



Journal of
THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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VIRTUAL DISPLAY NO 103

BY UK MALTA STUDY CIRCLE

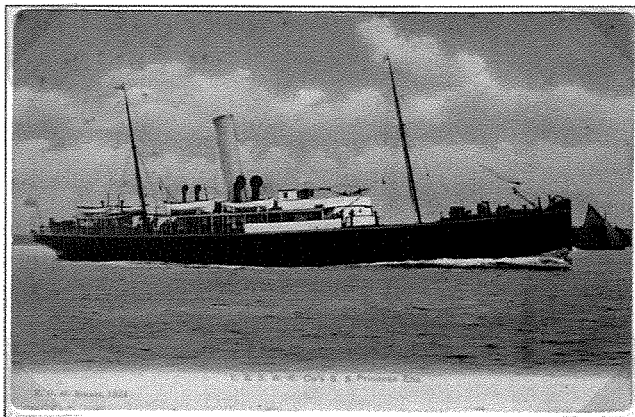
by Alan Green



Turkish Internees in Malta



An Armistice was signed with Turkey on 30th October 1918 and during November, Allied troops moved into the Dardanelles and Constantinople. Following a period of internal unrest, in March 1919, the Government of Ferid Pasha started arresting the organisers and persons of influence. On 28th May 1919, with the situation deteriorating, the British took custody of 67 arrested persons and placed them on board the HMS Princess Ena. The 12 highest-ranking were landed at Mudros, with the remainder and a further eleven prisoners from the troubles at Kars, despatched to Malta.



PPC of the "Princess Ena" depicted here in her pre-war London & South-Western Railway livery. Used on cross-channel ferry routes pre-war, the "Princess Ena" was impressed into wartime service by the Admiralty. The ship was used for general transport duties.

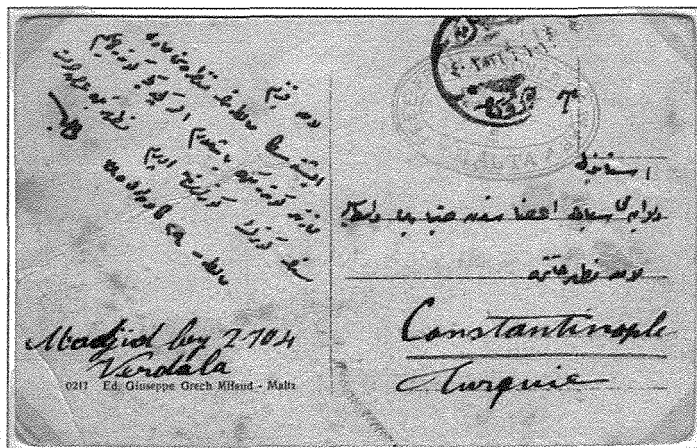
The "Princess Ena" arrived in Malta on 2nd June 1919 and the 66 prisoners were interned in the WW.I Prisoner of War camps. These 66 were allocated PoW numbers #2675-2740 and were accorded the same privileges & restrictions as wartime PoW's.



Turkish Internees in Malta



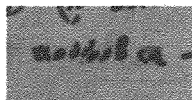
The Turkish Internees arriving in June 1919 included 41 ex-ministers, politicians and ex-valis of regional government and 14 officers accused of offences against British PoW's, as well as the 11 prisoners from Kars. They were joined in July and August by other Turkish Internees, who had been held in Egypt prior to transfer to Malta. As a number of the PoW's from the Great War were still in Malta awaiting approval to leave, the influx of Turkish Internees could not be readily accommodated in one place and were dispersed to the camps at Verdala and at Polverista.



1919(29Dec) PPC from Madjid Bey #2704 in Verdala Camp to Constantinople with PC5 handstamp. Although a bit grubby, this card shows a Turkish receiving mark of 16Jan1920 which probably indicates it was sent through the normal postal route. Madjid Bey was the Chief of the Courts of Finance in Turkey.



Oval treble ring Censor handstamp
'Free From Prisoners of War/PC/5'.



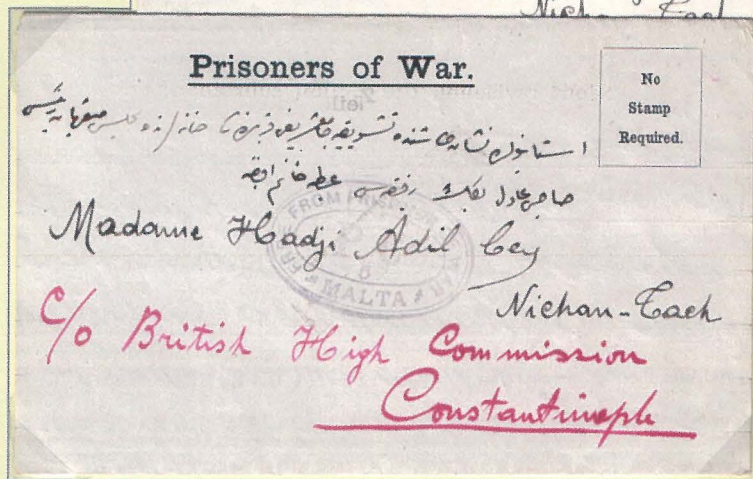
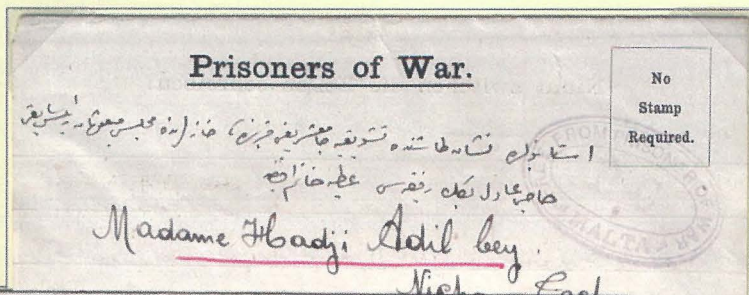
PPC shows this date under the message.
Probably the date of writing, as it translates
as '335 Kanun-i-ewel 29' or 29Dec1919.



Turkish Internees in Malta



On 21 Sept. 1919, the 12 deportees at Mudros were transferred to Malta. These were high-ranking members of the Turkish aristocracy and of the defeated armed forces. They were allocated PoW #2754-2765 in Malta. Supplies of PoW postal stationery left from World War I continued in use.



1921 PoW Lettersheets (in German) from Malta to Constantinople with oval 'Free from PoW/PC5'. These items were sent by Hadji Adil Bey, who was the former President of the Turkish Parliament and one of the 12 from Mudros.

١٣٤٧
كانون الثاني
١٣٣٧

The date on upper item is written in Ottoman Arabic and translates as 24 Kanun-i-sani 1337 in the Rumi calendar. This is 24 Jan 1921.



Oval treble ring Censor handstamp 'Free From Prisoners of War/PC/5'.

١٣٤٧
مارس
١٣٣٧

The date on lower PPC is written in Ottoman Arabic and translates as 21 Mart 1337 in the Rumi calendar. This is 21 March 1921.



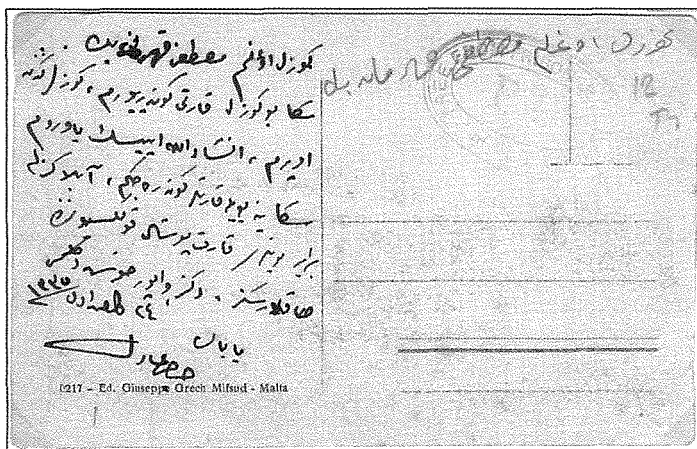
Turkish Internees in Malta - Outgoing Mail



When the first batches of Turkish Deportees arrived in Malta during the latter half of 1919, they were accorded the privilege of free mail. This mail was validated in Malta with the application of an oval Free From Prisoner of War handstamp. Existing handstamps were utilised and continued to be used until the final repatriations in late-1921.



The vast majority of outgoing mail from the Turkish Deportees was validated by oval handstamps with PC 2 or PC 5. Letters written in Ottoman Turkish were censored and approved using PC 5. For other languages, PC 2 was usually used by the censor.



1919 (Dec24) PPC of Grand Harbour sent to Turkey and validated with a poor strike of PC 5. Erasure of the address has removed half the oval handstamp.



Oval handstamps with PC or PC 1 were used for a short period in 1919 on outgoing Turkish mail, and withdrawn by the year-end.

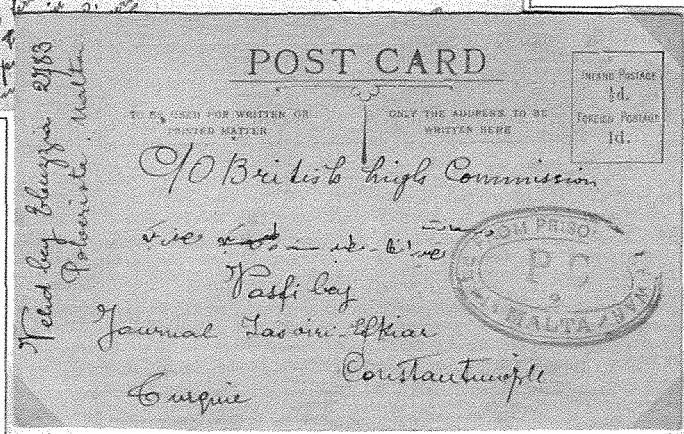
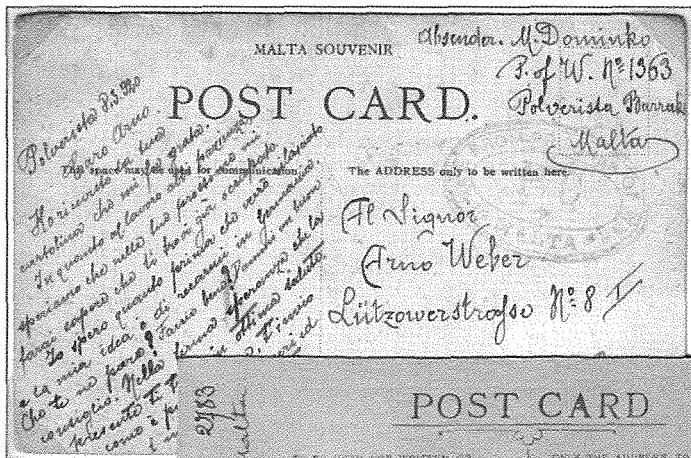


Turkish Internees in Malta

- PC 2 handstamp



During the 1920-1921 period, most of the mail from Turkish Internees carries the Malta PC5 PoW handstamp. On some items, however, a PC2 PoW handstamp has been used. From the limited number of recorded items, it appears that the PC2 handstamp from the earlier WWI period was utilised and applied when the language was not Ottoman Turkish.



