

Journal of

THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

**50 Years of Rotary
in Malta
(1967-2017)**

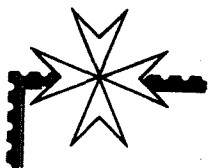
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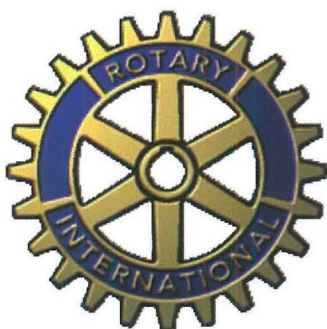
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CONTENTS

50 Years of Rotary in Malta 1957 - 2017 by Professor Carm Lino Cutajar.....	2
Postal Diary 20th April 2017 – 10th October 2017 by John De Battista	32

50 Years of Rotary in Malta (1967-2017)

A philatelic celebration tracing the origin of Rotary International (1905) up to the 50th Anniversary of Rotary Club Malta (2017)



Carmel Lino Cutajar
Ex-President Rotary Club Malta (2016/7)

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CONTENTS

Section A: Rotary International

Origin of Rotary	4
Rotary at a Glance	5
The Rotary Emblem	6
Object of Rotary	7
In the Service of Mankind	8
Polio Eradication Programme	9
The Birth Place of Rotary	10
Some Famous Rotarians	11
First Rotary Commemorative Stamps	12
Rotary Around the World	13-17
The 50 th Anniversary (1955)	18-19
The 75 th Anniversary (1980)	20-21
Rotary Centenary (2005)	22-25

Section B: Rotary Club Malta

Rotary Club Malta: 50 years old	26
Rotary District 2110 (Sicily/Malta)	27
Malta Post: Commemorative Stamps	28
<i>Dar il-Kaptan</i>	29
Fifty Years of Rotary in Malta	30-31

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Origin of Rotary

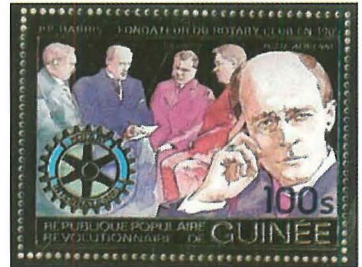
Rotary was founded in Chicago, U.S.A. by **Paul Percy Harris (1868-1947)**. He was a practicing attorney. Together with three other businessmen he decided to find a club which in his own words would offer: *“fraternity without rituals, passwords and secrets”*, in contrast to some other clubs then in existence.



*Paul Harris. Founder of Rotary.
St. Lucia 1980.*

The first meeting took place in one of the members' office on **23rd February 1905**. The name **'ROTARY'** derived from the practice of rotating meetings among members' offices and formed the basis of the Rotary logo.

Over the years Rotary spread far and wide and at present there are some 1.2 million members world-wide.



*February, 1905. The first Rotary club meeting. Paul Harris with three other business friends.
Rep. of Guinea.*

ROTARY AT A GLANCE

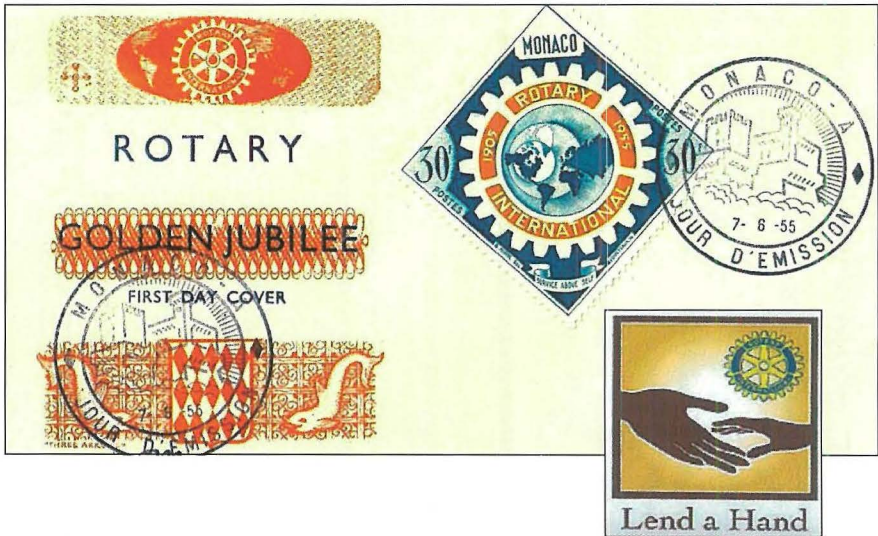
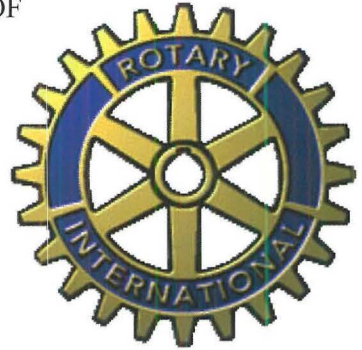
ROTARY IS A SERVICE CLUB CONSISTING OF ACTIVE CITIZENS OF ANY COMMUNITY
ITS BUSINESS IS MANKIND
ITS MOTTO IS “SERVICE ABOVE SELF”.

Rotary clubs meet weekly, are non-political, non-religious, and open to all cultures, races and creeds. There are 1.9 million Rotarians worldwide in over 34,000 clubs. Women are admitted as members.

Rotarians address and initiate community projects relevant to their community such as the environment, illiteracy, human rights and drug abuse.

Many Rotarians are prominent people, leaders in their field, who volunteer their efforts to improve the quality of life in their own communities and beyond.

Rotarians also work with and for youth. **Rotaract clubs** (for young adults) address challenges facing young people today.





THE ROTARY EMBLEM

“SERRATED WHEEL”

The serrated wheel emblem was a natural outcome of the fact that Paul Harris and his friends had decided on the name ‘Rotary’ for their fraternity group. In time it became widely recognised and has been depicted on hundreds of stamps issued world-wide. It transmits a feeling of perpetual motion and motivation in “*Service above Self*” which is the unifying concept of Rotary Clubs throughout the world.



Rotary Emblem. Serrated Wheel Italia 1970.

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

The unifying motto of Rotary has been depicted on many stamps as on the following examples:

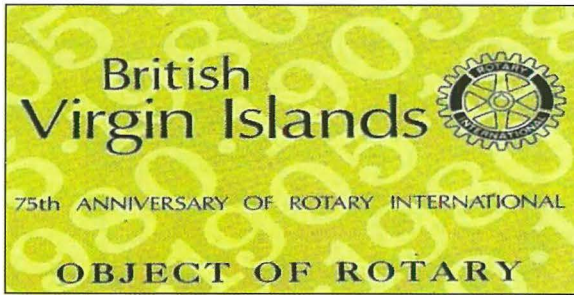


SERVICE ABOVE SELF:

SWAZILAND 1980. shows the Rotary Headquarters, Evanston, U.S.A.

SURINAME 1980. Serrated Wheel and Hands of Friendship.

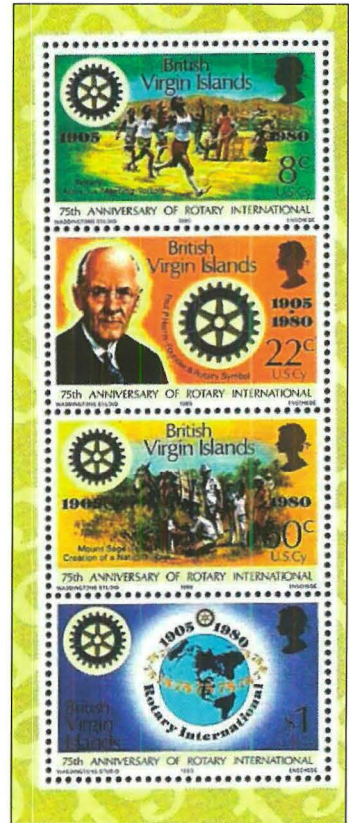
TRANSKEI 1980. 75TH Anniversary of Rotary



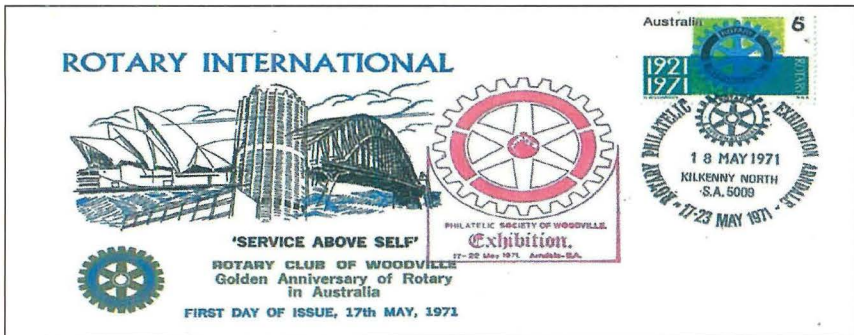
Over the years Rotary developed strong guiding principles which serve as a foundation for members to inter relate with each other and to guide them on the *modus operandi* to provide a service to the community as a worthy enterprise.

