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Printed by Best Print Co. Ltd., Qrendi

Vol. 46/1

April, 2017

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CONTENTS

Paris Hot Air Balloon Letter Belonged To Lawyer In Imperial Court <i>by Mr A Presgrave</i>	2
The Camp Nachrichten published by the Prisoners of War in Malta in 1914-1916 <i>by Albert Ganado</i>	5
Stamp cancellations related to Gozo – HANDLIST 1969-2016 <i>by Joseph Bezzina Francesco Pio Attard</i>	13
Postal Diary 24th December 2015 – 8th August 2016 <i>by John V. De Battista</i>	29

Paris Hot Air Balloon Letter Belonged To Lawyer In Imperial Court

by Mr A Presgrave

The following article has been adapted by Mr Anthony Presgrave APR FRPSL FRPSV ACCCF, President of the Philatelic Society of South Australia, from a story by Louise Maher 666 ABC Canberra, downloaded from the ABC web site

A letter on a single sheet, folded to form an envelope and flown out of Paris by hot air balloon during the siege of Paris by the Prussian army has mysteriously turned up in Brisbane (Queensland) collection of the Australian National Archives.

A French investigation has uncovered new information about the letter flown out of Paris during the Prussian siege in 1870. The letter was written in French on December 6, 1870 by a man named, A Mesnier to his mother in Normandy, addressed care of "Monsieur Grossin" and addressed '8 Place de la Ville, Pont-Audemer, a small town in Normandy. The letter described the harsh conditions in Paris during the siege.



Photo of balloon letter supplied by National Archives of Australia (note the outside folds that created the small sized letter)

While the National Archives is still trying to determine how the letter ended up in Australia, a French public servant has unravelled the story of the Mesnier family. Emmanuel Hamel, 45, has been undertaking genealogical research since the age of 10. He started investigating the balloon letter after reading about it in his local newspaper.

"I had very few clues," Mr Hamel said. "It was very difficult at the beginning."

Mr Hamel started with the mother's name and address in the town of Pont-Audemer, 200 kilometres from his home in Normandy. He calculated her likely date of death and tracked down her death certificate in an online archive. She was Julie Stephanie Vornier (1807-1883), widow of grocer Jean-Baptiste Mesnier (1805-1852). Mr Hamel then searched other databases and discovered the wedding certificate of their son, Pierre Alexandre Mesnier, who married Louise Claire Houllier in 1864. The signature on the certificate matched the signature at the bottom of the 1870 letter - A Mesnier.

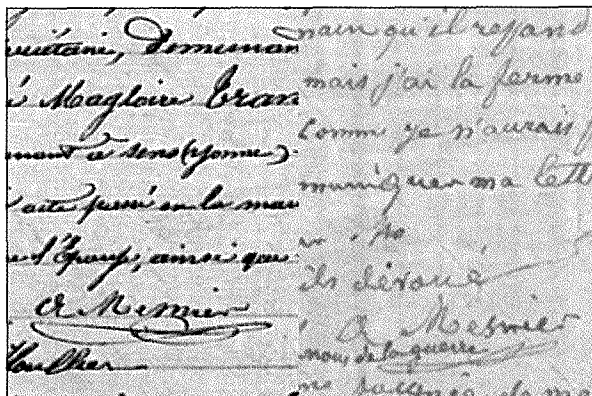


Photo of Alexandre Mesnier's signature on his wedding certificate and on his letter to his mother - supplied by Emmanuel Hamel and National Archives of Australia.

Another clue was a reference to “Claire” at the end of Mr Mesnier’s letter to his mother.

“Claire t’embrasse ainsi que toute la famille (Claire kisses you and all the family),” it read. “It was the light for me,” Mr Hamel said.

Working from the information he had gathered, Mr Hamel was eventually able to ascertain that Mr Mesnier was a 38-year-old lawyer at the court of Napoleon III at the time of the Paris siege. He and his brother Jules, who was also mentioned in the letter, survived the Prussian war; Alexandre died in Paris in 1916, Jules died in 1919. Alexandre Mesnier’s wife Claire died in 1883 at the age of 41; her husband never remarried.

Mr Hamel also found genealogical records of the Mesnier descendants and a possible explanation for how the letter came to Australia. Jules Mesnier ran a Welsh-based shipping company with his wife’s family called Poingdestre et Mesnier and founded a phosphate mining company which traded with islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. It is possible he visited Australia as part of his work.

National Archives assistant director-general Louise Doyle has welcomed Mr Hamel’s “terrific” detective work.

“There are connections there and there’s maybe more in relation to Jules’ [adopted] son Robert Galoppe ... and whether he had connections with Australia.”

“We’re still in the process of really trying to work out how [this letter came] into the post and telegraph museum [at the Brisbane GPO] and of course eventually to the archives.”

Mr Hamel is continuing his research into the Mesnier family but believes the answer “is maybe in Australia”.

Background of the Time

Towards the end of the third quarter of 1870, the Prussian army surrounded Paris and besieged the city for over four months. Hot air balloon mail was the only way of communication with the outside world, though there have been accounts of the use pigeons to carry messages. But Balloon mail was a formal initiative of the authorities of the time flying hot air balloons generally during the night according to prevailing winds. Dozens of flights were made delivering hundreds of thousands of letters. The siege lasted from 18 September 1870 to January 1871.

The first hot air balloon was launched on the 23 September, using the Neptune hot air balloon and carried 125 kg of mail. It landed in Craconville three hours later covering a distance of just over 80 kms. Following this successful flight a regular mail service was established with a rate of 20 centimes per letter. Conditions applied as to size and/or weight allowed. Around 60 hot air balloon mail flights the majority of which completed the journey successfully.

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The *Camp Nachrichten* published by the Prisoners of War in Malta in 1914-1916

by Albert Ganado

World War I

On 28 June 1913, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, the heir to the Austrian throne, and his wife were murdered in the Bosnian town of Sarajevo. Within the space of just over a month, Austria-Hungary and Germany were at war with England and France, joined by Italy on 24 May 1915. Turkey was on the side of the Central Powers, but when Italy declared war on Germany on 24 May 1915 Malta instantly became outside the theatre of war although it was a British Crown Colony. Consequently, it served peacefully as a vital base of support in the Middle Sea for the British and French fleets.

In virtue of legislation passed locally after the outbreak of war, Germans and Austrians aged between 17 and 42 were arrested as prisoners of war. They were later joined by the crews of German and Austrian ships either in port or captured near Malta.

At first, the prisoners of war were interned at Casemate Barracks, Floriana. These were too small to accommodate the increasing number of war prisoners brought over to Malta from time to time from various localities. Larger camps were established in late 1914 in the area of the Three Cities on the east side of the Grand Harbour at Verdala Barracks and St. Clements' Parade Ground. The move from Floriana took place on 3 November 1914.

On the next day, 597 civilian German and Austrian prisoners of war arrived from Egypt, followed on the 1st December by another 564. As a result of the declaration of war with the Ottoman Empire, Turkish internees, mostly civilians, were transferred from Egypt to Malta in November 1914 and, by the end of May 1915, their number went up to 150.

Starting from number 1, each prisoner of war was, on arrival at the camp, given a sequential number. By November 1918, about 2650 numbers had been allocated. However, throughout the war years some prisoners were either released or transferred abroad. An illustrious German prisoner of war was Prince Franz Joseph of Hohenzollern. His book on SMS *Emden* contains a chapter on his life as a prisoner of war in Malta. The Austrian Aurelius Doncich, interned in 1914, later occupied the post of conductor of the Camp Orchestra for close on five years, settling in Malta after the war as director of the King's Own Band in Valletta.

Two other famous Germans were imprisoned at Verdala Barracks. One was a young submarine captain, Karl Dönitz, who was destined to become Grand Admiral

and who became the Führer for just twenty-three days after Adolf Hitler committed suicide in 1945, during which he ordered the surrender of Germany. The other was the captain of the German raider ship *Emden*, Karl Frederick Max von Müller, that sank many allied ships in the Far East.

The talents of some prisoners were applied to artwork and printing, with production of postcards for sale to other prisoners. They even produced unofficial facsimile postage stamps with the designation *KAMP POST* or *WAR PRISONERS POST*, et similia. These, together with other material, must have been printed with the use of a lithographic press to which the prisoners had access.¹ But the most important and engaging item that came out from the press was the heavily illustrated in house newspaper or magazine named *Camp-Nachrichten*.

The story of the Maltese newspaper

The earliest newspaper published in Malta goes back to 1798. Named *Journal de Malte*, it was no more than an official gazette replete with pro-French propaganda. During the first years of the British protectorate, four newspapers were published. The first one was the *Foglio d'Avvisi*, printed in fourteen numbers between 8 October 1803 and April 1804, serving as an anti-French propaganda machine churned by Vittorio Barzoni, the director of the government press, whose sole aim was that of libelling Napoleon Bonaparte. It was followed in 1804 by nine issues of *L'Argo*, and then by fifteen numbers of *Il Cartaginese* in 1804-1805, which were circulated also in North Africa and Asia Minor.² In 1808-1809 there were a few numbers of *Gazzetta Straordinaria*. All these newspapers were written in Italian.

Their successor was a much more significant newspaper which was first published on 7 January 1812. The title page, extant in only one of three known copies, was the following: *GIORNALE DI MALTA SCRITTO DALLI SIGNORI VITTORIO BARZONI, E GIUSEPPE CASOLANI. IN MALTA MDCCCXII. Dalla Stamperia del Giornale. PRESSO GASPARE SEVAGLIOS SERGENTE STAMPATORE DEL REGGIMENTO SICILIANO*.³ It was sold at the government press. The National Library of Malta has two copies of this newspaper, both without the title page. Between 1812 and 20 October 1813, ninety-four numbers were published. This weekly newspaper was superseded by the *Gazzetta del Governo di Malta*, with the first number being published on 27 October, still running today in Maltese and English.

Ever since the start of British rule, agitation for a free press in Malta was without respite. It was only after thirty-eight years, on the recommendation of the Royal Commission of 1836, that the liberty of the press was finally granted, and it was regulated by law in 1839. The first newspaper to be published, *Lo Spettatore Imparziale* was dated 23 April 1838. It is swiftly followed by several other newspapers and magazines, the main newspapers being *Il Portafoglio Maltese*

and *Il Mediterraneo*.⁴

Thousands of newspapers have been published since then, some of which have only the paper's name recorded. Others are unknown, although a few surface from time to time. A bibliography of Maltese periodicals was published in 1977 by the Jesuit Father A. F. Sapienza. It has 1222 entries, an essential basic tool for researchers and bibliographers.⁵ In entry number 124 Sapienza wrote as follows:

Camp nachrichten. vol. 1- , 1914- (?)

