

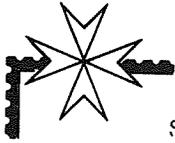


**Journal of**

**THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY**



Security printers since 1971,  
producing stamps for Maltapost and the  
Vatican Philatelic Bureau, amongst others.



# THE MPS JOURNAL

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## CONTENTS

To Mark the MSC's (UK) 100th Display – Lara Bugeja, Curator Malta Postal Museum.....	2
Malta Military Mail pre W.W.1 – Napoleonic Period – Malta Study Circle (UK) Display N° 77 by Roger Evans.....	8
World War 1 – Opened under martial law – Malta Study Circle (UK) Display N° 80/81 by Roger Evans.....	18
POSTAL DIARY – 10TH MAY – 8TH July 2022 – Compiled by John V. De Battista.....	41

# TO MARK THE MSC'S (UK) 100TH DISPLAY

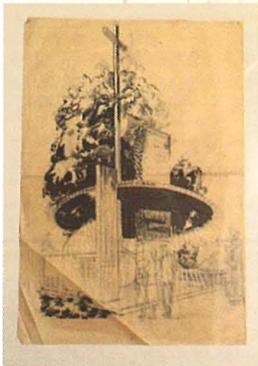
Lara Bugeja, Curator Malta Postal Museum

The Making of the Malta Postal Museum's (MPM) Centenary  
Exhibition of the Birth of E.V. Cremona.

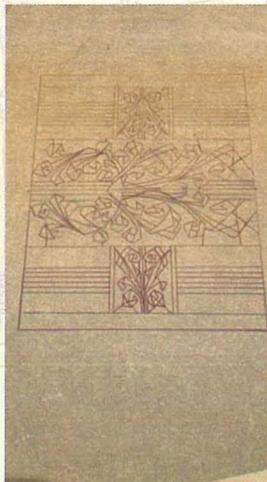


The MPM marked the end of 2019 with an E.V. Cremona retrospective held in two of the Museum's galleries. The intention being to chart the artistic journey of the pioneering modernist that Cremona was – from the mid-40s to his last works prior to his passing in 1987. As many of us are familiar with Cremona's philatelic designs, we thought it important too, to highlight the versatility of this multi-talented artist through other sketches and drawings and where possible to relate them to his larger and better-known paintings.

We began by visiting churches, private collectors, and the artist's daughters to view, select, research, and collate drawings of particular interest that were specifically non-philatelic. There were hundreds if not thousands to sift through!



Design for the Catholic newspaper *Lehen is-Sewwa*, Trade Fair Stand of 1953. This won him 1<sup>st</sup> prize.



Design for an iron door for the British Hotel, Valletta.



Holy Family on tissue paper. Used latterly to promote our Christmas stamp design exhibition.



A study for the statue of St. Joseph and Child, Birkirkara Parish Church of St. Joseph the Worker.



Bozzetto of Selmun Palace Hotel, interior.

Most (but not all) of the drawings related to church commissions. Like all artists worth their salt, Cremona used drawing as the foundation for his art – drawings that started off as one thing only to morph into something else. Many of them in pencil, sanguine and ink give us an insight into how his ideas changed and developed over time. Other designs were used several times over but adapted to suit different contexts. The list is endless.

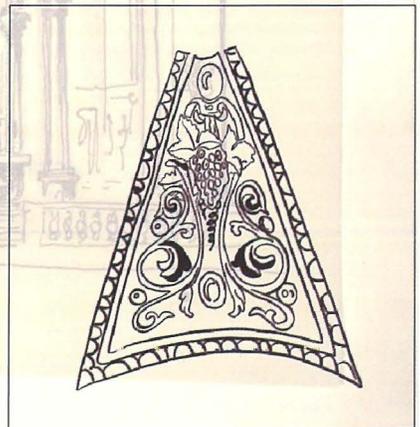
Cremona's drawings demonstrate technical prowess and prolific output but also and more importantly, his sheer versatility. We are privy to him as church painter, interior designer and draughtsman, designer of metalwork, mosaic, furniture, carnival floats, stamps, street decorations and statuary.

∞

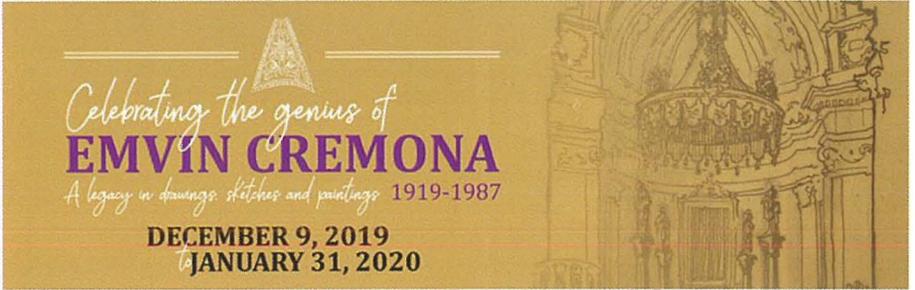
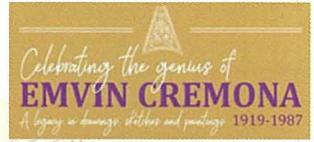
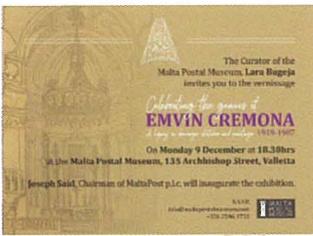
For the exhibition itself, we began with an exhibition logo. Inspiration was taken from one of the spandrels in St. Cajetan Church, Hamrun. This was transformed into an enduring logo for all exhibition related material as well as PR / social media.



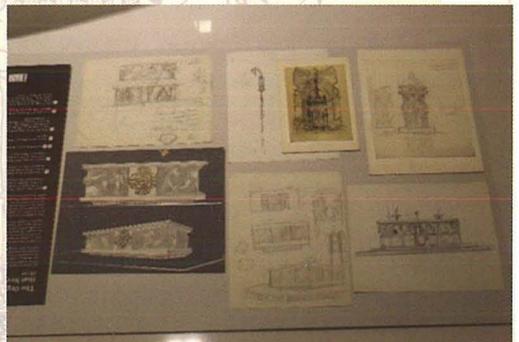
Painted sketch of spandrel, Hamrun Parish Church.



A reworking of spandrel design for exhibition logo.



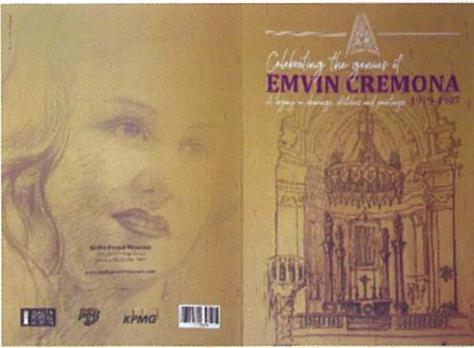
For all exhibition collateral such interpretation panels, posters, brochure, and social media, we selected this detailed sketch of an apse decoration as the main visual feature. Initially we had no idea which church this design was intended for and discovered during our research that it pertained to the Parish Church of Nadur, Gozo. Unfortunately, that design never came to fruition. It is an incredibly detailed and delicate drawing, executed on thin tracing paper.



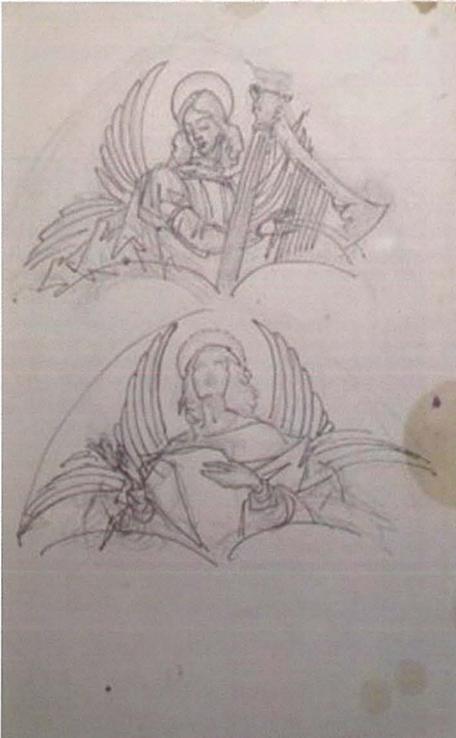
The Nadur apse drawing in its broader context with other designs for altar fronts, crozier, and tabernacle also for same church.

Proposed apse design for Nadur Parish Church, Gozo.





The exhibition brochure, front and inside covers.

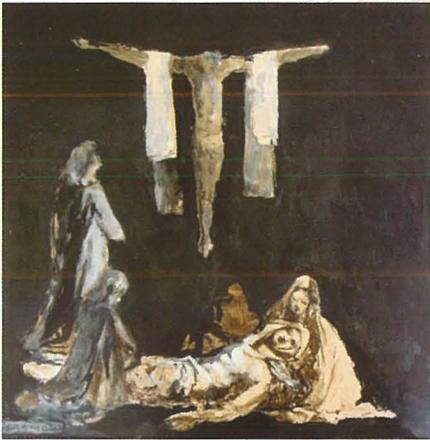


Angels from St. Cajetan Church, Hamrun used as a personalised stamp on the commemorative cover.

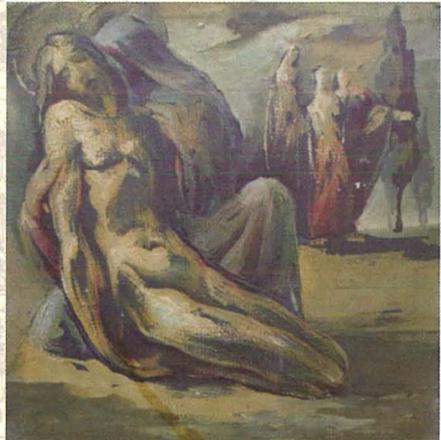


Commemorative handstamp marking the exhibition.

Some general views of the exhibition and other artworks:



Deposition, painted with his left hand, after his stroke.



Study for a Pieta, for Ta' Pinu Church, Gozo.



Designs for Carnival floats.

# MALTA MILITARY MAIL PRE W.W.1

*Napoleonic Period*

Malta Study Circle (UK) Display N° 77

by Roger Evans

1800, JAN. 14<sup>th</sup> 'Off St. Paul's Bay', Malta to Shapinsay, Orkney Islands, North Britain



Captain William Balfour R.N.

Entire from William Balfour at the time 19 yrs old, and probably a midshipman, on board *H.M.S. Northumberland*. The letter is headed 'Off St. Paul's Bay'.

The entire was sent to his mother Frances, niece of Field Marshall John Earl Ligonier. She married his father Thomas of Elwick (1752 – 1799) in 1775.