The *four overriding principles* which form the object of Rotary are:

- To encourage acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- To adopt high ethical standards in one's profession;
- Every Rotarian should adopt the ideal of service to the community
- The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through international fellowship.

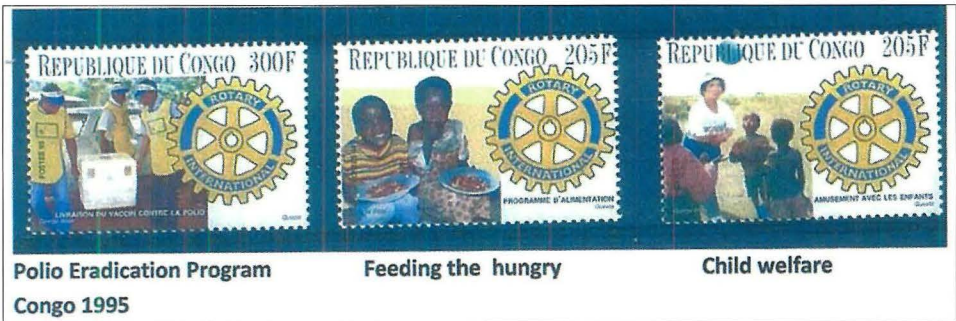


These basic principles underlying the object of Rotary were highlighted in a mini sheet issued by the British Virgin Islands in 1980 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Rotary International

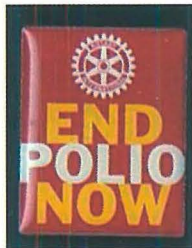


Rotary's Social Conscience in the Service of Mankind

As Rotary grew its mission expanded beyond serving professional and social interests of club members to focus on helping serve the communities in need. Some of Rotary's humanitarian activities include:



Rotary's Polio Eradication Programme



In 1985 Rotary made a historic commitment to immunise all the world's children against poliomyelitis. Combining with the Bill Gates Foundation, Rotary raised millions of U.S. dollars for the cause. To date over one billion children have been immunised world-wide with almost complete eradication of the disease.

Rotary's Polio Programme has been described as the finest humanitarian programme by a non-governmental organisation. The challenge today is to prevent this debilitating disease coming back

Several stamps have commemorated this remarkable achievement, examples of which are shown hereunder.



India 1987. Congo. Polio Immunisation Programme.



Kenya 1994. Polio Plus



Chicago, U.S.A. was the birth place of Rotary in 1905. Its founder, Paul P. Harris, is shown on this FDC, together with an image of the Rotary headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. Date of issue 23 February 1955, to commemorate the 50th anniversary.

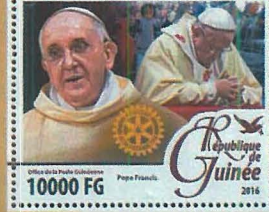


The Rotary Club of London was formed in 1911 and was the first Rotary Club to be chartered outside North America. It has sponsored many other Rotary Clubs in the Greater London Area. Different nationalities and religions as well as Ambassadors form part of its membership. The FDC above (issued in 2001) is signed by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Some Famous Rotarians

- Angela Merkel
- Neil Armstrong
- John F. Kennedy
- Pope Francis

Les rotariens célèbres



N° 0385 / 1000

Les rotariens célèbres



Walt Disney.

The First Rotary Commemorative Stamps

Austria 1931. S.g. 666-71



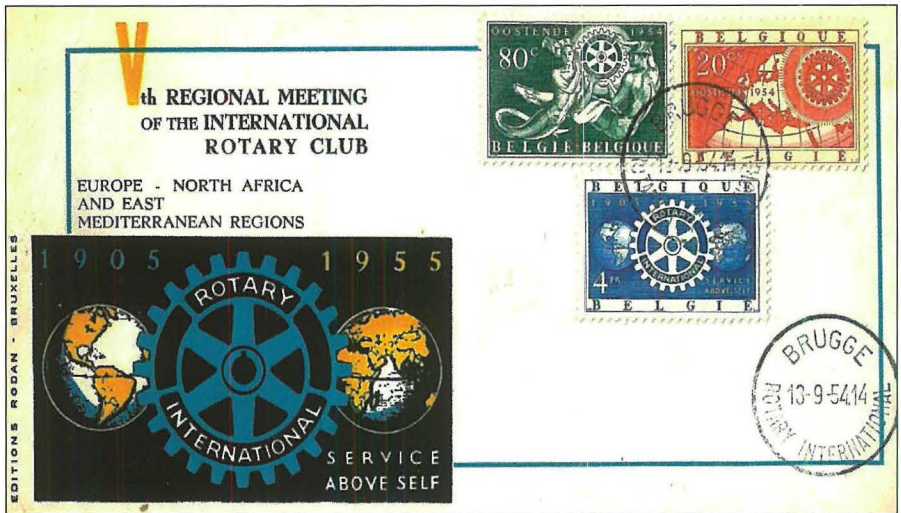
The first Rotary commemorative stamps were issued by Austria to commemorate the 22nd Rotary International Convention held in Vienna in June 1931. Six stamps were overprinted by the Austrian Government for this purpose and all 50,000 stamps were sold out by the second day of the convention. These have become much sought-after collectors' items.

Since then several hundreds of stamps commemorating Rotary have been issued by almost every country in the world. A few examples will be shown in the following pages.

Rotary In Europe



ITALY 1973



BELGIUM 1955



MONACO
1967



LUXEMBOURG
1965



S. MARINO
1970



GREECE
1978

Rotary In South America



BRAZIL 1968



MEXICO



COLOMBIA 1976



CHILE 1960



PERU 1970

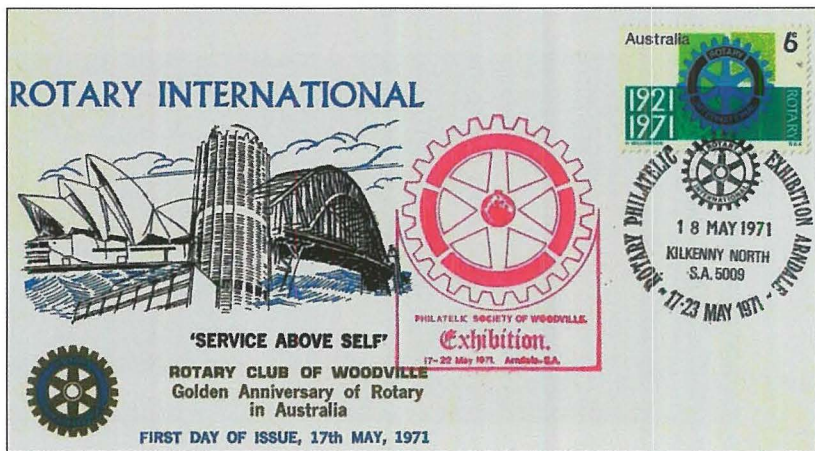


DOMINICA 1993



URUGUAY 1969

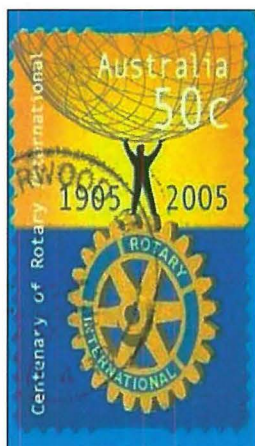
Rotary In Oceania



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIA 1955



AUSTRALIA 2005



Rotary In Africa



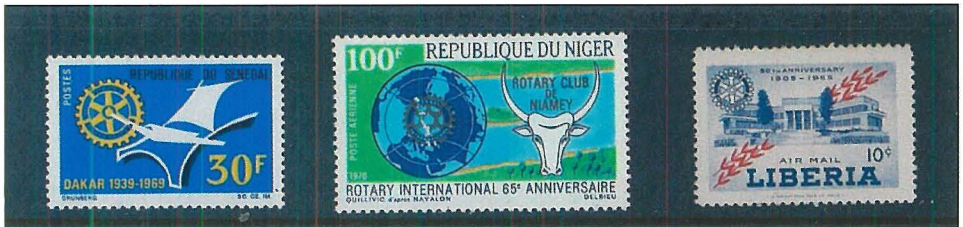
TOGO 1995



ZAMBIA 1980

MOROCCO 1968

CONGO 1980



SENEGAL 1969

NIGER 1970

LIBERIA 1955

Rotary In Africa (2)



