



Journal of
THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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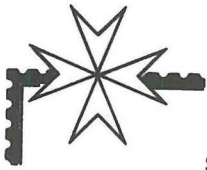


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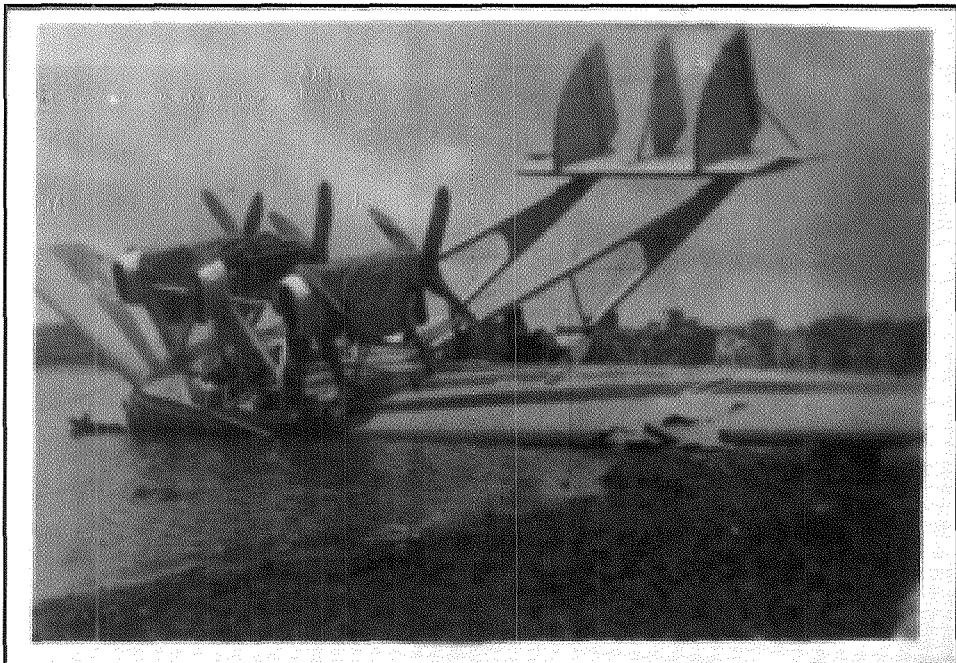
Ala Littoria Air Mail Service

The Savoia-Marchetti S.66 (I-NAVE c/n 15014)

Crash

by

John V. De Battista

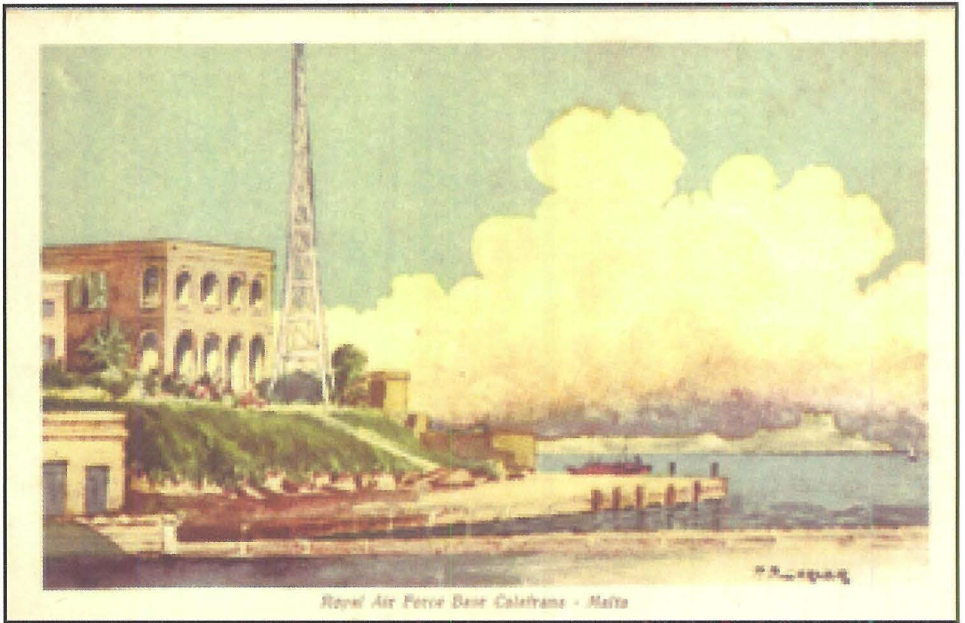


An original photo of the crashed seaplane, author's collection

The Malta G.P.O. had been making use of this scheduled Italian air connection for the transmission of mail since June 1931, when Società Anonima Navigazione Aerea (S.A.N.A.), Ala Littoria's predecessor, included Malta as a port of call on the tri-weekly flying boat service between Rome, Naples, Syracuse and Tripoli in North Africa. The pictured ill fated Italian aircraft "*Syracuse*", which had cost 1,200,000 Italian Lire (circa 20,000 Sterling) was registered I-NAVE on May 11, 1935. It started its Ala Littoria operations from Malta on Saturday June 15, 1935, and only a week later, on a night landing on June 22 it crashed with damages sustained being beyond repair¹.

While en route from Rome to Tripoli the aircraft was to make the scheduled stop at Malta. On the approach, the aircraft is said to have encountered downdraft at a height of fifty feet (15 m) and crashed in Marsaxlokk Bay in the vicinity of

the Kalafrana Seaplane Base, located four miles (6.5 km) south-east of Malta's capital Valletta. All occupants, which included one referred to as General Varzi, were rescued. Only one of them, a crew member, was seriously injured^{2 & 3}.



Post Card showing the Kalafrana Seaplane Base published by Critien's, author's collection

The Malta Study Circle handbook, on page 260⁴ records that a postcard cancelled "BATH 22nd PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF Gt BRITAIN 9.45 AM 19 JU 1935" addressed to Valletta was returned to Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire, after being struck with a VALLETTA 5-PM JU 21 35 c.d.s. The card bears a penciled endorsement "Ex Syracuse 21 6. 35".

⁵The S.66 was a twin-hull cantilever monoplane flying boat with metal hull and wings and wooden twin-booms and tail unit. The prototype (c/n 15001) which flew for the first time in 1932, was followed by another twenty-three aircraft, the first of which became operational in late 1933, while the last was delivered in December 1937. The two crew had an enclosed cockpit mounted in the wing centre section between the two hulls. Each hull originally contained seven seats, two sleeping couches and a lavatory; the sleeping couches being replaceable by two to four more seats in each hull.

ITALIAN 'PLANE CRASH

AIR POCKETS AT 50 FEET !

Another Italian seaplane narrowly averted tragedy last Saturday. This time the incident took place at Marsaxlokk itself, when the new three engined seaplane "Savoia Marchetti" crashed into the smooth waters of Marsaxlokk Seaplane Base. The 'plane only started service on the 15th of this month, and cost 1,200,000 Italian Liras which are equal to about £20,000. The passengers who included General Varzi bound for Tripoli, had a truly miraculous escape, only one of them receiving any serious injury.

It has been reported elsewhere that the crash took place when "the plane flattened out for a good landing and was caught in an air pocket when only 50 feet from the sea."

Air pockets at 50 feet above sea level are rare, if possible at all. Air pockets are caused by rarified air, which, having less lifting power, causes the 'plane to drop. When the 'plane has crossed the "pocket," and re-enters less rarified air, it bumps upward again. At this time of the year it is presumable that if a 'plane is flying from the land towards the sea, it would rather get a bump upwards than downwards as happened at Marsaxlokk, because the air above the sea, being cooler, is less rarified and has therefore more lifting power.

What probably happened is the pilot in slowing to make a landing, lost "flying speed" and nose dived. "Flying speed" is the least speed at which an aeroplane can fly without losing control.

Incident report in "The Times Of Malta", 26th June 1935, page 20

General aircraft characteristics:

- Crew: 2
- Capacity: 18/22 passengers (nine to eleven in each hull)
- Length: 16.63 m (54 ft 7 in)
- Wingspan: 33 m (108 ft 3 in)
- Height: 4.90 m (16 ft 1 in)
- Wing area: 126.70 m² (1,363.8 sq ft)
- Empty weight: 7,450 kg (16,424 lb)
- Gross weight: 10,950 kg (24,141 lb)
- Power plant: 3 × Fiat A.24R V piston engine, 559 kW (750 hp) each

Performance:

- Maximum speed: 264 km/h (164 mph; 143 kn)
- Cruising speed: 235 km/h (146 mph; 127 kn)
- Range: 1,200 km (746 mi; 648 nmi)
- Service ceiling: 5,000 m (16,404 ft)

References:

- ¹ <http://www.aviationinmalta.com/CivilGeneralAviation/AccidentsCivil>
- ^{2&3} Newspapers: The Malta Chronicle of 22nd June 1935; The Times Of Malta of 26th June 1935
- ⁴ MSC: Malta, The Postal History & Postage Stamps, 1576 – 1960, edited by R.E. Martin. ISBN 0 85397 123 4
- ⁵ <http://1000aircraftphotos.com/Contributions/10550.htm>
- ⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savoia-Marchetti_S.66

The Language of Stamps

by

John V. De Battista

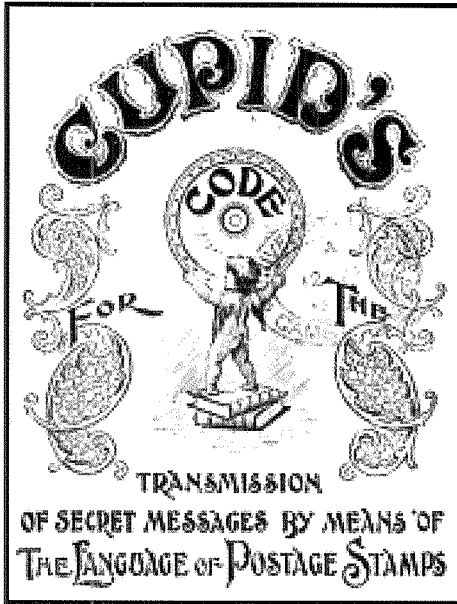
Most people today are familiar with the Language of Flowers, which is still often used to convey messages. Example, roses are still regarded as representing love and white flowers, a sense of purity. However few are aware that similarly, up to the Second World War and to a much lesser extent the early 1960's, there also existed a now forgotten Language of Stamps.

Many collectors of post related items will have noticed that quite a proportion of mail posted from around 1890 and the early twentieth century had stamps affixed to envelopes and picture postcards in all sorts of odd positions and orientation. In fact, the position and orientation of the stamp could actually be a coded additional message from the sender, with the configuration being in what is known as the language of stamps.