Oval treble ring Censor handstamp
'Free From Prisoner of War/PC/2'.

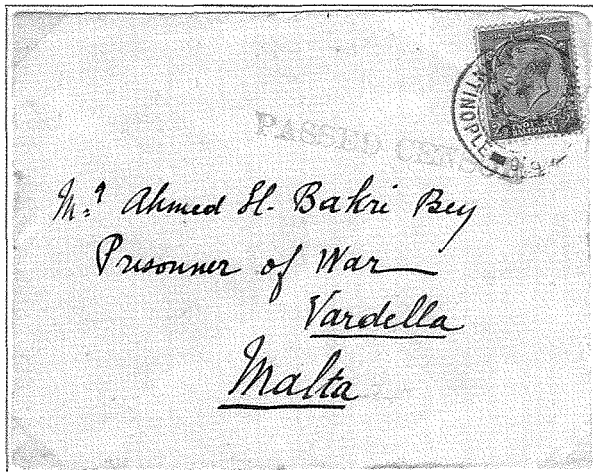
1920 (8Mar & 8Oct) PC's from Malta to Berlin and Constantinople with oval 'PC 2'. The cards are written in Italian and French, by a Slovenian PoW and a Turkish Internee respectively. Note that by this time, all the PoW's are at Polverista.



Turkish Internees in Malta - Incoming Mail



Examination of PoW mail in London ceased on 21st September 1919 and the P.W. Branch was disbanded. In Malta, however, the presence of Turkish Internees required these examinations to continue locally. Incoming mail from 1919 to 1921, mainly from Turkey or Italy, is usually handstamped with a straightline 'PASSED CENSOR' marking. This marking has also been recorded in isolated instances from 1916, but always on mail that had not been transmitted via the P.W. Branch in London for one reason or another.



1919 (250C) Cover from Constantinople to Malta with 'PASSED CENSOR' handstamp. It was sent to Ahmed H. Bakri Bey (#2708), an Army Major (Reserve) from Konia. The cover has a Cospicua arrival backstamp of Nov 1st.

Use of the PASSED CENSOR handstamp increased after Sept. 1919, however it was damaged and subsequently repaired. The last recorded date of use was in July 1921.

PASSED CENSOR

Original State
(23 Apr 1918)

PASSED CENSOR

Damaged State
(16 Jan 1920)

PASSED CENSOR

Repaired State
(12 Feb 1920)



Turkish Internees in Malta - Incoming Mail



A significant proportion of mail to PoW's was registered, mostly coming from Constantinople in Jan/Feb. 1920, and censored on arrival in Malta.



1920 (17.1) Registered cover from Lausanne to Malta, addressed to Prince Said Halim, formerly Grand Vizier (Malta PoW 2755). Backstamped Malta JA30 1920, with broken 'PASSED CENSOR' handstamp on the front.



1920 (25FE) Registered cover from Constantinople to Malta, addressed to Fethy Bey, formerly Minister of Interior (Malta PoW 2689). Backstamped Malta MR5 1920, with repaired 'PASSED CENSOR' handstamp on front.



Turkish Internees in Malta - Censored E.S. handstamp



The PoW Camps were in close proximity on the outskirts of the Three Cities. As other nationalities gradually left, the Turkish internees were concentrated in the camps at New Verdala and Polverista Barracks.



1920 (20May) PPC from Malta to Constantinople with oval 'P.C.5' and 'Censored/E.S.' handstamps. The card shows New Verdala PoW Camp. It was sent by Ahmed Bey #2724, former Governor of Sivas.



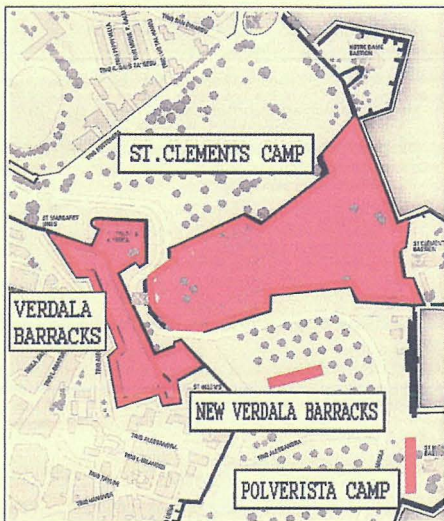
The date (picture side) is written in Ottoman Arabic and translates as (13)36 Mayıs 20 in the Rumi calendar. This is 20 May 1920.



Oval treble ring Censor handstamp
'Free From Prisoners of War/PC/5'.

**CENSORED
E.S.**

Two-line Censor's handstamp used in Constantinople(?) - probably at the British High Commission. Recorded dates of use are between May 1920 & October 1920.

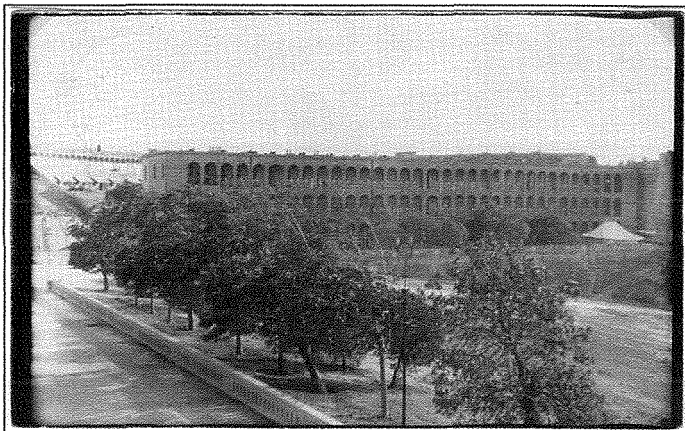




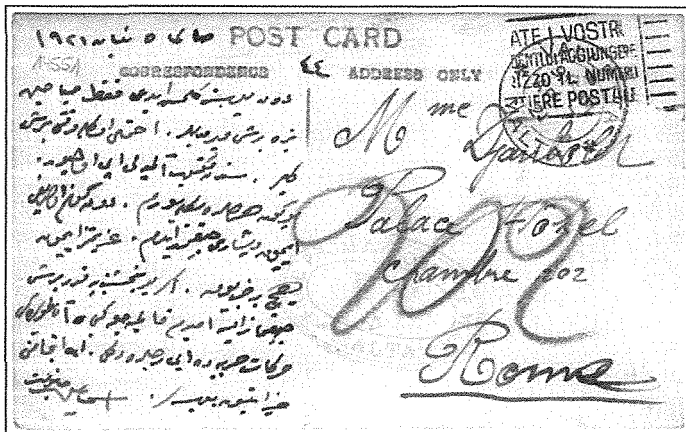
Turkish Internees in Malta



After the German PoWs left in December 1919, there was an extensive rationalisation of the PoW Camp locations. By mid-February 1920, all remaining 124 internees were housed in St. Nicholas Married Quarters (Polverista camp). Around two-thirds were post-war Turkish deportees.



1921 (AP7) PPC from Malta to Rome with oval 'PC.5' handstamp. The card shows Polverista PoW Camp, in the former St. Nicholas Married Quarters building, taken from the New Verdala veranda.



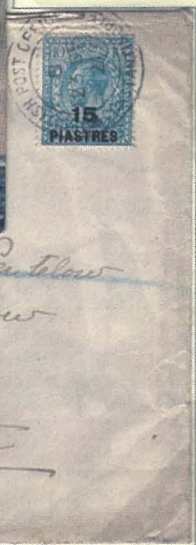
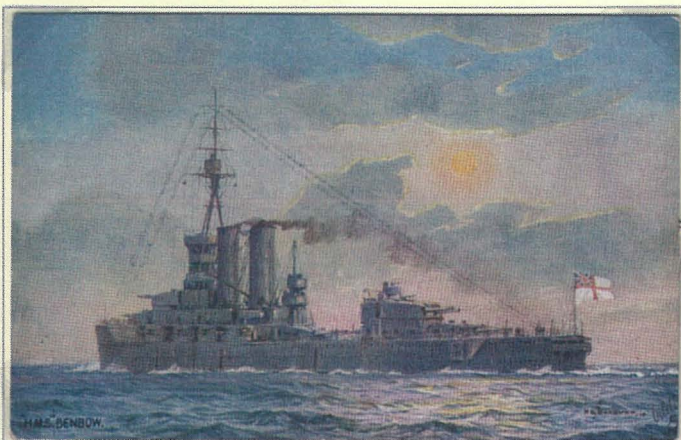
Reverse of card showing a faint PC.5 handstamp and Valletta datestamp. It was sent by Ismail Djanbolet, with his serial 44.



Turkish Internees in Malta



In March 1920, the British Govt. considered the pending Peace Treaty was likely to lead to unrest and as a result, on 16th March, the Allies occupied Istanbul. The Ottoman Parliament was suspended and martial law imposed. Nationalist deputies were arrested and deported to Malta on HMS Benbow.



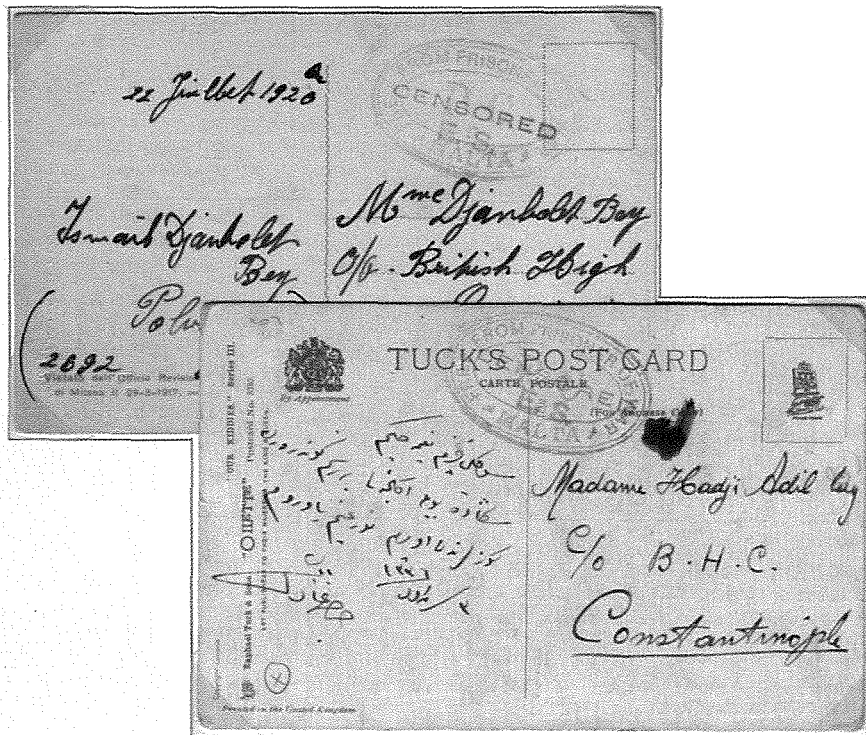
1921(23SP) Registered cover from Constantinople to HMS Benbow at Malta and a photo of Deportees embarking on 22nd March 1920. On arrival at Malta, they were allocated PoW numbers 2771 to 2781.



