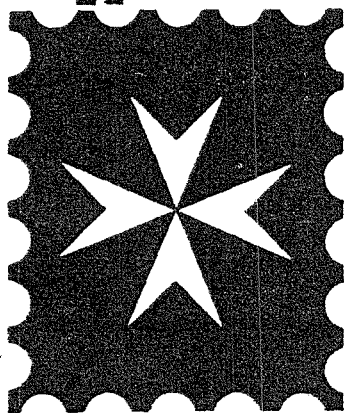




**THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF MALTA**

1967 VPI N. 2

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1967

Volume I No. 2

Address all Correspondence to:

The Editor,

P.S.M. (Newsletter),

c/o Catholic Institute,

Floriana,

Malta G.C.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Firstly, apologies for the lateness of this edition of the Newsletter. But owing to the difficulty of replacing Mr. Browning and then the postal strike things got a little involved!

This, as you know, is your Newsletter, and, is like all publications, dependent on (a) articles, and (b) news. Therefore to keep this Newsletter going we need articles, items, news, in fact anything to do with Philately. Don't just read the Newsletter. Please, please contribute.

In this edition of the Newsletter there is included an application for membership. If you are already a member try to enrol another. There are extra forms on request from the Editor.

It is very noticeable at the monthly meeting that the same very few faces are to be seen. Larger attendance of members would be much appreciated.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE.

Mr. Boris Darmanin (The Society's Librarian) has stated that such literature as the Society has in its possession is available at 12/25, Strait Street, Valletta, most days between 4 and 6 p.m. Any members wishing to dispose of Philatelic literature are requested to forward it to the above address. Can overseas readers help, please?

PROGRAMME FOR JUNE, 1967.

On Monday, 5th June, Mr. Arthur Jagger will give a brief resume of the philatelic history of the transition of Rhodesia from the status of a Crown Colony to self-declared Independence. The talk will be augmented by an exhibition of Rhodesia on stamps issued before, during and after the crisis, with covers.

Mr. Jagger will also show, and comment on a small collection of philatelic "oddities".

SOCIETY NEWS.

February 1967. On the 2nd February the Society held its Annual General Meeting to hear the reports of the officers and to elect the new committee for the year.

The Secretary reported that the Society seemed to be gaining momentum and that our membership figures were on the increase. Activities of the Society were varied, and the Society now had the services of a Newsletter. All in all the first year had been a good year.

The Treasurer was unavoidably not available to read his report but it was stated that this would be done at the next meeting.

The Editor of the Newsletter stated that he would be leaving the Island in April and asked to be relieved of the duty in time to assist his successor.

The Editor also mentioned that as a result of publicity received in the U.K. magazine 'The Philatelic Magazine' some 30 letters had been received from overseas asking for details of membership of the Society. It was decided that this matter would be dealt with in Committee.

The question of the new Committee was raised and although it had been intended to hold a secret ballot it was decided unanimously to re-elect Mr. Louis Frank as President and Dr. Albert Ganado as Secretary. The new members elected to the Committee were Mr. Albert Dimech — Treasurer, and Mr. Paul Pace. Other officers and members retain positions as last year.

The Committee have put it on record that a vote of thanks be given to Fr. Orr and the Catholic Institute for their kindness during the past year with regard to using the rooms for meetings, and, also for the facilities for the duplicating and typing of the Society letters and the Newsletter.

There being no further business the meeting ended at approx. 7.30 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING — FEBRUARY.

The monthly meeting was held over until 20th February for various reasons. The display took the shape of Q.E. 11 Crown Colonies Mint unmounted all based on Thematic collecting. Examples of the definitives of most of the Crown Colonies were on display and most of these represented some theme or other — birds, ships and landscapes to name a few. The display was not all it might have been due to the absence of the display stands, but by passing the leaves up and down the rows of members this was overcome to a certain degree.

Surg. Capt. John Mercieca proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. David Browning for his fine display. The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING — MARCH.

