

## **SOCIETY NEWS.**

**February 1967.** On the 2nd February the Society held its Annual General Meeting to hear the reports of the officers and to elect the new committee for the year.

The Secretary reported that the Society seemed to be gaining momentum and that our membership figures were on the increase. Activities of the Society were varied, and the Society now had the services of a Newsletter. All in all the first year had been a good year.

The Treasurer was unavoidably not available to read his report but it was stated that this would be done at the next meeting.

The Editor of the Newsletter stated that he would be leaving the Island in April and asked to be relieved of the duty in time to assist his successor.

The Editor also mentioned that as a result of publicity received in the U.K. magazine 'The Philatelic Magazine' some 30 letters had been received from overseas asking for details of membership of the Society. It was decided that this matter would be dealt with in Committee.

The question of the new Committee was raised and although it had been intended to hold a secret ballot it was decided unanimously to re-elect Mr. Louis Frank as President and Dr. Albert Ganado as Secretary. The new members elected to the Committee were Mr. Albert Dimech — Treasurer, and Mr. Paul Pace. Other officers and members retain positions as last year.

The Committee have put it on record that a vote of thanks be given to Fr. Orr and the Catholic Institute for their kindness during the past year with regard to using the rooms for meetings, and, also for the facilities for the duplicating and typing of the Society letters and the Newsletter.

There being no further business the meeting ended at approx. 7.30 p.m.

## **MONTHLY MEETING — FEBRUARY.**

The monthly meeting was held over until 20th February for various reasons. The display took the shape of Q.E. 11 Crown Colonies Mint unmounted all based on Thematic collecting. Examples of the definitives of most of the Crown Colonies were on display and most of these represented some theme or other — birds, ships and landscapes to name a few. The display was not all it might have been due to the absence of the display stands, but by passing the leaves up and down the rows of members this was overcome to a certain degree.

Surg. Capt. John Mercieca proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. David Browning for his fine display. The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

## MONTHLY MEETING — MARCH.

Held on the 6th March, the display was given by Mr. Boris Darmanin who arrived early and laid his leaves out and thus permitted all the members to peruse them at leisure. When the meeting commenced Mr. Darmanin said that perhaps he ought to explain something about this collection — which was of a rather varied and whimsical nature — two of the pages were in fact the selection of Chev. E. Cremona and the remainder coupled with his own collection had all started in an air raid shelter in 1943 with a gentleman who was collecting two sets of stamps to give as a dowry to his two daughters. Mr. Darmanin said that he had been helped by his father who had left him two tea chests full of stamps in the first place.

The President moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Boris Darmanin.

Following the display there was a lively and impromptu auction in which some very good bargains changed hands at well below catalogue price. If all members would undertake to provide a few small lots and pass them to a committee member this could be done more often — to the advantage of all — to the members, extra cash and to the Society with its 5% cut on realisations.

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m., one of the more successful evenings.

## MONTHLY MEETING — APRIL

This was held on the 3rd April and proved to be one of the most popular to date.

In his opening address Mr. Louis Frank welcomed Mr. Xuereb, the Post Master General, and several high dignitaries of the Church.

A small presentation was made to Mr. D. Browning in appreciation of his work for the Society in running the Newsletter. Mr. Browning leaves Malta owing to service commitments and takes up a new post in Cyprus.

The display and short film which drew many members and non-members was Mrs. S. Frank's excellent thematic collection of 'Religion on Stamps'. Stamps of many countries were featured including Brazil, Syria, Malta, Israel, New Zealand and the Vatican. Mr. Browning read the commentary during the showing of the film.

The stamps portrayed in the film were also on display for those members of the audience who wanted to see them in greater detail. It is hoped that Mrs. Frank can be persuaded to display this collection again sometime in the future for the benefit of those members who did not attend.

During the following week this display was again given, this time to His

Grace The Archbishop of Malta, the Most Rev. Michael Gnozi, His Lordship Mgr. E. Galea, Bishop of Tralles in Asia, and other dignataries of the Church. His Grace who was himself a stamp collector expressed great interest in the collection and mentioned many of the places portrayed on the stamps he had visited. Magte. Joseph Solei read the commentary accompanying the film. His Grace and Bishop Galea expressed their thanks for a most enjoyable evening.

Members of the Committee were present.

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