



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

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MAGAZINE

WINTER 1972

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FORWORD

It is very satisfying indeed to hear that Malta Collections presented in different Exhibitions around the world, have been meeting with considerable success. This shows the high level of esteem and appreciation enjoyed by little Malta, overseas.

In this connection the first merit goes to Mr. L. Frank, President of the Society, whose Malta Collection in Brussels 1971, fetched him a silver gilt award, quite an enviable position!

Similarly, Maltese philatelic publications have also been enjoying a substantial quota of honours, abroad. Here again, the Said Stamps Catalogue rates foremost, with a 'Diploma to the rank of silver Medal' acquired in Budapest in 1971, and a Silver-Bronze Medal in this year's International Exhibition 'R.S.A. 10' in South Africa.

Encouraged by such a gratifying result, we have no other option but to strive and continue in this line, to perfect our collections in the strong hope of acquiring even better results in the future.

THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of its foundation, the Malta Philatelic Society held a Social evening at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, on Monday 6th December which was attended by about 60 members and wives as well as some guests, which included the Postmaster General and the Assistant Postmaster General and Mrs. Zammit. The Minister of Development who had been invited for the occasion was unavoidably absent.

The organization of this first Social of the Society was entrusted to an ad hoc sub-committee composed of Miss D. Formosa, Mr. Darmanin and Mr. G. Sullivan and turned out to be quite a success, so much so that many members expressed their wish that similar get-togethers be held by the Society in future.

During the course of the evening Mr. Louis Frank, the President, delivered a short address in which he dwelt on the different activities and achievements of the Society and stressed on the desirability of maintaining alive and active this philatelic body and augured well for its future.

Following his address, the President thanked the Rev. Fr. James Orr, the Director of the Institute, for his co-operation and kindness in granting permission to the Society to hold its meetings at the Catholic Institute and presented him with a fine book on World Architecture as a small token of the Society's gratitude and appreciation of his great help. In a few chosen words Father Orr thanked the President and all present for the nice gift which had just been presented to him and expressed his willingness and pleasure in having the Philatelic Society meeting at the Institute.

Finally Dr. Albert Ganado, the Secretary, invited Surg-Captain J.H. Mercieca, the Vice-President, to present a silver Gozo-boat to the sterling work he had so unselfishly and enthusiastically put in during his five years as President.

Surgeon-Captain Mercieca in presenting the Gozo-boat said that it was indeed his privilege to be called upon to present this memento to the President and he was fully aware and appreciative of the great interest Mr. Frank had shown in the running and guiding of the Society, which was amply proven by the fact that the Society had reached its fifth birthday, a record in the lives of former philatelic societies. To conclude Surg-Captain Mercieca, on behalf of the Committee and members thanked Mr. Frank for all the good work he had put in during his five years in office.

Surg. Capt. Mercieca
Vice-President

MEDICINE ON STAMPS

(The following article was read by Dr. C. Cassar, at the monthly meeting of the Association, in December 1970.)

In philately the medical literature in stamps is extensive but scattered in reviews and journals which is not easily accessible. I am not entering into philatelic details but what interests me is the study behind the stamps. When we come to classification it is difficult to set a uniform one. Different collectors have their own fascination and what one likes to call a Medical, someone else takes it as purely scientific. Today I am not exhibiting a complete list of these stamps, far from it, and I have no ambition to reach such a level, surely it is beyond my modest means since collectors go for a particular classification such as 'Medicine' and 'Science' in Postage Stamps, Medical Portraits, Philately in Red Cross, Maternity and Child — Welfare, Medical Symbolism and so on and so forth. In the past, Medical Stamps were few but within the last thirty years these issues have increased by leaps and bounds. In fact these last years we have witnessed the craze for commemorative and anniversary stamps. Nowadays doctors and scientists are inserted in philatelic galleries side by side of kings, queens, presidents and generals. The word democracy has wiped out the privileges of kings and queens and instead its place was taken up by doctors and scientists. In my opinion this is a wise move because the world is showing that the brain is master of the world.

