

PPH 9 Type "E1" (First Issue)

by

Hadrian Wood & Ignatius Louis Bugeja

The first issue of PPH 9 Type 'E1', (in a circle frame), must be regarded as one of the rarest postman's handstamps and, as is often the case, owes its rarity to its short life. PPH 9 Type 'E1' was issued to replace PPH 9 Type 'A' in the early 1930s and was itself replaced soon after by a second issue of PPH 9 Type 'E2', (in an oval frame with a dot). The only reason we can think of for Type 'E1' being withdrawn is that the figure "9" could be mistaken for a "6" if viewed upside-down, whereas the dot at the bottom of Type 'E2' was added to signify the figure was a "9".

Only three items with PPH 9 Type 'E1' are known to us. All three are addressed to Sliema and show arrival datestamps of 1932 - the earliest being 14 July on a local cover from Valletta and the latest 22 Oct. on a postcard from the USA. The latest date of use we have for PPH 9 Type 'A' is 19 March 1931 and the earliest for PPH 9 Type 'E2' is 7 Sept. 1933.

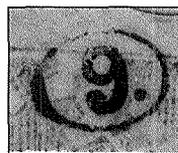
So PPH 9 Type 'E1' must have been issued between 20 March 1931 and 14 July 1932 and withdrawn between 23 Oct. 1932 and 6 Sept. 1933.



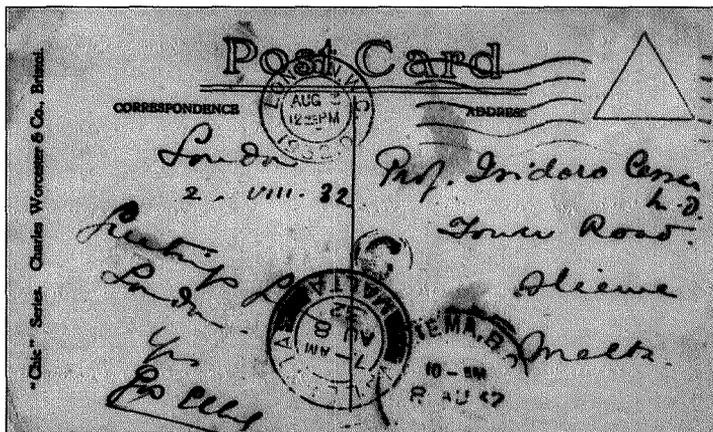
PPH 9 Type 'A'



PPH 9 Type 'E1' (first issue)



PPH 9 Type 'E2' (second issue)



PPH 9 Type 'E1' on a postcard to Sliema from the U.K. in 1932