It was rated 1/6 and was sent by packet to Britain via Lisbon. (The Lisbon mark is very scarce and used on incoming Naval mail only.) It arrived in London on Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> three months later. It was then sent to Edinburgh and rated an additional 8d to 2/2d. The rate from Edinburgh to Orkney was 6d leading to a final rate of 2/8d. *H.M.S. Northumberland* was one of Nelson's ships of the line and later became famous for

transporting Napoleon to St. Helena. It was involved in the blockade of Malta to oust the French forces led by General Vaubois. Malta was captured by Napoleon on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1798 and they were forced out on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1800.

# MALTA

## NAPOLEONIC PERIOD

1800, MAY 7<sup>th</sup> 'Off Malta' to Shapinsay, Orkney, North Britain.

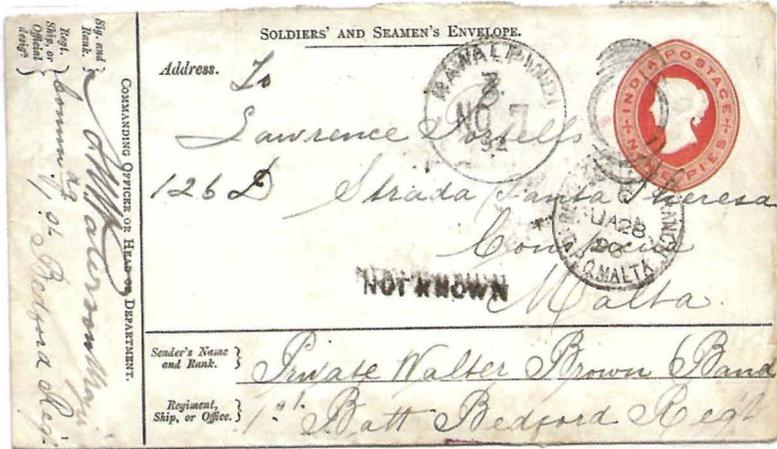


Entire from William Balfour to his mother. The letter tells of how he had received news of his father's death in 1799. It states 'I have just received your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. I had already received information of my poor brother's from my uncle. His letter likewise informed me of my father's death – of this I had been previously informed by the newspapers.' His brother John Edward Ligonier Balfour b. 1780 was killed on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1799 at Alkmaar, whilst a Capt. 9<sup>th</sup> Foot.

This letter was rated 10d and was carried to Britain directly by a British packet Ship. It was cancelled on arrival with a DEAL SHIP LETTER mark. It was forwarded to Edinburgh, where it received a red Edinburgh Bishop Mark for AU 10 (3months 3 days after posting), for an additional charge of 8d and from there to Orkney for a further 6d, making a final rate of 2/-.

## Malta

1892, Nov. 7 Soldier's letter from India to Malta



This 'Soldiers' and Seamen's Envelope was posted by Private Walter Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Batt. Bedford Reg't in Rawalpindi 7 Nov 1892. It was countersigned by the Officer Commanding Major Paterson. It is rated at 9 pies, the equivalent of the 1d concession rate.

It transited via Bombay on 11 Nov 1892 and arrived in Malta 26 Nov. 1892 and Cospicua later the same day.

There appear to have been at least two attempts at delivery. PHS 5 (SP18 reports 2 items with the earliest known being the date of this cover 26.11.1892) and PHS 10 (one known with the date of this cover) It seems that the Patricks may well have recorded this! The annotation 'no such person in such number is initialled by the postman 'G. G.' and dated 26 and 28/11/92.

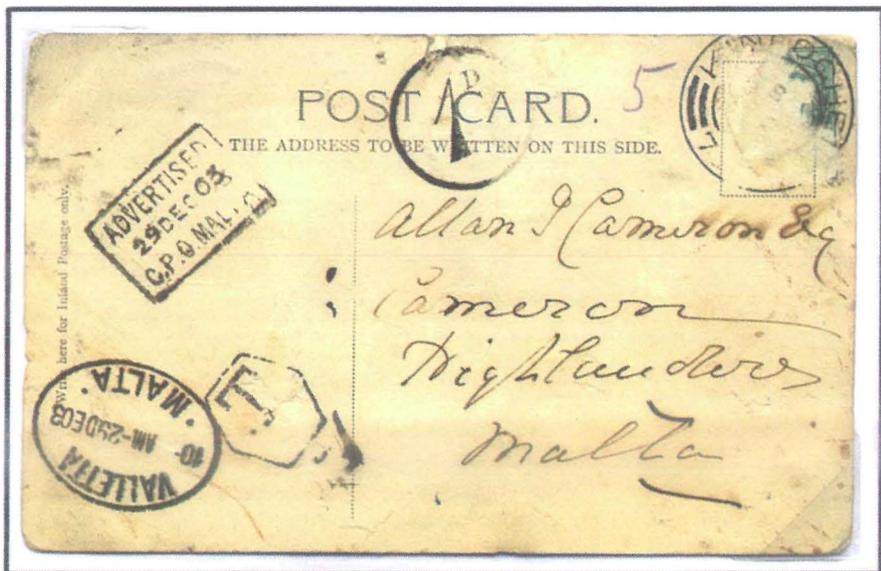
The next item of interest is the use of the 'NOT KNOWN' straight-line handstamp (25½ x 2½ mm) which is recorded in the MSC Handbook but no dates of use are given.

Finally, in Malta, it received the Returned Letter Branch G.P.O. Malta handstamp dated 28 Jan 93. The letter was then evidently returned to sender as it has (on reverse) strikes of the D.L.O. (dead letter office) handstamps of Bombay 18 Feb 1893 and Lahore 23 Feb 1893.

## MALTA

### POSTAGE DUE

1903 DEC. 23<sup>rd</sup> Postcard Kinlocheil to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battallion Cameron Highlanders, Malta.



The card is rated at ½ d . There is no message and given the date of posting it was probably intended as a Christmas Greeting card. The sender may have either thought that the absence of a message meant it could go at half the correct rate. Or given the frequent misapprehension by family that British Forces overseas were entitled to receive mail at the inland rate it may simply have been an error. Either way the Post Office was a little short on the seasonal good will!

The card posted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> arrived in Valletta at 10.00AM 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1903. It was stamped with the 'T' in hexagon before leaving London to indicate postage due. The Maltese Post Office duly obliged and added the 1d in circle. (PD-12) first used in 1900.

The Cameron Highlanders were stationed in Manoel Barracks so the Post Office was unable to deliver the card directly to the recipient. The gate orderly would not take a chance on being able to recover the money so the card was not delivered.

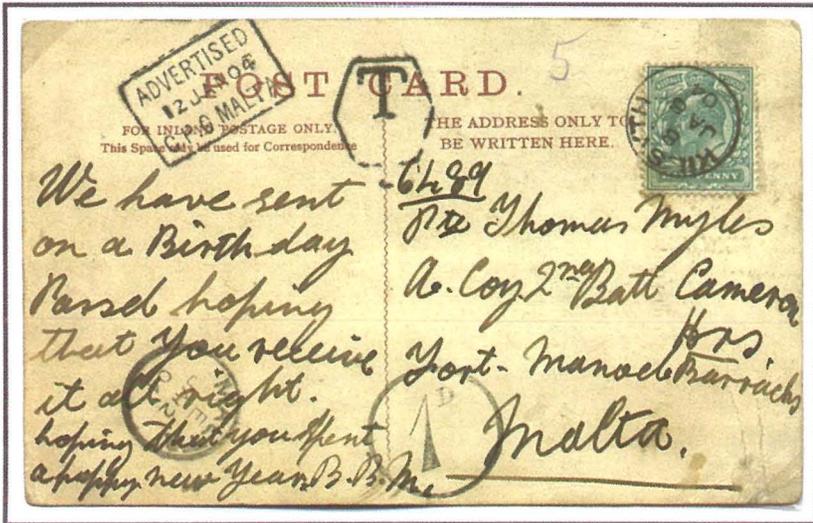
The Post Office then applied the 'ADVERTISED G.P.O. MALTA' handstamp ADV-1. This is thought to be the earliest recorded date of use, although it appears in the GPO proof book in 1894.

The view side is a picture of Achnacarry, Fort William in the Scottish Highlands.

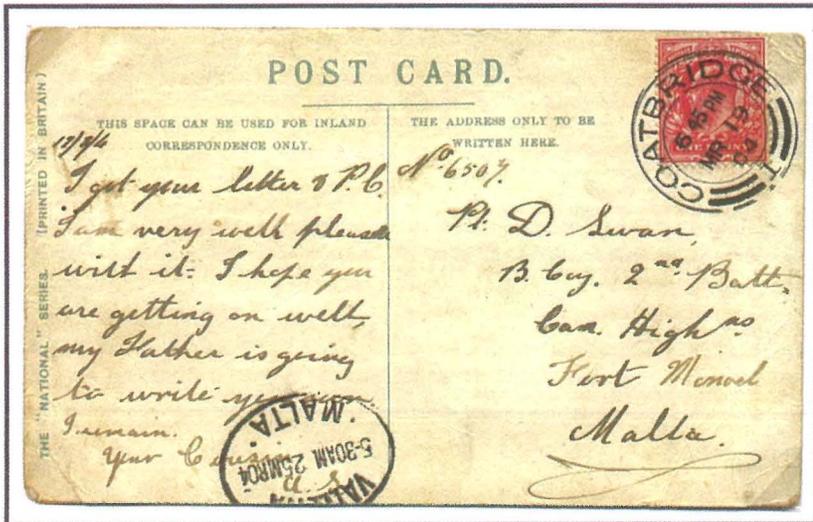
MALTA

POSTAGE DUE

1904, JAN. 12<sup>th</sup>. Kilsyth, Scotland to Fort Manoel Barracks.



Postcard to Pte. Myles, Cameron Highlanders. 1d postage due in circle applied in Malta. 'ADVERTISED G.P.O. MALTA 12 JAN 04'. Many thought that Malta was a home depot and qualified for inland postage at 1/2d – but the correct rate was 1d.



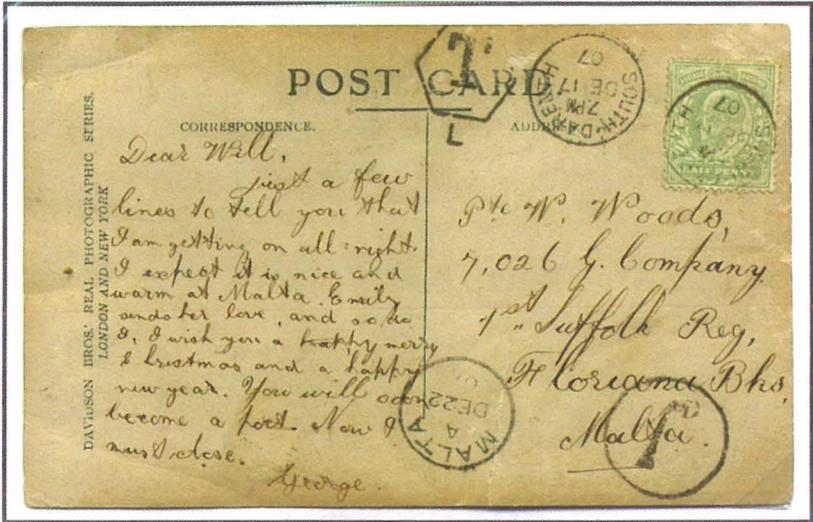
1904, MAR 19<sup>th</sup> Card to Pte. Swan, also of the Cameron Highlanders posted at the correct rate.

