



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

1968 VOL. 2 No. 2.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 1968

Address all Correspondence to:

The Editor,

P.S.M. (Magazine)

c/o Catholic Institute,

Floriana,

Malta G.C.

LIST OF CONTENTS

Editorial Comments	<i>page</i> 3
New Committee Elected	" 4
Monthly Meeting — April	" 5
Monthly Meeting — May	" 6
Advert E. Said	" 7
The Philatelic Push	" 8
1968 Malta Issues	" 8
Old Philatelic Periodicals	" 9
Stamps of Malta (Rizzo)	" 10
Philatelic Society of Malta	" 11
June Display	" 13
F.A.O. (1968)	" 14

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY THE EDITOR

It seems rather boring to have to repeat what my predecessors have reiterated in former editions of the Journal. However for the sake of those who do not recollect these previous comments, we repeat that this mouth-piece of the Philatelic Society of Malta will meet its doom unless more articles and philatelic news come from members.

We have to keep the Association alive; the newsletter has to be kept going to kindle the fire of philatelic outburst!

So please let not this plea fall on deaf ears, and let the "Intelligentia" of which the Society can boast, contribute in the form of news, letters, or any other sort of article to the great satisfaction of all and sundry.

On the other hand the purpose of the monthly meetings of the Catholic Institute, must not be considered as meant to satisfy one's curiosity and see what Mr. X. has exhibited in the line of philatelic interest; or what Mr. Y has to say in his lecture on stamps or postal services. These gatherings as the name implies, serve to meet others with whom we certainly have something in common; expand and discuss on one same line of communication — the love of Stamp Collecting.

BY THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

On taking over the duties as Assistant Editor for the magazine of our Philatelic Society, I would like to make a short appeal to all members asking for their support and cooperation in my new appointment. First and foremost, I wish to thank all committee members for entrusting me with this new post.

Without hesitation, I start by saying that lack of active support of our members is one of the biggest bugbears of our Society, everywhere and there seems to be a wide spread belief that once the committee has been elected the duty of the members will become exhausted, and that thereafter only the committee members need be interested or active in the functioning of the Society affairs. This theory is wrong and tends to hinder the progress of our Society.

My task, as Assistant Editor, is to urge about two points. Firstly, to ask all members to do their best and help by their contributions in writing short philatelic articles for this magazine, secondly, to approach their friends who are not members and induce them to join our ranks. My slogan for the month is "GET THAT NON MEMBER". If this is done by all members we can double our membership strength within a short period.

One last word, the appointment of the new Editor, my colleague Dr. Ed. Aquilina along with myself form a very good team, I am confident that with all members' cooperation we can assure a very fine publication.

NEW COMMITTEE ELECTED

We have pleasure in announcing the names of the gentlemen elected to form the Committee for the year 1968.

President — Louis Frank.

Secretary — Albert Ganado B.A., L.L.D.

Treasurer — Cecil Busuttill.

Members — Magistrate Jos. Soler B.A., L.L.D.

Charles G. Cassar M.D., M.R.C.G.P. (Lond.)

Surg. Capt. John. H. Mercieca D.D.S.

William T.R. Scoble.

Paul A. Pace.

Jos. D. Hamilton.

Godwin Said.

Editor — E. AQUILINA M.D.

A/Editor — PAUL A. PACE.

MONTHLY MEETING — APRIL

During the monthly meeting in April instead of the usual display, an important discussion took place. This was scheduled by the Committee so as to give the members a free discussion on modern Malta Stamps.

Surgeon Capt. G.H. Mercieca conducted the discussion, Capt. S. Stivala and Mr. P.A. Pace, the Assistant Editor, took part in the discussion as well. The discussion was shaped by the Committee under the following headings.

- (a) Design and Colours.
- (b) Subject Matter.
- (c) Issues and Face Values.
- (d) Market Prices.

All aspects of the above subjects were touched splendidly.

Surg. Capt. Mercieca besides his love for the hobby is also a member of The Stamp Advisory Board and the theme of the discussion was very ably conducted and most suited to him.

Surg. Capt. Mercieca stated that in his opinion, which is also corroborated by many local and overseas philatelists who had been in contact with him, Malta stamps were on the whole very attractive and the designs are very tasteful. Some members expressed the view that the gold was being used too often, and consequently, they were against it. In reply to this remark Surg. Capt. Mercieca said that it was not only the case with the Malta Stamps that gold was being made use of in stamp designing but other Countries too such as Portugal, Spain, Yugoslavia and many Commonwealth Countries as well had found that gold adds much to the decorative value of stamps and are using it on most of their modern issues.

