

# The International "Vote a Stamp" Referendum

By:- Dr. J.H. Mercieca

## The Winning Stamp for 1981.



Hundreds of persons from several parts of the world, including the United Kingdom, U.S.A., France, Italy, Germany, Israel, Pakistan, Brazil, Hong Kong, Argentina in addition to Malta, participated in the VII International "Vote a Stamp" Referendum and Contest 1982, organised by the Philatelic Society in Malta, and voted for the stamp which in their opinion was the nicest issued by the Postal Administration of Malta, during the year 1981.

Thirtyone stamps from the seven sets issued in 1981, i.e. Birds, Europa, XXV Anniversary of the International Malta Trade Fair, Year of the Handicaped, World Food Day, New definitives (16 stamps) and Christmas appeared on the Voting Brochure.

The main prize consisted of a week's holiday in Malta and the winner became entitled to travel by the National Airline AIRMALTA from every city served by this Airline. Accommodation, which includes half-board, is provided at the luxury class Malta Hilton at St. Julians. When the winner of the draw happens to be a resident of Malta, the prize would consist of an Air Malta ticket to any city served by the Airline.

Three consolation prizes, each consisting of a deluxe stock-book, kindly donated by Messrs. E. Said, Stamp Dealer, were also raffled amongst all the participants in this year's contest.

It has been universally acknowledged that this year's most attractive, neat and colourful Voting Brochure illustrating in their original colours, all the 31 stamps to be voted from, was, no doubt, very inviting and probably one of the main factors contributing to this year's unprecedented success of the Referendum, in which the number of participants was the biggest ever since the Society launched this annual popular activity seven years ago.

The opening of the letters containing the votes and the counting took place at the Monthly Meeting of December, i.e. on Monday 6th December and the hall where the counting took place looked a veritable beehive of activity. Soon after the votes started being opened and placed in the numbered compartments for each of the 31 stamps in the competition, it became evident that the winning stamp was going to be N°29 on the brochure, i.e. the 23 cents stamp of the Bird issue.

As a matter of fact, with 26% of the total number of votes, the 23 cents stamp of the Bird series, designed by Mr. Maurice Tanti Burlo was an easy first, followed by the 3 cents stamp of the International Year of the Handicaped pair, designed by Mr. Antoine Camilleri, which with 18% came second, while with 11% of the votes the 30 cents stamp of the Europa pair designed by Mr. Harry Borg secured the third placing.

The next nine placings with their respective voting percentages were:-

4th	Placing	with	7%	- World Food Day, 23 cents stamp
5th	"	"	6%	- Christmas, 2 cents - 1 cent stamp
6th	"	"	4%	- Birds, 3 cents stamp
7th	"	"	3.6%	- Christmas, 20 cents - 3 cents stamp
8th	"	"	3%	- Int. Year of the Handicaped, 35 cents stamp Europa (Tigrija), 30 cents stamp
9th	"	"	2%	- Christmas, 8 cents - 12 cents stamp
10th	"	"	1.9%	- Birds, 2 cents stamp
11th	"	"	1.8%	- World Food Day, 8 cents stamp
12th	"	"	1.5%	- Current Definitives, 12 cents stamp

An air of expectancy and excitement reigned throughout the hall as preparations were being made to draw the name of the lucky winner of the big prize, who turned out to be the **Rev. Father Patrick Abela O.C.** with the number ninety-three.

The hundreds of votes received from all participants in the competition were then thrown and well mixed in a big box and each of the first three names drawn won one of the three deluxe stock books, which went to:

Mr. George Tipper of Jamesburg, New Jersey. U.S.A.

Mr. George Ciappara of St. Venera, Malta.

Madame Josephine Cousin of Lyons, France.

The President thanked the organizers of this event, and **Air Malta, Malta Hilton** and **Mr. Said** for donating the prizes.

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## Membership Dues

Have you paid your 1982 membership dues?

If not, an immediate payment would be appreciated by the Treasurer, **Mr. J. Muscat Manduca.**