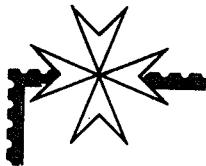


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WW2 NAZI AND FASCIST MALTA PROPAGANDA POSTCARDS

by
Giovanni Bonello

In the Second World War (WW2) the Axis powers strove to conquer or subdue Malta by siege, starvation and intense bombardment, but then they also used Malta as a propaganda tool for internal consumption. Their publicity services promoted the publication of a number of morale-boosting postcards; both Germany and Italy being run as dictatorships, what the authorities allowed to be published had to conform to an agenda strictly at the service of a centralized authority. Publishers had greater freedom as to what to put on the market in the democratic Allied powers though, during wartime, censorship became quite as rigid in the Allied democracies as it was in the Nazi-Fascist totalitarian states. As postal services between belligerent countries are usually suspended for the duration of hostilities, these postcards were only meant to circulate inside the respective war zones or neutral states and could not reach enemy territory.

The number of postcards featuring Malta published in Italy and Germany during WW2 never reached high levels, and I will here try to illustrate and review those I am aware of. Many are quite scarce, others extremely rare.

Fascist Italy

These postcards fall under two main groupings: military propaganda and political promotion.

WW2 thankfully did not result in an invasion of the island by Nazi-Fascist armed forces, though this was always on the cards and serious preparations for a massive airborne conquest went into it, only to be repeatedly stalled at the last moment, mostly through Adolf Hitler's changes of heart. Apart from an assault on Grand Harbour by Italian E-boats and human torpedoes on July 26, 1941, the war action consisted mainly in air attacks on Malta by the *Regia Aeronautica*; the postcards record some of these episodes. Considering the impressive amount of Italian, German and conjoint raids, the number of postcards triggered by the blitz is not remarkable.

It would only be historically fair to here set straight a common misconception, born of ignorance and fostered by war propaganda – the cowardice and ineptitude of Italian wartime pilots. The truth was exactly the opposite: that British airmen feared and respected Italian pilots far more than they did German ones. All serious military scholars who have tackled the issue dispassionately agree that Italian pilots

generally showed astounding valour against all odds.

George Beurling, the legendary Canadian ace based on Malta, destined to become one of the greatest flying myths of the WW2, did not mince his words about the Eyeties (Italians) and the Jerries (Germans) who the Allied pilots had to fight. “The Eyeties are comparatively easy to shoot down. Oh, they’re brave enough. In fact, I think the Eyeties have more courage than the Germans. They will stick it even if things are going against them, whereas the Jerries will run”.¹

On another occasion, Beurling worded his thoughts differently: “The Jerrie are probably better overall pilots than the Italians, but they certainly let the Eyeties do their fighting for them when the going got tough”.²

It was the Italians’ inferior equipment and weaponry that crippled their air force, not the valour of its pilots. “The Italians were let down badly in the matter of their equipment. Only about half of their bombs went off, and those that did went ‘pop’ instead of ‘bang’. Badly made, undersized bombs blunted their attacks and poor guns their defensive powers. Their armament was very bad altogether. I’d blame the armaments, not the individuals”.³ Beurling summarized the difference in these words: “the Italians and Germans were viewed as different species entirely by the Malta-based pilots. George thought the Italians brave and obviously skilled pilots, but not good marksmen. The Germans, on the other hand, tended to fight only if they had a superior tactical position; if the odds were against them, they soon made themselves scarce”.⁴

Wing Commander George Burges, resplendent in his *Faith, Hope and Charity* renown, expressed exactly the same judgement as Beurling: “The average Italian pilot had more courage in the face of opposition than many of his Luftwaffe counterparts. I found that the Germans were far more willing to break formation and leg it back home. Most German fighter pilots had far less stomach for individual combat, man to man, than the pilots of the *Macchis* and CR 42”. Burges boasted of “many exciting personal combats with Italian fighter pilots, as did most of the pilots of the Fighter Flight”. The Germans, Burges added, “preferred to stay in large packs at a great height, with occasional sorties to attack defenceless men, women and children on the inland roads of Malta, or to pick up a wounded straggler in a damaged Hurricane or Spitfire”.⁵

And another source confirms this in full: “The RAF pilots had a higher regard for the Italian pilots who would ‘stay and mix it’ even if the odds were against

¹ Dan Maccaffery, *Air Aces*, Toronto, 1990, p. 127.

² George Beurling, Leslie Roberts, *Malta Spitfire*, London, 1943, p. 140.

³ Wing Commander George Burges, quoted in Poolman, see *infra*.

⁴ James Holland, *Fortress Malta*, Orion, 2003, p. 350.

⁵ Kenneth Poolman, *Faith, Hope and Charity*, London, 1954, pp. 96 -98.

them, unlike the gallant Luftwaffe who had a tendency to turn tail and run if they did not have all the cards stacked in their favour".⁶

And, as to the effectiveness of Italian air force bombing over Malta, the Commander in Chief Mediterranean, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, had this to record: "It is not too much to say of those early months that the Italian high-level bombing was the best I have ever seen, far better than the German ... I shall always remember it with respect".⁷

Fig. 1

Portrait of Carmelo Borg Pisani, the Maltese from Senglea born in 1914 who went to Rome to study painting; when WW2 broke out he remained in Italy, renouncing his British passport and assuming Italian citizenship. He consented to be landed in Malta by submarine on May 18, 1942, to spy for the Italian High Command. The British almost instantly captured him, tried him for treason and hanged him on November 28, 1942. Celebrated as a hero by the Axis powers and reviled as a traitor by the Allies.

This postcard was published in 1943 by the *Fascio di Malta*, an organization of Italian fascists in Italy with a Malta connection, and was printed by the leading house of Rizzoli & Co of Milan. The imprint states that Borg Pisani was executed by firing squad, but this only confirms the poor level of information reaching the Italian intelligence services from Malta. This card enjoyed a large print run.



CARMELO BORG PISANI
eroe e martire dell'Indebolimento maltese, nato a Senglea nel 1914, militante del Direttorio del fascio di Malta, volontario di guerra, tenente di Guardia, ucciso a morte, riconosciuto come eroe della patria, durante una rischiose missione di guerra cui si era offerto volontariamente, condannato a morte, affrontò il giudice di esecuzione al grido di "Viva l'Italia!"

Fig. 2

The 'Sette Giugno' monument erected at the Addolorata cemetery, to keep alive the memory of the victims shot during the popular anti-British uprisings (not revolution) of 1919. The Maltese artist Ganni Vella designed this memorial, and the Russian émigré sculptor Boris Edwards executed it. The *Comitato d'Azione Maltese*, an organization of pro-Italian Maltese in Italy who promoted, even during the war, the Italian destiny of Malta, took the initiative of publishing this postcard. It was printed in Milan by the Tipografia C. Luini.



⁶ www.forums.ubi.com/eve/forums

⁷ David Wragg, *Malta, the Last Great Siege*, Leo Cooper, 2003, p. 45.

Fig. 3

A photographic view of Grand Harbour from the Upper Baracca, printed in olive green. It was distributed by the insurance company *Societa' Reale Mutua di Assicurazioni* of Turin, and, like all war propaganda, has a large *VINCERE* printed across its back.



Fig. 4

Coloured postcard with a relief map of Malta and Gozo issued specifically for the Italian armed forces, printed by *Novissima, Roma*. It has a large diagonal *VINCERE* in grey on the back. The place names of the islands are given in a curious mixture of Maltese, Italian and English. While the graphic designer drew the coastal outlines quite accurately, the internal reliefs are mostly fanciful.



Fig. 5

Another coloured postcard in the same series intended specifically for the Italian armed forces. It shows the Mediterranean and the surrounding countries, with two sizeable insets outlining the Maltese islands, and Valletta together with the harbour areas. Large diagonal *VINCERE* on the back.



Fig. 6

A sepia postcard showing two Italian planes dropping bombs over Valletta and the harbour areas. This deckled-edged postcard formed part of a larger series officially issued by the *Regia Aeronautica*. The airplane is a *Cant Z 1007*, the *Alcione*, a medium bomber often used in air raids over Malta. The inscription on the back, in translation, reads: "Our bombers, despite the anti-aircraft reaction, release their bombs with certainty and precision over the harbor of Malta (Valletta)".



Fig. 7

A coloured postcard showing an air battle over Malta between Italian and British airplanes. The inscription on the back specifies that this episode occurred on July 25, 1941, at a height of 7500 metres. The plane in the foreground, with the prominent yellow nose, is a *Macchi C.200 'Saetta'*, while the British fighters were *Hawker Hurricanes*. *VINCERE* printed on the back, which also specifies that the image is based on a painting by C. Magnaghi and P. Brolis.



A Maltese version of this air battle recounts: "Two 'recce' (reconnaissance) planes and a large number of fighters came over in the early hours of this morning and one of the most spectacular of all the air combats witnessed in Malta's skies ensued. A shot-down *Macchi 200* crashed in Kingsway and ended in a cloud of thick dust. The pilot bailed out but was killed. One other Italian pilot is picked up alive".⁸

An Italian source proves more lavish with details: "On the morning of July 25, 1941, a *Cant Z* photographic reconnaissance plane of the 30th Formation was sent to Valletta to photograph the English convoy 'Substance' which had berthed the day before. Some 40 *Macchi C.200* of the 54th Formation in Comiso and of the 10th Group in Gerbini were dispatched to escort the reconnaissance plane. When over Malta, about 30 *Hurricanes* attacked the formation: the three-engined plane fell in flames and two *Macchi* were shot down: that of Sub-lieutenant Liberti who died, and that of Lieutenant Di Giorgi. The pilots of the *Saettas* claimed four *Hurricanes*: two by Sergeant Major Magnaghi, one by Captain Gostini, and one by Sergeant Omiccioli, of the 98th Squadron".⁹

Italian sources state that the reconnaissance plane was sent to gather intelligence on the outcome of the British convoy. Considering that the E-Boat and human torpedo attack on Grand Harbour was planned for the following day, it is difficult not to speculate on the real reason for the reconnaissance.

