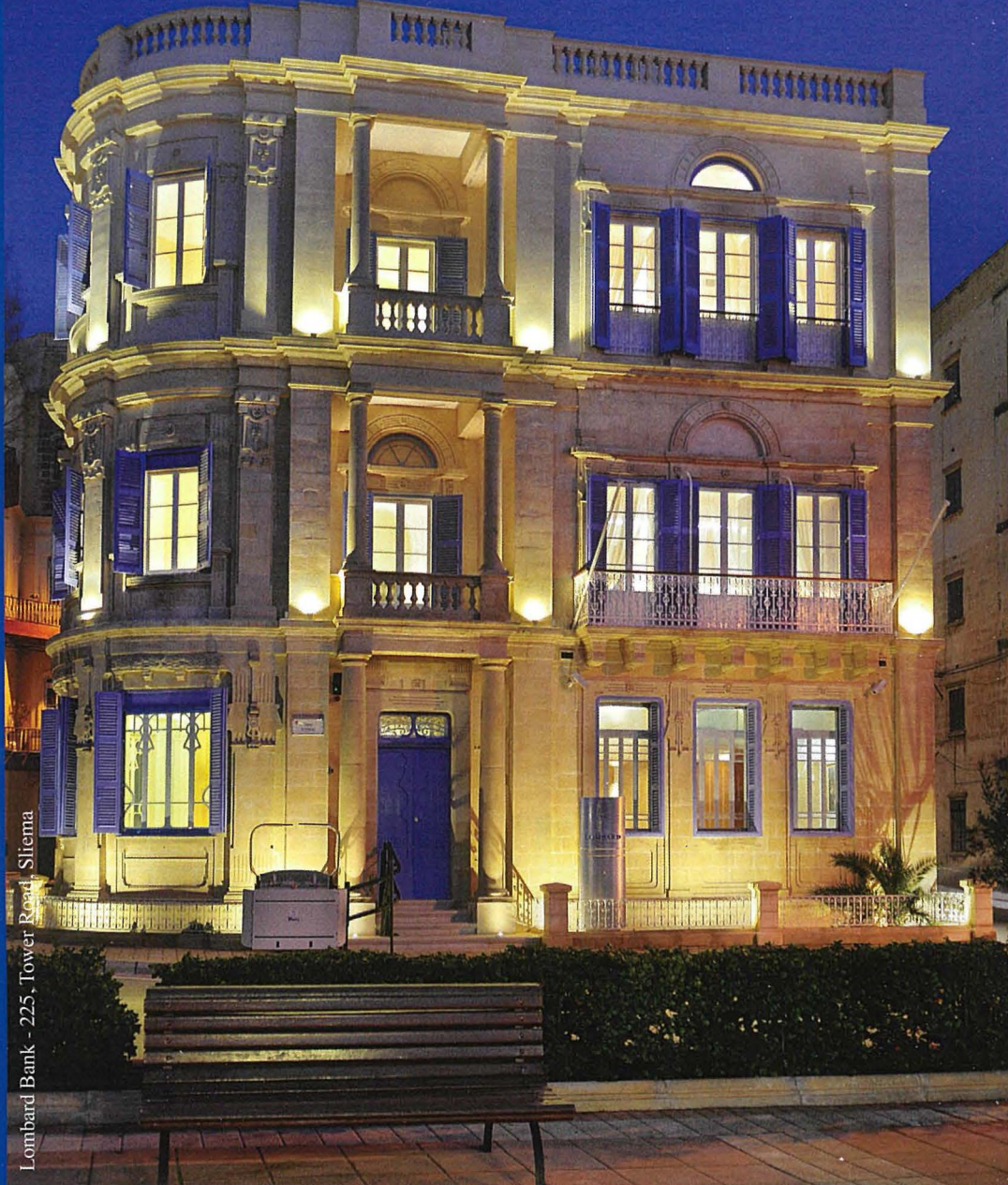


Journal of

THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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HM Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Malta 1964-74, with members of Parliament, during her State opening of Parliament 16 November 1967. The Hon Mr Speaker Dr A Bonnici. HM Queen Elizabeth II, HRH Prince Philip. The Hon the Prime Minister Dr G Borg Olivier. The Hon Dr A Buttigieg Deputy Leader of Opposition.



The Hon Mr Speaker Dr A Bonnici escorting HM Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Malta 1964-1974 for the State opening of Parliament 16 Nov 1967. The Queen started her speech by saying "I come to you as the Queen of Malta".

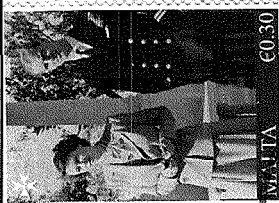
H. E. Gen. Dr. Alfred Bonnici

K.M. U.O.M. FRPSL. M.B. Speaker Emeritus

34 Casa Bonnici

Sur Augustus Bartolo St.,

Ta' Xbiex, Malta



F.D.C. 100 Anniversary of the birth of HRH Prince Philip issued on 10.06.21 sent to me by courtesy of Mr Anthony Grech

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

by John V. De Battista



Princess Elizabeth & Prince Philip at
Villa Guardamangia

Malta is the only place in which the Queen has lived outside the UK, and her time here is perhaps the closest she has come in her adult life to a 'normal' existence.

Her arrival

She arrived in 1949 as Princess Elizabeth, newly married to Prince Philip. He was a Naval officer posted to what was then British Malta; she was a naval officer's wife — at least some of the time.

Her home

The couple lived in a substantial house, Villa Guardamangia, in a residential suburb of Msida, once the food storage area of the Knights of Malta. The house is still there, though in a terrible state of repair.

Her legacy

The Queen remained Queen of Malta after it was granted Independence in 1964, remaining so until Malta was made a Republic ten years later. Her portrait still hangs in the official dining room of the Grand Master's Palace, along with the portraits of Malta's Presidents. She has been back to Malta several times since.

This exhibit aims to retrace the Queen's visits to these islands through an overview of the stamps, philatelic material issued to mark these visits and other connected commemorative ephemera.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

First Visit



On November 20th, 1949 – the second wedding anniversary of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh – the young Princess flew to Malta to join her husband who was serving in the Mediterranean Fleet. She spent her first Christmas on the island and lived at Villa Gwardamangia, Pieta with the Earl and Countess Mountbatten of Burma, Prince Philip's uncle and aunt. The Princess visited Mdina Cathedral and lunched with Archbishop Michael Gonzi, who was to remain a personal friend of the Royal couple. The War Memorial in Floriana commemorating the Maltese who lost their lives in World War I, was unveiled in 1938, but on December 8, 1949, Princess Elizabeth unveiled the tablets replacing the original panels at the base of the memorial to commemorate the dead of the two world wars. The Princess left the island on December 26th 1949.



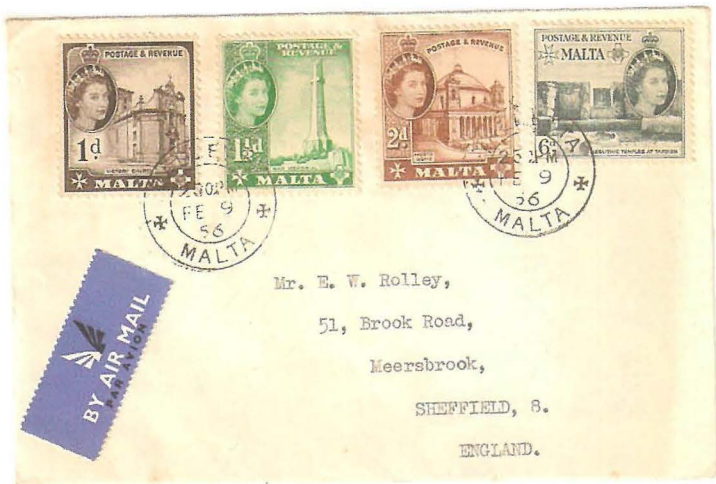
WAR MEMORIAL MONUMENT - FLORIANA - MALTA

War Memorial Postcard issued by
Clifford Vella

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

First Visit



Definitive Stamp showing the War Memorial, forming part of
the 1956 - 1957 definitive stamp set, designed by
Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

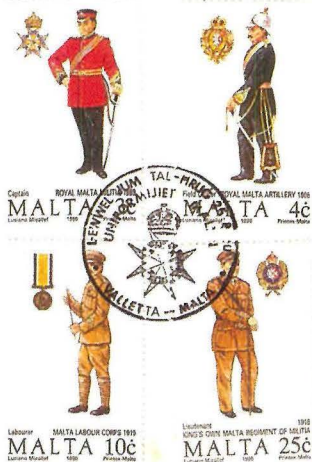
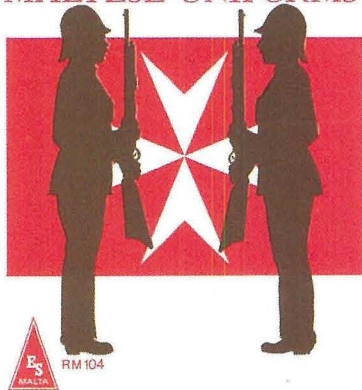
Second Visit

She soon returned for her second visit to the island. She arrived on March 28th, 1950, staying first at San Anton Palace with Sir Gerald and Lady Creasy, and later moving to Villa Gwardamangia with the Earl and Countess Mountbatten. In 1942, King George VI had assumed the Colonelcy-In-Chief of the Royal Malta Artillery, and on the occasion of the eight anniversary of this bestowal Princess Elizabeth graciously consented to take the annual ceremonial parade in Floriana on April 3rd, 1950. The Princess celebrated her 24th birthday on April 21st in Malta. She returned to England on May 9th, 1950.