Regarding the subject of the Stamp Designs Surg. Capt. Mercieca stated that notwithstanding the fact that the Stamp Advisory Board from time to time was receiving suggestions as to the subject for Malta issues, he felt that the Board has been extremely careful in the selection of the subject to be commemorated philatelically and in avoiding those which could give a rise to contraversories by the public as well as by philatelists. During the discussion that ensued some members suggested such subjects for stamps as famous Maltese personalities, Tourist Propaganda, and the Coat of Arms of the Grand Masters.

As to the face value it was pointed out that probably members were unaware of the high cost of printing and that if the face value was kept low the Government would not be left with much of a margin of profit.

Some members expressed the view that they were contrary to the inclusion of the 3/- denomination in our sets basing their statement on the fact that it was a value which had no use whatsoever for postal purposes, while agreeing with this point Surg. Capt. Mercieca said that the high denomination was necessarily to make the set relatively worthwhile face value.

Concluding the discussion, Surg. Capt. Mercieca stated that he was very glad to note the opinion expounded by the members who took part, and to him the questions were very enlightening.

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF MAY

This occurred on the 6th. of the month, and consisted of Father S. Bonavia's lecture in the first place, later followed by a display of a number of Malta's preadhesive covers.

Father Bonavia O.F.M. Cap. dealt with the 'POSTAL SERVICES IN MALTA DURING THE LATE KNIGHTS, FRENCH AND EARLY BRITISH OCCUPATION', that is from 1776 up to 1806.

Grand Master De Rohan was cited as being the one who passed reforms for the organisation of the Public Services, including the Postal System. At this time, a Knight of the Order was in charge, and was called Commissioner of the Post Office; while the premises employed was the place in Sda. Reale now Kingsway, occupied by the Casino Maltese.

Clerks were employed to keep registers of revenue and expense; Bishops, nobles, merchants and other high personalities used to write or receive correspondence, and their respective accounts were kept by the mentioned clerks.

Father Bonavia then proceeded to talk about the disinfection of letters at the Lazzaretto during the Plague Years. On the other hand the 'porta lettere' were employed to deliver mail to the Knights, who were easy to locate as they normally lived in Auberges.

When the French occupied the Island in 1798, they started in their turn to reorganise the Postal Services as their master Napoleon Bonaparte thought best. This time, however, no one was credited as in the days of the Knights; all had to pay due tax for the proper delivery of letters.

The short duration of the French limited further changes. To note at this point that both Domenico Montanaro and Emanuele Farrugia, previously employed by the Order, retained their high positions in the running of the service.

With the coming of the English in 1800, Alexander Ball who was later appointed the first Civil Commissioner of the Island, made further adjustments to the Service; however, the principle of strict payment was firmly adhered to.

The premises remained those of Sda. Reale already referred to; here people used to crowd to collect mail as somehow the 'porta lettere' no longer existed.

Then in 1804, Domenico Montanaro was officially appointed Director of Services; while extra tax for letters coming from Naples was levied in order to balance the budget of payments of the Service.

In 1806, Napoleon occupied Naples, and the route of mail to the United Kingdom had to be diverted, and was directed by H.M. Postmaster General. James Chabot was appointed 1st. Packet Agent at this stage.

MALTA STAMPS

A fine selection of Mint, Used, First Day Covers, Village Postmarks and Varieties is available at:

E. SAID

MEMBERS B.P.A., P.T.S.,

32, Britannia Street,

Valletta,

Malta G.C.

A handy descriptive price list is offered free on request.

Accessories such as Stockbooks, Albums, Tweezers, etc., plus literature about the Malta Postage Stamp, may also be obtained.

Advertisement

THE PHILATELIC PUSH....

Congratulations go to Messrs. E. Said, Stamp Dealers of Britannia St., Valletta, for the fine window display of Malta stamps on the 1st and 2nd May.

An attractive collection of used Malta Victorias, Edwardians, and George V stamps, suitably arranged in Hawid strips caught the eye of the keen philatelist. Two star items could also be seen, with their corresponding postmarks; one was SG 96 on piece cancelled at Sliema on March 6th, 1919, while the other was SG 111 with a nearly complete strike dated April 26th 1922.

