

MALTESE POSTAL HISTORY

On the 19th Feb. 1969, a formal Memorandum Agreement appointing the Postmaster General sole distributor of all United Nations stamps and postal stationery was signed at the Exhibition Hall of the National Museum in Kingsway.

The local side was represented by the Hon. Dr. J. Spiteri Minister of Posts and Telephones, and Mr. J. Buttigieg the newly elected Postmaster; on the International side was Mr. G. Yates, Representative of the U.N. Development Programme, both bodies signing the Agreement.

This means that Malta joins other countries throughout the world, where United Nations stamps can be purchased in local currency. In the case of Malta, such stamps can be obtained from the Philatelic Bureau at the General Post Office at face value (for the benefit of those who are not familiar with the conversion rate, 1 cent is the equivalent of 1d).

The only marring note, however, is the incapability of supplying early issues to complete the collection of the newly-fledged United Nations enthusiast. In connection with this, we have to point out that the Malta Authorities are certainly not to blame, as the missing issues are unobtainable from the U.N. Headquarters itself.

Advantage was taken of the opportunity offered by the premises in the museum, to exhibit a number of interesting stamp varieties which represent the dream of the keen philatelist.

Among these was an imperforate sheet of the 6d Doctors Congress set, another of the 3d Historic without the word 'Malta', and a similar invisible 'Malta' on the 2d Human Rights.

The Exhibition lasted for four days, and was very well attended. Many were those who were captured by the beauty of the U.N. stamps and started a collection in this direction.

If similar Philatelic Exhibitions were to be held in the future, it is more than certain that the enthusiastic fire of this hobby will be kindled as it deserves.