Royal Malta Artillery (1905) Field Officer,
stamp designed by Luciano Micallef

MALTESE UNIFORMS



Maltese Uniforms - Series 4, issued on
25th August, 1990.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Third Visit

The next visit to Malta of the Princess was to be the longest – from November 25th, 1950 to February 12th, 1951. The Princess and the Duke again spent Christmas in Malta. At a reception given for the Royal couple at the Auberge d'Aragon, Prime Minister George Borg Olivier presented a bronze replica of Antonio Sciortino's sculpture, *Les Gavroches* to the Princess. She returned to England on February 12th, 1951.



Stamp set commemorating the visit of Princess Elizabeth, designed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., issued on 1st December, 1950.



Stamp commemorating Antonio Sciortino, designed by Chev. Emvin Cremona and issued on 12th January, 1974.

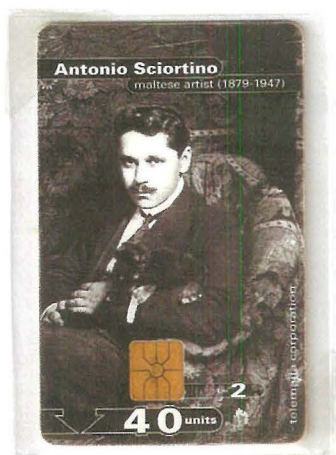
The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Third Visit



Definitive Stamp showing the *Les Gavroches* sculpture, designed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., issued on 23rd January, 1956.



Phone cards commemorating Antonio Sciortino and the sculpture *Les Gavroches*

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

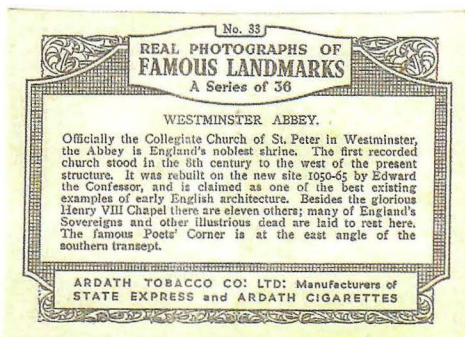
A Philatelic Overview

Fourth Visit

Princess Elizabeth made her fourth visit to Malta – from March 19th to April 11th, 1951. This was to be her last visit to Malta as Princess.



Contemporary vintage cigarette card showing Westminster Abbey, where Princess Elizabeth was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on 2nd June, 1953.



Malta's Coronation Commemorative Stamp, designed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. and forming part of an Omnibus Commonwealth series, issued on 3rd June, 1953.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Fifth Visit



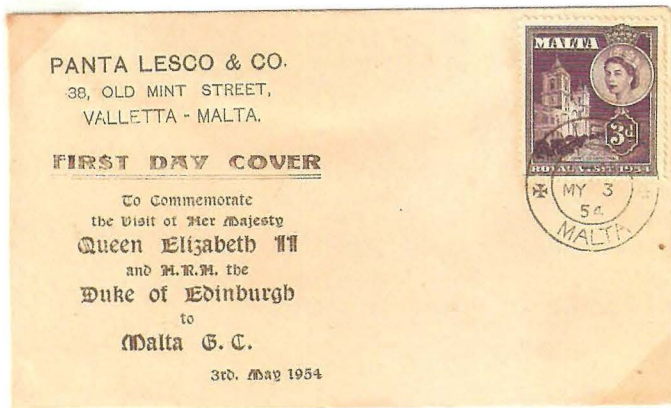
Monday, May 3rd, 1954, was a perfect Mediterranean morning, with a blue sea reflecting the blue sky as the Royal Yacht *Britannia* entered Grand Harbour, escorted by Royal Navy warships as sirens blared and brass bands played. A 21-gun royal salute roared throughout the harbour. A most significant and moving ceremony of the Royal Visit was the unveiling of the Memorial to the Air Forces of the Commonwealth. The fifty-foot high column of travertine marble Memorial, on which the names of Commonwealth airmen are commemorated on the plaques which surround its circular base, is surmounted by a gilded bronze eagle. On the last day of the visit, May 7th, the *Britannia* left Grand Harbour for Gozo. This was the first visit to the sister island from a reigning monarch. The climax of the Queen's visit to Gozo was the unveiling of the War Memorial in Victoria, which represents the figure of Christ the King.



A vintage Bromofoto Postcard issued by Vela, showing the Air Forces Memorial

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta A Philatelic Overview

Fifth Visit



Stamp commemorating this fifth visit, designed by Waterlow & Son, issued on 3rd May, 1954.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Sixth Visit

The visit of Queen Elizabeth to Malta in 1967 – her second State Visit as a Queen, - was another landmark in the island's history, as this was the first time Independent Malta welcomed the Queen. This State Visit to Malta carried with it the underlying significance that Malta had accepted a monarchical form of Government: Malta welcomed her Sovereign. The Queen and Prince Philip arrived on November 14th, 1967. Highlights of the programme included the State opening of Parliament by the Queen of Malta – an historic first, the presentation of new colours to the 1st Battalion King's Own Malta Regiment, a children's rally at Independence Arena, Floriana, a tour of St. John's Co-Cathedral, a Royal appearance at Manoel Theatre and a visit to Gozo. The Royal couple ended their visit to Malta on November 17th, 1967.

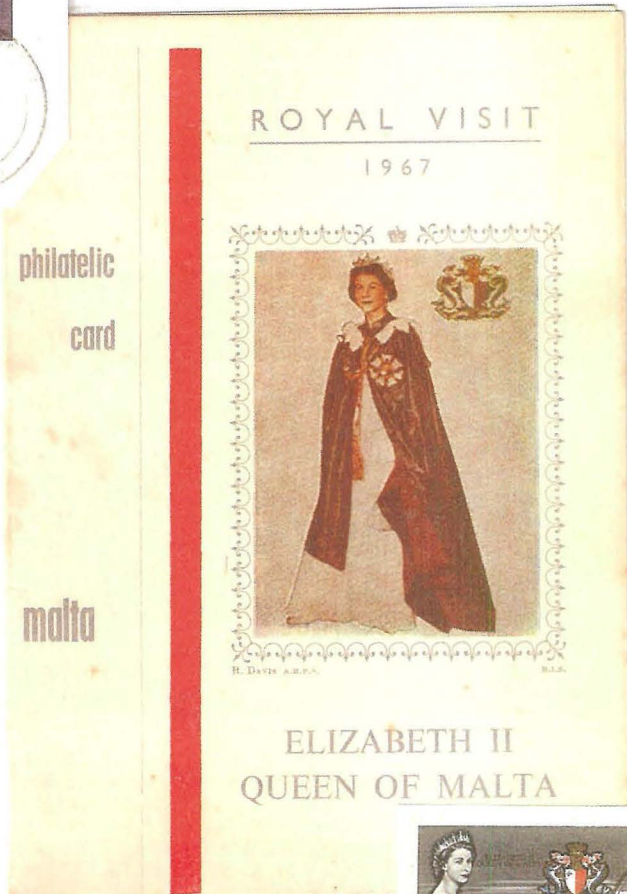


Stamp set commemorating the Royal Visit, designed by Chev. Emvin Cremona, issued on 13th November, 1967.
F.D.C. autographed by the Hon. Dr. Alfred Bonnici, Speaker of the House of Representatives from 25th April, 1966 to 16th August, 1971