# MALTA

## BRITISH FORCES IN MALTA

1907, DEC. 17<sup>th</sup>.

South Darenth to Floriana Barracks.

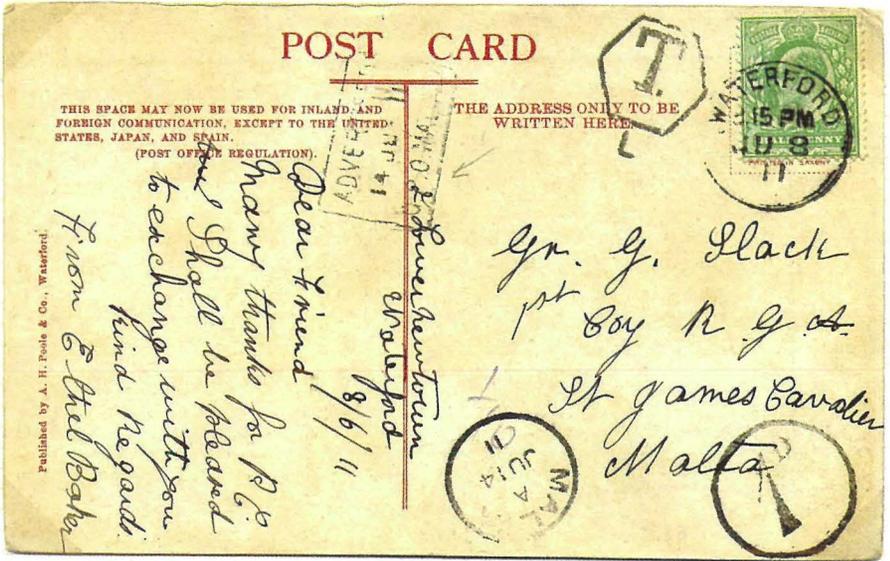


Postcard to Pte. Woods, 1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk Regiment. 1d postage due in circle applied in Malta on arrival 22<sup>nd</sup> DEC. Many thought that Malta was a home depot and qualified for inland postage at ½d – but the correct rate was 1d.



FLORIANA BARRACKS circa 1910

1911. Card from Waterford, Ireland to Gunner Slack, Malta.



This card was posted in Waterford on June 8th 1911. The correct postage was 1d, and the hexagonal 'T' indicated that 'Taxe' or extra postage was due. The letter 'L' at the base indicates that this stamp was added at London.

The card arrived in Malta on 14 June 1911 and received the arrival handstamp, code 'A'. The 1d in circle postage due stamp was also added.

The card was presumably undelivered and bears the boxed handstamp 'ADVERTISED 14 JU 11 G.P.O. MALTA'.



# MALTA

MARITIME : ROYAL NAVY

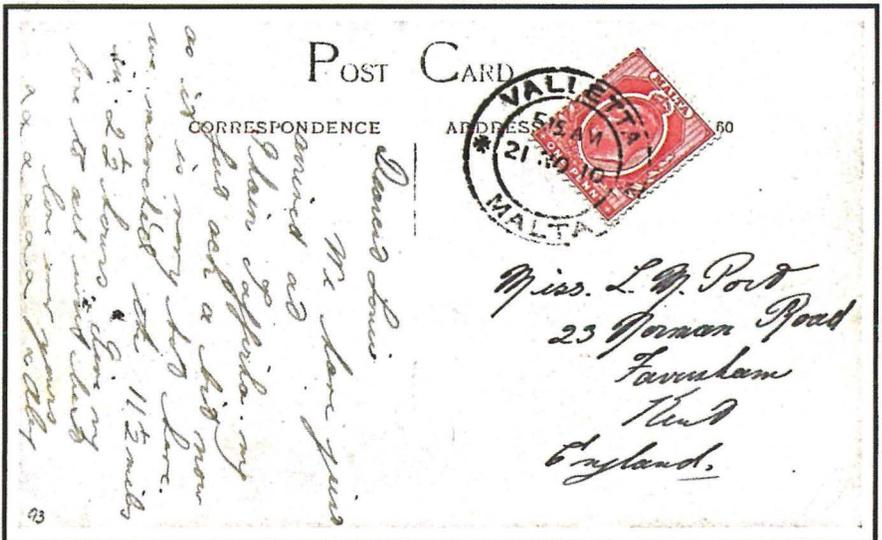
1910, NOV. 21<sup>st</sup> .

Valletta to Faversham, Kent



H.M.S. RUSSELL at the entrance to Grand Harbour. Photo. By R. ELLIS.

The message reads 'Just arrived at Chain Tuffieha. My feet ache. We marched 11½ miles in 2½ hours.'



# MALTA

## POSTAGE DUE

1908, MAY 8th. SLIEMA to ADMIRALTY HOUSE, VITTORIOSA



Card posted SLIEMA 10.30 AM. 1/4d stamp used, when correct local postcard rate was 1/2d. Hence, surcharged 1/2d postage due (twice the deficit) with type PD-1/2 2b - which was in use from 28th Sept. 1900 to 17 Mar. 1921.

Handstruck Tax mark - T - type PDT - 2 size 11.5 x 11.5 mm. This type has the distinctive curve to the base of the 'T'. Used from 4 NOV 1879 - 8 MAY 1908 (This extends the latest known use by 8 years).

Cancelled on arrival in Valletta at 11.40 AM - 1 hour and ten minutes later. Delivered the same day from the Cospicua branch office - Code 'D'.

# MALTA

## VILLAGE POSTMARK

1918 JULY 17<sup>th</sup>

Postcard sent from Zabbar to Fribourg, Switzerland



Letter sent from Zabbar to Fribourg, Switzerland where it arrived on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

Sent at the 2½d foreign letter rate.

(26 examples on card or cover recorded by Bannister – this is the second latest)

Opened under martial law<sup>1</sup> CSL-12 used Nov 16 to Jul 19. Known on Orange and Pink paper but not seen on this deep magenta paper.

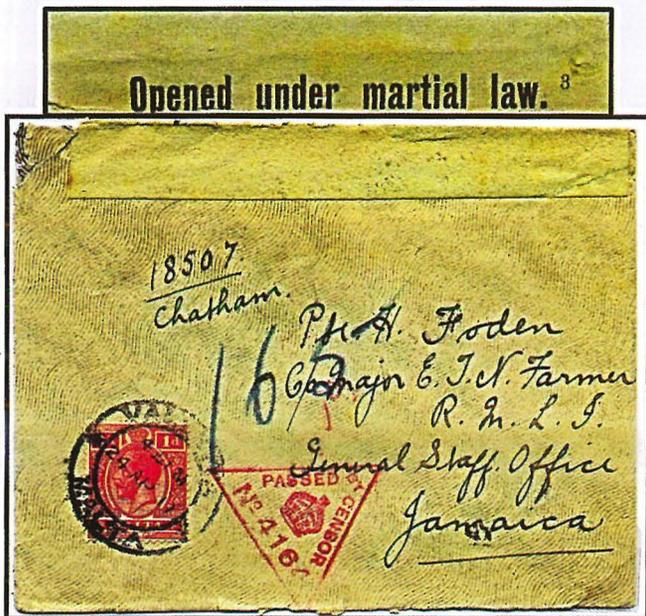
CS-T1-4163 : Used June 16 to Feb. 19.



**WORLD WAR 1**  
*Opened under martial law*  
Malta Study Circle (UK) Display N° 80/81  
by Roger Evans

1917, Apr. 24<sup>th</sup>

Censored letter to Kingston, Jamaica.



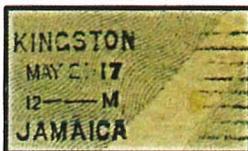
Letter rated at 1d the Imperial letter rate.

'Opened under martial law. 3' resealing label CSL-21. Used Feb. 1917 to May 1919.

'Grey' paper.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1 4164 used Oct. 1916 to Jul. 1918.

Backstamped on arrival Kingston 21 May 1917 – 34 days in transit.



Ex: Michael Lewis, Sold Spink 2019.

MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1919, FEB. 15<sup>th</sup>.

SLIEMA B.O. to ENGLAND



'Opened under Martial law 5' CSL-12. The number 5 has not been previously recorded on this label type.

The label is printed on recycled paper which is printed on the reverse. It reads:-



"of the Institution and the hard work  
ee or the Soldiers and Sailors Institute  
liss Gr.... Who gave £200.....  
an Institute for convalescents and also  
and Allied Forces. A library, reading  
a Billiards Table and a fully equipped  
entertainments have been held without"

'PASSED BY CENSOR 4173' CS-T1-4173 used MAY 1915 to JUN 1919 on outgoing mail only.

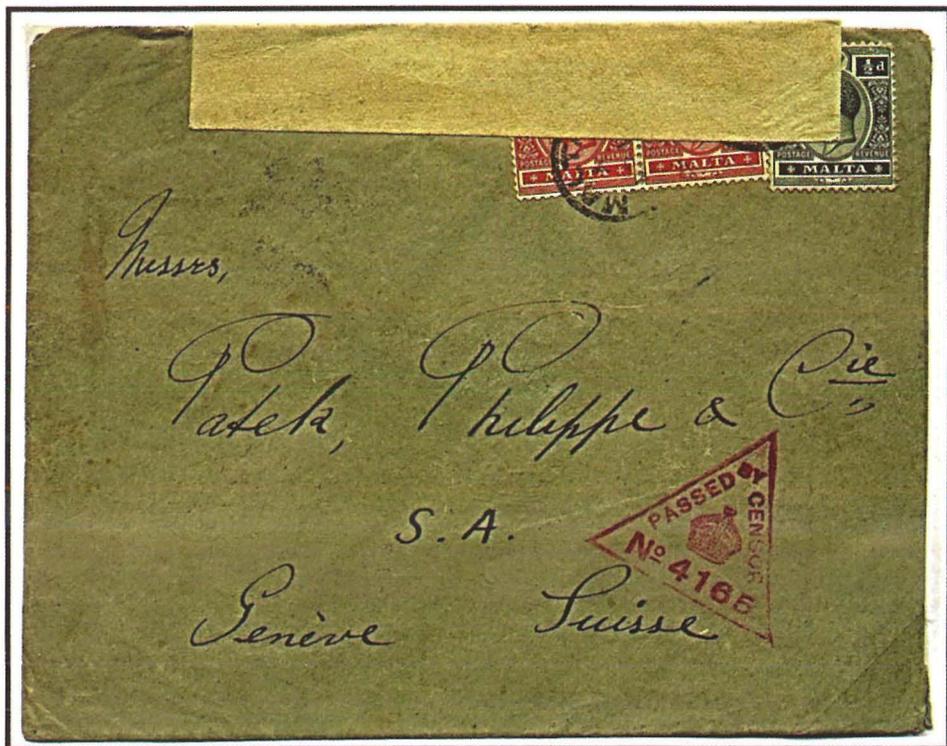
The cover is rated 1d + 1/2d WAR TAX. The additional 1/2d was required on letters from 6 DEC 1917 to 1 JUN 1920, and was abolished for postcards from 10 JAN 1918.

MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1917, MAR. 12<sup>th</sup>

Civilian mail to Switzerland



Opened under martial law. <sup>6</sup>



'Opened under martial law. <sup>6</sup>' CSL-12-6. Used from NOV 16 to APR 19.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1-4165 used from JUL 16 to OCT 19.

Arrived in Geneva 26 MAR 1917 14 days in transit.

MALTA

WORLD WAR I

Circa 1918

Civilian censored letter to France.



Letter rated at 2½d the foreign letter rate. It has a ½d and 2 x 1d GB KGV stamps, cancelled 'PAQUEBOT' PAQ-2 used in Malta between 1905 and 1930.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1 4181 used July 1916 to July 1919.

'Opened under martial law<sup>6</sup>,' resealing label CSL-12 #6. Used Nov. 1916 to Sept. 1919.

'Grey' paper.

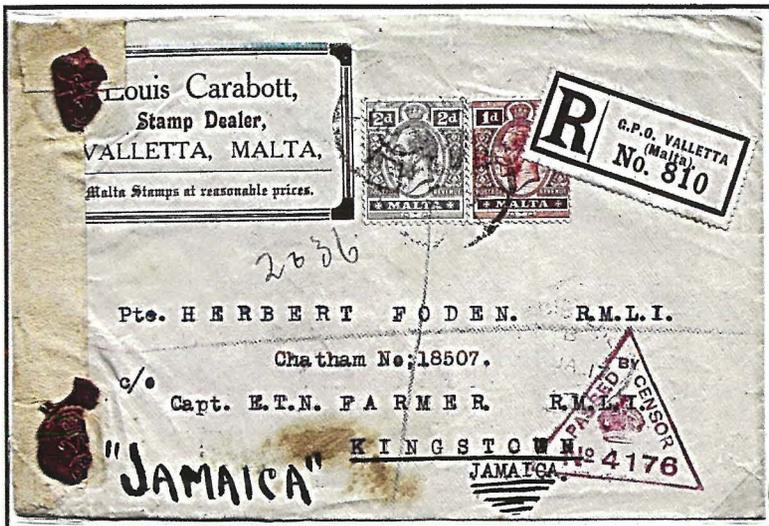


MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1917, Jan.

Registered censored letter to Kingston, Jamaica.



Registered letter rated at 1d the Imperial letter rate and 2d registration fee. The are 4 examples of the wax seal 'VR' used to tie the label.

'Opened under martial law.'<sup>7</sup> resealing label CSL-12. Used Oct. 1916 to Sept. 1919. 'White' paper.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1 4176 used June 1916 to July 1919.

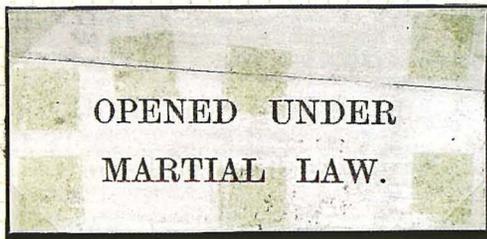


Backstamped on arrival Registered Kingston 12 Feb. 1917.

Ex: Michael Lewis, Sold Spink 2019.

WORLD WAR I : CENSORED MAIL.

1915; 14th JAN. Civilian mail; Malta to Holland.



CSL-22 'OPENED UNDER / MARTIAL LAW' but lines 6mm apart instead of 2½mm. Type not previously recorded.

CS-C1-1078. 'PASSED BY CENSOR 1078': Used OC 14 to 27 MR 1916.

2½d was the European letter rate. Arrived Amsterdam Jan 27th.

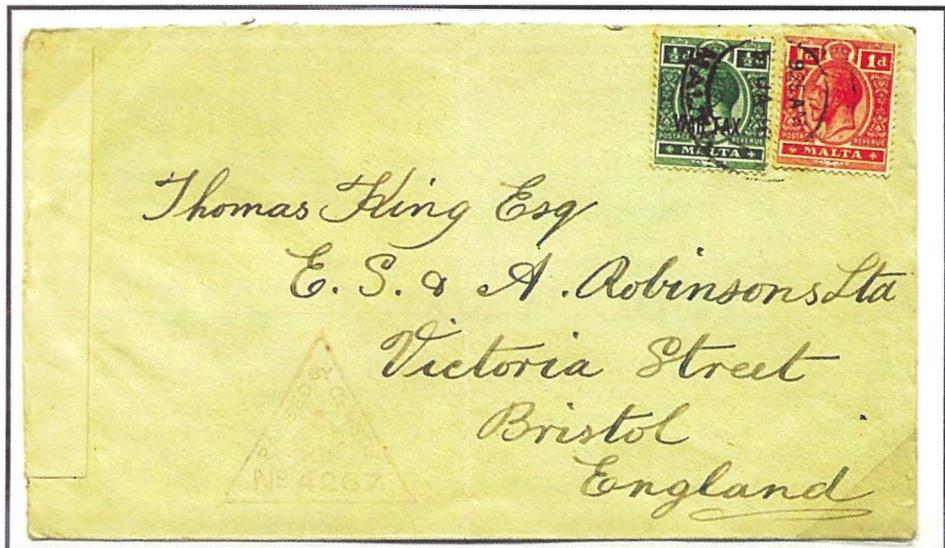
On reverse the mark PH / 344 in small box : significance unknown.

MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1918, JAN. 5<sup>th</sup>

Civilian mail to England



OPENED UNDER  
MARTIAL LAW. 1

'Opened under / martial law.1' CSL-21-1. Used from 5 JAN 18. This is the only recorded example of this label number.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1-4167 used from AUG 16 to AUG 19.

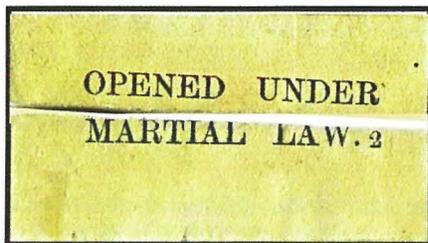
The cover bears the ½d WAR TAX stamp whose use was introduced on 15 DEC 1917. This is an early and correct use.

MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1917, MAY. 19<sup>th</sup>

Civilian mail to Italy



'Opened under / martial law.2' CSL-21-2. Used from FEB 17 to JUL 19.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1-4177 used from JUN 16 to JUL 19.

Arrived Florence 29 May 17 – 10 days in transit.

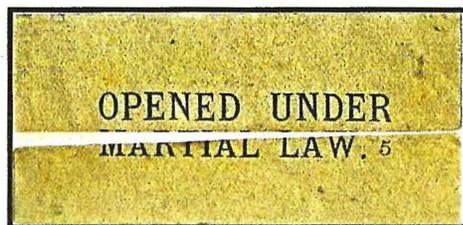
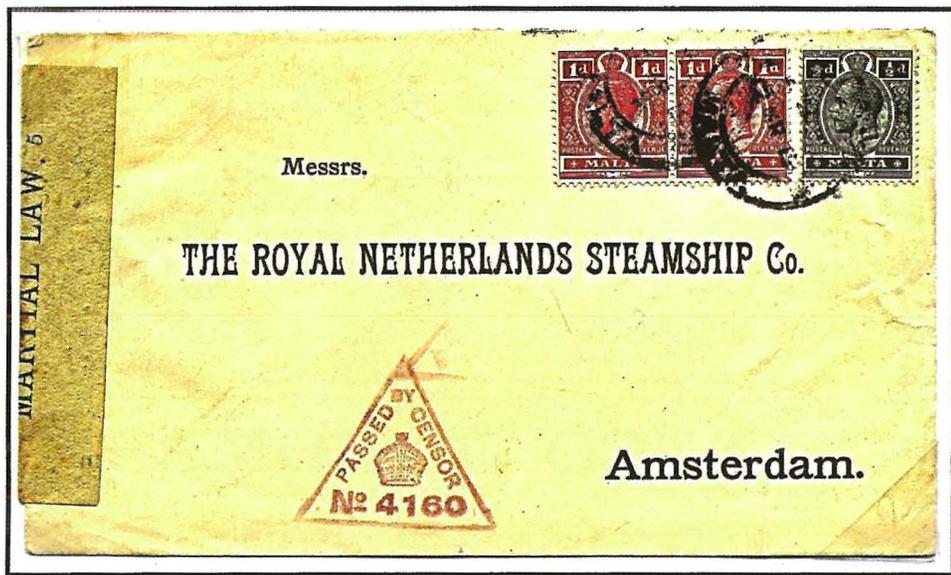


MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1915, MAR. 12<sup>th</sup>

Civilian Mail to Amsterdam, Holland



'OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW 5' CSL-22 Letters 5mm high. Used 12 MAR 15 to 2 APR 19.

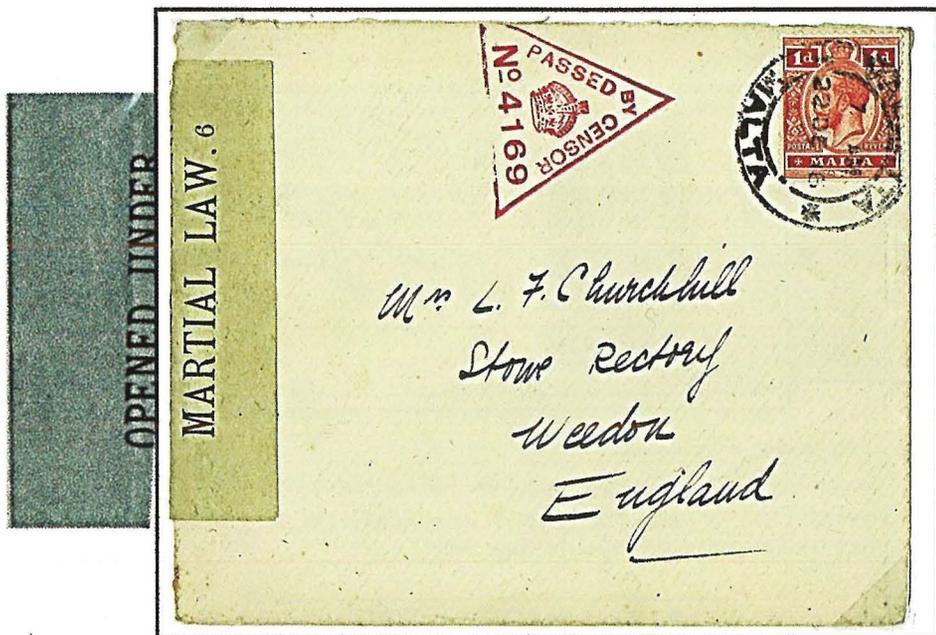
'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1-4160. Used MAR 15 to SEP 19. This is the earliest recorded.

