



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

AUTUMN 1974

Vol 4 No 2 .



# THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

## MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 1974

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The Editor,

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Zejtun.

Malta G.C.

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## **FORWARD**

We apologise for the delay in the publication of this issue. This was due to the change of editorship due to pressure of work of the past Editor, Mr. Ivan Sant, who had most of the ground-work for this issue already planned. In fact, credit for the contents of this issue goes to him.

It is with pleasure to note that philatelic activity in the Maltese Islands has gathered momentum during the first part of the new season. Between the 7th and 21st September, we had the now traditional Vth Malta Philatelic Exhibition, in which two members of our society won first and second place Mr. Anthony Fenech and Mr. Godwin Said, respectively.

The set issued to mark the Centenary of the U.P.U., released on the 20th September, to coincide with the Malta Philatelic Exhibition, bears the design of another member of the society, namely Mr. George Sullivan, and his daughter Sandra. The U.P.U. was also the subject of a historical account presented by our President, Surg. Capt. John W. Mercieca, during the November meeting.

During the latter half of November, local philatelists have been treated to a showing of films featuring the stamps of the United Nations Postal Administration.

All augurs well for a new era of philately in Malta and Gozo and the society should feel its responsibility towards a better promotion of the true hobby. This magazine is one way of achieving this end and it is with the help and assistance of the members that this magazine will continue to fill a vacuum in local philately. We appeal to all members to do their part. We are looking for fresh material. Every bit of information, every little paragraph will be of interest to us. Though complete and exhaustive studies will of course enhance our magazine, we also require little details and any interesting fact concerning philately. So over to you now. With your help, we hope to publish another issue of the magazine very shortly.

## **MAJOR VARIETES OF PAPER**

**LAI**D paper shows parallel, vertical, or horizontal lines laid together, usually crossed by more prominent lines an inch or so apart.

**W**OVE paper shows no lines, although often an irregular grain can be seen in it. At other times it appears mottled. The lines in the laid paper and the grain in the wove paper are caused by the wire gauze which is used to strain off the water from the paper pulp.

**Q**UADRILLE paper has parallel lines at certain distances apart, as Batonné, with a similar set of lines at right angles to them. If the lines in one set are wider apart than those in the other set, then the paper is known as oblong quadrille.

**B**ATONNE paper is watermarked by lines a certain distance apart, intended as a guide for writing. If the spaces between these lines are plain, the paper is known as wove Batonné. If between these lines there are other less prominent parallel lines, the paper is known as laid Batonné.

**D**ICKINSON paper is named after the inventor. There are continuous lines of thread running through the paper, usually placed at a certain distance apart, so that each stamp has one silk thread running through it.

**G**RANITE paper also has silk threads in it, but in this case they are finely chopped up and mixed in the pulp instead of being in straight lines.

**B**URELE paper has an overprint of elaborate network of lines on either the front or the back of the stamp.

**P**ELURE paper is very thin wove paper, which is usually greyish in colour. Although very thin it is exceedingly tough.

**D**OUBLE paper was used experimentally for some postage stamps of the U.S.A. It was made by joining thicknesses of different kinds of paper together. The upper thickness was of soft porous paper, which was backed by firmer paper. Thus it was practically impossible to clean off the postmark without damaging the upper thickness of paper.

(Contd. page 12)

