

# An Interesting Air Mail Cover

by Anthony Fenech MRPSL



*Cover No.68 from the Catania Stamp Show sent to the late Peter Buttigieg a leading Maltese Philatelist at that time.*

Between December 23, 1947 and January 2, 1948, a Philatelic Exhibition of Air Mail stamps and covers was held in Catania, the show being organized by “The Aetne Exchange Club” of Catania and “The Associazione Filatelica della Sicilia Orientale”.

A special transportation service of air correspondence from Catania to Milan and from thence to any place in the world was effected on December 27. A limited number of special envelopes were prepared and dispatched on this service.

Maltese philatelists who wished to procure such a cover had to contact Dr Cirino Antonio Capra in Catania to whom they had to send Malta current mint stamps to the value of 2s 6d for each cover.

This Exhibition Cover is franked with three Italian Air Stamps cancelled by the double ring “Mostra Aerofilatelica 23-12-1947 — 2-1-1948” special canceller dated 27-12-47. It also bears the ‘courier’ pictorial label tied to the cover by the 42mm rubber stamp, applied in red ink and inscribed “Mostra Aerofilatelica”– Catania/ 27-12-1947 / Corriere Aereo Speciale / Catania— Palermo— Reggio – Napoli – Roma – Firenze— Milano” and is endorsed “VIA MILANO”, the hub from where all the covers were dispatched to their destination. The cover was delivered in Cospicua on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1948.