

The International "Vote a Stamp" Referendum

By Dr. J.H. Mercieca

The Winning Stamp for 1982



For the eighth successive year the Philatelic Society has again in 1983 organised the International "Vote a Stamp" Referendum and Contest in which in addition to many local voters, hundreds of persons from different parts of the world, participated.

The eighteen stamps issued by the Malta Postal Administration during 1982, neatly reproduced in their original colours on the Voting brochure were:- the Docks set of 4 stamps, the International Year of the Elderly and the Europa CEPT pairs, the Espana 82 trio, the Old Maltese Ships set of four and the 3 denominations Christmas set.

The prizes were the same as those allotted last year i.e. the main prize consisting of a week's holiday in Malta, entitling the winner to travel by the National Airline AIRMALTA from any city where this Airline has a connection and a week's accommodation including half-board provided by the luxury class Malta Hilton at St. Julians, and three consolation prizes, each consisting of a deluxe stock-book, kindly donated by Messrs. Said, Stamp Dealers, to be raffled amongst all those participants who cast their vote for the winning stamp.

With a clear 36% of the local number of votes received, the 12 cents stamp (stamp No. 14 on the ballot paper) of the Old Maltese Ships set designed by Norbert Attard, emerged an easy first, followed by the 20 cents stamp of the same set, which with 15% of the votes, was placed second, while in the third place came the 20c + 3c stamp of the Christmas series, designed by Joseph L. Mallia, with 14% of the votes.

As always the case much expectancy and excitement reigned amongst those present in the hall as preparations were being made to draw the name of the winner entitled to receive the main prize, who, this year turned out to be Mrs. Camilleri of Sliema, Malta. Immediately after, the draw for the three names, amongst those who had voted for the winning stamp, was effected and each of the following won one of the three deluxe stock-books:-

Dr. Arthur G. Mercieca of Sliema
Mr. John Gatt Ph.C., of Balzan
Mrs. Margaret Borg, of Birkirkara

Bringing the evening's activities to a close, the President thanked the organizers of the Referendum, particularly Mr. V. Mercieca, who had done all the spade-work connected with the organization of the Referendum, AirMalta and Malta Hilton as well as Messrs. E. Said for their kind donation of the Prizes.