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA,  
Year 1973.**

	Tel. Nos.
2. Dr. Albert Ganado, 1 Scotts Str., Valletta	27109/26941
3. Dr. Charles S. Galea, 174, St. Christopher Str., Valletta	24679
5. Dr. Joseph Soler (Magte), 67, Isouard Str., Sliema	31319
6. Miss Daisy Formosa, 69, Britannia Str., Valletta	25072
8. Mr. Peter Paul Vassallo, "Forsina" Tal-Virtù, Rabat	74644
12. Mr. Renè Buttigieg, A.&C.E., 27/1, Old Mint Str., Valletta	26182
14. Mr. John Mifsud, 37, St. Gregory Str., Zejtun	28781
20. Mr. Paul Pace, 101, Strait Str., Gżira	
22. Mr. Salva Stivala, 159, St. Roque Str., Birkirkara	
27. Surg. Capt. John W. Mercieca, 193, Rudolph Str., Sliema	30459
30. Mr. Jos. P. Muscat Manduca, 104, St. Bartholomeu Str., Qormi	24329
44. Mr. Anthony Darmanin, 11/2, Gunlayer Str., Floriana	26297
45. Dr. Joseph Scerri, 18a/2, Scotts Str., Valletta	28520
46. Mr. Carmelo Lateo, 49/3, St. Thomas Str., Floriana	25734
47. Mr. Joseph M. Galea, Villa Capri, Zabbar Rd., Fgura	21645
49. Dr. Jos. Zammit Lupi, 29, Mrabat Str. St. Julian's	34643
50. Dr. Edwin Aquilina, 13/20, Vincenti Buildings, Valletta	27583
51. Mr. Godwin Said, 142/5, Tower Rd., Sliema	37880
64. Mr. Joseph V. Buttigieg, "Miriam" Zerafa Str., Marsa	
79. Mr. Roger Aquilina, 62, High Str., Hamrun	M6142
80. Mr. Anthony Fenech, "MIELE" Annunciation Str., Balzan	40705
81. Mr. A.A. Cassar Torreggiani, 43, Main Str., St. Julian's	31185
101. Mr. J.E. Sullivan, "Downsview", Tal-Virtù, Rabat	74185
110. Mr. John Degiorgio Lovett, 46, Grenfell Str., St. Julian's	
111. Mr. Francis Sciberras, Villa Assisi, Coppia Place, St. Andrew	25483
112. Mr. Lionel A. Appelt "Bearsted", S. Pawl tat-Targa	40373
113. Mr. Roland P. Turk, "il Cacciata", Tal-Virtù, Rabat	74449
114. Mr. Michael Jacobs, 14, "Rohan", St. George's Park	
	St. Julian 37938
115. Mr. Anthony Giodmaina, 3, St. Pius Str., Rabat	74076
116. Mr. Ivan Sant, 141/1 Marina Str., Pieta	
117. Mr. George E. Sullivan, P.O. Box 600, Valletta	32069
121. Mr. Roger P.G. Davies, Villa Repasian, Torreggiani Gardens, Madliena	
123. Miss Filippa Zammit, 283, Main Str., Zebbug	
129. Mr. Roy D. Middlehurst, Isle of Man	
130. Mr. David Vassallo, 21, Nursing Sisters' Str., St. Julian's	34014
131. Mr. Ian Shoot, 1, Dor-ville, Swieqi Hill, St. Andrew	
133. Mr. Mark Ciangura, 84/5, Old Hospital Str., Valletta	
135. Mr. Reginald Bonner, 3 Isouard Str., Sliema	
136. Mr. I.M. Lishman, Old School House, Tarxien	