Turkish Internees in Malta - Censored E.S. handstamp



Martial law was imposed in Constantinople in March 1920 and afterwards, mail from Internees in Malta is found with a two-line Censor handstamp. The mail is usually addressed c/o British High Commission. This system appears to have been operated for about six months - until October 1920.



1920 PPC's from Malta to Constantinople with oval 'PC5' and 'Censored/E.S.' handstamps. The PC5 mark was applied first.



The date on lower item is written in Ottoman Arabic and translates as 1336 Teshrin-i-ewel 3 in the Rumi calendar. This is 30 Oct 1920.



Oval treble ring Censor handstamp 'Free From Prisoners of War/PC5'.

**CENSORED
E.S.**

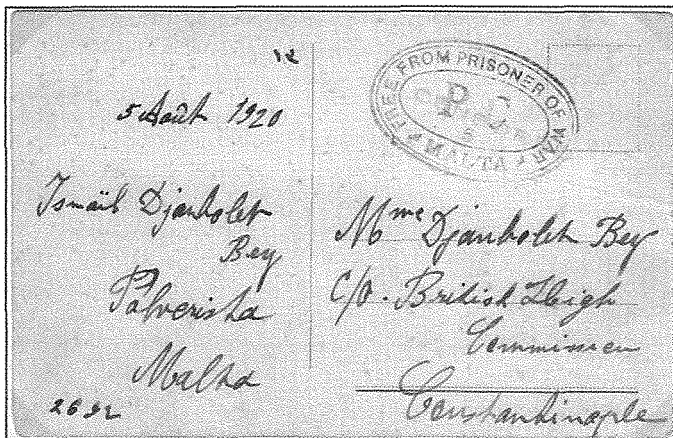
Two-line Censor's handstamp used in Constantinople(?) - probably at the British High Commission. Recorded dates of use are between May 1920 & October 1920.



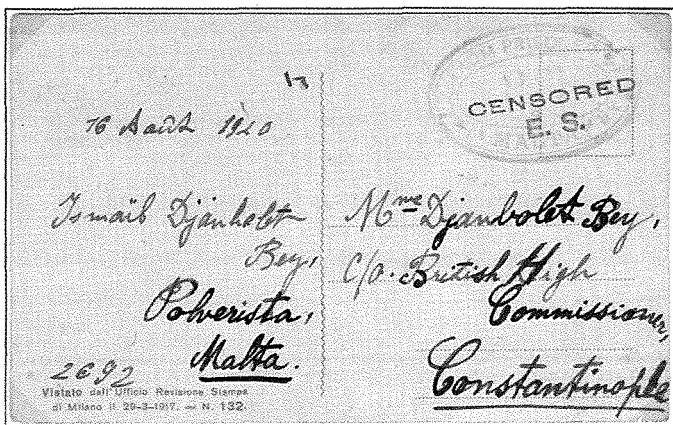
Turkish Internees in Malta - Censored E.S. handstamp



On 16 Mar 1920, all official buildings in Istanbul were occupied by the Allied forces and prominent Turkish Nationalists were arrested. Their deportation to Malta prompted Mustafa Kemal Pasha to order the arrest of 20 British officers in Anatolia. This complicated the situation and added to the reluctance of the Allies to proceed with war-crime trials.



1920 (5Aug) PPC from Malta to Turkey with oval 'PC 5' handstamp and 'Censored E.S.' marking applied at the British High Commission in Istanbul. Sent by Ismail Djanbolet (PoW 2692) with his serial 13.



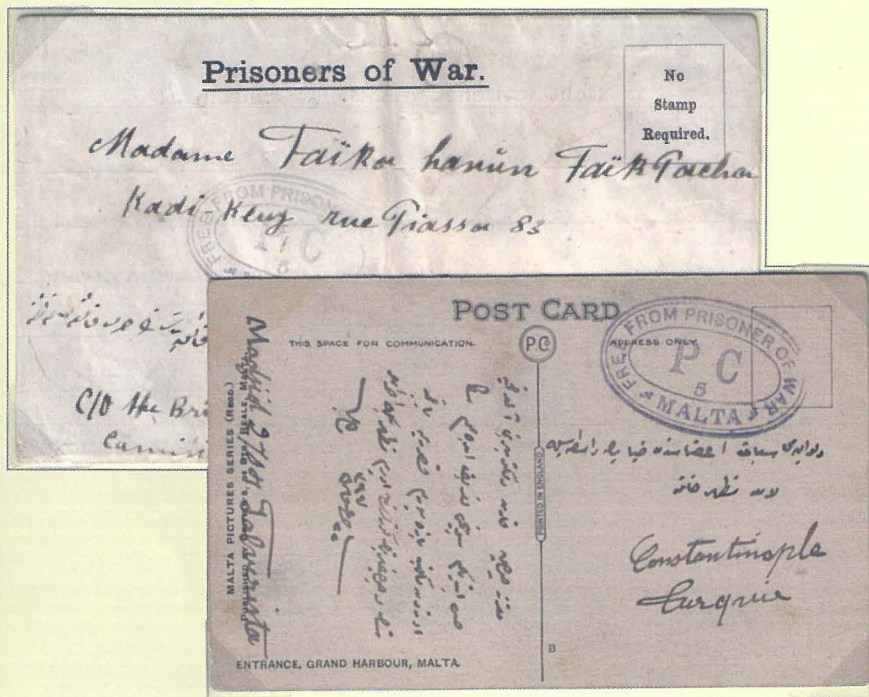
1920 (16Aug) PPC from Malta to Turkey with oval 'PC 2' handstamp and 'Censored E.S.' marking applied at the British High Commission in Istanbul. Sent by Ismail Djanbolet (PoW 2692) with his serial 16.



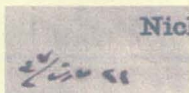
Turkish Internees in Malta



Later in 1920, censorship markings on Turkish Internee mail simply consisted of the Malta oval marking - usually 'P C 5'. It appears that the 'CENSORED E.S.' marking ceased to be used from about October 1920 and subsequently, mail is found with normal Turkish addresses instead of 'c/o British High Commission'. This change broadly aligns with a growing pressure within the U.K. Government in mid-1920 to resolve the situation with the Internees - either release or prosecute!



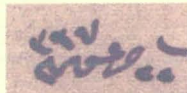
1921 Mail from Malta to Constantinople with oval 'Free from PoW/PC5'



The date on the upper lettersheet is in Ottoman Arabic and translates as 11337 Mart 21/21 March 1921. From Süleyman Fakı Pasha #2807, one of the last Turks to be interned.



Oval treble ring Censor handstamp 'Free From Prisoner of War/PC5'.



The date on lower PPC is written in Ottoman Arabic and translates as 11337 Kanun-i-sani 22 in the Rumi calendar. This is 22 Jan 1921.

Mr. Langhorne

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT).

SECRET.

C A B I N E T.

3

P. 1649.

POSITION OF TURKISH POLITICAL PRISONERS
INTERNED AT MALTA.

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for War.

I circulate to the Cabinet a long list of prominent Turkish politicians, ex-Ministers, Generals, Deputies and others whom we are still keeping as prisoners at Malta. It seems to me that this list should be carefully revised by the Attorney-General, and that those men against whom it is not proposed to take definite proceedings should at the first convenient opportunity be released. They are a burden and a cost to us while they are on our hands, and I am not at all clear how long we are expected to go on holding them.

(Initialed) W. S. C.

War Office,
19th July, 1920.



Turkish Internees in Malta



Following the March 1920 deportation to Malta of his close collaborators, Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the Leader of the Turkish Nationalist Movement, ordered the arrest of some 20 British officers in Anatolia as a reprisal. In August 1920, implementation of the Treaty of Sèvres created tensions in Turkey that developed into war against Greece. Throughout this period, the deportations to Malta continued, with the total rising to approx. 140.



1921 Incoming mail from Rome, addressed to Ismail Djanbolet Bey, one of the original deportees (#2692). Both cards have the straightline 'Passed Censor' mark - probably applied in Malta.

PASSED CENSOR

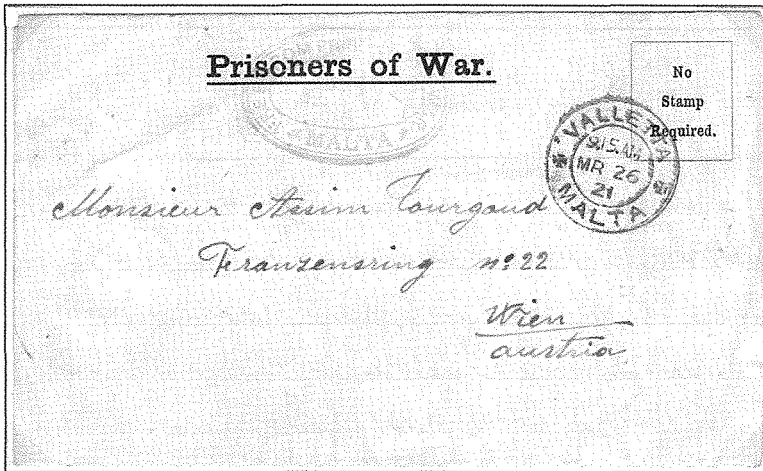
56x4mm straight-line censor mark applied in violet. It is believed to have broken in 1920, as examples after that time show some degree of misalignment.



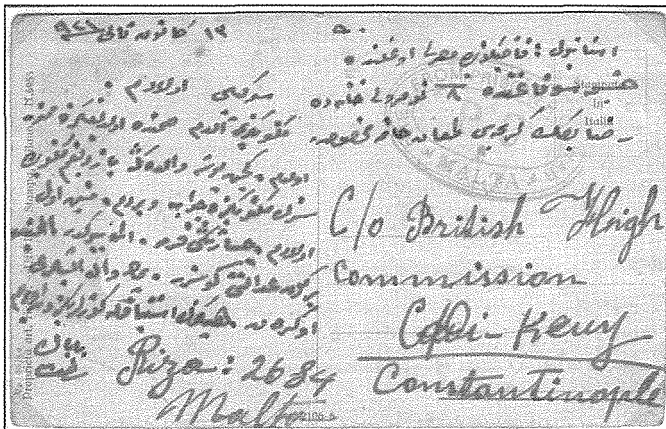
Turkish Internees in Malta



A few more arrests were made later in 1920, with the final two Turkish deportees arriving in Malta on 20 November and given PoW numbers 2819 and 2820. This brought the total number of deportees to 146. In January 1921, 116 remained in Malta, interned in the Polverista camp.



1921 (MR26) PoW lettersheet to Austria with oval 'PC 5' handstamp. Sent by Dr. Essad Pasha (PoW 2775), formerly Chief Medical Officer.



1921 (13Jan) PPC from Malta to Turkey with oval 'PC 5' handstamp. Sent by Youssef Riza (PoW 2684), a retired major and nationalist.



