

**Speech Delivered by Dr John H. Mercieca, D.Sc. (Hons. Causa), D.D.S., President of the Philatelic Society of Malta, at the Dinner held at the Imperial Hotel, Sliema, on Saturday, May 25 1991, on the occasion of the Philatelic Week, held between 22nd and 29th May, 1991 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Society.**





Honourable Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Communications, Mr Postmaster General, Mrs Costa, Ladies and Gentlemen!

We have made it! YES we have **indeed** made it!! Perhaps you may not appreciate enough with what great pride, satisfaction and happiness I have pronounced and again emphatically repeated this short but meaningful phrase, with which I have introduced this address of mine, on this memorable occasion this evening, for, when 25 years ago this Society was born, and even throughout the earlier years of its existence, judging by the then prevailing circumstances and prospects, I never for a moment believed or even entertained the slightest hope that what we already celebrated and are today still celebrating, ie the 25th Anniversary of this Society, could have possibly ever materialised. Thus we have every reason to rejoice and celebrate, for that which was not anticipated to occur, has indeed happened.

As a keen stamp lover and enthusiast, since my early childhood, it has always been my wish and my ambition to see in my country, as there are in many other countries of the world, a well-organised philatelic society, which I could join and possibly work for. As a matter of fact I was a Member of the Committee of the two previous Philatelic Societies, which I also struggled hard, but alas without

success, to save from their premature extinction. So, when in March 1966, this present Philatelic Society was formed it was with much pleasure that I joined it and at the First General Meeting, elected to serve on its first Committee which was composed of: Mr Louis Frank, President, Dr Albert Ganado, Secretary, Mr Boris Darmanin, Treasurer and Dr Charles Cassar, Dr John Mercieca, Mag.te Dr Joseph Soler and Mr Charles Whelpdale, Members.

May I, on this occasion, repeat once again, what some of you may have heard me affirm before. When in 1971 I accepted the mandate of the Annual General Meeting to serve as President of this Society, which was subsequently annually reconfirmed for the past 21 successive years, while thanking you for the great and sustained confidence you have shown in me, I would honestly like to assure you, that my acceptance to serve you as your President, for all these long years, was always motivated by my strong and fervent desire to work harder and harder in promoting the welfare and aggrandisement of this my and your Society, whose continued healthy existence and progress have throughout these 25 years always been my only concern and ambition and also to be at the service of this Society and to you, my dear friends, whenever and wherever the occasion arose and the situation demanded it of me.

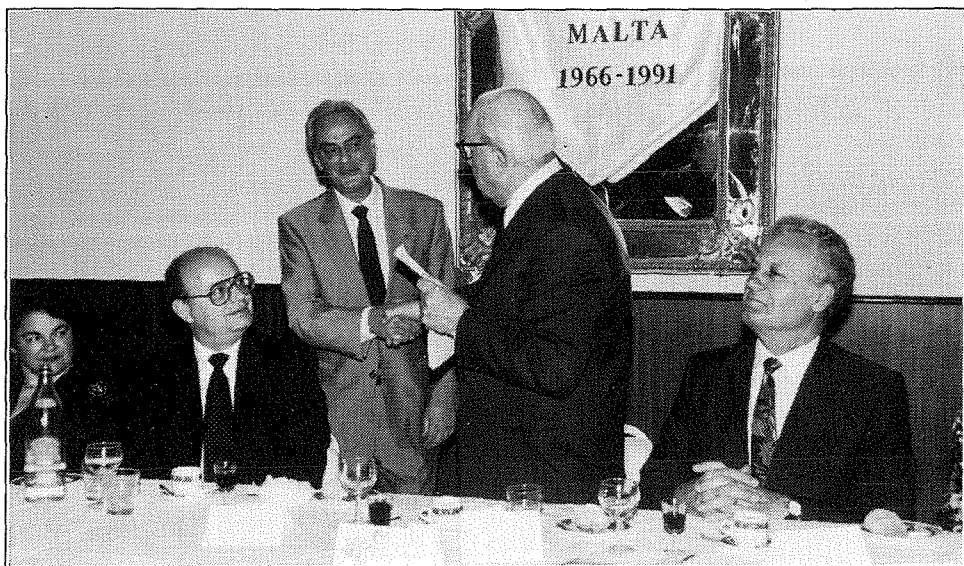
After this Society had befittingly celebrated and commemorated the 10th Anniversary of its foundation in 1976 and again, with still greater pomp, its 20th in 1986, my mind and my eyes were immediately set on the year 1991 and so I started preparing the Society to celebrate its third and definitely most important of all the anniversaries of the last 25 years - its Silver Jubilee.