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Sixth Visit



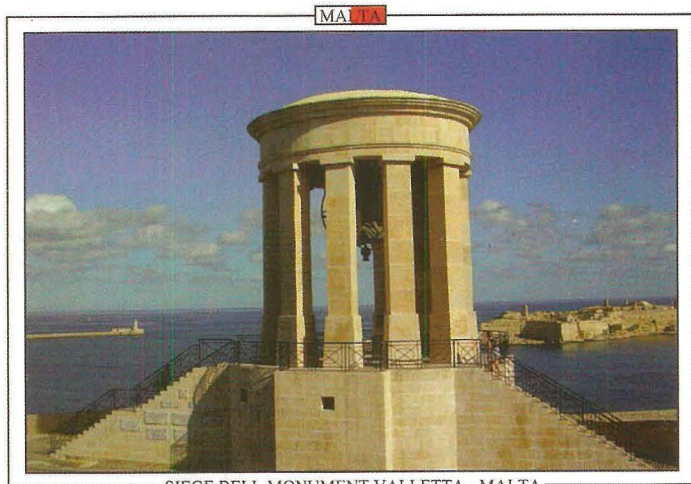
Philatelic Card issued during the Malta Services Week. The event was held between the 17th & 19th November, 1967 in the Independence Arena, Floriana. A special Post Office, consisting of two units, both being temporary branches of the Malta Post Office and a Forces' Post Office employed two special hand stamps to cancel respective stamps.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

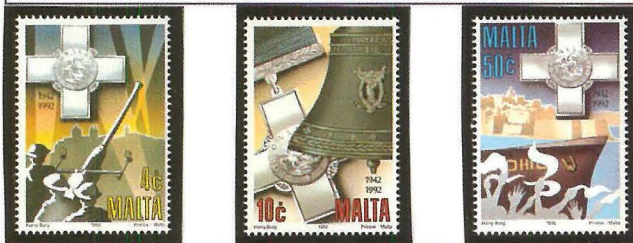
Seventh Visit

On May 28th, 1992, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, sailed into Grand Harbour on board the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, a quarter of a century from their first State visit to the island after Independence, and now their first to the Republic of Malta. In 1967 the Queen was Malta's Head of State, represented by a Governor-General, now the Head of State was the President, the island having attained the status of a republic in 1974. 1992 was the 50th anniversary of the award of the George Cross and also the 40th anniversary of her reign. The climax of the Royal Visit was the short, poignant dedication ceremony of the Siege Bell memorial in Valetta, dedicated to the memory of those who fought and died so that Malta could triumph against all odds in World War II. The Queen ended her visit with a brief one-hour stop in Gozo on May 30th, when she visited the cathedral in the Citadel, and afterwards to Independence Square where she stopped for a moment in front of the War Memorial she herself had unveiled in 1954.



— SIEGE BELL MONUMENT VALETTA - MALTA —

The monument was designed by Michael Sandle and raised on the initiative of the George Cross Island Association to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the presentation of this award to Malta.



Stamp set commemorating WWII, designed by Harry Borg, issued on 15th April, 1992 in expectation of the Royal Couple's visit.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Commemoration of the Queen's Coronation Jubilee

On the occasion of the Queen's Coronation Jubilee, on the 3rd June, 2003 MaltaPost commemorated the event through the issue of a postage stamp set including a miniature sheet, utilizing snapshots spanning various occasions from the Queen's previous visits to the Islands.



Stamp set commemorating the Queen's Coronation Jubilee, designed by Harry Borg, issued on 3rd June, 2003. Princess Elizabeth talking to Carmela Agius (12c); Princess Elizabeth touring Gozo (15c); Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II reads the Speech from the Throne (22c); Prime Minister Dr. George Borg Olivier welcoming Her Majesty (60c); Her Majesty during a walkabout in Republic Street, Valletta (LM1).

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Eight Visit

On November 23rd, 2005, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived on a State Visit ahead of the Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The official programme included a wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial in Floriana in the presence of veterans and Services organizations. The climax of the visit culminated in the opening of the Commonwealth Conference which was being held in Malta. The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, officially opened the CHOGM which was attended by fifty three Commonwealth Heads of Government or their representatives, and was said to have been the largest gathering of Commonwealth Heads of State ever. On November 26th, after thanking the island for a "wonderful welcome", the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh flew back to London at the end of her fourth State Visit to Malta since her accession to the throne in 1953.



Stamp set consisting of four Miniature Sheets to commemorate
CHOGM 2015, designed by Harry Borg and issued on
23rd November, 2005.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Ninth Visit

Almost exactly two years later the Queen's ninth visit to Malta took place; it was one of the shortest: a one night stay. It coincided with her diamond wedding anniversary – the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were married on November 20th, 1947, and they lived in Malta for a short period after they got married. The Queen, then 81, and Prince Philip, 86, arrived in Malta at 5.00pm on November 20th, 2007, in a 12-hour stopover visit en route to Uganda, where she was paying a State Visit to inaugurate that year's CHOGM. After meeting thirty couples who were also celebrating their 60th year of married life, Queen Elizabeth planted a tree at the Upper Barrakka Gardens, whose plaque refers to her diamond wedding anniversary. On the morrow, November 21st, the Queen and Prince Philip left the island.

*Royal Diamond Wedding
1947 - 2007*



*Malta
20 November 2007*



Commemorative Cover 3

Personalized Stamp & Commemorative Cover issued by MaltaPost for the occasion of the visit and the Diamond Wedding Jubilee. Issued on 20th November, 2007.

The Visits of H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II to Malta

A Philatelic Overview

Tenth Visit

Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, made a State Visit to Malta and attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Valletta from 26th to 28th November, 2015. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by The Duchess of Cornwall, also attended CHOGM in support of The Queen. The State Visit, as well as separate engagements undertaken by The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall during the visit, celebrated The Royal Family's enduring affection for Malta: its people, its history and its future.

On Friday 27th November the Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, attended the opening ceremony of the 24th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta.

On the third and final day of the visit, following private farewells with the President, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited Heritage Malta, Kalkara, where they observed restoration work of historically significant paintings, books and textiles and watched a display of Maltese culture – both traditional and contemporary. From here The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh departed by boat to cross Valletta Harbour for the final engagement of the State visit at Marsa Racecourse, home to Malta Racing Club and Malta Polo Club. The Queen and The Duke viewed events and presented prizes before departing for Malta International airport and the official farewell.



Miniature Sheet to commemorate CHOGM 2015, designed in-house by Sean Cini of MaltaPost and issued on 27th November, 2015.

CEDRIC GALEA PIROTTA, ONE OF THE MALTESE STAMP DESIGNERS¹

Joseph C Camilleri

From time to time, a set of stamps is issued by MaltaPost featuring designs by Cedric Galea Pirotta. Cedric started his ‘career’ with MaltaPost in 2010 with a series dedicated to national treasures. This set featured the Azure Window (17c), the Blue Grotto (51c), Ta’ Ċenċ (67c), and the islet of Filfla (€1.16). Since then he has produced 15 sets (2010-2015). In such a short span of time, he managed to create designs which were issued, as joint ventures, by MaltaPost with foreign postal authorities – Iceland in 2011 and Curacao two years later.

Personal details:-

Born: 11th January, 1971.

Locality: Naxxar.

Status: Married to Denise (2001) and fathered a son Matthew (b.2004).

Employment: SITA Inc.

Art background

He was born in a family of four (three boys and a girl). His father passed away when he was still a young boy. His family gave great importance to art. He told me “Art was always in my blood (on both sides of my parents) but never took it seriously due to studies..” Although, he never studied art formally he sat for his Art O-level examination in Form 3 and passed it with flying colours. He started reading for a degree in engineering but decided to call it a day since it was not the “... the line I was after.” He started creating art making his own clipart. “It is here, where I started using pen and ink and this ended being my favourite medium. As time went by, I started taking part in collective exhibitions and then in solos.”

Questions:-

1. Your first stamp designs which appeared on stamps were issued in 2010. It was the first of the annual series ‘Treasures of Malta’. This set depicted four natural treasures. MaltaPost have then invited you to design all the other Treasures of Malta series. Was it difficult for you to start his ‘career’ with MaltaPost? Can you kindly explain how a set of stamps is planned and designed?

¹ The 2016 stamps designed by Mr Galea Pirotta are not included in this interview.

Difficulty in designing a set is three fold:

- a. It has to be liked and accepted by MaltaPost
- b. It has to be interesting and possibly contain information for a philatelist
- c. As an artist, I have to like the output

MaltaPost comes up with an idea for a stamp set and the artist then works on this idea to produce visuals. These are filtered and work starts on the actual paintings thereafter. The process has a lot of homework from the artist's point of view. One has to work in a given area (due to stamp size ratio), certain areas need to be clear as space for value and other information which has to be printed on the image. The painting has to be done to scale (44x31 stamps typically are worked on a x10 scale). Artist must also keep in mind that the painting will be blown up for posters, but also shrunk down for the actual stamp. Hence, the definition must be kept throughout all stages.

2. Your designs were used to depict two buses sets. Each stamp featured one particular route bus with its characteristic colours as well as a landmark. Who decided these landmarks? The first buses set earned you a reward. Can you kindly elaborate on this reward?

This set was first going to depict only the vehicle itself but then, I proposed we could relate this to a Maltese background. Most backgrounds were chosen historically – hence according to the route followed. Others were depicted in relation to the locality.