MALAWI 1980

CAMEROUN 1967

UGANDA 1980

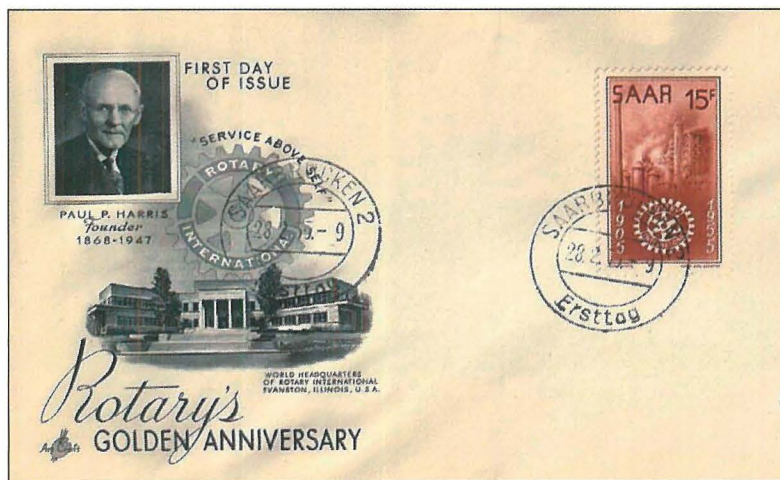
MALI

ROTARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY (1905-1955)

For Rotary's 50th anniversary, 27 nations commemorated Rotary on postage stamps. Most featured the Rotary emblem and depicted typical scenes of the issuing countries or a portrait of the founder Paul. P. Harris.



GUATEMALA

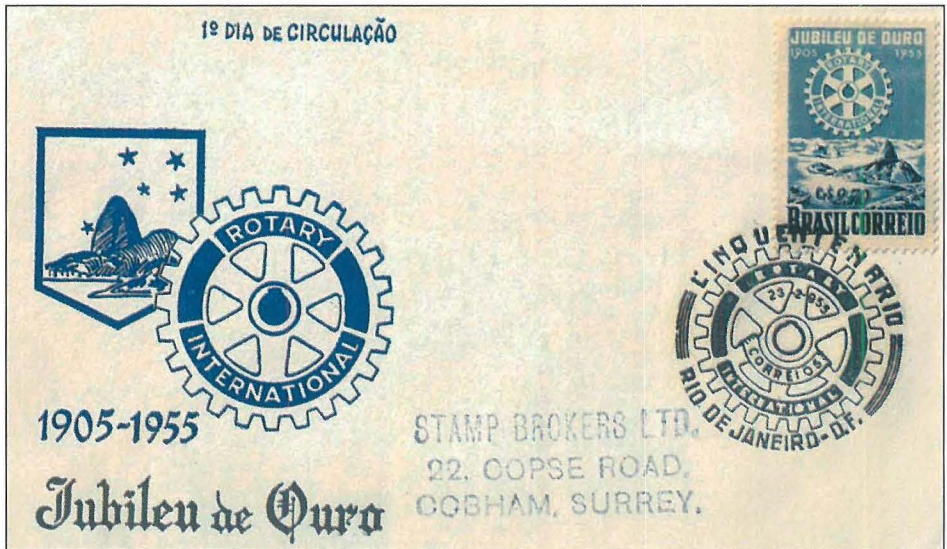


SAAR

ROTARY JUBILEE (1905-1955)



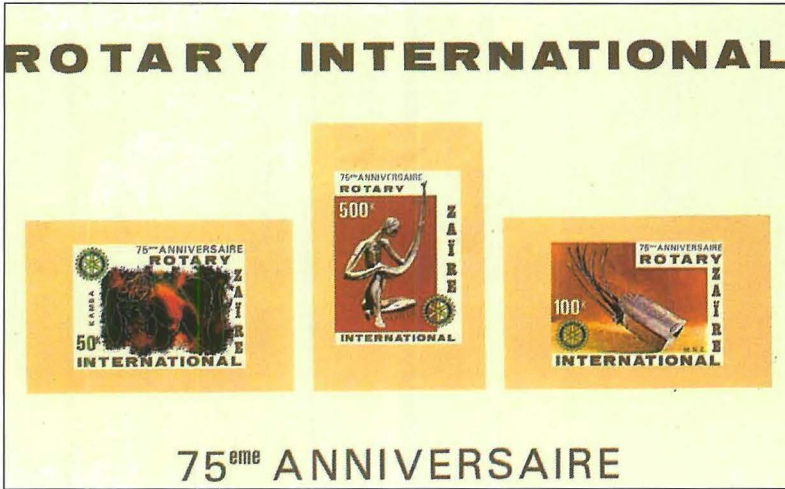
CUBA



BRAZIL

ROTARY 75TH ANNIVERSARY (1905-1980)

For Rotary's 75th anniversary (1980) some 60 commemorative stamps were issued world-wide. Apart from the Rotary emblem and portrait of Rotary Founder Paul P. Harris many stamps included symbolic depictions of Rotary's ideals, projects and humanitarian activities such as PolioPlus.



ZAIRE

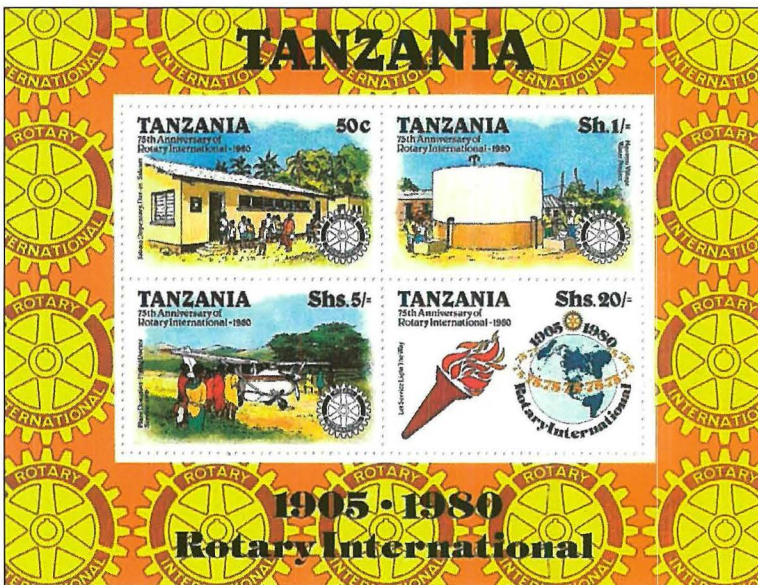


ARGENTINA

ROTARY 75TH ANNIVERSARY (1905-1980)

