



THE VIIth
MALTA
PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION

12th-17th
DECEMBER
1977

Members of the Philatelic Society of Malta carried all major awards at the VIIth Malta Philatelic Exhibition, organized by the Malta Post Office between December 12th — 17th, 1977. The Exhibition, under the patronage of Mr. Wistin Abela, Minister of Development, Energy, Port and Telecommunications, was installed within the corridors of the General Post Office, Auberge d'Italie, in Merchants' Street, Valletta.

Seventy-one Postal Administrations participated in the Official Class of the Hors Concours Section with stamps featuring art reproductions and issues of 1976-77. The same section hosted four other exhibits from members of the Judging Committee; of particular significance were the exhibits of Mr. Anthony Fenech (Rare Malta Covers) and Mr. Godwin Said (Malta Cancellations of the Pre-Adhesive Era). The Malta Post Office displayed the original artwork and complete sheets of the 1977 issues.

The Gold medal was awarded to Dr. Anthony J. Abela Medici for his entry "Malta Village Postmarks and their Forgeries", a display of international standard. Second prize, a Silver medal, went to Mr. Carmel Scicluna Bonnici for his interesting study of the "Valletta G.P.O. Postal History since 1857". Two other participants shared the third prize, a Bronze-gilt medal each to Mr. Joseph Bugeja and Mr. Lawrence Muscat. The three junior collectors, Brian Abela, Joe G. Agius and Joseph Bonett were placed first, second and third respectively.

In the Literature Class, the first prize, a Silver-gilt went again to Dr. Anthony J. Abela Medici for his yet unpublished study on the "Postal History of Cospicua and Paola". The second place, a Silver medal, was shared by two entries, namely Messrs. E. Said for their "1978 Said Malta Stamps and Coin Catalogue" and Mr. Nick A. Cutajar, for his nine documentaries for television entitled "The History of the Postal Service in the Maltese Islands". The Philatelic Society of Malta Magazine, Vols. 5-6, (1975-1977) was awarded a Bronze-gilt medal.

A temporary Branch Post Office functioned during the opening days of the the Exhibition offering all normal postal business, except parcel post. A special circular cancellation was applied to all articles posted at the Post Office, (see "Malta — A Diary").