As the five years, following the 20th Anniversary celebrations rolled relentlessly on, and the count-down, which I set in my mind, month after month, got nearer and nearer the long-awaited year 1991, indeed great was my elation when I realised that we had arrived at the post, **and that we had made it.**

And here, indeed I have to thank the Good God for having granted me the great favour, of the fulfilment of my great wish, that of being here with you this evening to celebrate this Silver Jubilee for, I must admit, that at one time I began to have serious doubts as to whether I was going to make it, when around Christmas time last year and again early last month, I spent altogether six weeks in hospital, rather seriously ill.

And now, my sincere thanks go to all our members, who by their support and cooperation, during these five lustres have made possible the continued healthy existence of this Society.

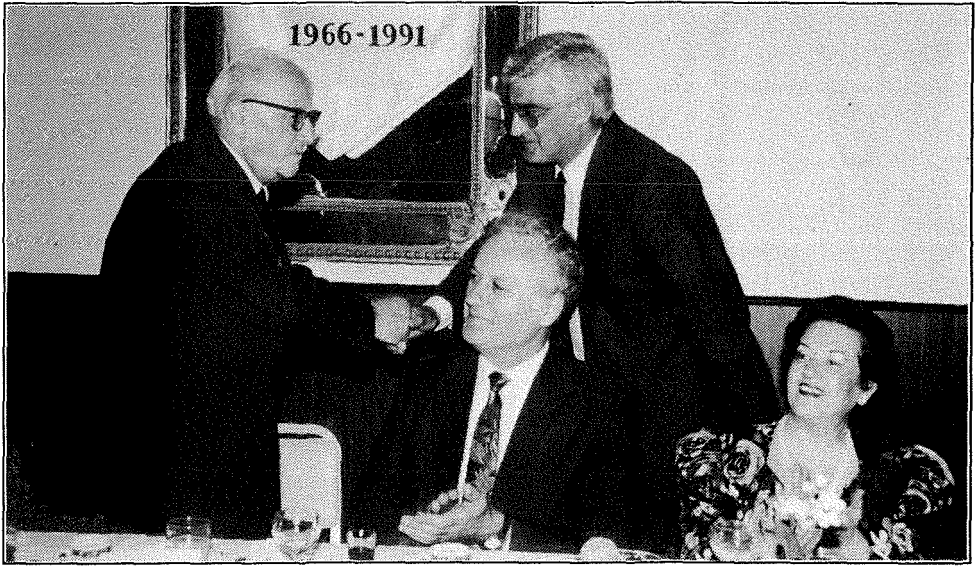
Again my most grateful thanks go to all those members, who from time to time during these 25 years have served on the Committee and have so unselfishly given their valid contribution in the different offices assigned to each and every one of them in the interests of the Society and I do feel that it would be a nice gesture if on this festive jubilee occasion, I publicly thank them for the good work they have put in on behalf of this Society and also exchange a hearty hand-shake with each and every one of them and thus I start by calling:



**Dr Albert Ganado**, one of the active founders of this Society and also its first secretary, which important key position he held with efficiency and distinction, for over 20 years.

**Dr Alfred Bonnici**, since many years the Society's Vice-President and for the past eight years editor of the PSM Magazine, which under his editorship has made gigantic strides forward, winning many prestigious awards at various international philatelic exhibitions and is also the life line with our overseas members.





**Mr Cecil Diamantino**, our present, hard-working Secretary, who took over the secretaryship from Dr Ganado and who has always carried out his duties most efficiently and meticulously, with a gentle smile.

**Mr Albert Dimech**, the Society's second Treasurer in the late sixties and who after returning to the fold about six years ago, has again most scrupulously and efficiently been handling the Society's accounts and monies.





**Mr Anthony Fenech**, an active founder member, who as Exchange Superintendent has very efficiently and competently organised the Society's Exchange Packets and Auctions, a very time-consuming office, yet so much to his heart.

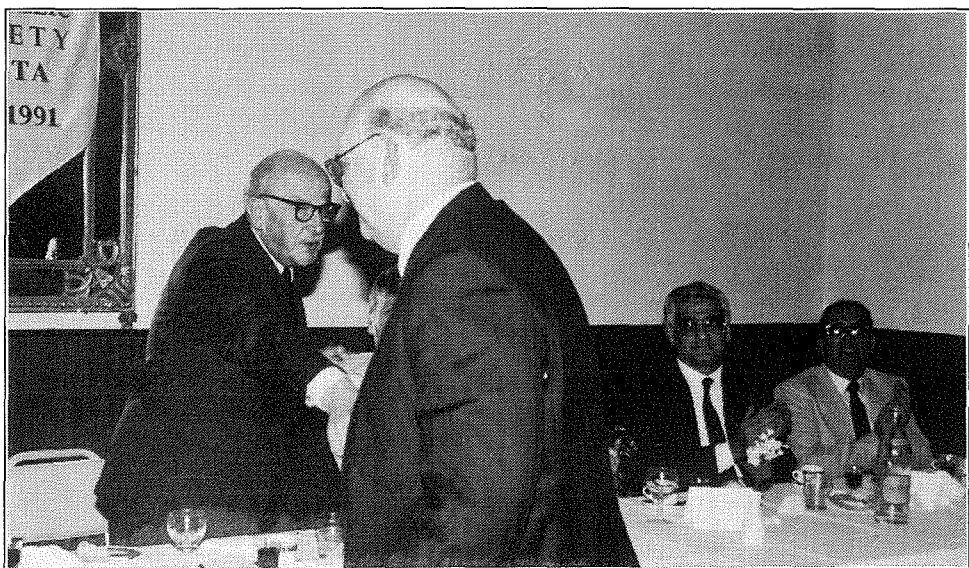
**Mr Carmel Bonavia**, our hard-working Assistant Secretary, who is above all a veritable expert in matters of design and decoration. he is also the designer of the recently-adopted Society's neat logo and who has also put in a lot of hard work in the different spheres of the preparations for these 25th Anniversary celebrations.





