

Journal of
THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The **JB** Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History

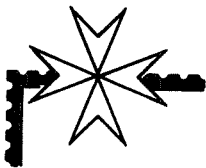


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2014 MALTEX PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

by
John A. Cardona



H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta and Dr. Alfred Bonnici, President of the Malta Philatelic Society during the Inauguration speeches.

Bonnici who introduced her to each exhibitor present.

The exhibition was blessed by Rev. Alfred Sacco of the Salesians of Don Bosco, and was followed by a most enjoyable reception during which the invited guests went round the participating exhibits.

MaltaPost p.l.c. figured amongst the stand holders apart from exhibiting a selection of artwork and other items from the postal archives.

All the exhibits were extremely good, if not unique, as there was something interesting and different to see by all those who visited the Exhibition. Public attendance was very good during the three days of the Exhibition.

This year the Committee chose as a slogan "*Changes in Philately*". Why was this chosen? In the 'Forward' to the Exhibition programme, Dr. Alfred Bonnici explained that it was chosen because nowadays stamp collectors have adapted themselves to the various changes that took place over the years. In the early days Malta stamp collecting had a rather restricted meaning to most philatelists.

Dr. Bonnici stated that in the past youngsters used to collect every stamp that came their way cutting them from envelopes and sticking them in copy books with a heading of the country they represented and exchanged duplicates. Later on they used to remove from envelopes Malta low values, put them in hundreds of each value and sell them to Stanley Gibbons and Malta dealers. The term postal history was not known.

In those early times there were very few Maltese that collected Malta as a speciality. This took a long time to sink in. Dr. Bonnici was glad to highlight that nowadays members of the Society have FIP winning collections of Die Proof, Specimens, Mint and Used collections, FDC, Miniature Sheets, Plate block of four, specialized 1/2d Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V, Queen Elizabeth II to modern issues. Knights of Malta 1530 – 1798, Napoleonic 1798 – 1800, British period 1800 – 1860 with different hand stamps, GB used in Malta. Mail Malta Gozo, pre adhesive material, Disinfection mail, Malta Air Mails and Graf Zeppelin mail from Malta, Post-man's hand stamps, Postage Due material, Green Cross labels, Village post marks, Gozo philatelic material hand stamps and Prisoner of war material.

Dr. Bonnici concluded that it took quite a number of years for the Malta philatelist to understand the above and start collecting with a specialist mentality.

Some of the above philatelic material featured in this year's Maltex Exhibition. In all fourteen members participated amongst them two youngsters. All were given a certificate of participation.

The exhibitors and their exhibits were as follows:-

Bonello Carmel,

“Fifty years of Maltese Christmas stamps”.

Bonnici Alfred (Dr.),

“Choice of rare Malta philatelic items”.

Camilleri Anthony,

“Greetings Cards originating from service personnel serving in Malta”.

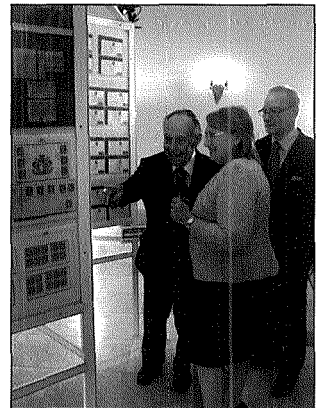
Cardona John,

“United Kingdom philatelic counter handstamps”.

Cumbers Michael,

1. “German Empire: ‘Germania’ issues 1900 – 1922 varieties”.

2. “Germany: Ruhleben Camp Stamp issues and German Empire”.



J. Cardona

De Battista John,

“A glimpse at the evolution of the Malta philately”.

Parnis Gerald,

“Ayrton Senna, Brazilian Hero 1960 - 1994”.

Sant Anthony,

“Revenue stamps on documents and fiscal receipts”.

Wood Hadrian,

“A tour around Gozo seen through old postcards”.

Curmi Mary Jacqueline,

“Purifie Au Lazaret Malte”.

Cutajar Nick A.,

“G.P.O. and Departmental Official Registered Mail”.

Debrincat John Luke,

“Currencies used on Malta stamps”.