The practice of coded messages on mail seems to have had its origins in the pre-stamp period, when generally it was the recipients of letters who paid the postage connected with the delivery of the mail. At the time it was not infrequent for special marks to be placed by the sender on the address side of the letter. The recipient on seeing the special marking would then refuse the letter, hence avoiding the payment of the postage fee, because s/he already knew what the message inside was all about!

With the introduction of cheaper postal rates and the postage stamp in 1840, this abusive practice generally died out. However in the late 1800's, with the introduction of the postcard containing a very short message which was visible to everybody, the idea of the special marks was given a new lease of life in the form of encrypted "secret" messages by means of how the stamp was placed on the card. As the language developed, besides the top right hand corner of the postal item, use was also made of other positions on the letter / post card. Later on, the language was supplemented with a variation for the codes when instead of using one, two stamps were used in combination.

The interest and use of the postage stamp language spread rapidly, and at the turn of the 20th century the rules began to receive their particular chapter in the etiquette books along with the languages of flowers, handkerchiefs and fans to name a few. Moreover, in many countries the diffusion of this language was assisted through the publication of specific manuals, mention in mundane magazines and society gossip.



Title page of George Bury's twenty-page booklet on The Language of Postage Stamps (Ashford, Middlesex, 1899)



Edwardian era magazine

As usually happens, entrepreneurs were quick to jump onto the bandwagon and started publishing and marketing the idea through postcards depicting the postage stamp 'codes'. This furthered the language of stamps to develop its own dialects, like any language, which were sometimes linked to a multi-language publisher. When studying this aspect of philately, besides the "dialect" one also needs to keep in mind another important point, namely that the positions may also sometimes have different meanings depending both upon the country and language used. Thus the code used for "kiss" on a Finnish card may mean "write soon" in an English one.

The custom of the use of the language of stamps reached its climax and demise at different periods in different countries. For example in Russia, where it was a great fashion during the time of the Czars, no such postcard was published after the 1917 revolution, as etiquette itself was considered a bourgeois left-over. This also happened in socialist countries after 1945 as the regimes did not tolerate any encoded messages. In western European countries, however, we can find vestiges of this custom as late as the sixties.

One major drawback which eventually led to the downfall of the custom, however, was inherent in the basic setup of the language itself. The problem of postmarking the stamps placed on various parts of the envelope or post card finally



Card showing examples of codes using a combination of two stamps

became so great, that eventually the postal administrations decided to intervene and introduced regulations requiring the sender of mail to affix postage stamps in the right top corner of the correspondence.

Finally, it goes without saying that unless there is a clear indication in the letter or postcard itself, one may only guess at whether the postage stamp language was actually used on a mailed item, or whether the stamp or stamps were affixed haphazardly. The surest telltale for verifying such usage is when stamps are affixed in such a manner on postcards themselves illustrating the language of stamps on the picture side.

Sources:

- <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/87029103>
- <https://v1203.wordpress.com/2010/10/08/cupids-code>
- <http://www.ipdastamps.org/languageofstamps.html>
- <http://www.philatelicedatabase.com/nostalgia/the-language-of-stamps>
- <http://riowang.blogspot.com/2011/12/language-of-stamps.html>

Works of art by Ġanni Bonnici in philately

by

Alfred Caruana Ruggier

The Anzac Memorial at the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana, designed by the Maltese sculptor Ġanni Bonnici, features on an Australia Post prepaid postal stationery envelope designed by Sharon Rodziewicz from the Australia Post Studios. It depicts photography of the memorial by Renee Figallo, one showing the complete work while a detail of the bronze figures can be admired on the imprinted postage stamp itself. This franking covers postage to any destination within Australia. A faint overall background image of the former Cottonera Hospital across the cover was provided by Saint Edward's College, Malta.



The rear side of the envelope mentions the inauguration of the memorial on 25th May 2013 and acknowledges Bonnici's work as expressing human pathos during the Gallipoli Campaign in the First World War. At the time thousands of wounded Australian and New Zealand personnel were evacuated to Malta for treatment and convalescence. Many died from their injuries with a good number of bodies being repatriated to their home countries. More than two hundred and seventy soldiers were however buried in Malta.

A full colour photograph of Bonnici's memorial is reproduced as a full page illustration in the prestigious book commemorating the Anzac Centenary 1915-2015 "Malta and the Anzacs – The Nurse of the Mediterranean" by Frank L. Scicluna O.A.M., Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia.

Credit due to Ġanni Bonnici for his original design is duly given in this book

which provides full information on Anzac Centenary Commemorations through text and images.

Bonnici's design for the memorial was chosen from among six entries in a competition specifically held for its erection. It expresses human suffering without images recalling war or weapons. It is a heroic symbol of those who defended and gave their lives for their countries. This is achieved by a male and female figure in bronze, whose open arms and palms express a pleading struggle for survival and evoke the spirit of glory on attaining victory. The sculptor's use of the arms forming a triangle, the virile marble central pillar emerging behind the three shorter columns of different height all contribute towards an abstract approach to sculpture. All three rest on a three-stepped circular base which bears the names of the Anzac soldiers buried in Malta.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Philatelists know quite well that Bonnici's works have featured on stamps of Malta since 1985. That year the artist's relief ceramic sculpture of the Three Wise Men, the Madonna with baby Jesus and Heralding Angels was the basis used for the three Christmas stamps set.

In 1986 the 8c+2c stamp was voted First in the International Vote-A-Stamp Referendum and Contest while the 2c+1c stamp was voted Third. (Figure 1)

Very few philatelists know, however, that Ġanni Bonnici's 1985 Christmas 2c + 1c stamp showing "The Three Wise Men" was reproduced in 23 carat gold foil (Figure 2) with gummed backing as a legitimate British private local stamp by the owner of Staffa, an island off the coast of Scotland that had no official postal service. They were permissible under British law and used in payment for the service of private delivery from Staffa up to the official Post Office on the island of Mull. They were produced by the London and New York Stamp Company Limited and offered for sale to Cinderella Stamp Collectors through the Calhoun Collector's Society.

Bonnici's bronze Independence Monument in Floriana is shown on the highest value of the 1991 definitive set, the LM2, from paintings by Frank Portelli. (Figure 3)

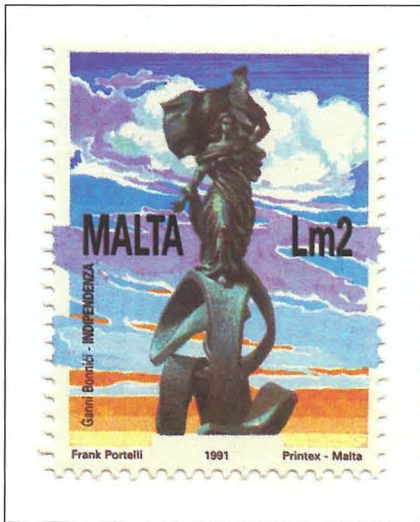


Figure 3



Figure 4

One of his ceramic figures was chosen to represent a contemporary art work and can be seen reproduced, from a photograph by his son Hermann, on the highest value of the 2006 "Ceramics in Maltese Collections" stamp set designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier. (Figure 4)

Stamped covers to Malta from pre-unification Italian states

by

Giovanni Bonello

The united Italy we know today was, in the first half of the 19th century, little more than the wishful thinking of a patriotic elite. What is now known as Italy was a fragmented conglomeration of separate states, some under foreign domination, others more or less autonomous, some on friendly relations with their geographical neighbours, other on the most hostile terms. Some were kingdoms, some were former republics, all were disjointed. Italy was a political assemblage separated by a common language.

It was only through the visionary action of the patriots and political thinkers that a united, free and democratic Italy took shape over the 19th century in the long, painful and gory process known as the Risorgimento. The foreign dominations were defeated, the local petty monarchies and dukedoms overthrown, and a united Italy coalesced more or less adequately under the Savoia dynasty. The moral courage and leadership of Giuseppe Mazzini, the diplomatic genius of Camillo Benso, Count of Cavour and the heroic military interventions of Giuseppe Garibaldi eventually saw a political impossibility turn into a historical reality: the unification of Italy, complete with the wrenching of the Papal States from the control of Pope Pius IX, the *Papa-Re*, in 1870.

Every state in-pre-unified Italy, large or small, had its own postal administration which circulated its own distinctive postage stamps. I have counted nine stamp-emitting states in all. The Austria-controlled Lombardy-Venice first issued postage stamps in 1857, the Duchy of Modena in 1852, the Kingdom of Naples in 1858, the Duchy of Parma in 1852, the Romagna in 1859, Sicily in the same year, the Kingdom of Sardinia in 1851, the Papal States in 1852, and the grand duchy of Tuscany also in 1852.

Covers to Malta from these pre-unification states prove to be rather rare. There is a bewildering abundance of correspondence from the UK to Malta, and quite a noticeable amount from France, but stamped envelopes and entires from the Italian peninsula to the Maltese islands are hardly as common as the geographical vicinity of the Italian mainland to Malta would suggest. Why this should be so goes beyond the remit of this study.

I will illustrate and describe five pre-unification covers addressed to Malta from as many different Italian states, ranging from 1857 to 1870, to give readers a tentative and very superficial flavour of this fascinating area in the vast range of philatelic studies.



Kingdom of Sardinia

Letter from Genova to Malta, dated 24 July 1857, Malta postmark on back dated 29 July 1857. Addressed to “Sig.e G.B. e Flllo (fratello?) Bondin” and sent ‘*Col vap(ore) postale*’. It is franked with four non-perforated vermilion stamps of 40 cents each, in conjoined sets of two, having the embossed profile of King Vittorio Emanuele II in a white oval. These stamps were first issued in 1855.

Kingdom of Sicily

Letter from Messina to Malta, dated 25 October 1859 with Malta postmark on the back dated 26 October 1859. Addressed to the Maltese merchants and auctioneers Messrs Dalzel & Gingell by H.J. Ross, ship broker in Messina, whose cachet it bears. It is franked symmetrically with a total of twenty Grana, made up of ten postage stamps of Sicily, all on Naples paper: two Half Grana, pale orange yellow; seven 2 Grana (three pairs and one single), and one 5 Grana, plate 1, carmine rose, all not perforated – Sicily never perforated its stamps. All have the effigy of King Ferdinand II, known to his enemies as *Re Bomba*, in copper engraving. These beautiful stamps are popularly referred to as *testoni*. Some experts consider them to be the most handsome of all the classical issues.

