

**THE III INTERNATIONAL  
"VOTE A STAMP"  
REFERENDUM  
AND  
CONTEST**



**STAMPS WITH CHRISTMAS CONNECTION TOP THE POLL**

"The Adoration of the Magi", one of the large Flemish Tapestries of St. John's Cathedral, Valletta, reproduced on the 20c stamp of the first Tapestries set issued by the Malta Post Office last year, has been internationally voted as the Most Beautiful Malta Stamp for 1977. The stamp obtained just under 19.5% of the total number of valid votes. Close on its heels in second place, was the 7c+1c stamp of the Christmas issue showing the Nativity scene from the artistic crib of the Carmelite Fathers at Cospicua, with almost 14.5%. Voted into third place, was yet another stamp featuring a Flemish Tapestry, the "Nativity" reproduced on the 11c value of the series. Thus Malta's best stamps for 1977, all have a Christmas connection and were all designed by Malta's knight of stamp design, Chev. Emvin Cremona.

The full results were officially made known during the Society's monthly meeting, held on April 3rd, at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, at which a substantial number of members were present, although the unfavourable weather conditions prevented others from attending.

Following the announcement of the referendum, prizes were drawn from among the participants in the contest. All participants who had attached an International Reply Coupon with their entry were eligible to participate in the prize draw. Although the stamp with the highest number of votes polled 52 entries, only nineteen were accompanied by an I.R.C. The first prize consisted of a free holiday in Malta for one week, travelling Air Malta and with accommodation at the Malta Hilton. The lucky winner of this fabulous prize, drawn by lot from among the nineteen entries, is Mr. R. Hubbard of 42 Langdale Rd., Stourport-Oon-Severn, Worcestershire, United Kingdom.

Three other consolation prizes, consisting of a complete year collection of the 1977 issues of Malta, kindly donated by the Postmaster General, were Roy, 13 Du Silence Levis, P. Quebec, Canada; and R. Freeman, 24 Stompound awarded to: A.R. Moss, 26 Primrose Glen, Hornchurch, Essex, U.K.; M-Louis Lane, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, U.K.

The majority of entries were received from W. Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A., though several other European countries were very

well represented, as well as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Malta. Many participants in the contest have shown interest in the Philatelic Society of Malta and its activities and information leaflets were mailed to such hequests.

Dr. J.H. Mercieca, President of the Society, in closing the meeting, thanked Air Malta and the Malta Hilton for their cooperation in making possible the first prize, as well as the Postmaster General, for his assistance and gifts awarded as consolation prizes, and other individuals, who assisted in the mailing of the ballot forms. The President ended by pointing out that interest in the stamps of Malta is far and wide as evidenced from the origins of the entries in this year's international referendum and contest.

#### Referendum — FULL RESULTS

ISSUE	DESIGN	VALUE	VOTES
SUITS OF ARMOUR 20/1/77	Jean de La Valette	2c	nil
	Aloph de Wignacourt	7c	6
	Jean Jacques de Verdellin	11c	5
FLEMISH TAPESTRIES 30/3/77	"The Annunciation"	2c	9
	"The Four Evangelists"	7c	12
	"The Nativity"	11c	40
	"The Adoration of the Magi"	20c	52
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMS UNION 17/5/77	Map & telecommunications	1c	2
	ditto	6c	1
	Malta & air & sea links	8c	2
	ditto	17c	nil
EUROPA 5/7/77	"Ta' l-Isperanza"	7c	27
	"Is-Salini"	20c	15
MALTESE WORKERS 12/10/77	Assistance to handicapped	2c	4
	Masonry and Industry	7c	9
	Death at Work	20c	26
CHRISTMAS 16/11/77	Shepherds	1c+5m	6
	The Nativity	7c+1c	43
	Shepherds	11c+1c5	6

When replying to advertisements please mention the P.S.M. Magazine.