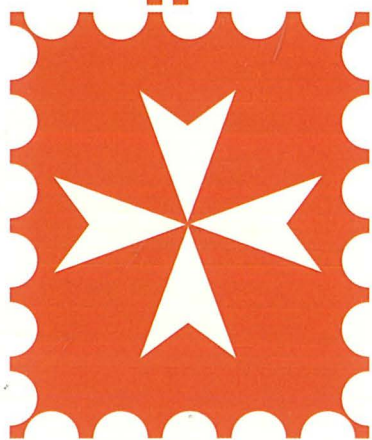




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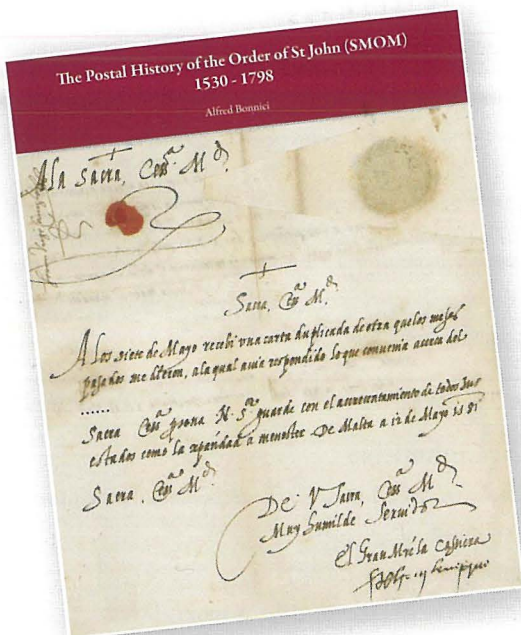
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REPRINT
The Postal History
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THE COMMISSARIO DELLA POSTA

By Paul C. Saliba BA (Hons) MA

The Knights of Malta always had a Postal System, to communicate with their Comandaries, the Pope, their Ambassadors, and their families spread all over Europe. On the 20th July 1708 the Venerandi Procuratoti del Comun tesoro submitted a number of proposals to the Grand Council of the Order so that the Traesury will be relieved of the burden of expenses for the carriage of private letters. Grand Master Ramon Perellos appointed a commission to verify these proposals and provide the necessary feedback. One of the proposals recommended the appointment of a Knight to manage the postal service.

The Knight in charge of the postal service was known as the Commissario della Posta. Fra Nicolò Fissari (1680-1742) was probably the Knight in charge of the posts between 1735 and 1738. Fra Ludovico Bacci (1679-1751) became responsible for the function of the posts in 1747 and Fra Francesco Mazzei (1721-1791) was responsible for collecting the revenue between 1773 and 1774. Mazzei was once referred as the Commissario della Posta. A list of the Commissarii della Posta for the years spanning between 1779 and 1797 was compiled by Dr. Albert Ganado in his paper *The Officina Della Posta and its Functionaries* (n.d.).

1779 (possibly before) – 31.08.1775 Fra Simone Montfort (1729 – 1785)
01.09.1785 – 30.05.1787 Com. Giuseppe Rogadeo (1772 – 1791)
01.06.1787 – 31.10.1795 Com. Ugolino Tommaso Cambi (1734 – ?)
01.11.1795 – 31.01.1797 Fra Charles Hubert de Mont d'Or (1734 – ?)
01.02.1797 – 31.07.1797 Com. Michelangelo Arezzo (1738 – ?)
01.08.1797 – June 1798 Com. Carlo Candida (1762 – 1845)

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show three receipts issued by three Commissarii della Posta namely Fra Simone Montfort, Com. Ugolino Tommaso Cambi and Fra Charles Hubert de Mont d'Or dated 1782, 1795 and 1796 respectively.

With the advent of the French Occupation, which brought an end to the Knights Period, and later the British rule, the office of the Commissario della Posta survived, until the resignation of Gio. Antonio Micallef, the last recorded Commissario della Posta, following which, his successor, Domenico Montanaro, was given the status of Direttore della Posta.

1782 Al 5. Luglio ~
 Al Prete Conule Dorion, pagò scudi quattro tari nove, e grani
 sedici, 7/ posto di Lettere al 1. Aprile 1782. D^a 41 9. 16
 Il Comm^{ario} della Posta
 Il cav^o Montfort

Fig. 1A: 5 Luglio 1782 Il Prete Comule(?) Dorion pagò Scudi quattro tari nove e grani sedici per (?) Posto di Lettere a Aprile 1782 4.9.16
 (Signed) Il Comm della Posta Cav. Montfort (Dr. Daniel Saliba LL.D. Collection)

1782 Al 5. Luglio ~
 Al Prete Conule Dorion, pagò scudi quattro tari nove, e grani
 sedici, 7/ posto di Lettere al 1. Aprile 1782. D^a 41 9. 16
 Il Comm^{ario} della Posta
 Il cav^o Montfort

Fig. 1B: Detailed image of Fig. 1A

A di 30 Giugno 1795

Il Comm. Fr. D. Clemente Dorion pagò
 in Posta Scudo uno, tt: otto, e grani dieci
 otto; Quali sono p porto di Lettere all:
 Aprile scorso; Dico - - - 1. 8. 18.

Il Commis. della Posta
 M^{re} Cambi

Fig. 2: 30 Giugno 1795 Il Clemente Dorion pagò in Posta Scudo uno tari otto e grani dieci otto quali sono per porto di Lettere all Aprile scorso dico 1.8.18
 (Signed) Il Comm della Posta Com. Cambi (Dr. Daniel Saliba LL.D. Collection)

A di 9. Maggio 1796

Il Comm. Dorion pagò in Posta Scudo
 due, tt: sei, e grani dieci; Quali sono per porto
 di Lettere all Aprile scorso - - - 2. 6. 10.

Il Commis. della Posta
 Le ab^{te} H de Mont d'Or

Fig. 3: 9 Maggio 1796 Il Comm. Dorion pagò in Posta Scudo due, tari sei e grani dieci quali sono per porto di Lettere all Aprile scorso dico 2.6.10
 (Signed) Il Comm della Posta H de Mont d'Or (Dr. Daniel Saliba LL.D. Collection)

FORCES POST OFFICES - MALTA

By Alan Green

Also appeared in UK. M.S.C. Virtual Display No #119



Forces Post Offices - Malta



The planned run-down in early-1972, and the subsequent re-start after the new agreement on Military Facilities in Malta, had no direct effect on postage rates for the British Forces. The 1 oz. rate of 3p. had been in force since 1 July 1971 and remained unchanged throughout 1972.



1973 (15AP) 1 oz. rate with GB 3p. Machin cancelled by FPO 944-A.

Date	Rates	Date	Rates	Date	Rates
1971 (1 Jul)	3p - 1oz 5p - 2oz 7½p - 4oz 10p - 8oz 20p - 1lb 35p - 2lb 70p - 4lb (max)	1973 (10 Sep)	3½p - 1oz 5p - 2oz 7½p - 4oz 10p - 8oz 20p - 1lb 35p - 2lb 70p - 4lb (max)	1974 (24 Jun)	4½p - 1oz 6p - 2oz 9p - 4oz 12p - 8oz 22p - 1lb 37p - 2lb 75p - 4lb (max)

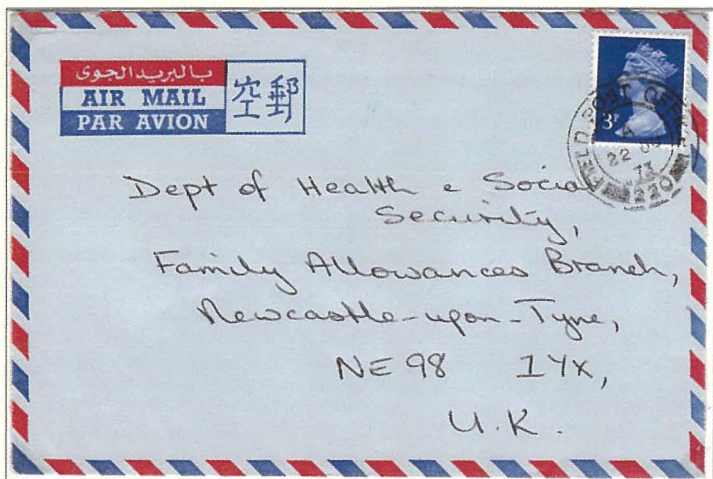
In 1972, surface postal rates applied to British Forces in Malta, on an 'all-up' basis. This system continued until 1975, with rate changes in 1973 and 1974. On 17 March 1975, the 'all-up' system was split into a more traditional system of separate rates for surface and air mail.



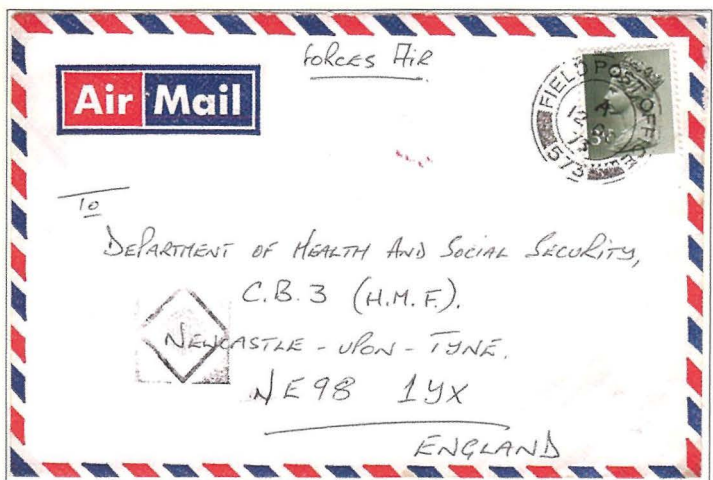
Forces Post Offices - Malta



On 10 September 1973, the 1 oz. rate was increased from 3p. to 3½p., but the higher weight rates stayed as they were.



1973 (22JU) 1 oz. rate with GB 3p. Machin cancelled by FPO 220-A. This datestamp was used at St. Andrews Barracks post office (S236).



1973 (12OC) 1 oz. rate with GB 3½p. Machin cancelled by FPO 573-A. This FPO datestamp was used at St. Francis Ravelin post office (S237) for a relatively short period (recorded as 30 Apr 72 to 12 Nov 73).



