

The
Philatelic Society
of
Malta

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1966

Address all Correspondence to:

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P.S.M(Newsletter)
Sunny House, Tal Gebel Road,
Birzebbugia,
Malta G.C..

EDITORIAL

This is the first of the Societies Newsletters and as such is likely to be a little makeshift, this is to a certain degree, deliberate because when a new idea is launched, it should be possible to improve at least on the first of the productions. With this in mind I hope all Members will bear with me, until we obtain some positive shape and form into the Newsletter.

It is hoped by the time the next Newsletter is produced to have a cover designed by Chev Cremona, and also to have the pages printed rather than stenciled.

There is no list of contents with this first Newsletter, as this way I can include items right up to the time of production.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a digest of a letter received from the Malta Study Circle(U.K) if any member wishes to know more about this Society-please contact me.

The issue of this publication will coincide with the opening of the new season and the programme for the coming season is listed herein.

Enough from me, read on and I hope you find something of interest for YOU

The Editor

MEMBERSHIP

As promised at the last General Meeting, details of all members and some of the said members interests, have been despatched to all.

The reason for incompleteness, is that some Members have not returned the questionnaire circulated at the last two meetings, this can be put right in future editions of this Newsletter as can any amendment required.

As at 1st September the membership of the Society is 58, if every member made an attempt to enroll a new member at the beginning of the season, our Society would begin to mean something in philatelic circles.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

Regular meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, October to June. Informal meetings for exchange etc., may be organised by individual members, among themselves, on the third Monday of each month.

1966 - 1967

The New Seasons Programme: The first meeting of the new season will be on 3rd October 1966, at the Catholic Institute. This will commence with a series of slides - First Steps in Stamp Collecting - in colour, followed by a display by:

Mr Edwin England Malta stamps, covers, proofs and specimens
/ Nov 66

- Nov 66 Mr Paul Pace King George VI stamps
- Dec 66 Mr A.A. Plumb Malta - Varieties
- Jan 67 Messrs Joseph and John Hamilton First Day Covers with
Mr Albert Dimech Shakespeare on stamps
- Feb 67 Mr David A.V. Browning Queen Elizabeth II Thematic Issues
- March 67 Mr Boris Darmanin Stamps of the World
- April, May and June - To be arranged.

WHOS WHO

A series of Thumbnail sketches of members of the Society with interests.

Mr LOUIS FRANK President of the Philatelic Society of Malta, Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society. Travels extensively Europe and Australia. Lives at The Boomerang, St Roque Street Kalkara. Philatelic interests: Classical Europe, Malta Netherlands(Specialised) Blocks of Australia and other countries. Has fine collection of Jean de Sperati and other forgeries, and many other noteworthy items.

Next for the spotlight:

Dr Albert Ganado

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

- March 1966 Formed by the efforts of Mr Louis Frank, Dr Albert Ganado, Mr Boris Darmanin and Dr Charles Cassar. At the first meeting held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, the above were voted in as: President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee member respectively. In addition to the above Mgste Dr J Soler, Surg Capt J.H. Mercieca and Mr C.J. Whelpdale were elected to the committee.
- April 1966 First General meeting of the Society, A Sub-Committee was Formed under Surg Capt John H Mercieca to promote Juvenile Philately under the auspices of the main Society.
- June 1966 Final meeting of the first session of the Society - Programme for next season discussed and finalised also discussed was the circulation of complete members list and interests to enable members to approach other members with similar interests.
- July 1966 Extra-ordinary meeting called to discuss and settle outstanding Society business, including the producing of a Society Newsletter.

OTHER SOCIETIES

The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club was recently treated to a display of 'MALTA' by Mrs P Turnbull of Melbourne. The following report is quoted from that Society Journal.

Mrs Turnbull opened her display with early letters of the Knights of St John and included the second earliest letter known (dated 1614) The fourth earliest dated 1623, with a Maltese Cross waferseal, was also shewn and this was followed by a 1630 letter also with a waferseal.

A 1655 Leave Pass with the rare portrait seal of the Grand Master de Lascaris was appreciated as also were a number of entieres showing MARSEILLE/DE MALTE (each line struck separately), the same postmark struck in one handstamp, a letter written by the navigator D'Entrecasteaux in 1774 and two rare MALTA SHIP LETTERS.