Held on the 6th March, the display was given by Mr. Boris Darmanin who arrived early and laid his leaves out and thus permitted all the members to peruse them at leisure. When the meeting commenced Mr. Darmanin said that perhaps he ought to explain something about this collection — which was of a rather varied and whimsical nature — two of the pages were in fact the selection of Chev. E. Cremona and the remainder coupled with his own collection had all started in an air raid shelter in 1943 with a gentleman who was collecting two sets of stamps to give as a dowry to his two daughters. Mr. Darmanin said that he had been helped by his father who had left him two tea chests full of stamps in the first place.

The President moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Boris Darmanin.

Following the display there was a lively and impromptu auction in which some very good bargains changed hands at well below catalogue price. If all members would undertake to provide a few small lots and pass them to a committee member this could be done more often — to the advantage of all — to the members, extra cash and to the Society with its 5% cut on realisations.

The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m., one of the more successful evenings.

MONTHLY MEETING — APRIL

This was held on the 3rd April and proved to be one of the most popular to date.

In his opening address Mr. Louis Frank welcomed Mr. Xuereb, the Post Master General, and several high dignitaries of the Church.

A small presentation was made to Mr. D. Browning in appreciation of his work for the Society in running the Newsletter. Mr. Browning leaves Malta owing to service commitments and takes up a new post in Cyprus.

The display and short film which drew many members and non-members was Mrs. S. Frank's excellent thematic collection of 'Religion on Stamps'. Stamps of many countries were featured including Brazil, Syria, Malta, Israel, New Zealand and the Vatican. Mr. Browning read the commentary during the showing of the film.

The stamps portrayed in the film were also on display for those members of the audience who wanted to see them in greater detail. It is hoped that Mrs. Frank can be persuaded to display this collection again sometime in the future for the benefit of those members who did not attend.

During the following week this display was again given, this time to His

Grace The Archbishop of Malta, the Most Rev. Michael Gnozi, His Lordship Mgr. E. Galea, Bishop of Tralles in Asia, and other dignataries of the Church. His Grace who was himself a stamp collector expressed great interest in the collection and mentioned many of the places portrayed on the stamps he had visited. Magte. Joseph Soler read the commentary accompanying the film. His Grace and Bishop Galea expressed their thanks for a most enjoyable evening.

Members of the Committee were present.

Support your Newsletter, contribute items, articles, news, and remember, everyone needs something in the Philatelic line, why not ADVERTISE?

NEW MEMBERS.

The Rev. John Capper, St. Saviour's House, Twyford Ave., Portsmouth, Hants., England.

Alan A.F. Skurray, The Brewery House, West Bay Rd., Bridport, Dorset, England.

Albert Charles Riddell, 101, Fisgaro Rd., Gosport, Hants., England.

Kieran Malachy Hosty, 92, Ashdell Rd., Sheffield 10, England.

William Bernard Willcox, 64, Gordon Rd., Harborne, Birmingham, England.

Ronald Alfred Kidby, 111A, Kirklands RD., Hull Yorks., England.

George Edward Harvey, 308, Westhorne Ave., Lee, London S.E. 12, England.

Timothy George Bennett, 38, Earle House, Winhall, Winchester, Hants., England.

C.I.S. Chappell, 26, St. Winifred's Rd., Bournemouth, England.

Roy William Smith, 81, Downham Crescent, Preswich, Lancs., England.

J. Harris, Box 66, Gullringer, Sweden.

NEW MEMBERS AND PEN FRIENDS.

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. M.G. van Meensel, Grijsdijk 70. Marksem, Belgium. (Editor of 'De Postzegel').

Alan Parsonage, 6, Finghall Rd. Flixton, Urmston, Manchester, England.

Dieter Schwarz, 8520 Erlangen. Mozart Str. 18/1 Western Germany

Edley Storey, 90-92 Park Str., Peelgreen, Eccles, Manchester, England.

