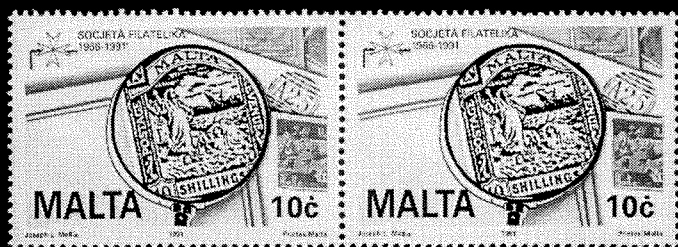


The Philatelic Society of Malta Celebrates its Silver Jubilee 1966-1991

By Dr. Alfred Bonnici

On the 6th March of this year the Philatelic Society of Malta befittingly commemorated the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the actual day on which the society was founded in 1966 and to mark this historic occasion Dr John H. Mercieca, the society's President for the past twenty-one successive years, delivered an appropriate commemorative address to a sizeable number of members who filled the hall of the Centru Sportiv Edukattiv, Floriana, which was followed by a reception.



On the very same day, ie on March 6, the Postal Administration of Malta issued an attractively-designed 10c stamp by the artist Mr Joseph L. Mallia together with a neat first-day handstamp to mark the event.

By a unanimous decision of the Committee the main events to celebrate this important occasion in the annals of the history of the Philatelic Society of Malta were fixed to take place during the last week of the month of May of this year, from the 22nd to the 29th.

It was decided to hold a PHILATELIC WEEK, during the course of which lectures and displays, an exhibition, a thanksgiving service and the jubilee Dinner were to be held.

To commemorate this Philatelic Week, the Postal Administration from the 22nd to the 29th May used a special oval handstamp, depicting the Society's logo and the wording - 1966-1991 - Philatelic Society - 22-29. V. 1991 - Philatelic Week - Valletta, Malta.

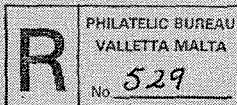


In addition to the philatelic items issued by the Postal Administration and the stamp firms for the first-day of issue of the 10c stamp in March, the Society printed and put on sale a limited number of attractively-designed envelopes, philatelic cards and folders with the Society's logo depicted thereon. In addition the Society issued a very limited number of

ON POSTAL SERVICE

REGISTERED
(RECOMMANDE)

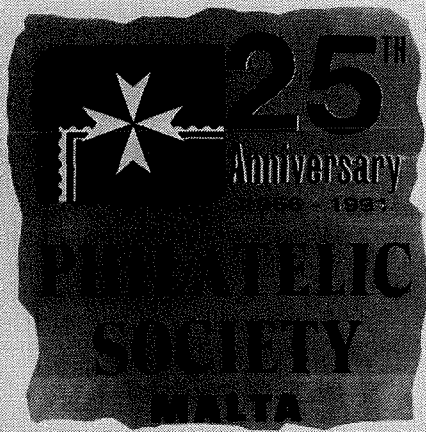
25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDATION
OF THE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY



DR A BONNICI
CASA BONNICI
SIR AUGUSTUS BARTOLO SIR
TA' XBIEX
MALTA

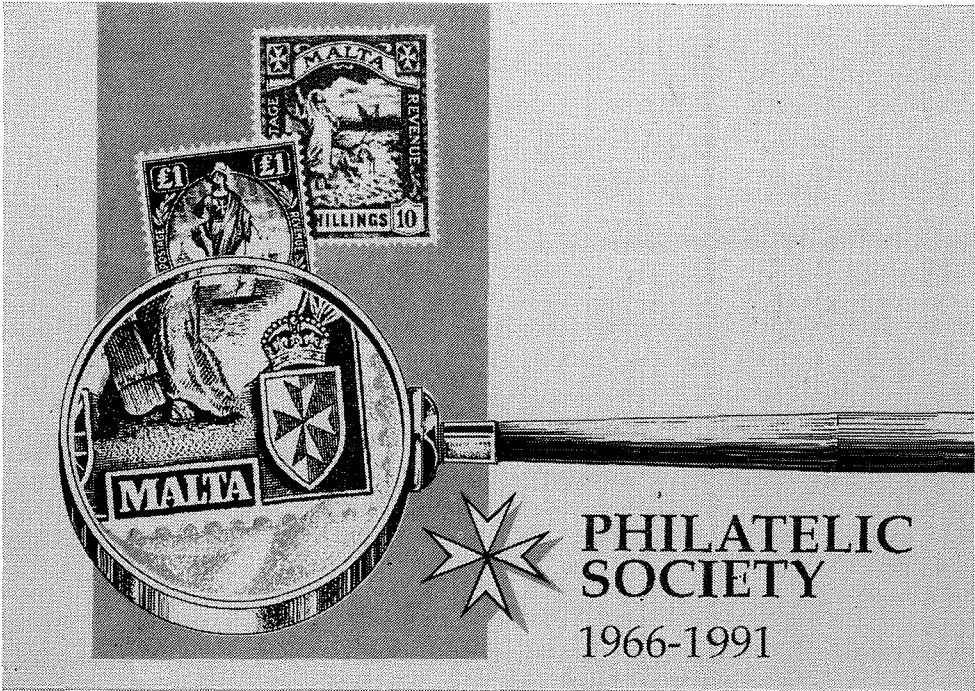
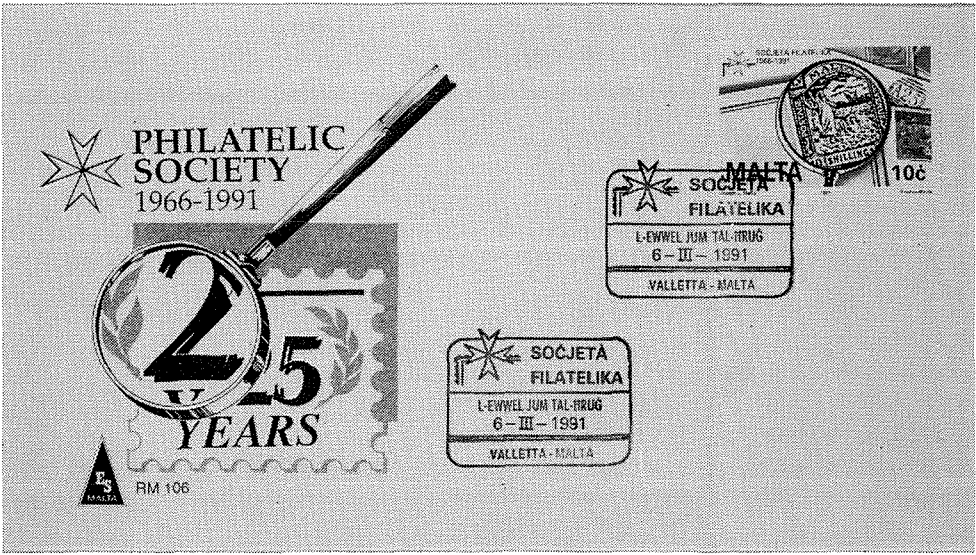
First Day Cover issued by the Malta Post Office

First Day Cover issued by the Sliema Stamp Shop



JB FIRST DAY COVER RM 107





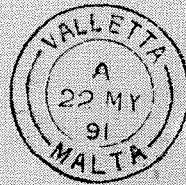
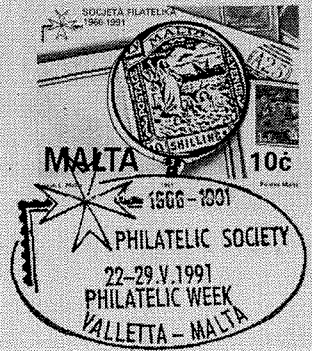
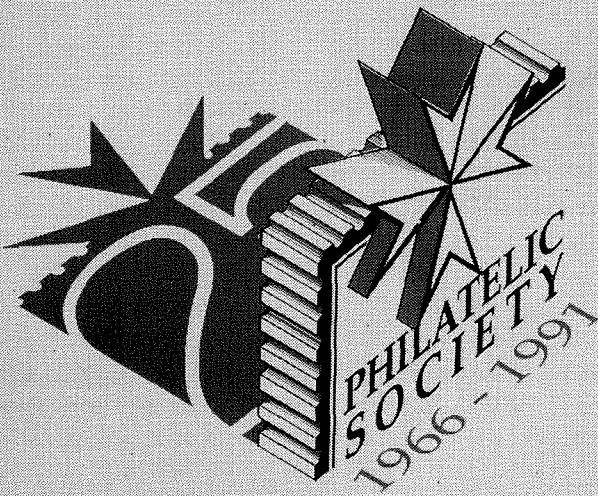
First Day Cover and Card issued by Messrs Said International



YEARS
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY
1966 - 1991



Dr. J. H. Mercieca
Dr. J. H. Mercieca
PRESIDENT



First Day Cover and Card issued by the Malta Philatelic Society

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

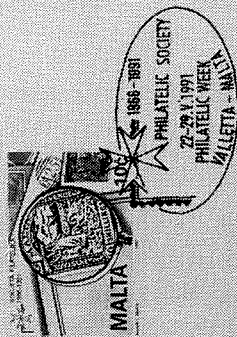
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The Society caters for all types of stamp enthusiasts but the major interest is no doubt the study of Maltese Stamps and Postal History.