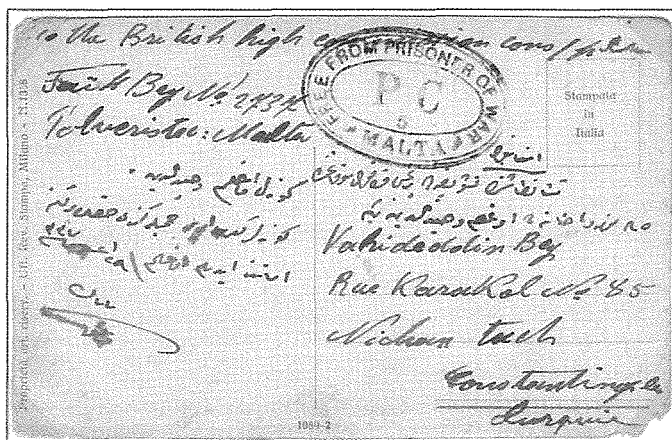
Turkish Internees in Malta



On 6th September 1921, there was a mass escape, organised by Turks in Italy. A ship was chartered and sixteen Turkish Internees broke parole, embarking in Malta's Grand Harbour. Once safely in Italy, exit visas were issued to them, with six electing to travel to Anatolia and ten to Germany.



Faik Bey was one of the 16 escapees on 6th September 1921. He arrived in Malta on 2nd June 1919 in the first batch of Turks deported on *SS Princess Ena*. He was allocated PoW number 2737 in Malta and photographed soon after arrival.



1921(29Aug) Postcard written by Faik Bey a few days before the mass escape. Annotated with his PoW number and showing a late use of the PC5 handstamp.

عثمانی

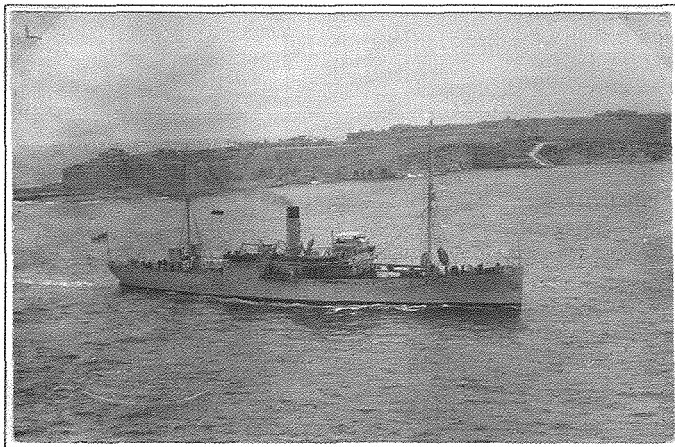
Ottoman Turkish date
(1)337 Augustos 29
or 29 August 1921.



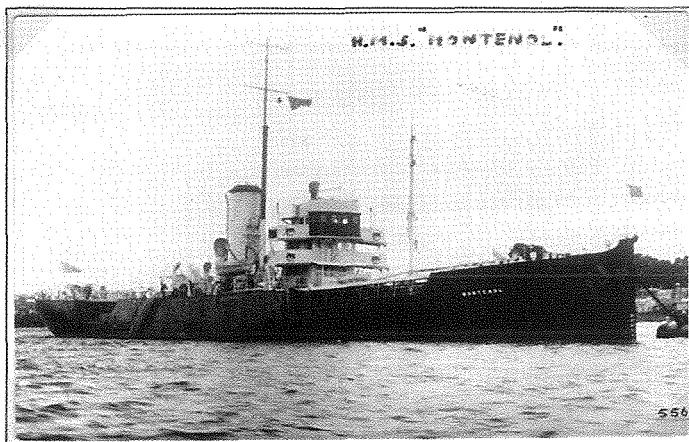
Turkish Internees in Malta



During 1921, the British Government concluded that there was not enough evidence to bring charges against the deportees in Malta and a political settlement was brokered with the Turkish Nationalist Govt. This resulted in an 'all-for-all' prisoner exchange in October 1921. The departure of the Turkish Internees from Malta brought an end to the use of the WW.I PoW Camps and associated censorship handstamps.



The final contingent of 59 Turkish Internees were embarked at Malta on 25th October 1921. Two ships were used - a Royal Fleet Auxiliary fleet oiler RFA *Montenol* (image below) with 42 Internees and with the remaining 17 accommodated on RN sloop HMS *Chrysanthemum* (PPC above). They arrived at the Turkish Black Sea port of Inebolu on 31st October 1921 and were exchanged for five British survivors of 20 arrested.



THE UK SILK INDUSTRY IN PHILATELY

Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

For more than five thousand years man has been using beautiful textiles made of natural silk from chrysalises of the silkworm moth caterpillars. The caterpillars of the moths *Bombycidae*, *Saturniidae* and *Lasiocampidae* families make a cocoon to protect the chrysalis (**Figure 1 – North Korea 1991 proof with different species of silk moths**). The most interesting, however, is the silkworm moth. Before



Figure 1

changing into a chrysalis the silkworm caterpillar spins very long strong threads to make its cocoon. People collect the cocoons before the adult moths have time to form and break the threads. They soften the cocoons by putting them in hot water. The threads are then wound on to reels and used to weave delicate fabrics. One square millimeter of cross-section of silk thread of the cocoon of the silkworm bears a load of up to forty six kilos.

Silkworm constructs one of the great marvels of nature – a cocoon (**Figure 2 – Designer's drawing for postage stamp 1965 of North Korea with silkworm**

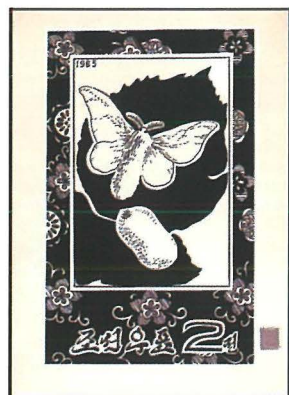


Figure 2

and cocoon). Soft and delicate to look at, it harbours a beautiful secret within – silk, a secret guarded for centuries and this beauty unparalleled. One cocoon gets from 300 to 1000 meters of silk thread, sometime even up to 4000 meters. Finer than human hair, strong as steel, light and versatile with an inherent shimmer and a satiny feel, silk stands apart from all other fabrics. Silk fiber actually was a rare find for ancient weavers - it warms in the cold and cools in the heat, moreover, almost does not break during operation and it is perfectly dyed (**Figure 3 – UK booklet 1935 with advertising of sewing silk in 1000 shades**).



Figure 3

The art of silk making was born in about 2,700 BC in China. That country managed to keep the secret of the techniques of its production for 2,000 years in order to maintain a commercial monopoly for the silk merchants who travelled along the Silk Road to Europe. But already in the 5th century B.C. silk gradually began to penetrate the West. The art of producing silk cloth reached France, Spain and Italy in the 12th century.



Figure 4

In England King James I (1566-1625) was among the first silk enthusiasts (**Figure 4 – Stamp of Great Britain 2010 with King James I**). King James I dearly wanted a silk industry right across his kingdom and ordered his mulberry for every town and village in the land. Following the successful development in France under Henri IV, James directed in 1608 that ten thousand Mulberry trees should be established across the land to feed silkworms, as part of his plans to start an English silk industry. However, he chose Black Mulberry which is less suitable and slow growing, and the attempt failed. In 1718 John Appleton planted two thousand Mulberries in Chelsea Park but this and later attempts by others also met with no success. Silk production didn't take off in

England, though, perhaps because black mulberries were planted and not white, which produces finer silk. Perhaps the cool, damp climate wasn't right.

The weaving of silk was introduced to England by Flemish refugees in the 16th century and was greatly developed after 1685 when the Huguenots from France established themselves at Spitalfields in London. The main centres of the silk industry in England in the 16th century was London, Coventry and Norwich. By the early 18th century England had a thriving silk industry (**Figure 5 - Stationery card of Great Britain post passed in 1889 with advertising Silks**), using imported raw silk - so no need for mulberry trees to feed silkworms. By the 1730s Silk factories were established in Manchester, London, Norwich, Chesterfield,

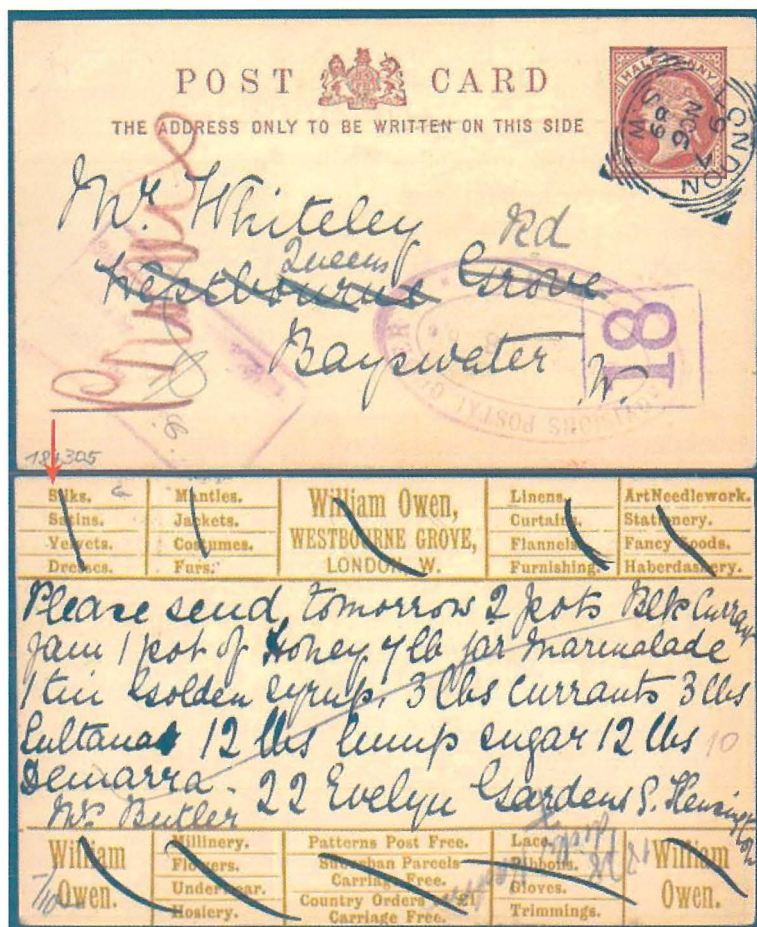


Figure 5

Stockport, Macclesfield (Figure 6 – Meter mark of Macclesfield 1955 with Pure Silk advertisement) and in 1790s was opened a silk mill in Sevenoaks, Kent and also in Braintree in Essex.

Leicester was the most important centre of the hosiery trade in the Great Britain. Until the end of the last century, Leicester's hosiery was primarily of wool. The



Figure 6

silk industry had died out in the 1860's, but was revived after the First World War, especially as skirts became shorter and there was more incentive to buy silk stockings which could be seen (Figure 7 – Meter mark of Leicester 1937 with advertising of Pure Silk Hose).