Students of the Medical History are allured by these stamps. Some of these representing worthies are easily detected but more often than not one is tricked by the word doctor. Some of the 'eminent' doctors portrayed on stamps of certain countries are easily detected; but portraits of others who enjoy a reputation for their achievements in other fields are not known as such and it is difficult therefore to recognise them. Others are taken as doctors but at the end one finds out that they are doctors of law or of philosophy. Thus, the identification of these is at times very puzzling. Medicine and its history is very interesting and when it is depicted on stamps it is more so. Primitive medicine is founded on magic, and the doctors had even the touch of expelling the demons of disease. This was represented by a stamp of the Belgian Congo, now only Congo. After magic come the Gods and these were even represented on stamps such as the Greek

stamps. Asculapius was bothered in our times on an International Congress of History of medicine in 1932. Imhetop, the physician and architect, is on a stamp commemorating the International Medical Congress held in Cairo in 1928. Andrew Vasalius and Leonardo da Vinci both renowned and favoured anatomists are commemorated on stamps, the former by Belgium and the latter by his native land, Italy. Theodor Billroth the originator of abdominal surgery is shown on an Austrian Stamp issued in 1937. Well Louis Pasteur the father of the germ theory of disease, is commemorated on many foreign stamps besides on those of his fatherland. We in Malta too, have our Medical men commemorated on stamps. Themistocles Zammit goes to posterity for his discovery of Undulant Fever transmission from goat to man. As such he is depicted on one of the stamps which I am exhibiting. Another stamp after a great and prominent man is that of Robert Koch, the discoverer of Tubercle Bacillus, who was honoured by Germany and Douzing of pre-war date. Men like Schiller and Chekkov who studied Medicine but devoted their time to other work, go by one class, other bear portraits of the medical profession for their contributions on Medicine, and lastly those who studied medicine for a time but were less fortunate to qualify, but devoted their time to some other achievements. Simcelwiess who in his lifetime was humbled for his discovery in connection with the spread of infection of puerperal fever, was sent to Mental Hospital, is commemorated on a stamp of his Country and thus his reputation as a famous obstetrician was posthumously vindicated.

Red Cross, the conception of Henri Dunant is well represented on several stamps of different nationalities and so Tuberculosis, hospitals and medical symbolism.

Well, had I to continue with my talk about this line of Medical Philately, it would take much of your time, here, because the men that were eminent in this connection and that devoted their lives and energies to humanity are myriads. I would therefore present to you some of these stamps which I am sure you would, as collectors, will be delighted to see.

UNITED NATIONS —

AN INTERESTING AND PLEASANT COLLECTION

by Dr. E. Aquilina

Though the United Nations Organisation was formed in 1945, it started issuing its postage stamps as late as 1951, when on the 24th October, the first Definitive series was put out for sale to the public in general.

U.N. postage stamps in United States currency are mailed from the U.N. post office in New York; these are so elegant and attractive that they are collected by philatelists throughout the world. Their message is simple and truthful, and as it travels to every part of the globe, millions of people learn more about the principles and work of the U.N. and its agencies.

The establishment of the U.N. Postal Administration was unanimously approved by the General Assembly on the 16th Nov. 1950, and proved to be a milestone not only in the history of the United Nations itself but also in that of philately. It was thus that for the first time, an international organisation, dedicated under the Charter of the U.N. to world peace and security, started issuing its own stamps.

One might not be very far from the truth, in describing U.N. stamps as 'couriers of peace'. Designed by artists of varying background from many nations, and printed in all parts of the world by the best security printers, such stamps are sold on behalf of the United Nations which comprise more than 130 countries.

Many people from all walks of life, and from quite a number of organisations and business houses, make use of the U.N. postal facilities. On the other hand, it is the United States Post Office Department that operates the U.N. postal station at the U.N. Headquarters, receiving all the revenue from postage used on mailings.

There are four types of U.N. postal issues:-

- 1) Postage stamps of the Definitive Series.
- 2) Postage stamps of the Air Mail Series.
- 3) Postage stamps of the Commemorative Series.
- 4) Postal Stationery.