Cospicua, Verdala Barracks, 1914- (?)

Mimeographed publication of German prisoners of war.

Royal Malta Library has: vols. 2-3, no. 1, 1915-1916.⁶

The Camp Nachrichten magazine

The author has a practically complete series of this very rare magazine, according to which there were only three numbers in the first volume, all titled thus: *Bilderbogen serie der Malta – Camp – Nachrichten*⁷ (Fig. 1). At the bottom of the sheet there is a different dictum in each number, respectively, *Neujahsgrüsse mit Hindernissen*, *Die wunderbare Pille neun*, *Schmücke Dein Heim*.⁸ Each issue contains a number of vignettes on two sheets, a good number of which illustrate how keen the prisoners were to receive letters from home.

An unnumbered and undated issue came out in late December 1914, printed in blue instead of black ink. It contained portraits of von Fachbach and Swoboda together with those of the Austrian Alberto Messani and Paul Dietrich.⁹ On the same sheet these words are spread around: *1914 / 1915*

/ SYLVESTER BLATT DER CAMP-NACHRICHTEN / MALTA. The new year of 1915 is greeted on the next sheet *PROSIT / NEUJAHR!!!*¹⁰

A new series started in 1915. The magazine title became simply *CAMP NACHRICHTEN* (not hyphenated). It is number 1 of the second year, dated 17 January 1915. It depicted on four sheets vignettes and four unnamed portraits, but no monograms of the authors.

The next number was a special issue dated 27 January 1915 in honour of the Kaiser Wilhelm II, with his portrait and the German colours on the front cover (fig. 2). It had twelve sheets, of which only six had printed material. It was followed by number three (although marked II), dated 31 January 1915, on life at Verdala

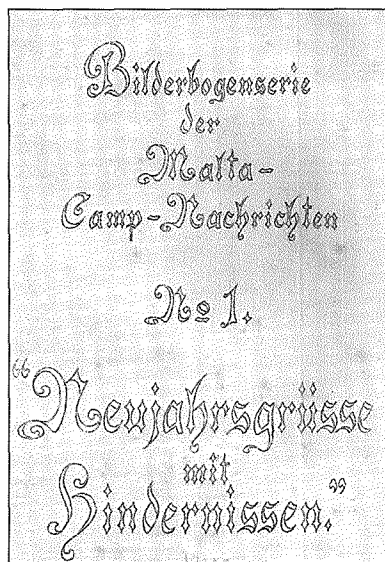


Figure 1

Barracks. From then on the numbers are sequential, published at irregular intervals, the last number XVIII, dated 25 December 1915.

The very first number of 1915 is charged with humanity. In twelve scenes, each accompanied with a rhyming couplet, they narrated the poignant story of frustration in the transmission and receipt of correspondence, away from home and country. It starts with families of prisoners of war writing out their distant news. A son is shown posting letters as early as the 4th December. These were then conveyed by train from the German Reich, and entrusted to the well-built Dutch ships. Out of twenty sacks of letters, five fell in the sea before they reached London – *Ankunft in London* – where they were forgotten at the *Information Office* as there was no wish to pass on the New Year greetings. Suddenly, after one month, the censor recalled that they must be somewhere. From the surviving sacks, three were sent to the wrong destination. The rest happily arrived in Malta after a further fifteen days. When the censor got to work in his cold room he burnt all the letters to create warmth. When the Postmaster went to the door of his office – *Post* –, he was given an empty sack. True story or not is not the point, it is meant to express the anxiety and anguish of the imprisoned foes (Fig. 3).



Figure 2

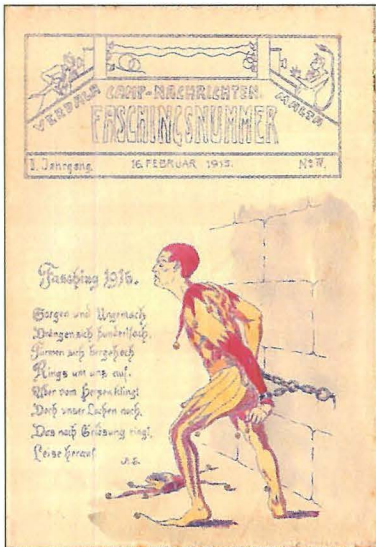


Figure 3

for all. An English doctor was assigned to look after the health of the prisoners of war. He had a ready remedy for every ailment. Whatever the complaints, such as a broken foot or nose, bladder stone, mental illness, haemorrhoids, etc., he invariably prescribed pill number 9. On one occasion, ‘our sweet doctor’ was himself out of

sorts, but he did not take pill nine! In the third number one whole page of text is titled *SCHMÜCKE DEIN HEIM* – Decorate Your Home. It is full of furnishings divided in twelve sections, which include, among many other things, bird cages, a bedstead, and a vacuum cleaner! They probably represent the movable effects in the prison barracks. It ends with these words: This is the moral of the story – this is the curse of the evil action (the war?), that at the end one does not get anything out of it.

Apart from the 'curse' of imprisonment in a foreign country, it was the lack of proper postal communication that the detainees found most irksome and intolerable. In a list of 'fairy tales' (*Märchen*) at Verdala Barracks printed on an unnumbered single sheet, it was written that once upon a time a prisoner of war wrote a letter and it actually reached its destination, while once upon a time there was nobody at the post office enquiring about incoming mail.

It is impracticable to examine in detail every single number, but there are some other features which merit special attention. A series of portraits, all unnamed, started with the issue of 17 January 1915. In the same issue, under the heading *Malta Alphabet* the letters A to M were accompanied by a couplet in German and two images, ending with N to Z in the next number, which gave the reality of life at the Verdala Barracks headed *DIE VERDALIADE*. On 16 February at Carnival time – *Fasching 1915* – a coloured drawing appeared showing a desperate prisoner of war in carnival costume chained to the wall;



Figure 4



Figure 5

crushed, 'but with laughter in our hearts and longing for freedom' (Fig. 4).

On 21 February, von Fachbach depicted the Pope with a quote from the Gospel of St Mark, while a Turkish 'portrait' was drawn by Red on another page. Human figures were drawn by Dietrich. Two issues came out on 1 April; with a ballet dancer signed R Sch. on the octavo sheet, and a commemoration in colour of the centenary of Prince Bismarck's birth on 1 April 1815. The red cross, the eagle, and his portrait by Swoboda are also shown.

With the issue of 11 April, the editor started publishing a series of views of Verdala Barracks, including the delivery of goods by a Maltese cart, the

coffee shop, flying the Turkish flag, and the sanatorium. Items in Turkish were also inserted, but the most beautiful number of the camp magazine was that published on 27 April with Turkish flags, emblems, and war trophies in full colour on the front sheet (figs.4, 5). Also in full colour and highly decorative were the portraits inside, portraying two high personalities of the Ottoman realm. Most of the text was in Turkish, accompanied by portraits of Turkish prisoners. It was a special number for the feast of the Ottoman King ascending the throne. Regretfully, the present author does not know Turkish.

By contrast the issue of 11 May, called *Kémeri-Nagy Nummer*, is full of portraits and caricatures in black and white. That of 23 May has the bells ringing for Pentecost, with prisoners enjoying tennis, billiards and chess. Amusements, including the playing of musical instruments, abound in several issues. A vignette showing the detainees crowding at the post office to collect letters is drawn on 13 June (Fig. 6).

The issue of 18 August was a special *FESTNUMMER* in colour, in honour of *FRANZ JOSEF I*, Emperor of Austria – Hungary, with the armorials of both countries on the front page, two portraits, and a two-page spread, headed *VIRIBUS VNITIS* containing emblems and 26 regional armorials (Fig. 7). Inside the back page there is a coloured view of Verdala Barracks, signed by Dietrich, and a view of



Figure 6

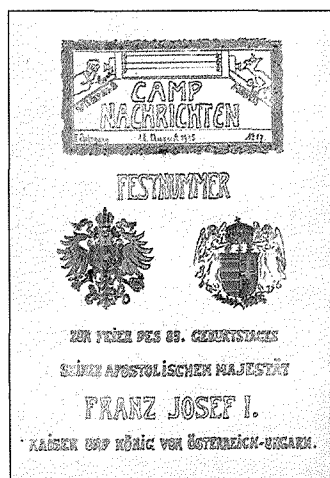


Figure 7

Vienna signed *R. Sch.* Apart from the eight-verse poem by Swoboda illustrating one of the portraits, there are two other monograms. For this occasion, a concert of classical music was organized and two separate decorated coloured sheets were printed, one in German, the other in Hungarian, with their respective armorial bearings¹² (Fig. 8)

While views of Verdala Barracks abound, on 5 September St Clements camp is shown for the first time, with the title *KEMÈRI NAGY NUMMER FÜR DAS ST. CLEMENTS CAMP*, with a game of hockey on roller-skates, life in the camp, and several portraits, all signed by Nagy. The Christmas number came next with the traditional Christmas tree and coloured lit candles squeezed between barbed wire

on the right and an armed soldier on guard on the left. It has the monogram *PD* at the bottom, next to the Maltese eight-pointed cross. The usual poems and vignettes are present, with a Turk selling wares for the ‘tourist’, including rucksacks, trousers, and several leather articles.

The first number of the third year was dedicated to Wilhem II, Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia, who ruled from 1888 to 9 November 1918. His portrait in a coloured oval of laurels, done by Dietrich, was published on page 3 (Fig. 9). Instead of portraits, domestic animals are shown, mostly dogs. It is dated 27 January 1916, the 57th birthday of the Emperor. On the previous day, as part of the celebrations, an exhibition was inaugurated, and an issue of the newspaper listed day by day all the festivities from the 1 to the 26 January. The vignettes include *SPORT FEST*, happy dancing to a band of music, and a huge amount of letters filling the *POST OFFICE ST CLEMENT CAMP* with prisoners clamouring for distribution. The imprint *Druck: "Camp-Nachrichten", Malta*, is signed by the Austrian editor and publisher Otto Porges.