Sicily adopted a peculiar cancellation, known as a deferential obliterator, rather horseshoe shaped and without date, to avoid disfiguring the face of the monarch.



Grand Duchy of Tuscany

Letter from Trieste to Malta, via Leghorn, dated 10 May 1859, with unclear Malta arrival postmark on the back. It is addressed to Sig.r Henry B. Bennet, signed by Fratelli Marinetti. The cover is franked with five postage stamps of Tuscany first



issued in 1851 totalling together 40 Crazie, made up as follows: two horizontal pairs of 9 Crazie, dull purple on grey, and 4 Crazie, green on white, all non-perforated. The letter was sent '*Col (vapore) postale*'.
The stamps show the symbol of Florence, the heraldic crowned lion holding the fleur-de-lys shield, known as Il Marzocco, a word of ancient usage but whose origin is unclear.

Austrian Lombardy-Venice

Letter from Trieste to Malta dated 4 August, 1862, written by Lorenzo Caruana whose cachet appears on the front, to Signor Enrico Polacho (Pollacco?). This letter was received in Malta on 14 August, 1862 as evidenced by the arrival postmark on



the back. It is franked by four perforated stamps totalling together 29 Soldi, made up of a pair of yellow 2 Soldi, one brownish red 10 Soldi and one blue 15 Soldi, all bearing the embossed profile of Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, facing right. The letter travelled '*Via Italia*'. This Italian state, under the control of Austria-Hungary, started perforating its stamps in November 1858.



Papal States

Letter from Rome to Malta, dated 30 April 1870, addressed to Don Salvatore Canonico Cumbo, *segretario di Monsignor Vescovo di Malta*. It is under-franked by one perforated 20 Centesimi violet stamp. This cover received the handstamp *Francobollo Insufficiente* and was taxed in Malta with the rare 1s./4p. large circular postage due handstamp on arrival. No stamp issued by the Papal States bore the effigy of the reigning pope. They all showed the symbolic crossed keys of the See of Peter in different shapes and frames. The first perforated stamps of the Papal States were issued in March 1868.

Rome was captured by the Risorgimento forces just a few months after this letter, on the 20 September 1870, and this brought to an end the long process, military and political, for the liberation and unification of Italy.

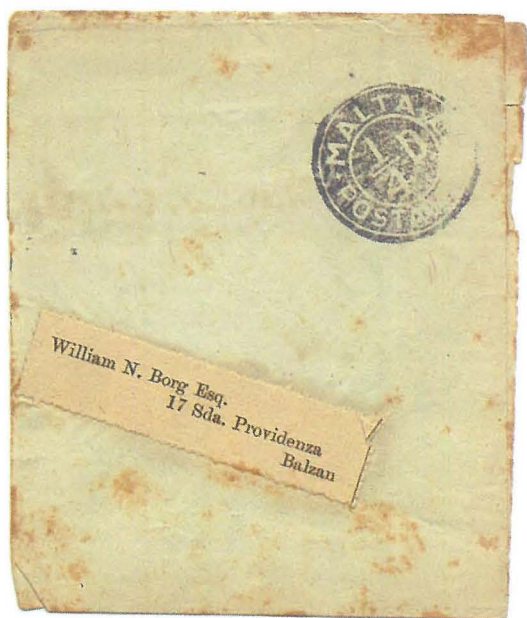
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For the information of our foreign members (*The Editor*)

G. Bonello served as Judge of the European Court of Human Rights during the years 1998-2010. Among other awards he was awarded: 2003: Gold Medal of the Malta Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce. - Companion of the National Order of Merit - Cavaliere of the Italian Republic - Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta - Insignia of Merit by the Russian Federation for outstanding achievement - Extraordinary gold medal by the Judiciary of the Republic of Moldova.

The farthing negative mark of the 1920s

by
Albert Ganado

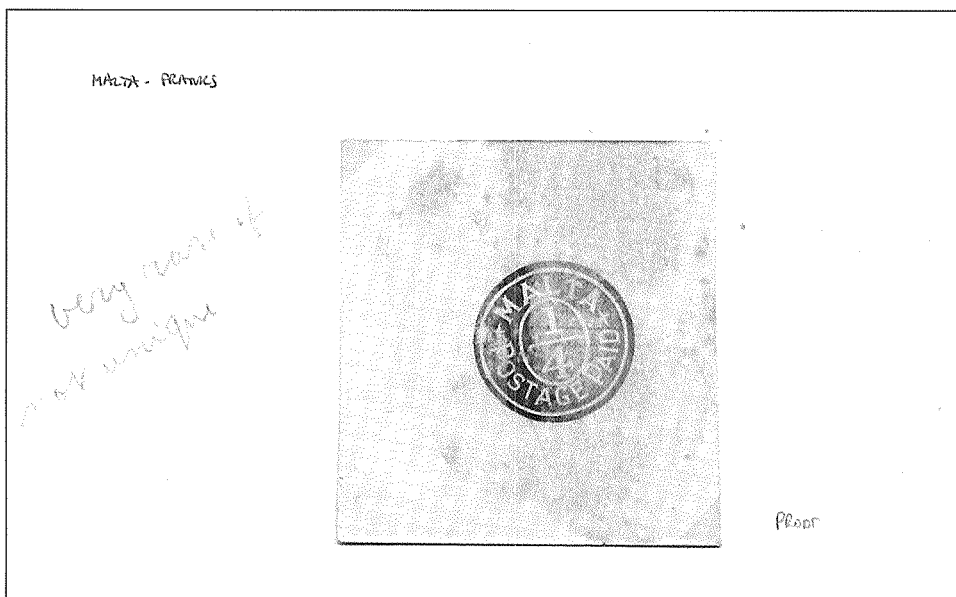


In the 20th century the General Post Office used standard types of handstamps for cancelling and backstamping normal daily mail. These handstamps varied from time to time. The first 'POSTAGE PAID' marks since the appearance of adhesive stamps were two ¼d (farthing) so-called 'negative' marks with white lettering on a double round circle in black ink.

It was held at one time that they were used at the end of the nineteenth century before the introduction of the ¼d stamps, the evidence shows that they were used in 1924 and shortly after. There were two types of this mark. One had a round inner circle with the 'D' on the right alongside the full ¼, while the other type had the ¼D in a vertical oval, but with the 'D' alongside the top part of the ¼ next to '1'.

The author has seen a collection of the weekly newspaper *L'Eco di Malta e Gozo* on which the marks were used for a short period, presumably when there was a shortage of the ¼d adhesive stamp. The first issue of this newspaper was dated 15 July 1921 and all the numbers until that of June 6, 1924, carried the adhesive stamp. Nothing is shown on the issue dated 14 June. Perhaps, it was

delivered postage free. The negative mark of both types was again used on issues between 27 June and 27 December 1924, on which date this newspaper stopped



publication, although it appeared again in 1933. It was the *Organo Democratico Nazionale*, edited by Dr Enrico Mizzi, leader of the Democratic Nationalist Party. On 24 August 1924 his political party entered into a coalition with the *Panzavecchian Unione Politica Maltese*. They joined hands to form one party on 23 January 1926.

The author has also seen a collection of *Il Patria* which was issued as a nationalist newspaper between 1922 and 1926. The negative marks were used on all the issues between March 19 and 15 October 1925. Apparently, from this latter date until the end of 1926 this newspaper was not delivered by post but by hand delivery. The two collections referred to above are preserved at the Malta National Library.

The author has a proof of the farthing negative mark. There is in an oval centre $\frac{1}{4}$, but no 'D'. The outer circle measures 30mm and the glossy card on which it is struck measures 80 x 70.5mm. The mark actually used measured also 30mm. The oval proof measures 16 x 14mm.

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immediately**

World War I Censorship Marks

by
Albert Ganado



The Hon. Dr. Enrico Mizzi, 1885 - 1950

I have in my collection a few envelopes with censorship marks of the 1914-1918 World War which I think are worth reproducing. They are addressed to the Honourable Dr Enrico Mizzi who was court-marshalled in 1917 under the Malta Defence Regulations issued on 14 August 1916 by Order in Council. The Governor was given wide discretionary powers to arrest and court martial even civilians.

Enrico Mizzi was born on 20 September 1885 in Valletta, son of Fortunato and the Italian Maria Sofia Fogliero de Luna. In 1903 he entered the University of Malta where he won a prize for Italian Literature. He went to Italy in 1907 to read Law at the Regia Università di Roma (La Sapienza). He graduated LL.D. at the Università di Urbino and obtained his Warrant to practise Law in Malta in 1916. However, he dedicated his life to journalism as from 1904. Italianate by education and upbringing, he openly professed his love for Italy, he hated the British colonialism, and strongly opposed the substitution of the Italian language by that of Britain. He was named by Giovanni Bonello ‘the greatest of all Maltese’.

His father was given the title of *Pater Patriae* for his unending struggle for self-government and the defence of the Italian language and culture, but harboured no irredentist aspirations and believed in loyalty to the Crown. Enrico succeeded his father Fortunato as representative for the sister island of Gozo by being elected to the Council of Government in March 1915. On 7 May 1917 he was arrested with a view, in the Governor’s words, to his being tried by court martial. The Governor’s decision was received with mixed feelings by Colonial Office officials in London.

Mizzi was taken to the Prisoner-of-War camp at Polverista Barracks in Cottonera. He was placed in cell number 16 of the married quarters, where he would remain for fourteen weeks. Polverista Barracks were part of a network of P.O.W. camps

and housed the Regimental Headquarters of the garrison guarding the camps. About 2,000 prisoners of various nationalities, including Germans, Austrians, and Turks, spent the war in the Cottonera camps. The alien army officers were kept in Verdala Barracks.

Mizzi was kept at headquarters in Polverista and not in the camp proper, probably owing to his status as a British subject and a political prisoner. His brother and sisters were allowed to visit him and he was not made to work like the other prisoners. His cell was equipped with the bare necessities. For a week or so, he was kept in complete isolation, and was not permitted to write to his family or the Government until the 15th May. Later, he received letters from his family and notes from friends and political colleagues.

Meanwhile, the Military Intelligence Officer took possession of his house at Strada Zecca, Valletta. His two sisters who lived with him were made to leave the residence, a search was conducted, and all his papers were examined. The investigation was carried on until the 23rd June.

In terms of the Defence Regulations all Mizzi's mail, both personal and official from Government authorities, passed through the hands of censors. Most letters were given a 'Passed Censor' stamp, while a few were 'Opened under Martial Law' before being forwarded.

