

# 2014 MALTEX PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

by  
John A. Cardona



*H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta and Dr. Alfred Bonnici, President of the Malta Philatelic Society during the Inauguration speeches.*

Bonnici who introduced her to each exhibitor present.

The exhibition was blessed by Rev. Alfred Sacco of the Salesians of Don Bosco, and was followed by a most enjoyable reception during which the invited guests went round the participating exhibits.

MaltaPost p.l.c. figured amongst the stand holders apart from exhibiting a selection of artwork and other items from the postal archives.

All the exhibits were extremely good, if not unique, as there was something interesting and different to see by all those who visited the Exhibition. Public attendance was very good during the three days of the Exhibition.

This year the Committee chose as a slogan "*Changes in Philately*". Why was this chosen? In the 'Forward' to the Exhibition programme, Dr. Alfred Bonnici explained that it was chosen because nowadays stamp collectors have adapted themselves to the various changes that took place over the years. In the early days Malta stamp collecting had a rather restricted meaning to most philatelists.

Dr. Bonnici stated that in the past youngsters used to collect every stamp that came their way cutting them from envelopes and sticking them in copy books with a heading of the country they represented and exchanged duplicates. Later on they used to remove from envelopes Malta low values, put them in hundreds of each value and sell them to Stanley Gibbons and Malta dealers. The term postal history was not known.

In those early times there were very few Maltese that collected Malta as a speciality. This took a long time to sink in. Dr. Bonnici was glad to highlight that nowadays members of the Society have FIP winning collections of Die Proof, Specimens, Mint and Used collections, FDC, Miniature Sheets, Plate block of four, specialized 1/2d Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V, Queen Elizabeth II to modern issues. Knights of Malta 1530 – 1798, Napoleonic 1798 – 1800, British period 1800 – 1860 with different hand stamps, GB used in Malta. Mail Malta Gozo, pre adhesive material, Disinfection mail, Malta Air Mails and Graf Zeppelin mail from Malta, Post-man's hand stamps, Postage Due material, Green Cross labels, Village post marks, Gozo philatelic material hand stamps and Prisoner of war material.

Dr. Bonnici concluded that it took quite a number of years for the Malta philatelist to understand the above and start collecting with a specialist mentality.

Some of the above philatelic material featured in this year's Maltex Exhibition. In all fourteen members participated amongst them two youngsters. All were given a certificate of participation.

The exhibitors and their exhibits were as follows:-

**Bonello Carmel,**

“Fifty years of Maltese Christmas stamps”.

**Bonnici Alfred (Dr.),**

“Choice of rare Malta philatelic items”.

**Camilleri Anthony,**

“Greetings Cards originating from service personnel serving in Malta”.

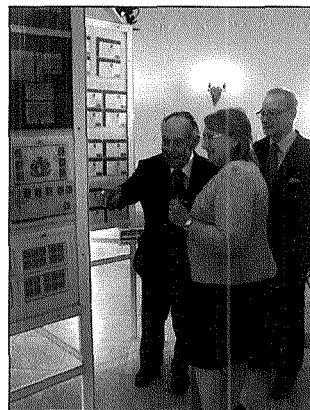
**Cardona John,**

“United Kingdom philatelic counter handstamps”.

**Cumbers Michael,**

1. “German Empire: ‘Germania’ issues 1900 – 1922 varieties”.

2. “Germany: Ruhleben Camp Stamp issues and German Empire”.



*J. Cardona*

**De Battista John,**

“A glimpse at the evolution of the Malta philately”.

**Parnis Gerald,**

“Ayrton Senna, Brazilian Hero 1960 - 1994”.

**Sant Anthony,**

“Revenue stamps on documents and fiscal receipts”.

**Wood Hadrian,**

“A tour around Gozo seen through old postcards”.

**Curmi Mary Jacqueline,**

“Purifie Au Lazaret Malte”.

**Cutajar Nick A.,**

“G.P.O. and Departmental Official Registered Mail”.

**Debrincat John Luke,**

“Currencies used on Malta stamps”.

**Howe Christopher,**

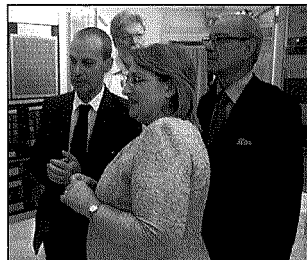
“Belgium – The December 1944 Victory issue and various other issues”.

**Micallef John,**

“50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Malta’s Independence”.



*J. De Battista*



*S. Parnis*



*H. Wood*



Wishing  
our members  
a Holy Christmas  
and  
a prosperous New Year