

WILBRAHAM TOLLEMACHE ARTHUR EDWARDS

The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.



Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:

Mauritius pre-printed 1879-1880 2c postcard, with two cancellers, one dated DE 15 (18)91 the other being an 8-bar B53 cipher (Port Louis), and addressed by Dr. F. Antelme to the Hble. Dr Edwards, Curepipe Road

Comment:

Dr Wilbraham Tollemache Arthur Edwards M.D [Paris], C.M.G., was born in Port Louis, Mauritius on 19th June 1836 (the son of Mayor Arthur Wilbraham Tollemache Edwards, a sugar planter, merchant, and member of the Council of Government, and Marie Nancy Faustine). Edwards was a graduate of the Medical Faculty, Sorbonne, Paris, returning to Mauritius circa 1872. He was an elected member of the Council of Government for Pamplemousses and Savanne successively from 1891 to 1906, and was a member of the Executive council from 1897 to 1909. He was created a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George by King George V when, as Duke of Cornwall and York, he visited Mauritius in August 1901.

Dr Edwards was to practice medicine in Curepipe for over forty years and, together with Dr. F Antelme, contributed significantly to the improvement of the sanitary conditions of the colony. On 28th March, 1890, Governor Sir Charles Lees appointed a town council to manage Curepipe with Edwards as President of the Board of Commissioners. Further, he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mauritius Institute; and erstwhile President of the Chamber of Agriculture.

In 1866, he married Marie Constance Constantin, daughter of Jules David Constantin and Marie Aimee Loustau. They had the following children:

1. Wilbraham Tollemache Arthur Edwards b. January 1869 in Mauritius d. May 1944 in Paris, France).
2. Frederic Georges Henry Edwards b. 14th November 1871, d. 15th March 1946 in Durban. Married (first) Marie Vincente d. 1936 (second) Georgina Lucy formerly Horton née Wootton d. 1943
3. John David Maurice Edwards b. 23rd November 1875 in Paris, France d. 27th December 1937. Married Cecile Augusta Pellereau (b. 19th October 1885 d. 12th June 1935) on 24th September 1910.
4. Aime-Marie Constance Edwards b. 1877 in Mauritius.
5. Henry Charles Albert Edwards b. 1880, d. South Africa 1950, baptised at the church of Ste Therese, Curepipe on 23rd August 1879, the godparents Dr Francois Volcy Pougnet and his wife, née Ravina Edwards. Married Kate Anna Blyth NN.

References:

1. Mauritius Illustrated: historical and descriptive, commercial and industrial facts, figures and resources. Compiled & Edited by Allister Macmillan pg 435
2. Descendants of Thomas EDWARDS. <http://www3.telus.net/public/mcgeecga/Edwards/>
3. Chronique. www.lexpress.mu/.../archive-27377-lhistoire-du-centre-administratif-de-curepipe.html
4. South African Archives Repository, Pietermaritzburg & Pretoria

FOOTNOTE: to-date I have been unable to elicit any biographical details of Dr. F Antelme and would welcome such from any correspondent.