

THE MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION — 1971

For the third year in succession, the Malta Postal Administration organised a Philatelic Exhibition for the period 29th December 1971 to the 12th January 1972. As customary, the event was held in the Annexe of St. John's Co-Cathedral Valletta, kindly lent for the purpose.

This year's Exhibition was marked by a special feature consisting of the participation of private collectors, who were invited to put on show their Malta Stamp Collections or other similar material related to the Malta Postal Service.

The Exhibits were classified under three sections:

- a) The Official Section — offered by quite a number of Foreign Postal Administrations, and was non-competitive.
- b) The 'Hors Concours' Section — limited to judges on the panel, and other individuals who showed no desire to participate in the competitive section.
- c) The Competitive Section — subdivided into:-
 - i. Malta Postage Stamps.
 - ii. Malta Covers.
 - iii. Philatelic Material, Literature, and Publications.

The Exhibition was officially opened on Wednesday 29th December 1971 at 11a.m. by the Hon. Dr. A. V. Hysler M.D., M.P. Minister of Development, Posts and Telephones. After the usual inaugural speeches, the winners of the Competitive Section received their just awards from the Minister himself; they were presented with gold, silver or bronze-gilt medals accordingly.

Subsequently, the guests were treated with refreshments, allowing sufficient time to wander around and peruse the various exhibits.

It is very comforting to note that the Philatelic Society of Malta has contributed in no small way towards the success of the Exhibition. Besides

the precious counselling and other similar advice, three members out of the judging panel of five, do sit on this year's Committee of the Association. To be more specific, this trio consisted of the President Mr. Frank, the Secretary Dr. Ganado and the Editor of the Magazine Dr. Aquilina.

During the time that the Exhibition was open, a sub Post Office was established in the Hall, making use of a very attractive postmark. Similarly, special Souvenir Folders were put on sale, which recorded the participating countries and the other individual participants of the Competition. A more detailed record was included in the Official Catalogue which could also be obtained within the premises. Last but not least, a commemorative gilt bronze medal was put on sale to make the occasion complete.

The Philatelic Exhibition has undoubtedly been a success, and our congratulations go to the organisers as well as to all the participants. It is the sincere wish of all the members of the Society, that similar competitions be held in the future, to kindle the fire of Philatelic Ambition.....

The Editor