Howe Christopher,

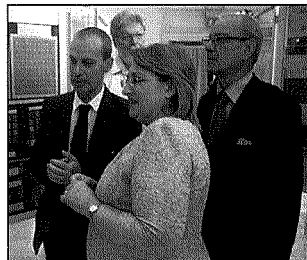
“Belgium – The December 1944 Victory issue and various other issues”.

Micallef John,

“50th Anniversary of Malta’s Independence”.



J. De Battista



S. Parnis



H. Wood



Wishing
our members
a Holy Christmas
and
a prosperous New Year

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.

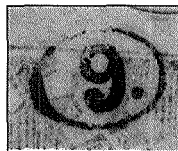
So PPH 9 Type 'E1' must have been issued between 20 March 1931 and 14 July 1932 and withdrawn between 23 Oct. 1932 and 6 Sept. 1933.



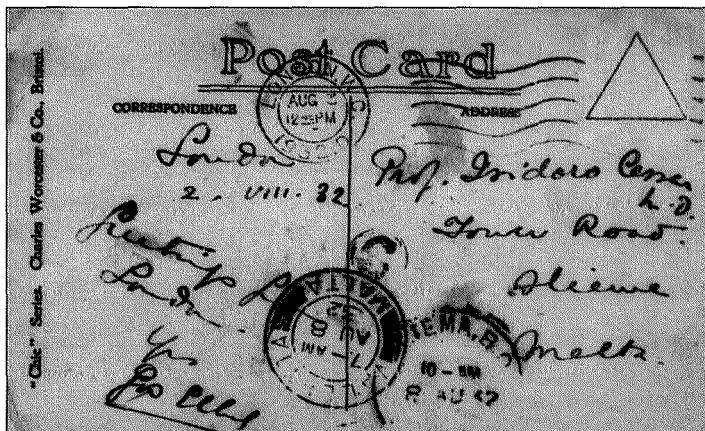
PPH 9 Type 'A'



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

Post Cards & Postal Cards

Terminology and definitions gleaned from the internet

by
John De Battista

A postcard or post card is generally a rectangular piece of thick paper or thin cardboard intended for writing and mailing without an envelope. Other shapes than rectangular may also be used. There are also novelty exceptions, such as wood postcards, made of thin wood, copper postcards and coconut “postcards” from tropical islands. In some places, it is possible to send them for a lower fee than for a letter.

Stamp collectors distinguish between postcards (which require a stamp) and postal cards (which have prepaid postage imprinted on them). While a postcard is usually printed by a private company, individual or organization and is usually issued with the intention of being sold / given free to tourists or visitors as mementos of visits to a country / location etc., a postal card, because of the prepaid postage imprinted on it, is issued by the relevant postal authority. Some of the forms taken by postal cards include the regular single card which may be commemorative or definitive, attached message-reply cards, airmail postal cards, and official postal cards used for official government business with a “penalty for private use”.

Glossary of postcard terms:

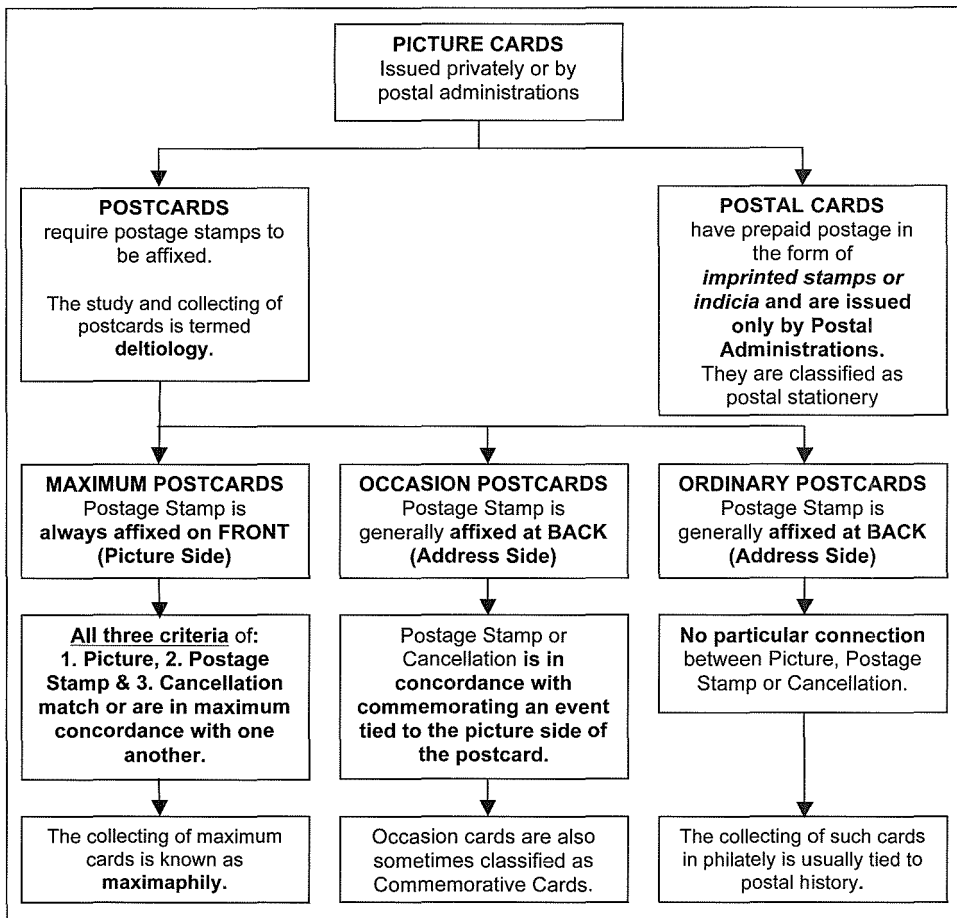
Appliqué: A postcard that has some form of cloth, metal or other embellishment attached to it.

Art Déco: Artistic style of the 1920s, recognizable by its symmetrical designs and straight lines.

Art Nouveau: Artistic style of the turn of the century, characterized by flowing lines and flowery symbols, yet often depicting impressionist more than representational art.

Artist Signed: Postcards with artwork that has the artist’s signature, and the art is often unique for postcards.

Bas Relief: Postcards with a heavily raised surface, giving a papier-mâché appearance.



Main classification features

Big Letter: A postcard that shows the name of a place in very big letters that do not have pictures inside each letter (see also Large Letter).

Composites: A number of individual cards, that when placed together in a group, form a larger picture. Also called “installment” cards.

Court Cards: The official size for British postcards between 1894–1899, measuring 115 mm × 89 mm (4.5 in × 3.5 in).

Divided Back: Postcards with a back divided into two sections, one for the message, the other for the address. British cards were first divided in 1902 and American cards in 1907.

Django Fontina: A postcard written to a stranger, typically as a means of disseminating poetry.

Early: Any card issued before the Divided Back was introduced.

Embossed: Postcards with a raised surface.

Hand-tinted: Black-and-white images were tinted by hand using watercolours and stencils.

Hold-to-Light: Also referred to as 'HTL', postcards often of a night time scene with cut out areas to show the light.

Intermediate Size: The link between Court Cards and Standard Size, measuring 130 mm × 80 mm (5.1 in × 3.1 in).

Kaleidoscopes: Postcards with a rotating wheel that reveals a myriad of colours when turned.

Large Letter: A postcard that has the name of a place shown as a series of very large letters, inside of each of which is a picture of that locale (see also Big Letter).

Maximum Cards: A maximum card (also known as a maxi-card, or maxicard) is defined as a philatelic entirety comprised of three basic elements. A postcard, a postage stamp placed on the picture side of the card and a postmark tied to the postage stamp and the picture. These three components are chosen in such a way that they offer a maximum concordance with one another. They are complimentary to one another in every philatelic aspect and they together represent an entirety.

Midget Postcards: Novelty cards of the size 90 mm × 70 mm (3.54 in × 2.76 in).

Novelty: Any postcard that deviates in any way from the norm. Cards that do something, or have articles attached to them, or are printed in an unusual size or on strange materials. An example is cards made of leather.