137. Mr. Nicholas A. Cutajar, 7, Wied il-Għajn Rd., Zejtun
138. Dr. Colin Pace, M.D. c/o 11/15, Vincenti Buildings, Valletta
139. Mrs. Vera Ormiston, Adelaide, Summon Str., Mosta
140. Mr. Laurence Mifsud, 879/6, High Str., Hamrun
141. Miss Maria Stella Bowman, 5, Manol Mansions, De Paola Ave,  
Balzan 40811
142. Mr. Victor Bowman, " " " "
143. The Hon. Dr. A. Bonnici, Casa Bonnici, Sir A. Bartolo Str.,  
Ta' Xbiex
144. Mr. Carmelo Bonavia, 35, Victory Str., Zabbar 29314
145. Miss Josephine Galea, 76, Main Str., Zebbug
146. Mr. B. Jacobs, 14, Rohan, St. George's Park, St. Julian's 37938
147. Mr. Pio Camilleri, 323, Prince of Wales Rd., Sliema
148. Mr. Francis Farrugia, 67, St. Albert Str., Gzira
149. Mr. Joseph Farrugia, 34, Nursing Sisters' Str., St. Julian's
150. Dr. Henry Ferrante-Darbois, "Tanrinka" St. Andrew's Rd.
151. Mr. Charles Cilia, 44, Old College Str., St. Julian's 32219
152. Mr. Sidney Nigel Bush, Villa Meona, off Trans. Ave., Lija
153. Miss Maria Egizia Cassola, 121, Main Str., Balzan
154. Mr. Wilfred Borg Salmitro, 59, Battery Str. Valletta
155. Mr. Alex. Attard, 5, St. Louis Flats, St. Louis Str., Msida
156. Mr. Guido Callus, 52/6, St. Ursula Str., Valletta
157. Mr. Anthony Bugeja, 27, Mosta Rd., Attard
158. Mr. Vincent Marcioca, 6, George Flats, New Howard Str.,  
Sliema 35179
159. Dr. Ronald L. Harward, "Mahido" New Str., off St. George's  
Str. Naxxar 45539
160. Mr. S. Stanaway, Villa St. Mary, St. George's Junc. St. Julian's
161. Mr. Anthony Zarb, P.O. Box 343, Valletta
162. Rev. Father Anthony Galea, 226, St. Paul Str., Valletta
163. Sq. Leader A.F. Jackson, Luqa Station
164. Lt. Col. Anthony Pace Bonello, M.B.E., Villino St. Antonio  
St. Angelo Str., St. Julian's 32209
165. Capt. Victor Light, 7, Notre Dame Mansions, E. Mizzi Str.,  
Msida
166. Mr. Dom. Cutajar, 85, Tonna Str., Sliema
167. Mr. Brian Kelly, R.A.F., Luqa Station
168. Miss Lina Calleja, "Leonard", New Str., off Ganu Str., B'Kara
169. Mr. John B. Zarb, 4, Rudolph Str., Sliema
170. Mrs. Mary Mifsud, 10, Balluta Buildings,
171. Mrs. Heckman, 74, Main Str., Lija
173. Mr. Victor Valentino, 194, Old Railway Station, Balzan
174. Mr. Alfred Cauchi, 52, Race Course Str., Marsa
175. Mr. Hubert R. Williams, "Sarnia", Juno Heights, Marsascala



# **STATUTE**

## **THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA**

1. The Society shall be known as The Philatelic Society of Malta.
2. The objects of the Society shall be:
  - (a) To promote philately and the study of postage stamps and postal history;
  - (b) To facilitate the exchange of stamps among members;
  - (c) To promote the intensive study of stamps and postal history by the formation of study circles within the Society;
  - (d) To form and/or co-operate with kindred bodies in the formation of a reference library for the use of members;
  - (e) To hold regular meetings of the members and to arrange exhibitions, competitions, displays, reading and discussions contribute to the increase of the study and practice of philately in general.

### **Membership**

3. All persons whose name appears on the Society's Register of members at the date of the adoption of these rules shall be deemed to be duly elected members of the Society.
4. All nominations for membership of the Society shall be in writing in the form prescribed by the Committee and shall be signed by the nominee and two members of the Society. Such nominations shall be placed before the Committee who may require such other information, references or recommendations as it shall deem fit. The Committee may elect to membership any person so nominated.

### **Junior Members**

5. Candidates for membership under the age of twenty-one years may be admitted to membership subject to the written guarantee of parents or guardians to accept responsibility for the safe-keeping of any of the Society's exchange book or other property which may come in the possession of such member during minority. A Junior Member shall not be entitled to hold office during minority.

### **Management**

6. The business and affairs of the Society shall be governed and managed by the Committee.

## **Committee**

7. The Committee shall consist of:
  - President
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary, and
  - Seven other members.

A member may hold more than one office but he may not thereby a plurality of votes.

8. The officers and members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General meeting of the Society and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly elected, but they shall all be eligible for re-election. Such elections shall be by secret ballot, conducted at the Annual General Meeting. All nominations for officers and members of the Committee shall be done at the meeting.

## **Vacancies in the Committee**

9. Any vacancy in the Committee occurring between an election and another of the Committee shall be filled by the member who at the last election polled the highest number of votes among those who failed to get elected. If any member of the Committee fails to attend three consecutive meetings (unless reasonable excuse has been furnished), he may be removed from the Committee and another member elected in his place by general meeting.