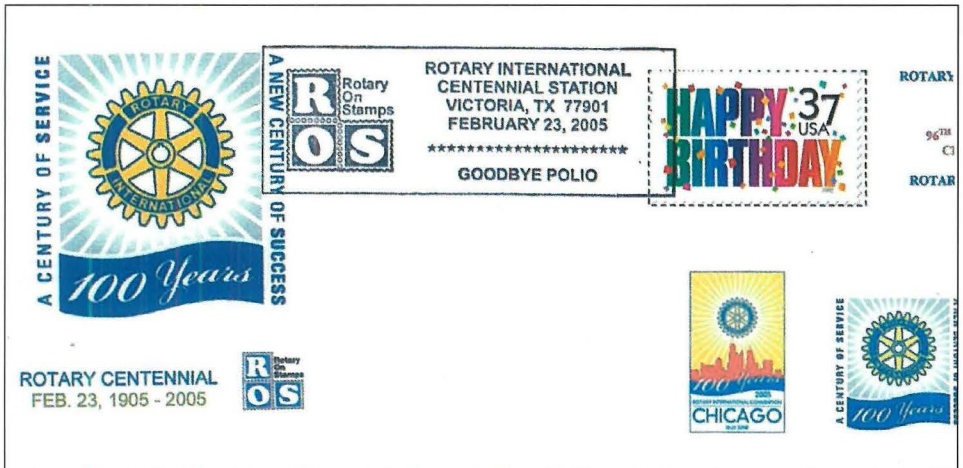


Cook Islands

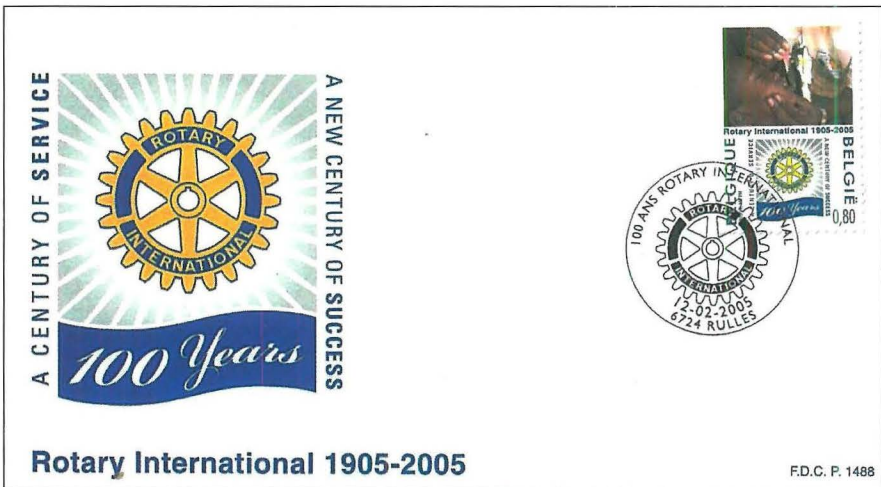
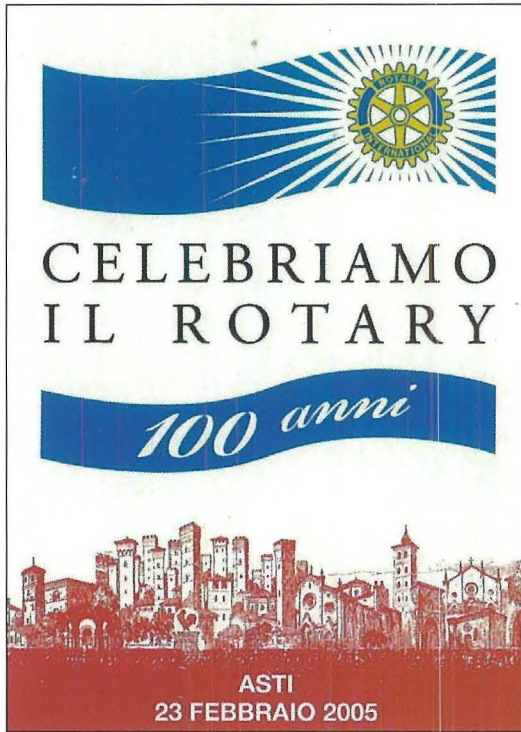


Celebrating 100 Years Of Rotary 1905 – 2005

In the year 1905 the germ of an idea in the mind of an idealist, Paul P. Harris, transformed into the first Service Club and eventually sprouted into a forest of clubs worldwide with millions of members dedicated to helping mankind: “Service before Self”. In 2005, Rotary’s centenary year was celebrated by many countries, including Malta, with the issue of hundreds of stamps. A few samples are reproduced here.

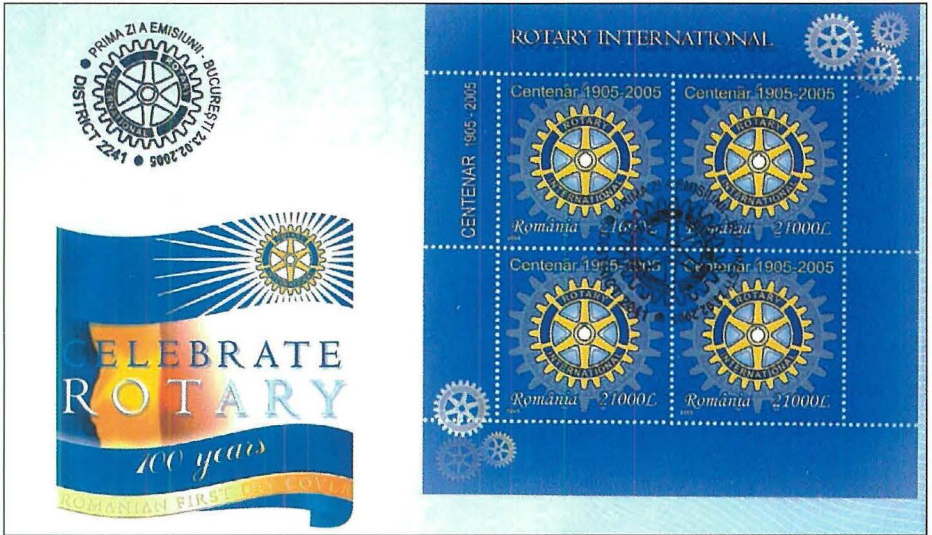


Celebrating 100 Years Of Rotary

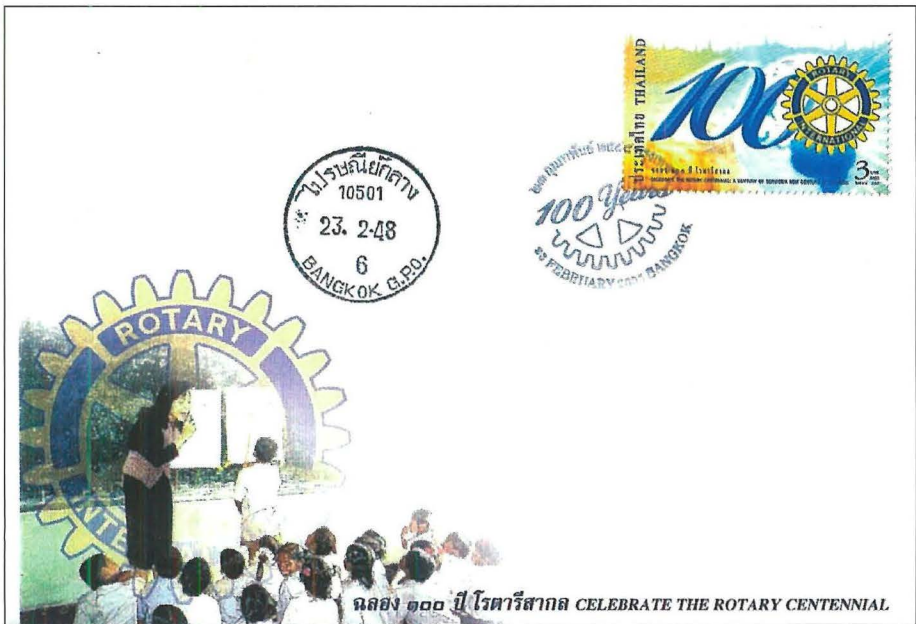


Belgium

Celebrating 100 years of Rotary

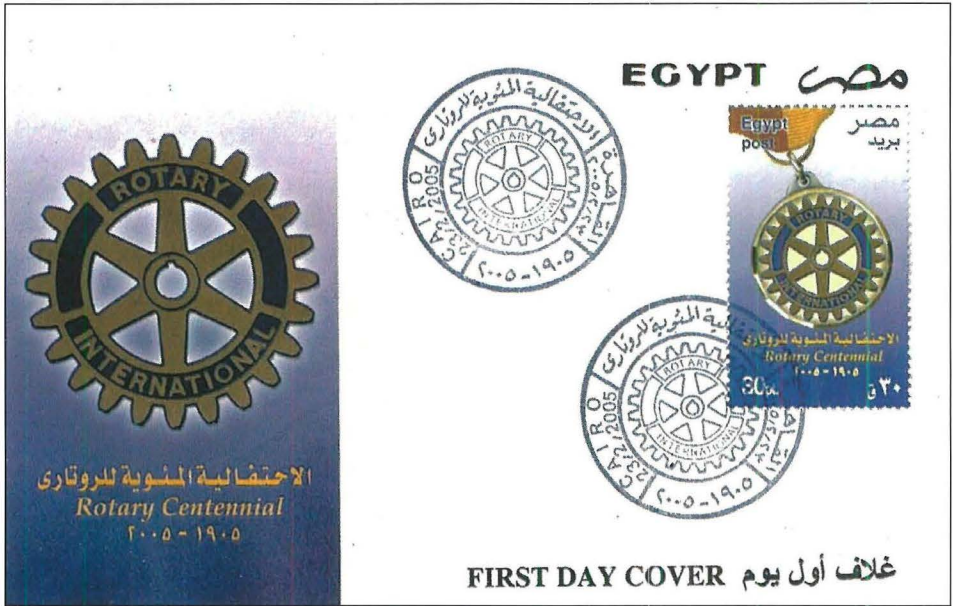


Romania



Thailand

Celebrating 100 years of Rotary



New Zealand

ROTARY MALTA

50Th Anniversary (1967 – 2017)

Rotary International was launched in Malta fifty years ago in 1967. **Rotary Club Malta** was chartered on 6 October 1967. The first President was the late Anthony Miceli Farrugia. In the 50th anniversary year the Presidents were Carmel Lino Cutajar (2016-7) and Robert Ghirlando (2017-8).