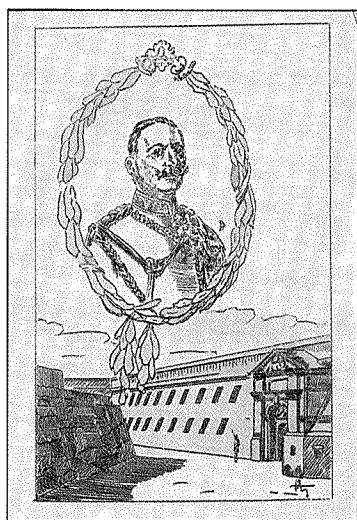


Figure 9

copy at the National Library (Bm.5.18) with the first number of 1914 being bound separately (BM.5.18bis). Compared to the author’s copy, it lacks no. VII of April 1. 1915, no. XII of 11 May 1915, numbers XIV, XV, and XVI respectively of 13 June,

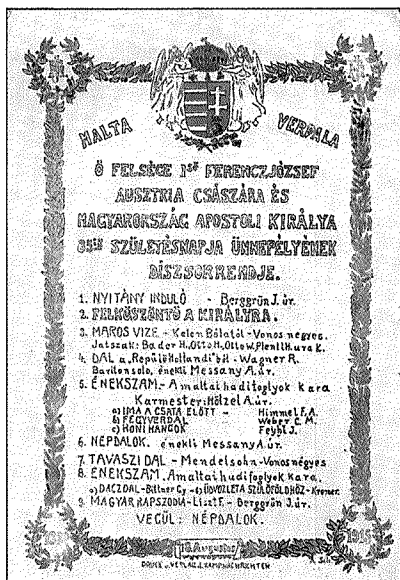


Figure 8

Just one final word on the paper used by the prisoners for printing their *Nachrichten*. It was of slightly thick good quality, mostly in double sheets of foolscap size, uncut, the colour varying from white to bluish green. It has very distinctive watermarks: the one of the left side has the name *VON WILLER & CO* below a shield (130x90mm) displaying two diagonal flags, while *AL MASSO* is on the right side.

The magazine copy at the National Library

Apart from the copy of the magazine in the author’s *emeroteca*, there is in Malta another

27 June, and 5 September 1915. There are some slight differences between these two copies, such as, colouring is missing on the two Turkish portraits on pages 3 and 5 of 27 April, and on all the pages of 18 August 1915. Loose sheets of musical programmes, the fairy sale issue, and a few others also seem to be lacking. In the author's copy, there are no signatures on the verso of pages 2 and 5 of the issue of 27 January 1915, and possibly some single sheet is missing.

References

- ¹ This introduction to the article has been almost wholly based on the standard book *Malta in World War I – Postal History* written by Alan Green, Dr David Ball and Rodger G. Evans, published in London by the Malta Study Circle in 2013.
- ² William Zammit, *Printing in Malta 1642-1839*, Malta, 2008, 229-233.
- ³ See the copy of this *Giornale* in the author's collection. For further details of this publication, biographies of Barzoni and Casolani, and a note on the Royal Sicilian Volunteer Regiment, see A. Ganado, 'Bibliographical notes on Melitensia – 1', *Melita Historica*, vol. xiii, no. 4 (2003), 378-382. See also Zammit, *op. cit.*, 240-244.
- ⁴ Before starting publication, *Il Mediterraneo* published a prospectus in Italian and English, titled *PROGRAMMA*. The paper was to be printed, and subscriptions were to be received, by *TIPOGRAFIA IZZO E C^o*. at 93, Strada Vescovo, Valletta.
- ⁵ For other bibliographies see the *Supplement* to Sapienza's checklist covering the years 1974-1989 compiled by Ninette Camilleri and Romaine Petrocchino, published in 1990. See also A. Cassola, *Lost Maltese newspapers of the 19th century*, Malta, 2011.
- ⁶ Anthony F. Sapienza, *A checklist of Maltese periodicals*, Malta, 1977.
- ⁷ Trans. – A series of illustrated sheets of the *Malta – Camp – Nachrichten*.
- ⁸ Trans. – New Year Greetings with handicaps, a wonderful nine pill, with decorations from your home.
- ⁹ According to the captions accompanying the portraits, von Fachbach was a special artist, book decorator and press director; Swoboda was in charge of the adverts, small news and reports; Messani was the editor, editor-in-chief and head; Dietrich edited items of literature, art, science, and changes in vocabulary.
- ¹⁰ A message of the magazine's New Year's Eve to its readers, and wishing a Happy New Year.
- ¹¹ In September 1916 von Fachbach obtained his release from Malta on compassionate grounds as he had contracted severe tuberculosis (Giovanni Bonello, 'The Salter Album from World War I', *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 17 August 2014, 32-33. George H. Salter (1878-1942), a British officer, had daily contact with the prisoners of war held in Cottonera. His autograph album is kept by his daughter Marylyn Peringer, who resides in Canada. On 15 February 1915 von Fachbach sketched in ink a portrait of Salter in gala jacket with rich-braided epaulettes.
- ¹² Some of the prisoners deserve a mention. After their release two of them settled in Malta. Geo Fürst had married a Maltese lady, Helen Debono, in 1912, while Maestro Aurelio Doncich was referred to as 'a very capable conductor' by his fellow prisoner Prince Franz Joseph von Hohenzollern, brother of the Queen of Portugal, who wrote on his camp life in his memoirs. Their comrade was Karl Doenitz, the Admiral of the German navy in WW II. Even as late as 1919 Turkish prisoners were brought to Malta after the Armistice and after two years, on 12 May 1921 they petitioned the Governor of Malta to be released. The petition was signed individually (Malta National Archives, S. of S. 90/21).

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MALTA
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Stamp cancellations related to Gozo HANDLIST 1969–2016

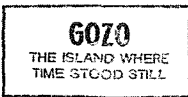
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National Archives Gozo

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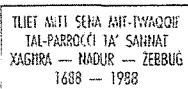
This handlist classifies in a single chronological order the three categories of stamp cancellations related to Gozo first listed under three headings by George Vella (1948–2014). The **FIRST** category consists of special *hand* stamp cancellations related to Gozo and stamped at the *Victoria Post Office, Gozo*, unless otherwise indicated. The **SECOND** category consists of special *machine* stamp cancellations related to Gozo and also stamped at the *Victoria Post Office, Gozo*, unless otherwise indicated (marked ■). The **THIRD** category consists of the usual *hand* stamp cancellations on the occasion of a *Gozo* anniversary, stamped on a Sunday when all other post offices in Malta and Gozo were closed (marked ■■). Entries are listed in English and Maltese.



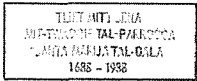
1. 20–09–1969 Philatelic Twinning Trieste-Italia – Victoria-Gozo
Tewminagġ Filateliku Trieste-Italja – Victoria-Għawdex



2. 19–07–1984■ Gozo the island where time stood still
Għawdex il-gżira fejn iż-żmien waqaf
(stamped from 19 July 1984 throughout summer,
and, again, during the summer months of 1986,
1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993,
1994, and 1995)



3. 25–04–1988■ Three hundred years foundation of the parishes Ta' Sannat-Ix-Xagħra-In-Nadur-Iż-Zebbuġ (1688–1988)
Tliet mitt sena mit-twaqqif tal-Parroċċa Ta' Sannat-Ix-Xagħra-In-Nadur- Iż-Zebbuġ (1688–1988)
(stamped from 25 to 28 April 1988)



4. 04-05-1988 Three hundred years of the foundation of the parish of Santa Marija tal-Qala (1688-1988)
Tliet mitt senja mit-twaqqif tal-Parroċċa Santa Marija tal-Qala (1688-1988)
(stamped from 04 to 07 May 1988)



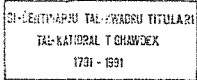
5. 17-04-1990 PGS International Sports Festival
Festival Internazzjonali tal-Isport PGS



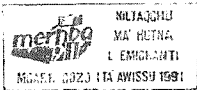
6. 26-05-1990 Visit of H.H. Pope John Paul II, Ta' Pinu Sanctuary
Żjara tal-Q.T. il-Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II, Santwarju Ta' Pinu



7. 08-07-1991 Appreciating Gozo Heritage
Ngħożzu Wirt Ġhawdex
(stamped from 08 to 13 July 1991)



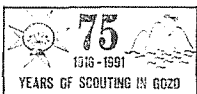
8. 22-07-1991 Bi-centenary of the main altarpiece Gozo Cathedral (1791-1991)
Bi-ċentinarju tal-Inkwatru Titulari tal-Katedral ta' Ġhawdex (1791-1991)
(stamped from 22 to 27 July 1991)



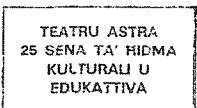
9. 31-07-1991 Meeting with our emigrants, Mġarr (L-Imġarr, Gozo, 1 August 1991)
Niltaqġĥu ma' ħutna l-emigranti, Mġarr
(stamped from 31 July to 03 August 1991)



10. 31-07-1991 Welcome [to Emigrants] 91
Merħba 91
(postmarked at the Mġarr Post Office)



11. 04-11-1991 75 Years of Scouting in Gozo (1916-1991)
75 sena tal-Iscoots f'Ġhawdex (1916-1991)
(stamped from 04 to 08 November 1991)



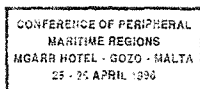
12. 18-01-1993 Astra Theatre - 25 years of culture and education
Teatru Astra - 25 sena ta' ħidma kulturali u edukattiva
(stamped from 18 to 23 January 1993)



13. 10-07-1993 Crowning of the main altarpiece Fontana
L-Inkurunazzjoni tal-Inkwatru Titulari Fontana



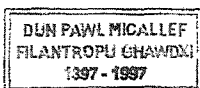
14. 09-10-1993 The Post – your Universal Printer. World Post Day – 2nd Philatelic Exhibition
it-Tieni Esebizzjoni Filatelika



15. 25-04-1996• Conference on Peripheral Maritime Regions, L-Imġarr Hotel
Konferenza dwar Reġjuni Marittimi Periferiċi, Lukanda Mġarr (stamped from 25 to 26 April 1996)



16. 25-04-1996 Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions L-Imġarr Hotel
Konferenza dwar Reġjuni Marittimi Periferiċi, Lukanda Mġarr
(postmarked at a temporary Post Office at L-Imġarr Hotel, Gozo)



17. 27-01-1997• Dun Pawl Micallef, Gozitan Philantropist 1897-1997
Dun Pawl Micallef, Filantropu Għawdxì 1897-1997
(stamped from 27 January to 01 February 1997)



18. 31-01-1997 Dun Pawl Micallef, Gozitan Philantropist 1897-1997
Dun Pawl Micallef, Filantropu Għawdxì 1897-1997



19. 28-10-1998 200th anniversary of the Capitulation of the French in Gozo
200 Sena mill-Kapitulazzjoni tal-Francizi f'Għawdex



20. 01-05-2000 100th Anniversary of the Victoria Branch Post Office
100 anniversarju tal-Ferġha Postali tal-Belt Victoria
(postmarked on a public holiday at a temporary Post Office at the Banca Giuratale, Victoria)