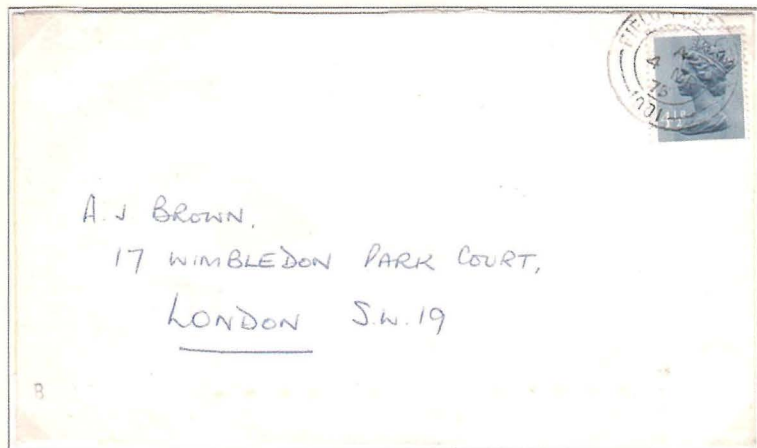
Forces Post Offices - Malta



On 24 June 1974, the 1 oz. rate was increased from 3½p. to 4½p., with the higher weight rates receiving proportionate increases.



1974 (18JA) 1 oz. rate with GB 3½p. Machin cancelled by FPO 944-B.



1975 (4MR) 1 oz. rate with GB 4½p. Machin cancelled by FPO 1001-A.



Forces Post Offices - Malta



In 1975, changes to the Forces postal rates affected the rates from Malta. It was no longer possible to send letter mail at surface rates using the 'all-up' system, and instead, a new table of airmail rates was introduced from 17 March 1975. Initially, the weight scale was imperial, but changed to metric on 29 September 1975, accompanied by a rate increase.

Date	Europe	Date	Europe	Date	Europe
1975 (17 Mar)	7p - 2oz 10p - 4oz 12½p - 6oz 15p - 8oz 17½p - 10oz 19½p - 12oz 22p - 14oz 24p - 1lb 34p - 1lb 8oz 44p - 2lb 54p - 2½lb 64p - 3lb 74p - 3½lb 84p - 4lb (max)	1975 (29 Sep)	8½p - 60g 11½p - 100g 15p - 150g 18p - 200g 21p - 250g 24p - 300g 27p - 350g 30p - 400g 33p - 450g 36p - 500g 51p - 750g 66p - 1kg 81p - 1.25kg 96p - 1.5kg £1.11 - 1.75kg £1.26 - 2kg (max)	1977 (13 Jun)	9p - 60g 12½p - 100g 16p - 150g 20p - 200g 24p - 250g 28p - 300g 32p - 350g 36p - 400g 40p - 450g 44p - 500g 67p - 750g 87p - 1kg £1.07 - 1.25kg £1.27 - 1.5kg £1.47 - 1.75kg £1.67 - 2kg (max)

Forces Air Letter Rates

Date	Rate	Date	Rate	Date	Rate
1975 (28 Apr)	5p	1975 (29 Sep)	6½p	1977 (13 Jun)	7p

Forces airmail and air letter rates from Malta from 1975. After the 1977 increases, there were no more changes prior to British forces leaving Malta on 31 March 1979.



1977 (11JY) 1 oz. airmail rate with GB 9p. Machin cancelled by FPO 1001-A.



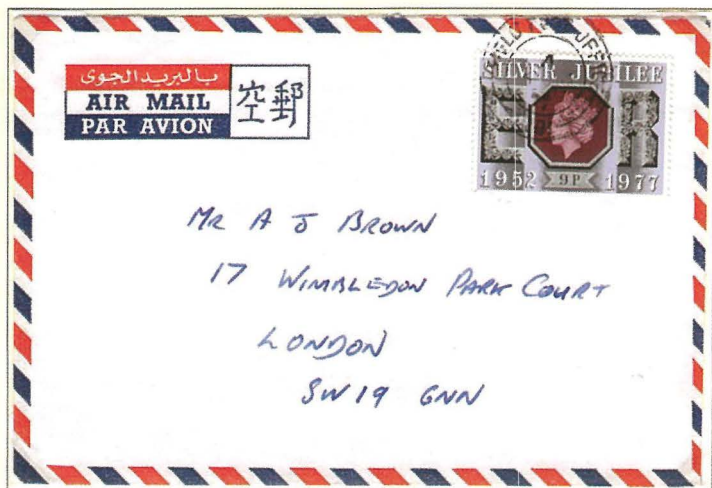
Forces Post Offices - Malta



On 13 June 1977, the 1 oz. airmail rate was increased from 8½ p. to 9p., with the higher weight rates receiving proportionate increases. Rates for formular air letters were also increased, but continued to be lower.



1977 (17MAY) 1 oz. airmail rate with GB 8½ p. Silver Jubilee cancelled by FPO 112 rubber datestamp (Blackwell type B2A). Rubber datestamps were normally used for internal services and rarely on letter mail.



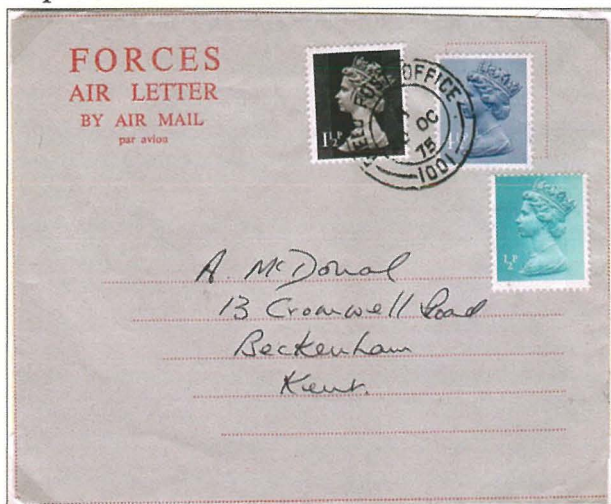
1977 (4JY) 1 oz. airmail rate with GB 9p. Silver Jubilee cancelled by FPO 1001-A.



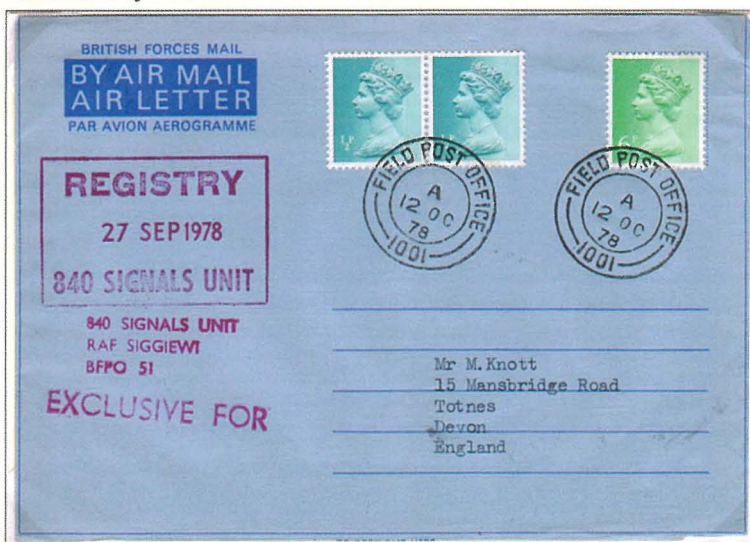
Forces Post Offices - Malta



On 13 June 1977, the air letter rate was increased from 6½p. to 7p., but still represented a lower cost than the 1 oz. airmail rate.



1975 (200C) Forces Air Letter with 6½p. rate franked by GB Machins, cancelled by FPO 1001-A. Sent from HMS *Hermes* in Grand Harbour.



1978 (120C) Air Letter with 7p. rate franked by GB Machins, cancelled by FPO 1001-A. Sent from RAF 840 Signals Unit at RAF Siggiewi



Forces Post Offices - Malta



Envelopes with embossed octagonal Machin definitives were used from Malta's forces post offices, but it is likely these were 'Printed To Private Order' supplied by collectors and not available for local purchase.



John Daynes,
25A Mill Road,
Burnham on Crouch,
Essex, England.



John Daynes,
25A Mill Road,
Burnham on Crouch,
Essex, England.

1977 (11AUG & 26 AUG) PTO envelopes with 9p. frankings, cancelled by FPO 107 'Blackwell' rubber handstamps from BFPO 51. The 'Blackwell' handstamps were usually used on internal services, and were probably specially requested.



Forces Post Offices - Malta



Envelopes with embossed octagonal Machin definitives were used from Malta's forces post offices, but it is likely these were 'Printed To Private Order' supplied by collectors and not available for local purchase.



John Daynes,
25A Mill Road,
Burnham on Crouch,
Essex, England.



1977 (29 OCT) PTPO envelopes with 9p. frankings, cancelled by FPO 156 'Blackwell' rubber handstamps from BFPO 51. 'Blackwell' handstamps were usually used on internal services, and were probably specially requested.



Forces Post Offices - Malta



Local mail with a Malta forces post office datestamp is scarcer than items to overseas destinations. The rate was 2p. (or 2c.) per oz. and could be paid with GB or Malta stamps. Items franked with Malta stamps would be passed to the Malta GPO for cancellation of the stamp(s).



1977 (15AP) Local cover with 2c. franking, cancelled in Valletta. In this case, the FPO 1001 datestamp has been applied to the cover without cancelling the stamp. With oval RAF Luqa 14 APR cachet and Sliema 16 APR datestamp on reverse.

(Upper cover) 1977 (3FE) Local cover with 2p. Machin, cancelled by St. Andrew's Barracks FPO 748-A. Backstamped Sliema on 4 FE 77.

THE USE OF BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS IN HUMAN LIFE

Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

Insects not only play a significant role in the ecological process of nature but since pre-historic times have also formed a part of the human diet. Many species of Lepidoptera provide benefits to humans. Silk cocoons produced by the last instar larvae of certain species yield high-quality silk, which can be processed and exploited in the textile industry, resulting in income generation (**Figure 1**). Moreover, the wings of some butterflies and moths are used for decoration purposes.

Lepidoptera, one of the most diverse insect orders, contains many popular edible species that have been consumed traditionally for centuries across the globe. Currently, about 24 families with a total of about 350 edible lepidopteran species were recorded (**Figure 2**). They are often praised for their excellent nutritional value, such as having high protein and healthy fat content. Edible lepidopterans also contain minerals, essential amino acids, and vitamins, making them a nutritious addition to a balanced diet. They also contain bioactive compounds which have various nutraceutical and pharmaceutical properties.