2½d was the European letter rate.

# MALTA

## WORLD WAR I

1916 DEC. 22<sup>nd</sup> MALTA to ENGLAND



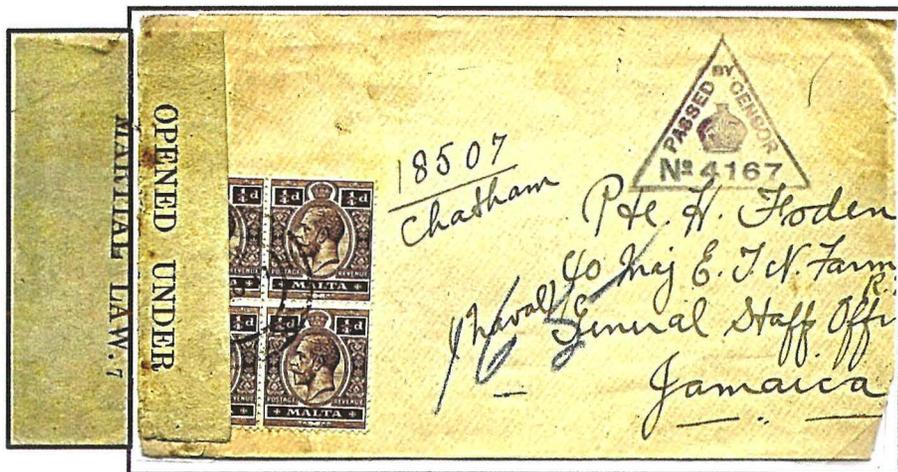
Cancelled Valletta 7.00 AM 22 DE 16.

CS-T1-4169 used JY 1916 – JY 1919.

OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW 6 – CSL-22. This is the earliest recorded date.

MALTA  
WORLD WAR I

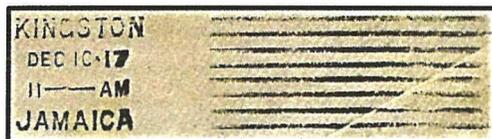
1917, NOV. letter to Private Foden, Kingston, Jamaica.



Letter rated at 1d the Imperial letter rate.

Censored by CS-T1-4167 used between June 1916 and August 1919.

'OPENED UNDER / MARTIAL LAW. 7' resealing label CSL-21 Used Jan 1916 to Apr 1919. First example recorded on 'Grey' paper.



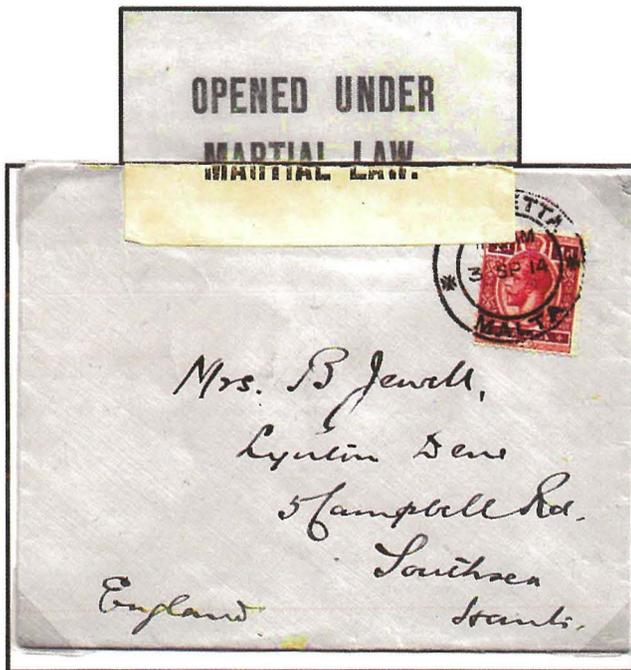
Arrival machine cancel on back for Kingston 10 Dec. 1917.

Ex: Michael Lewis, Sold Spink 2019.

MALTA  
WORLD WAR I

1914, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Censored letter to Southsea, Hants..



Letter rated at 1d the Imperial letter rate.

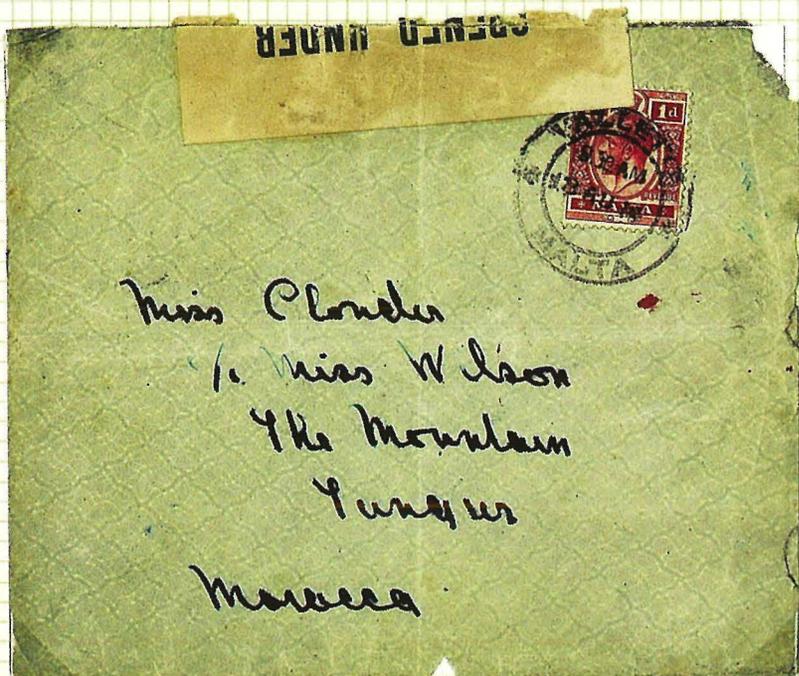
'OPENED UNDER / MARTIAL LAW.' resealing label CSL-23 Used Aug 1914 to Nov. 1914. 'White' paper. Scarce early use of the first type of resealing label.



'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-L1 (54 x 5 mm) used Aug. 1914 to Oct. 1914.

WORLD WAR I : CENSORED MAIL.

1914, AU 18. Valletta to Tangier, Morocco. Civilian Mail.



'OPENED UNDER / MARTIAL LAW' : As CSL-11 but on two lines. Type not recorded by M.S.C. but P.S.M. records used 5 SEP and 3 DE 1914.

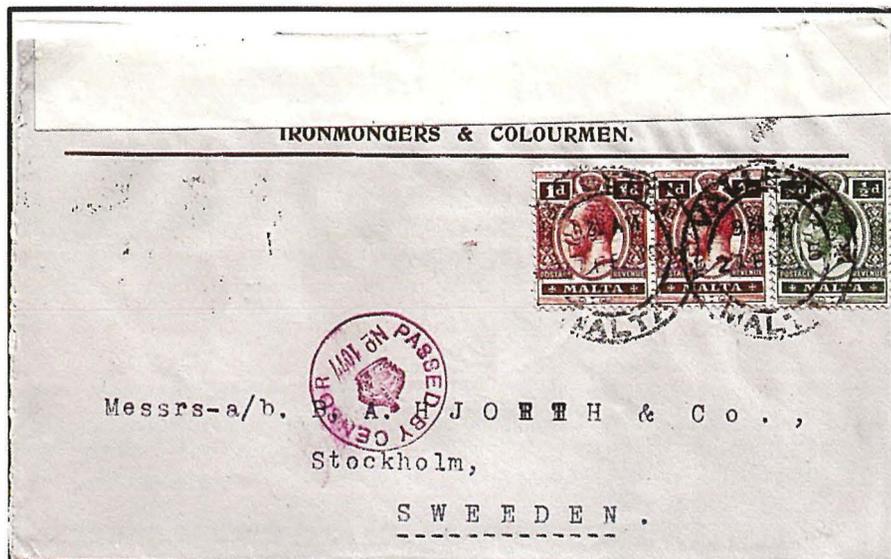
'PASSED BY CENSOR' : 54mm x 5mm CS-L1. Used 10 AU - 14 OC 1914.

Letter arrived 'GIBRALTAR 8 SE' and 'BRITISH POST OFFICE TANGIER 10 SP 14'. 23 days in transit.

MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1915 FEB. 27<sup>th</sup> Letter to Stockholm, Sweeden (sic) from D. G. ANASTASI & SONS.



Letter sent to Stockholm where it arrived on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Sent at the 2½d foreign letter rate.  
OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW CSL-11 used Sept. 14 to Feb. 18. CS-C1-1077 :  
Used Oct. 14 to May 16.

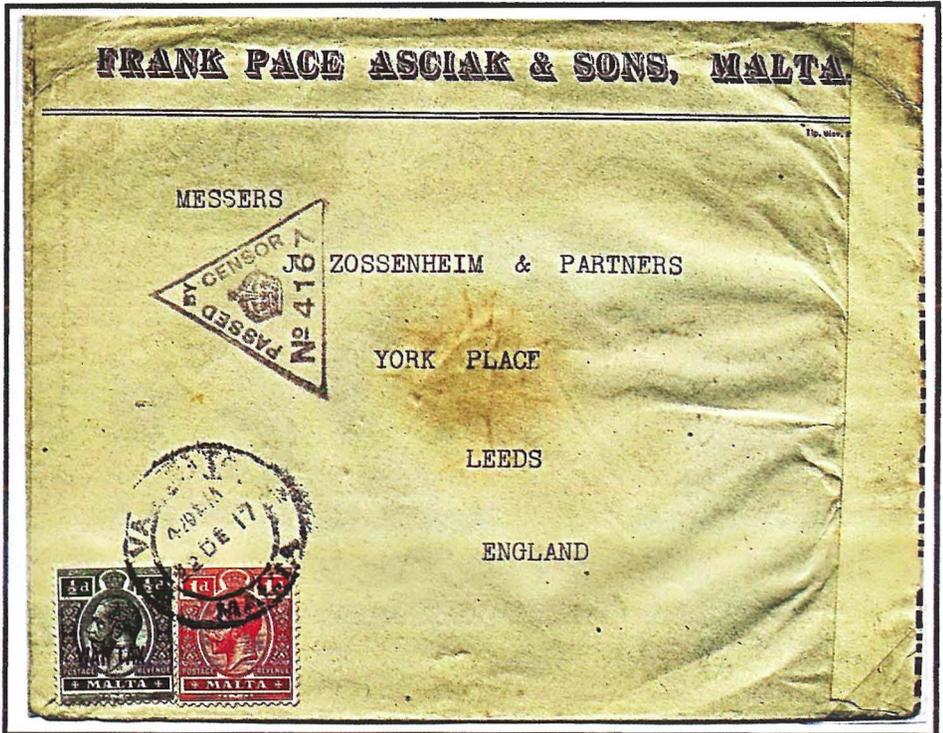


# MALTA

## WORLD WAR I

1919, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Civilian censored letter to England.