Two other Rotary clubs have been established: Rotary Club La Vallette (2002) and Rotary Club Gozo (2007). All clubs attached to Rotary Malta have over the years supported or initiated important projects for the service of the community (both local and foreign).

*Paul Harris (Rotary founder)
with Dar il-Kaptan and childrens'
ambulance (local Rotary projects) in
background*

Carmel Lino Cutajar
President Rotary Club Malta
2016 - 2017

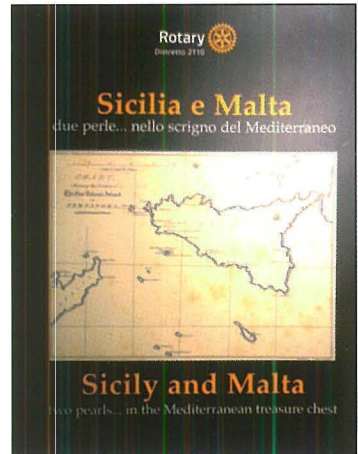
John De Giorgio
Governor District 2110
(Sicily & Malta)

Robert Ghirlando
President Rotary Club Malta
2017-2018

Rotary District 2110

Sicily And Malta

Since 1978 Rotary Malta has formed part of the Sicily-Malta district of Rotary International (District 2110). To date five local Rotarians have served as District Governors. As Rotary Club Malta celebrates its 50th anniversary the District Governor happens to be Maltese, John De Giorgio.



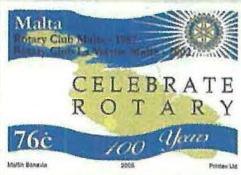


2004. Commemorating the Congress of District 2110 (Sicily & Malta) in Palermo. In 2018 the District Congress takes place in Malta with John De Giorgio as District Governor.

Malta Post Honours Rotary Malta


On 23 February 2005, the 100 Centenary Year of Rotary International, Malta Post issued two stamps to commemorate this event. The 27c stamp shows Dar il-Kaptan, while the 76c stamp the Rotary celebration logo with the names of the two local established Rotary clubs.

The Malta Stamp
Official Bulletin of
the Philatelic Bureau

ROTARIANS



February 2005 No. 228

MALTA POST 

*Design: Martin Bonavia.
Printed by Printex Ltd., Malta.
Watermark: Maltese crosses.*

Rotary Malta 50TH Anniversary

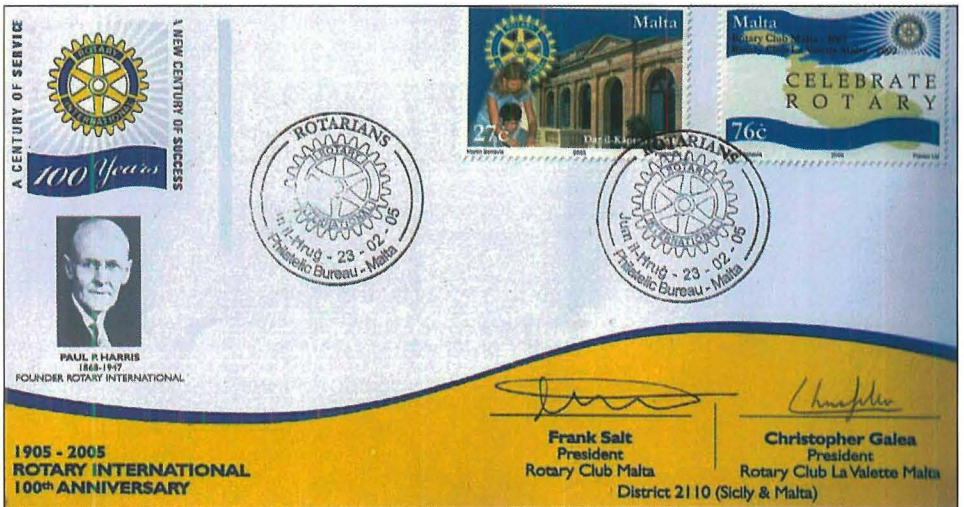
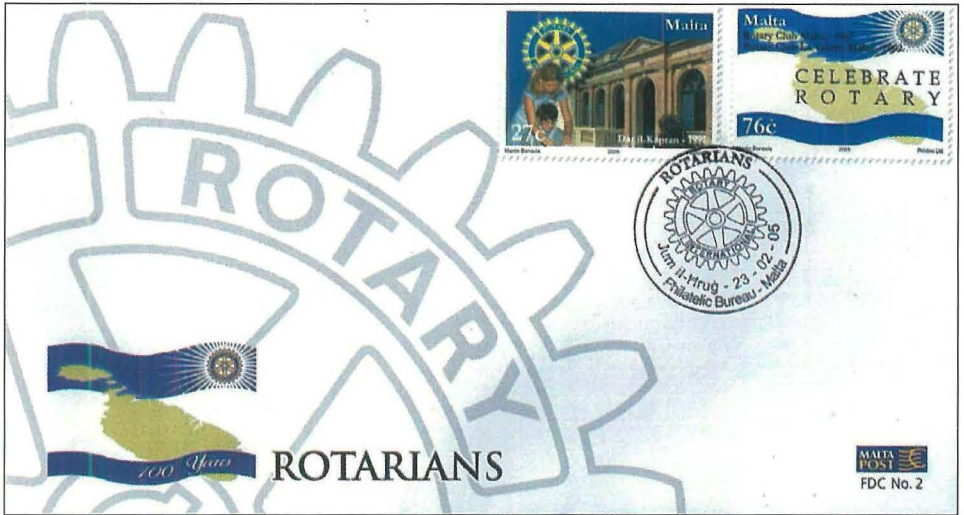
DAR IL-KAPTAN

A respite home at Mtarfa for people with special needs, which owes a great deal for its inception in 1989 to Rotary Club Malta which continues to provide financial and material support for this humanitarian project, a service to the Maltese community.



Malta Post 2005.
Dar il-Kaptan.

50 Years of Rotary in Malta



Celebrating 50 years of Rotary in Malta



Postal Diary

20th April 2017 – 10th October 2017

Compiled by
John V. De Battista

25th April

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the letterbox situated in Triq Mikiel Anton Vassalli, Valletta, (which was unavailable for use since 20th February) is now back in service.

Furthermore, it also notified that a commemorative hand postmark marking the 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of St. Publius Church will be used on Friday 28 April at the Floriana Post Office. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF ST. PUBLIUS CHURCH” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST - FLORIANA - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “28-04-17” in a straight line is to be found below an outline of the church positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



5th May

On 9th May, MaltaPost will join other European postal administrations by the release of a stamp set bearing the theme “Castles” in the EUROPA series. EUROPA stamps underline cooperation between European postal administrations and seek to promote philately and build awareness of the common goals, roots, culture and history of Europe.

The Malta stamps feature two towers, which served as defence, particularly during the period of the Knights of St John and are based on works by artist Cedric Galea Pirotta.

The €0.59 stamp features the St Agatha Tower, also known as the Red Tower, built in 1647 during the reign of Grand Master Lascaris de Castellar. It commands views over Mellieha Bay, Comino as well as Gozo. The €2.19 stamp depicts the Gourgion Tower in Xewkija, Gozo which was built in 1690 by Giovanni Gourgion the personal secretary of Grand Masters Gregorio Carafa and Adrien de Wignacourt.

Unfortunately, it was demolished in 1943 to make way for an airfield that was considered necessary for the Allied invasion of Sicily.

The stamps will be issued in two sheetlets each bearing 11 stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm, has a 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.) perforation bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheetlets measure 158mm x 150mm. The stamps were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process and the issue consists of 39,600 of the €0.59 stamp and 35,200 of the €2.19 stamp. MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.4/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “EUROPA 2017 - CASTLES” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-HRUĠ/09-05-17” in straight lines are to be found below outline image depicting Saint Agatha Tower at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 359.



