

The Philatelic Society

Constitution

- n.6.11.78 1. The Society shall be known as The Philatelic Society.
2. The objects of the Society shall be:
- (a) To promote philately and the study of postage stamps and postal history;
 - (b) To facilitate the exchange of stamps among members;
 - (c) To promote the intensive study of stamps and postal history by the formation of study circles within the Society;
 - (c) To form and/or co-operate with kindred bodies in the formation of a reference library for the use of members;
 - (e) To hold regular meetings of the members and to arrange exhibitions, competitions, displays, reading and discussions of papers on philatelic subjects and to undertake and contribute to the increase of the study and practice of philately in general.

Membership

3. All persons whose name appears on the Society's Register of members at the date of the adoption of these Rules shall be deemed to be duly elected members of the Society.

4. All nominations for membership of the Society shall be in writing in the form prescribed by the Committee and shall be signed by the nominee and two members of the Society. Such nominations shall be placed before the Committee who may require such other information, reference, or recommendations as it shall deem fit. The Committee may elect to membership any person so nominated.

Junior Members

5. Candidates for membership under the age of twenty-one years may be admitted to membership subject to the written guarantee of parents or guardians to accept responsibility for the safe-keeping of any of the Society's exchange books or other property which may come in the possession of such member during minority. A Junior Member shall not be entitled to hold office during minority.

Management

6. The business and affairs of the Society shall be governed and managed by the Committee.

Committee

n. 5.2.68 7. The Committee shall consist of:

President

Treasurer

Secretary, and

Seven other members,

A member may hold more than one office but he may not thereby hold a plurality of votes.

8. The Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society and shall hold Office for one year or until their successors are duly elected, but they shall all be eligible for re-election. Such elections shall be by secret ballot, conducted at the Annual General Meeting. All nominations for Officers and Members of the Committee shall be done at the meeting.

Vacancies in the Committee

Subs.

13.1.75

9. (a) If any member of the Committee fails to attend three consecutive meetings without requesting the Committee to be excused, he shall automatically forfeit his seat, and the Committee shall, at the earliest opportunity, record this fact and inform such member that his appointment has lapsed.

9. (b) Any vacancy in the Committee occurring between an election and another of the Committee shall be filled by the remaining members of the Committee first preference being given to the member who at the last election polled the highest number of votes among those who failed to get elected.

Quorum

10. (a) At Committee meetings four shall form a quorum.

10. (b) At Annual or Special General Meetings one-third of the members shall form a quorum; provided that if no quorum be present within fifteen minutes from when the meeting was due to start, there shall be a second convocation after another fifteen minutes at which the members present shall form a quorum.

Honorary Members

11. The Society may at any General Meeting, on the recommendation of the Committee, elect as an Honorary Life Member any person who, in the opinion of the Committee, has rendered meritorious services to philately. Provided however, that there shall not at any time be more than five Honorary Life Members. Upon election, an Honorary Life Member shall enjoy all the rights, powers and privileges of Membership, including the right to election as an Officer or Member of the Committee.

Duties of Officers

12. *The President*, and, in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside over all meetings of the Society. If both are absent, the meeting shall choose one of those present to preside. The person presiding the meeting shall have a casting vote, in addition to his own original vote.

The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, keep a detailed Minute Book of proceedings and read minutes at every meeting. He shall also prepare, under instructions of the Committee, a full report of the year's activities for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. He shall also keep an up-to-date Register of Members and shall keep the Treasurer fully informed of the names and addresses of new members as they enrol. He shall

hand all subscriptions and other monies received by him to the Treasurer at the earliest opportunity.

The Treasurer shall have control of the funds of the Society, pay promptly all accounts passed by the Committee and submit at the Annual General Meeting a duly audited Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the information of members. He shall arrange for all receipts to be regularly banked to the credit of an account opened in the name of the Society with a Bank appointed from time to time by the Committee. He shall also present an Interim Statement of the Society's financial position at each Committee Meeting and produce the Bank Pass-book for inspection as and when required.

Auditors

13. (a) The Committee shall annually appoint two Honorary Auditors who shall audit the Books of Accounts and the Statement of Receipt and Expenditure and Balance Sheet kept or prepared by the Officers of the Society. The Auditors shall report on such books of account, financial statements and balance sheets at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) Every Officer of the Society shall, on demand, produce to the Auditors any records, books or statements of account kept or required to be kept by him and shall furnish all explanations or informations which the Auditors may require.

