-S-1) and 1957-W-4 for the war-time postal services. Now a US military base, see 1990-P-8, or 1997-A-1 for the R.N. Party visit.

Part 3 Cocos (Keeling) Island

The dual name comes about as the islands were known both as the Cocos or Keeling islands, settled in 1827, and governed by various members of the Clunies Ross family, until transferred to the Australian government in 1978.

Also avoids confusion with the similarly named Cocos island in Costa Rica.

In 1901 Cocos had a telegraph link, so outgoing correspondence could be sent by cable to Perth, put on postcards and posted, see 1991-41

In 1939 the 'Guba' survey flight stopped over at Cocos, while there were no 'official covers, various flown items are known, see 2019-A-25 (Abacus auction) for examples.

First regular flights started in 1952

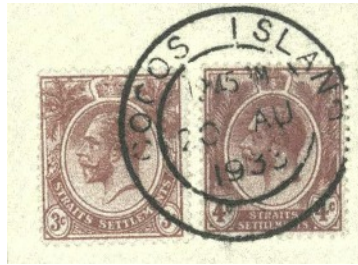


The 'Guba' aircraft, see 1974-C-1 and 1991-44 for flight details.

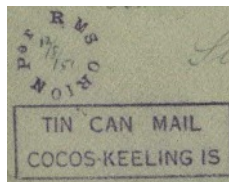


Big ships could not approach Cocos because of the reefs, instead mail and some provisions were loaded into a cask, and dropped into the sea, the islanders likewise left a cask floating to be picked up with out going mail. Such mail received special handstamps.

Note this method was used in other islands occasionally see 1977-F-5, but covers were not specially marked in any way.



The islands had a branch of the Straits Settlements Post Office between 1933-37 see 1954-A-1, at the beginning there were only three mails a year.



Cable & Wireless datestamps are seen on early mail, plus a variety of handstamps for tin can / barrel mail see 2019-A-25



Their own stamps appeared in 1963, a project that started in 1958 see 1991-48

After Cocos became an Australian external territory, all the Cocos sterling stamps were withdrawn (14 Feb 1966), and replaced by Australian decimal currency stamps, until their own decimal currency definitives (9 July 1969) went into service. see 1969-12



Birds from Cocos issue, see 1986-W-1

Part 4 Madagascar



Transport by Sedan Chair, even by the late 19th century road construction was not allowed, and very little mail was sent/received, by the early 1890s there were less than 200 British, half were missionaries, and less than 200 non-military French.

See 2021-M-3 Madagascar 150 years of political and philatelic turmoil by Bob Mustacich

Local post services provided by British Consular Service and Norwegian Missionary Society.



A British Consular Mail stamps 1884-86, gummed only at the top left corner, which paid the transport to the French post office, where it would be removed, and the postage fees to its destination settled.

See 1891-M-2, 1972-C-3 or 1983-F-4 amongst others.



A British Inland Mail stamp on cover from 1895, see 2021-M-3

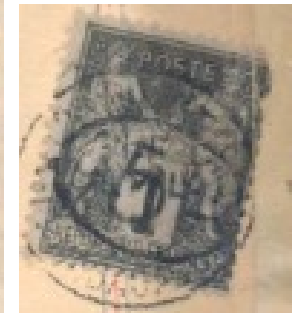


A used Norwegian Missionary stamp from 1891.

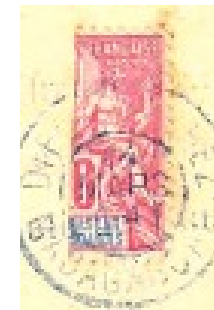
See 1896-1, 1941-H-18, 1981-I-9 or 2020-M-2



New colonial post offices starting in 1899 had datestamps with a numerals from 1-99, no official records of allocations are known, see 1978-C-1 The Provisional Datestamps of Madagascar by C. W. E. Coles



Examples of overprinting because of stamp shortages, of the 25c 1,000 were issued, of the 5c only 500.