Human butterfly and moth eating is common to cultures in most parts of the world. Today butterfly and moth consumption is rare in the developed world, but remains a popular food in many developing regions of Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Larvae and pupae of some species of butterflies and moths serve as food for many ethnic groups around the world (**Figure 3**). They are often prepared charcoaled in salty water or, in some



Fig. 1 - Stationery card of China 2006 depicting silkworm moth and cocoon

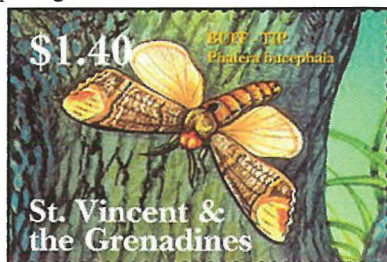


Fig. 2 - Stamp of St. Vincent & Grenadines 2001 featuring the *Phalera bucephala* moth, whose pupae are eaten in China



Fig. 3 - Stamp of North Korea 1965 depicting moth *Samia cynthia*, whose caterpillars and pupae are eaten in Southeast Asia

cases, fried or mixed with other food. These insects contribute a great amount of energy and protein to indigenous diets.

Plant-based meat has thrived in Asia for centuries — and it's still going strong. The Asia Pacific region has the most extensive variety of edible insects species, and with a growing population and increasing food demand, reliance on edible

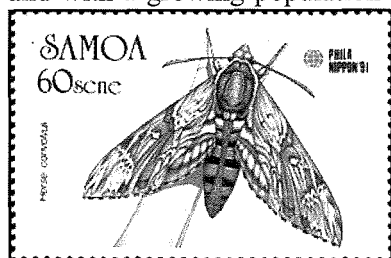
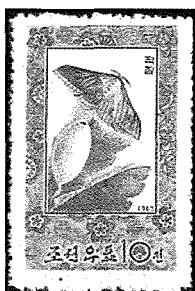


Fig. 4 - Stamp of Samoa 1991 with image of moth *Herse convolvuli* - caterpillars and moth pupae are eaten in Southeast Asian countries

Fig. 5 - Stamp of North Korea 1965 with image of Chinese Tussar Moth - *Antheraea pernyi*



insects is expanding. Countries, such as China, South Korea, Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, Laos and India, are known for consuming and retailing edible insects. Commonly consumed insects include silkworm pupae, bamboo worms, and others (**Figure 4**). Insect farming for food was probably initially a by-product of silk production. In China, mulberry silkworm farming started over 5,000 years ago. A variety of insects are currently farmed in China for food, feed and other purposes. These include

over 260,000 tons of mulberry silkworm (*Bombyx mori*) and tasar silkworm (*Antheraea pernyi*) pupae annually for silk production, food and medical research (**Figure 5**). Silkworm pupae are commonly eaten in other Asian countries, including Japan and Thailand and on the Korean Peninsula. Silkworm pupae are considered a premium source of animal protein. In the Republic of Korea, silkworm powder is being produced as a medicine for diabetics because

of its blood glucoselowering effect. In Thailand, in 1987, the Thai Ministry of Public Health included silkworm pupae on a list of local foods that could be used in supplementary food formula developed for malnourished infants and pre-school



Fig. 6 - Stamp of Laos 2013 with caterpillars and cocoons of silkworm

children. They are fried and ground into a coarse powder that is then added to curries and soups. The percentage of the population of the Lao People's Democratic Republic that regularly consumes insects is among the highest in the world. The most preferred and frequently consumed insects in Lao PDR are silkworm larvae and pupae, bamboo caterpillars (**Figure 6**).

The traditional diets of many communities in India's northeast include insects for their nutritional, economic and ecological benefits. Silk worms are very popular: the larvae and pupae of varieties like eri

polu (*Attacus ricini*) and muga polu (*Antheraea assama*) are considered to be healthy and are eaten fried, roasted or raw (**Figure 7**). The silkworm's late instar larvae and pupae are also eaten raw with salt and chilli or roasted with herbs as a snack.

Australia boasts the highest diversity of root dwelling Lepidoptera consumed worldwide, the second largest order of insects in the world. Its most notable member is witchetty grub', the larva of a species of *Endoxyla leucomochla*

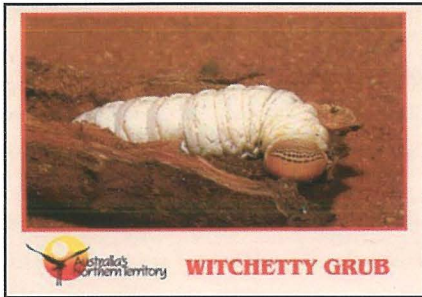


Fig. 8 - Australia postcard 1994 - Witchetty grub aboriginal delicatessen

barbecued. The latter results in a nice, crunchy skin.

Australian aborigines feasted on Bogong moths (*Agrotis infusa*) harvesting them in large numbers during the winter months from the caves and crevices of the Bogong High Plains (**Figure 9**). They roasted the moths in hot ashes where their legs and wings fully burn. Then they sieve them through a mesh to eliminate the moth heads. The resulting mass is kneaded and molded into



Fig. 10 - Stamp of Vanuatu 2003 with moth Hippotion celerio

pellets that are fried in an open flame, or the moths milled into a powder that is diluted with water until obtaining a kind of cookie dough.

Australia recorded the highest number of edible Lepidoptera species (17) in the region. Among the larvae of edible insects, natives use also caterpillars of the species known locally as "elephant grub" (*Hippotion celerio*) (**Figure 10**).

The consumption of edible insects by the indigenous



Fig. 7 - Stamp of North Korea 1991 with Eri silkworm *Attacus ricini*

(**Figure 8**). The witchetty grub is one of the most famous items on the Aboriginal bush

tucker menu. Similar grubs are found across Australia. Witchetty grub is the high-protein larvae. There's a chubby, nutritious Australian moth larvae that looks like a long, segmented marshmallow. The grubs are traditionally eaten raw or skewered and

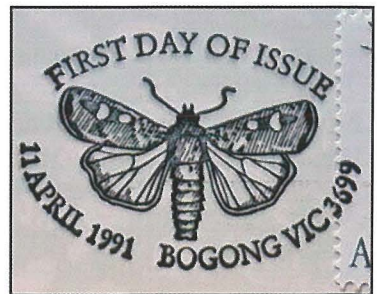


Fig. 9 - Special cancel of Australia 1991 with Bogong moth



Fig. 11 - Stamp of New Zealand 1997 with image of Puriri Moth



Fig. 12 - Stamp of Papua New Guinea 1979 with image of moth *Nyctalemon patroclus*

(**Figure 13**). Some caterpillars are sold not only in the local village markets, but are shipped by the tons from one country

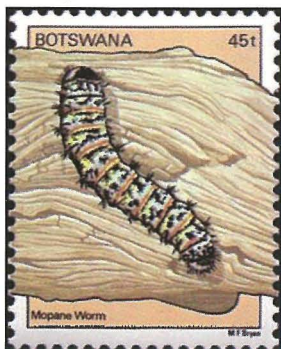


Fig. 14 - Stamp of Botswana 1981 - the Mopane worm is the larval stage of the moth *Gonimbrasia belina*

peoples of New Zealand is well known. In New Zealand, insects are reported as a traditional food for the Maoris ethnic group. Caterpillars of the convolvulus hawk-moth (*Agrius convolvuli*) and Puriri Moth (*Aenetus virescens*) are considered traditional food for the Maori ethnic group (**Figure 11**).

In Papua New Guinea, insects have been consumed as a traditional food source for centuries. They are often collected from the wild, and the selection of insect species and the methods of preparation and cooking vary among different ethnic groups. Among lepidopterans, the most favorite delicacy is the caterpillars of the *Nyctalemon patroclus* moth (**Figure 12**).

About 140 species of edible lepidopterans from 18 families are recorded in 35 African countries. The consumption of caterpillars is especially pervasive in sub-Saharan Africa, where 30 percent of all edible insect species are caterpillars. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, caterpillars make up 40 percent of the total animal protein consumed. There they are collected and consumed by more than 30 species to another. There are even processing plants where caterpillars are canned in Botswana and South Africa. The most popular and profitable caterpillar on the African continent is undoubtedly the mopane caterpillar, *Gonimbrasia belina* (**Figure 14**). Endemic to the mopane woodlands in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the caterpillar's habitat extends over about 384 000 km² of forest. An estimated 9.5 billion mopane caterpillars are harvested annually in southern Africa (**Figure 15**). In some areas of Africa, the large, spiny mopane worms are so popular that when they are in season, crawling all over



Fig. 13 - Stamp of Congo 1971 depicting the edible *Bunaea alcinoe* moth caterpillar



Fig. 15 - Stamp of Botswana 1985 - woman collecting the Mopane worms



Fig. 17 - Stamp of Burundi 2014 depicting caterpillar and moth *Cirina forda*

Some lepidopteran species have a unique feature, the ability to produce silk. The African species of wild silkworms include three major families: Saturniidae (Ephiphora and Argema species); Lasiocampidae (Gonometa species); and Thaumetopoeidae (Anaphe, Epanaphe, and Hyposoides species), and all of these have significant economic importance. Many of these wild silkworms have been utilized locally and regionally by the indigenous communities to a modest degree. However, the most important species used in

village and jungle trees, the sale of beef and other protein meats is seriously affected. The caterpillars are collected by hand and then degutted, boiled in salted water and sun dried. Dried mopane caterpillars will last for several months and can be a valuable source of nutrition in times of stress. The caterpillars are collected by hand and then degutted, boiled in salted water and sun-dried (Figure 16). Dried mopane caterpillars will last for several months and can be a valuable source of nutrition in times of stress. Another popular moth is the shea tree caterpillar, *Cirina forda*. It can be found throughout sub-Saharan Africa, and is the most economically important edible saturniid since it is consumed and traded in all the regions where it is found (Figure 17). Edible saturniid caterpillars are nutrient rich and hence form an important part of the diet for many people in SSA. The most popular species include *Gonometa postica* (Figure 18). Other caterpillars are also consumed, but to a lesser extent. Some African species in the larval stage are preserved by pickling and are then exported to European cities.



