

The Fourth Maltex Philatelic Exhibition

10th, 11th, 12th October 2003

by Mr Anthony Fenech. MRPSL.



Malta Philatelic Society

Philatelic Exhibition

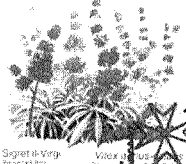
10th to 12th October 2003

*Under the patronage of
the Hon. Censu Galea, BE & A, A & CE, MP,
Minister for Transport and Communications*

Knowledge through Philately

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malta



Friday, 10 October
(9.00am - 1.00pm)

Saturday, 11 October
(9.00am - 6.00pm)

Sunday, 12 October
(9.00am - 1.00pm)

16c



at
St. Publius Hall,
50, St. Publius Street,
Floriana



*Mr J. Buttigieg, Mr T. Camilleri, Mr H. Wood,
Mr W. Rizzo, Mr A. Fenech, Dr A. Bonnici, Mr J. Cardona.*

Maltex 2003 organised by The Malta Philatelic Society was held from 10th to 12th October in St. Publius Hall, Floriana. On Friday 10th and Sunday 12th October, the Show was open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Saturday 11th October from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Maltex IV was officially inaugurated by The Transport and Communications Minister Censu Galea who acted as Patron of the Exhibition. The opening function for Society members and participants was held on Friday evening. Mr Robert Lake, Maltapost CEO, Mr Frank Dimech, Maltapost Chairman, Members of The Stamps Design Advisory Board and senior officials of Maltapost attended the Official Opening Ceremony which was followed by a very pleasant reception.

The theme of this year's exhibition was "Knowledge through Philately". The exhibition opened on Friday morning specifically to welcome school children and teachers. I feel certain that the Organising Committee and Members of The Malta Philatelic Society were more than satisfied watching more than four hundred school children thronging St. Publius Hall on Friday morning and studying the exhibits very closely. The Education TV Channel 22 filmed several school children while they were going round and observing the wealth of philatelic material displayed in the various exhibiting frames set up in the Hall. The radiant faces of some of the students while they were being interviewed by the TV crew mirrored their

satisfaction of having expanded their knowledge through this philatelic extra curricular activity.

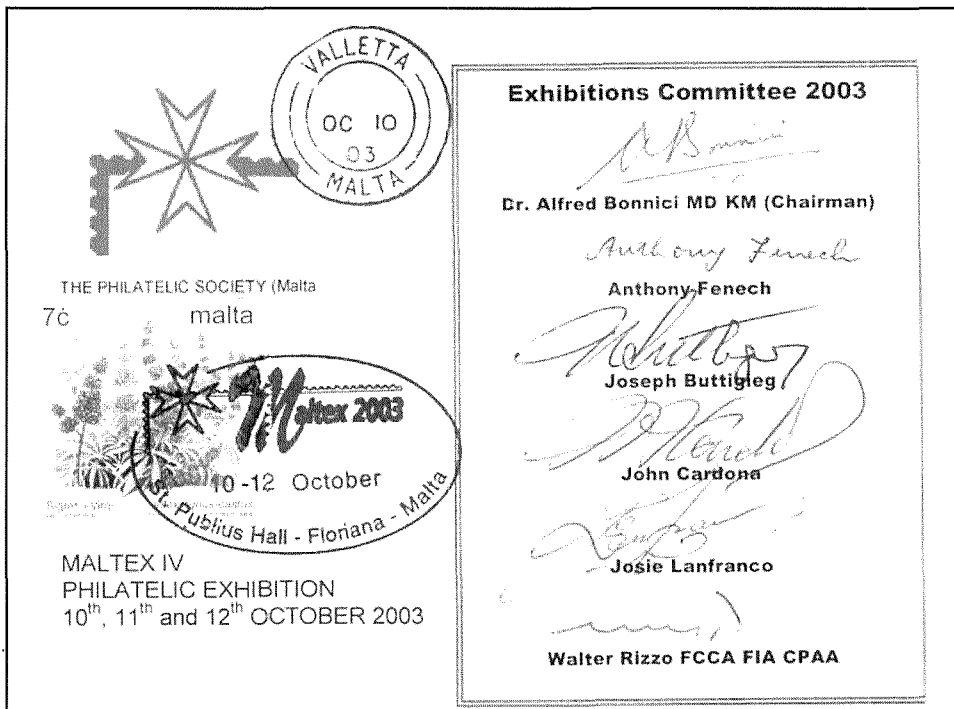
In his address of welcome, Chev. Dr. Alfred Bonnici, President of The Malta Philatelic Society and Chairman of Maltex IV Organising Committee told the distinguished guests present for the Opening Ceremony that his Society strongly believes that Philately can be a subtle way how to improve and expand one's knowledge. He assured Maltapost top officials of the Society's full support and cooperation and expected that Maltapost would in turn acknowledge, reciprocate and support the Malta Philatelic Society's endeavours in promoting philately in the Maltese Islands and abroad. The Hon. Censu Galea congratulated The Malta Philatelic Society for its efforts in holding such a prestigious Show and augured further successes in the future.

