

LOUIS FRANK

At the last Annual General Meeting held on the 4th February 1974, Dr. Albert Ganado, the Honorary Secretary of the Society, communicated to those present the sad news of the passing away of Mr. Louis Frank, a founder member and past President of The Philatelic Society of Malta. We feel his "curriculum vitae" would interest our readers.

Louis Frank was born in Hilversum, Holland, in 1893. During the first world war he became a First Lieutenant in the Dutch Army. In 1920, he represented Holland in gymnastics at the Olympic games held in Belgium. He emigrated to Australia in 1939 when Europe was on the brink of a second world war.

His business acumen flourished in the textile industry. He had his own weaving mills and carried on the largest Persian carpet import business, in Holland first, and in Australia later. In his country of adoption he worked hard for the mentally handicapped.

When he went to Australia he started taking philately very seriously. In 1940 he joined the Philatelic Society of New South Wales and was on the Committee between 1951 — 1960. He also founded the European Circle and was Chairman throughout its ten years existence.

In 1948 he was given membership of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club and was Vice-President 1958-1960.

He was admitted to the Royal Philatelic Society in London in 1954 of which he became a Fellow in 1959.

In 1966, a short while after settling in Malta, he promoted the idea of forming a philatelic society on the island. With the co-operation of Dr. Charles Casar, Mr. Moris Darmanin and Dr. Albert Ganado, he succeeded in creating our Society at a foundation meeting held on the 7th March 1966. Mr. Frank became its first Chairman, and he was confirmed every year until he resigned in December 1971 when he decided to leave Malta for good.

He was a very keen collector and a specialist in several fields of philately. Among his many other awards, the following call for particular mention:

1942	Forgeries and Reprints Exhibition	—	Silver Medal
1950	New Zealand Philatelic Exhibition	—	Silver & Bronze
1950	"ANPEX" (Melbourne)	—	Gold
1953	"ITEP" (Holland)	—	Silver
1955	New Zealand Philatelic Exhibition	—	Gold
1955	"FIPEX" (New York)	—	Bronze
1955	"ANPEX" (Adelaide)	—	2 Gold
1957	"TELAVIV" (Israel)	—	Silver
1959	"ANPEX" (Sydney)	—	12 Gold

(This feat earned him "The Championship of Australia". He exhibited specialised collections of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italian States, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Rumania, Sicily, Spain, Switzerland, Thurn and Taxis)

1960 Poland — Bronze & Silver
1970 "ANPEX" (Sydney) — Malta collection — Silver

Quite an impressive list, especially when one considers it is by no means exhaustive.

One could also mention that he won a trophy at the Eucharistic Congress of 1956 competing against the late Cardinal Spellman on the theme "Religion on Stamps".

He was created Chevalier in the Order of the Royal Crown of Crete in August 1969. Later he became Knight Commander and in March 1973 he received the honour of a hereditary title: Count Louis Frank di Piazza.

After a stay of six years in Malta, he decided to take up residence in Spain. He died at his home at Marbella on the 13th November 1973 after a short illness, on the eve of his eightieth birthday.

He was sadly mourned and remembered with affection by his many Maltese friends and admirers, his sons and his wife, Contessa Susan Frank di Piazza, who was for many years a member of the Philatelic Society of Malta.

(A. G.)

Cospicua — New Discoveries

Recently, an unrecorded Cospicua 20mm diameter village cancel came to light. Up to a few months ago, it was considered to be very rare, but recent discoveries show that it is not quite as rare as is generally thought.

The cancel has the word "COSPICUA" arched in the upper half, and bears a code. The date is in the middle, while the year shown abbreviated in the lower segment. The exact dates of use are not yet known, but it is known that it was used as late as 1911. A "D" code has been seen, so presumably a "B" and a "C" code exist. The handstamp is known both as a receiving mark, (the Editor has in his possession a picture-postcard from Italy, addressed to Senglea, bearing a Valletta 'oyal' dated "19 JU 04", as well as the Cospicua 20mm code letter "A". The card also bears Postman's Personal Handstamp 2), and as an obliterator.

It has come to the notice of the Editor that the Cospicua 23mm village mark is known forged. It is mainly seen on K.G.V higher values and has been made to produce fine used examples of stamps for collectors. The way to recognise it is by its clarity, its "E" code and its date, "AP 10 15". It is also probable that it was made photographically from Said's catalogue. It is also probable that it was made locally.

Rabat

On 2nd January, 1975, new labels were introduced for the Parcel Post and Registration services at the Rabat B.P.O. A blue-printed label was introduced for registration replacing the provisional rectangular rubber handstamp (42.5 x 17.5mm). The new label is inscribed "RABAT MALTA".

The Rabat B.P.O., situated within the Civic Centre complex, replaced the Mdina B.P.O. on 11th March, 1974. On the same day, Rabat was issued with its own appropriately inscribed double-ring canceller.