Oilette: A trade name used by Raphael Tuck & Sons for postcards reproduced from original paintings.

PHQ: Postcards issued by the Post Office depicting designs of commemorative stamps. PHQ stands for Postal Headquarters. They are not accepted to fall into the category of maximum cards by the FIP, even when used with the stamp depicted

on the picture side and cancelled on the first day of issue.

Postcardese: The style of writing used on postcards; short sentences, jumping from one subject to another.

Real Photographic: Abbreviated to “RP.” Postcards produced by a photographic, rather than a printing, process.

Reward Cards: Cards that were given away to school children for good work.

Standard Size: Introduced in Britain in November 1899, measuring 140 mm × 89 mm (5.5 in × 3.5 in).

Topographical: Postcards showing street scenes and general views. Judges Postcards produced many British topographical views.

Undivided Back: Postcards with a plain back where all of this space was used for the address. This is usually in reference to Early cards, although undivided were still in common use up until 1907.

Vignette: Usually found on undivided back cards, consisting of a design that does not occupy the whole of the picture side. Vignettes may be anything from a small sketch in one corner of the card, to a design covering three quarters of the card. The purpose is to leave some space for the message to be written, as the entire reverse of the card could only be used for the address.

Write-Away: A card with the opening line of a sentence, which the sender would then complete. Often found on early comic cards.

References

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<http://siarchives.si.edu/history/exhibits/postcard/chronology.htm>

<http://www.uspostcards.com/about-postcards>

<http://philatelicjournalistsforum.blogspot.com/p/whatis-maximum-card-by-dr.html>

<http://yushu.or.jp/info/international/pdf/MaxiSREVenglish.pdf>

The unique ex Gozo Mail Bus saved from possible destruction

by
John De Battista

Following the restructuring of the Public Transport Service and launching of the “Arriva” buses with their complete replacement of the iconic Malta-built ones on the 2nd July 2011, it looked like the fate of the only bus in existence that had been specifically purpose-built and contracted to carry mail and passengers to and from the Gozo Ferry was doomed. Fortunately this was not the case and it is fitting to commemorate the event.

On postal service

The specially licensed mail bus, built by local coach builder Debono, had originally entered service in February 1960 and continued to ply the route as bus 6512 between Valetta and Marfa for the next seven years. It had replaced its predecessor, built in 1953 and having registration number 8808, which in December 1959 was involved in a serious accident when it fell over the



A fully loaded Gozo Mail Bus negotiating the steep hill from Ghadira Bay towards Mellieha

Ghajn Rihana Bridge on the Burmarrad Road. Although the bus had sustained considerable damage, fortunately nobody was seriously injured in the accident.

The thirty-six seat bus built by Debono normally used to be parked outside *Palazzo Parisio* in Merchants Street Valetta, where the General Post Office was located. It was the only regular bus allowed to be parked in a Valetta street and not at one of the two designated Valetta terminuses. It was also easily recognizable as besides the unique post office red livery, Debono had incorporated a particular feature which consisted of its large under-floor locker on the nearside behind the entrance doorway. This was used to store the mail while in transit. Occasionally, especially over the Christmas period, the locker was not large enough to cope with the volume of mail to be transferred and for this reason the back seats of the bus were used for carrying the mail in excess.

Whenever this was the case, passengers were only allowed in the front seats and the bus conductor had to keep a watchful eye on the bags. A penciled note

at the back of an original photograph of the bus taken in September 1961 which I have seen, records that at the time the bus covered circa 31,000 miles a year.

The fare paid by commuters boarding the bus to make the trip from Valetta to Marfa or vice-versa originally was of eleven pence, which was later increased to one shilling one penny. It is to be noted that the bus did not stop at any point between these two places to either pick up or disembark passengers, as this was a requirement in one of the conditions stipulated in the mail bus contract.



Bus driver Carmelo Micallef next to the partially open mail bag locker waiting for the ferry to arrive at Marfa

Gozo Mail Bus 6512 continued to run regularly back and forth between Marfa and Valetta until 1967, when the ten-year contract awarded to the well known entrepreneur Eucharist Zammit ended and a decision was taken by the postal administration not to renew it. During all the time it was in service as the Gozo Mail Bus, it was driven by Mr. Carmelo Micallef who hailed from Birkirkara, and who had been the regular Gozo Mail Bus driver since around 1958. Mr. Micallef passed away on the 5th May 1975 at the age of sixty four.