PEN FRIENDS

Pieter Tietjens, 23 Kiel-Holkman, Richtosfn Str., 24, West Germany.

John Rowden, 'Otaru', 41, Terrace Rd, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England.

Elbert Werner, 40 Essen-Kray, Brunhildestrasse 55, D.B.R.

Albert Wickens, 38, Lentune Way, Lymington, Hants., England.

Samuel Oliver, 75, Pinkerton Ave., Rutherglen, Glasgow, Scotland.

Patrick Taylor, 106, Prospect Str., Nutley, New Jersey, 07110, U.S.A.

Alan Haselgrove, 11, Warren Close, Poynton, Cheshire, England.

A.F. Wyatt, M.B.E. 21, Mill Road Ave., Angmering, Sussex, England. Exchange Malta and G.B., possibly other countries.

G.N. Fletcher, 23, Shudleigh Gardens, Chapel House Estate, Newcastle-on-Tyne 5, England. Exchange Malta and U.K. stamps — Particularly F.D.C. Has a small stamp business, sure some agreement can be reached for U.K. commemoratives etc., or other stamps.

L. Wilkinson, 22, Stanley Street, Nedlands, Western Australia. President of the Fremantle P.S. and Auctioneer for the Philatelic Society of W. Australia. To exchange new issues, correspondence in English.

W. Brown, Dunbar, Domsey Lane, Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, England. Wants particulars of local stamps issue and prices and where they can be obtained.

Daughter of Mr. R.E. Lansley, 3, Devon House, Devonshire Rd. Forrest Hill, London, S.E. 23. England.

Lie Tjoan Liang, Djl Mangga Besar, VII/15, Djakarta VI/1, Indonesia. Requires mint Malta and offers sets of Indonesian stamps. All correspondence by air mail.

Dr. A.P.H. Wilkinson, 4, Addington Drive, London N. 12. England. Exchange new issue and F.D.C. etc. Has a good stock of mint and used plain and phosphor of Q.E. 1960 onwards for exchange.

J. Sturges, 52, Parkfield Rd., Northenden, Manchester 22. England.

THE "MELITA" ISSUE.

Dr. M. van Meensel of Belgium is an ardent collector and lover of Maltese stamps. In the Flemish Philately monthly "De POSTZEGEL" he has given a complete description of the stamps and history of Malta.

As the quantity of a certain stamp printed is always of great interest, he mentions the low catalogue prices still quoted for the relatively small amount of stamps overprinted of the so called "MELITA" issue, with overprint "POSTAGE".

S.G. No.	Value	Quantity printed	Cat. Value
143	0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	120,000	0 6d
144	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	160,000	0 6d
145	0 1 d	80,000	0 9d
146	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	160,000	1 3d
147	0 2 d	80,000	1 0d
148	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	24,000	1 3d
149	0 3 d	160,000	2 6d
150	0 4 d	24,000	8 0d
151	0 6 d	80,000	3 6d
152	1 0 d	48,000	8 0d
153	2 0 d	8,000	75 0d
154	2 6 d	8,000	35 0d
155	5 0 d	10,000	20 0d
156	10 0 d	24,000	25 0d

All prices quoted are for mint stamps.

As you will notice there are some inconsistencies concerning these price quotations, as a stamp with double the amount printed i.e. S.G. no. 146 the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ is quoted at 1/3 while the 1d with only 80,000 printed is only 9d. Also the S.G. 153 with the same amount printed as S.G. 154 is quoted at 75/- for the 2/- value and 35/- for the 2/6d value. Comment "the catalogue makers are unpredictable".

From an article by Dr. M. van Meensel.

Translated by Mr. L. Frank.

MALTA STAMPS

A fine selection of Mint, Used, First Day Covers, Village Postmarks
and Varieties is available at:

E. SAID

MEMBERS B.P.A., P.T.S.,

32 Britannia Street,

Valletta,

Malta G.C.