This brings me to the covers which form the subject of this article. There are in all four covers to be examined, all in brown official envelopes 'On His Majesty's Service' (the first one) or in capital letters (the other three).

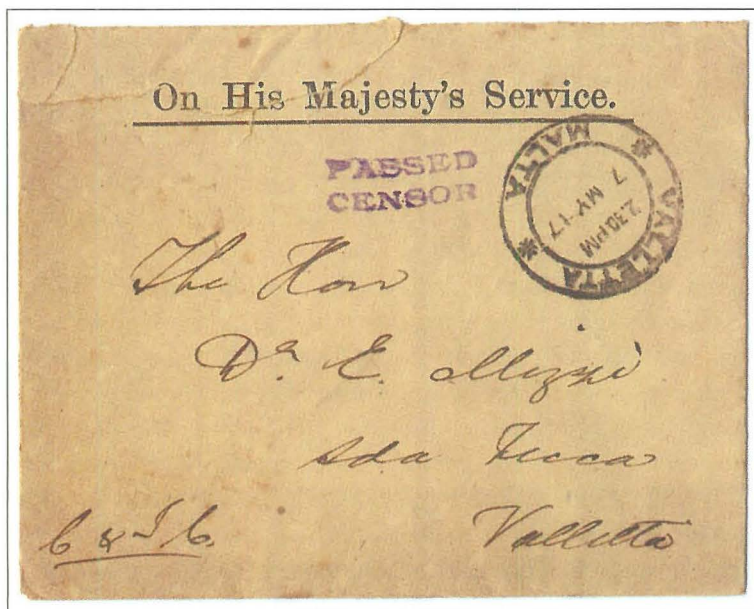


Figure 1

The first envelope (*Figure 1*) has a double circle Valletta postmark (30mm) dated '7 MY 17 – 2.30 PM' addressed to 'The Hon D^r. E. Mizzi, Sda Zecca, Valletta' from 'C & IC', presumably indicating the office of the Council of Government. As it was posted to Mizzi's private address on the same day of his arrest, it must have been passed on to the military authorities and stamped in two lines 'PASSED/ CENSOR', measuring 25 x 8mm, not boxed.

Throughout his arrest and trial Mizzi kept his seat in the Council of Government, although he was not allowed to attend sittings. In fact, he continued to receive various Council notices. He took an interest in what was going on in his absence and looked after the affairs of his constituents. He carried on correspondence with the Lieutenant Governor and various government departments.

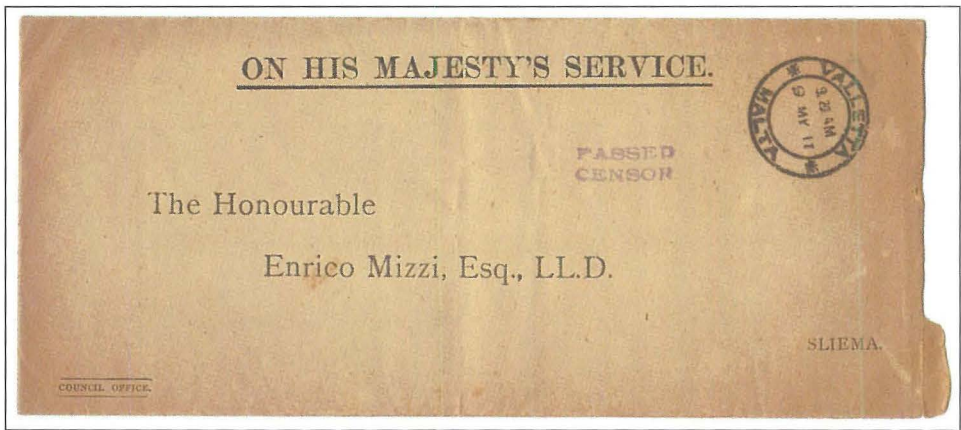


Figure 2

The second envelope (*Figure 2*) has the same Valletta postmark dated '9 MY 17 – 9.29 AM'. It has the same censorship mark as on the 7th May cover. It was sent by the COUNCIL OFFICE (bottom left corner) from SLIEMA (bottom right corner).

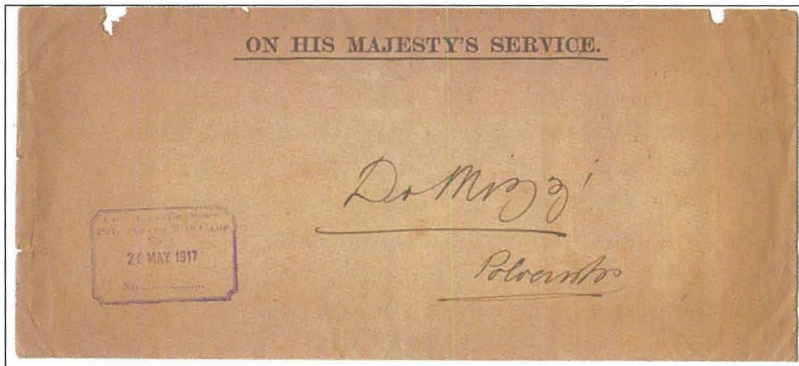


Figure 3

The third envelope (*Figure 3*) is addressed simply ‘Dr Mizzi/ Polverista’, and it has no postmark. There is no censorship mark, but it passed through the highest authority at the camp. A boxed stamp, 32 x 46mm, at the left bottom corner, which is apparently unrecorded, reads as follows:

‘COMMANDANT’S OFFICE
PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP
MALTA
20 MAY 1917
No.....’

The fourth envelope (*Figure 4*) was sent from the ‘GENERAL POST OFFICE, / MALTA / NO. 15.’ (bottom left corner, and it has the same Valletta postmark dated ‘9AU 17 – 12.30 PM’. It seems that by then Mizzi had been moved from the prisoners-of-war camp, as the cover is addressed: ‘The Honourable / Enrico Mizzi Esq., LL.D., / Married Quarters, / Verdala, / Malta’.

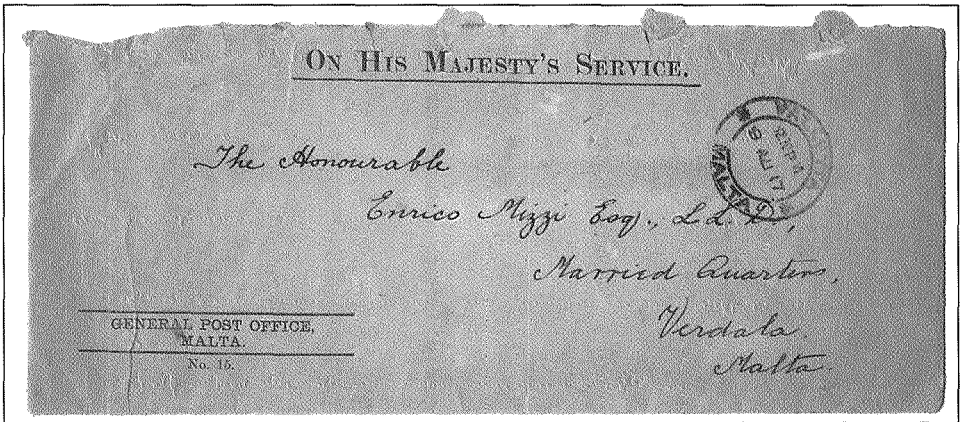


Figure 4

Mizzi was charged with having violated the Defence Regulations on two counts. The trial by court martial started on 16 July 1917. He was found guilty and sentenced to one year’s imprisonment without hard labour. The Governor commuted the sentence to one of ‘severe reprimand’.

Just before Italy entered World War II in 1940, Mizzi was interned, without charge or trial, and in 1942 he was exiled to Uganda. On his return after three years he became the leader of the Nationalist Party and, when his party won the election in September 1950, Enrico Mizzi became Prime Minister.

He died in office as Prime Minister on 20 December 1950.

For further reading on the military proceedings of 1917 see Austin Sammut, *The Court Marshal of Enrico Mizzi*, Malta, 2005.

Maltese Falcons - Grand Masters Letters to the King of the Two Sicilies

By
Alfred Bonnici

Malta was donated to the Hospitallers by King Charles V of Spain in 1530, after the fall of Rhodes on 21 December 1522, when Suleyman the Magnificent allowed them to leave Rhodes on the 1st January 1523 with full Military Honours, led by the G.M. Philippe de Villiers de l'Isle Adam, taking all their belongings- Archives, work of art etc, accompanied by some three hundred Rhodiots - Latin and Greek.

They stayed in Europe for eight years, when Pope Clement VII established their Convent at Viterbo where they had their magistral palace, a conventual church, a hospital and the auberges for the Langues.