Letter rated at 1d the Imperial letter rate, + ½d WAR TAX. The ½ d War Tax for letters and cards was introduced from 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1917 and withdrawn on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1920 (10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1918 for postcards). This cover therefore illustrates correct usage just 7 days after the rate came into effect.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1 4167 used Jun. 1916 to Sept. 1919. It is struck in purple, rather than the more usual red.

'OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW.' resealing label CSL-11 #none. Used Sept. 1914 to Feb. 1918. 'White' paper.



MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1915, DEC.

Incoming registered letter from Italy



Registered letter from Bologna to Malta. Datestamp is unclear but appears to be December 1915.

Censored by CS-C1-1075 used between Oct. 14 and May 16.

Opened under Martial Law resealing label CSL-11 no number, in use between Sep 14 and Feb 18.

Registered envelopes were wax sealed, this one having three seals of 'FROM MALTA G.P.O. under a crown.'

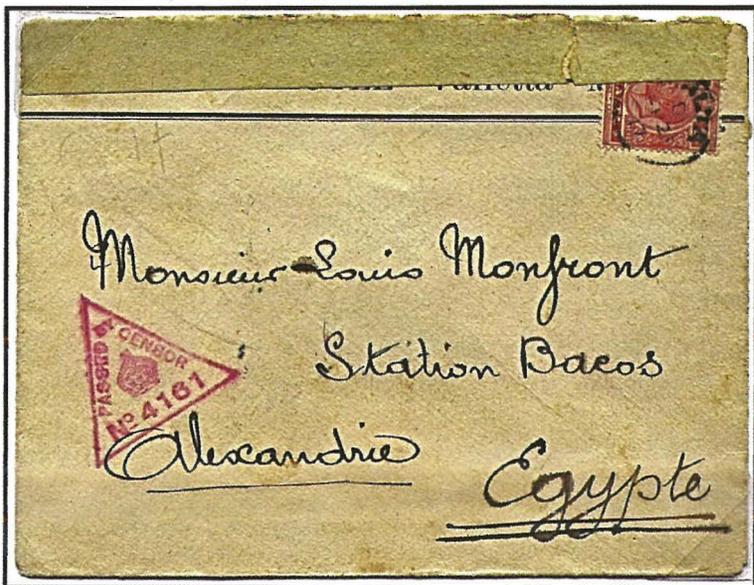


MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1917, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>

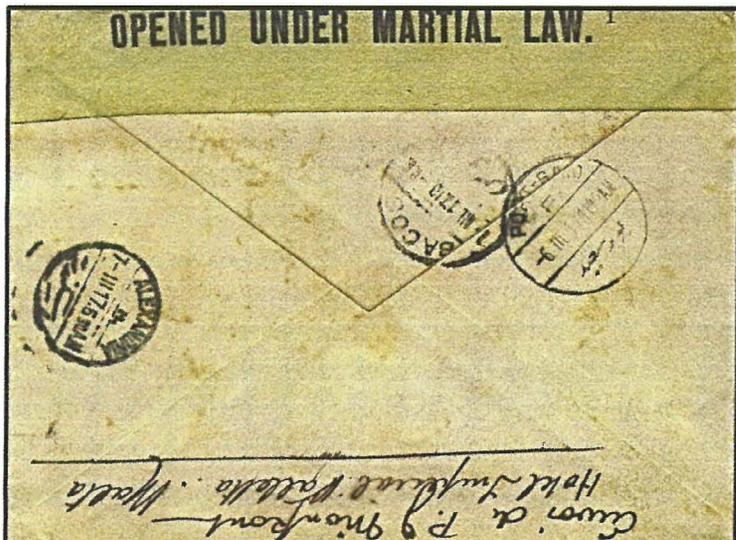
Civilian censored letter to Alexandria, Egypt.



Letter rated at 1d the Imperial letter rate. Arrival backstamps for Port Said, Alexandria and Bacos.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1 4161 used Jun. 1916 to Sept. 1919.

'OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW': resealing label CSL-11 #1. Used Oct. 1916 to Jan 1918. 'Grey' paper.

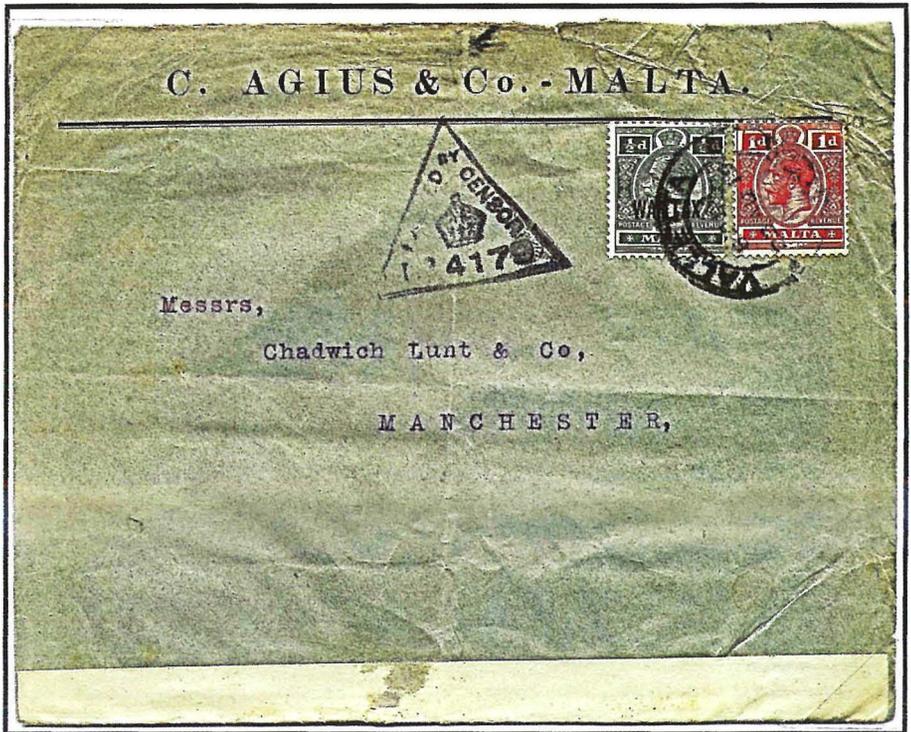


MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1919, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Civilian censored letter to England.



Letter rated at 1d the Imperial letter rate, + ½d WAR TAX. The ½ d War Tax for letters and cards was introduced from 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1917 and withdrawn on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1920 (10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1918 for postcards). This cover therefore illustrates correct usage.

‘PASSED BY CENSOR’ CS-T1 4179 used Jun. 1916 to 23 Aug. 1919. (This is the latest recorded use.) It is struck in black, rather than the more usual red, and this seems to have started around early 1919.

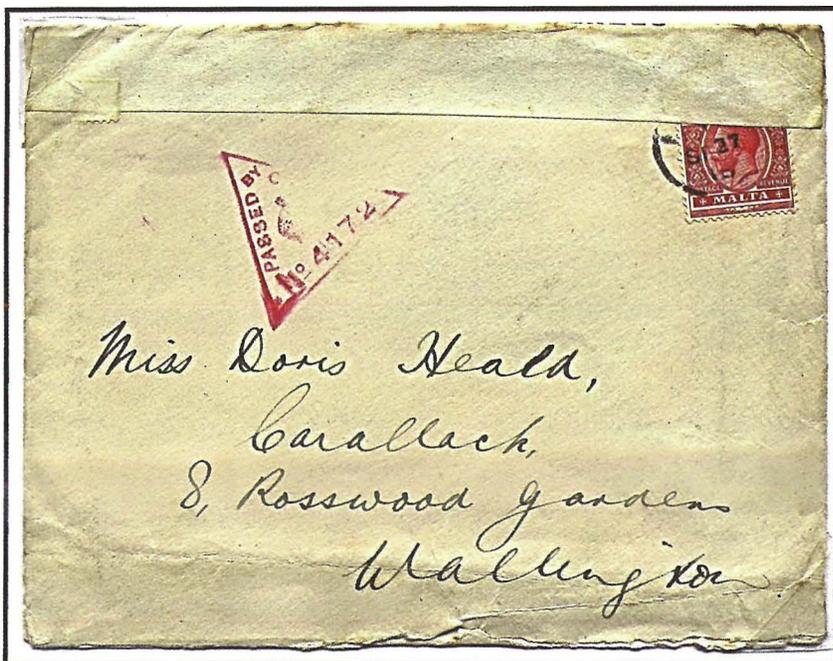
‘OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW<sup>4</sup>.’ resealing label CSL-11 #4. Used Dec. 1916 to 23 Aug. 1919. ‘Grey’ paper. This is the latest recorded use of this label number.



MALTA  
WORLD WAR I

1916, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>

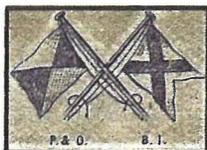
Civilian censored letter to England.



Letter rated at 1d the Imperial letter rate.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-T1 4172 used Jun. 1916 to Apr. 1919.

'OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW<sup>6</sup>,' resealing label CSL-11 #6. Used 27 Sept. 1916 to Dec 1917. 'White' paper. This is the earliest known usage.