21. 21-10-2000 Maltex Philatelic Exhibition 2000
Esebizzjoni Filatelika Maltex 2000



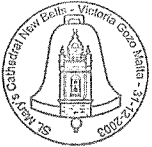
22. 27-07-2001 450th Anniversary of the Siege of Gozo Citadel
450 anniversarju tal-Assedju taç-Ċittadella ta' Ghawdex



23. 09-06-2002 First Model Aircraft Flight, H.F.M.F.A.
• Nadur-Gozo – Hal Far-Malta
L-Ewwel Titjira ta' Mudell ta' Ajruplan, H.F.M.F.A. Ghawdex-Malta
(postmarked at the Valletta Post Office only)



24. 20-07-2003 XVIIth Centenary of the Martyrdom of St George, St George Basilica, Victoria-Gozo
XVII-il Ċentinarju tal-Martirju ta' San Ġorġ, Bażilika San Ġorġ, Victoria-Ghawdex



25. 31-12-2003 St Mary's Cathedral New Bells
Qniepen Ġodda tal-Katidral ta' Ghawdex



26. 11-03-2004 XIVth Centenary of the Death of St Gregory the Great
XIV-il Ċentinarju tal-Mewt ta' San Girgor il-Kbir



27. 08-05-2004 100th anniversary Consecration of the Qala Parish Church (1904-2004)
100 Sena mill-Konsagrazzjoni tal-Knisja Parrokkjali Qala (1904-2004)



28. 24-06-2004 200th Anniversary Blessing of Nadur Parish Church (1804-24 June-2004)
200 Anniversarju Tberik tal-Knisja Parrokkjali tan-Nadur (1804-24 June-2004)
(postmarked at the Nadur Post Office only)



29. 03-07-2004 Wistin Camilleri – 25th Anniversary of his Death
Wistin Camilleri – 25 Anniversarju mill-Mewt



30. 20-07-2004 XVII Century of the Martyrdom of St Margaret
XVII-il Ċentinarju mill-Martirju ta' Santa Margerita



31. 07-12-2004 150 Years of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception
150 Sena mid-Domma tal-Immakulata Kuncizzjoni



32. 12-12-2004** Munxar Day
Jum il-Munxar
(usual cancellation, but postmarked at the Munxar Parish Centre on a Sunday using the Victoria Post Office metal cancellation)



33. 29-01-2005 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of Fontana Parish Church (1905-2005)
100 Sena Konsagrazzjoni tal-Knisja Parrokkjali tal-Fontana (1905-2005)



34. 21-03-2005* Helicopteros del Sureste, 1st flight
L-ewwel titjira bil-ħelikopters
(postmarked at the Valletta Post Office only)



35. 09-08-2005 First Maltese female poet, Mary Meylak, 100th Birth Anniversary (1906-09-08-2005)
L-Ewwel Poetessa Maltija, Mary Meylak, 100 Sena Minn Twelidha, (1906-09-08-2005)



36. 13-08-2005** Dun Ġużepp Cauchi, 50th Death Anniversary
Dun Ġużepp Cauchi, 50 Sena Minn Mewtu
(usual cancellation, but postmarked at the Philatelic Bureau Malta on a Sunday using the usual metal cancellation)



37. 15-08-2005 150 Years, Gozo Agricultural & Industrial Show (1855-15-08-2005)
150 Sena Wirja tal-Biedja u Snajja' (1855-15-08-2005)



38. 16-12-2005 Saverio Cassar, 200th Anniversary from his Death (1805-18-12-2005)
Saverio Cassar, 200 Anniversarju minn Mewtu (1805-18-12-2005)



39. 22-01-2006 Episcopal Consecration Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo
Konsagrazzjoni ta' Mons. Mario Grech, Isqof ta' Ghawdex
(postmarked at a temporary Post Office at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, the Citadel)



40. 29-04-2006 50th Anniversary of St Mary's Statue at the Cathedral (1956-29-04-2006)
50 Anniversarju tad-Daħla ta' Santa Marija l-Katidral (1956-29-04-2006)



41. 10-06-2006 New Bells Xewkija Parish Church, Gozo
Qniepen Godda Knisja Rotunda Xewkija-Ghawdex



42. 28-10-2006 First Centenary St Anthony of Padua Church (1906-2006)
Centinarju Knisja Sant' Antnin ta' Padova
(postmarked at the Ghajnsielem Post Office only)



43. 25-03-2007 Together since 1957 - 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome
Flimkien mill-1957 - 50 Anniversarju tat-Trattat ta' Ruma
(postmarked at a temporary Post Office at the Nadur Local Council office)



44. 22-06-2008 125th Anniversary Manifestation of the Virgin Mary of Ta' Pinu (1883 - 22 June - 2008)
125 Sena mis-Sejħha tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu (1883 - 22 ta' Ġunju - 2008)
(postmarked at a temporary Post Office at the National Sanctuary of Ta' Pinu)



45. 10-08-2008 1750th Anniversary Martyrdom of St Lawrence (AD 258-2008)
1750 Sena mill-Martirju ta' San Lawrenz (AD 258-2008)
(postmarked at a temporary Post Office at the San Lawrenz Parish Church)



46. 05-10-2008 50th Anniversary St George Basilica (1958-2008)
50 Sena San Ġorġ Bażilika (1958-2008)
(postmarked at a temporary Post Office at St George Basilica-Victoria)



47. 22-11-2008 5th Anniversary – Visitation Philharmonic Society
Hames Anniversarju – Għaqda Mużikali Viżitazzjoni
(postmarked at the Għarb Post Office)



48. 11-02-2009 Gozo Tourism Association – 10th Anniversary
Assoċjazzjoni Għawdxija tat-Turiżmu – 10 Anniversarju



49. 01-04-2009 75th Anniversary Canonization of Don Bosco and Opening of First Oratory in Gozo (1934 ▪ 1 ta' April ▪ 2009)
75 Sena Don Bosco Qaddis u Ftuh tal-Ewwel Oratorju f'Għawdex (1934 ▪ 1 ta' April ▪ 2009)



50. 06-05-2009 Ġorġ Pisani – 100th Birth Anniversary (1909-2009)
Ġorġ Pisani – 100 Sena Minn Twelidu (1909-2009)



51. 03-09-2009 10th Anniversary of the Gozo Philatelic Society (1999-2009)
10 Anniversarju Soċjetà Filatelika Għawdxija (1999-2009)



52. 13-11-2009 Gozo Philatelic Exhibition (13-21 November 2009)
Esebizzjoni Filatelika Għawdex (13-21 ta' Novembru 2009)



53. 04-10-2010 25th Anniversary Għaqda Ħbieb tal-Presejpu
Għawdex-Malta 1985
*25 Anniversarju Għaqda Ħbieb tal-Presejpu
Għawdex-Malta 1985*



54. 13-11-2010 Gozo Philatelic Society 11th Exhibition
Soċjetà Filatelika Għawdxija - 11-il Esebizzjoni



55. 21-12-2010 St George Basilica Altar Dedication (1960-
2010)
Dedikazzjoni Altar San Ġorġ (1960-2010)



56. 26-03-2011 First Centenary Fontana Parish Church (1911-
2011)
Fontana 100 Sena Parrocċa (1911-2011)



57. 07-04-2011 First Centenary Birth Gużè Aquilina
(1911 ▪ 7 April ▪ 2011)
*Gużè Aquilina, Mitt Sena minn Twelidu (1911 ▪
7 ta' April ▪ 2011)*



58. 14-04-2011 50th Anniversary Foundation Gozo Civic
Council (1961-2011)
*Kunsill Ċiviku ta' Għawdex - 50 Sena mit-
Twaqqif (1961-2011)*



59. 13-08-2011 Blessing of New Bells, BVM of Loreto Parish,
Għajnsielem-Għawdex
*Tberik Qniepen Ġodda, Parrocċa Madonna ta'
Loreto, Għajnsielem-Għawdex*
(postmarked at the Għajnsielem Post Office
only)



60. 11-11-2011 Nature and Nurture
- Gozo Philatelic Society 12th Exhibition
*Soċjetà Filatelika Għawdxija - 12-il
Esebizzjoni*



61. 04-01-2012 40th Death Anniversary Ninu Cremona (1972-2012)
40 Sena mill-Mewt ta' Ninu Cremona (1972-2012)



62. 31-10-2012 G.P.F. Agius de Soldanis – 300 Birth Anniversary (1712-2012)
G.P.F. Agius de Soldanis – 300 Sena minn Twelidu (1712-2012)



63. 10-11-2012 *Majesty* – Gozo Philatelic Society 13th Exhibition
Soċjetà Filatelika Għawdxija –13-il Esebizzjoni



64. 23-02-2013 Inauguration St George Basilica Museum
Il-Ħaġar-Heart of Gozo
Inawgurazzjoni Il-Ħaġar-Heart of Gozo



65. 30-03-2013 100th Birth Anniversary Dr Ċensu Tabone (1913-2013)
100 Sena mit-Twelid ta' Dr Ċensu Tabone (1913-2013)



66. 29-04-2013 150th Anniversary Foundation Leone Philharmonic Society (1863-2013)
150 Sena mit-Twaqqif tas-Soċjetà Filarmonika Leone (1863-2013)



67. 01-07-2013 100th Anniversary Foundation Circolo Gozitano (1913-2013)
100 Sena mit-Twaqqif taċ-Circolo Gozitano (1913-2013)



68. 13-07-2013 50th Anniversary Victoria Scout Group
*50 Anniversarju mit-Twaqqif tal-Iscounts
Victoria*



69. 21-10-2013 Gozo Philatelic Society –14th Exhibition
*Soċjetà Filatelika Għawdxija – 14-il
Esebizzjoni*



70. 22-11-2013 Tenth Anniversary Foundation Visitation
Philharmonic Society (2003-2013)
*10 Snin Mit-Twaqqif tal-Għaqda Mużikali
Viżitazzjoni (2003-2013)*
(postmarked at the Għarb Post Office only)



71. 07-12-2013 Re-inauguration of the Dar Karmni Grima
Museum
Ftuħ mill-Ġdid tal-Mużew-Dar Karmni Grima
(postmarked at the Għarb Post Office only)



72. 07-12-2013 350th Anniversary Confraternity
of the Immaculate Conception BVM (1663-
2013)
*350 Sena tal-Fratellanza tal-Immakulata
(1663-2013)*



73. 28-02-2014 First Centenary Statues of Good Friday
Procession, Xagħra-Gozo
*100 Sena Vari tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira, Xagħra-
Għawdex*