With regards to the reward – this was a total surprise to me. I later got to learn that MaltaPost takes part in various “philatelic competitions” abroad- exposing their product worldwide. I was informed by MaltaPost of this honour – Best Theme Award.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Isle of Man issued two sets of stamps about Manx buses. The first set was issued on the 2nd June, 1999 and the second one on the 15th July, 2015. Both sets had the same illustrator – the world renowned automotive history artist Peter Hearsey. The first set illustrations depict the buses in its full glory with some people. There were no background scenes. The buses seem to be 19th century graphic illustrations.

When the second buses set was issued, illustrations showed both the buses as well as a historical landmark. This meant that what Cedric Galea Pirotta have created for MaltaPost, had influenced an international automotive history artist. In the second set each Manx bus was given a landmark. The only difference between Cedric Galea Pirotta's and Peter Hearsey's stamp illustrations is that the Maltese buses are part and parcel of the environment while the buses of the Isle Of Man have buildings in their architectural/graphical glory.

3. In 2012, an eighty-eight stamp set was issued by MaltaPost featuring Operational

Pedestal ships. Preparing an eighty-eight stamps design is not an easy task. How many hours of work were dedicated to this set? What sort of research did you go through?

I have no idea of the number of hours I put in for this set but it was a massive challenge. The biggest amount of work was carried out in research (mostly at archives of Maritime Museum and also online). Since this was a historical event, whatever was depicted had to be historically correct. Vessels were often recycled and modified during the Second World War. So the version had to portray the right time frame.

4. A year later you designed a different type of set – wild animals. Your art features mostly scenes, urban scenes mostly. Was it a challenge to design two Maltese wild animals in their traditional habitat?

The challenge in this set was the time frame. I received a call at around noon from MaltaPost that they required a set of two stamps depicting two animals... for the following morning. MaltaPost suggested the surroundings for this set.

5. You designed two joint issues, one in 2011 (Malta/Iceland) and another one two years later (Malta/Curacao). This meant that your stamps are enriching foreign stamps collections. What are your comments?

I was very honoured with this offer – especially since I had also been chosen to depict the foreign scenes too. This meant that my style and work had also been accepted by the respective foreign postal authorities.

6. You designed five Grand Masters in 2014. Your designs were similar to those old popular Grand Masters engravings. This must have offered you limited space for imagination and interpretation. How did you feel designing in such ‘a straight jacket’?

Pen and ink is my favourite medium, so working on an etching-like product was second nature. It was not easy to find portraits of the remaining grandmasters. The other originals were Aubert de Vertot’s.

7. In 2013 you designed the annual prestigious PostEurop set. It featured two postal vans. What difficulties have you faced to feature these historical icons of Maltese postal history?

The vehicles were identified by MaltaPost. Research was done on these two manufacturers’ respective vehicles. Vans were modified accordingly as used by MaltaPost at the time. These modifications were obtained from old photos and books I managed to find.

8. Is there any theme which you dream to design for our local stamps?

A Christmas issue most probably is what comes first in mind

9. MaltaPost issues an annual Christmas set of stamps. So far you have not been given the opportunity to produce designs for such an issue. If you were invited to do so, would you accept?
Like all other sets, I am sure it will be a great challenge!
10. From time to time, PostEurop organizes competitions, as it did for the 2016 stamp issue – Think Green? Would you consider such a challenge?
I would love to accept.
11. Whenever you design a set of stamps, are you involved in designing the FDC envelope and its presentation pack?
No – I just produce the artwork.
12. Chev Emvin Cremona has created many interesting stamp designs for Malta in the 1960s and 1970s. These influenced the British approach to stamp designs – the monarch head. Do you find them inspiring?
Chev Cremona’s style (as answered in 16) did strike me when I was a little kid (probably because my dad also liked his style very much). I really liked his layout and style of depicting the theme.
13. Which foreign countries stamps do you consider as a source of inspiration?
I am not into philately per se that much – apart from their design, so I do not have any. I have never followed them either apart from checking the stamps that come with overseas mail for curiosity.
14. You were involved in 15 issues in such a short span of time. What are your experience with MaltaPost and with Printex Limited personnel?
Experience with MaltaPost personnel is great top down. I do my best to continue to provide what is required whenever it is asked from me. They trust my experience and graphic design background (which helps in planning a stamp keeping in mind the whole process). Through this growing process, I now know what they are after as soon as the idea for a set is conceived.
I have never worked with Printex directly as this is done by MaltaPost.
15. Have you ever collected stamps yourself?
Yes I did when I was very young. The set that struck me most was Emvin Cremona’s 1968 Christmas set – probably due to its innovative shape.
16. Do you encourage stamp collecting for your young son as well as for your nephews and nieces?
I have never tried it actually to be honest as he is not the “collector” type.
17. In your opinion what do philatelists expect from stamp designs?
Something innovative, something to look forward to (a collection spun over

different issues), singularity (sets that are not mass produced so that their rarity makes it more exciting to find and collect)

18. The test

Let's consider an imaginative situation: In 2016 our beloved capital city will have its 450th birthday. Suppose I am MaltaPost's philatelic manager and invite you to prepare a set of stamps marking this anniversary. What will you end up with? Will you have a close study to Cremona's 400th anniversary designs?

I believe that when one refers to works from previous artists' sets, he will end up focusing his ideas on that particular design and loses the ability to focus on new and fresh ideas. The idea of Cremona if I am not mistaken was based on the 4 main people related to the capital when it was built and an aerial view of the city. Integrating the same concept in a new set is not an option in my opinion – so I would work on something different.

The final result cannot just be drawn as this is usually a buildup of research and ideas. Perhaps, I might consider a collage or specific depict details from buildings in Valletta. Who knows?

Mr Galea Pirota thanks for offering me such a unique opportunity to be able to appreciate more your stamp designs. Let's hope we shall have more designs featuring the signature of Cedric Galea Pirota.

CGP – Thank you for your time and interest



May this Christmas
end the present year on a cheerful note
and make way for a fresh
and bright New Year.
Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Healthy 2022.

POSTAL DIARY

7TH MARCH – 28TH OCTOBER 2020

Compiled by John V. De Battista

12th March *(Continued from Vol. 50/2 August 2021)*

Today MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Fleet Stationery’, Testaferrata Street, Ta’ Xbiex XBX 1402, will be closed until Saturday 21st March.

As an alternative, on these days the public was advised that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from the Gzira Post Office situated at 21, Pjazza Meme’ Scicluna, Gzira GZR 1120.

In another media communication, MaltaPost informed that on the 18th March, it will be issuing the fourth series of stamps depicting religious statues. This time round, the issue will feature statues of

St. Joseph found in various churches around Malta and Gozo, including the five titular statues found in: Birkirkara St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church; Kalkara Parish Church; Manikata Parish Church; Msida Parish Church; and Qala Parish Church, Gozo. The other statues featured in the set include those found in; Rabat Church of the Blessed Virgin - Principal Feast; Xagħra Basilica; Gozo - Co-Patron; Birgu Collegiate Church - Confraternity; Birkirkara Basilica of St. Helen - Confraternity; Cospicua Collegiate Church - Confraternity; Għajnsielem Parish Church; Gozo; Secondary Feast; Għaxaq Parish Church - Secondary Feast; Hamrun; St. Cajetan Parish Church; Kirkop Parish Church - Secondary Feast; Mosta Basilica - Confraternity; Qormi St. George Collegiate Church - Confraternity; Valletta Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Confraternity; Żebbuġ Parish Church - Secondary Feast; Żejtun Parish Church - Confraternity; Żurrieq Parish Church - Confraternity.

The stamps will be issued in two sheets of ten different stamps each, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 182mm x 115mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 1,600,000 stamps and each carries a face value of €0.30. Photography of the statues is by Mark Micallef Perconte.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.2/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “MALTESE



FESTA – SERIES IV”” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/18-03-20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting an ornate crown positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 399.

In its third media communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Needs Stationery’, situated at 1, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3306 will be closed until the 21st March.

On these days, Marsaskala residents were advised to use the postal services provided from Marsaskala Post Office situated at Triq Sant’ Antnin, Marsaskala MSK 9059 as an alternative.

13th March

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at the Local Council, 6, Triq Dun Karm Caruana, Għasri GSR1021, will be closed until further notice.

As an alternative, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may use the postal services provided from Għarb Post Office situated in Triq il-Vizitazzjoni, Għarb GRB 1044.

The second media communication informed that the Sub Post Office situated at “Troy DVD Rentals”, Pjazza Arcisqof Gonzi, Kalkara KKR 1502, will be closed until Saturday 21st March.

For this reason, Kalkara residents were requested to pick up their mail items from the Cospicua Post Office situated in Block No 14, Flat No 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910, while Xgħajra residents were requested to pick up their mail items from the Żabbar Post Office situated Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

The final media communication for today informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Tronic Peach’, Triq iċ-Ċitru, Iklin IKL 1081, will be closed until Saturday 21st March.

The public was advised to use the postal services provided from Naxxar Post Office situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR1018 as an alternative.