Bisects approved by France in 1904 for colonies experiencing shortages. see 1904-50 and 1973-S-5

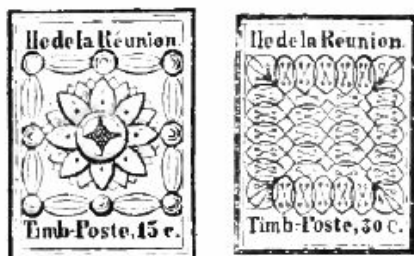


A locally produced type-set issue from 1891 see 1891-13



Higher value stamps were often overprinted to provide lower value stamps, see 1970-C-3 The French Colonies provisional issues a re-examination by Robert G. Stone

Part 5 Réunion



The early typeset stamps are compared with the reprints in the 1873–3 article from Stamp Collectors Monthly.

See 1892-P-4 for Reminiscences of the stamps of Reunion (early 1850's) by G. J. Paltzer a musician who went to the island, and then on to Mauritius.

1896–35 describes the problems encountered in hot climates... Reminders in Post Office eaten by white ants



See 'The stamps of Reunion' by William Herrick 1896-H-1 and 'Perplexing Surcharges' 1911–17 amongst the many articles describing the numerous overprints



Special parcel post stamps have been issued, the first in 1890, see 1893–32 for a report... 'which we chronicle with some reserve, as we find copies postmarked "17 Mai, 90," and three years is a long time for an enterprising island to keep such a secret.'



In 1907 pictorial definitives in three different designs were issued, a series that continued until 1930. See 1905–14 and 1907–17



Local currency from 1949 to 1974 was the CFA Franc, its value was different from the metropolitan French Franc: 1 CFA=2 FF see 2000-K-1, and 1975–13



Cancellations used on the travelling post offices see 2003–10 and 2003-K-3 and 2010-W-3



Stamps were overprinted to commemorate the Roland Garros flight back to France in 1937. See 1984-H-8 and 2012-H-24, for forgeries of the overprints see 1990-N-2

Part 6 Seychelles



Stamps of Mauritius were cancelled B64 in Seychelles before they had their own stamps.

But forgeries abound see 1961-W-12



De La Rue

Forgery

See 2017-H-1 Queen Victoria keyplate forgeries by Sue Hopson reproduced with permission.



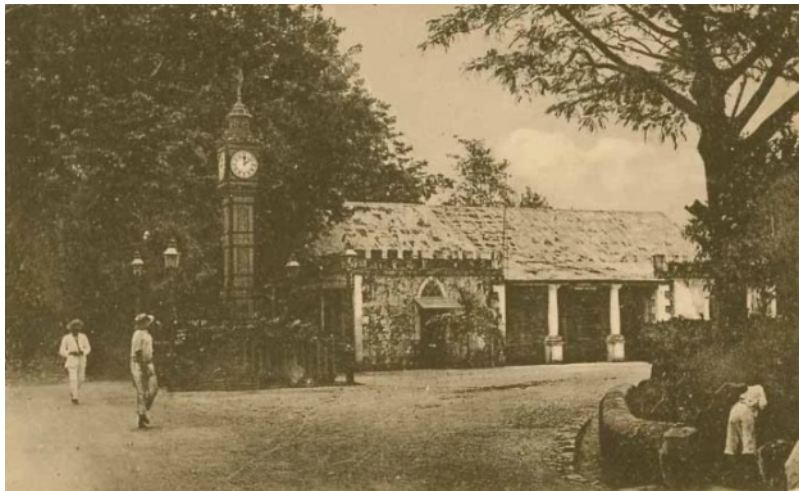
Army Post Office cancellations, A.P.O.2 applied in Base Office Nairobi, Kenya and A.P.O. 81 at Air Dispatch & reception unit, Kenya

See 1963-C-1 East African Army Post Offices by C.W.E. Coles and 1977-R-1 EA APO's in the Islands Area by Stuart Rossiter



Issued as a temporary emergency measure due to no postage stamps being available. The Queen Elizabeth Jubilee set had sold out and the new definitive set had to be reprinted to omit ex-President Mancham's head due to the coup d'état in July 1977.

See 2016-H-4 1977-1978 Provisional rubber handstamps by Sue Hopson reproduced with permission.



Postcard of the clock tower in the capital Victoria.