Unfortunately, philatelists observed that the subjects chosen for depiction on this set do not technically conform to the designated theme chosen for this year, since Towers are not Castles. It was pointed out that such an obvious mistake could have easily been avoided and hoped that the relevant authorities entrusted with overseeing postage stamp releases would be more vigilant in the future.

8th May

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative hand postmark for the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Basilica and 150 years from the consecration of Saint Peter and Saint Paul parish church in Nadur, will be used on Friday 12th May at the Nadur Post Office.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “KOLLEĠĠJATA TA’ SAN PIETRU U SAN PAWL NADUR – 150 SENA KONSAGRAZZJONI – 50 SENA BAŻILIKA” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – NADUR, GOZO - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “12-05-17” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image depicting religious paraphernalia positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.

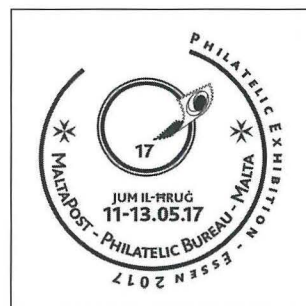


Another media communication released today announced MaltaPost’s participation in the Essen Stamp Fair 2017 between 11th and 13th May in Essen Germany. The

Essen stamp fair is a yearly event where international postal operators showcase their countries' various philatelic publications. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau will be showcasing a variety of Maltese stamps related to popular themes such as history, architecture, animals and EUROPA stamps.

As has now become common practice, the Philatelic Bureau will be issuing an Occasion Card (No. 45) a Personalised Stamp/Cover and Personalised Stamps featuring the Essen stamp exhibition logo. This year the card will be portraying a flower found in the Maltese Islands from the stamp issue "Maltese Flora" that was published earlier this year. These items will be available for sale to the public in mint and cancelled condition as from Thursday 11th May.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark for the event. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "PHILATELIC EXHIBITION – ESSEN 2017" along the outside bordering the ring and "* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The words "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/11-13.05.17" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting stamp fair's logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



25th May

Today MaltaPost announced that on 31st May it will be issuing a set of four stamps showing its corporate mascot Peppi Pustier dressed in uniforms worn by the 'posties' of the Maltese Islands over the years. These stamps highlight the style-change of these uniforms over the years intended to adapt to fashion trends and social developments.

The €2.00 stamp depicts Peppi Pustier in an early 1900's uniform. It consists of a single-breasted felt jacket with front patch pockets having the Queen Victoria crown embossed on the buttons and the postman's personalised number on the collar. The €1.00 stamp depicts Peppi Pustier in the 1980's uniform wearing a light blue shirt, V-neck jersey, a tie bearing the postal horn logo and a crash helmet with 'Posta' written across the forehead. In the early 2000's, the postal services launched the first logo as 'MaltaPost' and this is shown on the €0.59 stamp - the uniform was yellow and blue and matched the company's branding. The uniform, as seen on the €0.26 stamp, matches today's corporate branding colours and consists of casual grey trousers and a polo shirt, complemented by a fleece jacket for winter wear. This new uniform adopts modern textiles ensuring comfort, practicality and professionalism.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of ten stamps. Each stamp measures 35mm x

35mm, and has a perforation of 13.75x 13.75 (comb.) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheetlets measure 98mm x 203mm. The stamps were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process and the issue consists of 2,000,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 300,000 of the €0.59 stamp, 90,000 of the €1.00 stamp and 90,000 of the €2.00 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.5/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “POSTAL UNIFORMS” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUG/31-05-17” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the Peppi Pustier positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 360.



3rd June

A commemorative hand postmark, personalized stamp and commemorative cover for the occasion of the tenth anniversary from the canonization of Saint George Preca were issued on Saturday 3rd June by the Philatelic Bureau.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF SAN ĠORĠ PRECA” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is the image of St. Ġorġ Preca, underneath which one finds the issue date in a straight line “03-06-17”. These philatelic curios were not pre announced, while the handstamp was also not in use as an operational marking but is purely a “commercial” product in nature.



5th June

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative hand postmark for the occasion of the Victoria International Arts Festival will be used on Tuesday 6th June at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed



“VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the top centre of the handstamp one finds the logo, at the bottom of which one finds the letters VIAF/20th Anniversary above the issue date in a straight line “06-06-17”.

9th June

As the trend for online shopping continues its steady increase, more and more shoppers are rarely at home to receive their items. Having understood the value of providing a 24/7 automated pickup service, MaltaPost has launched a parcel locker solution, enabling its customers to pick up their online shopping at any time of day or night from various locations around Malta and Gozo. This service was previously only available for customers shopping with SendOn, however this has now been extended to all customers who shop online. These online shoppers can use an Easipik address as their delivery address of choice when buying from their favourite online stores.

The lockers are located in the following Post Offices, which are accessible on a 24/7 basis: Birkirkara, Marsa Head Office, Mosta, Rabat, San Ġwann, San Pawl il-Baħar, Tas-Sliema (Triq Adrian Dingli), Haż-Żabbar, Ħal Luqa, Floriana, Valletta and Rabat Gozo.

To make use of these lockers, customers are to visit www.maltapost.com/easipik, register online and choose the locker that is most convenient for them. Following registration, the clients will receive an address with a unique identifier to use as their delivery address when shopping online. When the parcel arrives in Malta and is processed for delivery, this is immediately forwarded to the most recent Easipik parcel locker chosen by the client. Customers will receive an sms with a security code which will enable them to pick up their items

16th June

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative hand postmark for the occasion of the inauguration of the new mosaic works at Ta’ Pinu Sanctuary, Gozo will be used on Saturday 17th June at the Għarb Post Office.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “INAWGURAZZJONI TAL-MUŻAJK – SANTWARJU MADONNA TA’ PINU” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – GĦARB, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline



drawing of the Virgin Mary embracing a woman, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “17-06-17”.

22nd June

MaltaPost informed the public that the letterbox situated in Saint Paul’s Bay at the top of Telgħet ix-Xemxija has been relocated to near Porto del Sol Restaurant in the same street.

In another media communication, MaltaPost also notified that in recognition of the importance that e-commerce has taken in today’s life as well as to offer added convenience and flexibility to its consumers, it will be increasing its retail network and parcel collection points.

As from today, customers who are not at home to receive postal items that require a signature or do not fit into their letterbox, will be able to conveniently pick up their items from additional Sub Post Offices. These include Sub Post Offices in Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq and Birkirkara. As from Monday 26th June this service will be extended also to Sub Post Offices in St Paul’s Bay, Qawra and Qormi.

Customers living in these localities will thus benefit from increased convenience and flexibility, whilst customers living in other localities may also choose to transfer any mail items that would have been previously undelivered to one of these Sub Post Offices.

These additional Sub Post Offices are located at the following addresses:

- D Spiral Stationery - Victory Street, Birkirkara, BKR 9085.
- Landau Stationery - Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu Street, Birkirkara BKR 9085.
- Allstat Stationery - Lampara Street, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq NXR 5134.
- Fastforward Stationery - Wileg Street, Qawra SPB 1922.
- Electroit Stationery, Federico Maemple Square, Ħal Qormi QRM 1011.
- Paul’s Arcade, Kaħli Street, St Paul’s Bay SPB 3015.

Besides this service, these Sub Post Offices also offer a number of other postal services, such as local and international ordinary and registered mail, sale of postage stamps, collection of registered and bulky mail items as well as bill payments and money orders

26th June

MaltaPost notified that on 28th June it will be issuing a set of four stamps depicting Maltese traditional handcrafts.

The €0.26 shows a boat carpenter building a traditional wooden boat. The €0.59 stamp depicts the crafts of bamboo fish traps. The art of weaving is featured on the €1.00 stamp and the €3.51 stamp portrays an artist applying the original art of “*tberfil*” to the wheels of a horse-drawn carriage (*karozzin*).

The €0.59 stamp will bear the official Small European Postal Administration Cooperation (SEPAC) logo and will be included in the SEPAC stamp issue folder for this year for which the theme chosen is ‘Traditional Handcrafts’.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of ten stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm, and has a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb.) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheets measure 118mm x 185mm. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 300,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 50,000 of the €0.59 stamp, 40,000 of the €1.00 stamp and 40,000 of the €3.51 stamp. Local artist Toni Calleja designed the four stamps in the set.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.6/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “SEPAC SERIES – ‘TRADITIONAL HANDCRAFTS’” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - - - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/28-06-17” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting an artisan decorating a cartwheel with “*tberfil*” positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 361.