16th March

The outbreak of the COVID 19 virus in Malta is having significant impact on our way of life and in today’s media communication MaltaPost said that it was

actively monitoring this rapidly evolving situation. It stated that it is following Government's advice whilst working closely with the relevant authorities. It also stated that the World Health Organisation informs that the likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, travelled, and exposed to different conditions and temperature is also low.

Notwithstanding this, MaltaPost stated that it takes the health and safety of both its employees and customers very seriously in order to help prevent the spread of the virus, in line with the guidance issued by the National Health Authorities.

The Company therefore reminded all customers, especially customers who are sick or observing mandatory quarantine at home, to fully co-operate with Postal Operators. It emphasized that customers are to maintain the minimum social distancing of at least one metre when being served.

In addition, and in order to protect both its employees and customers as much as possible, MaltaPost will not be asking customers to sign for mail that requires a signature when it is delivered to their address. Its employees will instead log the name and Identity Card Number of the person accepting the item.

Additionally, for all customers where there is the need to deliver a parcel that won't fit through a letterbox, having knocked on the door or rung the bell, Postal Operators will then step aside to a safe distance while the customer retrieves the item

If one is unable to come to the door at all, the Postal Operator will issue the appropriate notice advising of the alternatives available to collect the postal item. MaltaPost also informed that arrangements have also been made for alternative routing of postal traffic to and from countries which are presently covered by a travel ban namely Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France and Spain. Furthermore, the outbound postal service to China is once again available. (*Ref. entry dated 18th February*)

In another media communication today, MaltaPost informed about the temporary closure of two Sub Post Offices, namely:

H'Attard - Higher Grades', 93, Triq Kannaña, H'Attard ATD 2703, will be closed between 17th and 24th March

Mellieħa - 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 will be closed between the 16th and 21st March.

On these days, the public was informed that if it so wishes it may make use of the postal services provided from the Lija Post Office, situated at 2, Triq Mikelang Borg, Lija LJA 1440 and from the Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Mithna

l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107 as respective alternatives.

20th March

Today MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at Kerċem Local Council, Pjazza Orvieto, Ta' Kerċem KCM 1360 and the Sub Post Office situated at the San Lawrenz Local Council, 22A Triq id-Duluri, San Lawrenz SLZ 1261 will be closed until further notice.

During this period, the public was invited to use the postal services provided from Victoria Post Office situated at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Victoria VCT 1441.

24th March

MaltaPost today issued a media communication whereby it informed that the Sub Post Offices listed below will be closed until further notice.

- H'Attard Sub Post Office situated at Higher Grades', 93, Triq Kanannea, H'Attard ATD 2703.
- Iklin Sub Post Office situated at "Tronic Peach", Triq iċ-Ċitru, Iklin IKL 1081.
- Kalkara Sub Post Office situated at "Troy DVD Rentals", Pjazza Arcisqof Gonzi, Kalkara KKR 1502.
- Marsaskala Sub Post Office situated at "Needs Stationery", 1, Triq Vajrita, Marsascala, MSK 3325.
- Mellieħa Sub Post Office situated at 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024.
- Ta' Xbiex situated at 'Fleet Stationery', Testaferrata Street, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1402.

In another media communication issued today, MaltaPost further informed that the Sub Post Office at CND Stationery, 144, Vjal it-Torri, Gudja GDJ 1704, will be temporarily reducing its opening hours and will now be opening only in the evening from 4:30 p.m. till 7:30 p.m.

As such, the public was advised that as an alternative during the mornings, it may wish to use the postal services provided from:-

- Luqa Post Office, situated at 11, Trejqa Dun Gulju Muscat, Luqa LQA 1450.
- Ġhaxaq Sub Post Office, situated at Marcham Stationery, 4 Wesgħa Bir id-Deheb, Ġhaxaq GXQ 1651.

13th April

Today MaltaPost issued the following Company Announcement, under the signature of Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary, pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules.

“MaltaPost plc (the Company) informs the market that it is consistently monitoring developments resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. On an ongoing basis the Company continues to implement its contingency plans within its overall Risk Assessment policies, together with the recommendations issued by the Government of Malta, the Public Health Authorities, as well as other Regulators.

Whereas to date all the services normally provided by MaltaPost and its national network of offices remain fully functional, however circumstances have called for certain measures to be implemented and some delays and reduction in business are inevitable. The Company relies on foreign postal operators and international flight connections for the transport of mail, however flight connections to and from Malta are currently limited.

While the full financial impact resulting from the pandemic is difficult to foresee, the Company maintains adequate financial fundamentals, a competent and devoted human resource base, together with the technical wherewithal to enable it meet with confidence the challenges ahead.

The Company will continue to keep the market informed of important developments as they unfold.”

24th April

Today MaltaPost announced that its customers can now buy postage stamps right from the comfort of their home through its new online portal.

Any denomination of postage stamps, whether for local or international mail can be purchased online at www.maltapost.com/postagestamps. Customers just need to register online, choose the denominations and quantity required and pay online. Postage stamps are available in various denominations and will be delivered to the customer’s address free of charge.

MaltaPost also reminded its customers that the postage rate for local postal articles up to 50 grams is €0.30. Furthermore, customers were also reminded that they can calculate local and international postage rates on the Postage Calculator available online from the website’s Quick Links or directly through www.maltapost.com/postagecalculator.

MaltaPost concluded its media communication by stating that notwithstanding these difficult circumstances, Post Offices have remained open for business, and praised its postmen and women who continue to work hard to collect, process and deliver all mail and parcels.

05th May

In its media communication for the day, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Offices situated at 1, ‘Needs Stationery’, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3306 and ‘Troy DVD Rentals’, Pjazza Arcisqof Gonzi, Kalkara KKR 1502 are now open again for business. (Ref. 24th March entry)

07th May

Following the tragic death of one of its employees earlier during the day while performing her duties, MaltaPost issued the following statement:

“MaltaPost is deeply saddened by the tragic demise of Ms. Elenia Briffa, a young postal operator who early this morning was involved in a traffic accident in Marsa while on her way to deliver mail. Our heartfelt sympathy goes towards her family, colleagues and friends. A magisterial enquiry is being held.”

In another media communication, MaltaPost announced that on the 9th May it will be joining other European postal administrations by the release of a stamp set in line with this year’s theme - ‘Ancient Postal Routes’. EUROPA stamps highlight the cooperation between European postal administrations and seek to promote philately and build awareness of the common goals, roots, culture and history of Europe. The Malta issue consists of two stamps. The first features a map of the Mediterranean showing the maritime routes between Malta, Pozzallo, Messina and Naples while the second stamp features a portrait of Francesco I de Tassis who was the 15th century pioneer of the postal service in Europe.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of eleven stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 150mm x 158mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset process. The issue consists of 30,800 of the €0.59 stamp and 33,000 of the €2.00 stamp. The design was set by Miguel Farrugia of MaltaPost. The €0.59 stamp will be Malta’s entry for the ‘2020 EUROPA Online Stamp Contest’, an annual online event where stamp designs from across Europe compete for the best entry. The online competition, in which the public can vote, will end on 9th September 2020. The winning stamps will be announced at the PostEurop Plenary Assembly to be held in October 2020, which is being held in Dublin, Ireland.



MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.3/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “EUROPA 2020 – ‘ANCIENT POSTAL ROUTES’” along the outside bordering

the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUG/09-05-20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a Speronara positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 400.

08th May

Today MaltaPost has announced revised tariffs for redirection of mail, as recently approved by the Malta Communications Authority. These new tariffs will come into effect as of 8th June. MaltaPost, as the designated Universal Service Provider, is required to provide redirection of mail services nationwide as part of its Universal Service obligation.

With the revised rates, MaltaPost shall continue to absorb the full cost of a redirection to a local address and this service will be offered for free for the first six months for both individuals and NGOs. The redirection will attract a charge of €10 for the second six months thereafter. Businesses and other entities will be charged €10 per month for the first twelve months. The service is not available to businesses once the first year has lapsed.

The postal redirection service allows an addressee who has moved to a new address to continue receiving mail, bearing the previous address, for a period of time. Redirection of mail is intrinsically complex, becoming progressively challenging as Malta’s social and demographic criteria develop and change. MaltaPost strongly encouraged addressees to inform mail correspondents of any change in their delivery address and to take the necessary measures for any corresponding address to be updated.

In another media communication issued today, MaltaPost released a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. The announcement, under the signature of Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary, reads:

“MaltaPost plc (the Company) refers to the Company Announcement of the 13 April 2020 advising that it continues to monitor developments resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and also keep the market informed accordingly.

During these difficult and unprecedented times, the Company has continued to keep the health and safety of all its employees at the top of its priority list in strict adherence to the guidelines issued by Government and the National Health Authorities from time to time.

This underlying principle has been extended throughout our network of offices in

Malta and Gozo where preventive measures continue to be implemented also for the benefit of all our customers.