A handy descriptive price list is offered free on request.
Accessories such as Stockbooks, Albums, Tweezers, etc., plus literature
about the Malta Postage Stamp, may also be obtained.

Advertisement

NEW ISSUES IN MALTA.

The following information has been released by the Stamp Advisory Board.

Two new issues are scheduled for later this year, they are:—

June. (Date to be announced later).

19th Centenary of the Martyrdom of Saint Paul.

3 values. 2d, 8d and 3/-.

August 1st

3rd Centenary of the Death of Melchior Gafa.

4 values. 2d, 4d, 1/6 and 2/6d.

All designed by Chev. E. Cremona in conjunction with the Stamp Advisory Board.

Melchior Gafa.

Maltese sculptor. Born. 1638. Died 1667. One of his better known works is the statue of Saint Paul in Valletta.

WANTED.

Stamps of Malaysia (pre 1963), Thailand, Straits Settlements, Burma and Cambodia.

Editor, 1/67.

P.S.M. (newsletter),

c/o Catholic Institute,

Floriana,

Malta G.C.

MALTA FROM THE MAGAZINES.

The following items are re-printed from various stamp magazines and acknowledgement is made in each case.

Stamps of the Island continue to be in good demand and although, generally, "Omnibus" issues lack some popularity — this is not the case with Malta. The 1963 Freedom from Hunger 1s 6d and the 1963 Red Cross pair are in demand locally, where supplies are now short and where prices are higher than our catalogues. S.G. Freedom from Hunger. 3/- mint 3/6 used; Red Cross 4/2 mint, 4/10 used: CW., 3/3 mint/used and 4/3 mint, 4/6 used. So they are tipped at best for a good increase in value.

W.E. Fyndem on Market Movements. Acknowledgements to Stamp Collecting.

MALTA MARVELS.

Did the person who coined the description, "Malta Marvels" for the recent issue of Malta stamps consider them from a purely aesthetic view and was he referring to the many marvellous designs which continue to appear from the Studio of Chev. E.V. Cremona, Malta's own versatile and complete artist? Of was it because, being a dealer, or an investor in, or a collector of, the stamps of Malta, he found himself nicely stocked with sets of the 1964 Independence issue with a face value of 5s. 11d a set? If so, he has recently been able to unload his stocks, and any others he could lay his hands on, in Malta and Italy at £5 and up to £6 a set. Not bad! From 6s. to £6 in just over two years. He would think they are "Marvels"!

Will Malta increase the numbers printed and, if so, will it, and can it, go too far? The answer will depend on whether you are a speculator, investor, dealer or collector. The speculator will want a limited printing with a sale period of not more than two months, so that he can get in sharply and do a bit of concerning. The investor may also prefer a limited printing, but is perhaps content to wait for a steady increase in market prices. The dealer, with of course some exceptions, would prefer a steady market and does not like buying stocks at inflated prices, with the risk of being left expensive stocks when the bottom falls out of the market. The collector wants a not-too-restricted issue, available over a longer period so that he can pick and choose the items he wants at overface value, but, having done that, he expects his collection to appreciate in value steadily over the years.

There is also the Government Dept., issuing the stamps, to consider. What is their attitude to the stamps? This can, and does, vary considerably. There are those who are not concerned merely with meeting postal needs, plus additional income from philatelic sources, who find it impossible to resist the tempting offers of a fixed guaranteed income from the "Philatelic Agencies".

Fortunately, for the collectors of Malta stamps, the Post Office there has resisted, so far, the tempting offers of the certain would-be agencies. The Post Office, of course, wants to get an increased revenue from its stamps, but are concerned that they should continue to have a high standing with philatelists, and have tried to avoid recurrence of the speculation which has happened recently; but having once put the stamps on sale at the counters, it is difficult to introduce a form of rationing.