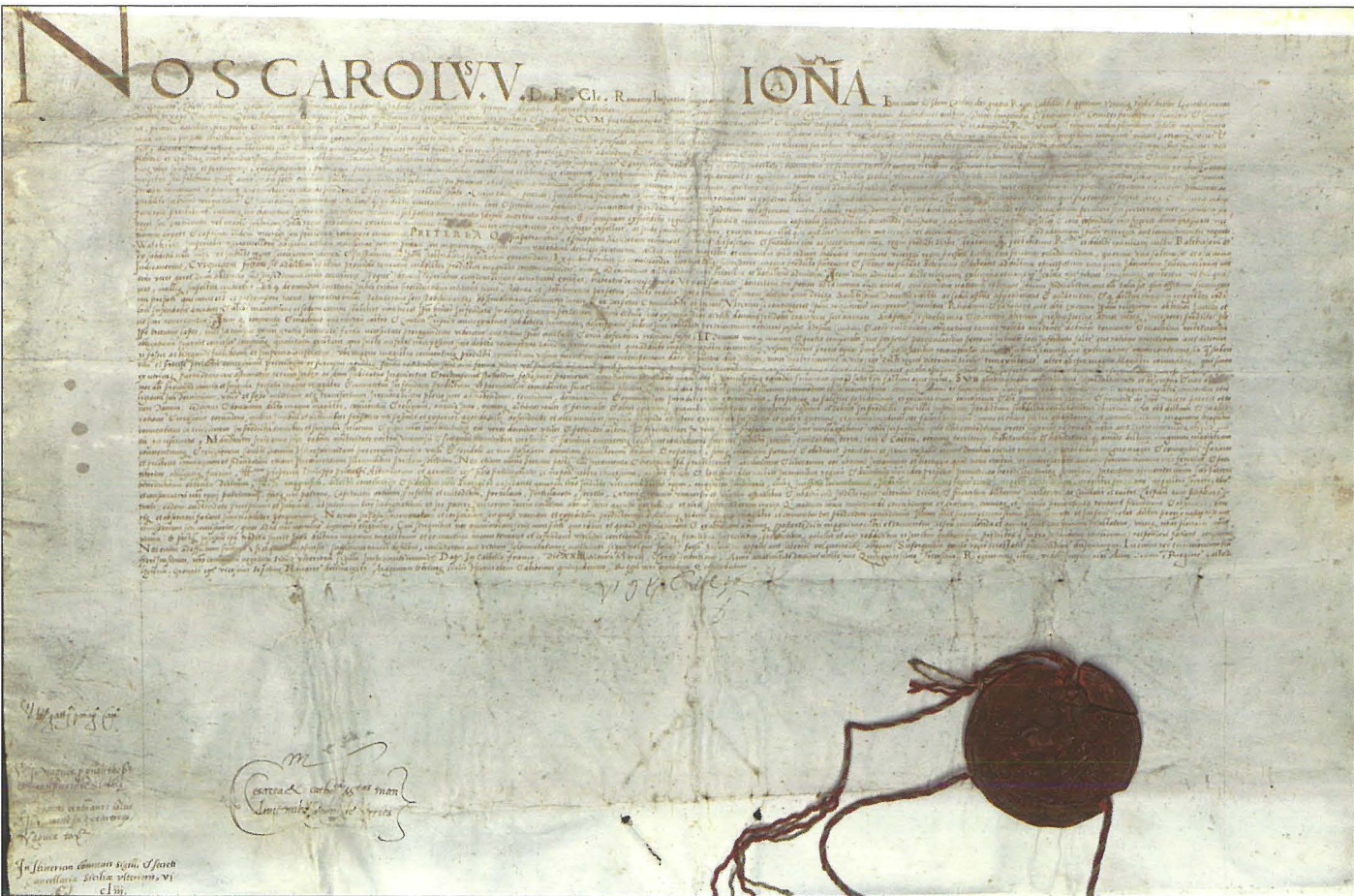
In 1527 plague forced them out of Viterbo sailing to Corneto and on to Nice, and this delay (1523-27) may be attributed in part to forces independent of the Order's crisis. There were three major problems confronting Christendom at this particular point in time:

- the first was the internecine warfare provoked by the enmity which Charles V and Francis I entertained for each other, with the Pope and most of the minor princes getting unavoidably embroiled in the conflict. It turned Italy into the battlefield of Europe.
- the second was the Lutheran revolt.
- the third factor was the challenge offered by the formidable power of an expanding Ottoman Empire. On 28-29 August 1521, Belgrade, the outer wall of Christendom' was treacherously forced into surrender by the young sultan's large and well equipped army on its first campaign. The battle of the Mohacs stretched the Ottoman front to the very domains of the Habsburg Austria. In 1529 Vienna under siege.

Towards the end of this period they actively considered the idea of re conquering Rhodes.

The Viceroy in Sicily had found the cost of defending Malta from frequent pirate attacks, very high and it is said that Ettore Pignatelli, Charles V's Viceroy in Sicily was in favour of donating Malta to the Hospitallers as this would indeed be to his own defence advantage.

On 22 February 1530, celebrating his thirtieth birthday, Charles V was crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in Bologna, and within a month on 23 March, no doubt pushed by the Pope to do this he signed the donation deed at Castelfranco.



courtesy of the National Library

The Order had accepted Charles's grant as a perpetual fief in return for the annual gift of (a falcon) on All Saints Day.

However it was Six not One falcon to be given to the Viceroy of Sicily.

Probably this wrong statement that only ONE falcon was to be given to the Viceroy of Sicily started when W Porter published "History of the Knights of Malta. (1858) and the cession document was translated into English. .

This English translation was printed and circulated Officially quite recently in which it is stated:

"so that they may hereafter hold them in feudal tenure from us as Kings of both Sicilies.....under the sole acknowledgment of a hawk or falcon, which, every year, on the festival of All Saints, shall be presented..... into the hands of the Viceroy....."

All those of my age group who were thought Maltese History through Mgr S Laspina's book "Outlines of Maltese History", p 73, learnt that "on the day of All Saints, present a falcon to the Viceroy of Sicily in the name of the Order.*

Consequently all Maltese Historians accepted this as a fact

As recent as October 2015 Giulio Perricone from Palermo in his article "Collegamenti marittimi con le Scorradore dell Ordine di Malta con le Feluche e i Vapori del Regno delle due Sicilie e delle messaggerie francesi (1789-1894)" in "I servizi postali marittime in Sicilia dai velieri del sec.XIV ai piroscafi del sec. XIX" put together by Vincenzo Fardella de Qernfort, page 43, states: "ogni anno un falcone ammaestrato doveva essere portato al vicere di Sicilia."

This misconception is still current among us to day, as nobody checked the original document which says clearly "sex falchoms"



Moreover these six falcons are clearly mentioned in all the letters sent to the Viceroy by successive Grand Masters as is being shown

Letter from GM. D.Ramon.Despuig.
(17 November 1738) sending "Seij alconej"

In el acto de mostrarme a los V. M. de S. M.
con la carta de demostracion de Seij alconej
que presentava en mi nombre el Bayl.
fr. D. Eitor Mamuli, de las mejores que en
la plaza de este año se han podido sacar
aqui, se uerro ala experimentada gene-
rosidad de V. E. para que por favorecer-
me, se sirua concurrir con sus oficios
afin de que tan corto don de mi humil-
de obsequio encuentre la real aceptacion
y granhdad; asi lo expreso de la fuerza de
V. E. como que me facilite sus preceptos,
para mostrarme con la ejecucion agras-
decido a los fauores que me dispensa
V. E. suya vida, q. Dios md. a Malta
17. de Nov. de 1738.

Como C.
Ca. J.
Blind. V. E. su m. Serv.
El Gran Maestro.
Despuig

Letter from GM. Manoel Pinto de Fonseca
(30 Nov 1741) sending “Su’s alionej”

El Barão Sr. Don Cesar Marulli
me ha querido presentaria a V.M.
en mi nombre Sus alionej de los me-
jores que se han podido sacar este
año en esta ysla, pequeña de mos-
tracion de mi reverente animo que
me alienta a recibir la experien-
cia de que el benigno de V.M. se sir-
va admitirla con agrado.
Dios guarde La. S. R. L. de V.M.
de V.M. como la Christianidad ha
menester. Malta 30. de Noviembre
de 1741.

J. D. May.

Humbilde servidor de V.M.
que sus reales manos besa
El Gran Maestro.
D. D. Manoel Pinto de Fonseca.

Letter from GM Pinto
(6 December 1760) sending "Seijalconej"

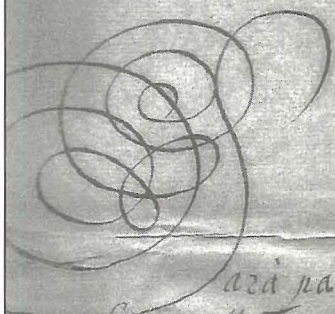
Debiendo presentar a S. M. que Dios es
el Ven. Bay. Fr. D. Est. Marulli mi
Ministro en esta Real Corte, en mi nom-
bre Seijalconej no deixo de encomen-
dar a V. E. que es tan favorecedor mio
la benigna aceptación de este mi
vniuerso obsequio a su Real grandez,
que me promete la misma, y el afec-
tuoso influxo de V. E. de que vivo
tan seguro, como obligado por tan
preciosos motivos a su servicio, y fco
dejeo de que Dios es a V. E. m. d.
Malta 6. de Dic. de 1760.

Como
Ex: Señor.
El Com. de V. E. en m. d.
El Gran Maestre.
Pinto.

Marques Janici.

**Letter from GM D.Emanuel Pinto de Fonseca
(22 October 1764) sending “Sei Falconi”**

Sacra Real Maesta



per parte della Real Grandezza di Vostra
Sacra Maesta il gradire Sei Falconi che avrà
l'onore di presentarle in mio nome il nobile D.
Innocenzo Cignatelli. Spero che la somma Clemenza
di Vostra Sacra Real Maesta si degnera ricevere
graziosamente questa ossequiosa dimostranza della
mia infinita venerazione. E mentre la supplico di
continuare il suo Real Patrocinio a me ed a questa
mia Religione fo alla Sacra Real Maesta Vostra
umilissimo inchino

Malta 22 Ore 1764.

Di Vostra Sacra Real Maesta

Umilissimo e Devotissimo Servo
Il Gran Maestro dello Spedale e del S.^{mo} Sepolcro di S. Ferlemm
D. D. Emanuel Pinto de Fonseca

Letter from GM Emanuel de Rohan
(6 December 1786) sending "Sei Falconi"

Avrà l'onore il Balì fra Pasquale Gaetani
d'Amigona mio Ministro Plenipotenziario di presentare
a Vostra Sacra Real Maestà in mio nome Sei
Falconi costante testimonianza dell'ossequiosa mia
venerazione verso della Sacra Maestà Vostra. Ed in
atto di Supplicare riverentemente la Sua Real
Clemenza di gradirla, e di rimaner persuasa che la mia
Religione, ed io non altro desideriamo, che di meritare
la continuazione delle Grazie benignissime, e Real
Patrocínio di Vostra Sacra Maestà faccio alla
Medesima profondissimo inchino.

tra Sacra Real Maestà Matta 6. Dicembre 1786

Umilissimo, e Divotissimo Servo
tro dell'Ospedale, del S. Sepolcro di Gerusalemme, ed di S. Antonio Veneto

J. Emanuel de Rohan

Letter from GM Emanuel de Rohan
(17 November 1793) sending "Sei Falconi"

Il Pate Fr. Giuseppe Francone Ministro Plenipotenziario
avrà l'onore di presentare a Vostra Real Maestà Sei Falconi
in mio nome, e di supplicarla di ricevere questo rispettosissimo
atto in contrasegno della mia somma venerazione verso della
Sagra Real Maestà Vostra. E mentre Supplico altresì la Sua
Real Clemenza degnarsi di gradirlo, e di rimaner persuasa che
la mia Religione, ed io non altro desideriamo, che di meritari
la continuazione delle benignissime grazie, e Real Potente
Protezione di Vostra Sagra Real Maestà, le faccio profondissim
in chino

Vostra Sagra Real Maestà

Malta 17. Novembre 1793.