People from all over the world collect such postal material not only for its philatelic and educational value, but also as a means of supporting the aims of the U.N. Thus it follows that the proceeds from the sale of stamps etc. are credited annually to the U.N. budget, decreasing accordingly the contribution of Member States.

To make things easier for philatelists and collectors, the U.N. Postal Administration has established Agencies overseas from which U.N. stamps are obtainable at face value, and in local currency. At the time of writing, there are more than 50 countries benefitting from this facility. The General Post Office Malta is one of this selected few; an agreement in this connection was signed at Valletta on the 19th Feb. 1969, between the Postmaster General, and the U.N. Representative.

Following on to the footsteps achieved through the success and popularity of U.N. stamps in United States currency, another postal agreement was signed at Geneva on the 11th December 1968 between the President of the General Directorate of the Swiss Postal Department, and the U.N. Representative. This authorised the issue of U.N. postage stamps from all mail emanating from the Palais des Nations, U.N. Office at Geneva. The actual stamps, all of a definitive nature were first issued on the 4th October 1969; although similar to those valid for postage from the U.N. post office in New York, the denominations of this letter group were in Swiss currency.

The final change in this connection, made its appearance in January 1971, when the U.N. Postal Administration started issuing Commemorative stamps simultaneously in United States and Swiss denominations.

The whole U.N. collection is relatively cheap, easy to complete not beyond the reach of the everyday philatelist. Highly artistic as it is, and with a strong touch of international flavour, it definitely appeals to a wide range of philatelists and collectors who rightly enough feel very proud of having such a philatelic work of art in their possession.

STAMPS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

The Channel Islands are situated at the western end of the English Channel, but much nearer to the coast of France than to that of England in the bay formed by Cherbourg and Ushant. Though under the British Crown, both Guernsey and Jersey are self administered under their respective Bailiffs; the other smaller Islands are attached to Guernsey.

Until recently the Channel Islands have been simple — and cheap — to collect for it was not until World War II that the Channel Islands had any specific issues of their own stamps, apart from those of their Inland Revenue. Up to that time postal services were operated by the British Post Office using stamps of Great Britain.

After a few months of the German occupation of the Channel Islands, during which the K.G. VI stamps of Great Britain continued in use, with no new stock coming into the Islands, 1d stamp became short and, at the suggestion of the German Authorities, 2d stamps of the G.B. Centenary issue were bisected diagonally: these were first used on December 24th 1940. Although not officially authorised, 2d stamps of the K.G.V. 1912-22 issue and the 1934-36 (photogravure) issue were bisected by local philatelists and were used up to Feb. 22nd, 1941.

The then German Commandant had ordered the Postmaster of Jersey to have British stamps overprinted with a swastika plus the words Jersey 1940 — with the swastika so centred that it covered the King's head. This was, in fact, actually done by the local printers, Bigwoods but the Bailiff of Jersey protested so strongly to the Berlin authorities that the latter ordered the stamps to be destroyed; they were never issued and very few of them escaped.

By 1941 it became necessary to print a definitive issue. In Germany $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d & $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value were designed by E. W. Vaudin who made the arms of Guernsey his main future; the Germans would not allow any design which even remotely connected with the Royal family but were fooled, not knowing that the Arms of Guernsey were in fact the personal Arms of the Sovereign, dating back the William, Duke of Normandy. These stamps were typo printed by the Guernsey Press. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ d was not issued until 1944.

In Jersey, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d & 1d values were designed by N. V. L. Rybot and were printed by the Jersey Evening Post: the former was issued in April 1941 and the 1d in January of the following year. The Jersey designer

also fooled the Germans for he based his design on that of Guernsey but added 4 minute letters 'A', one in each corner; these stood for 'Ad Avernum Aodlphe Atrox' — 'To hell with you atrocious Adolf': that was on the 1d. On the ½d appeared A, A B, B which stood for 'Atrocious Adolf and Bloody Benito'.