See 2007-9 Seychelles No. 11 Picture Postcards 1903-1956 by Sue Hopson & Julian Luke, which lists 640 postcards grouped into 34 series.



Early postal stationery depicting the Seychelles Giant Tortoise and the fabled Coco-de-Mer (above), and Victoria harbour with lighthouse (left)

see 2002-9 Chapter 5 Postal Stationery and Registered envelopes



The famous Coco de Mer or double coconut native, the largest seed in the plant kingdom, only from the Seychelles. See 2021-H-9

Part 7 ZES (Zil Eloigne Sesel)

The initials ZES stand for Zil Eloigne Sesel referring to the outer islands of the Seychelles. Note the spelling rules for the local Creole patois are extremely elastic, three different versions have appeared on the stamps since they were first issued in 1980. see 1982-44 and 2006-18

Very little use was made of ZES stamps in the outer islands, but the stamps were valid for use in Seychelles. The stamps were not popular with collectors, and the last stamps were issued in 1992.

see 2005-16, and 2017-P-2



The Cinq Juin travelling post office, see 1970-H-3, and 1980-33



The above stamp incorrectly shows Agalega as part of the ZES, this was realised before it was issued, and a corrected stamp made, but some incorrect were sent out on a few FDCs (see 2002-F-2 and 2005-S-11)

Part 8 Mauritius



Mauritius, famous in the stamp collecting world for the “Post Office” stamps, see 2021-H-6 Charlie Howard and the story of ‘Bombay’ Post Office cover, combined from the earlier second-hand reports 1968-S-2 and 1969-T-1.

Articles/stories about the surviving copies abound, but See 1945-W-1 about a copy of Post Office Mauritius, recognized in 1888, but burnt by mistake in 1893



1992-K-2 lists 1136 postcards up to 1950s, for books illustrating postcards see 1991-37 (Historical postcards) and 2012-8 (500 early postcards);



Pillar boxes were introduced in 1862 the first made in England after a visit to advise on postal matters by Pearson Hill, special cds cancellations were used see 2011-H-12 and 23 other refs.



Post Offices were often situated at railway stations, the railways have long gone, but the offices remain, see 1995-I-19 plus 2012--17 and 2013-H-11



The ‘ship letter’ handstamp first used in 1850s was still being used in the 1970s and beyond! see 2013-H-4



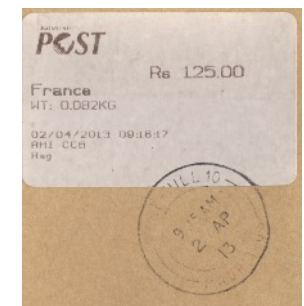
Before the 1935 Silver Jubilee omnibus issue, only two commemorative stamps were issued, neither sold well, and were both overprinted for

re-use. See 1897-14; 1903-51; 1961-W-2 1973-B-3 and 2022-H-6 as a sample of info. available



Mauritius has a conservative stamp issuing policy. Popular subjects include flowers, fishes, birds (current and extinct), local history and industries, anniversaries, people connected with Mauritius.

Details of new issues can be found amongst Crown Agents Gazette reports, and the various Mauritius Philatelic Society publications.



Printed labels are used, see 2005-F-10 and 2011-A-45 Fortunately for collectors cds cancellers are still regularly used, even on labels!

Part 9 Rodrigues

A small island being a dependency of Mauritius, has never issued it's own stamps, in 1894 less than 100 letters went beyond Mauritius, see 1934-F-1. Early stamps being cancelled B65, the first 3 example below are all forgeries, see 2016-H-10, the last is genuine.



Early mails were not delivered, people gathered outside the post office, the officer called out the names of the addressees, an event known as “la criée”, illustrated in the stamp. see 2005–14



The first flight to Rodrigues was made in 1972, see 1972-I-2 for information about the flight by the pilot, M. Paul Lemerle.

Grande Montagne



Post Offices in Rodrigues, see 1990-A-19, 1999-P-1 and 2007-P-14

Photos courtesy Patrick Kwan

La Ferme



Riviere Cocos



Mont Lubin



Port Mathurin

