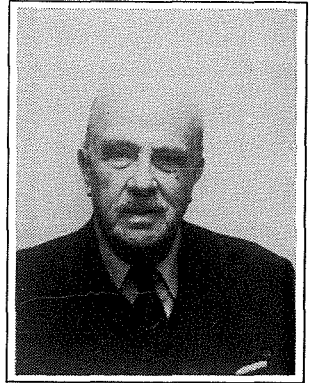


FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

1991 — WE HAVE MADE IT!



When someone sets his mind on achieving a given goal or other accomplishment and works truly hard towards the attainment of that which he is after, undoubtedly great is his joy and satisfaction if and when his efforts are finally crowned with success and the greater the sacrifices he has had to put in towards the attainment of that particular aim, correspondingly greater is his measure of gladness and contentment. Exactly that great is my exhilaration and my satisfaction on this great day, when I realise to have succeeded in healthily and safely landing this my Society to reach its twenty-fifth birthday and at one time when it was doomed to have saved it from outright extinction.

The sincere and heartfelt auguries for the attainment of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Philatelic Society of Malta expressed in anticipation in my Presidential messages, published in the special editions of the PSM Magazine in 1976 and again in 1986, on the occasion of the tenth and twentieth anniversaries of this Society's foundation have indeed materialised and this year we shall, with yet greater enthusiasm and pomp, befittingly celebrate this truly auspicious and important event and also a marked super-record as regards the life span of philatelic societies in Malta.

It is indeed a source of much satisfaction and rejoicement to see the target year of this Silver Jubilee, which I have during the twenty-one successive years of my Presidency of this Society been aiming at and indefatigably working for, being reached. So firstly I lift my eyes and my mind to the Good God and thank Him for lending me more years of life to see this great and much-expected day.

When I look back and remember how short-lived the previous two philatelic societies in Malta were, the first in 1946 with barely eleven months of life and the second in 1952 with under a thirty month life span, surely no one could blame me for the sense of pride which glows in me, this year, when I see my Society reaching its twenty-fifth birthday, and what more overcoming the hurdles that from time to time present themselves and thus passing from strength to strength with the march of time.

I have no doubt that all the Society's members, both local and overseas, and in a special way the committee members, too, do share with me this justifiable sense of pride for they too have given their share towards the realisation of this all very happy event.

So my most grateful thanks to all of them for their continued and unstinting support and their valid contribution over these years and may I assure them that their cooperation and the sacrifice of much of their spare time in the interest and the welfare of this Society is much appreciated.

I also feel it my duty to revere the memory of those of our members who during these five-and-twenty years of the Society's life have given it their full support and their valid contribution, foremost amongst these, the late lamented Mr Vincent Mercieca, for many years Treasurer and admittedly one of the pillars of this Society, who departed this life just over two years ago. My Society will be having a Mass concelebrated by the two Society priest members for the repose of their soul, during the week of activities to be held next May.

All the different sections and branches of the Society have done extremely well in their special sphere of activity, having been ably administered by each individual member of the committee to whom they were entrusted.

The Society's PSM Magazine which is the life-line between the Society and its members, especially those from overseas countries, has over these years indeed proudly maintained its status by the high standard of its articles and the impeccable regularity of its publication. This has been amply proved by the many favourable letters and comments received from overseas members and correspondents as well as by the prestigious awards received at international philatelic exhibitions.

My thanks go also to the Malta Postal Administration and the Stamp Design Advisory Board for accepting my proposal and my request for the issue of a special commemorative stamp and a handstamp for this occasion.

There are two things which still hurt me and though we have striven hard to solve them, we have to admit that we have not as yet succeeded. The first is that after twenty-five years the Society is still without its permanent home and we cannot therefore pride ourselves to own our premises. Secondly is the number of stamp enthusiasts and philatelists who have persisted in turning a deaf ear to my appeals from time to time to join our Society thereby giving it added strength.

And winding up this Silver Jubilee message of mine may I look forward to the continued prevalence of the same spirit of collaboration and *esprit-de-corps* which have all along guided this Society throughout these twenty-five years and may they even shine with possibly yet more brightness in the years that lie ahead that the PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA may yet march forward ever stronger and stronger to arrive at still greater and more important anniversaries in the years to come.

LONG LIVE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA!

John H. Mercieca

6th March, 1991