

One important item on the F.I.P. 44th Congress Agenda was our Society's application for association with the Federation. The society had been invited to send a delegate to represent and forward the Philatelic Society of Malta, and supply details of the Society's activities. It is unofficially believed that Malta's application has been accepted.

In closing, we congratulate our two members, Anthony Fenech and Godwin Said, who through their enterprise, continue to sustain a high level among Maltese philatelists.

R.A.F.'s Souvenir Flown Covers

On 10 January the RAF, Luqa commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Formation of No. 13 Squadron, at present stationed in Malta, with a specially flown souvenir cover, which forms part of the RAF Museum Squadron series.

The cover shows aircraft used by the squadron during its 60 years of operation, namely the BE2c (1915-1917); the Hawker Hector (1937-1939); and Canberra PR7 (1956 to date). The cover also carried descriptive details of the special flight and the squadron badge, and it bore a 1c3 Malta stamp of the then current Universal Postal Union issue, which appropriately depicts transport through the ages. The stamp was handstamped with the normal "VALLETTA" double-ring date-stamp.

The covers were flown by a Canberra WJ821 aircraft of No 13 (PR) Squadron from Luqa to RAF Eastleigh, Kenya, via Cairo, piloted by Wg. Cdr. J.B. Parkinson, and crewed by Flt. Lt. J.A. Ball and Flt. Lt. S.J. White. In Kenya, the covers were handed over to the Nairobi postal authorities who applied the philatelic Bureau handstamp on a 10c Kenya "shell" stamp, affixed to the lower-right corner on the back of the cover. The Covers were subsequently flown back to Malta via Khartoum, Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic and Cairo.

Three types of covers were available, a normal cover, another autographed by the pilot and navigator, while a limited number of covers were personally autographed by Field Marshal Lord Harding, who presented the squadron with its standard. The proceeds from these covers will go to the RAF Museum at Hendon where are preserved historical aircraft used by the RAF since its formation in 1918.

No. 13 Squadron was formed at Gosport on the 10th January 1915, and moved to France in October of 1915, playing a distinguished part in the Battle of Arras. The squadron returned to England in March 1918, to be disbanded in December of the same year. On 1st April it was reformed and in October 1939 returned to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. In May 1942, No. 13 took part in the first thousand bomber attack on Germany. When the German forces surrendered, in May 1943, the squadron undertook anti-submarine patrols. In January 1956 the squadron moved to Cyprus, after survey work of the Middle East and Africa. It took part in the Suez Campaign, and in September 1965 it moved to Malta, returning to Cyprus in January 1972. The squadron returned to Luqa, Malta, its present base in October 1972.