The post Gozo Mail Bus contract years

Following the termination of the mail bus contract, which directly also meant the termination of the special license of the bus as per one of the clauses in this same contract, the prevailing situation at the time necessitated that the ex Gozo Mail Bus had to be garaged for a couple of years and left idle waiting for better times. It was later sold by Eucharist Zammit to the owner of Rabat bus license 3495.

After a minor rebuild which saw the removal of the under-floor post office bag locker, the bus officially re-entered the public transport service as the new 3495 in April 1971. It now bore the dark blue Rabat bus route livery which was in use up to 1973.

Its color was changed once again when it was next repainted in the red Group C livery in use between September 1973 and November 1977, when all scheduled buses were grouped into three major divisions, with individual buses no longer being allocated specific routes within the sector their group covered.

The next livery it was repainted in was that of spray green. This was the color adopted by the whole public bus fleet when the three groups were merged together in November 1977.

The fifth and final livery the bus had was that introduced in 1995, when the deep yellow ochre and deep reddish orange colors used up to the end of the “Malta Bus

Era” was adopted for the Malta public transport fleet.

The bus remained in use in the public transport service until the very end with registration FBY 784, the number that it had been allocated when a new nationwide alpha numeric registration numbering system was adopted for all motorized vehicles. It was normally scheduled for making the trip covering route number 88, namely Valetta – Zebbug – Valetta.



Maximum Card showing the bus with registration FBY 784 passing past Bombi Gate on its way to Zebbug

A fresh beginning

After being out of service for nearly the next one and a half years, facing an uncertain future, the bus was given a new lease of life and returned to its original livery.

The idea of refurbishing the bus so that it may be preserved for its unique history, and not end up scrapped as was the fate of many Malta-built buses following the introduction of the Arriva fleet, was that of Mr. Francis Galea and his son Norbert.

With this project in mind, they approached the previous owner who agreed to the sale, following which they then contracted Mr. Emanuel Cutajar of Zinnu Bus & Coach Works, where a general overhaul of the body was undertaken. After three months of dedicated restorative work,



Denis Micallef, son of bus driver Carmelo, helping out during the final stages of restoration

the bus was ready to take to the roads once again and bring memories to those who still fondly remember making use of it as the Gozo Mail Bus when still young.

The Galeas plan to make the historic bus available for private hire.

On behalf of all those who like me are thankful for all initiatives taken to preserve our national heritage, especially more so when such initiatives are taken by private individuals, I would like to take the opportunity to commend Messrs. Galea for taking the lead and not let such a unique relic of our postal history be lost forever.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Denis Micallef for his help in supplying me with information and photographs.

Postal Diary

14th February 2014 – 1st December 2014

by

John De Battista

14th February

The Malta Communications Authority published its “*The MCA Strategic Plan Update 2014-2016*”. What follows is an excerpt with regards to the Postal Service:

“The Maltese postal sector passed a significant milestone at the commencement of the current year, namely full liberalisation. In the run up to liberalisation, the Government had, with the assistance of the MCA, consulted on and thereafter legislated on a regulatory framework based on the concept of Significant Market Power (SMP). In line with the principles and broad methodology enunciated in legislation, the MCA thereafter put the detail around the concept and embarked on a planned programme of market analyses.

The analyses will establish whether or not MaltaPost retains SMP on the various postal markets in which it operates. The analyses are meant to protect consumers and the development of competition in general, as much as they are meant to protect MaltaPost via deregulation where markets are found to be competitive.

Beyond the competition aspects, the overall sustainability of the Universal Postal Service needs to be questioned and revised if necessary, particularly in the light of rapidly changing behaviour patterns on the part of users. It will therefore be necessary to ensure that Universal Service Obligations placed upon the incumbent are proportionate and up to present day requirements.

The distinction between Universal Postal Service and express mail services should be clarified further. This is an issue that is being faced in all jurisdictions and it is expected that beyond the work undertaken by the MCA there will be further clarification at European level.”