## **Quorum**

10. (a) At all Committee meetings four shall form a quorum.  
(b) At Annual or Special General Meeting one-third of the members of the members shall form a quorum; provided that, if no quorum be present within fifteen minutes from when the meeting was due to start, there shall be a second convocation after another fifteen minutes at which the members present shall form a quorum.

## **Honorary Members**

11. The Society may at any General Meeting, on the recommendation of the Committee elect as an Honorary Life Member any person who, in the opinion of the Committee, has rendered meritorious services to philately. Provided however, that there shall not at any time be more

than five honorary life members. Upon election, an honorary life member shall enjoy all the rights, powers and privileges of membership, including the right to election as an officer or member of the Committee.

### **Duties of Officers**

12. **The President**, and, in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside over all meetings of the Society. If both are absent, the meeting shall choose one of those present to preside. The person presiding the meeting shall have a casting vote, in addition to his own original vote.

**The Secretary** shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, keep a detailed Minute Book of proceedings and read minutes at every meeting. He shall also prepare, under instructions of the Committee, a full report of the year's activities for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. He shall also keep an up-to-date Register of Members and shall keep the Treasurer fully informed of the names and addresses of new members as they enrol. He shall hand all subscriptions and other monies received by him to the Treasurer at the earliest opportunity.

**The Treasurer** shall have control of the funds of the Society, pay promptly all accounts passed by the Committee and submit at the Annual General Meeting a duly audited Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the information of members. He shall arrange for all receipts to be regularly banked to the credit of an account opened in the name of the Society with a Bank appointed from time to time by the Committee. He shall also present an Interim Statement of the Society's financial position at each Committee Meeting and produce the Bank Passbook for inspection as and when required.

### **Auditors**

13. (a) The Committee shall annually appoint two honorary Auditors who shall audit the Books of Accounts and the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and Balance Sheet kept or prepared by the Officers of the Society. The Auditors shall report on such books of account, financial report on such books of account, financial statements and balance sheets at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) Every Officer of the Society shall, on demand, produce to the Auditors any records, book or statements of account kept or required to be kept by him and shall furnish all explanations or informations which the Auditors may require.

## **Subscription**

14. The Annual subscription for membership shall be 50c, but for Junior Members the subscription shall be 12c5. All subscriptions shall be paid in advance on the foundation of the Society and thenceforth on the first day of January in each year.

## **Termination of Membership**

15. The Committee may accept the registration of any member who shall give notice of such intention in writing.
16. Any member who fails to pay the annual subscription fee within three months of its falling due shall cease to be a member of the Society.
17. The Committee may by a two-thirds majority terminate the membership of any member who, in the opinion of the Committee, has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member of the Society. Notice of the charge and an opportunity of being heard before the Committee shall be given to a member before any decision to terminate his membership is taken. Provided that a General Meeting may, at the request in writing of the member whose membership has been terminated, appoint a Committee consisting of nine members to review his case. The decision of this Committee shall in all cases be final.

## **Alteration of Rules**

18. A special meeting held in accordance with Rule 20 or the Annual General Meeting may deal with any special business, including suspension or alteration of any of these Rules, subject to notice of motion in writing signed by five or more members being furnished to the Secretary prior to the previous monthly meeting and shall be notified to members present at such monthly meeting. No motion submitted in pursuance of any such notice shall have any effect unless passed by simple majority of the members present in person.

## **Monthly Meetings**

19. Regular monthly Meetings of the members of the Society shall be held only from October to June on the day, at the hour and at the place appointed by the Committee from time to time.

### **Special Meetings**

20. The Committee may from time to time call Special General Meetings and may submit to members such business or motions as it may deem fit. Upon a requisition signed by not less than one-third of the members, the Committee shall call a Special Meeting to deal with such other motion or business which the Committee determine. The Committee shall determine the time and place when and where such meetings shall be held, provided, however, that such meetings shall not be held earlier than one calendar month and not later than three calendar months following the notification to members of a General Meeting of the Society.

### **Bye-Laws**

21. The Committee shall have the power to frame, alter or repeal bye-laws when deemed necessary, provided they are not inconsistent with any of these Rules.