After the Exhibition had been blessed by Father Anthony Galea S.J., the Chairman and Members of Maltex IV Organising Committee invited the Hon. Minister and other distinguished guests to admire closely the wealth of philatelic material displayed in the various frames set up for the occasion.

There were fifteen exhibits in total, of which eight were of Malta; the standard was up on the previous years. Dr. Alfred Bonnici displayed documents and letters dispatched during the last years of The Order, Siege letters of the French Occupation and letters of the Early British Period. Among the letters displayed, one stood out most for its historical importance. The letter is dated September 6, 1800, sent by an Army Officer, Capt C.J.Riddle to his brother describing how, while in Malta the previous day, he took possession of Fort Tigne' with 100 men and having hoisted the first British flag on the Island. This exhibit also included another set of letters written by Archpriest Cassar, Commander in Chief of the Gozitan resisting Forces, to his Commanders at the time of the French Siege of Gozo.

The visitors admired Mr Anthony Camilleri's Gozo Village postmarks – the elusive Ghainsielem strike and Garbo PM (both ex. Peter Buttigieg) and the rare Gozo village strikes on cover which would make one's mouth water! Mr Hadrian Wood's Civil Internee covers during World War II were also an attraction. The postal history of Zebbug Postal District was ably portrayed by Mr Carmel Scicluna Bonnici himself hailing from Zebbug. Mr Anthony Fenech displayed Malta Postal Stationery exhaustively. Mr Hadrian Wood also displayed one frame of his favourite Postal Stationery items with very scarce Reply Paid Postcards and a unique miscut KG VI 1 ½ d Postal Stationery Card.

The thematic exhibits revealed a wealth of philatelic material. Mr Carmel G. Bonavia excelled in his "Papal Journeys – on the recurrence of the XXV Year of the Pontificate of His Holiness Pope John Paul II" contribution. Hats off to his late brother Fr. Emanuel Bonavia who for many years had collected the information and literature on the Pope's journeys, parts of which had been expounded



Souvenir envelope produced by Mr John De Battista.

by “Karmenu” in his rich and informative display. Mr John Cardona very aptly chose to display the 1949 Universal Postal Union British Commonwealth Omnibus sets issued to celebrate the 75th Anniversary since the U.P.U. Foundation. Incidentally on the eve of Maltex IV Exhibition, Maltapost had issued a commemorative handstamp to commemorate U.P.U. World Post Day.

The visitors to Maltex IV admired also the lovely displays by Prof. Lino Cutajar “That was the Age of the Tram – It got you there!” and the History of the Omnibus on stamps. Maltese philatelists will be regaled next year with a stamp issue by Maltapost commemorating the History of The Tram in Malta. Mr Joe Cachia’s thematic collection of U.S.A. stamps issued to commemorate the Main Events, Achievements and Personalities of The Century was admired by the many visitors who were attracted to the frames he had displayed. Another exhibit that had enthralled the visitors was the thematic array of stamp issues commemorating the 60th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II presented by Joseph A. Zahra.

Favourable comments were showered on two other thematic exhibits - “The Sede Vacante – Habemus Papam!” displayed by Mr John Micallef and “Tennis on Stamps” presented by Mr Joseph Fenech. As Dr. Alfred Bonnici had expressed in his ‘Forward’ to the Maltex IV Souvenir Program distributed complimentary to

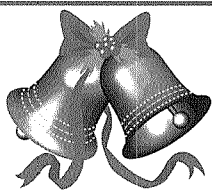
all the visitors to the Show: "The Thematic Section of The Exhibition educates us and expands our knowledge on the themes displayed."

It is very satisfying that three Junior exhibitors, Max Schembri Wismayer, Matthew Zahra and Luke Zerafa covered the following topics in their exhibits: Ships, Religion on Stamps, Pope John Paul II's Visits and Maltese Traditions. We hope that in future Maltex National Stamp Exhibitions, more Junior exhibitors will participate.

A Maltapost Temporary Branch Post Office was set up at the Exhibition offering a special Maltex 2003 cancellation plus other normal postal services such as sale of stamps and postal stationary and registration of letters. All young visitors to the T.P.O. were given a small complimentary pack of cards and stamps.

Maltex IV had also attracted the local leading stamp dealers – Messrs Sliema Stamp Shop, Emmanuel Said Ltd and Fryent Stamps, who very kindly offered free stamp packets or thematic sheets to school children visiting their Stand. Besides, International Stamp Dealers – Messrs John Curtin Ltd. and Geoff Milsom from U.K. and Dr. Luciano Cruciani and Coll-It (Vincenzo Maselli) from Italy held Stands where visitors could buy quality stamps, covers and collections. Messrs John Curtin Ltd. also offered free valuations of private collections during the week-end Show.

This year's Maltex Stamp Exhibition was a success. It was well attended and the visitors were very appreciative. All looked forward to future Maltexes. The Organising Committee should be congratulated on putting on such an excellent show!



The Malta Philatelic Society
wishes all our members
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