In 1942 Guernsey reprinted the ½d & 1d values on bluish French bank-note paper, whilst Jersey in 1943 produced 6 values to a new design of E. Blampied and typo printed by the Franch Government Works, Paris.

The Islands were liberated on the 10th May, 1945 after which British stamps were again used. In 1948, on the 3rd anniversary of the liberation, a special issue of 2 stamps 1d & 2½d, depicting local scenes, was issued (designed by J.R. Stobie 1d and E. Blampied 2½d); these stamps were used not only in the Channel Islands but also in Great Britain.

Ten years later the British Postal Authorities started their Regional issues and Guernsey as well as Jersey had their own lower value stamps — 2½d, 3d & 4d. Again these stamps could be purchased and used in Great Britain as well as in the Channel Islands.

In 1969, when the British Postal Services ceased to be a Government Department, Guernsey and Jersey each decided to set up their independent Postal Administration. On the 1st Oct. each island issued its own long pictorial definitive set of stamps, followed at once by commemorative sets, postage due sets. Thus the stamp collecting enthusiast was provided with two more stamp issuing countries 'and' two additional drains from his pocket.

It is reasonable to predict that the new issues will attract more and more collectors who will look for occupation stamps and items of postal history; in consequence, prices of those items will undoubtedly increase.

Mention must be made of the "Wildlife" issue of Jersey, a commemorative set of 4 stamps issued on 12th March, 1971. This set is quite the most attractive, both in design and colouring, that I have seen. These stamps refer to the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust which was set up some 10 years ago by that well known Wildlife conservationist and author Gerald Durrell who is doing such great work in preserving and breeding from those animals and birds, etc. which are rapidly approaching extinction.

D. C. WOODWARD

THE MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION — 1971

For the third year in succession, the Malta Postal Administration organised a Philatelic Exhibition for the period 29th December 1971 to the 12th January 1972. As customary, the event was held in the Annexe of St. John's Co-Cathedral Valletta, kindly lent for the purpose.

This year's Exhibition was marked by a special feature consisting of the participation of private collectors, who were invited to put on show their Malta Stamp Collections or other similar material related to the Malta Postal Service.

The Exhibits were classified under three sections:

- a) The Official Section — offered by quite a number of Foreign Postal Administrations, and was non-competitive.
- b) The 'Hors Concours' Section — limited to judges on the panel, and other individuals who showed no desire to participate in the competitive section.
- c) The Competitive Section — subdivided into:-
 - i. Malta Postage Stamps.
 - ii. Malta Covers.
 - iii. Philatelic Material, Literature, and Publications.

The Exhibition was officially opened on Wednesday 29th December 1971 at 11a.m. by the Hon. Dr. A. V. Hyzler M.D., M.P. Minister of Development, Posts and Telephones. After the usual inaugural speeches, the winners of the Competitive Section received their just awards from the Minister himself; they were presented with gold, silver or bronze-gilt medals accordingly.

Subsequently, the guests were treated with refreshments, allowing sufficient time to wander around and peruse the various exhibits.

It is very comforting to note that the Philatelic Society of Malta has contributed in no small way towards the success of the Exhibition. Besides

the precious counselling and other similar advice, three members out of the judging panel of five, do sit on this year's Committee of the Association. To be more specific, this trio consisted of the President Mr. Frank, the Secretary Dr. Ganado and the Editor of the Magazine Dr. Aquilina.

During the time that the Exhibition was open, a sub Post Office was established in the Hall, making use of a very attractive postmark. Similarly, special Souvenir Folders were put on sale, which recorded the participating countries and the other individual participants of the Competition. A more detailed record was included in the Official Catalogue which could also be obtained within the premises. Last but not least, a commemorative gilt bronze medal was put on sale to make the occasion complete.

The Philatelic Exhibition has undoubtedly been a success, and our congratulations go to the organisers as well as to all the participants. It is the sincere wish of all the members of the Society, that similar competitions be held in the future, to kindle the fire of Philatelic Ambition.....

The Editor

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