Subscriptions

am. 4.2.74

Subs. 3.1.77

am. 14.1.85

14. The annual subscription for membership shall be:

- (a) Lm1.50 for persons residing in Malta;
- (b) £2.25 sterling for persons residing in the U.K.
- (c) U.S. \$3.75 for persons residing in any other country.
- (d) Lm0.25 for Junior Members.

All subscriptions shall be paid in advance by the thirty first January of each year.

The new subscription rates shall take effect as from the 1st January 1977

The Committee shall from time to time establish the annual subscription rate payable by overseas members on the basis of the annual subscription fee paid by local members and taking into account the official rate of exchange of foreign currency in relation to the Maltese lira, as well as postage expenses involved.

In 1983 the Committee adjusted the subscription rates as follows:

- (a) Lm1.50 for persons residing in Malta.
- (b) £4 for persons residing in U.K.
- (c) U.S. \$7 for persons residing in U.S.A.
- (d) Canadian \$9 for Canadian members.
- (4) Australian \$7 for Australian member.
- (f) 10,000 Italian lira for Italian members.

- (g) 17 DM for German members.
- (h) 14 SF for Swiss members.
- (i) 50 FF for French members.

Termination of Membership

15. The Committee may accept the resignation of any member who shall give notice of such intention in writing.

16. Any member who fails to pay the annual subscription fee within three months of its falling due shall cease to be a member of the Society.

17. The Committee may by a two-thirds majority terminate the membership of any member who, in the opinion of the Committee, has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member of the Society. Notice of the charge and an opportunity of being heard before the Committee shall be given to a member before any decision to terminate his membership is taken. Provided that a General Meeting may, at the request in writing of the member whose membership has been terminated, appoint a Committee consisting of nine members to review his case. The decision of this Committee shall in all cases be final.

Alteration of rules

18. A special meeting held in accordance with Rule 20 of the Annual General Meeting may deal with any special business, including suspension or alteration of any of these Rules, subject to notice of motion in writing signed by five or more members being furnished to the Secretary prior to the previous monthly meeting and shall be notified to members present at such monthly meeting. No motion submitted in pursuance of any such notice shall have any effect unless passed by simple majority of the members present in person.

Monthly Meetings

19. Regular Monthly Meetings of the members of the Society shall be held only from October to June on the day, at the hour and at the place appointed by the Committee from time to time.

Special Meetings

20. The Committee may from time to time call Special General Meetings and may submit to members such business or motions as it may deem fit. Upon a request signed by not less than one-third of the members, the Committee shall call a Special Meeting to deal with such other motion or business which the Committee may determine. The Committee shall determine the time and place when and where such meetings shall be held, provided, however, that such meetings shall not be held earlier than one calendar month and not later than three calendar months following the notification to members at a General Meeting of the Society.

Bye-Laws

21. The Committee shall have the power to frame, alter or repeat bye-laws when deemed necessary, provided they are not inconsistent with any of these Rules:

Dissolution

22. The Society shall not be dissolved unless determined by a two-thirds majority of the total membership at a Special General Meeting of which not less than one month's notice must be given to all members. In the event of the Society being wound up at any time, the Committee shall have full power to dispose of the assets at its discretion and divide the proceeds after payment of all just debts, equally among the existing members.

Disposal of deceased members' collection

23. The Committee shall, when requested to do so, advise persons deriving title from a deceased member upon the advantageous disposal of such member's collection of stamps or other philatelic material.

Patrons

am. 8.7.66

24. The Committee may seek for the Society the Patronage of any distinguished person or persons.

Annual General Meetings

25. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the thirty-first January in each year. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be dealt with in the following order:

- (a) Reading and adoption of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;
- (b) Presentation of the Annual Report of the Secretary, financial statements and the Auditor's Report;
- (c) Election of Committee;
- (d) The making or alteration of Rules of which due notice has been given;
- (e) Any other business of which due notice has been given.

Judicial Representation

26. The President and the Secretary shall represent the Company in judicial proceedings.

Editor and Staff

added

3.10.66

27. For the purpose of issuing any periodical publication, the Committee shall appoint an Editor and staff, who shall perform the functions assigned to them by the Committee. The Editor shall "ex-officio" be a member of the Committee, in addition to the members elected in accordance with Rule 7 hereof.

(N.B.) The above Rules were approved at the Foundation Meeting of the Society held on the 7th march 1966, and they incorporate amendments made in the General Meeting on the 8th July, 1966, 3rd October, 1966, 5th February, 1968, 4th February, 1974, 13th January, 1975, 3rd January, 1977, 6th November, 1978, and 14th January, 1985.