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# The Malta Philatelic Society Newsletter

February 2010

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## NEWSPAPER POST

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THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY,  
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MALTA G.C., EUROPE.

### MEMBERS MONTHLY MEETING

Owing to unforeseen circumstances we are compelled, once again, to change the day on which we meet for our monthly meetings. With immediate effect we have had to fix the **first Thursday** of the month as our new meeting day. Consequently, following the Annual General Meeting, the first monthly meeting for the current year has been fixed for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 18.00 hours at St. Publius Oratory which is situated opposite the Primary School in St. Thomas Street, Floriana. It has been decided to dedicate the evening to a *"Bring & Buy"* session, an event which we have not had for quite some time. So bring along your surplus items and I am sure that everyone would find something interesting to fill a particular *gap*.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2010

In view of the above change the new dates of holding the monthly meeting are now as follows: 4<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The yearly get together will now be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. All the meetings are fixed to be held at St. Publius Oratory in St. Thomas Street, Floriana, at 18.00 hrs.

For the record no meetings are held (i) during July to September owing to the summer recess and (ii) in October, owing to the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the yearly Maltex Philatelic Exhibition which this year it is planned to be held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October. The Inauguration of the Exhibition takes place a day before i.e. on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2010

The President thanked a number of people who supported the Society in different ways throughout the year. He thanked the Committee Members who worked hard to render the tenth edition of the Maltex Philatelic Exhibition another successful event. The Auditors were thanked for giving up their time to audit and certify the statutory accounts. A special word of thanks was given to Mr. Joe Fenech for his continued support in maintaining the "Postal Diary", which is published on the MPS Journal, going against all odds. Finally the President thanked the members present who faced bravely the inclement weather and made it possible to proceed with the statutory meeting.

Regretfully no new nominations were received to be considered for election to the new Committee for the current year. Consequently all the members of the outgoing Committee, who had offered themselves for re-election were voted in en bloc to remain in office for another year.

The foregoing did not concern the President who was in the second year of his three year term of office vide Clause 8 (a) of the Society's Statute. In view of this the Committee members with their respective duties remain the same as per last year namely:-

**President & Journal Editor** - Chev. Dr. A. Bonnici  
**Vice President & Asst. Treasurer** - Mr. J. Buttigieg  
**Secretary & Treasurer & F.I.P. Commissioner** - Mr. J. A. Cardona  
**Asst. Secretary, Web Site Administrator & P.R.O.** - Mr. J. de Battista  
**Liaison with Malta Study Circle U.K.** - Mr. H. Wood  
**Members** - Messrs A. Camilleri, A. Caruana Ruggier, J. Lanfranco, C. Mejlaq,  
J. Micallef and S. Parnis.

The meeting re-appointed Prof. G. Camilleri and Rev. A. Galea as Hon. Auditors for the current year

### **RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010**

Clause 14 (a) of the Society's Statute provides that "*All subscriptions shall be paid in advance by the thirtyfirst January of each year*". The foregoing means that any unpaid subscriptions are now overdue. For your guidance the subscription rates have not been changed and therefore those applicable to local members remain at € 7.00 and € 2.33 for Juniors. Kindly remit and help us out to avoid sending reminders and incur unnecessary postage expenses.

### **FIRST POSTAL ORDER SOLD AT AUCTION**

The world's first ever postal order which was bought for just one shilling 129 years ago was sold for 4,485, smashing the auction guide price of £ 2,500.

The perfectly preserved payment, which had the Serial No. 000001, was the first of millions produced by the Post Office in Lombard Street, London in 1881. Postal Orders were invented by the Victorians as a safe and secure method of sending money through the post.

### **U.K. NEWSPAPER AND PHILATELIC MATTERS**

The *London Evening Standard* published an article on stamp collecting which reported that the hobby is showing signs of growth, and that more younger people are taking an interest. That is good news and one trusts that the statement is an accurate one although, no doubt, stamp collecting remains a popular hobby.

The newspaper stated also that the biggest selling special stamp was the Princess Diana issue of 1998. It was estimated that each of the five stamps just sold over 30 million copies. Here the Royal Mail was quick in registering its disagreement and produced the following records to substantiate its saying so:-

- 1953 - 2½d Coronation stamp sold over 30 million copies,
- 1937 – the Coronation stamp sold 388 million.
- 1935 – 1½d George V Silver Jubilee stamp sold 490 million, and
- 1929 - 1½d Postal Union Congress sold 751 million.

### **U.K. NEW DEFINITIVES**

For those members who are interested in collecting *Machin* stamps should note that new definitives will go on sale on 30 March in view of the increase in postal rates that will come into effect on 6<sup>th</sup> April. The new issues are: 60p emerald, 67p rhododendron, 88p shocking pink, 97p mauve and £ 1.46 dark turquoise in addition to new country stamps for the European and airmail rates.

The new Europe 20g stamp will be printed in dark green and the Rest of the World stamp in purple. As before there will be an ultramarine and red airmail stripe at right.

### **INVITATION TO SCRIBBLE ON STAMPS**

Holland has issued stamps that are designed to be written on. They are intended to be used for mailing birthday cards. They have the number 88 in the style of a digital display and the idea is that the sender fills in parts of the figures as required to change it to the age of the recipient, any number from 1 to 99!!!!

### **WORLD'S LARGEST SE-TENANT STRIP**

For the record India has issued what is claimed to be the largest se-tenant strip ever produced. It consists of 11 stamps and measures 48.5 cm (19 in) which is wider than A3 paper.

### **RESEARCH WORK**

It was reported that a collector has studied more than two and half million of a single stamp namely the King Edward VII 1d scarlet for the purpose of finding broken pins, plate and printing flaws. When one considers that approximately 21,680,000,000 copies were printed of the stamp in question he is nowhere near completion. When asked how he manages to that his answer was very clear and encouraging "Once the eye gets conditioned, it picks things quite quickly".

15 February, 2010.

John A. Cardona.