Already in the Autumn of the same year of its foundation, the Society published its first humble newsletter. Thereafter, the PSM Magazine began to be published three times yearly, right up to the present day. This publication received several awards at different International Philatelic Exhibitions held under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie. (F.I.P.)

In 1975 the Society applied for membership of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie and thus, its members became eligible to send exhibits to the philatelic exhibitions held in different countries of the world, winning prestigious awards for their collections.

This year a new logo, designed by our Council member Mr. Carmel G. Bonavia, was adopted. Our President, Dr. U.H. Mercieca, has been leading the Society for the last twenty-one successive years. The Society's Silver Jubilee of its foundation was marked by a commemorative stamp issued by the Malta Post Office.



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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SILVER JUBILEE DINNER

Fresh Vegetable Soup
or
Beurrecks à la Turque

Triad Chicken Provençale
or
Sicilian Steak in Madeira Sauce
or
Acciada in Capor Sauce

Vegetables in Sauson Cream and Corn Potatoes

Cassatella Siciliana

Coffee

Glass of Wine

IMPERIAL HOTEL - SUEMA

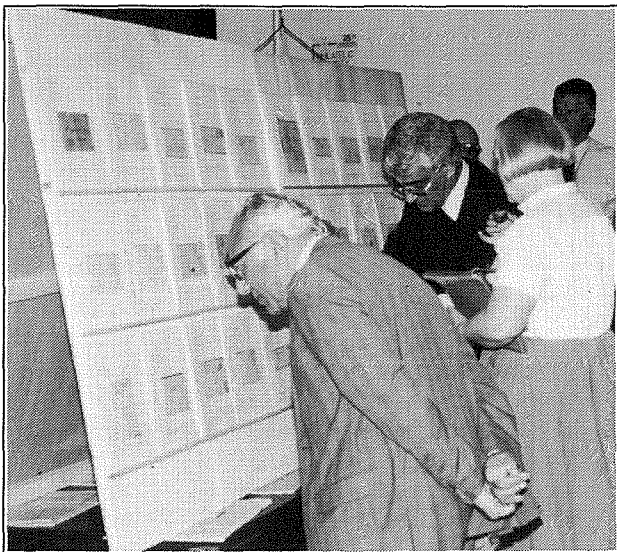
25 May 1991

special covers, each signed by the President, to be given to all Members, whose names were on the Society's books on December 31, 1990.



Accordingly the Philatelic Week was inaugurated by the President, Dr John H. Mercieca, on Wednesday, May 22, prior to a very interesting, informative and instructive lecture, illustrated by slides, on the History and Development of the

Post and Telegraph in Malta by Dr Giovanni Bonello LL.D., which was highly appreciated by the sizeable audience present.

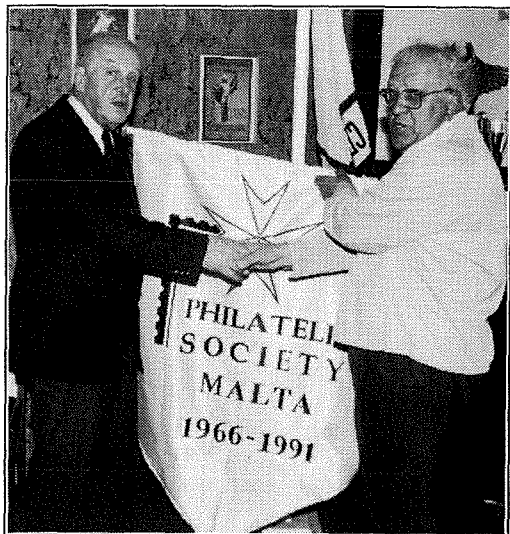


A most interesting exhibition of choice Malta postal history items, which included Grandmasters' letters, Zeppelin Flight Covers, Maritime Mail and other covers, belonging to members, was held at the Centru Sportiv Edukattiv, Floriana, in the afternoon of Saturday, May 25. This Exhibition attracted a good number of local and foreign enthusiasts of this popular

philatelic speciality.

Prior to the inauguration of the exhibition, Mr C. Bonavia presented Dr Mercieca the new banner incorporating the newly-adopted logo of the society designed by Mr Bonavia himself.