Other items of particular interest were the colony's first arc type handstamp with and without PAID, Straight line MALTA POST PAID and MALTA POST OFFICE, MALTE BOITE MOBILE etc..

Mrs Turnbull also showed stamps and covers with the British Post Office first 'M' cancel. The used abroad items featured some very rare plate numbers and forwarding agents cachets.

Two mint copies of SG 1, plus one on cover and one with the 'M' cancel.

One of the five known copies of the farthing, red-brown, SG 36 imperf brought the display to a delightful conclusion.

PEN-FRIEND CORNER

With the formation here in Malta of the Philatelic Society, there have been some queries for pen-friends or exchange friends and in this space each publication will list names, addresses and interests of people who wish to make contacts in Malta. The letters, from those listed under, may be inspected at the next General meeting in October.

1. Werner Elbert 43 Essen-Kray, BRUNHILDLSTRASSE 55, D.B.R.
Wants a Stamp friend, New Issues exchanged on nominal basis.
2. Peter Tietjens 23 Kiel-Holtzenan, Richthofenstr 24, W. Germany.
Requires Malta New Issues since June - send details of price first !
3. John Rowden 'Otaru' 41 Terrace Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, U.K.
Exchange at moderate level.

EXCHANGE MATR

Under this heading in future newsletters Members will be able to list wants and exchanges. Members interested please contact the Editor.

PATRONAGE OF THE SOCIETY

The Minister for Posts, who is also the Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture

The Honourable Dr J. Spiteri LL.D.. has accepted the invitation to become the Patron of the Society.

AUCTIONS

It is the intention of the Committee of the Society, to take the opinions of all members present at the October meeting, with regard to holding Stamp Auctions.

It is considered if Auctions were held and 10% of monies raised were paid into the Society funds this would enable the Society to cover any additional expenses for film hire etc..

NEWSLETTERS

This Newsletter will be distributed free to all Members of the Society but it is doubtful if it will be possible to continue to do this.

The Editor is assembling all the facts and figures re: printing future Newsletters with the new Cover to be designed by Chev Cremona in colour and hopes to be able to give all the relevant details at the next General meeting.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The next Issue of Stamps to be made in Malta will be in Early October this will be the Annual Christmas Issue - this is made early enough to be available for transmission of Christmas Cards and letters to anywhere in the world.

FOOTNOTE

The aim of every member : to introduce a new member : NOW not later.

NEW ISSUES 1966 - MALTA

Sir Winston Churchill January 24th. 1966

Designer: Chev E.V. Cremona
 Printer : Harrison & Sons Ltd
 Process : Photogravure
 Watermark : Maltese Cross
 Size : 1.3876 x 1.3876 ins Sheets of 60
 Values : 2d, 3d, 1/-, 1/6..

IVth Centenary of the Foundation of Valletta March 28th. 1966

Designer : Chev E.V. Cremona
 Printer : Austrian State Printers
 Process : Photogravure
 W/Mark : Unwatermarked
 Size : 1.3876 ins square Sheets of 60
 Values : 2d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6..

President Kennedy Commemorative Issue 28th May, 1966

Designer : Chev E.V. Cremona
 Printer : Harrison & Sons Ltd
 Process : Photogravure
 W/Mark : Maltese Cross
 Size : 1.2507 x 1.142 ins vertical Sheets of 60
 Values : 3d, 1/6d..

NEW ISSUES Cont..

10th Malta Trade Fair 16th June 1966
Designer : Chev E.V. Cremona
Printer : Thos De La Rue & Co Ltd
Process : Photogravure
W/Mark : Maltese Cross
Size : 1.119 ins square Sheets of 60
Values : 2d, 8d and 2/6d.

Christmas 1966 October 1966

No details available as yet.

The above details are made available by curtesy of the Crown Agents Stamp Bulletin and acknowledgement is made for this use.

CROWN AGENTS STAMP BULLETIN

This bulletin is issued monthly and is full of interesting details about old and new issues of all Crown Colonies and other Commonwealth countries including Malta and the United Nations.