Umilissimo e Devotissimo Servo.
Maestro dell'Arte, del S. Sepolcro di Gerusalemme, e di S. Antonio Viense
Emanuel de Rohan

The 1916 Maltese Emigrants' Incident

The story behind the Gozo Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

Joint First Centenary Anniversary Commemoration

by

John V. De Battista



*Hon. Billy Hughes, Prime Minister
of Australia, 1915 - 1923*

The protagonists of the episode, who later became referred to as the “Billy Hughes Children”, became embroiled in Australia’s racial, political and moral turbulence through the application of the ‘dictation test’ – Australia’s principal method of excluding unwanted migrants during the first decades of the twentieth century.

The Maltese, including a disproportionate number from the Gozitan hamlet of Santa Luċija (1), had boarded the French Messageries Maritimes mail-boat “*Gange*” in Malta bound for Australia, scheduled to arrive in Melbourne (en route to Sydney) on 28th October - the day of a referendum to impose conscription in Australia.

Prime Minister Hughes (pro-conscription), fearing that the subject of Maltese migrants might turn the tide against the conscription vote, resorted

to the Immigration Act stipulation that persons seeking to disembark at an Australian port could be classified as ‘prohibited immigrant’ if they failed a dictation test in any European language. So the Maltese were given a Dictation Test, conducted by a professor from the University of Melbourne (2) - in Dutch! They undoubtedly promptly failed and were not allowed to disembark.

The vessel then headed off for Noumea in New Caledonia, 1,207 kilometers east of Australia, where its bewildered Maltese passengers lived in a nightmarish limbo for ten weeks. Finally, under pressure from the British Colonial Office outraged by the discrimination against the Maltese (British subjects by birth), the Hughes government arranged for their return to Sydney.

However, on arrival they were only transferred onto an old hulk, the “*Anglian*”,

in Sydney Harbour, under armed guard! (3) Supporters of the men became more active, including the Governor of New South Wales Gerald Strickland. After much public controversy and a fair amount of pressure on Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes, not to mention the ordeal for the men and their families in the Maltese islands who came close to starvation as they were dependent on the wages these men-folk would have earned in Australia; no legitimate reason was left for continuing the men's incarceration and Prime Minister Hughes had to finally agree to their release and admission into Australia. The emigrants were finally allowed to disembark on 9th March, 1917. This was roughly four months after the "*Gange*" was supposed to have disembarked them at Sydney.

The following report published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of Saturday 4th October, 1919 (4) mentions the financial cost of the incident for the Australian taxpayers.

Detained Maltese! Cost to the country

It was stated by Senator Russell in the Senate to-day, in reply to a question, that in October, 1916, on the eve of the conscription campaign, the *Gange* arrived with 214 Maltese passengers for Australia. The unexpected and inopportune arrival of the men gave colour to the wildly circulated but totally incorrect statement that the Government were introducing Maltese to take the place of Australian soldiers who were serving at the front.

The men on the *Gange* were, therefore, refused admission under the provisions of the Immigration Act. They were taken by the *Gange* on to Noumea, but as that vessel had been chartered by the French Government to carry troops back to France it was necessary to land the Maltese at Noumea, pending further arrangements being made for their repatriation.

Owing to the shortage of shipping, efforts to repatriate the men were unsuccessful, and they were brought back to Sydney, where they were detained pending efforts to secure passages for Malta. Eventually they were permitted to land at Sydney on guarantees being given that they would join unions, and that employment would be found for them. The total cost of maintenance at Noumea was £2,332, and at Sydney £743. The owners of the ship were paid for damage and other expenses incurred in connection with this matter the sum of £4,050.

References:

- ¹ Private correspondence from Mr. Anthony Grech, 15th February 2016
- ² The Times of Malta, 22nd February, 2016
- ³ <http://www.ozmalta.page4.me/90.html>
- ⁴ <http://www.maltamigration.com/history/newcaledonia.shtml>

Postal Diary

21st August 2015 – 24th November 2015

Compiled by
John V. De Battista

21st August

MaltaPost re-invited the public to support and vote for the Malta stamp in the online competition for the most beautiful 2015 EUROPA stamp. The online contest will end on 31st August 2015 with the winning stamps being announced on 14th October in Cyprus. (*see entry dated 14th May*)

24th August

MaltaPost informed Għargħur residents that the Sub Post Office situated in “Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur GHR 1014 will be temporarily closed on Monday 31st August. The public was advised that as an alternative it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office, situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.



In a leaflet and covering letter sent out to philatelists, the Philatelic Bureau announced the issue of “The Grandmasters’ Collection”. However, no official date of issue was indicated. The collection consists of a customised presentation box containing a set of the “Grand Masters of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1530-1798)” stamp set issued on 30th September 2014, with each stamp being individually encapsulated in an acrylic capsule; a replica of each of the twenty-eight stamps in 0.2mmg thick sterling silver 999.0 foil each with a denomination of €14.15; an eighteenth century map of Malta, also in silver foil; a biography giving a profile of each of the Grand Masters and a magnifying glass.

The size of the silver foil stamps is 40mm x 50mm while their edge is mill finished. Issue limit was set at 650 proof sets, retailing at the price of €398 each, with orders being accepted on a first come first served basis. MaltaPost reserved the right to limit / reduce orders so as to satisfy the largest number of clients possible.

Curiously enough, this time around MaltaPost announced that the proof-quality silver foil “stamps” from this limited issue collection **were valid for postal usage**, a decision which sparked off a chorus of disapproval by philatelists. A number of reasons have been put forward for this criticism; the main one being that such purely

cash-raising curios issued in limited editions clearly aimed at collectors and not for regular use by the general public, should never be deemed valid for postal use. Such validation renders these issues to be classified as forming an integral part of the regular Malta postage stamp series. Philatelists feel that besides not conforming to the Philatelic Code of Ethics recommended by the UPU for the use of member countries, such an official recognition will seriously harm the standing of Maltese philately worldwide. The declaration also brought to the fore doubts as to whether or not certain prerogatives and provisions defined in the Postal Services Act, together with universal philatelic ethics, are being diligently observed as they should by the respective authorities and bodies entrusted with specific responsibilities to oversee and regulate this aspect of the postal service. Philatelists reminded that Maltese postage stamps embody a manifestation of Malta's sovereignty; are proof of prepayment for a government guaranteed universal postal service as specified by and under all obligations of UPU Conventions and Acts; and unused are stored value documents same as paper money. Together, these properties constitute the foundations for the definition of a postage stamp. They are also the basis upon which legal requirements governing the formulation of a postage stamp issuing programme and official government approval in the name of our country in respect of all true postage stamp issues, through the Minister responsible for the postal sector, are stipulated.

2nd September

The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the latest available data on the telecommunications and postal sectors in Malta for the second quarter (Q2) of 2015 covering the period April to June 2015. With regards to the Postal Services sector, the results indicate the following:

The number of postal mail items that were delivered in the second quarter of 2015 was down by 911,808 (or by 8.9 per cent) when compared to the number of postal mail items that were delivered in the second quarter of 2014 (10,280,720).

The number of standard letter mail items delivered in the second quarter of 2015 was down by 191,386 (or by 5.3 per cent) when compared to the same period in 2014 (3,602,165).

The number of bulk mail items was also down, in this case by 736,858 (or by 6.7 per cent), from 6.3 million mail items in the second quarter of 2014 to 5.5 million mail items in the second quarter of this year.

Another drop in mail volumes was recorded in terms of registered mail. The number of registered mail items delivered in the second quarter of 2015 totalled 311,985. This figure is down by 1,421 (or by almost 0.5 per cent) when compared to the

corresponding period a year earlier (313,406).

On the other hand, parcel mail volumes in the second quarter of 2015 were up by 17,857 (or by 19.1%) when compared to parcel mail volumes recorded in the second quarter of 2014 (93,680).

3rd September

MaltaPost notified that for the occasion of the consecration of P. George Bugeja O.F.M., a commemorative postmark was going to be used on Friday 4th September at the Post Office of Victoria, Gozo. The occasion commemorative double-ring hand stamp was inscribed “* MALTAPOST * VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 04-09-15” in the outer ring, and “KONSAGRAZZJONI P. GEORGE BUGEJA O.F.M. / SANTWARJU NAZZJONALI MADONNA TA’ PINU” in the inner ring, encircling an outline image of the bishop’s miter and crosier.



4th September

It was announced by MaltaPost that to mark the 450th Anniversary of the Great Siege, on the 7th September it was to issue a stamp in miniature sheet format. The miniature sheet consists in a detail of a painting titled “The Allegory of the Triumph of the Order” by Mattia Preti to be found at St. John’s Co- Cathedral in Valletta. Preti painted the allegorical figure of Victory representing the Order, dressed in armour and helmet with a sword in one hand and the flag of the Order in the other. In the background lie wounded knights and a fortified city that recall the Great Siege.

Each stamp measures 48.0mm x 39.5mm and has a comb perforation of 14.2 x 14.2. Overall, the Maltese Crosses watermarked sheet measures 120mm x 80mm. Printex Limited printed the sheets through the offset process and the issue consists of 20,000 individually numbered sheets. The face value of the stamp is of €4.25.

The battles of 1565 in Malta were the climax of longstanding hostility between the Christians and the Islamic Ottoman Empire for control of the Mediterranean. Emperor Charles V of Spain had granted Malta to the Knights of St. John in 1530, amongst other reasons, with the aim of creating a strategic line of defence for Christian Europe from Ottoman attacks. At dawn, on Friday 18th May 1565, an Ottoman fleet of forty thousand men arrived in Malta and this marked the start of the Great Siege. The siege of Malta ended on the 8th September 1565 when the Ottoman troops started their retreat. Malta had survived the Ottoman assault and throughout Europe people celebrated what would turn out to be the last epic battle involving Crusader Knights. The Great Siege also catalysed the building of the City

of Valetta on Mt. Sciberras immediately afterwards. The event is still commemorated as a National Day and is popularly known by the Maltese as 'Il-Vitorja'.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 11/2015). The single-ring hand stamp was inscribed “* MALTAPOST * ----- - MALTA” bordering the ring, and “450TH ANNIVERSARY/OF THE GREAT SIEGE/JUM IL-HRUĠ/07-09-15” below an image of the allegorical figure of Victory in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the stamp in Stamp Bulletin No. 339.



10th September

MaltaPost notified that for the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of Dar tal-Providenza a commemorative postmark was being used on Saturday 12th September at the Post Office located at Castille Square, Valletta.



The occasion commemorative double-ring hand stamp was inscribed “* MALTAPOST * CASTILLE SQR. - VALLETTA - MALTA 12-09-15” in the outer ring, and “ID-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA / 50 / SENA / ANNIVERSARJU / 1965-2015” in the inner ring, with the words ANNIVERARJU and year span placed inside a banner.