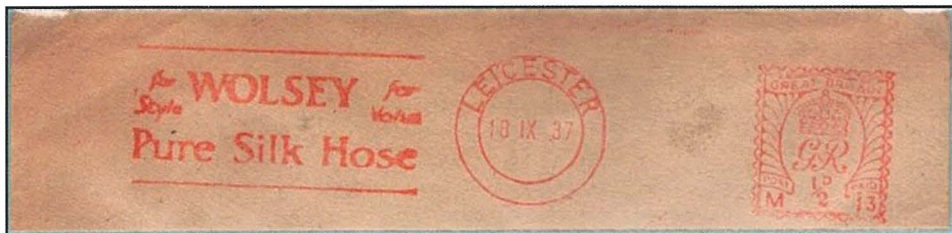


Figure 7

During thousands of years silkworm is being reproduced by men. The silky fiber of a cocoon is the basic material for making natural silk in the textile industry (Fig 8 – Mulready envelope 1840 with Silk in advertisement). The silk industry is

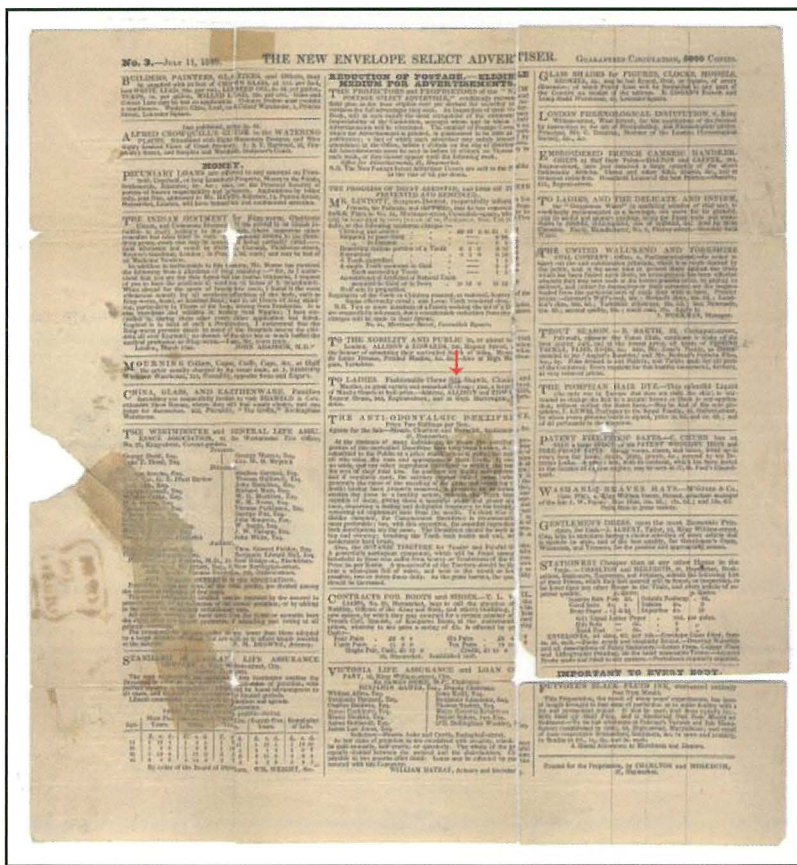


Figure 8

[illegible]

In the 1930s Lady Zoe Hart Dyke started a Silk Farm in Lullingstone Castle, Kent, later moving it to Ayot St Lawrence in Hertfordshire and then the Silk Farm moved to Dorset (**Figure 11 – Special cancel of Great Britain 1986 with Lullingstone Silk Farm, Dorset**). At its height the farm had a 20-acre plantation of white mulberries to feed

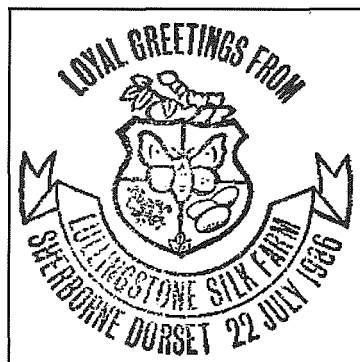


Figure 11

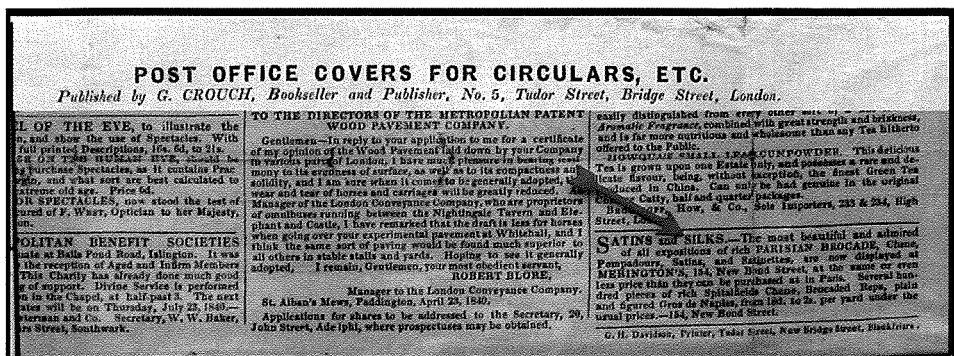


Figure 10

thousands of silkworms, breeding in 30 rooms of the house. Silk from Lullingstone was used to make the late Queen Mother's coronation robes in 1937, Queen's Elizabeth II's wedding dress in 1947 and her coronation robes in 1953. From this point a tradition of supply for royal occasions continued with Lullingstone English silk ordered for three more royal weddings, four royal babies and for the robes for the Investiture of the Prince of Wales. From Compton House English-reared silk was supplied for the wedding dress of the Princess of Wales in 1981 (Figure 12 – Special cancel of Great Britain 1981 with Lullingstone Silk Farm).

The UK silk industry is very varied and as well as producing the normal range of silk yarns, fabrics and garments other products include the manufacture of silk sutures for the medical profession, the knitting of silk gloves, which are used by jet fighter pilots in the Royal Air Force, and the hand weaving of silk fabrics, which are being used in the restoration of castles and palaces throughout Europe.

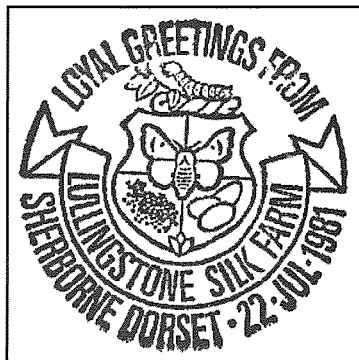


Figure 12

I hope that my article illustrated by different types of philatelic materials will be stimulate interest in butterflies and moths in philately. I always to help in create of butterflies or insects philatelic exhibit. Please write for me by e-mail: vladimirkachan@mail.ru

Post address: Vladimir Kachan, Street Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus

POSTAL DIARY

9TH JULY – 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Compiled by John V. De Battista

11th July

Two media communications were today released by MaltaPost informing the public of temporary Sub Post Office closures. The first concerned the Sub Post Office at 'D Spiral Stationery' situated at Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691, where it was notified that it will be closed on Friday 15th July.

As a close alternative on this day, the public was advised 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.

In its second media communication for the day, it was notified that the Sub Post Office at 'Needs Stationery' located at 1, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3325, will be closed between Thursday 14th and Saturday 16th July.

On these days, the public was advised that a close alternative was to make use of the postal services provided from Marsaskala Post Office located at Triq Sant' Antnin, Marsaskala MSK 9059.

13th July

MaltaPost informed that the letterbox situated at Triq il-Katakombi, Salini, Naxxar is now back in service.

(Reference entry dated 30th November 2021).

19th July

In a last minute communication, MaltaPost today notified the public that a commemorative handstamp will be used today, Tuesday 19th July, to commemorate the 100 years from the purchase of the celebrated Palazzo Huesca by the Vittoriosa Band Club. The handstamp will be used at the Malta Postal Museum in Valletta.

The Palazzo, where the Vittoriosa Band Club known as "Tal-Palma" is still currently located, was constructed in 1883. Apart from a number of large halls, the Palazzo also boasts a majestic facade. The contract for its purchase by the band club was done by Notary Cauchi who hailed from Cospicua,



on 19th July 1922. The property was purchased by the Society from the heirs of Michele Soler for the sum of one thousand five hundred pounds sterling, following approval at a General Meeting held between the Society Members on June 29th of the same year. The Payment, a considerable sum at the time, was executed with the sum of £1000 paid in cash from the society's funds, and a loan of £500 from Giovanni Spiteri, a businessman from Vittoriosa.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “MITT SENA *Palazzo Huesca* 1922-2022” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is the anniversary logo showing the façade of the building, set inside the first zero and the word SENA in the second zero of the stylized number 100, immediately beneath which was placed the name “PALAZZO HUESCA”. The issue date “19-07-22” in a straight line follows right under the logo.

22nd July

Today two media communications were released by MaltaPost.

In the first, the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Steve Stationery’ situated at 7, Dun Spir Sammut, Balzan BZN 1020, will be closed between Monday 25th and Saturday 30th July.

On these days, the public was invited to make use of the postal services provided from the Birkirkara Post Office situated at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013.

The second communication informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at 12, Alessio's Old Cottage, Parish Street, Mqabba MQB 1511 will be closed on Friday 22nd July.

On this day the public was advised to make use of the postal services provided from the Żurrieq Post Office situated at 75, Main Street Żurrieq ZRQ 1317.

28th July

MaltaPost informed that the letterbox located in Dun Tarcis Agius Square, Marsaskala has been temporarily removed.

The public was advised that if it so wishes it could make use of the letterbox located at Triq il-Bajja, Marsaskala as a close alternative.

29th July

MaltaPost today announced that the €0.07 value stamp from the Malta Meteorological Office Centenary 1922-2022 set, first issued on 1st July 2022, has been reprinted. The reprint consists of 800,000 stamps, in sheets of ten stamps bearing sheet numbers

50001-130000, both numbers included. The stamps measure 35.0 mm x 35.0 mm with a comb perforation of 13.75 x 13.75 and have been printed through the offset process by Printex Limited on watermarked paper bearing Maltese Crosses.

The media communication further announced that the stamps from this reprint will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as from Saturday 30th July 2022 (*i.e. the following morning*). However, philatelists observed that on the date advised it looks like most, if not all Post Offices, did not have any stamps from this reprint available and so it was near impossible for First Day of Use covers to be made by collectors. Embarrassed Post Office counter staff from many branches informed philatelists wishing to prepare philatelic items using the reprint stamps, that they had received the memo informing about the reprint very late from Head Office for them to be in a position to submit their orders for the stamps to be delivered in time, this resulting in the non-availability of the reprint at Post Offices as advertised. Regrettably, to the consternation of philatelists and collectors, such disappointingly late communications and repetitive blunders are highlighting the sorry state to which the postal authorities have reduced themselves to when it comes to fulfilling the needs and exigencies of the philatelic community. This inappropriate attitude towards philatelists by the postal administration has now become the order of the day, and is infuriating while also disheartening collectors to persist in collecting contemporary Malta issues. For the record, it resulted that most post offices actually received their orders and started selling these reprint stamps on Tuesday 2nd August.

In its second media communication for the day, MaltaPost notified that a commemorative handstamp will be used to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the arrival of the Statue of Saint Mary in the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Gozo on Saturday 30th July from the Victoria Post Office.



The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “125 SENA – STATWA TA’ SANTA MARIJA – KATIDRAL, GHAWDEX” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the facial part of the statue. The issue date “30-07-22” in a straight line is to be found immediately beneath the drawing.

For the occasion, the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of 100 cards (GPS No. 156) in its Gozo-related philatelic card series. Card was designed by Mr. Anthony Grech.

4th August

MaltaPost today issued two press communications regarding the temporary closure of Sub Post Offices.

In the first it informed that the Sub Post Office at 'D Spiral Stationery' situated at Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691, will be closed between Wednesday 10th and Saturday 20th August.