In spite of the challenges being faced we have continued to deliver postal services uninterrupted, with only minor disruptions, mainly in deference to consideration of health and safety issues.

However, other areas of operational activity have been significantly affected, not least by the sharp decline in flight connections to and from Malta. As may well be expected, this unplanned interruption is having a negative impact on some of our more important revenue streams and which we are in part rigorously mitigating through the efficient and judicious management of costs, together with other related efficiencies. Currently it is not at all clear when the situation regarding flights is likely to return to normal.

Given the very fluid nature of the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Company continues to focus attention on the Risk Management strategies which it has in place in order to minimise, the related adverse effects on the Company's stakeholders.

The Company is however reassured by the loyalty and dedication of all its staff members who continue to perform well in the face of extremely challenging times.”

12th May

Today MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at ‘Fleet Stationery’, Testaferrata Street, Ta’ Xbiex XBX 1402 has reopened again for business. (*Ref. 24th March entry*)

In another communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at Paul’s Arcade, Triq il-Kahli, San Pawl il-Baħar, SPB 3015 will be closed until further notice.

During this period, the public was advised that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, San Pawl il-Baħar SPB 3416.

The following Company Announcement was also issued today by MaltaPost under the signature of Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary, pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules.

“The Board of Directors of MaltaPost plc is scheduled to meet on Friday 29 May 2020 to consider and approve the interim financial statements for the six months ended 31 March 2020.”

19th May

MaltaPost informed that the Mellieħa Sub Post Office situated at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 has reopened again for business. (Ref. 24th March entry)

22nd May

Today it was announced that due to construction work, the letterbox situated at Triq Mater Boni Consilii, Paola has been temporarily removed.

The public was advised that it may make use of the nearest letterbox situated in Triq il-Lampuka, Paola as the alternative.

28th May

MaltaPost notified the public that a commemorative handstamp will be issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary from the foundation of Ta' Pinu Sanctuary on Saturday 30th May at the Victoria Post Office.



The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “100 SENA MIT-TQEGHID TAL-EWWEL ĠEBLA TAS-SANTWARJU TA' PINU” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of Ta' Pinu Sanctuary beneath which the years 1920 – 2020 was placed. The issue date in a straight line “30-05-20” follows underneath.

29th May

Today MaltaPost issued a company announcement under the signature of company secretary Graham A. Fairclough, pursuant to the Malta Financial Authority Listing Rules, whereby it was announced that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of MaltaPost held on 29th May, 2020, the Board approved the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Statements for the six month period ended 31st March, 2020. These statements were available for viewing and downloading from the company's website.

03rd June

On the 8th June MaltaPost will be participating in the joint stamp issue by SEPAC, the Small European Postal Administration Cooperation, themed ‘Artworks in the National Collection’.

Malta's issue consists a pair of stamps depicting artworks by Edward Caruana Dingli, one of Malta's foremost painters of the early 20th century. The original paintings are exhibited at MUŻA, the National Community Art Museum of Malta.

The stamps were printed in sheets of ten stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 185mm x 114mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 500,000 of the €0.30 stamp and 100,000 of the €0.50 stamp value.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.4/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “SEPAC – ARTWORKS IN THE NATIONAL COLLECTION” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUG/08-06--20” in straight lines are to be



found below an outline image depicting a painter sitting on a stool busily painting at his easel positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 401.

05th June

MaltaPost issued the following Company Announcement, under the signature of Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary, pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules.

“MaltaPost plc (the Company) announces that regulatory approval has been received for a proposed change in the shareholding structure of Untours Insurance Agency Limited and which will effectively result in MaltaPost plc acquiring 49% of the share capital of Untours Insurance Agency Limited.”

08th June

MaltaPost today informed that the San Lawrenz Sub Post Office situated at the Local Council, 22A Triq id-Duluri, San Lawrenz SLZ 1261 has reopened again for business. (*Ref. 20th March entry*)

10th June

The public was informed that the letterbox situated at Triq Salvu Buhagiar, Marsaskala, has been temporarily removed and will be relocated a few metres away in the same street

The public was advised that in the meantime it may wish to use the letterbox situated at Triq Sant Antnin as the nearest alternative.

15th June

It was announced that the letterbox situated at Triq Salvu Buhagiar, Marsaskala, has now been relocated some 200 metres away in the same street, corner with Triq il-Hortan, Marsaskala. (Ref. 10th June entry)

In a separate media communication, MaltaPost informed that it was recently made aware of pop-ups or messages seemingly originating from the company that invite viewers to pay €2 and share personal data in return for a chance to win a free mobile phone.

MaltaPost clarified that it does not engage in such practices and such messages are not being issued by the company. It furthermore stated that it takes its commitments towards protecting and maintaining the privacy of its customers seriously and advises that such messages are to be completely ignored.

22nd June

Today MaltaPost belatedly notified that a commemorative handstamp was issued to mark the 175th anniversary from the restoration of the statue of St John the Baptist. The hand stamp was used at the Victoria Post Office.

The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “STATWA SAN ĠWANN BATTISTA, XEWKIJA ĠHAWDEX 1845 - 2020” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the statue’s torso, which also incorporates the words 175 / SENA FOSTNA. The issue date in a straight line “22-06-20” is to be found right beneath the illustration.



23rd June

Today’s media communication notified that with immediate effect, all Post Offices offering full services will now be at the general public’s disposal to encash all cheques issued by the Central Bank of Malta.

MaltaPost reminded its clients that Post Offices are still open for business as usual, maintaining their normal working hours. With a Post Office in most localities in Malta and Gozo, postal services are available to clients provided they continue to abide by MaltaPost’s standard safety measures together with all recommended social distancing measures.

25th June

MaltaPost reminded its clients that it offers the service for Customs clearance for items bought from a non-EU country. It noted that when customers buy a product from a non-EU country, they become liable to Customs and Excise Duty as well as Value Added Tax (VAT) payments. As part of its efforts to improve customer experience, MaltaPost has introduced a new online payment facility for customs related charges.

Thanks to this new online facility, following the Customs Clearance process by MaltaPost and release by Customs, customers can now pay duty charges, VAT and other administrative fees online and have their items delivered on the next working day following payment.

To pay online one must visit www.maltapost.com/tracking and enter the tracking number in the space provided. Once the parcel details are loaded, one only needs to click on the 'Pay Charges' button and proceed as instructed.

02nd July

Following the removal of the state of emergency by the Superintendence of National Health coupled with the lifting of most COVID-19 preventive measures in the community, MaltaPost informed that for postal items that require a signature, the post person delivering will verify the recipient's ID Card details and request full signature upon receipt. If there is no one at home to accept the delivery, the post person will leave a notice advising of collection alternatives. Customers receiving such items were invited to maintain the recommended social distancing from post persons and to limit physical exposure to the shortest time possible. It was also highly recommended that clients sign for the postal items using their own stationery.

Customers were also invited to register for and make use of the 24/7 Easipik lockers - a service that is provided free of charge and enables online shoppers to pick up all their items from any of the twenty Parcel Locker banks located around Malta and Gozo.

MaltaPost informed that it continued to maintain its regular last mile postal delivery services. Although there are no restrictions or delays for mail and parcels sent and received within Malta and Gozo, it added that delays may continue to be experienced for select third countries for both incoming and outgoing letter mail, parcels and packets.

It also noted that all Post offices are still open for business. In the interest of safeguarding the health and safety of customers and employees, customers visiting Post Offices:

- a) are invited to queue outside and maintain a distance of two meters between one another
- b) are to respect the rule of having not more than two customers in each Post Office at the same time
- c) are to wear a face mask or face shield prior to entering the Post Office
- d) are to clean their hands with the hand sanitizer provided.
- e) shall be refused entry if they display signs of ill-health

08th July

Today MaltaPost announced that it will be participating in a EuroMed Postal Union joint issue, themed ‘Traditional Gastronomy in the Mediterranean’, with the issue of a set of three stamps on Thursday 9th July.

Maltese gastronomy is closely linked to our long relationship with outside cultures. Although traditional Maltese food is seasonal and rustic, both our history and geography have made our gastronomy eclectic, allowing us to ‘borrow’ from Italian, Maghreb and other cuisines.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of ten stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 185mm x 118mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset process. The issue consists of 60,000 of the €0.30 stamp, 130,000 of the €0.59 and 36,000 of the €1.25 stamp. The stamp set was designed by MaltaPost Creative Studio.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.5/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “EUROMED – “TRADITIONAL GASTRONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN””” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST -----
--- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring.

The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/09-07-20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a cook holding a dish of freshly cooked food positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 402.



15th July

MaltaPost informed the public that the letterbox situated at St. Francis Square, Victoria, Gozo is now back in service.