74. 11-04-2014 First Centenary Good Friday Procession,
Xagħra-Gozo
*100 Sena Purċissjoni tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira,
Xagħra-Għawdex*
(postmarked at the Xagħra Post Office only)



75. 23-04-2014 St George – First Processional Statue of Gozo (1839–2014)
San Ġorġ – L-Ewwel Statwa Titulari ta' Ġhawdex (1839–2014)



76. 19-07-2014 Relic of the Arm-Bone of St George Martyr
Relikwa Insinji ta' Driegħ San Ġorġ Martri



77. 26-07-2014 200th Anniversary Xaghra Bubonic Plague (1814–2014)
200 Anniversarju mill-Imxija tal-Pesta fix-Xagħra (1814–2014)
(postmarked at the Xaghra Post Office only)



78. 11-08-2014 *Singulari Amore – 150th Anniversary Foundation Gozo Cathedral*
Singulari Amore – 150 Sena Katidral



79. 16-09-2014 *Diocesis Gaudisiensis (1864–2014)*
– 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Gozo
Djoċesi ta' Ġhawdex (1864–2014)
– 150 Anniversarju tad-Djoċesi ta' Ġhawdex



80. 21-10-2014 Saint Ursula – 400th Anniversary (1614–2014)
Sant'Orsla – 400 Anniversarju (1614–2014)



81. 08-11-2014 250th Anniversary Relic of St Coronatus, Nadur
250 Sena Relikwi ta' San Koronatu fin-Nadur



82. 14-11-2014 Anniversaries and Commemorations
– Gozo Philatelic Society 15th Exhibition
Socjeta' Filatelika Ghawdex, 15-il Esibizzjoni



83. 05-12-2014 Christmas in Gozo
Milied f'Ghawdex



84. 21-03-2015 Passion Play Street Theatre (2005-2015)
L-Imsallab fi Triqatna (2005-2015)



85. 20-06-2015 80th Anniversary Crowning of the Altarpiece
of the Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu
*80 Anniversarju Inkurunazzjoni
Inkwatru Madonna Ta' Pinu*



86. 04-09-2015 Episcopal Consecration Fr George Bugeja
OFM,
National Sanctuary BVM of Ta' Pinu
*Konsagrazzjoni Patri George Bugeja OFM,
Santwarju Nazjonalni Madonna Ta' Pinu*



87. 06-11-2015 Posts & Postmen
– Gozo Philatelic Society 16th Exhibition
Socjeta' Filatelika Ghawdxija, 16-il Esebizzjoni



88. 05-12-2015 Christmas in Gozo
Milied f'Ghawdex



89. 09-01-2016 Maltese Emigrants Incident (1916-2016)
*Incident ta' New Caledonia tal-Emigranti
Maltin
(1916-2016)*



90. 06-05-2016 Inauguration of Monument to San Ġorġ Preca,
Victoria-Gozo
*Għawdex ifakkar lil Dun Ġorġ – Knisja San
Ġakbu*



91. 08-08-2016 40 Anniversary laying of Foundation Stone
Victory Philharmonic Society, Xagħra-Gozo
*40 sena Anniversarju tat-Tqegħid tal-Ewwel
Ġebbla, Soċjetà Filarmonika Victory, ix-Xagħra-
Għawdex*



92. 24-09-2016 New Altar at the Collegiate Basilica, Għarb-
Gozo
*Inawgurazzjoni tal-Altar Ġdid fil-Bażilika tal-
Għarb*



93. 11-11-2016 Sportsman & Not – Gozo Philatelic Society
17th Exhibition (11-18 November 2016)
*Is-17-il Edizzjoni tas-Soċjetà Filatelika
Għawdxija
(11-18 ta' Novembru 2016)*



94. 30-11-2016 Centenary of Scouting in Gozo (1916-2016)
L-Ewwel Ċentinarju tal-Iskawts f'Għawdex



95. 03-12-2016 Inauguration of Bishop Nikol Ġ. Cauchi
Monument, Għarb-Gozo
*Inawgurazzjoni tal-Mafkar f'ġieĥ
l-Isqof Nikol Ġ. Cauchi, l-Għarb-Għawdex*



96. 03-12-2016 Christmas in Gozo
Milied f'Ghawdex



No 01 – Cancellation design: GENERAL POST OFFICE-MALTA



No 38 – Cancellation design: GEORGE VELLA



No 46 – Cancellation design: FRANCESCO-PIO ATTARD



No 58 – Cancellation design: GEORGE VELLA



No 78 – Cancellation design: PAUL FALZON



No 80 – Cancellation design: PAUL FALZON

Postal Diary

24th December 2015 – 8th August 2016

Compiled by
John V. De Battista

24th December

Today MaltaPost issued Press Releases informing the public of the dates of temporary closure of nine Sub Post Offices during the Christmas period, namely:

· The Sub Post Office situated in “Future Focus”, 9, Triq l-Imħazen, Floriana FRN 1118 will be closed for business on 26th December 2015 and 2nd January 2016. The nearest alternative indicated was the Sub Post Office situated at “C@C” Trejqa tal-Fleur de Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580.

- The Sub Post Office situated in “Iklin Stationery”, 89, Triq Censu Busuttli, Iklin IKL 1200 will be closed for business on 26th December.
- The Sub Post Office situated in “Midas”, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113 will be closed for business between 28th and 31st December, both days included. Alternative Post Offices indicated were:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Żabbar ZBR 1351

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Żejtun ZTN 1834

- The Sub Post Office situated in “Papel Stationery”, 1, Triq is-Salvatur, Qrendi QRD 1701 will be closed for business on 26th December 2015 and 2nd January 2016. Alternative postal services provided from the Sub Post Office situated in “Alessio Old Cottage”, 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511 were indicated.
- The Sub Post Office situated in “C@C Stationery”, Trejjet Fleur de Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580 will be closed for business between 2nd and 9th January 2016, both days included. During this period, all postal services including collection of mail items will be available at the Hamrun Post Office situated at 18, Triq il-Ferrovija, Hamrun HMR 1900.
- The Sub Post Office situated at “Fleet Stationery”, Triq Testaferrata, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1402 will be closed for business between 26th and 28th December 2015, and between 31st December 2015 and 2nd January 2016, both days included. The public was advised that as an alternative it may wish to make use of the postal services provided from the Gżira Post Office situated at 21, Pjazza

Meme` Scicluna, Gżira GZR 1120.

- The Sub Post Office situated in “Step in”, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300 will be closed for business between 31st December and 4th January 2016, both days included. The public could make use the postal services provided from Bormla Post Office situated in Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910 as an alternative.
- The Sub Post Office situated in 6, “Welcome Bazaar”, Misraħ Frenç Abela, Dingli DGL 1081 will be closed for business on 26th December 2015 and 2nd January 2016.
- The Sub Post Office situated in “Happy Kids Stationery”, Triq San Tumas, Fgura FGR 1608 will be closed for business on 26th December 2015 and 2nd January 2016.

In another Press Release, MaltaPost informed the public that due to extensive restoration works at the Auberge d’Italie in Merchants Street Valletta, the letterbox which was situated just outside the building was closed. A temporary replacement letterbox was placed a few metres away from the original one.

30th December

During the Christmas period MaltaPost supported the Malta Community Chest Fund through its participation in some of the latter’s fundraising initiatives. The sale of the popular recipe book “*Tisjir mill-Qalb*” from its retail network and delivery of hundreds of copies of the book ordered online to households is one example. MaltaPost also supported the “*Istrina*” national fundraising event during the twelve-hour fundraising marathon organised at the Cottonera Sports Complex by donating the sum of €8,000. On a more personal note, it is to be mentioned that a good number of its staff volunteered to give a helping hand by offering their time to answer telephone calls and take donation pledges during the same marathon.

8th January

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 will be temporarily closed for business between 11th and 14th January, both days included. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Mellieħa Post Office situated in 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107.

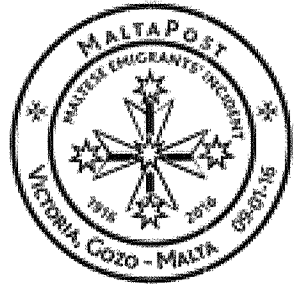
9th January

Around four hundred years ago communities in the locality of Żejtun started to expand rapidly. This growth shortly led to the event which saw the birth of Żabbar

as a separate parish and the title of Matrix being conferred on that of Żejtun. At the time of this separation these communities were under the auspices of St. Gregory's Church, which now mostly evokes to mind the pilgrimage of St. Gregory held annually on the first Wednesday after Easter.

To mark this fourth centenary, both villages held a highly publicised joint philatelic initiative through the Żejtun Philatelic Group and the Żabbar parish, which took form in the issue of a set of two commemorative cards and correlated personalized stamps. The cards and labels of the personalized stamps feature paintings of St. Gregory's Church in Żejtun and the church of Our Lady of Graces in Żabbar. The cards and personalized stamps could be obtained by the public either from the Żejtun Local Council or from Żabbar Parish Church.

Today MaltaPost released an unannounced commemorative postmark at the Victoria Gozo Post Office. The double-ring hand stamp was inscribed “*MALTAPOST * VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 09-01-16” in the outer ring, and “MALTESE EMIGRANTS' INCIDENT / 1916 – 2016” in the inner ring, encircling an outline image of a Maltese Cross superimposed by a cross at the ends and center of which lie seven-pointed stars, mimicking the Canberra Stampshow 2016 logo.



The Gozo Philatelic Society (GPS) and the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc. (Australia) jointly also commemorated this first centenary of the 1916 Maltese Emigrants' Incident. This was achieved through the issue of a set of two (attached) limited edition cards of 100 each and personalized occasion stamps as mementos. The GPS version titled “L-EWWEL KARTOLINA INTERNAZZJONALI MILL-GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY” includes the Gozo card on top and the Canberra card at the bottom. The Canberra card version titled “INTERNATIONAL JOINT ISSUE – CANBERRA & GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETIES” has the Canberra card on top and the Gozo card at the bottom. The local half was issued on 9th January 2016, the day of the GPS AGM when a related exhibit was inaugurated at Il-Ħaġar museum in Victoria. The issue of the Australian card will take place during the Canberra Stampshow 2016 Exhibition to be held in March. The incident is one of the two themes chosen for the nineteenth Biennial National Convention staged by the Philatelic Society of Canberra. The cards, labels of the personalised stamps and occasion hand stamps were designed by Mr. Anthony Grech.

14th January

MaltaPost announced the winners of its student competition held during the University of Malta Freshers' Week 2015.