Fig. 16 - Caterpillars of the *Gonimbrasia belina* moth as African Delicacy on the Venda stationery card 1991



Fig. 18 - Stamp of Namibia 2010 featuring the edible caterpillar of the moth *Gonometa postica*



Fig. 19 - Stamp of Congo 1999 with image of moth *Anaphe panda*

In South America, Indigenous Peoples commonly include insects in their diets as part of their daily routines. The Paiter Suruí, an Indigenous group in the southwestern Brazilian Amazon have traditionally included caterpillars of *Lusura altrix* moth in their diet. Some ethnic groups in Peru are known to preserve many traditional habits, including consumption of caterpillars and other undetermined insect species. Ashaninka communities consume larval Lepidoptera including *Castnia daedalus*, *Eupalamides cyparissias*,



Fig. 20 - Stamp of Guyana 1994 with image of butterfly *Brassolis astyra*

and *Brassolis sophorae*, *Brassolis astyra*, and some other (**Figure 20**). Insects also are considered an alternative protein source for human in Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. In southern Mexico and various regions of the Amazon, dozens upon dozens of insects are treated as delicacies, integral pieces of their food systems, as essential as herbs and chiles.

wild silk production in Africa is *Anaphe panda* because it produces a huge cocoon nest that is communally weaved by 20–200 silkworm larvae (**Figure 19**). Larvae of *Anaphe panda* are also a local delicacies in West African countries such as Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo to meet the protein requirements of communities as a planned part of the diet throughout the year or when they are seasonally available.

In South America, Indigenous Peoples commonly include insects in their diets as part of their daily routines. The Paiter Suruí, an Indigenous group in the southwestern Brazilian Amazon have traditionally included caterpillars of *Lusura altrix* moth in their diet. Some ethnic groups in Peru are known to preserve many traditional habits, including consumption of caterpillars and other undetermined insect species. Ashaninka communities consume larval Lepidoptera including *Castnia daedalus*, *Eupalamides cyparissias*, *Brassolis sophorae*, *Brassolis astyra*, and some other (**Figure 20**). Insects also are considered an alternative protein source for human in Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. In southern Mexico and various regions of the Amazon, dozens upon dozens of insects are treated as delicacies, integral pieces of their food systems, as essential as herbs and chiles.

67 species of Lepidoptera are eaten principally in their larval stage in 17 states of Mexico. There are 29 ethnic groups that consume lepidoptera species *Phoebis agarithe*, or the “monarch butterfly” (*Danaus plexipus*), *Danaus gilippus* *thersippus* or *Pterourus multicaudata* people eat adults (**Figure 21**). There are other species, such as *Phassus trajesa*, *Laniifera cyclades*, *Ascalapha odorata*, for which people search laboriously (**Figure 22**). These caterpillars are the subject of massive gathering in several of the States of Mexico, where they are profusely eaten. Gencrally, is the larvae that are eaten. Peasants qualified them as a very good and

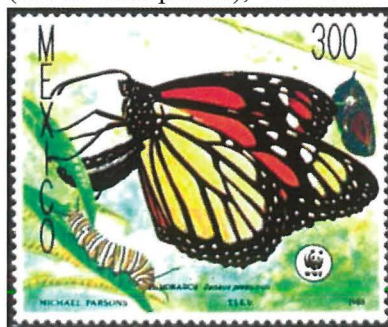


Fig. 21 - Stamp of Mexico 1988 with image of Monarch butterfly



Fig. 22 - Stamp of Grenada 1993 with moth *Ascalapha odorata*

nutritious “worms”, pure vitamins, to refer to the quantity of proteins they lodged (**Figure 23**). They are prepared roasted with salt, and in populations with a higher economic purchase they are fried with oil or lard joining always pepper, salt, in tortillas (maize crepes).

The trade of Lepidoptera larvae still persists being sold in markets in several areas of Mexico and even at the capital, as the red and white agave worms. These species are in great demand, in large part due to their exquisite flavor. A mescal worm (the caterpillar of the *Comadia redtenbacheri* moth) are used frequently by several brands of mescal to give flavor to the



Fig. 23 - Stamp of Venezuela 1968 with edible caterpillar of *Spodoptera frugiperda* moth

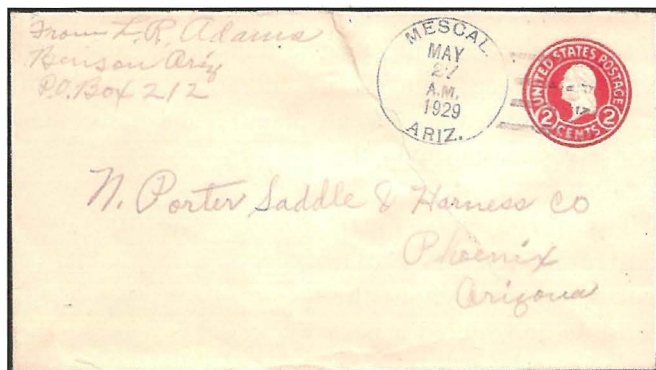


Fig. 24 - Entire postal of USA post passed in 1929 with postmark Mescal. The small American town of Mescal is located in the southeast corner of Arizona, on the Mexican border

drink (**Figure 24**). A whole larva is deposited in the bottle, normally after having previously been cured in pure alcohol.

Natives from the North American west have been extensively documented to consume Lepidoptera. Eleven species, within six families were used as a food source by North American native peoples. Larvae of the pandora moth (*Coloradia pandora*) were collected and consumed by natives in western North America. The Cahuilla Band of Indians would travel long distances to gather the large larvae (7-10 cm) of the white sphinx moth (*Hyles lineata*) from a variety of plants (**Figure 25**). Once prepared, the larvae could be



Fig. 25 - Stamp of Cayman Islands 2017 with moth *Hyles lineata*



Fig. 26 - Stamp of Venezuela 1968 with caterpillar of moth *Manduca sexta*

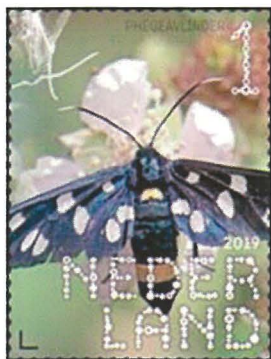


Fig. 27 - Stamp of Netherlands 2019 with image of moth *Syntomis phegea*



Fig. 29 - Stamp of Taiwan 1992 featuring a stylized image of fishing using a wax moth caterpillar as bait

lightly roasted and eaten immediately, or the heads would be removed and the bodies dried and ground into a powder. The larvae of the tobacco hornworm (*Manduca sexta*) were consumed by natives of the continental west (Figure 26). For example, the Pima gathered these caterpillars and sometimes added them to a soup or stew along with vegetables, meal or seeds. As with other larvae, these were also commonly roasted or fried, and sometimes

dried to be made into a powder or otherwise stored for the winter.

In Europe the only record of edible lepidopterans found is from Italy. Ulysse Aldovandi in his 1602 treatise “De Animalibus Insectis Libri Septem” mentioned that in Italy with obvious delight eat fried silkworms. In the Carnia region of northeast Italy it is customary for children to eat the sweet ingluvies of a brightly coloured moths *Zygaena ephialtes* and *Zygaena transalpina*, also moth *Syntomis phegea* (Figure 27). Children collect the moths in early summer when they are plentiful and dissect them themselves, eating only the ingluvies.

The large wax moth (*Galleria mellonella*), distributed throughout the world, is considered a pest because it lays larvae in honey bee hives (Figure 28). There, the caterpillars feed on honey, pollen and wax, damaging everything around them. But nevertheless, a useful use was found for these harmful caterpillars. Wax moth caterpillars are often

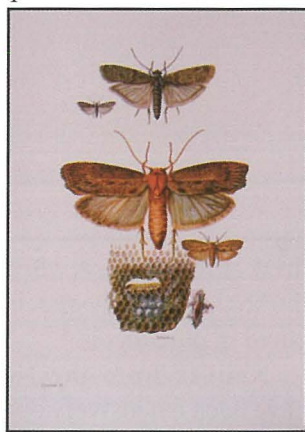


Fig. 28 - German postcard from 1961 showing an adult wax moth and its caterpillar

used as fishing bait (Figure 29). Since the 19th century, a medicine has been made from wax moth larvae to treat tuberculosis and heart disease. In 2017, an international team of scientists discovered a phenomenon in wax moth caterpillars in which the larvae break down plastic using



Fig. 30 - Meter mark of Germany 1938 featuring a caterpillar

enzymes contained in their saliva. Polyethylene is one of the most difficult plastics to break down. This revolutionary news has paved the way for new solutions to manage plastic waste through biorefinery/recycling/degradation.

Edible insects have a very broad prospect as food sustainable resources development in future. Caterpillars constitute an important source of proteins and other essential nutrients (**Figure 30**). They contain more proteins than chicken and beef with an appreciable amount of purified fatty acid. They are also known as a good source of iron, zinc, vitamin and carbohydrates.

Author always glad to help for philatelists in creation and improve of butterflies and moths philatelic exhibit. Please write for author by e-mail: vladimir.kachan.1958@gmail.com

Membership Subscription Fees

Membership renewal becomes payable from 1st January 2024. Subscriptions are as follows:

Australia – Aus. \$40.00	Euro Countries - €20.00	U.K. £20.00	U.S.A – US \$25.00
Local Members – Juniors €3.00 and Adults - €10.00			

Remittances are to be made payable to “The Malta Philatelic Society” and addressed to The Treasurer, the Malta Philatelic Society, C/o 134. Il-Ġnejna, Bronja Street, Żurrieq, ZRQ 2018, Malta, Europe

Members are reminded that payments by overseas personal cheques are no longer acceptable by local bankers. You are kindly requested to remit payment through a bank transfer using the details indicated hereunder:

1. IBAN: MT85 VALL2201 3000 0000 4002 6085 661.
2. Bank's BIC VALLMTMT.
3. Account Name: The Malta Philatelic Society.

Members can also send their annual subscription by cash.

Please note that local cheques below or equal to €20.00 are no longer acceptable, and will be dishonoured if presented at the bank.