14th September

MaltaPost notified that on Tuesday 15th September, it will be issuing the folder “Colourful Cultures of Europe 6” published by SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation).

This is the sixth folder in the series and includes stamps and images from twelve European postal administrations. These are Aland Post, Posta Faroe Islands, Gibraltar Post Office, Post Greenland, Guernsey Post, Iceland Post, Isle of Man Post Office, Jersey Post, Liechtenstein Post, MaltaPost, La Poste Monaco and Post Luxembourg.

The theme for this year’s SEPAC collection is ‘Culture’ and member postal administrations issued stamps illustrating various elements of culture from their respective countries. The Malta Stamp in the SEPAC Folder is the €0.59 value illustrating the Regatta boat races from the stamp set ‘SEPAC Series Culture’ issued earlier this year on the 16th June.

17th September

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Alessio Old Cottage”,

12, Triq il-Paroċċa, Imqabba MQB 1511 was to be temporarily closed for business on the 17th and 18th September. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from these nearest postal outlets:

Luqa - 11, Trejqa Dun Ġulju Muscat, Ħal Luqa LQA 1450

Luqa - MIA Hall, Ħal Luqa LQA 5001

Żurrieq - 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Żurrieq ZRQ 1088

In a separate Press Release, MaltaPost also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Midas”, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsascala MSK 2113 was to be temporarily closed for business between the 1st and 5th October, both days included. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from these alternative postal outlets:

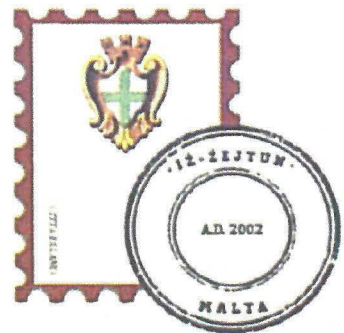
Żabbar - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Żabbar ZBR 1351

Żejtun - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Żejtun ZTN 1834

24th September

MaltaPost informed the public that between 1st October 2015 and 13th June 2016, the opening hours of the St. Julian’s Post Office situated within Lombard Bank p.l.c. in Paceville Avenue were to be from Monday to Friday between 08.30 and 14.30, while those of the Post Office situated at the University of Malta were Monday to Friday between 08.00 and 17.00.

On the occasion of the “Żejt iż-Żejtun” annual cultural event, which is organised by the Żejtun Local Council (ŻLC), members forming part of the Grupp Filateliku Żejtun held a philatelic exhibition with the theme “Memorji li jibqgħu Ħajjin” (*Memories that stay alive*). The exhibition was held at Ġużepina Curmi Hall, located in Bishop Emm. Galea Street, Żejtun between the 24th and 27th September. The philatelic group forms part of the “Culture, Tourism and Higher Education” initiative for the locality championed by the ŻLC and was founded in 2002. It is worth mentioning



Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

that although small, the group is a very active one, with meetings being regularly held on a monthly basis. Presently it is being led by local councillor Sean Chircop.

2nd October

MaltaPost informed Ġhargħur residents that the Sub Post Office situated in

“Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur GħR 1014 was to be temporarily closed on the 1st and 2nd October. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.

5th October

On 9th October the Postal Community all around the world celebrate World Post Day. This day enables us to reflect with satisfaction on a rich history of transformation within an industry which has played such a pivotal role in the world’s marketplace. Indeed, the Post can pride itself on being the oldest medium of communication, one that still plays a key role in the transmission of information and goods.

As outlined by the Universal Postal Union’s Director General Bishar Abdirahman Hussein in his message for the 2015 World Post Day, the traditional postal business line which was reliant on letter post, has been greatly challenged by faster and more efficient ways of communication thanks to the advancement in information and communications technologies. The survival of the post hinges on its ability to quickly change and innovate.

In line with this, MaltaPost enhanced its clients’ online shopping experience with the launch of SendOn granting the opportunity to local consumers to shop from UK online stores, particularly from those which do not ship directly to Malta. Now with the launch of SendOn USA and soon SendOn Germany and Italy the Maltese consumer can shop from e-sellers worldwide from the comfort of their home or office. This year MaltaPost continued to increase its public accessibility to its services with the opening of a new Post Office in Swieqi. To continue strengthening the postal network, the opening of new branches in Smart City and Floriana are planned for the near future. MaltaPost also invested in new premises to support its Document Management Service which supports business clients to print, scan, archive and index information in both electronic and physical formats, and, when required, destructing it in a confidential manner.

6th October

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost announced that its Board of Directors will be meeting on Friday 4th December to consider and approve the MaltaPost p.l.c. Financial Statements for the year ended 30th September 2015. The announcement bore the signature of Company Secretary Graham A. Fairclough.

8th October

To increase the accessibility of postal services for the general public and specifically

to residents in Iklin, MaltaPost announced that it has introduced a new Sub Post Office in this locality.

Through this Sub Post Office, clients can avail themselves of a range of postal services such as registered mail and the facility to pay bills. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words Iklin S.P.O. will be used at this Sub Post Office, which is situated at “Iklin Stationery”, 89, Ċensu Busuttil Street, Iklin IKL 1201. Its opening hours are as follows: In winter from Monday to Friday except Wednesday, between 7.00 am - 12.30 pm and 4.15 pm - 7.00 pm. On Wednesday & Saturday between 7.00 am - 12.30 pm.



In summer from Monday to Friday except Wednesday, between 7.00 am - 12.00 pm and 4.15 pm - 7.00pm. On Wednesday & Saturday between 7.00 am - 12.00 pm.

9th October

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated in “Troy DVD and Stationery”, 4A Pjazza Arċisqof Gonzi, Kalkara will be closed on the 9th and 10th October. On these two days, all postal services offered from this office including collection of mail items, will be available at the Cospicua Post Office at Block 14, Fuq San Pawl between 7.30 am till 12.45 pm.

12th October

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated in “Iklin Stationery”, 89, Triq Ċensu Busuttil, Iklin IKL 1200 will be closed on 13th October. The public was advised that as an alternative it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Balzan Post Office situated in 153, Triq il-Kbira, Balzan BZN 1251.

14th October

Through MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau “Malta Philately Newsletter 23/2015”, it was announced that the company has issued for sale a diecast model truck bearing the company’s livery. The model, which is manufactured in a combination of plastic and metal, measures 10.0 cms x 3.7 cms x 3.1 cms and sells for **€5.95**.

16th October

MaltaPost today issued a Press Release informing the public that the Sub Post Office at “MC Stationery”, 33, Triq Ġilormu Cassar, Mosta MST 4117, as from Saturday 24th October will no longer be in operation.

Mosta residents wishing to make use of postal services within



their locality can make use of postal services provided at the Mosta Post Office situated in the Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kostituzzjoni, Mosta, MST 9059.

19th October

To mark the 70th anniversary from the founding of the United Nations (UN), MaltaPost announced that on the 24th October it will issue a miniature sheet bearing one stamp with a face value of €3.51.

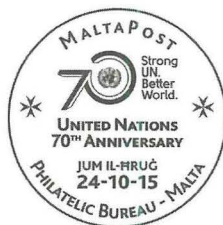
The UN was founded in 1945 at the end of WWII, bringing together different countries in an effort to achieve world peace and prosperity. The UN started off with 51 countries, but is now made up of 193 member states. Its Charter, which was signed in San Francisco on 26th June 1945 at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on international organisation, sets its objectives which reach every corner of the world. They include that of keeping peace throughout the world; develop friendly relations among nations; help nations work together so as to improve the lives of poor people; conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy and last but not least to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedom. In essence, it seeks to harmonise the actions of nations so as to achieve these goals.

In a message released by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for this anniversary, he noted how the event will be an opportunity for the organisation to reflect, look back and take stock of its enduring achievements. The year 2015 is a decisive year for the United Nations as it seeks to establish a new framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in all its aspects.

The miniature sheet was designed in-house by MaltaPost's graphic designer Sean Cini and features the official logo for the 70th Anniversary, the UN70 motif, against a background of flags of the UN member states.

Each sheet measures 120.0mm x 80.0mm, while the stamp measures 35.0mm x 35.0 mm. and has a comb perforation of 13.75 x 13.75. Printex Limited produced the sheet in offset on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The issue consists of 20,000 individually numbered sheets.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 12/2015). The single-ring hand stamp was inscribed “* MALTAPOST * ----- MALTA” bordering the ring, and “UNITED NATIONS/70TH ANNIVERSARY/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/24-10-15” below an image of the UN70logo. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 340.



21st October

In its Philately Newsletter 24/2015, MaltaPost today announced its participation in the Maltex 2015 philatelic exhibition. For this special event the Philatelic Bureau informed that it will be issuing an Occasion



Card, a Postal Card, and a Personalised Stamp/Cover. The Occasion Card (N^o. 40) shows the Wignacourt Arch from the Treasures of Malta series issued in April 2015 in grey sepia, selling at €2.00. The Postal Card (N^o. 37), selling at €3.00, depicts a typical old Maltese toy - the Cart (Karretta) lifted from the design of the €0.59 stamp from the Europa 2015 “Old Toys” issue with postage being prepaid through an imprinted reproduction of the same set. The Personalised Cover features a collage vignette of recent Malta stamps and is franked by the personalized stamp with the label showing the Maltex 2015 Logo on a background of Maltese crosses in grey. The personalized stamp alone sells for €1.00, while the personalized cover sells for €2.00. All above items were released for sale as from Friday 23rd October, the first day of the opening of the exhibition for the public.

(See also entry dated 23rd – 25th October)

22nd October

The non-competitive Maltex Philatelic Exhibition, which is organized by the Malta Philatelic Society and is Malta’s annual major stamp and postal history event, was officially inaugurated today at “The Green Lounge”, Hotel Phoenicia, Floriana by the Hon. Mr. Evarist Bartolo MP, Minister for Education and Employment.

The theme of this year’s exhibition, the sixteenth in a row, was “*Education Through Philately*” and was open to the public over the weekend from the 23rd to 25th of October.

In his opening address, Dr. Alfred Bonnici, President of the M.P.S. stated that “*Philately is a hobby. It is something that is not forced on the individual, but a hobby chosen freely by the individual. He does it freely and with pleasure. It therefore educates and enhances one’s knowledge in a subtle way. More often than not the student - youngster does not realize that his knowledge is being enhanced. It is education without tears.*”

Minister Bartolo concurred with this, congratulating the M.P.S. and its members for their efforts to keep this educational hobby alive. This, he underlined, despite the great difficulties in doing so due to changed social habits which evolved over the last few decades as a result of the fast technological developments that occurred and are still taking place in the educational and communication fields. He augured

that the Society and its members will be able to continue with this spirit.