### **Dissolution**

22. The Society shall not be dissolved unless determined by a two-thirds majority of the total membership at a Special General Meetings of which not less than one month's notice must be given to all members. In the event of the Society being wound up at any time, the Committee shall have full powers to dispose of the assets at its discretion and divide the proceeds, after payment of all just debts, equally among the existing members.

### **Disposal of deceased members' collection**

23. The Committee shall, when requested to do so, advise persons deriving title from a deceased member upon the advantageous disposal of such member's collection of stamps or other philatelic material.

### **Patrons**

24. The Committee may seek for the Patronage of any distinguished person or persons.

### **Annual General Meetings**

25. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the thirty-first January in each year. The business of the Annual General Meet-

ing shall be dealt with in the following order:

- (a) Reading and adoption of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;
- (b) Presentation of the Annual Report of the Secretary, financial statements and the Auditor's Report;
- (c) Election of Committee;
- (d) The making or alteration of Rules of which due notice has been given;
- (e) Any other business of which due notice has been given.

### **Judicial Representation**

26. The President and the Secretary shall represent the Company in judicial proceedings.

### **Editor and Staff**

27. For the purpose of issuing any periodical publication, the Committee shall appoint an Editor and staff, who shall perform the functions assigned to them by the Committee. The Editor shall "ex officio" be a member of the Committee, in addition to the members elected in accordance with Rule 7 hereof.

(N.B.) The above Rules were approved at the Foundation Meeting of the Society held on the 7th. March, 1966, and they incorporate amendments made by the General Meeting on the 8th. July, 1966, and 3rd. October, 1966 and 5th. February, 1968.

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Major Varieties of Paper (Cont'd.) from page 4

**COATED** paper is paper which has a chalky or enamelled surface, rendering it impossible to clean off the postmark without destroying the impression.

**MANILLA** paper is a strong, light, and coarse paper used for envelopes and newspaper wrappers.

**RIBBED** paper has close parallel lines, similar to laid paper, but on the surface of the paper instead of in its substance.

This does not by any means exhaust the varieties of paper, but if we have a thorough knowledge of those mentioned, we are not likely to have much trouble as far as paper is concerned.

*(Extracted from The Stamp Lover — April 1926)*

S. STANAWAY

# MALTA'S STAMPS

## A BROAD SURVEY

by

Dr. E. Aquilina, M.D.

As a British Crown Colony, the Maltese Islands did not fail to walk into the footsteps of Britain's Postal Services, as originated by Sir Rowland Hill in 1814, in view of the much awaited and very popular "Penny Postage" on the 1st of December.

It was thus that in 1860, Malta's first stamp valued at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and used only for local purposes came into existence. The figure was that of Queen Victoria, as seen in profile from a design by De La Ferte'. This was the beginning of the famous Malta Yellow Stamps which remained into existence up to 1885, a period of approximately 25 years.

It has to be noted at this stage that prior to 1860, namely between 1855 and 1885, Great Britain stamps were used for mail proceeding overseas, while local purposes were served with the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellows as already stated.

The year 1885, saw the first Malta definitive issue which as might be expected served the dual purpose for local and overseas correspondence. The move was as might have been expected, following the joining of Malta to the Universal Postal Union. Consequently, there was no more use of Malta's Queen Victoria Yellows as they became replaced by a series ranging in values from  $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5s. 0d. in colours conforming to the regulations of this International Body.

It was only in 1899, that the orthodox figure of the Queen was replaced in certain values by pictorial designs which proved to be very popular in later issues. These new values showed a picture of Malta's Grand Harbour, then without the breakwater, an emblematic figure of Malta, a Gozo boat in full sail, a Maltese Gallery reminiscent of the days of the Knights and a reproduction of the Shipwreck of St. Paul from an engraving by P. G. Dore'.

Other stamps replaced the old Victorias in King Edward's short reign of nine years. Basically they also portrayed the effigy of the King while certain values repeated the theme of their Victorian predecessors as the  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d and 8d denominations.

With the accession of King George V to the British Throne, a new series came into existence in 1914 which again portrays the head of the Monarch. Here again some values repeated the design in principle of the former pictorial predecessors.