The exceptional interest of this particularly rare postcard lies in the fact that the artwork was the joint effort of one of the pilots who took a leading part in that battle: Carlo Magnaghi, an ace aviator with eleven kills to his name, (died in action, May 13, 1944), and another airman, Piero Brolis (1920 – 1978), who later became a reputable painter and sculptor.

⁸ Michael Galea, *Malta, Diary of a War*, Malta, 1992, p. 66.

⁹ Wikipedia, *Macchi M.C.200*.

Fig. 8

A real photographic postcard showing Our Lady and the child Jesus blessing Italian planes, warships and submarines, with a flat land profile in the distant background. The military airplanes are dropping paratroopers for an invasion. Handwritten on the back is “Malta”; the card was probably produced in anticipation of the planned invasion of Malta by paratroopers and sea-borne commandos. It has a monogram, FB in a lozenge, both on the front and on the back. Clearly the heavens did not bless a war of aggression.



Fig. 9

A coloured card, showing Italian fighter planes swooping over Grand Harbour to attack a Maltese anti-aircraft position situated in the vicinity of the Upper Baracca. Rather crude artwork in bright colours. The card has an Italian flag in the lower part and the number 306 in a white circle. The inscription says “Italian planes bomb fortified positions in Malta”.



Nazi Germany

Fig. 10

A coloured postcard, based on a painting or watercolour, showing an attack by the Luftwaffe's *Stuka* dive-bombers, over Grand Harbour, with an Allied warship on fire in French Creek and black smoke billowing from a fuel storage depot. This card sends a transparent propaganda message: Germany is the dominant power. The card was published by Verlag Grieshaber & Säuberlich in Stuttgart.



Fig.11

A small black and white card, showing the same image as the Italian Fig. 6, but with one of the bomber planes airbrushed out of the picture. It forms part of a German set “The Second World War in Pictures”, Series 17, no 1.



Fig. 12

A real photographic postcard of a close-up of a German dive-bomber in flight: the Junkers Ju-87, popularly known as the *Stuka*. It carries the imprint “*Malta 20 Juli 1942*” in reverse printing in the lower left-hand corner. Although the intensity of the Axis blitz had reached its highest peak in July 1942, no air raids are recorded for July 20.¹⁰



Fig. 13

A German war propaganda postcard in colour derived from a signed painting (signature illegible). It shows a massed attack by Stuka dive bombers on a Malta harbor, with sticks of bombs falling and fires ablaze on land.



© Giovanni Bonello, 2017

¹⁰ Galea, *op. cit.*, p. 149 – 151.

Maltese maps on stamps

by

Joseph Schirò

Introduction

Cathy Moulder in her excellent article ‘Cartophilately: the world of maps in miniature’, says that philately and cartography are two interests which have a lot in common.¹ Cartophilately is the collection of postage stamps which display maps. In America there is even a CartoPhilatelic Society which has been active since 1955.

Being a collector of Malta maps, anything which has a Malta map on it immediately attracts my attention. This could be anything from simple advertising material to collectible items such as medals, postcards,² or stamps.

Malta has its fair share of Maltese maps on stamps and the following list of stamps were issued not only in Malta but also in Rome, in the Seychelles and in Curaçao. Most of the stamps were issued to commemorate an event which has had both historical and political significance. As an example, the outcome of the Great Siege of Malta of 1565 left such a political impact on the rest of Europe, that Malta was given the appellation of *Propugnaculum Europae*, the bulwark of Europe. It is also interesting to observe how the representation of Malta has changed from the crude round-shaped map of Quintinus, to the first fish-shaped map of Malta by Lafreri in 1551, to the more accurate map by De Fer in the early eighteenth century.

Stamp Issues

Malta

1962

A set of four stamps designed by Harrison and Sons was issued on 7 September 1962 to commemorate the Great Siege of Malta of 1565. The first stamp, with a face value of 2d, depicts the icon of the Madonna of Damascena acclaimed as the Protectress of Malta during the Great Siege and which is venerated at the Greek Catholic Church in Valletta. The second stamp, with a face value of 3d, depicts the bronze Great Siege Monument in Valletta, the work of one of the greatest Maltese sculptors, Antonio Sciortino. The



¹ Cathy Moulder, ‘Cartophilately: the world of maps in miniature’, *Bulletin de l’ACACC* (Association des Cartothèques et Archives Cartographiques du Canada), no. 143, 2013, 9-12.

² See Giovanni Bonello, ‘Maps of Malta as postcards’, *Histories of Malta: figments and fragments*, Vol. 2, Malta, 184-189.

third stamp, with a face value of 6d, depicts Grand Master La Valette's sarcophagus found in the crypt of St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. The illustrated fourth stamp, with a face value of 1s, shows the resistance of the knights of the Order of St John and the Maltese during the assault on Fort St Elmo. It is based on an engraving by Anton Francesco Lucini, found in an album of 16 engravings depicting the Great Siege, published in Bologna and Rome in 1630.

1966

The stamp, with a face value of 6d, is one of a set issued to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the city of Valletta in 1566. It was designed by the Maltese artist Emvin Cremona. As soon as the Great Siege of Malta of 1565 ended, Grand Master Jean Parisot de Valette began the construction of a fortified city next to and including Fort St Elmo. Before he could begin the actual construction he sought financial assistance from the Pope and the monarchs of France, Spain and Portugal. The Pope, in addition to financial assistance, also sent his official architect, Francesco Laparelli. The stamp shows a three-dimensional model of the city of Valletta with the architect-engineers, including Francesco Laparelli and Girolamo Cassar, discussing the plan of Valletta with the Grand Master at the top left corner.



1977

World Telecommunications Day in 1977 was celebrated with an issue of four stamps, with a face value of 1c, 6c, 8c, and 17c respectively. They were issued on 17 May 1977 and were designed by Harry Borg. Two of the stamps have a vertical design which show the geographical position of the Maltese archipelago in relation to the south of Italy, Sicily and North Africa. The other two stamps are designed horizontally and show a zoomed-in image of the islands of Malta and part of North Africa.



1989

Bush - Gorbachev meeting in Malta

To commemorate the Bush - Gorbachev meeting in Malta, a stamp designed by René Gomez, with a face value of 10c, was issued on 2nd December 1989. It shows a

portrait of Bush to the left and Gorbachev to the right. In between there is an outline map of the Maltese archipelago, the country where the meeting was held. There is disagreement among scholars and policy makers whether the outcome of the Malta Summit had any significance, but it will be always remembered for the stormy weather which engulfed the Maltese islands throughout the whole summit.

1990

British Authors stamp issue

In 1990 a four-stamp set was released to commemorate British authors who had a Malta connection. They were designed by Anton Grech and printed at Printex Malta. The first stamp was that of Samuel Taylor Coleridge who was in Malta in 1804-1805, with a face value of 4c, the second one, with a face value of 10c, was that of Lord Byron who was in Malta in 1809, 1811, the third stamp was that of Sir Walter Scott, with a face value of 12c, who was in Malta in 1831 and finally a stamp, with a face value of 25c, which shows William Makepeace Thackery who was in Malta in 1844. Lord Byron is shown with a plan of Valletta in the background oriented with north-east to the top. Lord Byron is remembered for his description of Malta “as an island of yells, bells, and smells”. It is recorded that the map is based on van der Aa’s *La galerie agréable du Monde*. The title of the map is *Valetta Civitas Nova Maltae olim Militiae*, published in Leiden in 1712.

The other stamp, which also has a map in the background, is that of Sir Walter Scott. Sir Walter Scott came to Malta for health reasons and, inspired by his stay, he penned the novel *The Siege of Malta*. The visit to a warmer climate did not do him much good as he passed away in



1832, one year after completing the book. It was never published until 2008. The background to Scott's portrait is a detail showing part of Valletta and the harbour area. It is not easy to say from which map the artist was inspired as there seems to have been artistic licence. The Valletta promontory however seems to be a scene taken from the Siege of Malta painted by Perez d'Aleccio and found at the Grand Masters Palace in Valletta.

2005

A set of four maps titled *Old Maps of Malta* was issued on January 19, 2005. The set was designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier after consultation with the foremost expert on the history of Maltese cartography, Dr Albert Ganado. The following maps were chosen and issued. The first one, with a face value of 1c of the old

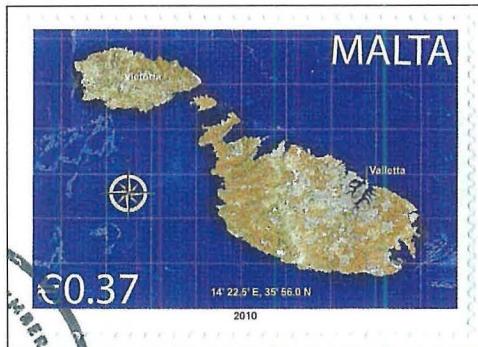
Maltese liri, is the Quintinus map which is found in the book by Joannes Quintinus titled *Insulae Melitae descriptio*, printed in 1536 in Lyon. The second map, with a face value of 12c, is a beautiful map of Malta printed by Antonio Lafreri in Rome in 1551. It shows the islands of Malta, Comino, Cominotto and Fifla, but only a small part of Gozo. The almost accurate shape of Malta became the standard for other cartographers, engravers and publishers. The third map, with a face value of 37c, is a map which shows the Great Siege of Malta of 1565 - one of the most momentous events in the history of these islands. It is taken from the series of siege frescos painted by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio and found at the Grand Masters Palace in Valletta. The fourth and last map, with a face value of Lm1.02c, is a manuscript map of Gozo, Comino, Cominotto and part of the Marfa peninsula on Malta. It was produced by the Maltese scholar and cartographer, Padre Luigi Bartolo in 1745, and forms part of the manuscript treatise *Il Gozo Antico-moderno e Sacro-profano, Isola Mediterranea adiacente a Malta Africana*, compiled by Gio. Pietro Francesco Agius de Soldanis.³



³ Albert Ganado, 'Maps of the island of Gozo (1630s-1907)', *A man of cultural achievements: essays in honour of Joseph Attard Tabone*, Mata, 2016, 33-34.

