

PHILATELIC EXCHANGES.

By Surg. Capt. J.H. Mercieca

During my happy forty years connection with Philately and with the various philatelic societies that have come and gone during these four decades, I have not the slightest difficulty in finding out that the activity of a philatelic society to which members much look forward when joining up, is the opportunity they would eventually have in coming in contact with other philatelists with a view to exchanging their duplicates for much sought after items to enhance their collections. Such an activity is highly encouraged and carefully organized by all philatelic societies of standing and it definitely increases the attraction to and the membership of any particular society and without it a philatelic society would, in my opinion, be unattractive and incomplete. It is not the first time that I have eagerly sought a particular stamp or set of stamps and eventually ordered it from a dealer abroad only to discover later that another person, whom I never dreamt to be a collector, had a number of them amongst his swops and which he would have been most willing to let me have in exchange for some other item he badly required for his own collection.

Exchange of stamps can be arranged either in the form of an Exchange Packet under the supervision of the society, where members contribute a booklet of stamps, which are circulated in rotation, amongst members, who at their leisure could inspect the material and remove any of the stamps they need for their own collections, or by a private arrangement amongst two or more individual members of a society, where a collector takes from his friend's duplicates any of the material he requires and giving in exchange stamps of more or less the same value, which his partner is very willing to add to his collection.

All philatelic societies abroad attach great importance to such an interesting activity and our society, mindful as to its desirability by its members is giving the matter the attention it rightly deserves and as a start organized its first exchange meeting on the opening night of the current season.

Furthermore, I am sure, that the committee of our society, would indeed welcome any suggestions from its members anent the organization of stamp exchanges as it is its express wish to be of full service to its members, who on their part, I am sure, would like to see our society passing from strength to strength.

WANTED.

ANY PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS OF MALTA.

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