On these days, it was advised that the postal services provided from the Birkirkara Post Office located at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013 or from the Sub Post Office at 'Landau Stationery' which is located at 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara BKR 9085 could be availed of as a close alternative.

In its second media communication, it advised that the Sub Post Office situated at 'Electroit Stationery' at Fredrick Meample Square, Qormi QRM 1011, will be closed between Wednesday 10th and Tuesday 16th August.

On these days the public was advised to make use of the postal services provided from Qormi Post Office which is located at 343, Triq il-Vitorja, Qormi QRM 2504.

5th August

The Malta Postal Museum, on its facebook page, today announced the issue of the first postcard (MPM No. 07) in its new postcard series depicting stamp designs by celebrated artist Emvin Cremona. The card features the design of the three cents value stamp from the Malta 1973 "Industries" definitive set. The stamp represents the tourism industry, as symbolized through the popular activity of water skiing.



8th August

It was announced that on the 12th August, MaltaPost will be issuing the sixth series of stamps depicting religious statues found in various churches around Malta and Gozo. This issue will feature the following processional statues: The Immaculate Conception in Bormla, The Immaculate Heart of Mary in Burmarrad, Our Lady of the Rosary in Gudja, Our Lady of Loreto in Ġhajnsielem, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ta' Kerċem, St. Leonard Abbot in Kirkop, The Transfiguration of Our Lord in Lija, The Holy Trinity in Marsa, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Żurrieq and St. Mary Annunciation in Tarxien.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of ten stamps, 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 measure 182mm x 115mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset printing process. The issue consists of 800,000 stamps and carry a face value of €0.37 each. Photography used for the stamps is by Mark Micallef Perconte.

The previous five sets in this series were issued in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively. Each set issued in the series also includes corresponding maximum cards featuring an enlarged version of the image of the individual stamps, together with a corresponding special binder. With this issue, the series has up to now already featured a total of seventy different statues from churches around the Maltese archipelago.



MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.7/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “MALTESE FESTA SERIES VI 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/12-08-22” in straight lines are to be found below a church belfry drawing positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 426.

Two of the stamps have Gozo connections and feature the statue of Our Lady of Loreto (Għajnsielem) and Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Ta’ Kerċem). As usual on such occasions, the Gozo Philatelic Society announced that it will issue two cards with these respective stamps cancelled with the First Day of issue postmark. The cards (GPS Nos. 157 & 158) which were produced in a limited edition of 100 each, were designed by Mr. Anthony Grech.

11th August

Today the public was informed that the Sub Post Office situated at ‘Papel Stationery’, 1, Triq is-Salvatur Qrendi, QRD 1701, will be closed on Tuesday 16th August.

On the day the public was advised that if it so wishes it may use the postal services provided from the Żurrieq Post Office located at 75, Main Street Żurrieq, ZRQ 1317.

12th August

Today MaltaPost issued two media communications. In the first it informed that the letterbox situated at Pjazza Dun Tarcis Agius, Marsaskala is now back in service. (*Reference entry dated 28th July 1922*).

The second media communication informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Many Things Stationery’ situated at Triq il-Knisja l-Qadima, Siggiewi SGW 1704, will be closed between Tuesday 16th and Friday 19th August.

On these days, the public was advised to make use of the postal services provided from the Żebbuġ Post Office located at Triq Sciortino, Żebbuġ ZBG 1962, as an alternative.

16th August

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Wigwam Stationery’ situated at Triq il-Qroqq, Msida MSD 1702, will be closed between Thursday 18th and Monday 22nd August.

On these days, the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from the University Campus Post Office or from the Gżira Post Office located at 21, Pjazza Meme’ Scicluna, Gżira, GZR 1120, both being close alternatives.

19th August

In today’s communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘L-Għajn Stationery’ located at 100, Triq il-Kbira, Dingli DGL 1837, will be closed between Monday 22nd and Saturday 27th August.

The public was invited to use the postal services provided from the Rabat Post Office located at Civic Centre, Misraħ il-Parroċċa, Rabat RBT 1001 during this period as a close alternative.

22nd August

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at Willand Bargain Store, Dun M Mifsud Street, Santa Lucija SLC 1440 will be closed between Thursday 25th August and Saturday 3rd September.

On these days, the public was advised to alternatively make use of the postal services provided from the Paola Post Office situated at 21, Civic Centre, Antoine De Paule Square, Paola PLA 1266.

The Malta Communications Authority today published its “Key market indicators for electronic communications and post: Q1 2018 to Q1 2022 (MCA publication reference: MCA/R/22-4561). This is an excerpt from the report as regards the goings on of the local post scenario:

“The postal sector is continuously competing with online sources, which have seemingly risen since the beginning of the pandemic. Overall, postal mail volumes recorded in 2021 were 3.4% lower in relation to volumes recorded in 2020, mainly

as a result of a continuation in the long-term volume decline in domestic mail, specifically letter mail which experienced a 13% year-on-year drop. Furthermore, this trend is exhibited in parcel mail, registered mail and bulk mail which also contracted in yearly volumes from 2020 to 2021, by 8.4%, 5.8% and 0.8% respectively. Mail volumes outside the scope of the universal service were up by 24.8% year-on-year, as mail volumes for mail items weighing less than 2kgs rose by 282,916, equivalent to 30.5% and volumes for bigger sized parcel mail items increased by 117,938, equivalent to 17.1%.”

24th August

MaltaPost today informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Aquavel’, Triq San Bartilmew, Għarġhur GHR 1014, will be closed on Monday 29th August.

The public was advised that on this day, as an alternative, the postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office located in the Civic Centre, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018 could be made use of.

25th August

On its facebook page MaltaPost today posted that earlier this month, while processing foreign mail, it encountered some peculiar “back to sender” mail. They declared that this consisted of three postcards sent from Malta to France which had originally been posted in January 1900. It was stated that these now historical artefacts had been sent back by the French postal authorities to our country after more than 122 years. This statement now has everyone wondering what the real story behind these postcards is. Questions raised include what was the reason for them being held on to by the French postal administration and why did it take them so long to be returned back to Malta if this was really the case?

In a comment on the news item which was made right under the post on fb by way of reply a few hours later, a certain Ninette Zammit Camilleri hailing from Xagħra, Gozo, claimed to be the legitimate owner of these cards and stated that she had already informed MaltaPost about the whole story behind them through a private message she sent them.

Nonetheless MaltaPost still did not publicly reply or comment on this assertion, but maintained that the cards will be treasured and handled with care in the MaltaPost archives; both for their historic value and their mysterious journey.

<https://www.facebook.com/maltapost/photos/a.1720598084834891/3419953081566041/>

Note: In a later comment made on the 27th August by Ninette Zammit Camilleri on

the same fb post, without going into any further details she stated that “the issue has now been resolved thanks to MaltaPost’s efficient staff”. Queried to provide further details on this story, no replies or statements have been forthcoming from neither Ms. Camilleri nor MaltaPost, leaving more than serious doubts in the minds of inquisitive postal historians as to the veracity and correctness of the whole affair as presented in the MaltaPost fb post. The yet unanswered question remains: Was this story a gaff, the result of an erroneous conclusion arrived at hastily by MaltaPost or a genuine long overdue mail return incident having historical significance? What is holding both protagonists in the story from publicly revealing the whole truth behind what really happened?

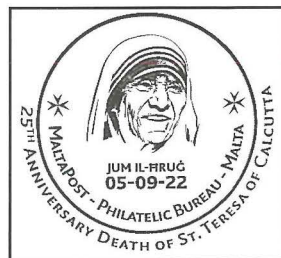
1st September

On the 5th September, MaltaPost will be marking the life of Mother Teresa by commemorating the 25th anniversary of her passing through a specially designed stamp which is being issued in a miniature sheet format.

Born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in Skopje, in 1910, Mother Teresa, as she later came to be known, was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun who spent most of her life in India. At the age of eighteen she left home to join the Sisters of Loreto at Loreto Abbey in Rathfarnham, Ireland, to learn English. She was intent on becoming a missionary and English was the language of instruction of the Sisters of Loreto in India.

In 1979 she was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Mother Teresa died in September 1997 due to heart failure and in 2016 was canonized by Pope Francis in St Peter’s Square, Vatican City. She remains one of the most widely admired personalities of the 20th century.

This stamp and miniature sheet were designed by Shanice Farrugia. The stamp within the miniature sheet measures 31 mm x 44 mm, with 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 printed through the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 30,000 miniature sheets, with each sheet bearing a face value of €3.00. MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.8/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “25TH ANNIVERSARY DEATH OF ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA” 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/05-09-22” in straight lines are to



be found below an outline image of a portrait of St. Teresa positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 427.

In its second media communication for the day, MaltaPost informed that the Birkirkara Sub Post Office situated at 'D Spiral Stationery', Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691 will no longer operate as a Sub Post Office as from Thursday 1st September 2022.

Furthermore it was stated that if MaltaPost are unsuccessful in delivering postal items that require a signature or do not fit into letterboxes in the locality, arrangements have been made for such items to be collected from the Birkirkara Post Office located at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013.

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

1st - 7th September

New postage paid stationery with a new version of the postage indicia was issued for sale to the public. The issue was not publicly announced and was issued off the shelf by MaltaPost Stores to counters requesting replenishment stock. The revised indicia reflects the design of the provisional overprinted one used a few weeks ago and consists of a slightly different red horizontal spiral design strip superimposed with the 1921 Edward Caruana Dingli emblematic figure of Malta design to the right. The 37 cent face value in black is placed at the top left hand corner of the indicia while the word MALTA, also in black, is to be found at the lower left hand bottom corner. Retail price of the prepaid envelopes, which may be found in both the standard and window envelope versions, was kept at 52 cents each same as that of the provisional issue of the 1st July.



2nd September

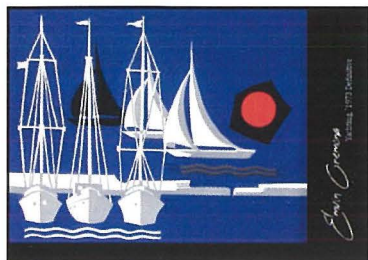
MaltaPost informed that the letterbox situated in Triq Il-Hammieri, Qormi has been temporarily removed.

The public was informed that it may wish to use the letterbox situated at Triq il-Barrakki, Qormi as a close alternative.

In a second media communication, it also informed that the Sub Post Office 'Allstat Stationery' situated at Triq il-Lampara, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq NXR 5134 will be closed between Saturday 3rd and Saturday 10th September.

On these days, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may use the postal

services provided from the Naxxar Post Office located in the Civic Centre, Vjal il-Wiehed u Ghoxrin ta' Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.



The Malta Postal Museum, on its facebook page, this morning announced that today it will issue the second postcard (MPM No. 08) in its postcard series depicting stamp designs by celebrated artist

Emvin Cremona (1919-1987). The card features the design of the four cents value stamp from the Malta 1973 “Industries” definitive set. The stamp represents the yachting industry

6th September

MaltaPost today informed that the Sub Post Office located at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borġ Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024 will be closed between Friday 09th and Monday 12th September.

On these days, as a close alternative the public could make use of the postal services provided from the Mellieħa Post Office located at 100, Triq il-Miżna l-Ġdida, Mellicha MLĦ 1107.

