

POSTAL DIARY

13TH OCTOBER 2017 – 31ST JANUARY 2018

Compiled by
John V. De Battista

13th October

Today it was announced that MaltaPost has launched the folder ‘Local handicrafts of Europe’ published by SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation).

This is the eight folder issued by SEPAC and includes stamps and images from twelve European postal administrations, namely: Åland, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Guernsey, Iceland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta and Monaco.

The theme for this year’s SEPAC folder is “Local Handcrafts” and each member country, including Malta, has regaled us with beautiful stamps illustrating their traditional handicrafts.

20th October

MaltaPost will be participating in the Messe Sindelfingen International Stamp Fair in Germany between the 26th and 28th October. The Messe Sindelfingen Fair is an annual event where international postal operators showcase their philatelic items. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau will be participating in this fair with a variety of Maltese stamps related to various popular themes.

For this special event, besides an occasion hand stamp, the Philatelic Bureau issued an Occasion Card (Number 47), portraying a vessel of the Order from the stamp set “Maritime Malta Series V” that was issued earlier this year. MaltaPost will also issue a Personalised Stamp/Cover and a Personalised Stamp featuring the Messe Sindelfingen exhibition logo. The Occasion Card and other philatelic items will be available for sale from Thursday 26th October.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MESSE SINDELINGEN INTERNATIONAL STAMP FAIR 2017” 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 an outline drawing of the Sindelfingen logo, beneath which was placed the fair duration date in a straight line “26-28.10.17”.



30th October

Today it was announced that in order to increase the accessibility of postal services for the general public, MaltaPost will be opening a new Sub Post Office in Żurrieq. Within this Sub Post Office clients will be able to avail themselves of numerous postal services such as local and international ordinary and registered mail, sale of postage stamps, as well as bill payments and money orders.

The new Sub Post Office will be opening its doors to the public on the 1st November, and will be situated in ‘AZ Stationery’, Vjal l-Indipendenza, Iż-Żurrieq ZRQ 2339. The Sub Post Office’s opening hours will be as follows:

Monday to Friday 6.00am – 12.00pm, 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 6.00am – 12.00pm

In another media communication, MaltaPost announced that the Sub Post Office at ‘Welcome Bazaar’, Frenc Abela Square, Dingli, DGL 1081 will be closed for business as from 1st November.

As from 2nd November, Dingli residents were invited to avail themselves of Postal services from the new Sub Post Office in Dingli which will be situated in ‘L-Għajn Stationery’ 100 Main Street, Had- Dingli DGL 1837. Within this Sub Post Office clients can avail themselves of numerous 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.

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

Monday to Friday 7.00am – 12.00pm, 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 7.00am – 12.00pm

03rd November

In its first media communication issued today, MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at D Spiral, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691 will be closed on 4th November.

In view of this, it also advised that on this day the public may wish to make use of the postal services provided from the following Postal Outlets as an alternative:

- MaltaPost Post Office situated at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013.
- Sub Post Office situated at Landau Stationery, 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara BKR 9085.

In another communication MaltaPost notified that an occasion hand postmark to mark the stamp exhibition being organized by the Gozo Philatelic Society, will be

used on Friday 3rd November at the Post Office of Victoria Gozo.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “A TO Z – 18 ANNUAL GOZO PHILATELIC EXHIBITION” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of the Gozo Boat, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “03-11-17”.



The annual Gozo Philatelic Exhibition, organised by the Gozo Philatelic Society and which this year’s theme was ‘*A to Zed Stamps*’, was today inaugurated by the Minister for Gozo Justyne Caruana.

The exhibition, now in its 18th edition, is being held in the Gozo Ministry Exhibition Hall. It will remain open till Thursday, the 9th November (including Saturday and Sunday). For the occasion, the GPS prepared a commemorative limited edition postcard and personalised stamp.

08th November

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative hand postmark to mark the 425th anniversary since the village of Tarxien was conferred as a Parish will be used on Friday 10th November at the Malta Postal Museum, in Valletta.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “HAL TARXIEN – 425 ANNIVERSARJU TAL-PARROĊĊA MARIJA ANNUNZJATA” 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 Annunciation, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “10-11-17”.