POSTAL DIARY

26TH APRIL – 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Compiled by John V. De Battista

26th April

In a media communication issued today, the public was advised that the Sub Post Office at “C@C Stationery” situated at Trejjet Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580, will be closed on Saturday 29th April. On this day, the public could make use of the postal services provided from the Hamrun Post Office located at 18, Triq il-Ferrovija, Hamrun HMR 1900 as a close alternative

In its second communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office located at “Forex Stationery” at 16, Misrah Tas-Suq, Tarxien TXN 1951, will be closed on Saturday 29th April. On this day, the public was advised that it may opt to use the postal services provided from the Paola Post Office located at the “Ċentru Ċiviku”, Pjazza De Paule, Paola PLA 1266.

10th May

Today MaltaPost listed an unannounced special handstamp on its philately page to commemorate the First Centenary of the Socjeta Filarmonika Sliema, which was purportedly used only on 10th May at the Rudolph Street Post Office located at 42, Rudolph Street Sliema, SLM 1275.

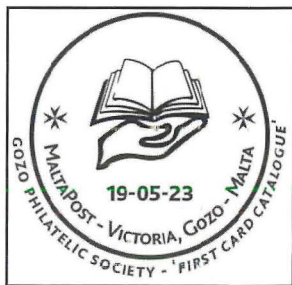
The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “100 SENA SOCJETA FILARMONIKA SLIEMA – 1923 - 2023” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – RUDOLPH STR. SLIEMA - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the hand stamp is the Sliema Philharmonic Society’s anniversary logo, immediately beneath which was placed the issue date “10-05-23” in a straight line



18th May

MaltaPost announced that a special handstamp to commemorate the First Card Catalogue, issued by the Gozo Philatelic Society, will be used on Friday 19th May at the Victoria Post Office located at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Rabat, Gozo VCT 1441.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “GOZO



PHILATELIC SOCIETY – ‘FIRST CARD CATALOGUE’ ” 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 a hand in the act of receiving an open book, immediately beneath which was placed the issue date “19-05-23” in a straight line.

19th May

Today the Gozo Philatelic Society issued the first card and cover catalogue featuring all issues by the society since its inception in 1999. The catalogue was compiled by Mr. Mark-Anthony Poulton, a GPS committee member, who also wrote the descriptions accompanying each card depicted.

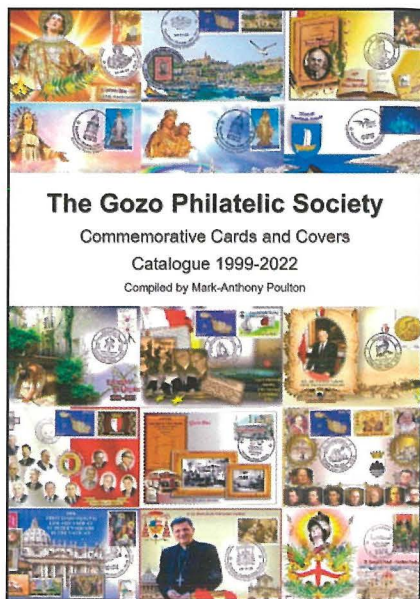
To mark the launch, the GPS complemented it with a lecture titled “Ġrajjet Ġhawdex fuq Kartolina” (*Gozo’s events on a postcard*). The lecture was delivered by Mr. Vincent Zammit, author and lecturer on Maltese cultural heritage. In addition, it also issued a one hundred twenty limited edition commemorative card (GPS number 161), bearing a personalized stamp cancelled with the special commemorative hand stamp. The card was designed by Mr. Anthony Grech, a founding member of the Society and long-time committee member who was also responsible for designing all the cards and covers featured in the catalogue.

Furthermore, a temporary philatelic exhibition featuring a cross section of material connected to the work undertaken by the Society was also opened. At the end of the well-attended event, a celebratory drink was served to the attendees at the ROOF. The event was held at the Il-Ħaġar Museum and Cultural Centre in Victoria.

23rd May

MaltaPost today announced that it has been authorised by the Malta Financial Services Authority to act as Tied Insurance Intermediary for and on behalf of IVALIFE Insurance Limited, and for and on behalf of MAPFRE Middlesea plc, through PostaInsure Agency Limited.

This authorization places MaltaPost in an excellent position to service its customers both for their personal as well as their commercial requirements in both the general



and life insurance fields. MaltaPost believes that the provision of a personalized service, coupled with top quality insurance products, will be the key factors to guarantee success in this new line of business for the Company. The main insurance sales office is co-located within the MaltaPost Head Office at Qormi Road, Marsa. Opening hours will be between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

26th May

To commemorate the 19th Edition of the Games of the Small States of Europe which this year are to be held in Malta, it was announced that on the 29th May MaltaPost shall be issuing a miniature sheet. The sheet will bear one stamp having a face value of €5.00, depicting “PUKA”, the official mascot of the 2023 Games. The name is a derivative of “lampuka”, the Dorado fish synonymous with the Maltese Islands.

The Games will see the organization of a total of ten different sports held within eleven different venues between the 29th May and 3rd June 2023. The sporting disciplines will consist of athletics, basketball, judo, rugby 7s, sailing, shooting, squash, swimming, table-tennis and tennis.

The commemorative issue consists of 13,000 miniature sheets, with the illustrations used are courtesy of The Malta Olympic Committee. The stamp itself measures 44 mm x 31 mm, has a comb perforation of 13.90 x 14.00 and is printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper. The miniature sheet’s overall measurement is of 120 mm x 80 mm and was printed through the offset process by Printex Ltd.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.4/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “MALTA 2023 – GAMES OF THE SMALL STATES OF EUROPE” 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/29-05-23” in straight lines are to be found below an image depicting the words MALTA 2023 beneath which one finds the title GAMES OF THE SMALL STATES OF EUROPE together with the Olympic logo, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 437.



Today it was also announced by the Malta Communications Authority that a license was granted to Fastdrop Limited, registered with a company address at eCabs Head Office, Triq Santu Wistin, Paceville, St. Julians STJ 3180, for the provision of postal services both within and outside the scope of the universal services. Through this license, the licensee could collect, convey and deliver postal articles according to

the prices, terms and conditions, including quality of service standards, as defined by the licensee or as agreed upon with individual customers.



Note: The first printing of the miniature sheet was recalled from the branches it had been previously distributed to in the days immediately preceding the official issue. The reason for this pre issue withdrawal is that a mistake was found to have been made in them in that the name beneath the Andorra flag had wrongly been entered as Moldova. A new printing with the correct country name was quickly made and distributed to post offices just in time for the release to be made as had originally been planned. Illustration shows an image of the original miniature sheet which had been uploaded to the net for advertising purposes prior to the discovery of the mistake, and in which the error has now been encircled in red to draw the attention of our readers to it.

31st May

MaltaPost announced that a special handstamp to commemorate the fifty years of The Malta Ship Registry, will be used on the 30th May at the Dar Annona Post Office in Misraħ Kastilja, Valletta VLT 1060.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “50 YEARSOFTHE MALTA SHIP REGISTRY 1973 - 2023” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. VALLETTA - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the hand stamp is the Malta Ship Registry Commemorative Logo, immediately beneath which was placed the issue date “30-05-23” in a straight line.



05th June

MaltaPost, through its Maltaphilately page, today announced that as from today it shall distribute a reprint of two stamps that were recently issued, namely a stamp from each of the “Iconic Maltese Children’s Books” issue and the “SEPAC – Local Beverages” issue.

The “Iconic Maltese Children’s Books” stamp reprint is of the €0.37 value which was first issued on the 17th February 2023. The reprint consists of 500,000 stamps, in sheets of ten stamps, bearing sheet numbers 50,001 to 100,000, both numbers included.

The “SEPAC – Local Beverages” stamp is of the €1.40 denomination, and which for the sake of correctness it is good to mention, was first issued on the 13th September 2022 not on 21st January 2023 as stated in the official announcements. The reprint of this stamp consists of 100,000 stamps, in sheets of ten stamps, bearing sheet numbers 30,001 to 40,000, both numbers included.

All the stamp reprints’ technical details are identical to those of the respective original stamp issues.

In another news item featured on its philately online page, MaltaPost announced that a Special Cancellation Handstamp, to commemorate the 400 Years of the Gozo Cathedral Chapter, will be used on 6th June at the Victoria Post Office at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Rabat, Gozo VCT 1441.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “400 SENA – KAPITLU KATIDRAL GHAWDEX – 1623-2023” 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 a rendering of the cross worn by the Monsignors of the Gozo Cathedral, immediately beneath which was placed the issue date “06-06-23” in a straight line.

It is worth mentioning that for the commemoration, the Chapter also commissioned a personalised stamp and special commemorative card, both designed by Daniel Cilia who was also responsible for the design of the special cancellation handstamp.

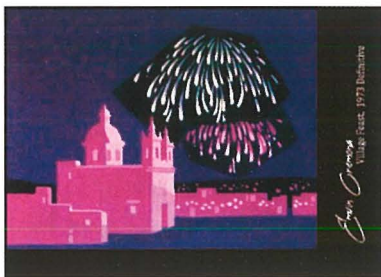
28th June

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at “Step-In Stationery” located at Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300, will be permanently closed as from Friday 30th June 2023.

From this day onwards, the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from the Bormla Post Office located at Block 14, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

30th June

The Malta Postal Museum this morning announced that on the 12th July it will issue the third postcard (MPM No. 12) in its postcard series depicting stamp designs



by celebrated artist Emvin Cremona (1919-1987). The card features the design used for the five cents value stamp from the Malta 1973 “Industries” definitive set. The stamp represents the traditional Maltese festa, an event which unifies many micro industries.

For the record, this limited edition issue consists of a total of one hundred cards. They were printed by Messrs. PixartPrinting, the same printers who also printed the first two cards in the series.

05th July

MaltaPost today informed that the Sub Post Office at “Many Things Stationery” located at Triq il-Knisja l-Qadima, Siġġiewi SGW 1704, will be closed between the 6th and 12th July, both days inclusive. On these days, the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from the Żebbug Post Office located at Triq Sciortino, Żebbug ZBG 1962 as a near alternative.

In its second communication MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office located at “Willand Bargain Store” at Triq Dun M. Mifsud, Santa Lucia, SLC 1440 will be closed between the 8th and 18th July, both days included. On these days, the public was advised that it may opt to use the postal services provided from the Paola Post Office located at the “Ċentru Ċiviku”, Pjazza De Paule, Paola PLA 1266.