7th September

As a member of SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation) and in keeping with its annual tradition of participating in a joint stamp issue, MaltaPost announced that it will issue a set of four stamps titled “Local Beverages” on the 13th September. The designs of this Malta set are decidedly retro with four bottles taking centre stage against a flatly rendered, yet colourful, local backdrop.

The stamp set was designed by Daniel Spiteri with stamps issued in a sheet of ten stamps. Each stamp measures 31mm x 44mm, has a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bears the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 185mm x 118mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset printing process. The issue consists of 500,000 of the €0.37 stamp, 100,000 of the €0.57 stamp, 300,000 of the €1.40 stamp and 60,000 of the €2.00 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.9/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “SEPAC – LOCAL BEVERAGES” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The

words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/013-09-22” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image of a beverage bottle display positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 428.



16th September

On Monday 19th September MaltaPost will be issuing a Miniature sheet bearing one stamp in Memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who died on 8th September.

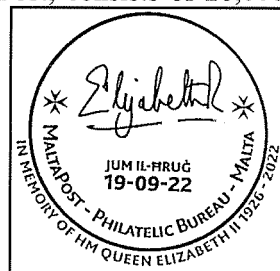
Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born in London on April 21st 1926, the elder daughter of Prince Albert, Duke of York, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

As the child of a younger son of King George V, she had little prospect of acceding to the throne. However, once her uncle Edward VIII abdicated on December 11th, 1936, her father became King George VI and she, in turn, the heir presumptive.

In 2015, she also became the longest-serving British monarch in history, passing the record set by her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria. As head of state and head of nation, Queen Elizabeth II was widely regarded as a symbol of stability, working tirelessly to ensure the monarchy remained relevant during a period of immense social, technological, and economic change. The Queen’s reign saw fifteen different UK prime ministers, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss. Away from her official duties, she was a devoted wife and mother, and dedicated grandmother to eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. At the time of her death, Queen Elizabeth held a number of other titles which have now automatically passed to her son and heir, King Charles III. She was head of the Commonwealth, commander-in-chief of the British Armed Forces, and supreme governor of the Church of England. She was also patron of more than six hundred charities and organisations.

The stamp within the miniature sheet measures 31mm x 44mm, has a comb perforation of 13.09 x 14.00 and bears the Maltese Cross watermark. The miniature sheet itself measures 80mm x 120mm and was produced in the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue, designed in-house by MaltaPost, consists of 20,000 miniature sheets with the singular stamp bearing 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.10/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “IN MEMORY OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST



----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-HRUĠ/19-09-22” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image of a the Queen’s signature positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 429.

29th September

As authorised by the Malta Communications Authority, with effect from Saturday 1st October, the following rates for Foreign Letter Mail and Postcards shall be applicable:

The below are the new rates for Foreign Letter Mail and Postcards:

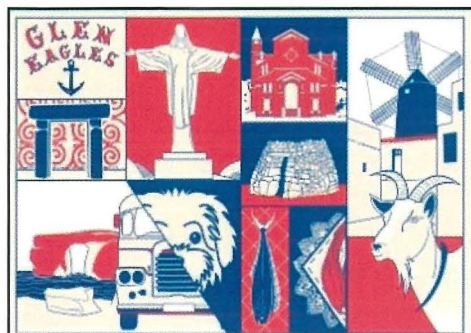
Up to (grams)	ZONE A1 (European Countries)	ZONE A2 (remaining non- European Countries)	ZONE B	ZONE C	ZONE D
Postcards	€ 1.40	€ 1.40	€ 1.40	€ 1.40	€ 1.40
20	€ 1.40	€ 1.40	€ 1.40	€ 1.40	€ 1.40
30	€ 1.40	€ 1.70	€ 1.80	€ 1.89	€ 2.03
40	€ 1.70	€ 1.70	€ 1.80	€ 1.89	€ 2.03
60	€ 1.70	€ 2.00	€ 2.20	€ 2.38	€ 2.76
>60g, up to 2Kg, for each additional 20g	30c	30c	0.40c	0.49c	0.68c

Also, effective Saturday 1st October, the following rates shall apply in respect of Domestic Bulk Letter Mail:

	New Price
0 - 50g	€0.33
50 - 100g	€0.53
>100g, up to 2KG, for each additional 50g	€0.20

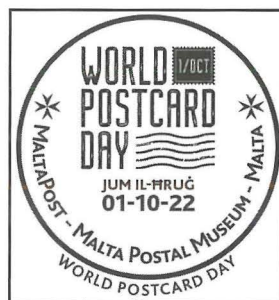
1st October

After a successful celebration of the 150th anniversary of the postcard in 2019, it was decided to launch the World Postcard Day which was to be held annually on every October 1st.



For the occasion of marking World Postcard Day 2022, the Malta Postal Museum & Arts Hub released two specially designed post cards. The designs are the work of Daniel Spiteri

Also for the occasion, MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel postal and philatelic items at the Malta Postal Museum. The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “WORLD POSTCARD DAY” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/01-10-22” in straight lines are to be found below an image of the World Postcard Day logo positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp.

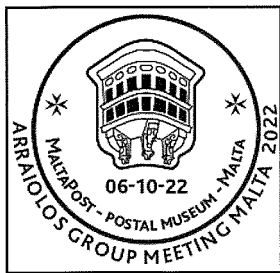


6th October

Today MaltaPost issued a commemorative handstamp to mark the Arraiolos Group meeting being held in Malta today. For the record, the use of the handstamp became known only because it appeared on the MaltaPhilately sales site on the day. The Arraiolos Group is composed of the Heads of State of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, and Malta. During the Malta meeting, Slovakia will become the latest addition to the group.

The formation brings together Heads of State of European Union Member States, who do not have exclusive executive powers. The name of this group is derived from the Portuguese town of Arraiolos, which is where the Heads of State originally convened in 2003. At the time, it was only six Presidents that formed this grouping.

Malta joined the Arraiolos Group in 2015. Soon after, it was Malta's turn to host its first Arraiolos Meeting in September 2017. His Excellency George Vella joined other Heads of State that convened in Athens in 2019 and in Rome in 2021 where



it was unanimously agreed that the following meeting, the 17th, would be held in Malta. No Arraiolos Meeting was held in 2020 due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic.

The occasion hand stamp to cancel postal and philatelic items was in use at the Malta Postal Museum. The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “ARRAIOS GROUP MEETING MALTA 2022” along the bottom outside of

the ring border and “* MALTAPOST – POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The issue date “06-10-22” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image of a covered balcony positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp.

Through a media communication release, MaltaPost today announced that it had set up a new Sub Post Office in Marsaxlokk. Within 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 ‘Old Trafford Stationery’, 41, Triq l-Arznell, Marsaxlokk MXK 1401. Postal services will be available at this new Sub Post Office as from Monday 10th October 2022.

The Sub Post Office’s opening hours will be as follows:

Monday to Friday

08:15 a.m.-01:00 p.m. - 04:15 p.m.-07:00 p.m.

Saturday

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

12th October

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Aquavel’, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014, will be closed between the 14th and 17th October.

On these days, the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office located in the Civic Centre, Vjal il-Wiehed u Ghoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.

25th October

In a departure from the more traditional choice themes, MaltaPost today announced that on the 29th October it will be issuing a set of three stamps that are taken squarely from the contemporary world of comics. The artworks have been selected from *Impressions of an Island* - a publication by Heritage Malta in collaboration with

Wicked Comics. They illustrate three images, all of which refer in some way to our local culture.

The stamps comprising the set are designed by Fabio Agius, Lee Townsend and Mario Torrisi. They will be issued in sheets of ten stamps, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm. The stamps have a comb perforation measuring 13.9 x 14.0 and are printed on paper bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 185mm x 118mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset process. In all, the issue consists of 500,000 of the €0.05 stamp by Fabio Agius, 30,000 of the €1.70 stamp by Lee Townsend and 300,000 of the €2.50 stamp by Mario Torrisi.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.11/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “COMIC ART IN MALTA 2022” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-HRUĠ/29-10-22” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image of the Malta Comic Con Logo positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp.

MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 430.



28th October

In its media communication for today, MaltaPost informed that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, as of 1st November, the Post Office located at Smart City will be open on Tuesdays between 7.30 am and 1.00 pm. For those wishing to make use of postal services in the vicinity but outside these Post Office opening times, the nearest Sub Post Office is located at Troy DVD Rentals, 1, Triq il Kappuccini, Kalkara, KKR 1502 whose opening hours are as follows:

Monday to Friday:

8.30am - 12.00pm and 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Saturday:

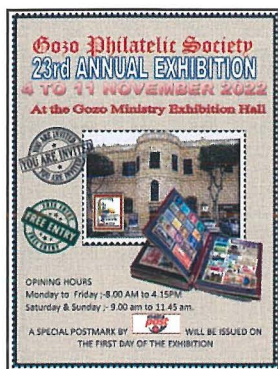
8.30am - 12.00pm

3rd November

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative handstamp will be issued on Friday 4th November at the Victoria Post Office which is located at 5, Sir Adrian Dingli Street, Rabat, Gozo VCT 1441 to commemorate the 23rd Exhibition of the Gozo Philatelic Society Exhibition.



The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “G.P.S. 23RD ANNUAL EXHIBITION - 2022” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The issue date “04-11--22” in a straight line is to be found below an image of the 23rd GPS Exhibition logo positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. The postmark design is by the GPS Vice President Mr. Anthony Grech.



edition card featuring the Gozo boat as depicted on a 1926 Malta stamp, over a globe, the whole assemblage being superimposed on a scene of Mgarr Harbour. The limited

edition card, of which only 100 were printed, is numbered 159 in the GPS series and is franked with a personalized stamp showing the Map of Malta from the 2010 occasions series. A total of 200 personalized stamps only were commissioned, out of which 100 were used on the commemorative cards. The vignette of the se-tenant stamp which is based on a photograph by Daniel Cilia, depicts the façade of the Ministry for Gozo located in St. Francis Square, Victoria, in whose Hall the exhibition is held. The card, as those issued for the previous editions, was designed by the Society’s Vice President Mr. Anthony Grech.

4th November

Today was the first day of the 23rd Annual Philatelic Exhibition organized by the Gozo Philatelic Society, which will be held between the 4th and 11th November. To commemorate the occasion the GPS issued a limited



5th November

MaltaPost continued to invest in upgrading its branches with the opening of a new Post Office situated at 19, Misrah Gregorio Boniçi, Żejtun ŽTN 1051. The new Post Office will be replacing the previous outlet located at 37 Triq San Lucjan, Żejtun ŽTN 1834.

This Post Office will be offering all postal services including registered local and

international mail, collection of undelivered mail items, encashment of Central Bank of Malta cheques and money transfers. It will also offer a selection of philately products as well as items for home or office use such as stationery and greeting cards.

Żejtun residents will also benefit from a 24/7 Fasipik parcel locker service. The Parcel Lockers will be installed in this new Post Office in the coming weeks.

The new Żejtun Post Office will be open as from Tuesday 08th November, from Monday to Saturday between 7.30 and 13.00.

9th November

MaltaPost today informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Needs Stationery', located at 1, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3325 will be closed on Saturday 12th November.