It seems likely that future Malta commemoratives will have larger printings, to cover a three or four months' demand with, perhaps, a rationing of supplies to the Post Office counters. It has been rumoured that a set of the designs of the prehistoric temples in Malta has been prepared but has been held back; the current issuing policy being no thematics, but a restricted number of worthwhile commemoratives each year.

What then are the reasons for the increasing demand for the stamps of Malta? There are several contributing factors. There can be no doubt that the designs by Chev. E.V. Cremona have attracted an ever-widening field of collectors to the stamps of Malta. Indeed, there are many who say that his symbolic designs and consistent colour harmonies have brought a new dimension to stamp design.

Then there is the fact that the number of collectors in Europe (including Great Britain) has increased tremendously in recent years. There have been trade estimates that there are now ten times as many collectors in Europe as there were ten years ago.

What may seem odd to some people is that although Malta remains a member of the Commonwealth, it is now considered (since Independence) to be a European country and, as such, is included in some European catalogues.

It has, of course, for many years been popular with Commonwealth collectors and particularly with Commonwealth collectors and particularly with those who have collected "Islands", especially when grouped with Cyprus and Gibraltar. But it is now the Italians, perhaps more than anyone else, who have interested themselves in the stamps of Malta, and some Italian dealers are offering the stamps from Independence complete, ready mounted in albums.

The sales figure for the 2s.6d. value of Independence set is shown as 151,358, which number governs the amount of complete sets available. As this set has been in such demand as to have sold for more than £5 per set in Italy, one is entitled to ask, "What of the 1965 Great Siege set, the 2s.6d. value of which had sale of only 140,093?"

What ever else happens, we can certainly expect to see many more "Malta Marvels" from the Cremona Studio.

By M.E. Jetten.

Acknowledgements to Stamp Collecting.

WANTED.

GOOD QUALITY CLASSICAL ISSUES OF MALTA.

Mr. Louis Frank, 23, St. Roque Street, Kalkara, Malta G.C.

I WILL BUY ANY PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS ON MALTA.

Dr. Albert Ganado, 1, Scots Street, Valletta, Malta G.C.

THE CIRCULAR VILLAGE STAMPS OF MALTA

By W. L. Freshwater

Extract from the Postal History Bulletin No. 85.

A search through the Post Office Records reveals that cancellors were dispatched on July 10th 1900, for 28 post offices and strikes were impressed in the records on July 9th 1900, all with PM index. Many of these village marks have been recorded with both AM and PM, and a number with only AM. Therefore it is safe to assume that the cancellors were sent with changeable slugs for date and time index. The cancellors range from 19mm to 23mm in diameter — name of village arched across top of circle time index immediately beneath, month and day, or day and month across the middle with abbreviated year at the bottom. Offices in Gozo were so indicated by Gozo across the bottom of the circles and with a short vertical line at each inner side.

These offices were — Asciak, Attard, Caccia, Circop, Crendi, Curmi, Dingli, Garbo, Gargur, Chain Silem, Gudia, Lucia, Micabbiba, Misida, Musta, Nadur, Naxaro, Paula, Safi, Sannat, Siggieui, Tarxien, Victoria, (B.O.) Xeuchia, Zabbar, Zebbug, Zeitun and Zurricco, all of which have been recorded used with the exception of Sannat.

Cancellors, not sent by the G.P.O. with the above are similar, with the exception of Sliema and Valletta. These are 27mm and 29mm diameter respectively and differed in make-up. Sliema cancellor reads in four lines — Sliema B.O.; time of posting; date; Malta, whilst Valletta condenses to three lines reading — Valletta (C.O.) time of posting, day, month and year in one line; Malta. These two cancellors, incidentally, are the only ones to indicate Malta.

Nothing has been traced in the G.P.O. Records as to when or whether these were sent from London, neither have any records come to light indicating when the offices were opened, with the exception of the following. Cospicua opened 1st August 1890, Migiarrro 1st December 1885, Notabile 15th November 1897, Sliema 1st May 1895, and Rabato (later Victoria) 1st December 1885.