The highlight of the Jubilee celebrations, however, was the festive dinner, held in the evening of the same day, at the Imperial Hotel, Sliema, at which the Hon Francis Zammit Dimech, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Communications and the Postmaster General, Mr Alfred Costa and Mrs Costa were the Guests of Honour.



After proposing the toast "The President of Malta", the President, Dr John Mercieca, rose to deliver his after-dinner speech in the course of which he emphatically expressed his satisfaction and that of his Society at having succeeded in arriving to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its foundation, a veritable landmark indeed in the history of Philately in Malta. Dr Mercieca availed himself of the presence of the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Communications and the Postmaster General to thank them for having acceded to his proposal to issue a special commemorative stamp and handstamp to mark the



Society's Jubilee. Dr Mercieca also thanked all members for the support they had given the Society during these twenty-five years and in a special way those who had served as Members of the Committee – Dr Albert Ganado, Dr Alfred Bonnici, Mr Cecil Diamantino, Mr Albert Dimech, Mr Anthony Fenech, Mr Carmel Bonavia, Mr Godwin Said, Mr Joseph Buttigieg, Mr Hadrian Wood, Lt Col William Attard, Mr Tony Camilleri and Mr Joseph Farrugia – with each of whom he exchanged a hearty handshake. The President then passed on to remember the deceased members of the Society, who had departed this life during these twenty-five years. Dr Mercieca then welcomed the overseas members at the Dinner and thanked them for coming all the way from the UK and from Italy to participate with their local friends at this truly festive and historic occasion.

Following Dr Mercieca's speech, the Hon Dr Francis Zammit Dimech proposed the toast "The Philatelic Society of Malta" and in his speech praised the Society for the sterling advice its experienced members gave the Posts Department on philatelic matters. He singled out Dr Mercieca for his leadership of the Society, which was accepted as a full member of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie during his term. He also praised the PSM Magazine for its high standard. Dr Zammit Dimech expressed his appreciation of the interest in philately, the Society and the Malta Study Circle generated through research. He concluded by wishing the Society continued success.

Dr Alfred Bonnici, Vice-President and Editor of the PSM Magazine, then thanked Dr Mercieca for his long and dedicated service in the welfare of the Society and said that Dr Mercieca was instrumental in leading the Society to this milestone and in the name of the Society presented him with an inscribed silver paperknife.



Dr Mercieca thanked Dr Bonnici and the Society for the unexpected gift, which, he said, would always be a memento of the long and happy connections he had with the Society.

Also present at the dinner were prominent members of the Malta Study Circle of London, together with Mr Lorenzo Mantegna of Milano.

Mr Brian P. Hobbs, past Chairman of the London Malta Study Circle, and Mr Mantegna congratulated the Malta Philatelic Society in their speeches.

An attractively-designed Menu Card, with the 10c Philatelic Society Jubilee stamp cancelled by the special Philatelic Week postmark, was given to the diners. Dr Mercieca then cut a special cake with the Society's name and anniversary dates kindly presented by the Manager of the Imperial Hotel.

The two priest members of the Society, Fr Anthony Galea, S.J., and Fr Louis Camilleri, cancelled



celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass at Sarrìa Church, Floriana on Sunday, May 26. The Mass was also offered for the repose of the deceased members of the Society and especially for the repose of Dr Edwin Aquilina, a past editor of the PSM Magazine and Miss Daisy Formosa, one of the Society's most active members, who passed away ten days before.



Monday, May 27 was allotted for talks and displays of postal history items brought over to Malta by two prominent members of the Malta Study Circle of London, Mr Bryan P. Hobbs, past chairman and Mr Conyers Rutter, immediate past chairman, both members of the local society as well.

On Wednesday, May 28, Dr Albert Ganado, a founder member of the Society and for over 20 years its Secretary, gave a highly interesting and informative talk on the 1926 3d. Postage stamp with the overprint inverted under the title "The 3d. Postage Stamp with Inverted Overprint – Was it a Forgery?" This lecture was indeed very well received by the audience and aroused much interest.

To bring the Silver Jubilee celebrations and the Philatelic Week to their conclusion, Dr Mercieca, after thanking Dr Ganado for his very interesting and enlightening talk, thanked all members for the support they had given the Society during the first quarter of a century of its lifetime and also for participating in the many activities which the Society had prepared to celebrate appropriately this milestone in its history, and was proud to affirm that they, by far outshine in magnificence those held in 1976 and 1986 for the celebration of the tenth and twentieth anniversaries respectively.

He assured that the Society would continue to cater for the interests of philately and philatelists in Malta for yet many more years to come.