06th July

Today it was announced that this year, MaltaPost will once again join members of the Euromed Postal Joint Stamp Project through the issue, on the 10th of July, of a set of two stamps bearing a common theme. The Euromed series is an annual commitment that began in 2014 along the lines of the EUROPA stamp issue.

The theme chosen by Euromed for 2023 is “Mediterranean Festivals”. The Malta

set, which will consist of two miniature sheets, depict fireworks activity in the Grand Harbour at Valletta,

Sebio Aquilina's photograph of a magnificent fireworks display from the annual Malta International Fireworks Festival appears on the €1.70 stamp. This shows a breath-taking spectacle of light and colour, reflecting on the sea and emphasising the natural beauty of the Grand Harbour. The second stamp in the set with a face value of €2.50 shows a typical colourful fireworks explosion, taken by photographer Michele Agius. The night sky is lit up to reveal the Siege Bell Memorial perched above the Grand Harbour. This monument symbolises the plight of those who fought and died for Malta during the Second World War. The photographs on which the stamps are based were supplied to MaltaPost by The Malta Tourism Authority.

The overall size of each miniature sheet measures 60mm x 60mm. The stamps themselves measure 35mm x 35mm and have a comb perforation of 13.75 x 13.75. The sheets were printed through the lithographic process on Maltese Cross watermarked paper by the local security printing firm Messrs Printex Limited. The issue consists of 12,000 sets.



MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.5/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “EUROMED 2023 – MEDITERRANEAN FESTIVALS” 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/10-07-23” in straight lines are to be found below an image depicting fireworks together with 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. 438.

10th July

MaltaPost announced that a commemorative handstamp, to celebrate Police Day 2023, will be used on Wednesday 12th July at the Floriana Post Office located at 15A, Pjazza San Kalcidonju, Floriana, FRN 1533.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “JUM IL-PULIZIJA 2023” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – FLORIANA - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the hand stamp is a rendering of the Malta Police



Band emblem, immediately beneath which was placed the issue date “12-07-23” in a straight line.

11th July

MaltaPost today informed the public that the letterbox situated in Triq Tas-Sliema, Gżira, has been temporarily removed due to road works. During this period, the public was informed that it may wish to make use of the letterbox situated in Triq ir-Rebħa, Gżira as a close alternative.

In its second media communication for the day, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at “Troy DVD Rentals” located in Pjazza Arċisqof Gonzi, Kalkara KKR 1502, will be closed on Monday 17th July. On this day, the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from the Bormla Post Office located at Block 14, Flat No.12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

The third and final media communication issued informed that the Sub Post Office located at the Local Council Office at 6, Triq Dun Karm Caruana, Għasri GSR 1021, will be closed between Friday 14th and Monday 17th July, both days included. On these days, the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from the Victoria Post Office located at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Victoria VCT 1441.

14th July

The Malta Postal Museum today released a reprint of its card MPM No. 8 (*Ref.: postal diary entry for 2nd Sept. 2022*), which features the design of the four cents value stamp from the Malta 1973 “Industries” definitive set. The design represents the yachting industry. It is good for collectors of these cards to note that a distinguishing feature from the original issue is the inclusion of the printing year as MPM2023 on the reverse left lower corner. A total of 100 reprint cards were produced.

21st July

MaltaPost today informed that the Sub Post Office at “Universal Stationery”, located at 22 Triq Ras il-Ġebel, Żebbiegħ, Mġarr MĠR 2021, will be closed between the 24th and 26th July, both days inclusive. On these days, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may use the postal services provided from the Mosta Post Office situated at “Ċentru Ċiviku”, Triq il-Kostituzzjoni, Mosta MST 9059.

In a separate media communication, it also informed that the Sub Post Office at “Steve Stationery”, located at 7 Triq Dun Spir Sammut, Balzan BZN 1020, will be closed between the 23rd and 30th July, both days inclusive. On these days, the public was advised that it may opt to use the postal services provided from the Attard Post

Office located at Misraħ Ġwanni Pawlu II, Attard ATD 2200.

27th July

MaltaPost today informed that the letterbox located in Triq Profs Walter Ganado, Pembroke, has been temporarily closed due to road works in the area. During this period, the public was advised that it may wish to use the letterbox situated in Triq Patri Indri Vella, Pembroke as a near substitute.

In its second media communication for the day, the public was informed that the Sub Post Office at “Alessio’s Old Cottage”, situated at 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511, will be closed between the 31st July and 10th August, both days inclusive. On these days, it was proposed that the public may wish to use the postal services provided from the Żurrieq Post Office located at 75, Triq il-Kbira, Żurrieq ŻRQ 1317 as a close alternative.

The last media communication issued informed that a new postage stamp set will be issued on the 28th July depicting marine life in the Mediterranean Sea. This was being done in line with the initiatives being taken to encourage the preservation of our natural environment and the protection of unique marine fauna. The artwork for the set was designed by local artist Andrew Micallef, renowned for his meticulous depictions of Maltese flora and fauna. Scientific consultation was provided by Professor Patrick J. Schembri from the Department of Biology at the University of Malta.

The new stamps will be issued in sheets of ten, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. Each sheet measures 185mm x 118mm and was produced through the offset process



by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 1,500,000 of the €0.01 stamp, 100,000 of the €0.10 stamp, 100,000 of the €0.20 stamp, 50,000 of the €0.50 stamp and 30,000 of the €2.50 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.6/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “MARINE LIFE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST -----

MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĖ/28-07-23” in straight lines are to be found below an outline drawing depicting a swordfish, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 439.

02nd August

In its media communication for today, MaltaPost informed that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, on the 4th August the last collection of mail from all public letterboxes will be carried out at 10:00 am and that the Post Office located at 25, South Street, Valletta VLT 1102 will close at 4:30 pm.

05th August

Today 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 14th August and Tuesday 15th August. Regular mail services will resume on Wednesday 16th August.

06th August

The public was today informed that the Sub Post Office at “Willand Bargain Store” situated at Triq , Santa Luċija SLĊ 1440, will be closed on Wednesday 9th August. MaltaPost advised that on this day, the public may use the postal services provided from Paola Post Office located at “Ċentru Ċiviku”, Pjazza Antoine de Paule, Paola PLA 1266.

07th August

In a post uploaded on its facebook page, today MaltaPost informed that once again this year it will be participating in the SEPAC joint stamp issue through a set of two stamps. As per this year's theme, the set is titled “Traditional Markets” and will be issued on the 8th August. The two stamps feature typical market hawkers at their stalls, within a traditional open-air market environment.

The new stamps will be issued in sheets of ten, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a comb perforation of 13.9x14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. Each sheet overall measures 185mm x 118mm and was produced through the offset printing process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of a total 500,000 of the €1.50 stamp and 30,000 of the €1.80 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.7/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “SEPAC TRADITIONAL MARKETS” 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/08-08-23” in straight lines are to be found below an outline drawing depicting a hawker holding a basket full of vegetables



in his hands, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 440.

10th August

MaltaPost announced that to commemorate the 250th anniversary from the death of Francesco Zahra, Malta's foremost native painter of the mid-18th century, it was going to issue a set of three stamps and a miniature sheet. Francesco died on the 19th August 1773 at the age of sixty two. His style wonderfully captured the spirit of the Late Baroque period. He produced a wide range of works including many religious paintings, devotional works of art for altarpieces and church domes, designs for church furniture, silver artefacts, marble floor designs and other objets d'art that still survive scattered in various local churches as well as private collections and museums.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of ten, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 185mm x 118mm, while the Miniature sheet measures 120mm x 80mm. All stamps were produced by Printex Limited, through the offset process.

The €0.38 stamp shows a splendid painting of the Virgin Mary while the stamp denomination of €0.58 depicts the only known self-portrait by Zahra. The 3rd stamp, carrying a denomination of €2.88, shows St. John the Evangelist and the miniature sheet, with a denomination of €3, contains a 4th stamp, depicting the Martyrdom of St. George, a sizeable painting found at St. George's Basilica in Victoria, Gozo. The issue consists of 500,000 of the €0.38 stamp, 50,000 of the €0.58 stamp, 30,000 of the €2.88 stamp and 12,000 of the Miniature sheet.



MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.8/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed "FRANCESCO ZAHRA 1710 – 1773 250TH ANNIVERSARY" 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/19-08-23" in straight lines are to be found below his signature, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp.

MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 441.

22nd August

Today MaltaPost informed that as authorised by the Malta Communications

Authority on the 21st August, the following revised postal rates shall apply with effect from Monday 28th August 2023:

Domestic Ordinary Mail Rates

Weight in Grams	Letters & Newspaper Post Tariff
0 - 50g	€0.38
50 - 100g	€0.58
101-150g	€0.78
151-200g	€2.21
>201g up to 2000g	€0.20 for each additional 50g

Foreign Outbound Parcel Rates

Zone	Zone A Tariff	Zone B Tariff	Zone C Tariff	Zone D Tariff
2001g	€36.50	€46.50	€55.50	€74.50
For each additional 1000g	€5.00	€10.00	€15.00	€20.00

Foreign Outbound Letter Mail, Newspaper Post & Postcard Rates

Weight in Grams	Zone A1 Tariff	Zone A2 Tariff	Zone B Tariff	Zone C Tariff	Zone D Tariff
Postcards	€ 1.50	€ 1.50	€ 1.50	€ 1.50	€ 1.50
Letter Mail 20g	€ 1.50	€ 1.50	€ 1.50	€ 1.50	€ 1.50
30g	€ 1.50	€ 1.80	€ 1.90	€ 1.99	€ 2.18
40g	€ 1.80	€ 1.80	€ 1.90	€ 1.99	€ 2.18
60g	€ 1.80	€ 2.10	€ 2.30	€ 2.48	€ 2.86
>60g up to 2000g	€0.30 for each additional 20g	€0.30 for each additional 20g	€0.40 for each additional 20g	€0.49 for each additional 20g	€0.68 for each additional 20g

Domestic Bulk Letter Mail & Newspaper Post

Weight in Grams	Tariff
0 - 50g	€0.36
>50g up to 2000g	€0.20 for each additional 50g

Notes:

A surcharge of €0.02 per item continues to apply when posting over 2,000 domestic bulk letter mail items per day.

All 'Newspaper Post' tariffs are henceforth charged by weight according to the standard postage rates.

