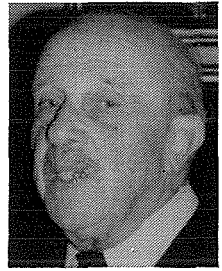


# From the President's Desk

Dr. J.H. Mercieca

After having befittingly celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of its foundation in 1976, it is indeed with good reason that the Philatelic Society in Malta, is again, this year, appropriately commemorating and marking the TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY of its first Meeting, at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, on the 7th March 1966, when it was founded, and those philatelists and stamp lovers, who, in different ways, have contributed to its survival and continued welfare have every right to be proud to see their Society attain its twentieth birthday.



It is indeed a great encouragement and truly a source of much satisfaction to find the SOCIETY registering progress in the different spheres of its formation.

Surely one of the healthiest signs of its existence is to see the membership, both local as well as overseas, constantly on the increase, though unfortunately not yet at the desired level.

Thanks to the selfless disposition and the sustained efforts of a number of its members as well as to the helpful contribution of extraneous persons, who have willingly given lectures, displays etc at our monthly meetings, the Society's activities have also markedly improved.

Since the TENTH ANNIVERSARY celebrations we have also seen the Philatelic Society in Malta taking its place amongst the National Philatelic Societies of the world and becoming a member of the big international family of Philatelists – the FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELIE. It is with much pleasure that I record that the good and friendly relations with the MALTA STUDY CIRCLE of London have indeed further strengthened, in fact since 1983 the CIRCLE has held two meetings in our country.

Yet another noteworthy advancement has since then been recorded in the Society's Magazine, both with regards to its production and contents and also to the regularity and punctuality of its publication according to schedule and this all goes to the credit of its present editor.

Another change for the better has recently taken place with regard to the premises for our meetings which as from the beginning of 1986 have been moved to the Sports Centre in Floriana from the Catholic Institute, where all the Society's meetings have been held since the Society's foundation.

In this connection I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Directorate of the Catholic Institute for having during the twenty years of the Society's life placed at our disposal suitable accommodation for our Meetings.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to all members, both local as well as overseas, for the continued support they have given the Society as also for their letters and expressions of encouragement which have no doubt spurred the Society to added improvements.

As I have already done in 1976 – then fifteen years ahead – I again right from now express my sincere augury for 1991 – now in five years time – that the Society will in that year celebrate with yet more pomp its Silver Jubilee, to which we all, with happy anticipation, very much look forward. If the interest in the life and running of our Society we have shown during the past twenty years be maintained and possibly improved upon and guided by the same spirit of collaboration and esprit-de-corps, we shall indeed, happily and successfully reach together this important date of the Society's Silver Jubilee.