The lucky winners are Adreana Zammit, James Farrugia and Matthew Borg. Ms Zammit won the HP ElitePad 900 which was kindly presented to her by Adrian Dalli from Kinetix. Mr Farrugia was awarded a €100 SendOn voucher while Mr Borg won a €50 SendOn voucher. The gifts were awarded during an event which was held at the Post Office on Campus.

The competition was organised in conjunction with a print/copy promotion offered solely at the Post Office at the University of Malta Campus during the 2015 academic year. For the third consecutive year, MaltaPost invited students to sign up to the MaltaPost Campus Club to benefit from special rates and offers from the Post Office on Campus. Registrants automatically also signed up to MaltaPost's forwarding service - SendOn.

15th January

Today MaltaPost issued a Company Announcement with regards to the approval of Ordinary Resolutions at the Annual General Meeting.

The Company's *Preliminary Statement of Annual Results 2015* shows that revenue from philately has increased from €434,000 in 2014 to €484,000 in 2015; showing a slight increase of 0.053% in its contribution towards total revenue generated by the company. In 2015 philately accounted for 1.9% of total revenue.

20th January

Today MaltaPost announced its issue of the third set in the Maltese Flora series on Friday 22nd January.

As in the previous two issues in the series, the set consists of three stamps bearing a face value of €0.26, €0.59 and €1.16. They respectively depict the Branched Asphodel (Maltese: Berwieq), the Common Pyramidal Orchid (Maltese: Orkida Piramidali) and the Maltese Spider Orchid (Maltese: Brimba Sewda ta' Malta).



The Branched Asphodel is a very common plant which grows in garigues and rocky grasslands, flowering mainly from January till April. The Common Pyramidal Orchid is the commonest orchid in the Maltese Islands and it too is found mainly in garigues and rocky pastures. It flowers in late April and in May. The Maltese Spider Orchid is a scarce orchid of garigues, scrublands and dry rocky pastures

and flowers mainly during the months of March and April.

Examples of these flowers lifted from photographs taken by Guido Bonett form the basis of the stamp designs. The stamps were printed in offset by Printex Ltd. on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper, with each stamp measuring 20.0mm x 38.0mm and having a comb perforation of 13.6 x 14.0. The print run consists of 2,520,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 630,000 of the €0.59 stamp and 90,000 of the €1.16 stamp. The sheets of ten, which are made up of two rows of five stamps with an illustration tab on the right-hand side, overall measure 154mm x 110mm.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.1/2016).

The single-ring hand stamp was inscribed “JUM IL-ĦRUG/22-01-16” in the centre, with “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side; while the words “MALTESE FLORA – SERIES III” border the outside of the ring at the right hand side. A line drawing of the Maltese Spider Orchid is to be found depicted in between the Maltese Crosses and overlapping the ring. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 342.

In its second Press Release for the day, pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost issued a Company announcement with regards to the appointment of Mr. Ronald Bonnici as Chief Officer of the Company as from 1st February 2016. His duties will be related mainly to the Human Resources of the Company. The announcement bore the signature of Mr. Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary.

21st 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 and 16.00 on Friday 22nd January, and that the last collection of mail from all letter boxes will be carried out at 13.00.

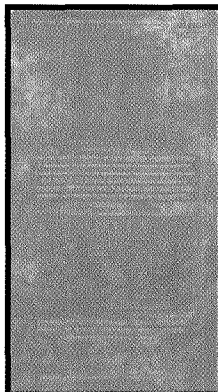
28th January

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Midas”, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113 will be temporarily closed for business on Saturday 30th January. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following alternative Postal Outlets:

- Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Żabbar ZBR 1351
- Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Żejtun ZTN 1834

1st February

The Hon. Prime Minister of Malta, Dr. Joseph Muscat, unveiled a plaque at the Upper Barrakka Gardens, Valletta to commemorate the Malta Conference of 1945 and the Malta Summit of 1989 – two events which foreshadowed the start of and the end of the Cold War. The plaque is inspired by two stamps previously issued by Malta. The first stamp featured on the plaque, issued on 28th January, 2015 (JB 1829), features US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Both visited Malta in 1945 for preliminary meetings prior to their encounter with USSR Premier Josef Stalin at the Yalta Conference. The discussions were centred on Europe's reorganisation following the end of World War II.



The second stamp depicted on the plaque, issued on 2nd December, 1989 (JB 820), commemorates the meeting between US President George H. W. Bush and USSR Premier Mikhail Gorbachev which was held in Malta in 1989, weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall. This meeting marked the end of the Cold War.

In his short address, the Hon. Prime Minister of Malta stated that “Stamps, as featured on this plaque, keep history alive and we as Maltese are proud to have been instrumental in bringing these nations together.”

The plaque is the work of sculptor Joseph Chetcuti from the Funderija Artistika Chetcuti.

5th February

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Paul’s Arcade”, Triq il-Kaħli, St.Paul’s Bay SPB 3015 will be closed for business between the 8th and 11th February, both days included. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Post Office situated at 511, St.Paul’s Street, St.Paul’s Bay SPB 3416.

9th February

MaltaPost announced that the proceeds from an initiative it took during the Christmas period through which it promoted the ‘Letter from Santa’, were donated to the Inspire Foundation, an organisation which helps people with disabilities. The initiative encouraged parents, grandparents and guardians to help their children write and send a letter to Santa Claus. In return, against a minimal charge, the children received a personalised letter from “Santa Claus” himself.

26th February

MaltaPost informed the public, particularly its clients residing in St. Julian's and Pembroke, that the St. Julian's Post Office will as from Monday 29th February 2016 open every Saturday morning.

The new opening hours of St. Julians Post Office will be from Monday to Friday - 8.00am - 1.30pm and Saturday - 8.00am - 12.30pm

The Post Office is located at the centre of Paceville next to the Lombard Bank Malta premises. All postal services including collection of mail items, philately and numismatic products, encashment of Central Bank of Malta cheques, local and international money transfers, as well as a selection of postcards are available at this Post Office.

4th March

Eleven Excellence awards were presented to MaltaPost staff members in recognition for their hard work and outstanding performance in 2015 during the Company's Annual Staff meeting

The awards were presented by MaltaPost's chairman Mr Joseph Said together with MaltaPost's Chief Executive Officer Joseph Gafa', who congratulated the winners whilst thanking all the Company's staff for their hard work throughout 2015.

The awards presented were as follows:

Employee of the year award 2015 - Sean Zammit

Operational Awards:

Best Employee Delivery - John Borg

Best Employee Central Mail Room - Best CMR Team: Carol Portelli, Noah Galea Xuereb, Sean Briffa

Best Employee Courier - Alan Zammit

Remarkable Achievement Award - Document Management Section, Human Resources

Best Postal Area Group - Qormi Hub

Sales Awards:

Best Post Office - Qawra Branch

Best Employee Sales - Pierre Camilleri

Administration Awards:

Best Employee Administration - Alexander Sammut

Other Awards:

Best Corporate Social Responsibility Award - San Ġwann Hub

Long Service Award - Brian Sciriha, Stefan Micallef, Francis Chetcuti, Colin Mangion,

Silvio Debono, Paul Massa, Rose Abela, Joseph Briffa

7th March

MaltaPost informed the public that the letterbox situated in Triq Luret Cutajar, Ħaż-Żebbug was permanently relocated to Triq is-Sigġiewi in the same locality.

17th March

It was announced that on the 24th March MaltaPost will be issuing *The Grandmasters' Collection*, initially publicized by the Philatelic Bureau on 24th August 2015, the design of which replicates in pure silver foil the Grand Masters' postage stamps' set that was released in 2014. Although intended as a philatelic issue, it was reiterated by MaltaPost in its Media Communication that the silver foil "stamps", each bearing a face value of €14.15, may be used for postage. The issue is only available as a full collection and is limited to just 650 sets. It is housed in a presentation box with each silver foil stamp in a capsule, together with a complete set of the 2014 postage stamp issue plus an additional silver foil image of an antique map of the Maltese Islands. The collection also includes a magnifying glass and a special publication giving a profile of each grandmaster that served in Malta.

MaltaPost reserved the right to limit/reduce order quantities so as to satisfy the largest number of clients possible.

24th March

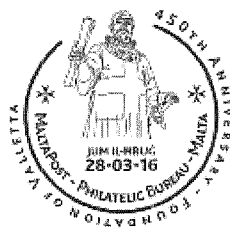
MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at "Future Focus", 9, Triq l-Imħażen, Floriana FRN 1118 will be closed for business on Saturday, 26th March. The public was advised that as an alternative it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Sub Post Office at "C@C" Trejqa tal-Fleur de Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580.

In its second Media Communication for the day, MaltaPost announced that on 28th March it will be commemorating the 450th Anniversary of the foundation of Valletta with the release of a miniature sheet bearing one stamp and depicting Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette together with a period map of the city of Valletta.

Conscious of the dangers to which the Order had been exposed during the Great

Siege of 1565, Grand Master de la Valette ordered that a new fortified city be built on a hill called Sheb-ir-ras. The Grand Master laid the city's first stone on 28th March 1566 with the new city being named "Valletta" in his honour.

The sheet which was designed by Sean Cini of MaltaPost, measures 123mm x 80mm and was printed by Printex Limited in offset on paper bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark with a print run consisting of 25,000 sheets. The stamp, which measures 35mm x 35mm with a perforation of 13.75 x 13.75 (comb.), bears a face value of €4.25.



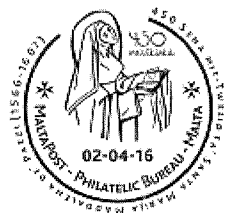
MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.2/2016).

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "450TH ANNIVERSARY – FOUNDATION OF VALLETTA" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the lower inner side. An outline drawing of the figure of La Valette is positioned at the centre of the handstamp, beneath which one finds the words noting the date of issue "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/28-03-16" in straight lines. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 344.

30th March

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative handstamp to mark the 450th anniversary of the birth of Santa Marija Maddalena de' Pazzi will be issued on Saturday 2nd April.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "450 SENA MIT-TWELID TA' SANTA MARIJA MADDALENA DE' PAZZI (1566 – 1607)" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the lower inner side. The words "450/ANNIVERSARJU" flank an outline drawing of the saint positioned at the centre of the handstamp beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line "02-04-16". This handstamp was not in use as an operational marking but is purely a "philatelic" product in nature, impressions of which could be ordered from the philatelic bureau.



7th April

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 will be closed for business between the 9th and the 11th April, both days included. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services

provided from the Post Office at 100, Triq il-Mithna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107.