2010

This stamp, with a face value of 37c, showing a satellite photograph which was usable for the cartography of the Maltese archipelago, was issued in 2010. This stamp is often used in combination with other commemorative issues, such as the 50th anniversary issue of the Malta Philatelic Society in 2016.



2016

On the 450th anniversary of the foundation of Valletta, MaltaPost issued a commemorative miniature sheet on 28 March 2016. It was designed by Sean Cini and shows a detail of the map of Valletta titled *LES VILLES, FORTS ET CHATEAUX/DE MALTE. / 1724* found in Vertot's *Histoire des chevaliers hospitaliers de S. Jean*

de Jerusalem.... To the right is a portrait of Grand Master de Valette also taken from Vertot. The stamp, with a face value of €4.25c, shows a medal of Grand Master de Valette facing right. The reverse of the medal shows David decapitating Goliath with the motto *VNVS X. MILLIA* (one [against] ten thousand).⁴



Rome - The Sovereign Military Order of Malta

The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta is a legally-recognized sovereign subject and the Order maintains diplomatic relations with 106 states. Its two headquarter buildings in via Condotti, Rome, enjoy extraterritoriality, similar to embassies, and it maintains embassies in other countries. Enjoying this status, the Order releases its own passports, coins, and postage stamps. The Order issues several sets of stamps, through the *Poste Magistrali* and the following stamps depict maps of Malta. Until 2004 the stamps were denominated in the currency of the order which was *scudi*, *grani* and *tari*, but since 1 January 2005 the stamps have been denominated in euros.

⁴ H. Calleja Schembri, *Coins and medals of the Knights of Malta*, London, 1908, Pl.2, Fig. 2.

1966

In 1966 a set of nine stamps were issued with various themes, which include among others, the keyhole of Villa del Priorato di Malta, located on the Aventine Hill, through which one can see the dome of St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Another shows the icon of Our Lady of Phiermos, and a stamp, with a face value of 8 *grani*, which shows a plan of Valletta with a medal of Grand Master de Valette.



1968

In March 5, 1968 the *Poste Magistrali* issued a set of four stamps which show the seats of the Order in the past and in the present. The first stamp shows Jerusalem where the Order originated and had its first seat. It has a face value of 5 *grani*. The second stamp shows Rhodes where the Order operated from 1310–1523, with a face value of 15 *grani*. The third stamp with a face value of 2 *tari*, shows the island of Malta of which the Order was Sovereign from 1530 to 1798 until the Order was expelled during the French occupation. The last stamp with a face value of 1 *scudo* shows a map of Italy and the various places where it temporarily resided until it settled definitively in Rome.



1989

In October 17, 1989 the Order issued a set of commemorative stamps joined horizontally with a face value of 5 *scudi*, 3 *scudi* and 2 *scudi* respectively. The occasion was the meeting in Malta of all the Associations of the Order which came from all the world. The Convention was held from 17 to 23 October 1989. The first stamp of 5 *scudi* shows the coat of arms of the late Grand Master Fra' Andrew Bertie, the second map with a face value of 2 *scudi* shows an outline map of the territory of Malta, and the third stamp shows two hands clasping above the legend *Raduno Mondiale dei Cavalieri – Malta – Ottobre 1989*.



1996

On 29 April 1996, the *Poste Magistrali* issued a blocksheet of four stamps of 4 *scudi* with a total face value of 16 *scudi* of a map of central Mediterranean showing Corsica, Sardegna, Malta and the northern coast of Africa. It is titled *Seconda Campagna Fatta Dalli Navi S. Giovanni e S. Giorgio L'Anno MDCCXXXI* (1731). It deals with the exploits of the galleys San Giovanni and San Giorgio from 30 September to 8 December in the Central Mediterranean. It is a manuscript map which is found in a private collection.



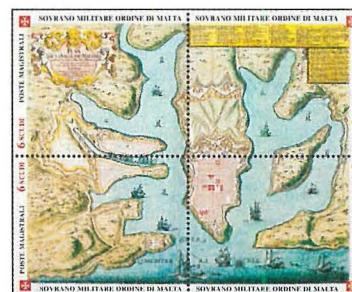
1999

A very beautiful set of three stamps, joined horizontally, were issued in March 1, 1999 with the title *Nove Secoli di Vita dell'Ordine* and all have a face value of 6 *scudi*. The first stamp shows a map of Jerusalem by Sebastiano Paoli and engraved by Giovanni Petroschi. The title of the map is *Regno di Gerusalemme in tempo delle Guerre Sagre...* and is dedicated to the Grand Master Fra' Antoine Manoel de Vilhena (1722-1736). It was published in the *Codice Diplomatico del Sacro Militare Ordine Gerosolimitano oggi di Malta di Sebastiano Pauli* (sic), Lucca 1733. In the book there is also a map of Malta titled *Isola di Malta e Gozzo*. The central stamp depicts a map of the Maltese islands by the cartographers Henri Michelot and Laurens Bremond. The engraving is attributed to P. Starckman. It has an inset map of Valletta at the top right corner and a beautiful cartouche at the top left corner with the title *Nouvelle Carte de L'isle de Malthe*. It was published in 1718 and was sold in Marseille. The last stamp depicts three different maps of Rhodes.



2002

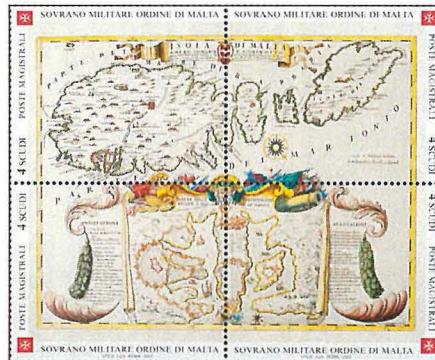
A blocksheet of four stamps of 6 *scudi* with a total face value of 24 *scudi*, was issued in October 2002. It shows a plan of Valletta and the Three Cities and the title of the map is *Plan de la Ville de Malthe - Ses forts, ses Nouvelles Fortifications*. The map was prepared by Nicolas de Fer (1646-1720)



and reissued by Guillaume Danet (c.1670-1732) in Paris in 1723. But the original cartographer was Nicolas de Langres (fl.1600s).

2003

In October 13, 2003 the Sovereign Order issued a blocksheet of four stamps of 4 *scudi* with a total face value of 16 *scudi*. It depicts a very attractive map titled *ISOLA DI MALTA / GOZZO COMINO E COMINOTO / cauata dalle piu recenti notitie, e data in luce da Gio. Giacomo de Rossi / dalle sue stampe in Roma alla Pace con Priu. Del S. Pont.e l'anno 1686*. The map of Malta is in the upper half of the sheet, while a large plan of the harbour area with a key to place-names inside a baroque cartouche, is in the lower half of the sheet. Giovanni Giacomo De Rossi (1627-1691) was an Italian printer and publisher active in 17th century Rome.



2008

In May 26, 2008 the Sovereign Order issued once again a blocksheet of four stamps of €1.50 each, with a total face value of €6.00. It depicts all the islands of the Maltese archipelago and is titled *L'ISLE DE MALTE / Et ceteres de GOZE et de COMINO....* Along the foot of the map are three lines of coats of arms of grandmasters from Fra Gerard (c.1040–1120) to Ramon Perellos (1697-1720). The top-right corner has been completely taken up by a large cartouche containing the title, flanked on the left by the coat of arms of de Mesmes and the dedication to the same: *Haut et Puissant Seigneur Monseigneur Iean Jacques / de Mesmes de l'Ordre de Malthe* written on two lines. The map was published in Paris in 1709 by Nicolas de Fer. The De Fer family were mapsellers, publishers and geographers.



2016

The year 2016 was the 450th anniversary of the foundation of our beautiful and unique capital city of Valletta. The year was marked with several activities and exhibitions and the Malta Map Society commemorated the year with the publication of the book titled *The Pre-Siege maps of Malta: 2nd century AD – 1564* written by

Albert Ganado and Joseph Schirò.

One of the activities of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order to commemorate the founding of Valletta was the issue on 15 June 2016 of a beautiful stamp with a face value of €2.55. It shows a hand-coloured engraving of a bird's-eye view of Valletta taken from an imaginary point at the entrance to the Grand harbour and Marsamxetto harbour. It is titled *Malte – Vue de l-Entrée du Port* and was published in Paris before 1735, by Sieur Philippe Nicolas Milcent, who in several instances described himself as *Ingénieur du Roy*.⁵



Seychelles

1986

A commemorative stamp, with a face value of 5 Rupee, titled *Celebration Day of the Coptic Catholic Knights of Malta* was issued in the Seychelles in 1986. The stamp shows two coats of arms inside an oval. The one on the left is the coat of arms of the Seychelles with the Latin motto *Finis coronat opus* (The end crowns the work), and the one on the right is the coat of arms of the breakaway group, the Sovereign Order of Coptic Catholic Knights of Malta incorporated in New York by Francesco Pazienza and Mario Ricci, also known as Johannes Marius I, as its president for life.⁶ It is set in a miniature sheet which includes a bird's-eye view of Rhodes at the top and of Valletta at the bottom. The other four scenes show the Holy Infirmary liberally taken from an engraving found in Verdala's Statutes, a scene from the Great Siege based on one of Perez d'Aleccio's fresco scenes of the Siege at the Grand Masters Palace in Valletta, De Rohan's galley, and the landing in 1798 of Napoleon in Malta, taken from a drawing by



⁵ See Albert Ganado (2010), *Series of Talks on Malta's Relations with States – France*, Malta, 13, 51.

⁶ Naylor, R. T., *Economic Warfare: Sanctions, embargo busting, and their human cost*, Boston, 1999, 149.