6th July

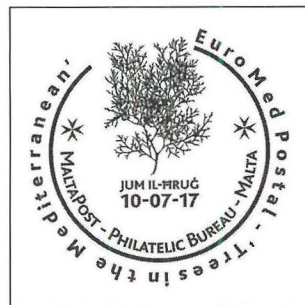
MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at Happy Kids Stationery, Triq San Tumas, Il-Fgura FGR 1608 will be closed on Monday 10th July 2017.

On this day, customers were advised that if they so wish they may use the postal services provided from the following nearest Post Offices:

- Paola Post Office situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Pjazza Antoine de Paule, Paola PLA 1266.
- Żabbar Post Office situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Żabbar ZBR 1351.

In another media communication issued today, MaltaPost also announced that it will be participating in a EuroMed Postal Union philatelic stamp issue, themed ‘Trees of the Mediterranean’ with a set comprising two stamps.

The €0.10 and €3.63 stamps depict Malta's national tree known as the "Għargħar" or Sandarac tree. This tree was first reported growing in the Maqluba area in Qrendi and later, in the 1980's, other clusters were discovered in Mellieħa. Today it is to be found included in several afforestation projects, amongst which is Foresta 2000. The stamps will be issued in sheets of ten stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm, and has a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb.) on paper bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheets measure 118mm x 185mm. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 100,000 of the €0.10 stamp and 40,000 of the €3.63 stamp. Artist Richard J Caruana designed this set.



MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.7/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "EUROMED POSTAL – 'Trees in the Mediterranean' " along the outside bordering the ring and "* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The words "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/10-07-17" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a sandarac tree positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 362.

10th July

MaltaPost announced that as from today, taxpayers will be able to settle their income tax dues and Social Security contributions at any of MaltaPost's forty Post Offices around Malta and Gozo.

Customers who wish to settle an Inland Revenue Department bill may call at any Post Office to effect payment. Payments can be settled in either cash or by cheque. Accepted payments will include Income Tax, Final Settlement System Tax and Social Security Contributions as follows:

- Provisional Tax
- Social Security Contributions
- Income Tax Dues
- Tax Arrears
- Part - Time Self-employed Income Tax
- Part - Time Employment Income Tax
- Final Settlement System (FSS) Income Tax

- **Payment of 15% Tax on Rental Income**

The addition of this service provided from Post Offices will complement other similar bill payment services already being offered and which include ARMS, GO, Melita, VAT Department, MEPA bills, Eco Tax, Sky Telecom and MCA Licences.

17th July

MaltaPost informed the public that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, on Friday 21st, the following opening hours will apply:

- The Bulk Post Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa will close at 13:30hrs instead of at 15:30hrs
- The Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa will close at 16.00hrs instead of 20.00hrs
- The last collection of mail from letterboxes will be carried out at 13:00hrs, instead of 19:00hrs

Normal service will be resumed on Saturday 22nd July.

20th July

MaltaPost notified the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Higher Grades’, 93, Triq Kananea, Attard ATD 2703 will be closed between the 27th and the 29th July.

During this period, clients were advised that if they so wish they could use the postal services provided from the nearest post office, namely the Lija Post Office situated at 2, Triq Mikelang Borg, Lija LJA 1440.

27th July

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at Papel Stationery, 1, Triq is-Salvatur, Qrendi will be closed between the 1st and 9th August. During this period, Qrendi residents were requested to collect their mail items from the Post Office located at, 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Iż-Żurrieq ŻRQ 1088.

In a second media communication issued today, MaltaPost also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Iklin Stationery’, 89, Triq Ċensu Busuttil, Iklin IKL 1200 will be closed between the 31st July and 13th August. During this period, Iklin residents were requested to collect their mail items from the Post Office situated at 2, Mikielang Borg, Lija LJA 1440.

02nd August

MaltaPost informed that on the 10th August it will be issuing a miniature sheet

bearing one stamp to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the naval effort ‘Operation Pedestal’.

Operational Pedestal, also known as ‘*Il-Konvoy ta’ Santa Marija*’, was a World War II naval operation by the Allies aimed at relieving Malta from starvation and a shortage of essential supplies, after the Islands had already suffered two years of incessant bombing by the Axis air forces. The €3.00 stamp which is being issued to commemorate this 75th Anniversary depicts the Siege Bell War Memorial located near the Lower Barrakka Gardens, in Valletta. The memorial was designed by sculptor Michael Sandle and commemorates all those who lost their lives throughout the siege of Malta between 1940 and 1943.

The miniature sheet was designed by Cedric Galea Pirota and measures 120mm x 80mm, while the stamp itself measures 31mm x 44mm. It has a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.) and is printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper. Printex Limited printed 20,000 of these sheets.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.8/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “75th Anniversary ‘Operation Pedestal’ 1942-2017” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/10-08-17” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the siege bell memorial positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 363.



04th August

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative hand postmark in commemoration of the 220th anniversary from the convention of the Russian Grand Priory will be used on Monday 7th August at the Post Office situated at Castille Sqr. Valletta.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “RUSSIAN GRAND PRIORY MALTA – ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM - 1797-2017” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. VALLETTA - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of the Coat of Arms, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “07-08-17”.



07th August

Today it was announced that MaltaPost and the Central Bank of Malta will be launching a joint product consisting of a silver foil stamp replica and a commemorative coin which will be available as from Thursday 10th August. The silver foil stamp replica depicts the €3.00 postage stamp from the stamp issue – 75th Anniversary ‘Operation Pedestal’ 1942 – 2017 in full colour. The stamp shows the Siege Bell War Memorial located near the Lower Barrakka Gardens, in Valletta. The memorial was designed by sculptor Michael Sandle and commemorates all those who lost their lives throughout the siege of Malta between 1940 and 1943 (*see entry for 2nd August*).

The silver coin depicts the tanker ‘Ohio’ and a Royal Navy destroyer in the background and has a diameter of 38.61mm and a face value of €10.00. The silver foil stamp replica and the commemorative coin are housed in a presentation case together with a certificate of authenticity. The silver foil stamp replica and the coin are also available separately.

8th August

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Many Things’ Stationery, Triq il-Knisja il-Qadima, Siggiewi SGW 1704 will be closed between the 11th and 15th August.

During this period, Siggiewi residents were requested to collect their mail items from the Post Office situated at 343, Triq il-Vitorja Qormi QRM 2504.

In another media communication, MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Higher Grades’, 93, Triq Kanannea, Attard ATD 2703 will be closed between the 11th and 14th August.

During this period, clients were invited to use the postal services provided from the Lija Post Office situated at 2, Triq Mikelang Borg, Lija LJA 1440.

9th August

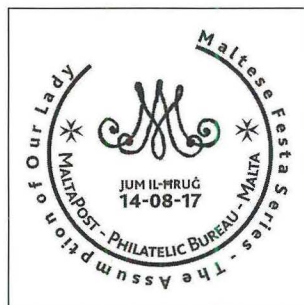
MaltaPost announced that it plans to issue a series of stamps depicting processional statues of the various churches in the Maltese Islands.

The first issue in the series will be depicting the ten statues of the Assumption of Our Lady found in churches in Malta and Gozo. Included with this first issue, besides the ten stamps MaltaPost will also issue ten illustrated cards and ten different cachet envelopes. Clients were advised that whoever orders this collection before the 30th September will also be given a binder to house this collection free of charge.

The stamps within this first issue of the ‘Maltese Festa Series’ bear a face value

of €0.26 each. They were produced at Printex Ltd by the offset process and the whole issue consists of 1,540,000 stamps. Each stamp measures 31mm by 44mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb) printed on paper bearing the Maltese cross watermark. Each sheet measures 182mm by 115mm.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.9/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “Maltese Festa Series – The Assumption of Our Lady” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/14-08-17” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the M monogram of Our Lady positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 364.



10th August

In a media communication issued today, MaltaPost notified the public about the following temporary closure of sub post offices in various locations around Malta.

