

Annual General Meeting

President's Address

By Anthony Fenech

The 19th Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Society was held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, on Monday 14th January 1985.

Dr. J. H. Mercieca, the Society's President welcomed the members present and delivered his address.

The President began by recalling with happiness two centennial events of much interest to the Society, which fell on the 1st January 1985, i.e. the Statutory establishment of the Malta Post Office and the issue of the first Malta definitive set of six stamps, on the 1st January 1885. He then extended his and the Society's felicitations to the Postmaster General and the staff of the Department of Posts on this truly auspicious and memorable occasion and also remembered with appreciation and gratitude the pioneers of this department and all those who during this centennial period followed them and gave their valid contribution in the progressive building up of this very important and essential public service.

Dr. Mercieca then reminded the meeting of another very important event to the Society, which will fall next year, i.e. the Foundation of the Philatelic Society, on the 6th March 1966 and emphasized his desirability that such an important landmark in the history of the Society, be appropriately celebrated, possibly with yet more activity than the tenth anniversary, which the Society aptly celebrated in 1976.

He then passed on to mention the Society's activities of 1984, outstanding amongst which were the monthly meetings of February, when Dr. Albert Ganado gave a very interesting talk and display on 'Maltese cartography' and of March, when one of the Society's youngest members, Miss Marcelle Bartolo, displayed her thematic collection of 'Beethoven on stamps' and gave a very informative and instructive talk on the subject. Dr. Mercieca also mentioned two other talks cum display given by Mr. Alan Bannister at the Marsa Club in May on 'Notabile Covers' and by Mr. George A. Coates in October on various items of Maltese Postal History.

Dr. Mercieca then expressed his and the Society's appreciation and thanks for the truly sterling work which Dr. Alfred Bonnici had put in as Editor of the Society's Magazine, which throughout 1984 was not only published dead on time, if not before the three set dates of publication, but also continued to register an all-round improvement, both in its elegant presentation as also for its highly interesting and informative articles, which definitely reached the peak with the December 1984 number, with its numerous illustrations and attractive colour-plates, which surely gave our publication a semblance of a 'magazine of class'. In fact, the President continued, no better proof of this could be forthcoming than the award, for the first time ever, of a silver-bronze medal to the P.S.M Magazine, at each of the two International Philatelic Exhibitions, Espana 84 and Ausipex 1984. This not only sheds credit on Dr. Bonnici's capable editorship but is yet another feather in the Society's cap.

Dr. Mercieca, then announced the awards received by members of the Society who had participated in the two International Exhibitions Espana 84 and Ausipex 84 and congratulated Dr. Bonnici who had been awarded a Gold Medal and Mr. Godwin Said for a Large Vermeil Medal in Espana 84 and Ausipex 84 for his Postal History Collection, and Silver Medal to Messrs

Emanuel Said for the publication 'Franco – Maltese Postal Relations from Their Origins to 1870' respectively and encouraged other members to participate in future international exhibitions in order that the Society may have new participants.

After thanking all Committee members for their valid contribution in their respective Offices, the President concluded his address by appealing to all members to continue supporting the Society so that it may keep growing from strength to strength and to appropriately celebrate the 20th Anniversary of its Foundation, in 1986.

After the Presidential address, Dr. A. Ganado, the Secretary, read out his report giving a detailed account of all the Society's activities during 1984.

This was followed by the financial report by the treasurer Mr. J. Porsella Flores, who gave a very meticulous account of the Society's monies.

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Finally Dr. Alfred Bonnici gave a report on the editing of the P.S.M. Magazine, his activities connected thereto as well as some difficulties encountered in its production.

The election of the Committee for the year 1985 then followed and the following gentlemen were elected:

President – Dr. J. H. Mercieca

Vice-President and Editor – Dr. A. Bonnici

Secretary – Dr. A. Ganado

Asst. Secretary – Lt. Col. W. J. Attard

Treasurer – Mr. J. Porsella-Flores

Asst. Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent – Mr. Anthony Fenech

Asst. Editor – Mr. Vincent Mercieca

Liason Officer between the P.S.M. and the Malta Study Circle – Mr. H. Wood

Members – Mr. Godwin Said; Mr. Joe Buttigieg