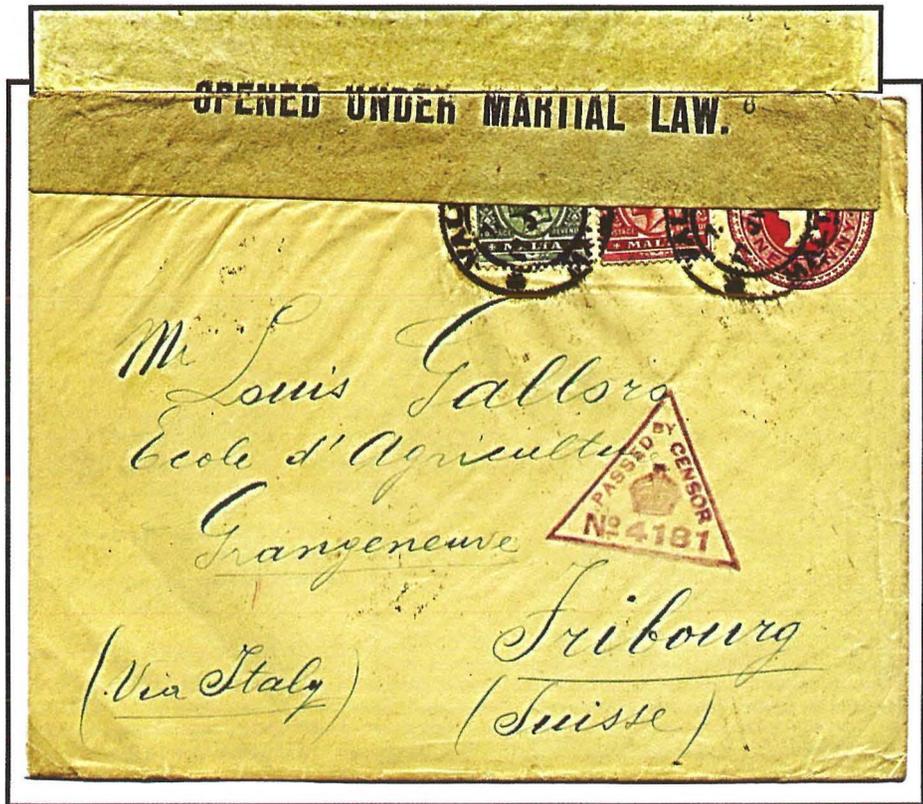


Shipping company logo on envelope flap.

MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1917, JUL. 17<sup>th</sup> VALLETTA, MALTA to SWITZERLAND



CSL- 11 OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW 6 – unrecorded number.

CS-T1-4181 used 25<sup>th</sup> SEP. 16 to JUN. 19.

The cover is backstamped 'BERN 29 JUL. 17' and 'POSIEUX 30 JUL. 17'



The envelope is a Q.V. postal stationery 1d Post Paid envelope, size 158 x 123mm. 61,171 were printed. After 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1904 they were sold at face value so the purchaser got a free envelope. Total postage paid 2½d – making up the foreign letter rate for letters up to 1 oz.

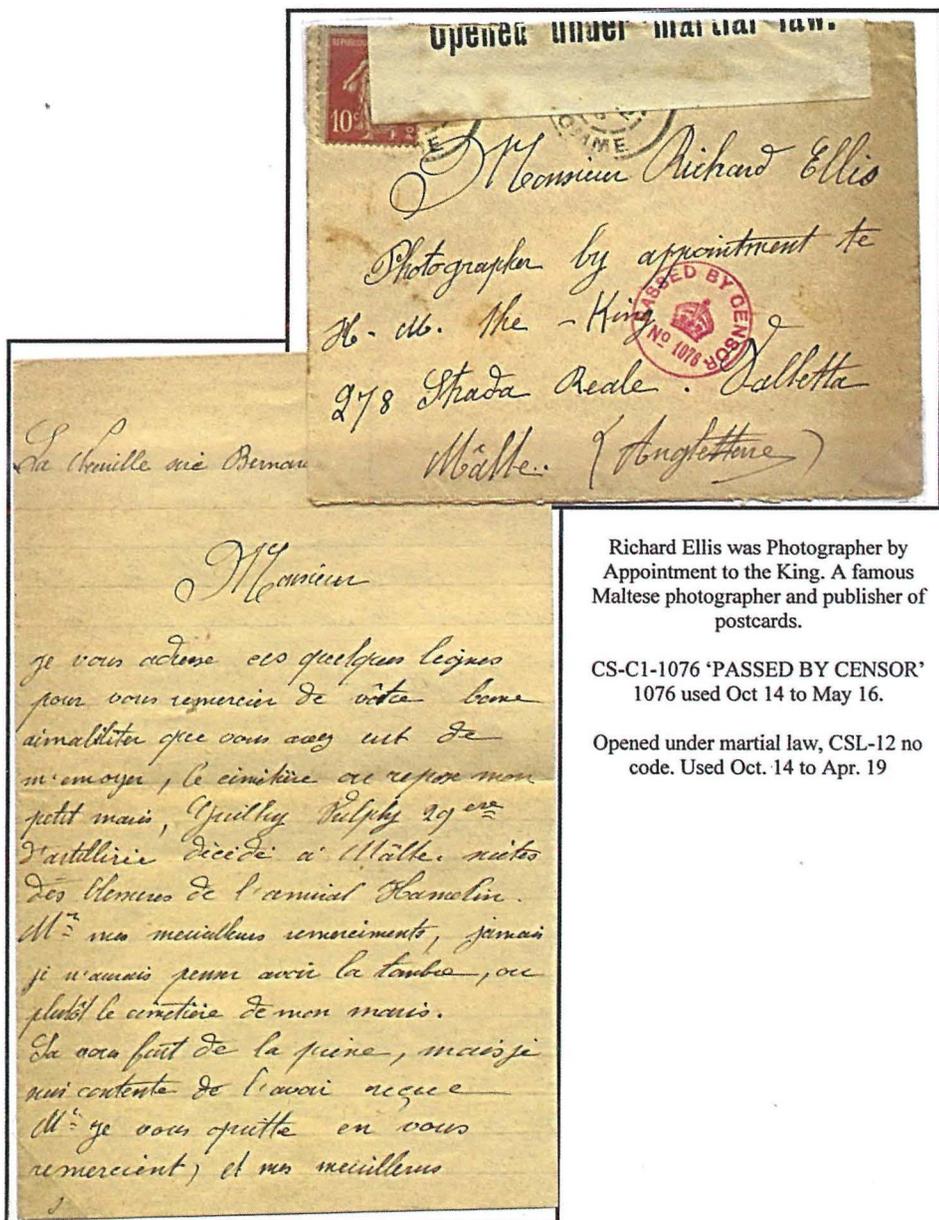
War Tax was only payable on mail within the Empire.

## MALTA

## WORLD WAR I

1916, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>

Letter from France to Richard Ellis, Malta



Richard Ellis was Photographer by  
 Appointment to the King. A famous  
 Maltese photographer and publisher of  
 postcards.

CS-C1-1076 'PASSED BY CENSOR'  
 1076 used Oct 14 to May 16.

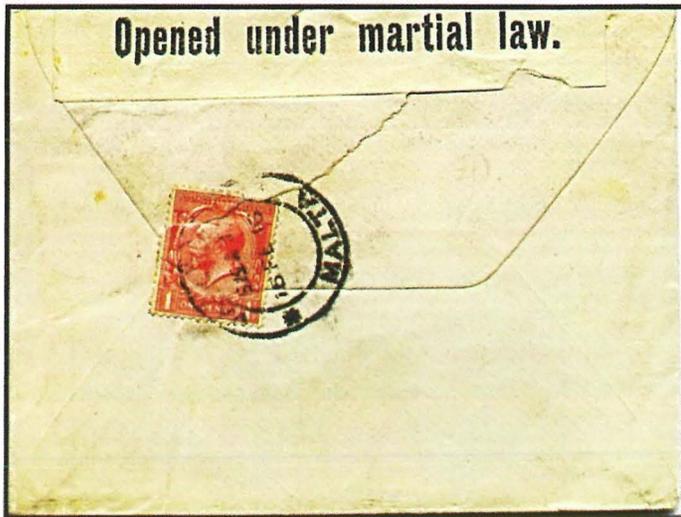
Opened under martial law, CSL-12 no  
 code. Used Oct. 14 to Apr. 19

MALTA

WORLD WAR I

1916, FEB. 15<sup>th</sup>

Civilian letter to England



'Opened under martial law' CSL-12 no number. Used from APR 15 to APR 19.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-C1-1078 used from OCT 14 to MAY 16. The cover has a GB 1d on the back and a 1d Malta stamp on the front. The reason for this is unclear.

# MALTA

## WORLD WAR I

1915, APR. 11<sup>th</sup>

Incoming mail Naples to Malta



'Opened under martial law' CSL-12 no number. Used from APR 15 to APR 10. This is the earliest known use although the exact date of arrival in Malta cannot be given with certainty.

'PASSED BY CENSOR' CS-C1-1076 used from OCT 14 to May 16. Unusual on incoming mail.

PPH-18 used in Valletta from 1903 to 1936.



# POSTAL DIARY

## 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY – 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022

Compiled by John V. De Battista

### 10<sup>th</sup> May

The public was today informed that the letterbox located at Dawret it-Torri, Santa Luċija is now back in service. (*Reference entry dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022*).

### 18<sup>th</sup> May

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at Wigwam Stationery, Triq il-Qroqq, Msida MSD 1702 will be closed between Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 04<sup>th</sup> June. On these days the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided by either the University Campus Post Office or the Gzira Post Office located at 21, Pjazza Meme' Scicluna, Gzira GZR 1120 as a near alternative.

In a separate media communication, it also informed that the Sub Post Office at Willand Bargain Store, Dun M Mifsud Street, Santa Lucija SLC 1440 will be closed on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May. On the said day the public may opt to use the postal services provided from the Paola Post Office located at 21, Ċentru Ċiviku, Antoine De Paule Square, Paola PLA 1266 as a close alternative.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> May

The public was notified that a commemorative hand stamp marking the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Karmni Grima will be in use on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at the Victoria Post Office.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed "KARMNI GRIMA – 100 SENA MINN MEWTHA 1922-2022" 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 a drawing showing Karmni Grima in front of Ta' Pinu Sanctuary, beneath which was placed the issue date "25-05-22" in a straight line.

Being a theme connected to Gozo, the Gozo Philatelic Society has issued an attractive post card (GPS No. 154) in a limited edition of 100 individually numbered cards to mark the event. Card was designed by Mr. Anthony Grech.



## **25<sup>th</sup> May**

MaltaPost informed the public that the Lija Post Office at 2, Mikelang Borg Street, Lija LJA 1440 will no longer operate as a Post Office, and will be permanently closed as from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

In cases of unsuccessful delivery of postal items that require a signature to their final destination, or otherwise do not fit into a private letterbox, options have been put in place for the collection of such items to be made by addressees from either the Attard Post Office which is located at 1, Misraħ Ġwanni Pawlu II, Attard ATD 2200 or else from the new SPO located at Steve Stationery, 7, Triq Dun Spir Sammut, Hal-Balzan BZN1020.

## **26<sup>th</sup> May**

MaltaPost announced that it will be having a new Sub Post Office in Balzan. From this Sub Post Office, besides the sale of postage stamps, clients can avail themselves of postal services such as local and international ordinary and registered mail.

The new Sub Post Office will be located at ‘Steve Stationery’, Dun Spir Sammut Street, Balzan BZN 1020.