12th April

MaltaPost informed the public that in its effort to continue to increase the number of parcel collection points in order to offer added convenience and flexibility to customers, as from 18th April clients who are not found at home to receive postal items that require a signature or ċo not fit into their letterbox will be able to conveniently pick up such mail items from an additional four Sub Post Offices to those already offering this service. The Sub Post Offices joining the list are those in Gudja, Mqabba, Qrendi and Tarxien, namely:

“CND Stationery”, 144, Vjal it Torri, GUDJA GDJ 1704

12, “Alessio’s Old Cottage”, Parish Street, MQABBA, MQB 1511

“Papel Stationery”, Triq is-Salvatur, QRENDI QRD 1701

16, “Forex”, Market Square, TARXIEN, TXN 1951

Customers living in these and other localities may now choose to transfer any mail items that would have been previously undelivered to one of these Sub Post Offices.

MaltaPost reminded customers that each Sub Post Office has its own opening hours, details of which are available on-line at www.maltapost.com/outlets.

13th April

In a Media Communication issued today it was announced that on 15th April, MaltaPost will join other postal administrations to mark initiatives by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which, since 1961 has sought to conserve wildlife by engaging science and working closely with local communities. This was being done through the release of a “philatelic” miniature sheet bearing four stamps and themed “Endangered Species”



The issue illustrates the Shearwater, a bird that is commonly seen along the Maltese shores. The generic term ‘Shearwater’ describes the birds’ habit of gliding on stiff wings along the troughs of waves. The sheet was designed in-house by MaltaPost based on photography by Fran Trabalon. The four different stamps comprised in the sheet, which overall measures 120mm x 80mm, each bear a face value of €0.75, and have a comb perforation of 13.75 x 13.75. Each stamp measures 35mm x 35mm. Printex Limited printed the sheet in offset on Maltese Cross watermarked paper. The issue consists of 25,200 sheets.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.3/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “WWF – ENDANGERED SPECIES” bordering on the outside of the ring at the right, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUGĠ/15-04-16” below an outline drawing of a shearwater are positioned at the centre of the handstamp.

The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 345. An article in the on-line version of *The Times of Malta* of the 14th April reported that the set has been praised by the CEO of BirdLife Malta Mark Sultana, though he was disappointed with errors in the finer details of the explanatory literature released by MaltaPost. Mr. Sultana is reported to have pointed out that “Shearwater” is not a “species” and that the bird depicted on the stamps is not a “Ciefa” (Scopoli’s Shearwater) as stated, but a “Garnija” (Yelkouan Shearwater).

21st April

On the occasion of the 275th anniversary from the arrival of the titular statue of Saint George in the Parish of Qormi, MaltaPost notified that on Saturday 23rd April a commemorative postmark will be in use at the Qormi Post Office.



The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “275 SENA MILL – WASLA TAL – ISTATWA TITULARI TA’ SAN ĠORĠ MARTRI” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST - QORMI - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the lower inner side. The years “1741 - 2016” flank an outline rendition of the statue’s head, positioned at the centre of the handstamp, beneath which was placed the commemorative date in a straight line “23-04-16”.

29th April

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at Tunny Net Souvenir Shop in Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa MLH 1107, will be re-opening for business as from Sunday 1st May. The Sub Post Office had been temporarily closed as of 31st October, 2015.

4th May

Today MaltaPost announced its issue of this year’s set in the Europa series on the 9th May.

Once again, this year’s set comprises two stamps, one bearing a face value of €0.59 and the other €2.19. The €0.59 stamp, which intends to highlight the fact

that ensuring a cleaner planet is a common responsibility of all, was designed by Doxias Sergidou of Cyprus Post and was chosen from among twenty-four other designs in a competition organized by PostEurop. The €2.19 stamp was designed in-house by MaltaPost’s designer Sean Cini, and complements the idea of his Cypriot counterpart in that the stamp aims to convey this message in a Maltese context, highlighting the importance of engendering a “green mentality”. The stamp sheets of both values measure 158mm x 150mm and each bears eleven stamps, with the top row of the four rows in each sheet containing a label bearing both the MaltaPost and the Europa 2016 logos. Each stamp measures 44.0mm x 31.0mm and has a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. Printex Ltd has printed the stamps in offset on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper while the issue consists of 52,800 stamps of the €0.59 and 35,200 of the €2.19 stamp values. The €0.59 value stamp was also issued as a minisheet made up of five stamps in two rows of three in booklet format (N^o. 21), with the first position in the sheet being taken up by the “Think Green” label.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.4/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “EUROPA – THINK GREEN” bordering on the outside of the ring at the right, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/09-05-16” in straight lines below an outline rendition of the Ta’ Kola windmill are positioned at the centre of the handstamp with the upper section of the design overlapping the ring at the top. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 346.

5th May

Today MaltaPost notified its use of an occasion postmark in remembrance of San Ġorġ Preca on Friday 6th May at the Victoria Post Office in Gozo. The occasion for the issue was the unveiling of a life-size bronze statue, the work of artist Manwel Farrugia, installed in a niche on the façade of St. James Church in Independence Square, Victoria.



The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “GĦAWDEX IFAKKAR LILL DUN ĠORĠ – KNISJA SAN ĠAKBU” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST - VICTORIA – GOZO – MALTA *” bordering the ring on the lower inner side. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/05-05-16” in straight lines below an outline image of Saint George holding baby Jesus in his left arm, emulating the statue, next to the three hills symbolizing Gozo are positioned at the centre of the handstamp.

9th May

Today MaltaPost announced that between 12th and 14th May it will be participating in the annual German Stamp Fair held in Essen. For the event the Philatelic Bureau will issue an Occasion Card (N^o. 41) portraying the Branched Asphodel, a flower found in the Maltese Islands, from the stamp issue “Maltese Flora” that was released earlier this year. The Philatelic Bureau informed that the Occasion Card will be available for sale in mint and cancelled condition as from Thursday 12th May.



In addition, MaltaPost will also issue a Personalised Stamp/Cover and Personalised Stamps featuring the Essen stamp exhibition logo.

To complement the philatelic items, an occasion postmark will also be in use. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “PHILATELIC EXHIBITION – ESSEN 2016” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU – MALTA *” bordering the ring on the lower inner side. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUGĠ/12-14.05.16” below the Essen 2016 logo are found positioned in straight lines at the centre of the handstamp.

10th May

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost issued an announcement under the signature of the company’s secretary Graham G. Fairclough stating that “At a meeting of the Board of Directors of MaltaPost p.l.c. held on 10 May 2016, the Board approved the attached Unaudited Condensed Interim Financial Statements for the six month period ended 31 March 2016.

These Unaudited Interim Financial Statements for the period ended 31 March 2016, are available for viewing and download from the Company’s website www.maltapost.com”

In the review on performance it is stated that MaltaPost registered a profit before tax of €1.7 million for the six months ended 31 March 2016 (2015: €2.5 million). The results for this half-year are in line with projections as one-off items recorded in the six months ending March 2015 were not repeated in the period under review.

20th May

MaltaPost announced that in collaboration with Russian Post, both postal administrations will be marking their respective countries’ long-standing relations by the release of a joint stamp issue on the 24th May. The common theme chosen for this stamp issue relates to two paintings by Russian artist Nicholas Krassnoff, which



respectively portray the view of the Birgu Waterfront in Malta and the Dulber Palace in Crimea. Born in 1869, Nicholas Krasnoff was a painter, an architect and an author of many Yalta cultural objects. In the period 1920-1922 he lived in Malta, where he took up watercolour painting and graphic art.

The set was designed by Marka, Russian Post. The stamp sheets measure 158mm x 166mm and each bear ten stamps, five showing the Malta and five the Russian scene in an alternating sequence. The top and bottom row of the three rows making up each sheet also include a label. Each stamp measures 31.0mm x 44.0mm and has a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. Printex Ltd has printed the stamps in offset on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper with the issue consisting of a total of 85,000 stamps, each with a face value of €1.00.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.5/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “Malta – Russia Joint Stamp Issue” bordering on the outside of the ring at the right, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUG/24-05-16” in straight lines below an outline rendition of a brush and palette are positioned at the centre of the handstamp with the upper section of the design overlapping the ring at the top. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 347.

26th May

Today MaltaPost released two Media Communications. In the first it informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Papel Stationery”, 1, Triq is-Salvatur, Qrendi QRD 1701 will be temporarily closed for business on Wednesday 1st June. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following alternative Postal Outlets:

Post Office - 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Żurrieq ŻRQ 1088

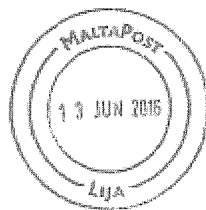
Sub Post Office – “Alessio Old Cottage”, 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511

The second communication informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Alessio Old Cottage”, 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511 will also be temporarily closed between 31st May and 9th June, both days included. During this period customers residing in Mqabba were requested to collect their mail items from the Żurrieq Post Office.

It is to be noted that an oversight must have been made in the first communication when the Mqabba Sub Post Office was proposed as an alternative, this being closed on the day in question (1st June) as announced in the second communication.

10th June

MaltaPost announced the opening of a new Post Office situated at 2, Triq Mikelanġ Borg, Hal Lija LJA 1440 (ex-Garfield Stationery). This Post Office shall replace the one which was situated at 153, MTP Branch, Triq il-Kbira, Balzan BZN 1000.

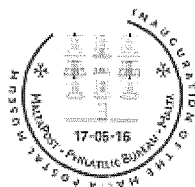


The Post Office will be open as from 13th June and shall offer all postal services including collection of mail items, insurance of mail, selling of philatelic products, bill payments, encashment of social security cheques, One4All Gift Vouchers and international money transfers. This Post Office is located in the centre of Hal Lija and will particularly serve residents in Hal Lija and Hal Balzan. The new Post Office in Hal Lija will be open from Monday to Saturday between 7.30 am and 12.45 pm.

A double ring postmark with “MALTAPOST” and “LIJA” separated by single line spacers in between the rings, and the date in a straight line in the centre of the inner ring, is being used to cancel frankings. The postmark is applied by means of a self-inking rubber date handstamp.

15th June

For the occasion of the inauguration of the Malta Postal Museum MaltaPost notified that it will be issuing an occasion handstamp, impressions of which could be ordered from the philatelic bureau.



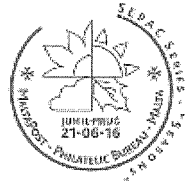
The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “INAUGURATION OF THE MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the lower inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of the façade of the building housing the museum, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “17-06-16”. This handstamp was not in use as an operational marking but is purely a “philatelic” product in nature.

