

WE SHALL KEEP MARCHING ON:-

1986 has been a memorable year; it has been a land-mark for our Society, being our 20th Anniversary. We now look forward to the future, our sights are set on the 25th Anniversary.

The celebrations started on the 7th March – “our birthday,” with Dr. Giovanni Bonello giving a very interesting talk, and display on “Early Charge Marks of Malta,” followed by a reception at our new comfortable meeting place in Floriana. The lecture given by Dr. Bonello was printed in the Special Anniversary 56 page edition of the March Issue of the PSM Magazine, which was published a month earlier to coincide with our anniversary.

Special commemorative stationery consisting of a commemorative cover, with a limited numbered edition, signed by the President Dr. A.J. Mercieca, and the Secretary Dr. A. Ganado, and a Maximum card were issued. The cover bearing the Melita figure, and the Maximum Card the £1 Melita stamp, designed by the late Chev. R. Caruana Dingli. Both had on them also the specially designed 20th Anniversary emblem, page 7.

The post office quite appropriately issued a special commemorative hand stamp which was available at the G.P.O. Counter on the 7th March 1986.

The May meeting was devoted to the Xth International Vote a Stamp Referendum and a report is featured on page 8 later on. From the 19th to the 23rd, a special Philatelic study week, the first to be held in Malta was held. This proved to be a tremendous success. On the 19th May, Dr. Giovanni Bonello lectured on “Disinfection of Postal Correspondence,” and displayed some remarkable items.

On the 20th May Mr. Cecil Diamantino lectured on “Malta Maritime Mail” displaying some of the items from his extensive collection. A report of this lecture is being published on page 14.

On the 22nd May Dr. Albert Ganado delighted us all with his usual high class research type of lecture on the “History of the Post Office, and its establishment from the early days of British rule until the G.P.O. was set up in 1885”. This lecture will be published in the December Issue of the P.S.M. Magazine, as space does not allow us to reproduce it this time.

On the 23rd May, Mr. Arthur Moyles, and Mr. Frank Gray, lectured. Mr. Moyles talked on early mail from Brighton to London, displaying part of his collection, and Mr. Frank Gray spoke on the King Edward VII (1902 – 1910) issue, displaying part of his collection, which among several other items were a considerable number of die proofs.

The celebration came to an end on Saturday the 24th May when we all gathered at the Bologna Restaurant, Valletta for a sumptuous dinner (page 5), for which occasion a special commemorative Menu Card was issued (page 30).

After the dinner Dr. J.H. Mercieca delivered a speech to mark the occasion thanking us all (Page 3). Immediately after this speech Dr. Albert Ganado pointed out that although Dr. J.H. Mercieca had showered praise on us all, he had failed to mention the tremendous dedication that Dr. Mercieca had shown during the past 20 years, and he felt that it should be acknowledged, because without the steady leadership of Dr. Mercieca, we would not have been celebrating to-day.