- Ta' Xbiex SPO at “Fleet Stationery”, Triq Testaferrata, Ta' Xbiex, on 14th August.
- Mellieħa SPO at 51, Triq Gorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024, between the 14th and 17th August.
- Gudja SPO at “CND Stationery”, 144, Vjal it-Torri, Gudja GDJ 1704, between the 16th and 19th August.
- Santa Luċija SPO at “Willand Bargain Store”, Triq Dun M. Mifsud, Santa Luċija SLC 1441, between the 14th and 19th August.
- Birkirkara SPO at “D. Spiral”, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691, on 14th and 19th August.
- Sliema SPO at “Malton Stationery”, 7, Triq Censu Xerri, Sliema SLM 3062, on 14th August.
- Dingli SPO at 6, “Welcome Bazaar”, Misrah Frenc Abela, Dingli DGL 1081, between 18th and 26th August.
- Qawra SPO at “Fast Forward Stationery”, Triq il-Wileġ, Qawra SPB 1922, between 21st and 27th August.

22nd August

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at Papel Stationery, 1, Triq is-Salvatur, Qrendi will be closed on 25th and 26th August. During these days, Qrendi residents were requested to collect their mail items from the Post Office situated at, 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Iż-Żurrieq ŻRQ 1088.

23rd August

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative hand postmark on the occasion of the 50th anniversary from when Xagħra was conferred as a Basilica will be used on Tuesday 29th of August at the Xagħra Post Office in Gozo.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “IX-XAGĦRA – ULIED KNISJA ĦAJJA – ĦAMSIN SENA BAŻILIKA 1967-2017” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – XAGĦRA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of religious symbols, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “29-08-17”.



24th August

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at “Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur GHR 1014 will be closed on 28th August. On this day, The public was advised that it may wish to use the postal services provided from the nearest post office, which is located at Naxxar and is to be found situated in the Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.

28th August

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at “Step in”, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Il-Birgu BRG 1300 will be closed between 31st August and 7th September. During this period, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of the postal services provided from the Cospicua Post Office situated in Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Cospicua BML 1910.

30th August

It was announced that on the 4th September, MaltaPost will be issuing a set of five stamps in commemoration of Melchiorre Gafa’s death 350 years ago.

Gafa’, also known as Cafa’ was a Maltese sculptor renowned for his Roman Baroque style. He was born in Vittoriosa, Malta in 1636 and baptised as Marcello.

However, after his move to Rome in 1658, he was most frequently referred to as Melchior or Melchiorre. His works are to be found in many major international museums and collections.

The €0.20, €0.42, €0.51, €1.00 and €1.16 stamps depict five of Gafa's works in wax which are currently on display at the Mdina Cathedral Museum. The five bozzetti featured are; La Gloria Di Santa Rosa Da Lima, La Gloria Di Santa Caterina Da Siena, L'Annunciazione, L'Adorazione Dei Pastori and La Natività. The stamps will be issued in sheets of ten stamps with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb.) on paper bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheets measure 185mm x 115mm.

Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 50,000 stamp of each denomination. Photography used for the stamps is by Daniel Cilia, while the stamp design is by Sean Cini.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.10/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE DEATH OF MELCHIORRE GAFA" along the outside bordering the ring and "* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The words "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ 04-09-17" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the image of Melchiorre Gafa positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 365.



1st September

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at "Paul's Arcade", Triq il-Kaħli, San Pawl il-Baħar SPB 3015 will be closed between 8th September and 16th September. During this period, San Pawl residents were requested to collect their mail items from the Post Office situated at 511, Triq San Pawl, San Pawl il-Baħar SPB 3416.

In a second media communication issued today, MaltaPost also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024 will be closed on 9th September. During this day, the public was advised that if so wishes it may make use of the postal services provided from the Post Office at 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107.

14th September

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024 will be closed between 18th and 23rd September. During this period, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of the postal services provided from the Post Office at 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107.

21st September

The Żejtun Philatelic Group, a group within the Żejtun Local Council, launched its annual philatelic exhibition for the 15th consecutive year. The title chosen for this year's exhibition was 'Il-Ġawhra Maltija: mixja tul Valletta' and aimed to showcase the important events and architecture of Valletta.

This exhibition, the venue of which was the Ġużepina Curmi Hall located in the Jesus of Nazareth Institute at St Gregory's Street, Żejtun, was held between Thursday, 21st September and Sunday, 24th September and also formed part of the annual Żejt iż-Żejtun cultural event held in the locality.

22nd September

MaltaPost informed the public that between 1st October 2017 and 15th June 2018, the University Post Office will revert to the Winter Opening Hours. Clients can avail themselves of Postal Services from this Post Office from Monday to Friday between 07.30hrs. and 16.30 hrs. The Photocopy Bureau will be open from Monday to Friday between 7.30 hrs. and 15.15 hrs.

The closest alternative to this Post Office is the Ta' Xbiex Sub Post Office situated at 'Fleet Bazaar', Triq Testaferrata, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1402.

In its second media communication issued today MaltaPost announced that on the 29th September it will be issuing the fifth set in the 'Maritime Malta Series'. This set will feature vessels of the Order of Saint John.

This issue consists of three stamps with face values of €0.63, €1.85, and €3.59, depicting three models of square-rigged warships known as 'third rate ships-of-the-line' which are currently on display at the Malta Maritime Museum.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of ten stamps with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb.) and printed on paper bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheets



measure 185mm x 115mm. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 100,000 of the €0.63 stamp, 50,000 of the €1.85 stamp and 40,000 of the €3.59 stamp. Photography and stamp design are by Sean Cini.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.11/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MARITIME MALTA SERIES V – ‘VESSELS OF THE ORDER’ ” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/29-09-17” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a sailing ship positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 366.

29th September

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified the public that as from Monday 1st October, the Post Office situated in 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Bugibba’s opening hours will be as follows:

Monday to Saturday 08.00hrs - 13.30hrs

The public was reminded that this Post Office offers both local and international postal services that include the pick-up and delivery of letters, parcels, sale of stamps, bill payments, as well as other postal financial services.

4th October

MaltaPost informed the general public that the letterbox which is situated in Triq Santa Marija, Sliema will be closed indefinitely. The nearest letterbox to it is situated at Triq San Trofim, Sliema. MaltaPost apologized for any inconvenience caused and invited customers to visit its website for more information on its services and Postal Outlets.

5th October

It was announced that on Saturday 7th October a commemorative hand postmark will be in use at the Malta Postal Museum, situated in Archbishop Street, Valletta, on the occasion of the “Notte Bianca” cultural event to be held in the capital city.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “NOTTE BIANCA 2017” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of the Notte Bianca 2017 logo, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “07-10-17”.



10th October

Today MaltaPost issued a media communication announcing the opening of Maltex Exhibition, the responsibility for the organisation of which as of this year has fallen on its shoulders. This exhibition was originally the “baby” of the Malta Philatelic Society, which initiated it and for the past seventeen years had managed to ensure its high calibre through the dedication and collaboration of its members. These past editions of the exhibition were all purely philatelic in nature.

This year, a fundamental change in the structure of the exhibition has been implemented, in that besides philatelic material it has now been expanded to become a Collectors’ Fair; showcasing various collectors’ items beyond philately such as maps, historical artefacts, sports memorabilia, works of art and literature from local book publishers and organisations.

This year’s edition, which was inaugurated by Malta Philatelic Society president Dr. Alfred Bonnici, will be open to the public between today Tuesday the 10th and Thursday 12th October at the Casino Maltese, Valletta between 9.30hrs and 16.30hrs.

For the event the Philatelic Bureau has issued an Occasion Card (Number 46) and a Personalised Stamp/Cover. The card is available in mint and cancelled condition as from today from both the MaltaPost stand at the exhibition venue and also from the Philatelic Bureau. A temporary letter box service has also been provided for use during the opening hours of the Exhibition. Cards and mail posted in this post box will be cancelled with the Maltex 2017 occasion postmark which will be used at the venue for the duration of the exhibition. This single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MALTEX 17 – MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AND COLLECTORS’ FAIR” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is the Maltex 2017 logo, beneath which is the venue “CASINO MALTESE, VALLETTA/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/10-12-10-17”.





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This Year Pack contains all the stamps sets in mint condition that were issued in 2017.

Issues included:

- 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union • Maltese Flora - Series IV • Balcony Corbels
- Europa 2017 'Castles' • Postal Uniforms • SEPA Series - 'Traditional Handcrafts'
- Euromed Joint Issue 2017 - 'Trees in the Mediterranean' • 75th Anniversary - 'Operation Pedestal' 1942 – 2017
- Maltese Festa Series - The Assumption Of Our Lady 2017
- The 350th Anniversary from the Death of Melchiorre Gafa' • Maritime Malta Series V - 'Vessels of the Order'
- Christmas 2017 • Traditional Floor Tile Patterns



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