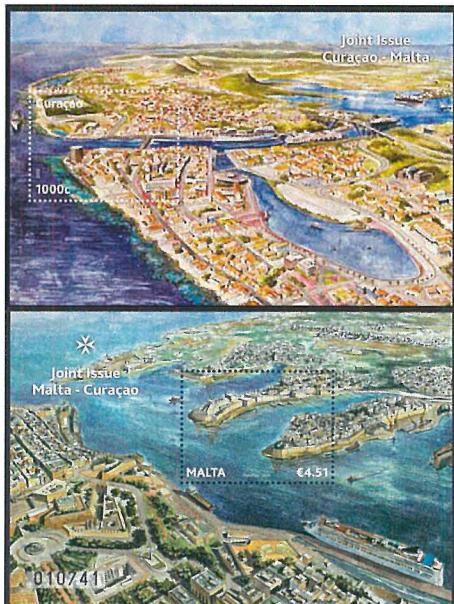
Nodet, which effectively ended the Order's rule of Malta from 1530-1798.⁷

2013

Curaçao - Malta

MaltaPost issued a Joint Stamp Issue with Curaçao in August 20, 2013 featuring 'Harbours' as a common theme between the two islands. The Curaçao stamp shows the mouth of Schottegat Harbour, with a face value of 1000c (100c to 1 Netherlands Antillean guilder is roughly the same value of the counter Malta stamp of €4.51), set on a miniature sheet depicting the whole harbour area. The counter miniature sheet of the Grand Harbour of Malta, designed by Cedric Galea Pirotta, shows a stamp, with a face value of €4.51, of the promontories of Senglea and Vittoriosa. The designs of the miniature sheets are by different artists.

Curaçao, is a Dutch Caribbean island and its capital is Willemstad.



⁷ See Carmel G. Bonavia, 'De la Valette in Postage Stamps', *Jean de la Valette 1495-1568: The man-A siege-A city*, Malta, 1995, 23.

**One of Italy's top Philatelists want to dispose
of his Postal History
Malta Collection in one sale.**

Contact Dr A Bonnici.

(00356) 99495066

abonnici@maltanet.net

MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

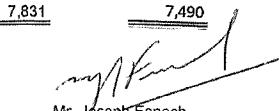
31 December 2015

	<u>Page</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
FIXED ASSETS	7	€	€
At Cost	4,304		
Less Depreciation	<u>4,304</u>	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	8	2,500	0
Fixed Deposit Account	9	4,000	4,000
Current Account	10	<u>1,908</u>	<u>4,031</u>
		8,408	8,031
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions paid in Advance		(577)	(541)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>7,831</u>	<u>7,490</u>

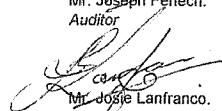
REPRESENTED BY

Excess of Revenue over Expenses
(Brought Forward from Page 2)


John A. Cardona
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer.


7,831 7,490

Mr. Joseph Fenech.
Auditor


Mr. Josie Lanfranco.
Auditor

MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

31 December 2015

<u>2014</u>		<u>2015</u>
<u>€ INCOME</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>€</u>
1,633 Subscription receivable	(1)	1,660
75 Interest received	(2)	62
110 Donations	(3)	222
(97) <i>Maltese XVI Philatelic Exhibition</i>	(4)	<u>852</u>
1,721 Total Income		2,796
 EXPENDITURE		
874 Journal distribution costs	(5)	826
417 Newsletter distribution costs	(6)	380
460 Sundry administrative expenses	(7)	388
283 F.I.P. affiliation fee	(8)	447
224 Capuchin Friary - rental contribution	(9)	168
235 Christmas "get together"	(10)	237
14 Bank charges	(11)	<u>9</u>
(2,517) Total Expenditure		(2,455)
(796) SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		341
8,286 EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES B/F		<u>7,490</u>
7,490 FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END		<u>7,831</u>

(off to the Balance Sheet at Page 1)

MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2016

	<u>Page</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
FIXED ASSETS	7	€	€
At Cost	4,304		
Less Depreciation	<u>4,304</u>	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	8	2,500	2,500
Fixed Deposit Account	9	4,000	4,000
Current Account	<u>10</u>	<u>4,015</u>	<u>1,908</u>
		10,515	8,408
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions paid in Advance		<u>(704)</u>	<u>(577)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>9,811</u>	<u>7,831</u>

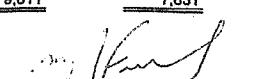
REPRESENTED BY

Excess of Revenue over Expenses
(*Brought Forward from Page 2*)

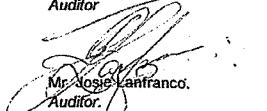
9,811 7,831



John A. Cardona,
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer.



Mr. Joseph Fenech
Auditor



Mr. Joseph Lanfranco
Auditor

Page 1

NOTE: Published above are the confirmed accounts for the year which ended on 31st December, 2016 and which were approved and adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 25th January 2017. It will be noted that reference is made to a number of pages on the Balance Sheet and a series of notes on the Income & Expenditure Account. These are not enclosed to save space. However, if any member would wish to receive these documents please contact us and we will be delighted to furnish a copy.

MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

31 December 2016

	<u>2015</u>		<u>2016</u>
	<u>£ INCOME</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>£</u>
1,680	Subscription receivable	(1)	1,617
62	Interest received	(2)	41
222	Donations	(3)	2,116
852	<i>Maltex XVI Philatelic Exhibition</i>	(4)	525
0	Personalised Stamps	(5)	78
<u>2,796</u>	<i>Total Income</i>		<u>4,377</u>
	EXPENDITURE		
826	Journal distribution costs	(6)	848
380	Newsletter distribution costs	(7)	365
388	Sundry administrative expenses	(8)	372
447	F.I.P. affiliation fee	(9)	403
168	Capuchin Friary - rental contribution	(10)	224
237	Christmas "get together"	(11)	148
9	Bank charges	(12)	12
0	Suffrages	(13)	25
<u>(2,455)</u>	<i>Total Expenditure</i>		<u>(2,397)</u>
<u>341</u>	SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>1,980</u>
<u>7,490</u>	EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES B/F		<u>7,831</u>
<u>7,831</u>	FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END		<u>9,811</u>
<i>(Ref to the Balance Sheet at Page 1)</i>			

Page 2

Postal Diary

8th August 2016 – 3rd March 2017

Compiled by
John V. De Battista

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 Xaghra, MaltaPost issued an occasion hand stamp which was used at the Xaghra Gozo Post Office. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “SOĊ. FIL. VICTORY XAGĦRA - GHAWDEX” 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-HRUĞ//08-08-16”. The use of this handstamp was not pre announced.



18th August

MaltaPost notified the public that the Sub Post Office at 6, ‘Welcome Bazaar’, Misrah Frenċ Abela, Dingli DGL 1081 will be closed between 22nd and 24th August.

During this period, Dingli residents were requested to collect their mail items from the Post Office at Ċentru Ċiviku, Misraħ il-Parroċċa, Rabat RBT 1230.

MaltaPost also informed that the Sub Post Office at “Papel Stationery”, 1, Triq is-Salvatur, Qrendi QRD 1701 will be closed on 27th August. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following alternative Postal Outlets:

Żurrieq Post Office situated at 8, St. Catherine Street, Żurrieq, ŻRQ 1088;

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

2nd September

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that it had launched the folder ‘Colourful Seasons 7’ published by SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation). This is the seventh folder issued by SEPAC and this year 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 stamps was 'Seasons' and each member country presented stamps illustrating scenery during the different seasons of the year. Malta's stamp illustrates scenery during autumn in which the Verdala Palace and surrounding Buskett Gardens are depicted.

5th September

For the occasion of the sanctification of sister Teresa of Calcutta, MaltaPost issued an occasion handstamp which was used at its Castille Square branch in Valletta. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "O.S.J. KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER RUSSIAN GRAND PRIORY OF MALTA" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. VALLETTA - MALTA *" bordering



the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of St. Teresa of Calcutta, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line "05-09-16". Also for the occasion, the O.S.J. Knights Hospitaller Russian Grand Priory of Malta commissioned a number of personalized stamps in honour of St. Teresa of Calcutta who was a member of the Order. The use of this handstamp was not pre announced.

7th September

A photography competition with entries to be exhibited at the Malta Postal Museum in Valletta was one way MaltaPost announced its way of celebrating World Post Day 2016, which is commemorated every 9th October by postal administrations around the world and the Universal Postal Union (UPU). This day serves to recognise the work done by the Post and the role it has in people's everyday lives. As part of the World Post Day celebrations, MaltaPost launched the 'Post in Pictures' Creative Photo Competition, which was run on Facebook. The prizes for the best photos were €750 (1st prize) and two €250 vouchers (2nd prize with two runners up) from Avantech, and with limited edition philatelic items.

MaltaPost invited participants to express their creativity by sending photos that in their opinion describe the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives, including its contribution to the world's social and economic development.

Interested participants were invited to follow MaltaPost's Facebook page and send their entry by 25th September 2016, the closing date for the competition, following which MaltaPost will upload all entries to the Facebook page and followers will be encouraged to 'like' their favourite entries. The panel of judges will eventually

choose the best twenty entries which will be exhibited at the Malta Postal Museum throughout October, particularly during the *Notte Bianca* event. Furthermore, the best three photos will be awarded during a ceremony which will take place close to World Post Day.

13th September

MaltaPost informed the public that between the 3rd October 2016 and 15th June 2017 the University Post Office will revert to the Winter Opening Hours. Clients can avail themselves of Postal Services from this Post Office from Monday to Friday between 7.30 and 16.30. The Photocopy Bureau will be open from Monday to Friday between 7.30 and 15.15.

It was also announced that on 15th September MaltaPost will issue a miniature sheet bearing one stamp, entitled “Maritime Malta Series IV- HMS Hastings”. This stamp portrays a lithograph of a drawing (circa 1838) by Charles Brockdorff, showing the arrival of Queen Adelaide on board HMS Hastings into Valletta Grand Harbour on 30th November 1838.

The arrival of the Queen was marked by a royal salute fired from Fort Ricasoli and Fort Saint Elmo, after which twenty-one guns were fired from each of the man-of-war. Battalions of soldiers assembled on the most prominent batteries to cheer the Queen as she passed by. The Queen left Malta on 1st April 1839.