17th July

The public was informed that the Ghasri Sub Post Office situated at the Local Council, 6, Triq Dun Karm Caruana, Ghasri GSR1021 will reopen for business on Monday 20th July. (*Ref. 13th March entry*)

In another media communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at Paul's Arcade, Triq il-Kaħli, St. Paul's Bay SPB 3015 and the Sub Post Office situated at Tronic Peach, Triq iċ-Ċitru, Iklin IKL 1081 are no longer operating as Sub Post Offices.

They advised that where delivery of postal items that require a signature to private addresses are unsuccessful, or the items do not fit into the letterbox, arrangements have been made for clients to collect such items from the respective Post Office as follows:

- St Paul's Bay residents may collect their mail items from St. Paul's Bay Post Office situated at 511, Triq San Pawl, St. Paul's Bay SPB 3416.
- Iklin Residents may collect their mail items from the Naxxar Post Office situated at the Naxxar Civic Centre, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta' Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.

Alternatively one may choose to get the items delivered to a 24/7 Easipik locker.

22nd July

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at Fleet Street, Triq Testaferatta, Ta' Xbiex, XBX 1402, is no longer operating as a Sub Post Office.

As an alternative, residents were advised that if they so wish, they could make use of the postal services provided from the Gzira Post Office situated at 21, Pjazza Meme' Scicluna, Gzira GZR 1120.

In its second media communication for the day, MaltaPost issued an update on its operations with regards to mail processing during the present pandemic scenario. It stated that the international Postal Network is still very congested due to the suspension of various flights, as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Operational conditions at MaltaPost are difficult, especially at the "international mail processing centre", with the cancellation of international flights causing delays in both inbound and outbound mail. This disruption is expected to continue until airlines resume normal operations and sufficient transport capacity becomes available.

Additionally, MaltaPost wished to notify the public of various cases of misleading tracking information on Joom and AliExpress apps. There are also Chinese carriers (like Sunyou, Yanwen and Cianiao used by sellers on Joom, Wish, eBay and

Aliexpress) that are posting automatic updates showing that mail items arrived in Malta when they did not. For correct tracking information, MaltaPost recommends using its website or the “sending postal operator’s tracking website”.

Furthermore MaltaPost acknowledged that all deliveries are critical to all its customers. It also expressed its gratefulness for its customer’s support in these extraordinary circumstances, reiterating that MaltaPost strives to provide the best possible services at all times.

29th July

MaltaPost today informed that the Gudja Sub Post Office at ‘CND Stationery’, 144, Vjal it-Torri, Gudja GDJ1704 will no longer operate as a Sub Post Office as from Saturday 1st August.

They advised that where delivery of postal items that require a signature to private addresses are unsuccessful, or the items do not fit into the letterbox, arrangements have been made for clients to collect such items from the Post Office at the Malta International Airport Hall, Ħal Luqa LQA 500.

Alternatively one may also choose to get the items delivered to a 24/7 Easipik locker.

30th July

The public was informed that the letterbox situated in Triq Mater Boni Consilii, Paola is now back in service. (*Ref. 22nd May entry*).

03rd August

In today’s communication, MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Step in’, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300, will be closed between Tuesday 4th August and Tuesday 11th August.

During this period, the public may wish to alternatively make use of the postal services provided from Bormla Post Office, located at Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

MaltaPost also notified the public that a special handstamp will be issued to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the statue of Saint Lawrence on Tuesday 4th August at the Victoria Post Office.



The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “125TH ANNIVERSARY – STATUE OF ST. LAWRENCE – SAN LAWRENZ, GOZO” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering

the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the statue's torso. The issue date in a straight line "04-08-20" is to be found right beneath the illustration.

04th August

Today's communication informed the public that the Sub Post Offices situated at Electroit Stationery, Pjazza Fredrick Meample, Hal Qormi QRM 1011 and Wigwam Stationery, Triq il-Qroqq, Msida MSD 1702, will be closed from Saturday 8th August until Friday 15th August.

During these days, Qormi residents were requested to pick up their mail items from the Qormi Post Office situated at 343, Triq il-Vitorja, Hal Qormi QRM 2504.

Msida residents were requested to pick up their mail items from Pieta Post Office situated at Telghet Gwardamanga, Pieta' PTA 1310.

10th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that its Post Offices at 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul's Bay and at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra will be providing a temporary evening service from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th August 2020, exclusively for the collection of the registered letters distributing the Government Vouchers.

Residents of these localities were reminded that holders of notices bearing a green header were to visit the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul's Bay while those with white notices were to retrieve their vouchers from the Post Office located at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra.

11th August

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Gorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024 will be closed on Monday 17th August.

On this day, the public was advised to make use of the postal services provided from the Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107 as an alternative.

The second media communication released informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Many Things' Stationery, Triq il-Knisja il-Qadima, Siġġiewi SGW 1704, will be closed on Friday 14th August.

On this day, the public was informed that it could use the postal services provided from Żebbuġ Post Office situated at Triq Sciortino, Żebbuġ ŻBG 1962 as a nearby alternative.

In its final communication for the day, MaltaPost also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at D Spiral Stationery situated at Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691, will be closed on Wednesday 12th August.

On this day, the public could make use of the postal services provided from Birkirkara Post Office situated at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013 as an alternative.

17th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that its four Post Offices located at:

- 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul's Bay
- 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra
- 21, Pjazza Meme` Scicluna, Gzira
- Telgħet Gwardamangia, Pieta`

will be providing a temporary evening service from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th August, exclusively for the collection of the registered letters distributing the Government Vouchers.

Residents of St Paul's Bay were reminded that holders of notices bearing a green header are to visit the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul's Bay while those with white notices should retrieve their vouchers from the Post Office located at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra.

Moreover, all residents in Malta and Gozo who wished to verify their entitlement to the Government vouchers were to call on 80074904 to confirm their entitlement before proceeding to their Post Office for collection. This was so as to avoid unnecessary queuing at the Post Offices.

19th August

MaltaPost today notified that a commemorative handstamp will be issued on Friday 21st August at the Victoria Post Office for the Episcopal Consecration of the Ninth Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Anton Teuma.

The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed "EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION – MGR ANTON TEUMA – NINTH BISHOP OF GOZO" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of bishop Teuma's crest. The issue date in a straight line "21-08-20" is to be found right beneath the illustration.



21st August

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at L-Għajn Stationery, situated at 100, Triq il-Kbira, Dingli DGL 1837, will be closed on Monday 24th August and will remain closed until Thursday 27th August 2020.

During this period, the public may use the postal services provided from Rabat Post Office situated at the Civic Centre, Misraħ il-Parroċċa, Rabat RBT 1001.

In a separate communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at “Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014, will be closed on Monday 24th August.

On this day, the public was advised that if it so wishes it could use the postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office, situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Ghoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.

24th August

MaltaPost announced that its Post Offices located at:

- 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul’s Bay
- 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra

will once again be providing a temporary evening service from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th August, exclusively for the collection of the registered letters distributing the Government Vouchers.

Residents of St Paul’s Bay were again reminded that holders of notices bearing a green header are to visit the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul’s Bay while those with white notices should retrieve their vouchers from the Post Office located at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra.

Moreover, all residents in Malta and Gozo who wish to verify their entitlement to the Government vouchers were to call on 80074904 to confirm their entitlement and to obtain their voucher tracking number before proceeding to their Post Office for collection. This to avoid unnecessary queuing at the Post Offices.

27th August

MaltaPost continued to invest in upgrading the services it offers to its clients with the opening of a new Post Office at 42, Triq Rodolfu Tas-Sliema SLM 1275. This Post Office replaced the Post Office, which was situated at Triq Manwel Dimech in the same locality.

Aside from a range of postal services, this Post Office also retails postage stamps, philatelic items, One-4-All gift vouchers, postage boxes, telephone & mobile

cards, stationery items and greeting cards. This Post Office also offers encashment of Central Bank of Malta cheques, international money transfers, and opening of PostaPay & Save Payment accounts.

The new Post Office in Tas-Sliema will be open as from Thursday 27th August, from Monday to Saturday between 7.30am and 13.00pm.

02nd September

Today's communication informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Higher Grades', 93, Triq Kannea, Attard ATD 2703 will be closed until further notice.

During this period, the public was informed that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from Lija Post Office situated at 2, Triq Mikelang Borg, Lija LJA 1440.

In another separate communication the public was informed that the Sub Post Offices listed below will be closed on Monday 7th September.

- H'Attard Sub Post Office situated at Higher Grades', 93, Triq Kannea, H'Attard ATD 2703.
- Żurriq Sub Post Office situated at AZ Stationery, Vjal l-Indipendenza, Żurriq ZRQ 1317.
- Birkirkara Sub Post Office situated at D Spiral, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691.

04th September

MaltaPost's media communication for today informed that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Gorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 will be closed on Wednesday 9th September.

On this day, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of the postal services provided from Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Mithna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107.

In a separate communication, MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Step in', Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300, will be closed between Wednesday 9th September and Thursday 17th September.