## MALTA'S STAMPS

To mention here the famous 10s. 0d. Block C.A. watermark, again showing the Shipwreck of the Apostle Paul, and referred to as SG. 96, which by itself forms the costliest stamp in Malta's collection.

A complete and radical change in Malta's stamp design, was in evidence in 1921, with the issue of the set commemorating the grant of the first Malta Self-Government. Then followed the issue of stamps both commemorative and definite according to circumstances. Thus followed the Coronation set of 1937 and the 1st Georgian definitive, the overprinted "Self-Government of 1948" was first on sale as a sign of Malta's emancipation in the acquisition of its first post war self-Government headed by Sir P. Boffa. Here again, in virtue of Malta's constitution during the Second World War the British Government had no option but to grant the Maltese Islands their much deserved prize.

By this time commemorative sets came out rather frequently in comparison with what was issued before; but the untimely death of King George VI and the accession of his daughter Elizabeth necessitated the stamps to fit the occasion. The year 1956-57 therefore, witnessed the first Elizabethian definitive series, whose accent was again pictorial, showing in no small way the Island's heritage in magnificent churches, famous monuments, and invaluable works of art.

There followed another period of repeated commemorative issues such as the "George Cross" issue, the 19th Century of St. Paul's Shipwreck, the "Stamp Centenary", "The Red Cross" and others which forced their way into Maltese philately, by now already making a push into the world of stamps.

The famous Melita Stamps series were in two designs, one showing a figure of Malta against a seascape of Malta's shores, the other depicted a group of two figures in fond embrace representing the close union between Malta and Britain. While the former was designed by E. Caruana Dingli the latter was the work of Gianni Vella. Unfortunately considerable speculation was attached to this series which has rendered it rather inexpensive to this very day, always in relation to other issues of this period.

The three issues between 1926 and 1930, apart from their price values, which portrayed the King's effigy, laid stress again on pictorial designs. Thus we find another picture of the Grand Harbour, St. Publius' Statue, Mdina, another Gozo boat, Neptune's Statue, and a reproduction of Gafa's St. Paul venerated in the church which bears his name in Valletta.



Malta' first Commemorative Set was issued in 1935 as part of a Commonwealth Omnibus Issue, and commemorated the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary in 1935. Issues of this nature have always proved popular and are still looked for by collectors to this very day.

It was during the reign of King George VI that the very famous "Melita" Set was issued.

With the granting of Independence on the 21st of September 1964 — under the Prime Ministership of Dr. G. Borg Olivier — Maltese Philately inevitably underwent a radical change, as befitted the new political state of affairs.

This change may be viewed from two aspects. First: Commemorative Stamp Issues started making their appearance with extreme frequency, as the occasion demanded. Secondly: a sharp rise in their artistic value was rendered very much in evidence, as the result of the untiring efforts of the designer: Chev. E. V. Cremona.

It has to be remembered that this Maltese Artist had already made an impetus on stamp designs, when, in 1960, he designed the magnificent set of six stamps commemorating the 19th. Centenary of St. Paul's Shipwreck on the Maltese shores in A.D. 60.

Set followed set; Christmas stamps started making their appearance regularly, Commemoratives and Anniversaries occurred with marked frequency — with the designer, Cremona, proving, all the time his high level of artistic qualities, in stamp design. His stamps have often been described as "miniature works of art"; certainly, there's no denying the fact that he put Malta on the International Philately Map.....

Times changed and more Maltese artists were called in to contribute their designs in respect to further stamp issues. Some may argue that the level attained by these falls very short of that reached by their predecessors; but, on the other hand, such matters are intimately connected with maturity and experience. The ice has been broken, the incentive given, and more Maltese artists drive towards progress and perfection, as this highly controversial century of ours demands.

Up to the time of writing, Malta's stamps have never failed to sharpen the Philatelist's appetite to collect more and more of them. They have undoubtedly carried the torch of high artistry and a sense of investment (though this is far from the spirit that this article is trying to convey) which characterises stamps the world over. It is my sincere wish, and I will spare no effort in my personal contribution, to keep this high level of philately. Let us hope that our successors will be injected to say: "I collect Malta stamps!"

**E. SAID**  
**STAMP DEALERS**

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