The stamp carries a face value of €3.59 and the issue consists of 15,000 miniature sheets. It measures 49mm by 40.5mm with a perforation of 14.2 x 14.2 (comb) and bears the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheet measures 120mm by 80mm. MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamp on the first day of issue (on FDC No.10/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MARITIME MALTA SERIES IV – HMS HASTINGS” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-HRUG/15-09-16” in straight lines are to be found below an outline design depicting the sailing ship positioned at the centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 352.

15th September

Today MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau made use of a commemorative handstamp to mark the fifty years of diplomatic relations between the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Republic of Malta. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA – REPUBLIC OF MALTA” along the outside bordering the



ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the lower inner side. At the top centre of the handstamp is a Maltese Cross, beneath which are the words “50 YEARS/OF DIPLOMATIC/RELATIONS” above the issue date in a straight line “15-09-16”. This handstamp was not in use as an operational marking but is purely a “commercial” product in nature.

16th September

MaltaPost announced that pursuant to the Malta Financial Authority Listing Rules, Julius Bozzino resigned from his post as director of MaltaPost plc with effect from 1st October, 2016. Mr. Eugenio Farrugia, who is currently Chief Operations Officer of Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c. was appointed a director of MaltaPost p.l.c. The announcement bore the signature of company secretary Graham A. Fairclough.

22nd September

The Żejtun Philatelic Group’s annual exhibition was opened for viewing by the general public today. The exhibition is being held at the Sala Ġużeppina Curmi, located in Bishop Emanuel Galea Street, Żejtun and will come to an end on Sunday 25th. It is being held under the auspices of the Żejtun Local Council and also forms part of the Żejt iz-Żejtun Council activity.

A number of interesting items put up by the members of this small but active group are on display, including mourning covers, penny red studies and numerous thematic exhibits aimed to arouse interest in the hobby.



24th September

For the occasion of the inauguration of a new altar in the Ĝ harb basilica, MaltaPost made use of an occasion handstamp at its Ĝ harb branch. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “INAUGURAZZJONI TAL-ALTAR Ĝ DID FIL-BAŽILIKA TAL-ĞHARB” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – Ĝ HARB, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the lower inner side.

At the centre of the handstamp is an outline drawing of an angel holding a banner, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “24-09-16”. The use of this handstamp was not pre announced.



28th September

MaltaPost continued to invest in upgrading the services it offers to its clients with the opening of a new Post Office situated at 4, Conservatory Street, Floriana FRN 1520.

The Post Office opened today, Wednesday 28th September and shall be offering all postal services including collection of registered or bulky mail items, insurance of mail, philatelic products, bill payments, encashment of social security cheques, One4All Gift Vouchers, international money transfers and a selection of greeting cards and stationery.

This Post Office which is conveniently located in the centre of Floriana, close to the Police General Head Quarters, will be open from Monday to Saturday between 7.30 and 13.00.

29th September

Every year, the Capital City Valletta comes to life during *Notte Bianca*. This year, this event will take place on Saturday 1st October. For the occasion the Malta Postal Museum will be open to the public, promising an enjoyable experience while exploring the history of the Post in Malta.



Additionally, during *Notte Bianca*, the Malta Postal Museum will also feature an exhibition of photographic entries from 'The Post in Pictures' photographic competition.

An occasion card (Nº 42) commemorating the participation of MaltaPost in the *Notte Bianca* 2016 will be issued on 1 October and will be available for sale from the Malta Postal Museum during *Notte Bianca*.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the card on the first day of issue. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "NOTTE BIANCA 2016" bordering the outside of the ring on the right and "* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The date "01-10-16" in straight line is to be found below the 2016 Notte Bianca logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.

Following 1st October, the card will then be available for sale from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo, online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001.

The Malta Postal Museum will also be participating in *Science in the City* on Friday 30th September on which day it will be open for the public from 18.00 till midnight.

5th October

MaltaPost quoted studies showing that online shopping has never been more accessible than it is today in this high speed digital era and the constant introduction of ever more powerful tablets, smartphones, and secure payment systems. However these same studies also show that it is not low-prices that attract e-shopper but rather product selection, speed of delivery and most recently delivery options. Conscious of this, MaltaPost has sought to support online businesses and e-shopper alike with the introduction of the Easipik 24/7 parcel locker network.

Following the launch of MaltaPost's SendOn hubs in the UK, Italy, Germany and USA, thousands of Maltese consumers are shopping from their favourite European and USA online brands particularly those which do not ship directly to Malta. To continue improving on the customer experience, MaltaPost has 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.

MaltaPost has also introduced the opportunity for insurance policies to protect shopping items forwarded to Malta through its hubs in Europe and the USA.

6th October

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the tracking facilities on the MaltaPost website, particularly the 'International Trackable Mail Items' page will not be available on Sunday 9th October from 08:00 to 20:00 hrs due to IT infrastructural upgrades. MaltaPost apologised to its customers for any inconvenience caused.

7th October

MaltaPost announced the winners of its Photography Competition 'Post in Pictures' which was organised to coincide with World Post Day which is celebrated annually on October 9th.

The top nine entries were exhibited at the Malta Postal Museum during the 'Science in the City' and 'Notte Bianca' weekend and remained so in the days leading up to World Post Day.

There were seventy three entries for the competition, all of whom submitted their

interpretation of the role played by the Post in today's world. The submissions varied enormously with interpretations ranging from a more conservative idea of the Post to others which were more liberal and artistic in content. Interested parties were invited to follow MaltaPost's Facebook page and submit their entry by uploading them on the page's application.

The shortlisted participants whose entries were exhibited are as follows:

‘Message in a Bottle’ - Kyle Vella (Placed First)

‘Inbox’ - Daniel Calleja (Placed Second)

‘Via Air Mail’ - Joseph Camilleri (Placed Third)

‘Professionally Handled’ - Massimo Cassar

‘On its way’ - Jonathan Borg

‘To my Future’ - Jonathan Borg

‘It-Timbru’ - Joseph Camilleri

‘Truck in Floriana’ - Fritz Grimm

‘No Permission to Paint’ - Saviour Brincat

Prizes included ‘The Grandmaster’s Collection’ - a limited edition of twenty eight pure silver foil stamps and Silver Replica Ingots depicting the painter Mattia Preti. The competition was also supported by Avantech - the distributor of Canon photographic equipment in Malta who presented the top three entries with vouchers.

At the award giving ceremony, MaltaPost’s Chief Commercial Officer Mark Vella expressed his satisfaction that this activity served to connect with the public and raised greater awareness of the crucial role played by the Post today. “MaltaPost today continues to connect people, communities and businesses both nationally and globally. In today’s fast paced world, a high quality performance combined with cost effectiveness and consumer involvement is essential to meet the needs of our customers and will continue to be a mainstay for our organisation” he explained. Mr Vella also thanked the competition participants as well as Avantech for its support. Director Harold Felice, on behalf of Avantech, said “We recognise and acknowledge the vital link that the Post provides for so many of us and are delighted to lend our support to a project that seeks to encourage and promote awareness of this role through art”.

Lara Bugeja, the Curator of the Postal Museum explained that “We are very pleased to display both the short-listed and winning photographic entries at the recently launched Postal Museum; a museum which also serves as a creative arts hub to

promote local talent.”

It is MaltaPost’s intent that this photographic competition will be a regular event.

12th October

MaltaPost announced that on the 15th October, it will issue a set of three stamps depicting corbels (*saljaturi*) that support typical Maltese balconies.

Balconies have had a very important role in defining the character of the Maltese urban landscape, especially through their profusion of colours and decoration. In fact balconies highlight the streets of Malta and Gozo. One essential feature of balconies is the corbels used to support them. ‘*Saljaturi*’ may be lavishly decorated in a variety of manners featuring gargoyle, figureheads, emblems or other decorations.

The stamps bear a face value of €0.26, €1.00 and €1.16. They were produced by Printex Ltd by the offset process and the issue consists of 1,600,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 80,000 of the €1.00, and 80,000 of the €1.16 denomination. The issue will be in sheets of ten stamps bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark, with each stamp measuring 31mm by 34mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). Each sheet measures 185mm by 118mm. Cedric Galea Pirotta designed the set.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamp on the first day of issue (on FDC No.11/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “BALCONY COBELS” 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-HRUĞ/15-10-16” in straight lines are to be found below an outline design of a corbel positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 353.

MaltaPost also announced that it has launched a new financial product - the PostaPay Card, a secure and convenient way to shop around the world without carrying cash.

The PostaPay Card can be used at any retail outlet bearing the MasterCard® logo anywhere in the world, allowing customers to shop without carrying cash. The card may also be used for purchases over the internet and for cash withdrawals from ATMs.

This card is the ideal companion for anyone travelling abroad or for those who are uncomfortable with sharing credit card details over the internet. The card is supported by 3D Secure and therefore when shopping online, a onetime password will be sent by SMS on the mobile number registered with MaltaPost. This password



can only be used once, which means that for every online transaction affected a new password is sent, making shopping online much safer.

The Card, which is linked to a PostaPay&Save account, supports the innovation of contactless technology. With the PostaPay Card being a contactless card, customers do not need to input PIN details or leave any signature for transactions up to €25. All they need to do is simply touch a contactless card reader with their PostaPay Card. This is permissible for up to ten times per day.

Together with this, as the card does not allow for overdrafts, customers will not run the risk of spending beyond their budget. When discussing this innovative product, MaltaPost's Chief Executive Officer Joseph Gafa' highlighted PostaPay as part of MaltaPost's diversification strategy which includes amongst others online shopping solutions such as the 24/7 Easipik network, Document Management services for businesses as well as financial services for the general public. "Post Offices are strategically located in the heart of numerous villages around Malta and Gozo, making it entirely convenient for customers to avail themselves of financial services from our branches. This product seeks to further the services our company offers through our Postal network and is particularly attractive for online shoppers who are uncomfortable with sharing credit card details or for those who require a simple payment solution when travelling abroad" said Mr Gafa'.