On this day, Marsaskala residents were invited to use the postal services provided from the Marsaskala Post Office located at Triq Sant' Antnin, Marsaskala MSK 9059 as a close alternative.

10th November

In today's media communication, MaltaPost informed that the letterbox, which was previously located at 37, Triq San Lucjan, Żejtun ŻTN 1834, has been relocated to 19, Misraħ Gregorio Boniċi, Żejtun ŻTN 1051.

In a separate communication, it also informed that the letterbox situated in Triq il-Gurgier c/w Triq Bir Hieles, Birżebbuġa has been temporarily removed.

In this case the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of the letterbox situated at Triq San Franġisk Saverju, Birżebbuġa as a close alternative.

12th November

Today the public was informed that the Sub Post Office located at 12, Alessio's Old Cottage, Parish Street, Mqabba MQB 1511 will be closed between Monday 14th and Wednesday 16th November.

On these days the public was advised that as a close alternative it may use the postal services provided from the Żurrieq Post Office, which is located at 75, Main Street, Żurrieq ŻRQ 1317.

18th November

MaltaPost announced that the Qormi Sub Post Office situated at 'Electroit Stationery', Pjazza Fredrick Maemple, Qormi QRM 1011 will no longer operate as a Sub Post Office as from Monday 21st November 2022.

If the case of unsuccessful delivery of postal items requiring a signature to addressees or where items do not fit the letterbox, it has been notified that arrangements have been made for the collection of such items to be made from the Qormi Post Office located at 343, Triq il-Vitorja, Qormi QRM 2504. Another alternative proposed is for items to be delivered to a 24/7 Easipik locker.

23rd November

The letterbox, which was previously located at Triq Lorenzo Gafa', Siggiewi has been relocated to Triq il-Kbira, Siggiewi opposite to Many Things Sub Post Office.

In a separate media communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at 'C@C Stationery', situated at Trejket Fleur De Lys, St. Venera SVR 1580 will be closed on Friday 25th November.

On this day, Santa Venera residents were informed that they may use the postal services provided from the Hamrun Post Office situated at 18, Triq il-Ferrovija, Hamrun HMR 1900.

24th November

Today MaltaPost announced that it has a new Sub Post Office in St. Paul's Bay. Within 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.

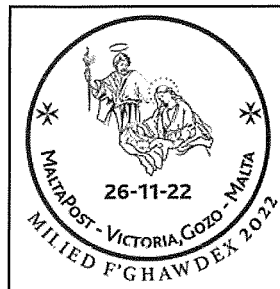
The new Sub Post Office will be located at 'Exclusive Stationery', 27, Dawret il-Gzejjer, St. Paul's Bay SPB 2502. Postal services will be available at this new Sub Post Office as from Monday 28th November with opening hours from Monday to Sunday being from 08:00 a.m. to 08:00 p.m.

25th November

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative handstamp will be issued on Saturday 26th November at the Victoria Post Office located at 5, Sir Adrian Dingli Street, Rabat, Gozo VCT 1441 to celebrate Christmas in Gozo 2022.

The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed "MILIED F'GHAWDEX 2022" along the bottom outside of the ring border and "* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The issue date "26-11-22" in a straight line is to be found below an image of the Holy Family positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp.

In its second media communication, MaltaPost notified



that on the 29th November it will be issuing a set consisting of two stamps together with a miniature sheet which also bears two stamps within it, titled “Christmas 2022 - Santa’s Workshop”. The artwork for the issue was designed by Fabio Agius, a long-time staff member of MaltaPost.

The busy workshop depicted in the miniature sheet is set inside a wintry landscape as Santa busies himself reading a letter in front of a roaring fire. Elves are painting toys and packing sacks ready for their Christmas Eve delivery, while garlands, wreaths, candy sticks and bells animate the cosy scene. The two other stamps in the issue are details from the miniature sheet itself, one depicting Santa in his chair (€0.37) and the other showing one of the elves opening a shiny red letterbox (€1.40).

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of ten stamps, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The stamp sheets measure 185mm x 118mm while the Miniature sheet measures 160mm x 86mm. Both the stamps and miniature sheet were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 120,000 of the €0.37 stamp, 60,000 of the €1.40 stamp and 15,000 Miniature sheets (€1.00 x 2).

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.12/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “CHRISTMAS 2022 – SANTA’S WORKSHOP” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/29-11-22” in straight lines are to be found below a classical stylized face of Christmas Father positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 431.



The final media communication released for the day also relates to the Christmas Season. In it MaltaPost announced that on the 16th December, a miniature sheet titled “The Nativity of Jesus Christ” will be issued. The sheet will bear three stamps depicting terracotta works by Maltese sculptor Joseph Scerri.

Scerri was born in Rabat and received his early training under Anton Agius, Anthony Calleja and Joseph Casha at the Malta School of Art. He has spent the past thirty years working primarily in bronze and is responsible for the monuments of Anton Agius, Kilin and Joseph Howard.

This terracotta triptych shows the first visitors to the holy crib. Awestruck shepherds on the left and gift-bearing kings on the right, flank the central panel showing the

holy family. A manger with stable animals and a princely procession on camels completes the background design of the miniature sheet which is topped by the quintessential star!

The stamps within the miniature sheet measure 44 mm x 31 mm, have a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bear the Maltese Cross watermark. The miniature sheet itself measures 120 mm x 80 mm and was produced through the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 15,000 miniature sheets with each of the three stamps bearing a value of €1. 00.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.13/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-HRUĠ/16-12-22” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image of the Holy Family positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 432.



2nd December

MaltaPost today notified that a commemorative handstamp will be issued on Saturday 3rd December at the Victoria Post Office situated at 5, Sir Adrian Dingli Street, Rabat, Gozo VCT 1441 to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Statue at Victoria, Gozo.

The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “175 SENA – STATWA TAL-KUNCIZZJONI – RABAT, GHAWDEX” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The issue date “03-12-22” in a straight line is to be found below an image of the upper part of the statue of Our Lady of Conception positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp.



5th December

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at San Lawrenz Local Council, 22A Lady of Sorrow Street, San Lawrenz, Gozo SLZ 1261 will be closed between Wednesday 7th December and Friday 9th December.

On these days the public was advised that it may make use of the postal services

provided from the Victoria Post Office situated at 5, Sir Adrian Dingli Street, Victoria, Gozo VCT 1441 as an alternative.

12th December

MaltaPost informed that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, all Post Offices will be closed and there will be no collection or delivery of mail on Monday 26th December 2022 and Monday 2nd January 2023.

Normal service will resume on Tuesday 27th December 2022 and Tuesday 3rd January 2023, respectively.

17th December

Today MaltaPost released a miniature sheet titled “Centenary of the First Performance of the National Anthem of Malta”. The sheet bears two stamps, one depicting a portrait of the national poet Dun Karm Psaila (b. Haż-Żebbuġ 1871 - d. Valetta 1961), who wrote the words for the short melody composed by Dr. Robert Samut (b. Floriana, 1869 - d. Sliema 1934).

Both lyricist and composer were well known personalities on the Island. Carmelo Psaila, better known as Dun Karm was a Maltese priest, writer, and poet, sometimes called ‘the Bard of Malta’. He taught at the Archbishop’s Seminary, worked at the National Library of Malta and was one of the founding members of the Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti. Initially, he wrote only in Italian but he later penned several popular religious hymns in Maltese. He continued to write prolifically in Maltese, producing works conscious of a Maltese identity of which the Innu Malti is one.

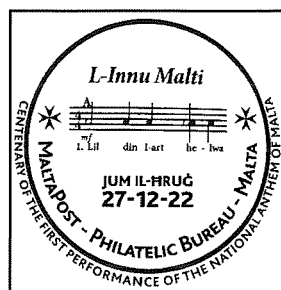
The composer Robert Samut was a Maltese doctor and musician. He studied medicine at the Royal University of Malta and the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated with an MB ChB, receiving a medal for excelling in anatomy. From his youth he had shown musical inclinations and had wanted to study music, but his father did not approve, and consequently he pursued a career in medicine. Samut went on to have an illustrious career in the military and also as Professor of Pathology at the Royal University of Malta.

In 1922, Samut had composed a short melody. Dun Karm was asked to write lyrics that would fit with Samut’s short melody; which was then adopted by the Malta Department of Education as an anthem to be sung by students in Malta’s schools. The hymn quickly gained popularity and was already being sung in small gatherings in December 1922, mostly in government schools. The first time it was heard in public was on 27th December 1922 and again on 6th January 1923, during two concerts held at the Manoel Theatre in Valetta.

The Maltese government declared the hymn as the official Maltese anthem on 22nd February 1941. In 1942, it was printed for ‘piano e canto’ with an English translation by May Butcher. This publication helped spread its popularity. The 1964 Independence Constitution subsequently confirmed it as the National Anthem of Malta.

The stamps within the miniature sheet measure 31 mm x 44 mm, have a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bear the Maltese Cross watermark. The miniature sheet itself, which was designed inhouse by MaltaPost, measures 120 mm x 80 mm and was produced through the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 15,000 miniature sheets with each stamp 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.14/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “CENTENARY OF THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF MALTA” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-HRUĠ/27-12-22” in straight lines are to be found below the title and image of the opening musical notation of the anthem positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 433.



THE PROJECT FOR THE DIGITALIZATION AND ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE P.S.M. JOURNAL

By John V. De Battista

It is our great pleasure to announce that thanks to an agreement reached in April 2020 between the Society and the University of Malta, the PSM Journal series has now been digitalized and may be found forming part of the University’s online research library. The University of Malta Library launched the first Institutional Repository on the island in September 2014. The aim behind the repository is to collect, preserve and disseminate the intellectual output of the University in digital format. Besides this material, also included on OAR@UM are works of importance to Malta’s cultural heritage and identity.

Apart from benefiting end-users carrying out research, OAR@UM is also beneficial for organizations such as ours, since the platform:

1. serves to increase the visibility of the authors and in our case, our Society's intellectual output;
2. provides long term preservation and accessibility to the research with a persistent URL that will never change;
3. has its own searching facilities, with the material being harvested by Google and Google Scholar so that subsequently it can be accessed through these search engines.

The idea of the digitalization of the Journal had been floated for a number of years by members of our Society. As a matter of fact a number of issues had already been scanned by the writer as part of a preliminary trial to establish what the work in reality involved and the best equipment and software which could be utilized for the job. Unfortunately the lack of the right resources and humongous manual labour input required to complete the project at the time, necessitated that it be put on the back burner to await better times when these resources would become readily available.

This opportunity came about when the project was given a new lease of life through a doable proposal made by Mr. Mark Poulton, one of our members, to our Committee. Thanks to Mr. Poulton, who is the Senior Assistant Librarian at the G.F. Abela Junior College Library and who directed the digitalization project, together with the hard work put in by his able team, we have now seen this dream being realized in just over a year after it was effectively started. For the record it is good to point out that the first issues of the Journal were uploaded to the repository in early November 2020, with the final ones closing off the project in March 2022. This saw no less than one hundred and fifty issues, spread over fifty one volumes, being digitalized. Since this is an ongoing publication, all future editions will also be digitalized and added to the repository accordingly.

To access this mine of philatelic information which has been steadily built up by our Society since its inception over fifty-five years ago, simply login to:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/54689>



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