Today it was also observed that new postage paid stationery with a new version of the postage indicia had been issued for sale to the public. The issue was not publicly announced and the envelopes were released off the shelf from stock by MaltaPost Stores. The revised indicia reflects the design of the latest version put up for sale in September 2022 and which may still be purchased from PO counters. The only difference from the latter envelopes is the use of a remark "LOCAL POSTAGE – 50 g" which replaced the 37c value above the red horizontal spiral design strip superimposed with the 1921 Edward Caruana Dingli emblematic figure of Malta design to the right. The undenominated rate 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 these new prepaid envelopes, which may be found in both the standard and window envelope formats, was not increased. This is because it came hot on the heels of the publicly unannounced increase by 8c to 60 cents, up from the previous 52 cents retail price per envelope which became effective on 1st June 2023. Additionally it came to light now that also from 1st June, discounts on volume sales on postage paid envelopes were no longer being allowed.



Note: Rumours have it that these postage paid envelopes were first released to the public on the 11th August 2023.

25th August

The Malta Postal Museum, on its facebook page, this morning announced that on the 1st September it will issue the fourth postcard (MPM No. 13)

in its postcard series depicting stamp designs by celebrated artist Emvin Cremona (1919-1987). The card features the design of the seven cents five mills value stamp



from the Malta 1973 “Industries” definitive set. The stamp represents popular national events promoted by the tourism industry.

In a media communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office located at “Aquavcl”, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur, GHR 1014, will be closed on Monday 28th August. On this day, the public was informed that it may wish to use the postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office located at Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-21 ta’ Settembru, Naxxar, NXR 1018.

In its second media communication, it also informed that the Sub Post Office at “Wigwam Stationery” located at Triq il-Qroqq, Msida MSD 1702, will be closed between Monday 28th August and Monday 4th September, both days inclusive. On these days, the public was informed that it may use the postal services provided from the Gżira Post Office located at 21, Pjazza Meme’ Scicluna, Gżira GŻR 1120 as a near alternative.

29th August

Today it was announced that on the 31st August, MaltaPost will issue the seventh series of stamps depicting religious statues found in various churches around Malta and Gozo.

This stamp issue will feature the following processional statues:

Saint Martin of Tours (France) in Baħrija;

Saint Helen in Birkirkara;

Our Lady of the Lillies (Madonna Tal -Gilju) in Mqabba;

Saint Paul Shipwrecked in Munxar, Gozo;

Our Lady of Fatima in Pietà;

Our Lady of Lourdes in Qrendi;

Saint Lucy in Santa Luċija, Gozo;

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (Sacro Cuor) in Sliema;

Saint Augustine in Valletta; and

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin (Marija Bambina) in Xagħra, Gozo.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of ten, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a comb perforation of 13.0 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. Each sheet measures 182mm x 115mm and was produced in through the offset lithography process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 600,000 stamps (60,000 sheets), and each one has a denomination of €0.38. Photography of the statues was taken by Mark Micallef Perconte.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.9/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “MALTESE



FESTA SERIES VII” 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/31-08-23” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image of a bell inside a belfry, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 442.

Each set issued in the series so far also includes corresponding maximum cards featuring an enlarged version of the image of the individual stamps, together with a corresponding special binder. This remained the case also with this issue, with card numbers being MC151 to MC160. The series has up to now already featured a total of eighty different statues from churches around the Maltese archipelago.

29th August

Today on the MaltaPhilately website it was announced that on the 2nd September a commemorative postmark was to be used at the Victoria, Gozo branch to commemorate the 50th anniversary from the coronation of the Xaghra Parish titular statue, affectionately called “Il-Bambina”. The crowning ceremony was held on the 2nd September 1973 after a high mass which was concelebrated at the basilica, led by Gozo bishop Mgr, Nikol Cauchi. The crown is made of 22 carat gold and was made by goldsmith Tarcisio Cassar from Zejtun based on the design of Victoria, Gozo born artist Joseph Sagona.



The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “50 SENA INKURUNATA – MARIJA BAMBINA – IX-XAGHRA – 1973 - 2023” 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 there is a line drawing of the crown, immediately beneath which was placed the issue date “02-09-23” in a straight line.

07th September

On its Facebook page, MaltaPost today announced that it had won first place in an International Stamp Award, namely “The Most Beautiful SEPAC Stamp, 2022”. Thirteen European postal authorities, including MaltaPost, are members of the Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC). Each year, SEPAC

members release a joint stamp issue, bearing a common theme. The theme for 2022 was “Local Beverages”. The stamp, which was originally issued by MaltaPost on 13th September, 2022, depicted the iconic *Kinnie* softdrink, which was first introduced in 1952 by local brewery Simonds Farsons Cisk. The stamp was designed by MaltaPost employee Daniel Spiteri.



Stamp issues from participating member countries are uploaded to an online portal allowing persons worldwide to vote for the most beautiful SEPAC Stamp. This year there were nine countries which participated, namely: Aland, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Guernsey, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta and Monaco. Malta’s entry obtained 415 votes from a total of 1632.

12th September

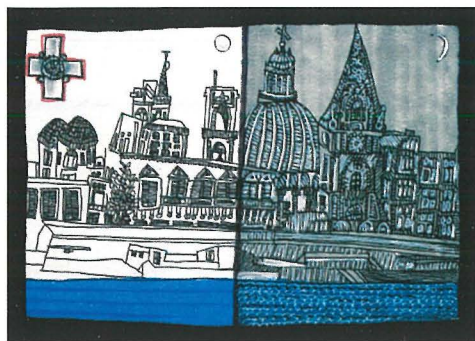
Today it was announced on the MaltaPhilately online page that to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the Foundation of Fort Manoel, on the 14th September MaltaPost will be issuing a miniature sheet portraying an aerial image of the fort and a stamp with a close-up view of the baroque chapel of St. Anthony of Padua. Both artworks are the work of local artist Andrew Micallef.

The stamp within the miniature sheet measures 41.0mm x 30.5mm, with a comb perforation of 13.77 x 13.66 and bears the Maltese Cross watermark. The miniature sheet itself measures 120mm x 80mm and was produced through the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 10,000 miniature sheets with each stamp carrying a denomination of €3.00.

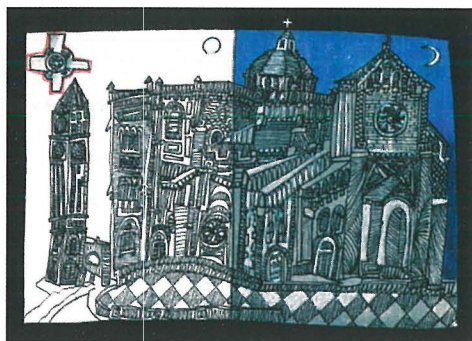
MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.10/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “300TH ANNIVERSARY FOUNDATION OF FORT MANOEL 1723-2023” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUG/14-09-23” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image of the Chapel of St. Anthony of Padua which is located inside the fort, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 443.



For the occasion of marking World Postcard Day 2023, the Malta Postal Museum & Arts Hub today also announced that on the 30th September it will be releasing two



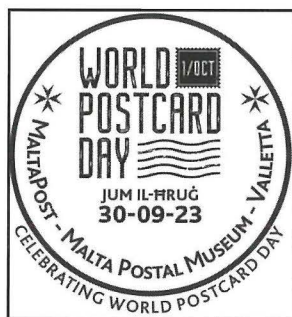
Museum Card No. 14



Museum Card No. 15

specially designed post cards. World Postcard Day is held annually every October 1st. The design of the cards is the work of Vic Manduca and illustrate local cityscapes through a maze of lines combined with a limited use of colour. MaltaPost informed that on the launch day the artist will be present at the Museum to autograph cards on request by the public. A total of 200 from each card was printed.

Also for the event, MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel postal and philatelic items at the Malta Postal Museum. The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “CELEBRATING WORLD POSTCARD DAY” along the bottom outside of the ring border and “* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM - VALLETTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/30-9-23” 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.



15th September

MaltaPost today informed that letterbox (L153) which is located in Misrah Ir-Rebħa, Birgu has been temporarily closed due to road works in the area. The nearest letterbox can be found in Triq il-Mina, Birgu (L152).

20th September

MaltaPost today released two media communications in which it informed that two of its sub post offices would be temporarily closed. The Sub Post Office located at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024, will be closed on both the 22nd and 23rd September. On these days, the public was invited to use the postal services provided from Mellieħa Post Office located at 100, Triq il-Miżna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107 as the closest alternative.

In its second media communication, it informed that the Sub Post Office at “C@C Stationery” located at Trejjet Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580, will be closed on Friday 22nd September. On this day, the public was invited to use the postal services provided from Hamrun Post Office located at 18, Triq il-Ferrovija, Hamrun HMR 1900 as a substitute.

26th September

On its facebook page, MaltaPost today announced that for the occasion of the 15th anniversary from the formation of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, the council had released a set of personalized stamps and a commemorative folder that give recognition to the diverse sectors that voluntary organizations are active in, namely, inclusion, arts, education and sustainable environment.



To commemorate the anniversary MaltaPost had also issued a commemorative handstamp which was used at the Malta Postal Museum on the 22nd September. The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “15TH ANNIVERSARY MALTA COUNCIL FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA “ bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the hand stamp there is the 15th anniversary logo, immediately beneath which was placed the issue date “22-09-23” in a straight line.

27th September

On its facebook page, MaltaPost informed that until Friday 29th September, the below three Sub Post Offices will open to the public only during the morning hours, from 9am till 12 noon. This is due to school services related to the “Back-To-School” period. Normal shop opening hours will resume as from Saturday 30th September 2023. The sub post offices concerned are:

1. Zurrieq Sub Post office located at Pinpoint Stationery, 57, Vjal l-Indipendenza, Żurrieq ŻRQ 2339.
2. Marsaxlokk Sub Post Office located at Old Trafford Stationery, 41, Triq l-Arznell, Marsaxlokk, MXK 1401.
3. Siġġiewi Sub Post Office, located at Many Things Stationery, 80, Triq il-Knisja, Siġġiewi. SGW 1704.

20th October

Today it was announced that MaltaPost has once again teamed up with Wicked Comics to issue a new set of contemporary stamps related to comic art in Malta.

This new set features a selection of three artworks taken from “Impressions of an island”, the Malta Comic Con art book which is a local publication issued by Heritage Malta in collaboration with Wicked Comics. The book showcases a diversity of artistic impressions of Malta within the fantastical realm of comics.