Customers must be 16 years or over to apply for this card and can do so with a minimum balance of €50. To apply for this service, customers are invited to visit any Post Office and complete an application form.

14th October

MaltaPost and Poste San Marino will be releasing a joint stamp issue, with the common theme being the fortifications in the two respective states. The stamps will feature the Ćittadella in Gozo and the Prima Torre in San Marino, which structures both served to protect and shelter their respective inhabitants.

The Ćittadella is located at the centre of Gozo, overlooking the city of Victoria. The Knights of St John gave the name Ćittadella to this fort. Within the Ćittadella, one also finds other attractions such as the Gozo Cathedral, the Law Courts and the Natural Science Museum. San Marino's Prima Torre is the major and oldest of the three towers that overshadow the city and two circles of defensive walls surround it.

Cedric Galea Pirotta is the designer of the sheets, each bearing two stamps. The Malta stamps carry a face value of €3.00 and €0.59 and the issue consists of 15,000



miniature sheets. Each stamp measures 41mm by 30.5mm and has a perforation of 13.7 x 13.8 (comb). The sheets bear the Maltese Crosses watermark and measure 120mm by 80mm.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.12/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MALTA – SAN MARINO JOINT STAMP ISSUE” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĞ/18-10-16” in straight lines are to be found below outline images depicting the fortifications positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 354.

17th October

MaltaPost announced that it continued to extend the reach of its retail branch network in the capital city with the opening of a new Post Office, situated at 25, South Street, Valletta, VLT 1102 which started operating as from Monday 17th October 2016. The services that are on offer from this retail outlet include the sale of stamps, registered mail, money orders/postal orders, postage paid envelopes, telecom cards, ‘Tallinja’ cards and top ups, One4all Gift Vouchers and the PostaPay card. Ideally situated in close proximity to many offices, this Post Office will also offer photocopy and scanning services.

This retail outlet also hosts a 24/7 always open parcel pick-up service for SendOn clients through the Easipik Parcel Locker Service. This service is particularly attractive for customers who are not home during the day to receive their SendOn shopping. Clients working in Valletta can now easily divert their SendOn shopping to the Easipik Parcel Station at this Post Office to be able to retrieve their purchases at their convenience.

This Post Office will also offer extended opening hours as follows; Monday to Friday from 09.00hrs to 13.30hrs and from 14.00 hrs to 16.00hrs whilst on Saturdays the branch will be open between 09.00hrs and 13.30hrs.

18th October

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced its participation in the 17th Maltex Philatelic Exhibition which is being organised by the Malta Philatelic Society. For this special event the Philatelic Bureau will be issuing an Occasion Card (N^o. 43), a Postal Card (N^o. 38), and Personalised Stamp/Cover.

The cards will be available in mint and cancelled condition as from Friday 21st October from the MaltaPost stand at the Maltex Exhibition, all Post Offices and from

the Philatelic Bureau. A temporary letter box service will also be provided during the opening hours of the Exhibition. The cards and mail posted will be cancelled with the Maltex occasion handstamp.

21st – 23rd October

The Malta Philatelic Society, which this year celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, held its annual exhibition at the Catholic Institute in Floriana the same place where it was born. The Maltex yearly exhibition was born in 2000 and held successfully every year since then, this being the 17th edition.



In his forward to the exhibition brochure, President Dr. Alfred Bonnici noted that “MaltaPost has expressed an interest in organizing future Maltex exhibitions, which would include other items not expressly being philatelic, and negotiations with MaltaPost are still being held. If agreement is reached this could be the last exhibition organized totally by us.” He continues that “As a Society we are rather alarmed at the lack of youngsters involving themselves in philately. We would like to have more young members. We had a surplus number of Journals and The Hon. Minister Dr. Evarist Bartolo had kindly consented to distribute the journals in schools. Today e-mails have taken over the use of letters and so the main scope of issuing postage stamps for postal purposes is being undermined. Youngsters, as indeed philatelists worldwide, are discouraged by the issue of high value stamps and the issue of many sets. We recommend restraint in this respect by MaltaPost.”

To mark the occasion of this 50th Anniversary, the Malta Philatelic Society commissioned a commemorative personalized stamp. The design of the vignette part used for this issue is the work of artist Alfred Caruana Ruggier, who also is a member of the MPS committee.



The exhibition was officially inaugurated on Thursday 20th October by the Hon. Dr. José Herrera LL.D. MP - Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, and was blessed by Mons. Gwann Galea. It was then open to the public over the following weekend.

This year's exhibitors were:

BIRKETT ALLAN, John: 1. “Forwarding Agents” 2. “Cospicua Postal District”

BONELLO, Carmel: 1. “50th Anniversary – World Cup 1966” 2. “70th Anniversary – End of World War II”

BONNICI, Alfred (Dr.): “French and Early British Period in Malta”

CAMILLERI, Anthony: “Malta Maritime Mail”

CIAPPARA, CHRISTOPHER: “400th Anniversary of the Great Siege”

HOWE, Christopher: “Postal items, Postcards, and Social Material of Maredret and Maredsous – Two Abbeys in Belgium”

MEJLAQ, Charles: “S.M.O.M. First Day Covers”

MICALLEF, John: “50th Anniversary of Commemoratives by the Malta Postal Authorities”

PORTELLI, Lawrence: “Olympic Games – Rome 1960”

SANT, Anthony: “Mourning Envelopes”

WOOD, Hadrian: “Postmen’s Personal Handstamps”.

MaltaPost set up a Temporary Post Office at the exhibition venue. At the T.P.O. stamps, Postal Stationery and posting facilities were available. An occasion handstamp was in use throughout the opening times of the exhibition. This single-ring oval hand stamp was inscribed with the Maltex 2016 logo positioned right across the upper section, this being complemented by the words “Catholic Institute – Floriana – Malta” around the lower section of the ring, The exhibition dates “21–23 October 2016” in a straight line in the middle of the post mark complete the hand-stamp. The metal dater used at this T.P.O. was that of the Philatelic Bureau.

24th October

Between the 27th and 29th October the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau will be participating in the Sindelfingen Stamp Fair in Germany. This fair, spread over three days, will feature a diverse and high quality range of dealers and postal administrators from around the world.

An Occasion Card (N^o. 44) and a Personalised Stamp/Cover will be issued by the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau to mark this event. The Occasion Card shows the “Summer” stamp from the Seasons Set that was issued in 2016. This stamp features ‘Għajnej Tuffieħa’, a sandy beach located on the Northwest coast of Malta.

It was announced that both the Occasion Card and the Personalised Stamp will be available in mint and cancelled condition as from Thursday 27th October from all Post Offices and from the Philatelic Bureau.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the card and Personalized Stamp/Cover on the first day of issue. The single severed-ring handstamp is



inscribed “INTERNATIONALE BRIEFMARKEN - BÖRSE – SINDELFINGEN 2016” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The dater “27-29.10.16” in a straight line is to be found below the 2016 fair logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.

25th October

To increase the accessibility of postal services for the general public, MaltaPost announced the opening of a new Sub Post Office (S43) in Marsascala as from Monday 31st October 2016.

Within this Sub Post Office clients can avail themselves of numerous postal services such as bill payments and registered mail.

The new Sub Post Office will be situated in 90, ‘Needz Stationery’, 1, Triq Vajrita, Marsascala MSK 3326.

The Sub Post Office’s opening hours are Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm and from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. On Saturdays it will be open from 9:00am - 12:00pm

2nd November

In a company announcement, MaltaPost informed that pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, the MaltaPost Board of Directors was meeting on the 6th December to consider and approve the Financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2016. Furthermore, in a similar announcement, MaltaPost also informed that Mr. Neville Chappell was appointed Chief Financial Officer effective from 1st November 2016. He replaces Ms Carmen Ellul who will take over as Chief Officer – Internal Audit as from 1st March 2017.

4th November

Today MaltaPost issued an unannounced commemorative handstamp to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Qalb ta’ ġesu’ Seminary in Gozo. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “150 SENA SEMINARJU TAL-QALB TA` ġESU – 1866-2016 . DJOČESI TA’ GHAWDEX” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “04-11-16” in a straight line is to be found below outline image of an arch positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



11th November

The 17th annual exhibition by the Gozo Philatelic Society opened today in the Gozo Ministry Hall and will remain open to the public till Friday the 18th inclusive of Saturday and Sunday the 12th and 13th respectively.



As usual, stamp collectors and the general public will have a wide range of items to view, including stamps in the sports theme (this having been an Olympic year), social philately, junior offerings and samples from the Juncker Melitensis collection. Entrance to the exhibition is free.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to be able to pick up copies of the latest GPS Newsletter, the full-colour quarterly which was awarded a Large Silver in Canberra earlier this year.

On 11th November, MaltaPost issued an occasion postmark to cancel philatelic items marking the event. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "17TH GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY EXHIBITION – 'SPORTSMAN & NOT' 11-18 NOV 2016" bordering on the outside of the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The date "11-11-16" in a straight line is to be found below an outline image depicting a Gozo boat encircled by fronds positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.

15th November

MaltaPost informed the public that the letterbox located at F. Ximenes Street, Salina was being permanently relocated to Catacombs Street, Salina.

18th November

MaltaPost today announced its issue of the 2016 Christmas set. This issue consists of three stamps designed by the Maltese artist Joseph Pulo who was born in Ghaxaq in 1947 and studied at the Malta Government School of Art, where he was taught by some of the leading artist of the time.



The stamps carry a face-value of €0.26, €0.59, and €0.63.

This issue consists of 970,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 300,000 of the €0.53 and 90,000 of the €0.63 stamp. The stamps measure 30.5mm by 41mm and have a perforation of 13.7 x 13.8 (comb). The sheets which are made up of ten stamps overall measure 177mm by 107mm and bear the Maltese Crosses watermark.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.13/2016). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “CHRISTMAS 2016” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĞ/18-11-16” in straight lines are to be found below outline image depicting baby Jesus positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 355.