16th June

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Alessio Old Cottage”, 12, Triq il-Paroċċa, Imqabba MQB 1511 will be temporarily closed on 17th and 18th June afternoon and full day on 20th June. The public was advised that as an alternative it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Post Office at 8 St.Catherine Street, Żurrieq, ŻRQ 1088.

17th June

Today MaltaPost announced that its issue of the seventh set in the SEPAC series will take place on Tuesday 21st June. This year's theme for the SEPAC collection is "Seasons", and the participating member postal administrations will be presenting stamps which illustrate scenery from their country during different times of the year.



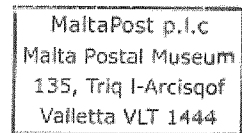
Malta's set consists of four stamps bearing face values of €0.26, €0.51, €0.59 and €2.00. Spring is represented by the €0.26 stamp and illustrates a woman dressed in a Maltese folk costume against the background of Gozo's "Cittadella". Summer is represented on the €0.51 value with an illustration of "Għajn Tuffieħa", a sandy beach located on the northwest coast of Malta, while autumn is shown on the €0.59 stamp which features a young lady at Buskett Wood with "Verdala Palace" in the background. The €2.00 depicts winter, featuring "Ghar id-Dud" in Sliema on a cold stormy day. The €0.59 value bears the official SEPAC logo and will be included in the joint folder to be issued by all SEPAC members.

The stamps were designed by Tony Calleja. Each stamp measures 31.0mm x 44.0mm and has a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. Overall, the Maltese Crosses watermarked sheets measure 185mm x 118mm with each containing ten stamps. Printex Limited printed the stamps through the offset process and the issue consists of 1,400,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 130,000 of the €0.51 stamp, 700,000 of the €0.59 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.6/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "SEPAC SERIES – "SEASONS"" bordering on the outside of the ring at the right, and " * MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The words "JUM IL-HRUG' 21-06-16" in straight lines below an outline design depicting a flower, the sun, a leaf and a cloud representing the four seasons are positioned at the centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 348.

20th June

In a Media Communication released by MaltaPost today, it announced that on 17th June, the Malta Postal Museum was officially inaugurated by H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta.



This new heritage attraction is housed in a restored townhouse at 135, Archbishop Street, Valletta VLT 1444 and includes items of postal history within a display of

documents and artefacts.

This investment is supported by EU funding and ensures that the museum is equipped to offer visitors a comprehensive, informative and enjoyable experience for all the family. The dedicated kids' area on the upper floor welcomes children to 'play' the postman, watch an educational audio visual or design artwork for their own stamps. An engaging programme for schools linked to the educational curriculum is also being developed to welcome school children of all ages. "Peppi Pustier", a character designed by Fabio Agius in collaboration with Sean Cini, is the mascot of the Malta Postal Museum.

For art and culture lovers, the museum holds two galleries which showcase temporary exhibitions. The first exhibition includes the artworks of Malta's foremost stamp designer Emvin Cremona. The museum also includes a shop with specifically designed merchandise, inspired by the rich legacy of the post and the museum's own collection.

The Malta Postal Museum opened for visitors with effect from today, Monday 20th June 2016. The opening hours are from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, the museum shall be open for visitors from 10.00 am till 2 00 pm.



It is to be noted that posting facilities are available at the premises. In this connection a postmark consisting of a double ring with "MALTAPOST" and "MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM – VALLETTA" separated by single line spacers in between the rings, and the date in a straight line in the centre of the inner ring, is being used to cancel frankings. The postmark is applied by means of a self-inking rubber date handstamp.

30th June

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. MaltaPost issued an Announcement regarding the appointment of Mr. Adrian Vassallo as Chief Operating Officer as from 1st July 2016. Mr Vassallo previously occupied the Post of Head - Business Process Design since 22nd December 2015.

7th July

In a Media Communication released today by MaltaPost, it was announced that a stamp in the Euromed series with a face value of €3.59 was being issued on 9th July. This year's Euromed joint issue theme is "Fish in the Mediterranean". The Maltese stamp depicts the Lampuka, also known with the names of Dorado Fish and Dolphin Fish, and was designed by Richard J. Caruana. Each



stamp measures 44.0mm x 31.0mm and has a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. Overall, the Maltese Crosses watermarked sheets measure 108mm x 185mm and each contains ten stamps. Printex Limited printed the stamps through the offset process and the issue consists of 52,000 copies.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.7/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “EUROMED POSTAL – “FISH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN”” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUG/9-07-16” in straight lines are to be found below an outline design depicting a Lampuka positioned at the centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 349.

8th July

Today MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Offices at “Midas”, 34, Marsacala Seafront, Marsascala, MSK 2113 and “Not Just Stationery”, Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, BKR 4250 will no longer operate as Sub Post Offices with immediate effect: Marsascala residents were advised that as an alternative they could make use of the postal services provided from the Post Office situated in Civic Centre, Triq il-Kunvent Żabbar ŻBR 1351. As regards Swatar, residents were advised to use the postal services provided from the following Postal Outlets:

- Post Office - 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara, BKR 9013;
- Sub Post Office – “Oreana Stationery”, 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara, BKR 4532;
- Sub Post Office – “Landau Stationery”, 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara, BKR 9085;
- Sub Post Office – “D Spiral”, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara, BKR 2691.

18th July

Following the launch of SendOn hubs in the UK, Italy, Germany and USA, thousands of Maltese consumers are making use of the service and are now particularly shopping from European and USA online brands which do not ship directly to Malta. To continue improving on this customer experience, MaltaPost announced that it has now launched Easipik, a parcel locker solution for shoppers on the go who are not at home to receive their items. With Easipik, customers may collect their SendOn shopping 24/7 from a number of lockers which are conveniently located around Malta.

To utilise these lockers, before shopping online, customers are to log on to their

SendOn account and choose one of the parcel lockers located in various Post Offices as their delivery address. When the parcel is ready for collection, the customer will receive an email and sms with a code which should be keyed into the parcel locker screen in order to release the item.

26th July

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Iklin Stationery’, 89, Triq Ċensu Busuttill, Iklin IKL 1200 will be closed between the 1st and 15th August.

During this period, Iklin residents were requested to collect their mail items from the Post Office at 2, Triq Mikelaġ Borg, Lija LJA 1440.

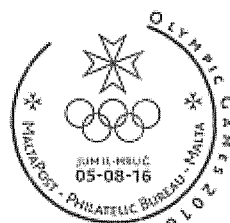
27th July

It was announced that on 5th August, MaltaPost was to issue a stamp set entitled ‘Olympic Games 2016 - Rio De Janeiro’. These stamps will be commemorating the commencement of this year’s Olympic Games due to be held in Rio De Janeiro between the 5th and 21st of August.

Over 10,000 athletes will be participating in this year’s Olympics. Malta will take part in four sport disciplines, namely shooting, swimming, athletics and weight lifting. These disciplines are being depicted on the four stamps issued for the occasion. Sean Cini of MaltaPost designed the stamps.

The stamps carry a face value of €0.42, €0.62, €0.90 and €1.55. The stamps were offset printed by Printex Ltd and the issue consists of 100,000 of the €0.42 stamp and 52,000 of each of the other denominations. The stamp sheets are made up of ten stamps and each stamp measures 35mm by 35mm with a perforation of 13.75 x 13.75 (comb) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. Each sheet measures 240mm by 99mm.

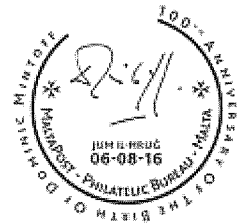
MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.8/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “OLYMPIC GAMES 2016” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/05-08-16” in straight lines are to be found below an outline design of a Maltese Cross above the Olympic rings at the centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 350.



4th August

MaltaPost announced that on 6th August it will mark the 100th Anniversary from

the birth of former Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff by the release of a stamp issue. Born in Cospicua on 6th August 1916, Dominic Mintoff was known for his extensive and distinguished political career in Malta which included a number of terms as Prime Minister.



The stamp shows Dom Mintoff in a classical photographic portrait and bears a face value of €3.00. Printex Limited printed the stamp by the offset process and the print run is limited to 50,000 stamps which were printed on Maltese Crosses watermark paper. The stamp measures 31mm by 44mm and has a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 comb. The sheets which are made up of ten stamps measure 185mm by 115mm.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamp on the first day of issue (on FDC No.9/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF DOMINIC MINTOFF” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/06-08-16” in straight lines are to be found below the signature of Dom Mintoff positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 351.

Complementing this issue, MaltaPost and the Central Bank of Malta also launched a joint product consisting of a silver foil stamp replica and a commemorative coin. The silver foil stamp replica depicts the €3.00 postage stamp from the “100th Anniversary of the Birth of Dominic Mintoff” stamp issue in full colour. The silver coin depicts Mintoff’s portrait and has a diameter of 38.61mm with a face value of €10.00. The price for the silver foil stamp was €25.00 while that for the combined silver stamp and coin was €85.00.

8th August

For the occasion of the 40th anniversary from the laying of the first foundation stone of the premises of the Victory Philharmonic Society of Xagħra, MaltaPost issued an occasion hand stamp which was used at the Xagħra Gozo Post Office. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “SOĊ. FIL. VICTORY XAGħRA - ĠĦAWDEX” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – XAGħRA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the lower inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of the Society’s logo, beneath which are the words “45 SENA/ANNIVERSARJU TA’/L-EWWEL GEBLA/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ//08-08-16”. The use of this handstamp was not pre announced.



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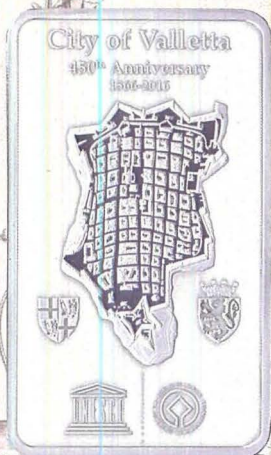


Silver Issue Commemorating 450th Anniversary of the City of Valletta 1566 - 2016

Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c. is issuing a limited edition silver ingot to commemorate the 450th Anniversary of the City of Valletta. The ingot is struck in 999.0 Fine Silver being practically the purest possible level of silver content. Each ingot is individually numbered and the issue is limited to a maximum of 2,000 pieces.

Technical details:

Design:	As per images below
Weight:	100 grams
Composition:	999.0 Fine Silver
Dimensions:	35mm x 60mm x 4,53mm
Condition:	Brilliant Uncirculated (Proof-like)
Issue limit:	2,000 individually numbered
Packing:	Boxed + Certificate of Authenticity
Price (VAT included):	€110.00



Obverse



Reverse

(actual size)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



City of Valletta
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1998

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For online ordering: www.maltacoins.com



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