

Memorandum by the Hon. Minister of Justice
regarding
The Goldsmith and Silversmiths (Amendment) Act, 1966

The Commissioner of Inland Revenue has drawn the attention of the law officers of the Crown to the fact that pressure-cast "filigree" broaches were presented for stamping to the Consul; if the said "filigree" broaches were to be let loose in the market the local filigree industry will be reduced to infinitesimal proportions with consequent loss and hardships to artificers and a general lowering of standards in the filigree industry to meet price competition.

The proposed amendment will have the indirect effect of preventing the counterfeiting of the Consul's stamps

The attached Bill is intended to obviate the said dangers and protect the local filigree industry by prohibiting:-

- (a) the manufacture of filigree articles other than by hand;
- (b) the manufacture of imitation filigree articles;
- (c) the selling or exposing for sale of filigree articles made other than by hand;
- (d) the selling or exposing for sale of imitation filigree articles.

The Bill also provides for the forfeiture of any article manufactured, sold or exposed for sale in contravention of the said prohibitions.

Hon. Ministers are invited to recommend.

4th January, 1966.

A B I L L

entitled

AN ACT further to amend the Goldsmith and
Silversmiths Ordinance, Cap. 74.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent
Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the
House of Representatives of Malta, in this present
Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same,
as follows:-

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Goldsmith and
Silversmiths (Amendment) Act, 1966 and shall be read
and construed as one with the Goldsmith and Silversmiths
Ordinance, hereinafter referred to as "the principal
law".

Amendment of
section 8 of
the principal
law.

2. Section 8 of the principal law shall be
amended by the addition immediately after subsection (3)
of the following new subsection:-

"(4) It shall not be lawful for any goldsmith
or silversmith to manufacture filigree articles
other than by hand, or to manufacture imitation
filigree articles."

Amendment of
section 9 of
the principal
law.

3. Section 9 of the principal law shall be
amended as follows:-

(a) by the addition immediately after subsection
(1) of the following new subsection:-

"(2) It shall not be lawful to sell, expose
for sale, exchange or otherwise deal with in the
course of trade any article of filigree manufactured
other than by hand or any imitation filigree
article."; and

(b) by the renumbering of subsections (2), (3)
and (4) as subsections (3), (4) and (5)
respectively.

Amendment of
section 17 of
the principal
law.

4. Section 17 of the principal law shall be
amended as follows:-

(a) by the insertion of the figure (1) immediately
before the word "saving"; and

(b) by the addition of the following new subsection
(2) at the end thereof:-

"(2)/

"(2) The Court shall also order the forfeiture of any article in relation to which an offence against the provisions of subsection (3) of section 8 or of subsection (2) of section 9 has been committed and such article shall thereupon be forfeited to the Government."

Objects and Reasons

This is a Bill to amend the Goldsmith and Silversmiths Ordinance. Its object is the protection of the local filigree industry. The Bill seeks to attain this object by prohibiting:-

- (a) the manufacture of filigree articles other than by hand;
- (b) the manufacture of imitation filigree articles;
- (c) the selling or exposing for sale of filigree articles unless made by hand;
- (d) the selling or exposing for sale of imitation filigree articles.

The Bill also provides for the forfeiture of any article manufactured, sold or exposed for sale in contravention of the said prohibitions.