There was also a quasi complete 'Village Postmarks' collection, very suitably arranged in pouchets.

Old covers from the pre-adhesives of the early 19th. century, ranging to the 'Air Mail' cancellations of the early thirties, the 'Bonnie and Clyde' days.

One could also see journals, magazines and cuttings of philatelic interest, besides suitable application forms for membership into the 'Joint Services Philatelic Society', the 'Malta Study Circle' and last but not least 'The Philatelic Society of Malta'.

How much this display was fruitful, only time will tell; but surely Messrs. Said deserve a pat on their backs for their originality and practical help.

We certainly owe a great deal to similar firms who go out of their normal way to help not only the beginner but also the specialist.

THE 1968 MALTA ISSUES

It is with great pleasure that we read in the local paper about Malta's Stamp Issues for 1968. This is quite a novelty, as in former years, although we used to gather from hearsay that such and such an issues was envisaged, there never was anything officially pronounced about a whole year's programme.

The four sets mentioned are:—

1. That commemorating the "HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR". The 3 values (2d, 4d and 2/-) designed by Chev. Cremona, describe the same basic meaning, that is, humanity in an effort trying to achieve its due and legitimate rights. The issue was put on sale on the 2nd. May, and went to last up till the end of the year, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Messrs Harrison were the printers, whereas the usual 'Malta Cross' watermarked paper was employed for the photogravure printing of the set. The only snag that came up was the 'missed perforation' at on the horizontal angles of the 2d and 2/- denominations; this gave rise to quite a number of damages in trying to separate the stamps.

2. The 12th. INTERNATIONAL MALTA TRADE FAIR. The set is destined to come out in the first week of June serving as a booster in the advertising of the Trade Fair. Although exact details are not as yet available (these will be dealt with in other issues of the magazine) it is the sincere wish of all

concerned that the stamps will come out at a reasonable time before the open of the Fair. There is no point in issuing the set when the event to be commemorated will have already commenced.

3. The 3rd set will most probably be issued in the latter half of August, and will commemorate the 4th. **CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF LA VALETTE.** Malta owes much to this heroic Grand Master, who led the Knights and the Maltese to victory against a much outnumbering force of Ottoman Infidel in 1565. Surely La Vallette deserves a place all by himself in the white and red pages of Malta's History.

It is rumoured that the La Valette set will consist of some really special designs suitable to the occasion — Chev. Cremona does not lack ideas or other forms of originality.

4. **THE CHRISTMAS SET** — 5th. of the series — will be issued in the first week of October as is usually the case. Even here it is again expected, that something special, worthy of the artist, will characterise the issue, dignifying Maltese philately.

OLD PHILATELIC PERIODICALS

By CHAS. G. CASSAR, M.D., M.R.C.G.P. (Lond.)

Before reproducing the continuation of Rizzo's article which appeared in the Melita Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser of Feb. 1st. 1899, here are a few interesting points worth noting.

Watermarks: a stumbling block to beginners. Easily detected if stamps are looked at with the face turned against a good light. Bezene may also be employed to decipher in case of difficult cases; this will not harm the gum if any.

Watermarks first appeared on stamps of Great Britain; the old Roman letters CA and CC found on stamps of British Colonies mean CROWN AGENTS and CROWN COLONIES. Even early Malta stamps (the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellows) bore the CC and CA watermarks in block type.

Postmarks: through these, one can deduce the age of the stamp. In a place like Malta where the number of Post Offices is limited (both in the past and at the present day), such markings are of utmost value to collectors and particularly to those who indulge in collecting Covers.

Wove or Laid paper: the former is of plain and even texture as that used for books, whereas the latter shows a series of lines close together, intersected by others as in 'cream laid' writing paper.

STAMPS OF MALTA (continued)

By EDMUND RIZZO

Although the design of the stamp in question has always remained the same, yet by referring to the catalogue we find that there are seven varieties of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow stamp of Malta viz:

CC. — 1863:	$\frac{1}{2}$ d buff perforated	14
— 1864:	$\frac{1}{2}$ d buff perforated	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
	$\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow-buff perforated	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
— 1871/75:	$\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow-buff perforated	14
	$\frac{1}{2}$ d golden-yellow perf.	14
	$\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow-buff perforated	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 14
CA. — 1882:	$\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow-buff perforated	14

Arguing from the limited number of stamps that was then used for local purposes we can easily conclude that all the six varieties were not printed in different epochs, so close to each other as for example the first and the second variety. It is ascertained that all the commissions sent to the Crown Agents were of £40 worth of $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps; these were sold by the Post Office in Malta in such a short space of time for local requirements. It is undeniable that the varieties exist, but such varieties have not all been printed in different epochs.