17th November

This year’s Christmas stamp issue features four figurines of the child Jesus found in churches around Malta and Gozo. At Christmas it is customary for households to exhibit figures of Jesus as a baby. Some are placed in a manger and displayed on windowsills or other prominent places around the house. This tradition, together with crib making, has been passed on from generation to generation. The stamps are based on photographs of figurines taken by photographer Mark Micallef Perconte. The figure on the €0.26 value is from Sanctuary of Our Lady of Grace – Zabbar.

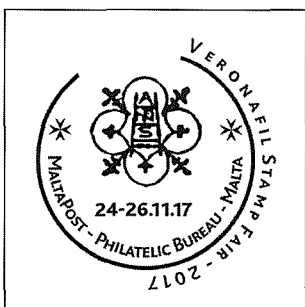
The Jesus figurine of the Zabbar parish church was brought from Rome by Mgr. Giuseppe Zarb in the 1950's.

That of the €0.51 is from the Church of the Immaculate Conception – Cospicua. This Jesus figurine of the Cospicua parish church was made in Lecce Italy. It was originally located at the Malta Dockyards and was donated to the church upon the yards' privatisation.

The one on the €0.59 value hails from the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Naxxar. This baby Jesus figurine of the Naxxar parish church was made in Lecce. It is made from papier-mâché and was brought over to Malta in 1925. The final figurine, which is shown on the €0.63 value, is from the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul in Nadur, Gozo. Marija Portelli donated this Spanish figurine to the Nadur parish church around forty years ago.

The stamps were issued in sheets of ten stamps, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb.) and printed on paper bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheets measure 185mm x 118mm. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 1,000,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 40,000 of the €0.51 stamp and 400,000 of the €0.59 stamp and 50,000 of the €0.63 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.12/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "CHRISTMAS 2017" along the outside bordering the ring and "* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The words "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/17-11-17" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting baby Jesus positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin wrongly numbered as No. 366, which in actual fact should be No. 367



24th November

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the general public that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, on Tuesday 28th November the last collection of mail from all letter boxes will be effected at 13.00hrs rather than 19.00hrs.

MaltaPost took part in the 2017 Veronafil Stamp Fair. To mark the event the philatelic bureau used a severed-

ring handstamp inscribed “VERONAFIL STAMP FAIR - 2017” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date of use “24-26.11.17” is to be found below an outline image depicting stamp fair’s logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. Besides the handstamp, MaltaPost also issued an occasion card (Number 48) to commemorate the event.

28th November

A commemorative hand postmark to mark the 50th anniversary since the Għarb village church was elevated to a Basilica status, was used on Tuesday 28th November at the Għarb, Gozo branch.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “50TH ANNIVERSARY GĦARB BASILICA COMMEMORATION 1967 - 2017” 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 50th anniversary celebration logo, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “28-11-17”.



30th November

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at Malton Stationery, 7, Triq Ċensu Xerri, Sliema, SLM 3062 will be closed on 30th November.

On this day, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of the postal services provided from the following Postal Outlets:

- Sliema Post Office situated at 118, Triq Manwel Dimech, Sliema SLM 1055.
- Sliema Post Office situated at 39, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Sliema, SLM 1902.

02nd December

To mark the celebration of Christmas in Gozo, a commemorative hand postmark was used at the Victoria, Gozo branch on Saturday 2nd December.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MILIED F’GĦAWDEX - 2017” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner



side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of the Our Lady holding baby Jesus, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “02-12-17”.

12th December

On the 12th December MaltaPost issued a set consisting of four miniature sheets depicting Maltese tile patterns. The tiles that adorn many traditional Maltese houses are known for their bold colours and geometric designs. They were a feature of our houses for many years, and nowadays they have been incorporated in many modern designs.

