

AD MULTOS ANNOS

The Malta Philatelic Society was born in March 1966, and from a new born babe has after twenty-five years matured into an adult. It is our Silver Jubilee Year. From a humble beginning, on the initiative of the late Louis Frank, assisted by the 1966 Committee, consisting of Dr Albert Ganado (Secretary), Boris Darmanin (Treasurer) and members Dr C. G. Cassar, Dr J.H. Mercieca, Magistrate Dr Joseph Soler and Mr Charles Whelpdale the Malta Philatelic Society grew and matured – having world wide membership.

A Society is as strong as its members make it. Its members make it virile and their achievement is reflected in it. Today our members have wide and varied philatelic interests, but the main body specialise in Postal History – Post men's hand stamps, Postage Due markings, Village Post Marks, Disinfection, Maritime mail, Knights of Malta period, Napoleonic period, British used in Malta, Air-Mail, the Queen Victoria 1/2d yellows, Blocks of Four, Plate Blocks, Specimen and Proof Collections.

They have won various Gold medals, Large Vermeil medals and other awards at FIP exhibitions overseas, where their specialised collections were exhibited and admired.

The *PSM Magazine* from a humble Newsletter published by Mr Browning in Autumn of 1966 matured into its present format winning a Silver Medal in Stockholm, 1986.

It has become a platform where our members publish their philatelic research; and has been our bond between us, and our International Members, who look forward to its publication.

During these 25 years it had its difficult moments especially between 1969 and 1974, when only one issue per year was published, but was regularly published three times a year when Mr Nick Cutajar became editor up to 1982.

We have throughout these years kept the front cover that Chevalier Emvin Cremona prepared for the first number of Volume 1 of Spring 1967, maybe the time has come for a change.

In 1983 I became editor and the magazine began to be printed in offset. So far it has always been issued on time, in April, August and December of each year, at no cost to the Society. It is distributed free both in Malta and overseas, members paying only for postage, which unfortunately because of heavy increases by the Postal Administration, will have to be passed on to our members in increased subscription to cover such costs. I am grateful to the advertisers who have supported me, all personal friends, for their generous sponsorship.



Some of the members listening to Dr J. Mercieca commemorating the 25th Anniversary

Our Society meets on the first Monday of each month and foreign members have been invited to give a display cum talk of their proud possessions. Such occasions have proved to be extremely well patronised.

Mr A. Fenech has from time to time been responsible for our Exchange Stamp Packet and Auctions, an incursion on his precious time.

No doubt our veteran President Dr Mercieca deserves a pat on the back, for his encouragement and constant hard work. It was due to his untiring efforts that he managed to convince the Postal Authorities to issue a commemorative 25th Anniversary stamp – Dr Mercieca, WELL DONE.

Dr A. Bonnici

Membership Dues for 1991 were due on 1st January. Please send your remittance immediately to Mr Dimech, our Treasurer.

Members who have not paid their Membership Dues for 1988 / 1989 / 1990 are to send their remittance immediately to Mr Dimech.

Membership Rates are:

UK – £5; USA – US\$15, Canada – Can \$ 20; Australia – Au\$25; Italy – L. It 12,000; France – FFr85; Germany – Dm 20; Switzerland – S Fcs 20; Holland – Gds 25; Malta – Lm1.50.