Details can be obtained from the Editor or direct from the Crown Agents:

Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations,
4 Millbank, London S.W. 1..

GRREAT BRITAIN - WORLD CUP 1966

One way or another, the 1966 World Football Competition for the Jules Rimet Cup has provided plenty of excitement, which culminated in the "Grand Finale" at Wembley on July 30th.

To mark this auspicious event, the British Post Office issued a series of stamps which were the first British stamps ever, to feature sportsmen.

This series was eagerly awaited by keen philatelists the world over. However, the set itself was rather disappointing, and was considered not up to the high standard of previous issues.

Several designs were submitted by well known designers - such as David Gentleman of Shakespeare and Churchill fame - but the actual stamps issued were the work of three different designers.

The set itself came in for quite a lot of criticism from Philatelic quarters and elsewhere. One Sunday paper in the U.K. described the 1/3d design as "A cartoon in the pop art mood of our time"

Mr Caplan who designed the 1/3d stamp, was rather unlucky in not having one of his other designs accepted. This was vetoed by the Foreign Office because it incorporated the flag of the diplomatically unrecognised country of North Korea.

We sincerely hope that the British Postmaster General's Stamp Advisory Committee, who assisted in the choice of the World Cup set will show more imagination in choosing future designs, thus helping to keep up the good name

which Britain is steadily acquiring through her improved stamp issues.

CUP WINNERS

On the 18th August, Britain issued the 4d stamp with inscription : "England Winners". However the 12 million stamps issued were sold out in a very short time - in some Post offices, within minutes.

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THE G.P.O. PHILATELIC BUREAU

The G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau has moved its Headquarters from London to Edinburgh in Scotland.

The First Day Cover service for the Pictorial(Technology) Special issue will be the first service of the kind to be made from the new HQ.

Any member who is interested in details of services available by the Bureau, please contact the Editor.

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LOCAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS IN "PHILADELPHIA COURIER"

An article on "World of Stamps" in the above journal, described the Malta stamps issued to commemorate the Late President John F Kennedy's birthday anniversary as the most effective of the Kennedy Commemorative Stamps.

(Courtesy of the Times of Malta)

IN FOCUS (RECENT ISSUES)

A set of three stamps was issued on the 16th June to commemorate the 10th Malta Trade Fair at Palazzo Marisio, Naxxar.

The design is common for all three values (2d, 8d, 2/6d) but the colours of the shapes and the background colours change with each value.

The design was rather an intriguing one and no-one could make head nor tail of it. We thought that Chev L. Cronina and the Crown Agents were pulling our legs with the entire design, before it was deduced what the "X" represented.

It may be pertinent to note here, that the stocks of the 2/6d value were quickly sold out at the G.P.O. as was shortly after the 8d value. This was due to speculative purchase of large quantities of both values.

The Society is making a protest to the Postmaster General.

LECTURES ETC BY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

It is requested that individual members, who may be called upon to give talks, displays or lectures covering the subject of Philately, do so under the auspices of the Philatelic Society of Malta.

LIST OF MEMBERS AND INTERESTS

Despatched with this Newsletter, will be a Questionnaire to be completed by those members who have not already done so - if this is done promptly and returned to the Editor a new members list will be circulated with all Members and Interests in full.

THE MALTA STUDY CIRCLE

The Malta Study Circle consists of some 90 members in eleven different countries. It was set up principally because of the absence of literature on the stamps and postal history of Malta. The Circle recently began to publish papers on both stamps and postal history. This is a slow but worthwhile process. Some of the more learned members write draft study papers, a few copies of which are circulated in turn to all members. Each member adds any additional information which he or she possesses and when all copies of the paper have completed their circulations, the results are written-up and published, a copy being provided for each member. Much to the surprise of some members, who consider themselves beginners, they have been able to contribute information because a stamp or cover in their collection has been found to bear an unusual date or variety.

A magazine - the "Malta Newsletter" - is published three times a year. It contains articles on Maltese philately, news about Malta Post Offices, members queries of general interest and it keeps members in touch with each other.

The Circle's year runs from October to the following September and the annual subscription is £1 - payable in advance.

Certain reductions are made for members joining part way through the Circle's year, for those under 18 years of age and for husband and wife.