From what we can see, the varieties of this stamp consist in either the perforation or the scale of colour. The latter arises certainly from some chemical combination in the colouring of the dies, in fact you meet with stamps of different yellow although printed and used at one and the same time. The former is undoubtedly due to the difference of perforating machines used for stamps.

The watermark of almost all the stamps of the British Colonies were, between the year 1881 and 1882, changed from Crown and CC to Crown and CA. The stamps of Malta underwent this change towards the close of 1882. In 1885 the Post Office Administration passed from the hands of the Imperial Government to those of the local Government. The stamps of Great Britain which were then used for letters sent abroad were supplanted by the present set of Malta. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow stamp besides changing its colour into green has also changed its use and began to travel on letters sent abroad.

The Postmaster General who was in charge in Malta at the time, of the transfer, knowing that by this transfer the $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow was about to cease to exist and foreseeing that it would be a good speculation to keep for himself the whole stock remaining, bought the whole lot, and carried it with him to England. This is the reason why the Crown CA $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow is not so easily met with in Malta as the Crown and CC.

(to be continued)

N.B. The views expressed in this article which was first published in 1889, are not necessarily those of the Editor.

THE EDITOR.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

PEN FRIENDS:

- Karel Kamenicky', Kotkova 7, BRNO 18, Czechoslovakia.
Domenico Loprieno, Via Venezia 31, Matera, Italia.
Giorgio Gintoli, c/o Procura della Repubblica, Forli, Italia.
Dr. A.R. Corrado, 421 Woolton Road, Gate Acre, Liverpool 25, U.K.
T.T. Archbald, The Shieling, Kewhurst Ave., Goode, Rexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, England.
Chas. C. Champion, 92 Bowen Ave., Glenmore, Durban, South Africa.
Rodney James Boutt, 56 Ellice Street, Wellington, North Island, New Zealand.
Ch. A.B. Homblé, Sint Pietersnieuwst., 71, Gent, Belgium.
W. Kulpa, 25 Queenborough Road, Belgrave, Leicester, England.
G.E. Harvey, 308 Westhorne Ave., Lee, London S.E. 12, England.
D. Perry, Forest Gate Nurseries, Huntley, Glos., England.
K. McKenna, B.Sc., MPS., Rheinstrasse 80, 6507 Ingelheim, W. Germany.
Mrs. J. Edgar, 2170 Scott St., Apt. 4, Montreal 9, Quebec, Canada.
R.F. Hall, 3 Melton Ave., Melton Road, Leicester, England.
K.H. Johnson, 167 Wommara Ave., Belmont North 2280, New South Wales, Australia.
Eshayek G. Danny, P.O. Box 2296, Ramat-Gan, Israel.
Arthur Baillie, Gooburrum, Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia.
Brian P. Ashworth, 18 Cross Lane, Great Horton, Bradford 7, Yorkshire, England.
W. Dupperts, (Dipl. Ing.) Senator-Caeſar-Str. 12, 28 Bremen, W. Germany.
P.D. Garland, 1 Albert Cottages, Wokingham Road, Bracknell, Berkshire, England.
Frederick Mendana, 289 M.K.N. Road, Alandur, Madras 16, India.
Maria Quinn, "Beauparc", Ballycloud, Lucan, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Alexandr Nikolic, Veletzní 19/528, Prag 7, Czechoslovakia.
George Kyle, 19 Witham Road, Monkton Estate, Hebburn on Tyne, Co. Durham, England.
Dennis Kerfoot, Brock University, St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada.
V. Mazalek, Bojkovice 47, Czechoslovakia.
Slavek Ledvinka, Jungmannova 29, Slapanice u Brna, Czechoslov.
Samuel D. Wolff, 82 High St., Orange, NJ, U.S.A. 07050.
S. Joseph Fernando, Information Br., Dept. of Inland Revenue P.O. Box 515, New Secretariat, Senate Sq. Colombo I, Ceylon.
Sverre Boye, A. Buddesvei 2, Stavanger, Norway.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE MAGAZINE

Any member wishing to avail themselves of this service for the purpose of selling, buying or exchanging stamps etc., can use the classified advertisements page included in the next edition. A small charge is made to defray printing expenses. They are, 3d per word for small print and 6 pence per word for BLOCK CAPITALS.