**Mr Godwin Said**, who ever since the Society's election as a full member of the FIP has with much zeal and credit, carried out the duties of Exhibitions Commissioner. Mr Said is also to be thanked for placing his offices and staff at the disposal of the Society, in order that all the preliminary work connected with the 25th Anniversary celebrations could possibly be carried out.

**Mr Joseph Buttigieg**, who has always been most willing to help in connection with photocopying and other ancillary office work.





**Mr Hadrian Wood**, for his efficient liaison work between our Society and the Malta Study Circle of London.

**Lt Col William Attard**, who for a number of years has efficiently given his contribution as a Member of the Committee.







**Mr Tony Camilleri**, a newcomer, yet very promising member of the Committee, deeply interested in the Society's affairs and work.

**Mr Joseph Farrugia**, who for a number of years was the Assistant Editor of the PSM Magazine and an active and competent member of the Committee. Mr Farrugia has also contributed immensely in the mailing of the PSM Magazine to members.



The support given and the work put in by deceased members of this Society is not to be forgotten and appreciated, so it is our duty too, to remember all our departed members, who would have surely enjoyed being with us on this historic and auspicious occasion, had they still been alive, outstanding amongst whom are the highly-efficient late Treasurer, Mr Vincent Mercieca and the two well-known members of this Society, Dr Edwin Aquilina, who was the PSM Magazine Editor from 1968 to 1973 and Miss Daisy Formosa, one of the most, if not the most, active members the Society has ever had, who never missed a meeting unless she was sick or was abroad, both of whom departed this life within the last ten days.



Availing myself of the presence amongst us, as our distinguished guests, of the Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Communications and the Postmaster General, Mr Alfred Costa, I would firstly like to thank them for accepting our invitation to join us on this truly festive and happy occasion and secondly for having accepted and approved my suggestion and proposal to issue a stamp to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of our Society's foundation, which has met with the approval of both local and overseas philatelists and which I and other Society members proudly call or allude to as "our own stamp". May I here also avail myself of this opportunity to pledge my and my Society's support to the Malta Postal Administration and assure the Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Communications and the Postmaster General of our willingness to cooperate and advise on all matters pertaining to Philately, if and when required and demanded.

No better proof of the very pleasant and happy relations existing between our Society and the Malta Study Circle of London could be forthcoming than the very presence amongst us this evening of five prominent members of the Malta Study Circle of London — Mr Bryan P Hobbs, past Chairman, Mr Con Rutter, immediate past chairman and Mrs Rutter, Mr Frank Gray, Secretary and Mrs Ann Harris,



a prominent member as also Signor Lorenzo Mantegna, representative of the Malta Study Circle of London and our Society in Italy. May I take this opportunity to assure them of our warm welcome and of our great pleasure to have them here to celebrate with us, this evening, while thanking them for travelling hundreds of miles to come to Malta to celebrate in this happy event, not only as representa-



tives of the Malta Study Circle, but, what yet more, in their own right as full members of our local Society.

Concluding this Silver Jubilee address of mine, may I sincerely trust that the high spirit of fraternity and collaboration, so manifestly evident within this Society, which has guided us and seen us so successfully through this eventful quarter of a century of the Society's lifetime, be an inspiration to all of us and an incentive to consolidate all that has been achieved and also serve as a stimulus to yet further attainments.

May I also trust that those who, from time to time, shall be entrusted with the onus of managing and promoting this Society in the years that lie ahead and in whose hands will lie its destinies, shall continue without fail, to willingly and generously give their valid contribution, in order that periodic intermittent phases of apathy, suspense and inactivity that could appear from time to time, endangering the Society's very existence, be happily avoided and decisively overcome. And finally may the pride and the determination in maintaining the high name of this Society continue to be our guiding light in the years to come, that we may continue to keep this Society strong, active and flourishing for yet MANY, MANY MORE YEARS TO COME.

**LONG LIVE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA.  
THANK YOU.**