In 1921, Malta was divided into six postal areas, viz. Valletta, Birchire-ara, Cospicua, Notabile, Sliema, Victoria, Gozo, and the village offices ceased to function or at least ceased to cancel mail.

The period then for these village cancellations is from 1900 to 1921, with the exception of the six main post offices which eventually became area

post offices in 1921 and also Hamrun, Malta, and Migiarrro, Gozo from which cancellations have been recorded from 1892 and 1887 respectively.

As is only to be expected, these village posts were used chiefly for local post and the cancellations are generally found on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d values of the Queen, Edward and George V issues, but they have been recorded also on the 1d, 2d, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d Queen, $\frac{1}{4}$ d, 1d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, Edward, $\frac{1}{4}$ d, 1d, 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, and the $\frac{1}{2}$ d War Stamp of the Georgian period.

Generally, these cancellors were used for the "life" of the office, with the exceptions of Asciak and Hamrun, which both used two cancellors as described.

ASCIK. 1st type was used for the A.M. period until 1909, my latest record being June 9th; and for the PM period until November 3rd 1911, my latest recorded date. Distance between right bottom of 'A' and of 'K' meet roughly in the middle of the upright strike.

2nd type, possibly a fraction of a mm. larger than the first type. I have recorded for the PM period from August 15th 1910. In this type, the distance between 'A' and 'K' is 1.0 mm. and the top arm of the 'K' joins the upright very near the base.

The two types placed side by side are readily identifiable as there are many other differences in measurements, not mentioned.

Hamrun. 1st type — 20 mm. diameter, with time index letters A or B was used until 1912, my latest date recorded being 20th.

2nd. type — 24 mm. diameter with time index AM or PM, brought into use in 1912, my earlier date being 21st April.

Surprisingly few errors occurred in the use of the cancellors — an occasional omission of time indicated — noted in Misida; an occasional inverted date, month or index letter in various offices; '10 for '01 in the Mellieha, Tarxien, Zurrigo, cancellation of 1901; and strangest of all, FE in the place of a time index in Zabbar cancellations on a $\frac{1}{2}$ d adhesive used on January 15th.

(To be concluded in the next issue).

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The editor is grateful to those members who have kindly either produced their own articles or sought out articles of interest for this edition of the Newsletter. It is preferred that the articles are not more than 300 words unless it is intended that the articles be serialised.

MALTA HEARSAY.

Perhaps it is not generally known that the 10s. Malta stamp S.G. no. 34 — 96 — 104 depicting the "Ship — Wreck of Saint Paul" was taken from a Bible illustration by Paul Gustave Dore. The original illustration underwent several interesting alterations in the course of its adaptation for us on the Malta 10s. stamp.

The stamp designer substituted a snake coming out of a bundle of burning woodsticks, poised ready to strike, for a prisoner climbing on the rocky ledge. The snake story happened not at the landing of St. Paul, but later on and is described in Acts chapter 28 verses 3-5. The original illustration by Dore does not have the snake in the picture.

From an article by Mr. Ben Hamilton.

Published in Scotts Monthly Journal. April 1956.

THE GEORGE CROSS ISSUE.

This issue is printed on two plates, A and B. The A plate has the colour samples printed on the right-hand side of the sheet only. Whereas the B plate has the colour samples printed on both the left and right hand columns.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE NEWSLETTER.

Any member wishing to avail themselves of this service for the purpose of selling, buying or exchanging stamps etc., can use the classified advertisements page included in the next edition. A small charge is made to defray printing expenses. They are, 3d per word for small print and 6d per word for BLOCK CAPITALS.

PEN FRIENDS — CANCELLATIONS.

The list of names included in this edition of the Newsletter have all written requesting exchange friends in Malta. Please inform the Editor if you decide to write as this will preclude the necessity of reprinting all the names each time.