During this period, the public was advised to use the postal services provided from Bormla Post Office at Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910 as an alternative.

10th September

MaltaPost informed that this year's Maltex Philatelic Exhibition and Collector's

Fair will not take place due to the current limitations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It apologised for any inconvenience caused while thanking all philatelists, collectors and supporters that contribute each year for the success of this exhibition.

14th September

MaltaPost today announced that the Sub Post Office at ‘Step in’, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300 has reopened again for business. (*Ref: 4th September entry*)

20th September

MaltaPost announced that it has been made aware about a fake news circulating via private message, namely “Oqgħodu attenti min għada taqbdux il-posta b’idejkhom u halluha jumejn qabel tifthuha għaliex sabu 5 pustiera infettati bil-virus” which translates as “Be careful, as of tomorrow do not touch mail and leave it sitting for two days before opening since five post persons were found infected with the virus”. This message is fake news and should be ignored.

In its second communication for today the public was informed that on the 24thSeptember, MaltaPost will issue a second set of stamps featuring dog breeds. The set will consist of sixteen stamps.

Dogs are considered to be the first species of animal to be domesticated. The dog has been selectively bred over millennia and its long association with humans has led dogs to be uniquely attuned to human behaviour.

Each stamp carries a face value of 51c and the set will be issued in a sheet of sixteen stamps, with each stamp measuring 35mm x 35mm, having a comb perforation of 13.75 x 13.75 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 169mm x 169mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 16,000 sheets. The stamps are reproduced from paintings by the Maltese artist Andrew Micallef.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.6/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “DOGS – SERIES No.2” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/24-09--20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a dog’s paw positioned above a bone at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue



found below an outline image depicting a dog’s paw positioned above a bone at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue

in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 403.

The Gozo Philatelic Society announced in its Facebook page its intention to hold its annual exhibition under the health restriction protocols, between the 31st October and 6th November. It further notified that there will be no official opening due to the Corona Virus restrictions. The staff at the exhibition hall are also authorized to carry out all restrictions as advised by the Health Authorities. All visitors to the exhibition will be required to wear face masks. The venue of the exhibition is the Gozo Ministry Exhibition Hall, while a maximum of ten persons observing social distancing regulations are to be allowed at any one time inside the exhibition hall.

25th September

MaltaPost today informed St. Venera residents that the Sub Post Office situated at C&C Stationery, Fleur De-Lys Street, St. Venera SVR 1580 will be closed until further notice.

During this period, all postal services including collection of mail items will be available at the Hamrun Post Office situated at 18, Triq il-Ferrovija, Hamrun HMR 1900.

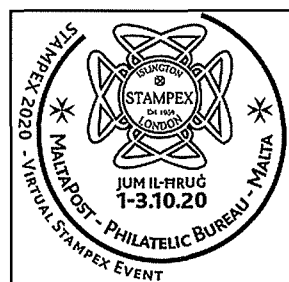
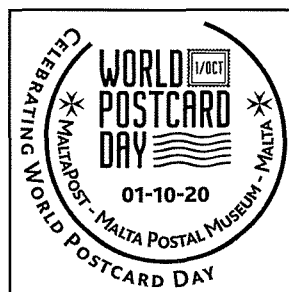
30th September

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative handstamp will be issued on Thursday 1st October at the Malta Postal Museum to commemorate World Postcard Day.

The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “CELEBRATING WORLD POSTCARD DAY” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the World Postal Day Logo. The issue date in a straight line “01-10-20” is to be found right beneath the illustration.

Additionally in a separate communication it was also announced that MaltaPost will be participating in the Virtual Stampex Event between 1st and 3rd October 2020.

The Stampex event is organised by the Philatelic Traders’ Society and will take place online where international postal operators will be showcasing their philatelic items online through an online virtual platform. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau will be participating in this event at booth number B20. A variety of Maltese stamps related to various popular themes will be offered at this virtual booth. On these days MaltaPost encouraged everyone



to join it in this Virtual Stampex event by registering online on: <https://stampex.vfairs.com/>

For this event, MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau issued a Personalised Stamp and Cover featuring the event's logo, which will be available for sale from Thursday 1st October 2020 from all Post Offices.

The single severed-ring hand stamp used on the philatelic material being released is inscribed "STAMPEX 2020 – VIRTUAL STAMPEX EVENT" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the inner side. The words and issue date "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/1-3.10.20" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the Stampex logo at the top centre of the hand stamp.

12th October

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at C&C Stationery, Fleur De-Lys Street, St. Venera SVR 1580 has reopened again for business. (*Ref: 25th September entry*)

In today's second media communication it was notified that for the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Malta Labour Party, a commemorative handstamp was to be issued on Thursday 15th October 2020 and used from the Valletta Post Office in Castille Square.

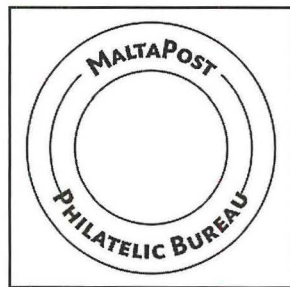
The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed "100 SENAANNIVERSARJU PARTIT LABURISTA – 1920 - 2020" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. VALLETTA - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the 100th Anniversary Labour Party Logo. The issue date in a straight line "15-10-20" is to be found right beneath the illustration.



19th October

MaltaPost today notified that a new Philatelic Bureau "dater" handstamp will start being used as from Friday 23rd October 2020.

The double-ring dater bears the words "MALTAPOST / PHILATELIC BUREAU" in it, both sections being separated by arcs. The date is set inside the small inner ring of the hand stamp.



20th October

It was announced that on the 22nd of October, MaltaPost will issue a miniature sheet bearing one stamp to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of St John Paul II.

Saint John Paul II became the 264th pope and the first non-Italian in 455 years. Lasting almost twenty seven years, his pontificate was one of the most important in centuries, building alliances with Jews, Orthodox, Protestants as well as with the post-communist Eastern Europe states and also the State of Israel.

The stamp within the miniature sheet, designed by Miguel Farrugia of MaltaPost, measures 31 mm x 44mm, has a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bears the Maltese Cross watermark. The miniature sheet itself measures 120 mm x 80 mm and was produced in the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 16,000 miniature sheets with each sheet bearing a value of €3.00.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.7/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “100TH ANNIVERSARY BIRTH OF ST. JOHN PAUL” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/22-10--20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a portrait of St. John Paul positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 404.



28th October

In today’s MaltaPost media communication, it was notified that a commemorative hand stamp will be issued to mark the 21st Annual Gozo Philatelic Exhibition. It will be in use on Saturday 31st October 2020 at the Victoria Post Office in Gozo, situated at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Rabat VCT 1441.



The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY 21ST ANNUAL EXHIBITION” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of a sitting figure of Hermes, with the words Arts & Crafts written on the side of the throne. The issue date in a straight line “31-10-20” is to be found right beneath the illustration.

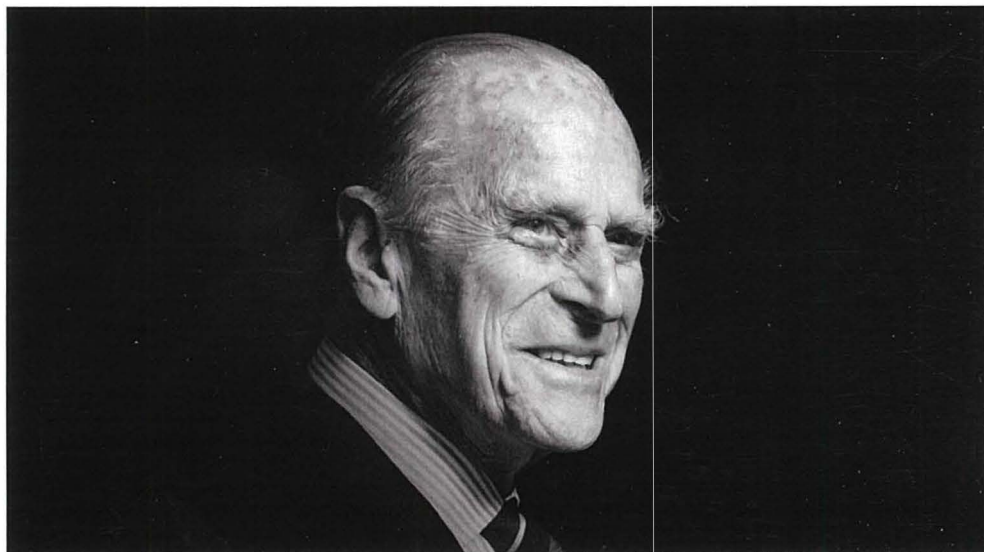
(To be continued)

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Vatican Philatelic Bureau, amongst others.

100TH ANNIVERSARY
BIRTH OF HRH PRINCE PHILIP
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH



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