The participants in this year's exhibition and the subjects of their exhibits are:

Mr. Birkett Allan, John: "Sailors' Letters" & "Malta Airmails 1944 - 1955"

Mr. Bonello, Carmel: "Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth Omnibus Issues"

Dr. Bonnici, Alfred: "Messageries Imperiales, hand-stamps of their ships and P & O mail 1853-56."

Mr. Camilleri, Anthony: "Crash & Wreck mail"

Mr. Cardona, John A.: "GB Fdc's with and without phosphor bands, 14th Nov. 1962 – 24th Apr. 1967"

Mr. Caruana Ruggier, Alfred: "Malta Parcel Post: Valletta, BPO's, SPO's and TPO's"

Mr. Ciappara, Christopher: "The IV Centenary of the 1565 Great Siege commemorative stamp issue"

Mr. Cumbers, Michael: "The 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black"

Profs. Cutajar, Carm Lino: "Two Shining Beacons in the History of Humanity: Doctors David Livingstone & Albert Schweitzer"

Mr. De Battista, John V.: "The 1981 Definitive 3c 'Money Minting' stamp" & "Coinage Depictions on Maltese stamps"

Mr. Howe, Christopher: "Changes of rate over the years for Belgian Christmas Mail & the Special Stamps issued for Christmas"

Mr. Micallef, John: "The sufferings of Jesus Christ in philately"

Mr. Parnis, Gerald: "A taste of Thematic Philately"

Mr. Sant, Anthony: "Mourning Covers"

Mr. Wood, Hadrian: "Malta Revenue stamps" & "Malta Postal Stationery Cards: 1877 - 1945"

23rd – 25th October

Maltex XVI Philatelic Exhibition was open to the general public. Besides the philatelic exhibits displayed by members of the Malta Philatelic Society, the "Green Lounge" also included a Dealers' Bourse and a Temporary Post Office which were open throughout all its opening hours. At the T.P.O. the sale of stamps, postal stationery, philatelic and collector curio items were



available. The T.P.O. also included posting facilities, where mail and philatelic items could be cancelled by a commemorative postmark marking the event. This single-ring oval hand stamp was inscribed with the Maltex 2015 logo positioned right across the upper section, this being complemented by the words “Hotel Phoenicia – Floriana – Malta” around the lower section of the ring, The exhibition dates “23–25 October 2015” 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.

For the record it is worth mentioning that at the entrance to the T.P.O., the original artist drawings by Cedric Galea Pirota used for this year’s issue in the ‘Treasures of Malta Series’, together with those for the ‘Europa2015’ by Joe Mark Micallef were on display.

(See also entry dated 21st October)

27th October

Following the success of its forwarding hubs in the UK and USA, MaltaPost announced that it has now also launched a new hub in Germany. It informed clients that the UK service has been upgraded in that it is now offering a standard service to complement its current priority service from the UK allowing clients to shop for items heavier than 30kg from EU online stores.

Thanks to the new trucking services offered by MaltaPost from Germany and the United Kingdom, local online shoppers may now shop for items of all sizes from the EU, particularly from those which do not ship directly to Malta. They can now forward these items to MaltaPost’s SendOn new hubs in Germany and the UK, which are geared to truck heavy items of up to 300kgs. and benefit from very competitive trucking prices.

28th October

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at “Tunny Net Souvenir Shop”, Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa MLĦ 9063 will be temporarily closed for business as from 31st October.

The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following alternative Postal Outlets:

Post Office - 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107

Sub Post Office - 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024

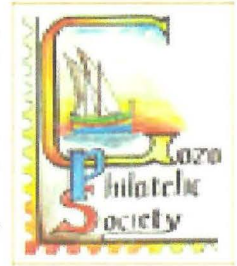
In a separate Press Release, it also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Papel Stationery”, 1, Triq is-Salvatur, Qrendi QRD 1701 will be closed for business on Saturday 31st October. In this case, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of services provided by these alternative Postal Outlets:

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

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

6th November

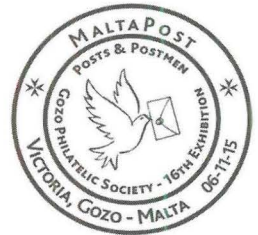
The Gozo Philatelic Society’s 16th Annual Philatelic Exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon. Dr. Anton Refalo MP, Minister for Gozo. The exhibition with the title “*Posts and Postmen*”, which was open to the public till 27th November, was held at the Gozo Ministry Exhibition Halls in Victoria Gozo. The exhibits included old and rare philatelic material, postal history, social philately and a section of entries by junior members of the Society.



A number of activities were held during the duration of the exhibition.

On 8th November a lecture by Notary Dr. Michael Refalo titled “*Not the Great Siege; just a trivial Turco-Maltese postal dispute*” was held, while on 15th November, Mr. Godwin Vella gave a lecture on “*Gozo’s Gran Castello; an overview of its defensive role and assemblage*”. The 21st November was reserved for an auction of excess philatelic material donated to the GPS by Mr. Wolfgang Juncker, and on the 22nd November the monthly members’ meeting took place.

For the occasion, MaltaPost released a commemorative postmark. The double-ring hand stamp was inscribed “* MALTAPOST * VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 06-11-15” in the outer ring, and “POST & POSTMEN / GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY – 16TH EXHIBITION” in the inner ring, encircling an outline image of a dove in flight carrying an envelope in its beak.



On its part, the G.P.S. issued a 103 limited edition commemorative card (N^o103) and released a personalized occasion stamp as a memento. Both the card and vignette on the personalised stamp label were designed by Mr. Anthony Grech.

MaltaPost informed that the Post Office at 1, Dar Annona, Castille Square, Valletta VLT 1060 will close at 14.00 on the 11th November, due to the EU-Africa Migration Summit which will be taking place in Valletta.

The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Sub Post Office located at “Future Focus”, 9, Triq L-Imħażen, Floriana FRN 1119.

10th November

MaltaPost announced that the issue of this year's Christmas stamp set will take place on the 14th November. The issue consists of a set of 3 stamps featuring artworks of Albrecht Dürer's series "Life of the Virgin".

Dürer was one of the greatest artists of the Renaissance; he was a brilliant painter, draftsman, writer and print maker. He revolutionised printmaking, elevating it to the level of an independent art form. Albrecht Dürer's prints, titled 'The Flight into Egypt', 'The Nativity of the Lord' and 'The Adoration of the Magi', feature on the €0.26, €0.59, €0.63 stamps respectively. These artworks can be found at the Cathedral Museum in Mdina along with other works of Dürer.

The stamps were designed in-house by MaltaPost. The sheets are made up of ten stamps and overall measure 186mm x 119mm. The stamps were printed in offset by Printex Ltd. on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper, with each stamp measuring 31.0mm x 44.0mm and having a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. The print run consists of 1,600,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 600,000 of the €0.59 stamp and 88,000 of the €0.63 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 13/2015). The single-ring hand stamp was inscribed "* MALTAPOST * --- ----- - MALTA" bordering the ring, and "CHRISTMAS 2015/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/14-11-15" below an image of the Albrecht Durer monogram. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 341.



18th November

Today MaltaPost announced that its SendOn service is expanding further. A couple of weeks after launching new hubs in the UK and Germany, MaltaPost is now launching a new hub in Italy. This will allow clients to shop for items of any size, from small clothing to large furniture from their favourite Italian brands.

This hub will complement the current SendOn UK (Priority and Standard), Germany and USA services.

Also, in a leaflet and covering letter sent out to philatelists, the Philatelic Bureau announced the issue of the "CHOGM Malta 2015 – Silver Stamp Ingot, Coin and Banknote Engraving Joint Issue". The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which Malta will be hosting for the second time in ten years, is being commemorated jointly by MaltaPost, the Central Bank of Malta and De La Rue. The stamp ingot is a replica of the €3.00 postage stamp from the CHOGM 2015

miniature sheet planned to be issued on the 27th November, and each stamp ingot is individually numbered and boxed with a Certificate of Authenticity. The proof like quality stamp replica, produced in 999.0 silver alloy by PAMP S.A., weighs 20 grams and has a dimension of 35.8 mm x 35.8 mm. Its minting limit was set at 2000 pieces.

Besides in the individually boxed version at the price of €55.00, it could also be bought as part of a complete set made up of the silver ingot, silver coin and nickel banknote engraving, jointly boxed and with an issue limit of 1150, at the price of €145.00.

24th November

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at situated at “Not Just Stationery”, Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara BKR 4253 will be closed for business on 27th and 28th November.

The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following alternative Postal Outlets:

Post Office - 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013

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

Sub Post Office – “Landau Stationery”, 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara BKR 9085

Sub Post Office – “D Spiral”, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691

In a separate Press Release, it also informed the public that on Friday 27th November the Post Office at the University of Malta will be closed for business. In this case, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of services provided by these alternative Postal Outlets:

Post Office - Triq in-Naxxar, San Ġwann SGN 9031

Sub Post Office – “Fleet Stationery”, Triq Testaferrata, Ta’ Xbiex XBX 1402

Sub Post Office – “Squire Stationery”, 85 Triq Manoel De Vilhena, Gżira 1016



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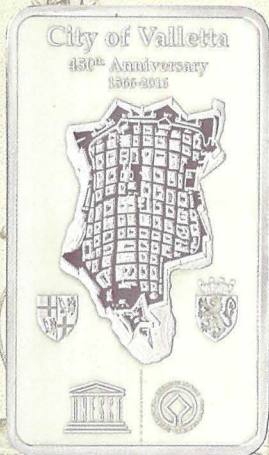


Silver Issue Commemorating 450th Anniversary of the City of Valletta 1566 - 2016

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

Technical details:

Design:	As per images below
Weight:	100 grams
Composition:	999.0 Fine Silver
Dimensions:	35mm x 60mm x 4.53mm
Condition:	Brilliant Uncirculated (Proof-like)
Issue limit:	2,000 individually numbered
Packing:	Boxed + Certificate of Authenticity
Price (VAT included):	€110.00



Obverse



(actual size)

Reverse



City of Valletta
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1980

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This limited edition collection includes:

- 28 silver foil stamps each in its own acrylic capsule;
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- an additional silver foil image of an antique map of the Maltese Islands;
- a magnifying glass;
- special publication giving a profile of each grandmaster.



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