PEN FRIENDS — CANCELLATIONS

The list of names included in this edition of the Newsletter have all written requesting exchange friends in Malta. Please inform the Editor if you decide to write as this will preclude the necessity of reprinting all the names each time.

WANTED

GOOD QUALITY CLASSICAL ISSUES OF MALTA.

Mr. Louis Frank, 23, St. Roque Street, Kalkara, Malta G.C.

I WILL BUY ANY PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS ON MALTA.

Dr. Albert Ganado, 1, Scots Street, Valletta, Malta G.C.

QUESTIONS

The editor gladly accepts queries and comments from members, including suggestion. These will go into print for the benefit of all. The right is reserved to withhold material which is not considered relevant by the editor.

MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY

As in previous months, the June meeting took place on the first Monday (3rd. June) at the Catholic Institute, Floriana.

The main attraction of the meeting was an excellent display of Essays and Proofs accompanied with specimen of Artwork Stamps by Chev. Emvin Cremona. This first class material was kindly lent by the Postal Authorities.

The features shown were the following beauties:

St. Paul's Centenary
George Cross Anniversary 58 and 61
The Independence Set
Christmas 1964 and.....
Xth Malta Trade Fair

Mr. Ant. Sceberras Trigona of the General Post Office was the Official appointed in charge of the material exhibited. Mr. Trigona also showed some photographs of the Philatelic Exhibition held at Riccione (Italy) in August 1967.

The attendance was not grand but fine, besides the members of the Society present there was also a number of English guests now residing in Malta. It is hoped that in future when a display of this kind takes place, more members will attend.

* * *

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR THE YEAR 1968,
THE TREASURER WILL SOON BE AFTER
YOUR BLOOD.**

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SET OF 1968

The VIth. Regional Congress of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (F.A.O.) section of the United Nations, will be held in Malta some time next October. To honour such an event the Malta Post Office has earmarked a set of stamps to be issued contemporaneously.

Strictly speaking, the set in question was not in this year's programme as was revealed in the local press earlier in the season; the fact that the syllabus for the Congress came in rather abruptly, explains to some extent the quick decision to issue such a set.

The subjects depicted will again be the work of Chev. Cremona the well-known Maltese artist from hearsay it is also believed that the designs will be mainly symbolical, but intimately connected with the heart of the matter.

This is not the first time that F.A.O. has been linked with the issue of stamps commemorating associated events. The first was on the 4th. January 1963, when a drive in favour of "Freedom from Hunger" brought about the emission of a 1/6 stamp. In this connection, Malta formed part of an "omnibus" series, common to other countries in the Commonwealth.

Then again in 1964, a F.A.O. Congress Brucellosis (Undulant Fever) was held in Malta between the 8th. and 13th. June. Here again, the General Post Office issued a pair of stamps (2d and 1/6) on the 14th. April, i.e. two months ahead of the event, in order to give it the necessary publicity. Unlike the Freedom from Hunger, however, the Anti-Brucellosis set was not an Omnibus Issue.

For the inquisitive collector, it may be pointed out, that Congresses of an International nature, have always been accompanied by the issue of stamps, such as The Doctors' Congress in Sept. 1964, and that of Architectural History in September 1967.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I, the undersigned (1)

Of (2)

.....

.....

.....

Occupation:

Apply to become a member of the PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA, and agree to abide by the Statutes and Regulations of the Society.

.....

Applicant

.....

Proposer— Card No.

.....

Seconder— Card No.

(1) Full Name.

(2) Address. Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Return completed form to: The Secretary,

1, Scots Street,
Valletta,
Malta G.C.



Stanley Gibbons buy Stamps!

Stanley Gibbons buy Stamps?

Stanley Gibbons buy Stamps!

Why?

Stanley Gibbons sell Stamps!

but only the best is good enough for Stanley Gibbons' customers — remember this if you have a really good collection or fine single items to sell contact The Stanley Gibbons Group without delay!

Write to Barry Peachey at

STANLEY GIBBONS LTD.,

391 STRAND, LONDON. W.C.2. ENGLAND.

for immediate attention