The stamp issue depicts comic book adaptations of typical Maltese locations, illustrated by three renowned international artists from the comic book industry - Ian Churchill, INKO and Martin Griffiths.

The new stamps will be issued in sheets of ten, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper. The sheets measure 185mm x 118mm overall and were produced through the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 200,000 of the €0.10 stamp, 30,000 of the €0.38 stamp and 30,000 of the €1.50 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.11/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “COMIC ART IN MALTA 2023” 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/25-10-23” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image of the Wicked Comics logo, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 444.

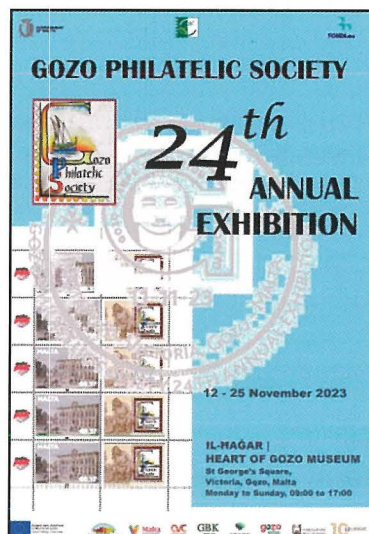


24th October

MaltaPost informed that the letterbox situated at Sliema Street, Gżira is now back in service. (*Ref.: entry dated 11th July 2023*)

29th October

The Gozo Philatelic Society announced that this year it shall hold its annual exhibition between the 12th and 25th November. Since its foundation, the Gozo Philatelic Society has been holding its annual Exhibition at the Gozo Ministry Halls. Because of structural problems and consequent works, this year this has not been possible. Il-Ħaġar museum has accepted to host it and since the site layout is different, this means that various



innovatory adjustments were required to be made, including longer exhibition opening times.

The exhibits, both Junior and Open, will be housed on levels -1 and 1 as well as Audio Visual Hall 1. The level of this year's exhibits is guaranteed to be very good, with traditional presentations, postal history and social philately.

Specially prepared personalized stamps and covers, supported by MaltaPost, will also be available for sale. A complete collection of such items will also be on display. As a promotion for tempting youngsters to take up the hobby, free packs of stamps and copies of the GPS periodical will be available for all.

03rd November

MaltaPost today informed that the Post Office situated at 95, Triq in-Naxxar, San Ġwann SĠN 9031 will be closed due to maintenance works between Monday 6th November and Wednesday 8th November. On the mentioned dates, mail items are to be collected from the Post Office located in Rudolph Street, Sliema.

10th November

The public was informed that the letterbox situated in Triq l-Imħallef Paolo Debono, Msida, has been removed due to demolition works in the area. It was advised that it may use the letterbox situated at the University of Malta Campus, next to the Post Office branch as an alternative.

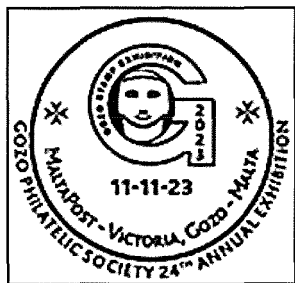
In another announcement issued today on the MaltaPhilately website, MaltaPost announced that a commemorate handstamp to celebrate the Christmas Event in Gozo, "Milied f'Għawdex", will be issued on Friday 24th November at the Victoria Post Office located at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Rabat, Gozo VCT 1441.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed "MILIED F'GHAWDEX 2023" 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 there is the image of baby Jesus being cradled in a pair of arms, immediately beneath which was placed the issue date "24-11-23" in a straight line.



11th November

Today a commemorative postmark was used at the Victoria, Gozo branch to commemorate the 24th Gozo Philatelic Society Exhibition.



The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY 24TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION” 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 there is a large capital letter G in which the words GOZO STAMP EXHIBITION are found in the curve, while the year 2023 is located in the vertical leg of the G. In the hollow centre of the G is a stylized head of a Neolithic figurine which is the logo of Il-Ħaġar Museum. Immediately beneath the G the handstamp issue date “11-11-23” in a straight line is to be found.

12th November

The annual exhibition organised by the Gozo Philatelic Society (GPS), and which for the first time this year is being held at Il-Ħaġar museum and cultural centre in Victoria instead of the Gozo Ministry Halls as has been the case for the past twenty three years, today opened its doors to the public. The exhibition, which offers an interesting range of topics as seen through the world of philately, was blessed by society chaplain Fr. Joseph Attard.

Exhibits with a religious theme include stamps of the Xagħra titular anniversary and processional statues, as well as Vatican stamps. Flora and fauna themes are also well represented, while history stamps feature the 1565 siege and the 1916 New Caledonia migrant episode. Personalities featured include Maltese authors, Biagio Tagliaferro and an ‘early philatelist from Gozo’. Other thematic items, such as buses and US sheets are also featured. Early Malta postmarks, stamp errors and varieties together with censor marks are among the more specialised exhibits on display. One thematic exhibit shows covers and folders connected with the venue of the exhibition, Il-Ħaġar, starting from its inauguration in 2013. Also on display are cards, covers and personalised stamps which have been issued over the years by the Gozo Philatelic Society. Other items which can be admired are decorated stamp albums, prepared both by young and adult enthusiasts.

16th November

Today MaltaPost announced that in keeping with local tradition, on the 21st November it shall issue a set of three stamps depicting the Christmas Nativity theme to mark this festive season. Linking all three stamps is a golden star hovering above the Virgin Mary and Child, above an angel announcing the birth of Jesus and above a decorative Christmas wreath.

The new stamps will be issued in sheets of ten, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. Overall each sheet measures 185mm x

118mm and was produced through the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 50,000 of the €0.38 stamp, 30,000 of the €1.50 stamp and 15,000 of the €2.00 stamp.



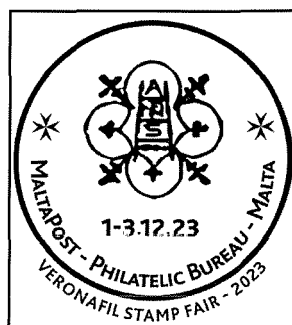
MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.12/2023). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “CHRISTMAS 2023” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/21-11-23” in straight lines are to be found below a stylized image of a shining star, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 445.

16th November

MaltaPost today, through its Maltaphilately site, announced that it shall participate in the renowned Veronafil stamp fair to be held between the 1st and 3rd December within the Veronafiare complex in Verona, Italy. This is an annual event which offers international postal operators an excellent platform to showcase and sell their philatelic items and exchange information. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau Exhibition Stand will contain a variety of Maltese stamps related to various popular themes.

To commemorate its participation in this 137th edition, the Bureau will be issuing an occasion card (Number 62), a personalized stamp/cover and a philatelic numismatic cover. All items will feature the official Veronafil exhibition logo.

Additionally, MaltaPost will be using a commemorative single-ring circular hand stamp inscribed “VERONAFIL STAMP FAIR 2023” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU – MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the hand stamp there is the Veronafil exhibition logo, immediately beneath which was placed the usage date “1-3.12.23” in a straight line.



23rd November

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office located at 51, Triq G. Borg Olivier,

Mellieħa MLĦ 1024, will be permanently closed as from 1st December. From this day onwards, the public was advised that as an alternative it may use the postal services provided from the Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107.

29th November

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Needs Stationery’ located at 1, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3325, will be closed on Saturday 2nd December. On this day, the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from Marsaskala Post Office located at Triq Sant’ Antnin, Marsaskala MSK 9059.

1st December

The Malta Postal Museum announced the launch on the 13th December of an exclusive folder “The Halfpenny Yellow of Malta”. This folder includes a reproduction block of four Halfpenny Yellows, a 2010 commemorative miniature sheet, and a facsimile of the Giorgio Grognet de Vasse to Giuseppe Said letter and cover, sent on 13th December 1860, which now forms part of the Malta Postal Museum’s collection. This folder is a limited and numbered edition by the postal museum totalling only one hundred copies.

9th December

The Malta Postal Museum today announced the launching of the 2024 MPM Calendar. This limited edition calendar, of only which fifty copies were produced, contains both familiar and unseen little known works by artist Emvin Cremona. The calendar, which is also a first for the Museum, became available for sale solely from the MPM as of the 13th December. It is to be noted that the 13th December is a national holiday, Republic Day when all MaltaPost branches were closed with the

only exception being the one at the Malta Postal Museum. For the occasion, a commemorative handstamp was also used.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “TREASURES FROM THE MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM” along the outside bordering the ring, and



“* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM – MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the hand stamp there is the Malta Postal Museum logo, immediately beneath which the words and issue date “JUM IL-HRUĠ/13-12-23” in straight lines are to be found below.

11th December

Today, an unannounced commemorative hand stamp was used at the Malta Postal Museum to mark the fifth anniversary from the restoration of the Triton Fountain in Floriana, which lies just outside the entrance to the city of Valletta.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “FAMES SNIN MILL-INAWGURAZZJONI TAL-FUNTANA TAT-TRITONI” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM – MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the hand stamp there is a line drawing depicting the fountain, immediately beneath which the words and issue date “JUM IL-HRUĠ/11-12-23” in straight lines are to be found below.



Interesting 1890 photo showing the pillar letter box opposite of the Royal Opera House in Valetta. Sent in by John V. De Battista.

PHILATELIC MAIL CARRIED ON FIRST AND ONLY VISIT OF A CONCORDE TO MALTA

by John V. De Battista

A new page was written in Malta's aviation history when at 12.50 p.m. on Friday 13th November 1987, an Air France concorde touched down safely at Luqa Airport. The supersonic airplane brought over Swiss National Football team fans over from Lisbon, from where they had supported their team in an international match against Portugal. This time around they were to watch a European Cup Group 2 match against the Malta National team which was to take place on the 15th. For the record, this match ended in a tie of 1-1.

Besides the supporters, the plane also carried onboard a very small limited lot of philatelic covers to mark the occasion. These covers bear a "Capex 87" 25 centavos stamp, cancelled with a 1700 Lisboa Airport handstamp. In addition they are also backstamped with a Valletta double ringed dater. Both handstamps are dated 13th November, with the Malta one showing the 2.30. PM time. The covers also bear a

first flight pictorial marking in purple next to the cachet commemorating the event. These covers are now very hard to get hold of and they are much sought after by collectors of Malta First Flight covers.



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producing stamps for Maltapost and the
Vatican Philatelic Bureau, amongst others.



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