

# Update of Malta Philatelic Society on Internet

John Debattista

Late in 2006 an exercise was carried out by the secretary in order to review the Society's undertakings with the aim of optimising its resources. As a result of this exercise, the MPS Committee of the time, amongst other issues, noted that the annual financial outlay being devoted to keeping the MPS website was not a good example of getting value for money spent and the situation needed to be addressed. In fact since its launching in 2001, the tangible outcome of this initiative had only resulted in a handful of communications and one application for membership. It also transpired that to update the website on a regular basis was going to become an added financial burden on the Society, as this could not be done automatically by the MPS itself but necessitated having to make use of the services of the original web designer for every update.

Notwithstanding this distressing scenario, some members argued that it was still desirable for the Society to keep some sort of presence on the internet as this exposure was beneficial for all concerned. This issue was debated and a number of proposals were put forward and reviewed by the committee. Finally, in February 2007, it was unanimously agreed by the newly elected committee that the proposal put forward by Mr. Joe Buttigieg, the Society's Vice President, who offered to host information relating to the MPS and its activities on his Company's private website at no charge was a feasible solution and was to be accepted.

Mr. John DeBattista was entrusted with preparing the format of the site together with its contents. This was ready in time for the March Committee meeting which gave the green light to the proposed structure submitted. At this stage, Prof. Victor Buttigieg, Mr. Joe Buttigieg's son, took charge of the technical aspect of this venture and in no time at all completed the project.

As of the 21st May, the Society's internet presence can now be found hosted in the JB Sliema Stamp Shop website with the address being: <http://www.sliemastampshop.com.mt/MaltaPhilatelicSociety>.

Besides information which had previously been available on the original website, new features have been added so that the site would be more relevant to both members and non-members alike. Amongst these is the Society's Newsletter, published monthly, which has now been made available online and will be updated regularly as soon as it is issued. Another innovation is the inclusion of an index to the Society's Journal, which covers the period from its very first issue in 1967 up to 2004. It is intended that in the near future an updated version will be available to cover the issues from 2005 to date. It is also hoped that this index will become a point of reference for those wishing to source more information with regards

to specific subjects. Furthermore, the list of links to other interesting philatelic websites has been increased.

While auguring that this new simpler format will be found more user friendly than its predecessor, we hope that more members will start availing themselves of the services provided online. I would like to close off this resumé by thanking on behalf of the MPS both Mr. Joe Buttigieg and his son Prof. Victor Buttigieg. Their help in making it possible for the Society to continue with its web presence was instrumental.

## **Maltex VIII Philatelic Exhibition**

The Eight Malta Philatelic Exhibition is being held from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September at the *Green Lounge, Phoenicia Hotel*. The Exhibition will be open to the general public as indicated hereunder:

Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> September	09.00hrs – 18.00hrs
Saturday, 29 <sup>th</sup> September	09.00hrs – 18.00hrs
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> September	09.00hrs – 12.00hrs

The Exhibition will be inaugurated by H.E. The President of Malta Dr. E. Fenech Adami on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 18.00hrs.

All members are reminded that they are invited to attend the official opening.