Postal services will become available at this new Sub Post Office as from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

The Sub Post Office’s opening hours are as follows:

Monday to Saturday

08:15 a.m.- 01:30 p.m. - 04:30 p.m.- 07:30 p.m.

Sunday

08:15 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.

Another media communications released today by MaltaPost announced that it has a new Sub Post Office in Żebbiegħ, Imġarr. At this Sub Post Office clients can avail themselves of numerous postal services such as local and international ordinary and registered mail and the sale of postage stamps.

The new Sub Post Office will be located at Universal Stationery, 22, Triq Ras il Ġebel, Żebbiegħ, Imġarr MGR 2021.

Postal services will be available at this new Sub Post Office as from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

The Sub Post Office’s opening hours are as follows:

Monday to Friday

08.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m. - 03:30 p.m.- 06:30 p.m.

Saturday

09:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.

## 1<sup>st</sup> June

On February 6<sup>th</sup> 2022, when Queen Elizabeth II celebrated seventy years on the throne, she became the first British monarch ever to make it to a Platinum Jubilee. She had already broken the record of the longest-reigning British monarch back in September 2015 when she overtook Queen Victoria who had reigned for 63 years and 216 days.

To mark the Platinum Jubilee, MaltaPost announced that a stamp incorporated within a miniature sheet format was to be issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The stamp measures 31.77mm x 41mm, has a comb perforation of 13.77 x 13.66 (comb) and bears the Maltese Cross watermark. The miniature sheet itself measures 80mm x 120mm and was produced through the offset printing process by Printex Ltd., who were also responsible for its design. The issue consists of 20,000 miniature sheets while the stamp bears a face value of €5.00.



MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.4/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II . PLATINUM JUBILEE 1952 - 2022” along the outside bordering the ring and “\* MAITAPOST ----- MALTA \*” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-HRUĠ/02-06-22” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a stylized crown positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 423. It is to be noted that in the bulletin order form section, the header is incorrectly titled “Pope Francis in Malta”, which obviously is an indefensible oversight on the part of the proof-reader!

## 16<sup>th</sup> June

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at Electroit Stationery at Fredrick Meample Square, Qormi QRM 1011, will be temporarily closed between Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

On these days the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from the Qormi Post Office located at 343, Victory Street, Qormi QRM 2504.

In its second communication for the day, MaltaPost also informed that the Sub Post Office at Universal Stationery, 22 Triq Ras il-Ġebel, Żebbiegħ, Imġarr MGR 2021 will be closed between Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

On these days the public was advised may use the postal services provided from the Mosta Post Office situated at Civic Centre, Constitution Street, Mosta MST 9059.

## 27<sup>th</sup> June

Today the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) decided in favour of allowing MaltaPost to increase postal rates. The decision was released in the MCA document MCA/D/22 – 4643. The MCA is allowing a limited release from price control up to the price caps indicated in the table below, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022:

Mail Type	Weight Category	FY22	FY23	FY24
Domestic Ordinary Mail	0-50g	€0.37	€0.37	€0.38
Domestic Bulk Mail	0-50g	€0.28*	€0.33*	€0.36*
Outbound Mail	Postcards	€1.25	€1.40	€1.50
Outbound Mail	1 <sup>st</sup> Weight Step**	€1.25**	€1.40**	€1.50**

\*A bulk mailer sending above a threshold of 2,000 mail items daily is charged a surcharge of 2 cents.

\*\* Given the various weight categories, a tariff increase in the first weight step will lead to a marginal increase in higher weight step tariffs.

The MCA also stated that it considered that while price increases do sustain revenues, particularly in the short run, to dampen future price increases, strategic realignments to the scope and level of the universal postal service would provide the opportunity to shape cost evolution in the future to support commercial sustainability. It stated that this process will require the full collaboration of MaltaPost.

## 28<sup>th</sup> June

Today MaltaPost announced that it will be issuing a set of three stamps to raise awareness about the work carried by the Malta Meteorological Office, which this year celebrates 100 years from its inception.

The Meteorological Office is Malta’s primary source for weather-related information. Over the past century, our Meteorological Office, which is in fact the only official meteorological office on the Islands, has been providing critical information which has been crucial for the wellbeing of our community and the safe day-to-day operations of various industries.

July 1922 saw the opening of the first Meteorological Office in Malta, under the management of the UK Air Ministry. It was initially based in Guardamangia and

fell under management of the Royal Air Force (RAF). With the onset of the Second World War, the meteorological team moved underground for reasons of safety and security during air raids. It was only in 1942 that an observation station was opened at the Luqa airfield, expanding to a weather forecasting office a year later.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of ten stamps, each measuring 35mm x 35mm, with a comb perforation 13.75x13.75 (comb) and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 205 mm x 110mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset printing process. The issue consists of 500,000 of the €0.07c stamp, 500,000 of the €0.37c stamp and 100,000 of the €1.25 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.5/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “MALTA METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE CENTENARY 1922 - 2022” 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/01-07-22” in straight lines are to be found below a composition of stylized leaves, sun, clouds and rain positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp.



MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 424.

## 1<sup>st</sup> July

MaltaPost announced that as from today, as authorised by the Malta Communications Authority (*see entry of 27<sup>th</sup> June*), new postal rates will take effect. The following are the revised rates for:

### Domestic Letter Mail:

	<b>New Price</b>
<b>0 - 50g</b>	€0.37
<b>50 - 100g</b>	€0.57
<b>101 - 150g</b>	€0.77
<b>151 - 200g</b>	€2.20
<b>&gt;200g, up to 2Kg, for each additional 50g</b>	€0.20

### Domestic Bulk Letter Mail:

	<b>New Price</b>
<b>0 - 50g</b>	€0.28

<b>50 - 100g</b>	€0.40
<b>&gt;100g, up to 2KG, for each additional 50g</b>	€0.20

#### Foreign Letter Mail and Postcards:

<b>Up to (grams)</b>	<b>ZONE A1 (European Countries)</b>	<b>ZONE A2 (remaining non-European Countries)</b>	<b>ZONE B</b>	<b>ZONE C</b>	<b>ZONE D</b>
<b>Postcards</b>	€ 1.25	€ 1.25	€ 1.25	€ 1.25	€ 1.25
20	€ 1.25	€ 1.25	€ 1.25	€ 1.25	€ 1.25
30	€ 1.25	€ 1.55	€ 1.65	€ 1.74	€ 1.93
40	€ 1.55	€ 1.55	€ 1.65	€ 1.74	€ 1.93
60	€ 1.55	€ 1.85	€ 2.05	€ 2.23	€ 2.61
>60g, up to 2Kg, for each additional 20g	30c	30c	0.40c	0.49c	0.68c

Also as from today, newly uprated postage paid stationery was issued for sale to the public. The issue was not publicly announced, however the authorisation for their sale was communicated to MaltaPost retail account holders through an internal communication. Similar stationery, but having the green-coloured undulating border reserved for the House of Representatives also started being used by the House. It is understood that stocks of 30c face value stationery (at the time retailing at 43 cents) from post office branches was collected as a result of an internal communication dated 28<sup>th</sup> June. This stock was replaced a few days later with the overprinted uprated stock. The only difference in this version is the additional overprinted indicia with a value of 7 cents positioned next to the previous pre-printed indicia bearing a 30c value. This uprating covers the latest local postage rate increase (23.3%) which took place on the same day this stationery was issued, namely 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022. The additional indicia consists of an unrefined red overprint bearing a horizontal spiral design strip superimposed with the 1921 Edward Caruana Dingli emblematic figure of Malta design to the right. The 7 cent additional value is placed at the top left hand corner of the indicia while the word MALTA is to be found at the lower left hand bottom corner. This is the first time that MaltaPost has provisionally

updated postage paid envelopes to cater for changes in the postal rate. Retail price of the prepaid envelopes, which may be found in both the standard and window envelope versions, is now of 52 cents each from the PO counter, translating also into an additional net increase of 2c (15.4%) in the price of a postage paid envelope above the additional postal rate increase.



Examples showing differences in quality of the overprint

## 5<sup>th</sup> July

MaltaPost today issued two Press Communications informing the public of temporary closures of Sub Post Offices.

The first concerned the Sub Post Office at “Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur GHR 1014, which will be temporarily closed between Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

On these days, the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from Naxxar Post Office located in the Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018 as a near alternative.

The second was that about the Sub Post Office at ‘D Spiral Stationery’ situated at Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691, which will be closed on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

On this day, the public was advised that in this case it may wish to use the postal services provided from either the Birkirkara Post Office, located at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013, or from the Sub Post Office at ‘Landau Stationery’ located at 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara BKR 9085.

## 8<sup>th</sup> July

MaltaPost has again this year joined other members of the Euromed Postal Joint Stamp Project in the issue of a set of stamps bearing a common theme. For 2022, the theme chosen is Maritime Archaeology and Historical Cities of the Mediterranean. Two stamps, both related to Gozo, are being featured on this year’s Malta set.

The stamp on marine archaeology reproduces an image of a shipwreck off the coast of Xlendi Bay. The photo is derived from the University of Malta / Dave Gratton Project that took upon the discovery and excavation of the site in 2007

and subsequently explored in 2014. This ancient shipwreck was found to include a 15m long Phoenician trading vessel dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, together with a handsome cache of ceramic amphorae lying partially exposed on the seabed. Given the date of the wreck, the site was considered to be extremely well preserved. In 2014, marine archaeologists used an exploratory submarine with instruments and sensors that provided 3D photogrammetric images.

The second stamp shows a marked departure from the usual depictions of Gozo's Citadel. This portrays the bell tower of the handsome baroque cathedral and surrounding buildings, lit up against a dusky sky, and in the foreground the dry-stone walling so characteristic of the Mediterranean. Typical of a fortified city, the Citadel stands out as Gozo's primary landmark.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of ten stamps, each measuring 44mm x 31mm, with a comb perforation 14.0 x 13.09 (comb). Bearing the Maltese Cross watermark, the sheets measure 118mm x 185mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset printing process. The issue consists of 100,000 of the €0.20c stamp and 30,000 of the €5.50 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.6/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed "MARITIME ARCHEOLOGY & HISTORICAL CITIES OF 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/11-07-22" in straight lines are to be found below the Euromed Postal logo positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 425.



The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of 100 cards in its Gozo-related philatelic card series. The card (GPS No. 155) was franked with the 20 cent value which was cancelled with the FDI hand stamp from the Victoria Gozo PO branch. Card was designed by Mr. Anthony Grech. It is noteworthy to point out that it was decided by the GPS that since the Citadel was already commemorated on several postcards issued in the series in the past, and also for other unmentioned reasons, only the Xlendi stamp on card was issued. This practically makes the €5.50 face-value stamp the first Gozo-related stamp to be left out from this specially dedicated card series, which up till now had unfailingly featured all Gozo related postage stamps and occasions since 1999.