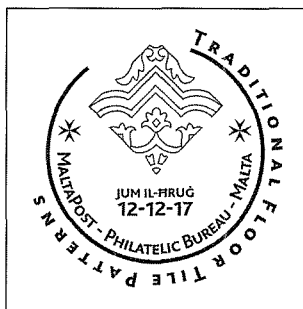
Such patterned tiles were introduced by the Ottomans and have been in use in the Mediterranean region since a long number of years. They are used to decorate palaces, mansions, humble homes and also commercial outlets.

They were individually hand made of several layers from a mixture of sand, marble powder and at times also cement. The decorative layer is made of coloured metal oxides.

Although these tiles are making a comeback, only a few local tile makers are producing them using the traditional method. The demand has encouraged many commercial tile brands to produce tiles inspired by these designs.

This issue features four different patterns of Maltese floor tiles, ink drawn by local artist Stephanie Borg. Each of the four miniature sheets consists of four stamps which when viewed together make out the complete tile pattern. Each stamp, measuring 35mm x 35mm, has a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.) and is printed on paper bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheets themselves measure 99mm x 99mm. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 21,000 miniature sheets of each denomination with a total face value of €1.00 (4x€0.25), €1.16 (4x€0.29), and €3.00 (4x€0.75), and 51,000 of the €2.36 (4x€0.59),

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.13/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “TRADITIONAL FLOOR TILE PATTERNS” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST --- - - - - - - - - - - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/12-12-17” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a representative symmetric pattern positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 368.



30th December

Today was the last day in which British Postal Orders could be bought from Post Offices.

16th January

MaltaPost announced that it will be launching the 2017 Year Pack on the 17th January. This Year Pack contains all the stamp sets in mint condition that were issued during the preceding year, namely:

2017 Maltese Presidency Of The Council Of The European Union, Maltese Flora Series IV, Balcony Corbels, Europa 2017 ‘Castles’, Postal Uniforms, SEPAC 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 and Traditional Floor Tile Patterns.

The Year Pack is presented in an attractive folder and includes all technical details related to all of these issues.

20th January

On 27th January, MaltaPost belatedly notified that a commemorative hand postmark in commemoration of the 50th anniversary from when ‘Teatru Astra’ was officially inaugurated was used on Saturday 20th January 2018 at the Victoria Post Office in Gozo.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “TEATRU ASTRA 50TH ANNIVERSARY 1968 - 2018” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of the theatre’s logo, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “20-01-18”.



26th January 2018

For the occasion of the restoration of the titular artwork of the “Madonna tač-Ċintura”, MaltaPost notified that an occasion hand postmark will be used today Friday 26th at the Żejtun Post Office.



The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “FL-OKKAŻJONI TAR-RESTAWR TAL-KWADRU TAL-MADONNA TAĊ-ĊINTURA ŻEJTUN” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – ŻEJTUN - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of the Marian symbol, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “26-01-18”.

30th January

MaltaPost informed the general public that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa will be open between 08:00 hrs. and 16:00 hrs. on Friday 9th February, and that the last collection of mail from all letterboxes will be carried out at 13:00 hrs.

31st January

Today MaltaPost, through three separate media communications, informed the public about a number of temporary closures of its Sub Post Offices, namely:

- The Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa, MLĦ 1024 will be closed between Monday 12th and Saturday 17th February.

During this period, the public may wish to use the postal services provided from Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Mithna ‘l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107.

- The Sub Post Office at Step In, Misrah ir-Rebħa, il-Birgu BRG 1300 will be closed between Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th February.

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

- The Sub Post Office at Paul’s Arcade, Triq il-Kaħli, San Pawl il-Baħar, SPB 3015 will be closed between Wednesday 7th and Saturday 10th February.

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

**Please remit your membership dues for 2019 immediately
to Mr John Cardona, 56 Triq Santa Marija - Tarxien TXN 1703**

Membership dues are as follows:

Local Members: (Adults) - Eur 10.00 • (Junior Members) - Euro 3.00

Overseas Members: Australia - Aud 40.00 • Canada - Cad 30.00 • U.S.A. - US\$ 21.00

• Euro Countries - Eur 20.00 • South Africa - US\$ 31.00 • U.K. - GBP 15.00