22nd November

MaltaPost informed that two new Letterboxes have been installed, one in Triq il-Qaliet, Marsaskala and another one in Triq il-Patrijiet Terejżani, Marsaxlokk.

In a second media communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at “Alessio Old Cottage”, 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511 will be closed between the 28th and 30th November. During this period Imqabba residents are requested to collect their mail items from the Żurrieq Post Office situated in 8, Triq Santa Katerina, iż-Żurrieq.

29th November

MaltaPost notified that a special hand postmark to commemorate the 100 years of scouting in Gozo will be used on Wednesday 30th November at the Victoria Post Office. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “CENTENARY OF SCOUTING IN GOZO” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “30-11-16” in a straight line is to be found below a design incorporating the three hills symbolizing Gozo, the sea and the scouting logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



In its second communication for the day, MaltaPost also informed the public that a new letterbox has been installed in Triq Birkirkara, Attard.

30th November

MaltaPost notified that an occasion hand postmark to commemorate the inauguration of a Monument for Bishop Nikol G. Cauchi will be used on Saturday 3 December at the Għarb Post Office. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “INAWGURAZZJONI MONUMENT ISQOF NIKOL G. CAUCHI” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST –



GHARB, GOZO - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “03-12-16” in a straight line is to be found below the village of Għarb’s Coat of Arms positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.

In a second news communication, MaltaPost p.l.c. informed that a new letterbox has been installed in Triq Birkirkara, Attard.

1st December

For the occasion of the opening of Christmas related events in Gozo, MaltaPost notified that an occasion hand postmark will be used on Saturday 3rd December at the Xagħra Post Office. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MILIED F'GHAWDEX - 2016” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST - XAGħRA, GOZO - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “03-12-16” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image of the Holy Family positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



The second media communication issued notified that MaltaPost has introduced a new Sub Post Office in Santa Lucija. From this Sub Post Office clients can avail themselves of numerous postal services including bill payments and registered mail. The new Sub Post Office is situated in ‘Willand Bargain Store’, Triq Dun M. Mifsud, Santa Luċija SLC 1440. The Sub Post Office’s opening hours are as follows: Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 12:00pm and 4:00pm to 6:00pm. On Saturday opening time is from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

2nd December

Hot on the heels of its inauguration in June, the Malta Postal Museum has launched an exciting time-traveling comic book based on the adventures of its mascot Peppi Pustier.

Peppi Pustier: Lost in Time is an eighties inspired time travelling adventure and tells the tale of a hardworking postman who is suddenly teleported to different time periods in order to deliver a number of important letters. The tale narrated is set in Malta and highlights key events of our history in a colourful and innovative way.

The artist behind the comic is Fabio Agius, a staff member of the Malta Postal Museum, local comic artist and leading organizer of the Malta Comic Con.

The comic will be launched during the Malta Comic Con at the MFCC Ta’ Qali during the first weekend of December and can then be purchased from the Malta

Postal Museum.

In another media communication, MaltaPost notified that the Sub Post Office at “Oreana Stationery”, 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR, 4532 will be closed until indefinitely until further notice.

Customers 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 – “Landau Stationery”, 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara, BKR 9085;
- Sub Post Office - “D Spiral”, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara, BKR 2691.

6th December

In a Company Announcement issued and bearing the signature of company secretary Graham A. Fairclough, it was quoted that the Board of Directors of MaltaPost had approved the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30th September 2017 and resolved that the same statements be submitted for approval at the forthcoming AGM to be held on the 27th January 2017. In terms of the Listing Rules, amongst other things the Board also resolved to recommend a final dividend of €0.0615 per nominal €0.25 share at the AGM.

7th December

To augment its service to customers during the Christmas period, MaltaPost announced that it was extending the opening hours of a number of Post Offices between the 7th and 23rd December.

The Post Offices in Birkirkara, Mosta, Paola and San Ģwann were to open from Monday to Friday between 7:30 and 13:00 and between 16:00 and 19:00, and on Saturdays between 7:30 and 13:00.

All other Post Offices were to retain their existing opening hours during this period.

12th December

It was announced that on 15th December, MaltaPost will launch the 2016 Year Pack. This pack is presented in an attractive folder which, besides containing all the stamp sets that were issued this year in MNH condition, includes all technical details related to them. The list of issues is made up as follows:

Maltese Flora - Series III, 450th Anniversary - Foundation of Valletta, WWF - ‘Endangered Species’, EUROPA 2016 - ‘Think Green’, Malta-Russia Joint Stamp

Issue, SEPAC Series - ‘Seasons’, Euromed Postal - ‘Fish in the Mediterranean’, Olympic Games 2016 - Rio De Janeiro, 100th Anniversary from the Birth of Dominic Mintoff, Maritime Malta Series IV - ‘HMS Hastings’, Balcony Corbels, Malta-San Marino Joint Stamp issue and Christmas 2016.

15th December

As in previous year’s, MaltaPost notified the setting up of Santa’s temporary Post Office in the heart of Valletta opposite the Law Courts in Republic Street. Maltese families were invited to fill in an application and then they will in turn receive a personalised letter from Santa Claus himself together with a matching envelope and Santa’s personalised stamp. To sensitise children that Christmas is not just about receiving presents but also a time for giving to those in need, a part of the application fee for the letter from Santa Claus will be donated to Inspire Foundation Malta. As part of its continuous Corporate Social Responsibility, MaltaPost will then match the amount collected and donate it to this foundation.

MaltaPost invited children and those young at heart to meet MaltaPost’s Santa Claus in his temporary Post Office in Valletta between the 7th and 24th December and take a photo with him. The photo would be printed instantly and given to visitors to take home. This year, MaltaPost also announced that it will be giving free tickets to the Malta Postal Museum to all children under 16 years who visit the Museum together with a paying adult.

20th December

MaltaPost informed the general public that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, all Post Offices will be closed and there will be no collection or delivery of mail on Monday 26th December 2016 and 2nd January 2017. Normal service will resume on Tuesday 27th December 2016 and 3rd January 2017, respectively.

21st December

Today MaltaPost issued Media Communications 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 “Paul’s Arcade”, Triq il-Kaħħli, San Pawl il-Baħar, SPB 3015 will be closed for business on 24th December and 31st December 2016. The nearest alternative indicated was the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, San Pawl il-Baħar SPB 3416.
- The Sub Post Office situated in “Step in”, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300 will be closed for business between 24th December 2016 and 5th January 2017. 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 “Needz Stationery”, 1, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3306 will be closed for business on 23rd and 24th December 2016. Residents were asked to collect their mail items from the Żabbar Post Office, located at the Čentru Čiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Żabbar ZBR 1351.
- The Sub Post Office situated in “Iklin Stationery”, 89, Triq Censu Busuttil, Iklin IKL 1200 will be closed for business on 26th December.
- The Sub Post Office situated in “Future Focus”, 9, Triq l-Imħażen, Floriana FRN 1118 will be closed for business on 26th and 27th December 2016 and between 31st December 2016 and 2nd January 2017. It was noted that on the 27th December, customers could avail themselves of the services provided from the following Post Offices:

1, Dar Annona, Misraħ Kastilja, Valletta VLT 1060

75, Triq l-Ifran, Valletta VLT 1458

25, Triq Nofsinhar, Valletta VLT 1102

Furthermore, the Sub Post Office in Floriana will be operating between 8:30 and 4:00pm on 23rd December 2016, and between 8:30am and 2:00 pm between the 28th and 30th December 2016.

- The Sub Post Office situated in “Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Ghargħur GħR 1014 will be closed for business on the 26th December 2016 and 28th and 2nd January 2017.
- The Sub Post Office situated in “Papel Stationery”, 1, Triq is-Salvatur, Qrendi QRD 1701 will be closed for business on 26th December 2016 and between the 2nd and 4th January 2017. Qrendi residents were asked to collect their mail items from the Żurrieq Post Office located at 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Żurrieq ŻRQ 1088.
- 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 7th January 2017. Santa Venera residents were asked to collect their mail items from the Hamrun Post Office situated at 18, Triq il-Ferrovija, Hamrun HMR 1900 as of 3rd January.

29th December

MaltaPost informed the general public that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, on 31st December 2016 mail from all public letterboxes will be collected at 13.00hrs and the Parcel Office at Marsa Head Office will open between 8.00 and 16.00hrs.

All Post Offices and its Customer Care service will be closed and there will be no collection or delivery of mail on 2nd January 2017.

Normal service will resume on 3rd January 2017.

10th January

Malta will be holding the EU Presidency between January and June 2017. To commemorate this event, a miniature sheet bearing one stamp will be issued on 12th January 2017.

The stamp bears a face value of €3.59 and will feature the logo chosen for Malta's EU Presidency. This logo was chosen amongst a number of submissions made by students, and it shows a stylised and colourful interpretation of the Maltese Cross. The stamp was designed by Sean Cini and measures 31mm x 44mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.) bearing the Maltese Cross mark. The sheet measures 84mm x 84mm. Printex Limited printed 20,000 miniature sheets.

Complementing this issue, MaltaPost and the Central Bank of Malta will be launching a joint product consisting of a silver foil stamp replica and a commemorative coin. The silver foil stamp replica depicts the €3.59 stamp from the '2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union' stamp issue in full colour. The silver coin depicts the official logo of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union and has a diameter of 38.61mm and a face value of €10.00. The silver foil stamp replica and the commemorative coin are housed in a presentation case together with a certificate of authenticity.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.1/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "2017 MALTESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION" bordering on the outside of the ring, and "* MALTAPOST ----- MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The words "JUM IL-HRUĞ/12-01-17" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the presidency's logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 356.

20th January

MaltaPost notified that an occasion hand postmark to commemorate the inauguration of two new chandeliers at St Publius Church in Floriana will be used on Saturday 21st January 2017 at the Floriana Post Office.