Further details of the Circle may be obtained from the Editor or direct from

Mr M E Jetten, Hon Membership Society, 25 Hereford Court, Danesgate,
Wealstone, Harrow, Middlesex, U.K..

Members will remember the various discussions held on the Malta Study Circle, and it was suggested we might affiliate the Society to the Circle.

Dr Ganado (the Secretary) wrote to the Secretary of the Circle, and we are quoting extracts from the latter's reply:

" At present we have no provision in our rules for another organisation to join our Circle. Quite frankly, we do not think that this would achieve anything that could not be achieved by other means.

We shall be very pleased to send your Society a complimentary copy of all our publications and will make available further copies for your members at cost price. If these arrangements are acceptable, I can arrange for extra copies to be printed on future publications if you can give me some guide as to the quantity that your members are likely to require. The Newsletter costs 2/6d post free and the Study Paper 3/- post free.

We have contributed to a list of articles on Maltese Stamps and Postal history that is being prepared by the Philatelic Literature Association (U.S.A.). The resulting list will be published in the Philatelic Literature Review in the Autumn. If you would like to obtain a copy, I would recommend that you contact the editor: Mr Danniel W. Voors, P.O. Box 187, Canajoharie, New York 13317, U.S.A..

I hope the contents of this letter are of interest to your Society. I am sure we can work together for the mutual benefit of our members."

Interested members are requested to advise the Editor of the intention or wish to join the Malta Study Circle.

SALES OF RECENT MALTA STAMPS

These are the figures of Crown Agents sales of recent issues of Maltese stamps:

Kennedy	3d	77, 180
	1/6d	74, 013
Trade Fair	2d	57,960
	8d	57,960
	2/6d	57,610

It is emphasised that the above are Crown Agent figures and do not include sales on the Island, however attempts are being made to find out Total sales of the Trade Fair Stamps.

NEW MEMBERS

- 59 William J. Symonds St Vincen House, Tal Gebel Road, Birzebugia.
World Wide with bias to Commonwealth. IFC's Great
Britain and Commonwealth. Subscriber to G.P.O.
Philatelic Bureau.

NEW MALTA G.P.O. REGULATION

Members will remember that it was suggested that the Society make it's displeasure felt over the affair of the Trade Fair 2/6d and 8d stamps, and the fact that they were sold out after only a very short time - thus depriving

bona fide collectors the satisfaction of completing the sets, without paying excessively for the privilege.

As a result of all this, the Secretary wrote to the Postmaster expressing the opinion of the Society.

This appears to have resulted in a change in the Regulations governing the sale of stamps.

" The new rules state that when the quantity of postage stamps to be purchased is greater than that normally purchased at the counter, or when conditions make it so necessary, the Postmaster General may order that a previous written demand shall contain particulars as to the quantities and the denomination required.

The Postmaster General is now authorised to determine the maximum quantity of each denomination of commemorative postage stamps which may be sold to any one person at any one time.

When it is not possible for the Postmaster General to meet all the written requests from agents or individuals, he is now authorised to reduce the quantities requested in proportion to the stocks available for this purpose. "

(The above is quoted in part from Times of Malta Sept 19.)
acknowledgement is made with thanks.

LATE NEWS ITEM

MALTA CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Date of Issue: 7th October 1966
Designer : Chev E.V. Cremona
Printers : Thos De La Rue & Co Ltd
Process : Photogravure
W/Mark : Maltese Cross
Sheet Size : 60 to sheet
Values : 1d, 4d, 1/3d
Design : Impressionist style representing the Nativity, showing
The Child Jesus, Mary, Joseph and shepherds.

(Acknowledgements to Crown Agents Bulletin Sept 66)

FINAL FOOTNOTE

I hope all Members will be kind to the Editor and Assistant Editor who produced each and every bit of the publication. If every member would look out for items of special or general interest and pass same to either of the above gentlemen for inclusion in subsequent Newsletters. Remember this is your newsletter and your help is required to make it a success.

Hope to see you at the next General Meeting, Monday 3rd October, 1966 at the Catholic Institute - and remember our aim - a new member from every old member !!!!!

FINAL FINAL FOOTNOTE

Philately can get you somewhere.