The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “INAWGURAZZJONI TA’ ŻEWĞ LINEF – KNISJA SAN PUBLJU IL-FURJANA” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – FLORIANA - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “21-01-17” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image of a chandelier positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



23rd January

MaltaPostSendOn is now growing and will be adding a new hub in Hong Kong, China. With this new hub, SendOn clients may order items of up to 30kg from China online stores, even from those which do not ship to Malta or do so with high rates. It is stated that items will arrive in Malta within ten working days of the item reaching MaltaPost’s hub. Clients purchasing items of relatively high value may also insure their shopping against loss or damage. For more convenience, SendOn clients may combine this with another service offered and collect their shopping at any time they like from the 24/7 Easipik Parcel Lockers located around Malta and Gozo.

24th 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 27th January 2017, and the last collection of mail from all letterboxes will be carried out at 13:00 hrs.

27th January

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority listing rules, MaltaPost issued a company statement under the signature of the company’s secretary G. A. Fairclough, wherein it is stated that at the company’s AGM held on 27th January 2017, all the resolutions on the agenda were approved. Amongst these one finds that a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 and to establish at €30,000 the maximum annual aggregate Director’s remuneration for the holding of their office. The Board of Directors is composed of Mr. J. Said (Chairman), Mr. D. Attard, Mr. E. Farrugia, Mr. D. Stellini and Mr. A. Theuma.

31st January

Today the Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun launched the first issue of “*The Melite Post*”, its official news journal, whose editor is local councillor Mr. Sean Chircop.

This was done in conjunction with the issue of two postcards to mark two important anniversaries linked to Żejtun's postal history. The first commemorates the eightieth anniversary from the first publication of "*The Melita Post*", a philatelic journal which saw light in Żejtun in 1937; while the other marks the fifteenth anniversary from the foundation of the group. Each of the cards shows one of the two letter boxes to be found in the locality and which are classified as Grade 1 heritage conservation items. Both cards are franked with personalized stamps commissioned by the group especially to mark the occasions. It is planned that "*The Melita Post*" will be issued on a three-monthly basis and be distributed free to members of the Group and for a nominal fee to others who wish to receive it. The journal, personalised stamps and cards could be bought solely from the Żejtun Local Council.

MaltaPost's SendOn & Easipik solution finalist for the eBusiness Awards MaltaPost's SendOn and Easipik solution (www.maltapost.com/easipik) has been shortlisted as a finalist for the MCA eBusiness Awards within the Best eCommerce Site (B2C) category. The MCA eBusiness Awards are organised on an annual basis by the Malta Communications Authority. This is the 6th edition of the MCA eBusiness Awards and winners will be announced in early April this year.

MaltaPost also notified that a commemorative hand postmark will be issued on Wednesday 1st February at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa, in commemoration of the 50 year anniversary from the establishment of the Marija Reġina Parish in Marsa.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "50 SENA PARROČČA MARIJA REGINA – MARSA 1967 - 2017" bordering on the outside of the ring, and " * MALTAPOST – MARSA - MALTA * " on the lower inner side of the ring. The date "01-02-17" in a straight line is to be found below the 50th anniversary logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. This handstamp was not in use as an operational marking but is purely a "commercial" product in nature.

Another media communication notified that a commemorative hand postmark to commemorate the 45 years of diplomatic relations between Malta and China will be issued on Tuesday 31 January at the Malta Philatelic Bureau, Marsa.



II-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun
se johroġ

2 bolol personalizzati u kartolini
biex ifakkar 2 anniversari

se taħrog ukoll i-ewwel farja tal-gazzetta tal-Għadha b'xejn




Jinxtaw mill-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun biss,
b'ordni minn qabel sal-Erbgħa 25 ta' Januar
Hruġ il-11 ta' Januar 2017

Għal aktar informazzjoni ġempu 21663866 jew 9920315

BOLOQ MARIJUQA MILL-KUNSELLILOKALI TAŻ-ŻEJTUN,
FUQ INIŻJATIWA TAY-TAQSIMA QIALL-KULTURA, IT-TURŻIġ
U-EDUKAZZJONI GHOLJA, IMMEXXJA MILL-KUNSELLIEN SEAN ĦIRCOP



The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “45 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS – MALTA - CHINA” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “31-01-17” in a straight line is to be found below outline images of Maltese and Chinese architectural structures positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. This handstamp was not put in use as an operational marking but is purely a “commercial” product in nature.



1st February

To expand the accessibility of postal services for the general public, MaltaPost has introduced a new Sub Post Office in Siggiewi. Within this Sub Post Office clients can avail themselves of a range of 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 is situated in ‘Many Things’, Triq il-Knisja l-Qadima, Siggiewi SGW 1704.

The Sub Post Office’s opening hours are as follows: Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm and 4:00pm to 6:00pm. On Saturday opening time is from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

8th February

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed that a new letterbox has been installed in Triq Ċensu Busuttil, Ikklin.

The second media communication issued today announced the launching of a photographic competition inviting the general public to submit their best captures of spectacular views of the Maltese Islands. The winning entries will appear on a Maltese stamp issue. The top image of the set will also be entered into an international stamp competition organised by the Small European Postal Administration Cooperation (SEPAC).

The competition, entitled ‘Spectacular Views’, invites the public to capture the essence of the Maltese islands which may include local countryside, village life, nature, architecture or landscapes. Four images will be shortlisted to be reproduced as one stamp set. This issue will be used both domestically and internationally for either mailing purposes or for stamp collecting.

The competition will run until the 30th of March and the winners will be announced in April this year. The stamp set featuring these photos will be issued during the coming summer and will be exhibited at the Malta Postal Museum.

As prizes, it was announced that the winners will be awarded with limited edition philatelic items. The outright winner will receive ‘The Grandmaster Collection’, whilst those submitting the three runner up images shall be presented with a copy of the ‘The Malta Stamp Collection’.

The third media communication for the day informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Ĝorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 will be closed between the 9th and 11th February. During this period, customers were directed to use the postal services provided from the Mellieħa Post Office situated in 100, Triq il-Mithna l-Ġidida, Mellieħa.

9th February

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “D Spiral”, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691 will be closed between the 15th and 17th of February. During this period, customers were directed to make use of the postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

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;

Sub Post Office situated at “Oreana Stationery”, 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR 4532.

20th February

The public was informed that the letterbox situated in Triq Mikiel Anton Vassalli, Valletta has been closed for an indefinite period. The nearest letterbox is situated in Triq ir-Repubblika, Valletta.

21st February

A number of excellence awards were presented to MaltaPost staff members in recognition for their hard work and outstanding performance in 2016 during the Company’s Annual Staff meeting.

In his address, MaltaPost’s Chairman Joseph Said presented the 2016 financial and quality results. He also highlighted the Company’s commitment to enhance its services to facilitate e-commerce business and identify new opportunities for new investment and further areas for growth.

The awards were presented by Mr Said together with MaltaPost's Chief Executive Officer Joseph Gafa` and Ronald Bonnici, Chief Human Resources Officer, who congratulated the winners whilst thanking all the Company's staff for their hard work throughout 2016.

During this ceremony, MaltaPost also recognised the best Student of the MCAST Diploma in Postal Services. This course was launched together with Malta College of Arts Science and Technology and is intended to provide a new source of trained postal staff members.

The awards presented were as follows:

Employee of the year award 2016 - Silvana Camilleri

Best Employee Delivery - Kurt Debono, Antoine Baldacchino

Best Employee Central Mail Room - Larkien Zammit

Best Employee Courier - Silvana Camilleri

Best Employee Administration - Antoinette Bonavia

Best Postal Area Group - Central Mail Room, Marsa

Best Post Office - Paola Post Office

Best Retail Employee - Joanne Pace

Best Corporate Social Responsibility Award - Marsa Delivery Centre

Long Service Award - Doreen Mizzi - Over 25 Years , Arthur Portelli - Over 35 Years,

Emanuel Rapa - Over 40 Years

Best Student MCAST Diploma in Postal Services: Chantelle Balzan

22nd February

MaltaPost announced that on Friday 24th February it will be issuing the second set in the Maltese Flora series. This set consists of three stamps, bearing a face value of €0.26, €0.42 and €1.25 and respectively. They depict the Fan-Lipped Orchid (Maltese: Orikida Hamra), the Yellow Bee-Orchid (Maltese: Żunżana) and the Small Flowered Tongue-Orchid (Maltese: Orikida tal-Ilsien iż-Żgħir). Photographer Guido Bonett captured the flowers featured on the stamps.

The Fan-Lipped Orchid grows in garigue and rocky terrain and appears in January, lingering on until early February. The Yellow Bee Orchid is a rare plant, also usually growing in garigue and rocky valleys and flowers in March/April. The Small-Flowered Tongue-Orchid (Maltese: Orikida tal-Ilsien iż-Żgħir) is a slender-looking

plant that flowers during March and April. It too is found in garigue, and rocky valleys.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of 10 with each stamp measuring 20mm x 38mm with a perforation of 13.6 x 14.0 (comb.) while the sheets measure 154mm x 110mm and include a tab showing a photo of the flowers. The stamps bear the Maltese Cross watermark while Printex Limited printed the set in offset process. The issue consists of 1,440,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 99,000 of the €0.42 stamp, and 81,000 of the €1.25 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.2/2017). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MALTESE FLORA - SERIES IV” bordering on the outside of the ring, and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-HRUĞ/24-02-17” in straight lines are to be found below outline image depicting the Yellow Bee Orchid positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 357.

23rd February

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Listing Rules, MaltaPost announced that Mr. Ian Lucas was appointed as Acting Chief Financial Officer of the company with immediate effect, replacing Mr. Neville Chappelle who resigned from this position. The appointment of Ms. Carmen Ellul as Chief Officer – Internal Audit as announced on 1st November 2016 was postponed to a later date.

3rd March

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Oreana Stationery”, 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR 4532 will no longer operate as a Sub Post Office as from 4th March 2017.

Residents were directed that if they so wish they may make use of postal services provided at the following alternative locations:

Post Office situated in 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013;

SPO, situated at “Landau Stationery”, 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara BKR 9085; and

SPO, situated at “D Spiral”, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691.



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