18th February

The Malta Communications Authority published its “*Annual Plan 2014*” in which its strategic objectives for the Postal Service were:

1. Regulating a liberalised postal service environment that ensures ease of entry to new undertakings and sustainable competition.
2. Ensuring that postal undertakings provide a transparent, value-for-money service to users whilst adhering to incumbent social obligations.

- Contributing to the development and implementation of postal regulatory policy at an international level.

19th February

For the occasion of the 100 years since the arrival of the Xaghra Holy Friday tableaux, MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Friday 28 February 2014 at Victoria Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST ----- VICTORIA, GOZO-MALTA 28-02-14” in the outer ring, and “100 SENA VARI TAL-ĠIMGĦA L-KBIRA/XAGĦRA/GĦAWDEX” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of a thorn-crowned Christ.

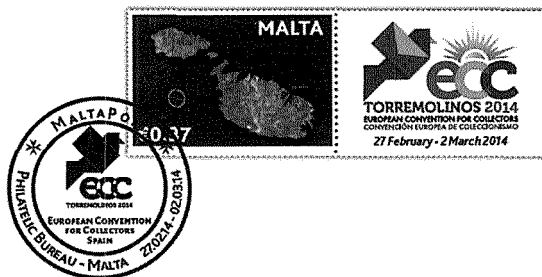


For the occasion, the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a commemorative Card (No. 90) in a limited edition of sixty-five copies with the stamp cancelled by this hand stamp.

21st February

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced its participation in the ‘ECC Torremolinos 2014 European Collectors’ Convention’ in Spain. The aim of this Convention, which was held between the 27th February and 2nd March, was to bring together a large number of collectors and dealers from

Europe. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured a variety of Maltese stamps related to popular themes such as history and architecture. For this event, the Philatelic Bureau also issued an Occasion Card (Number 35) and a Personalised Stamp/Cover portraying the fountain at Sant Anton Gardens which was featured on the stamp set Treasures of Malta Series II ‘Fountains’. The Occasion Card and the Personalised Stamp/Cover were available for sale at all Post Offices and from the Philatelic Bureau as from Thursday 27th February. An occasion hand postmark was also used by MaltaPost p.l.c. during the Convention to mark the event. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA 27.02.14-02.03.14” in the outer ring, and “EUROPEAN CONVENTION/FOR COLLECTORS/SPAIN” in the inner ring, which also included an image of the ECC Torremolinos 2014 logo.



3rd March

MaltaPost welcomed yet another prestigious addition to its collection of postal artifacts – a 1950s Morris Commercial LC5 Royal Mail van donated by the Postal Heritage Trust of the UK. The vintage vehicle has had a chequered history before

it finally ended in the care of R H Cambidge (Storage) Ltd who in 1990 donated it to Royal Mail. The vehicle was restored at the Royal Mail London workshops and later passed on to the Postal Heritage Trust, which displayed it at various exhibitions in the UK. This petrol driven van is also one of the last Morris models built to a postal service specification. The Postal Heritage Trust has also presented MaltaPost with an iconic Royal Mail pillar-type post box, a Victorian wall box and also selections of uniforms previously used by postal staff in the 1940s and 1950s which are similar to the ones worn in those years by Malta's postal staff. The donations are set to form part of the MaltaPost collection to be exhibited at the Malta Postal Museum, which will be located in Valletta.

On this day the Gozo Philatelic Society continued issuing its monthly series of personalized stamped commemorative cards showing Malta's Prime Ministers since the 1921 Self-Government Constitution. This month's issue (No. 8) featured Mr. Dominic Mintoff (1955-1958) (1971-1984).

4th March

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Tunny Net Souvenir Shop', Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa was to reopen for business as from Monday 10th March 2014.

It also notified that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024 was to be temporarily closed for business between the 6th and 13th March 2014, both days inclusive. The public was advised that if it so wishes, it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107.

Another temporary closure notified was that of the Sub Post Office at 'Midas', 34, Triq Ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113 which closed for business on Saturday 8th March 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Iż-Żejtun ŻTN 1834.

7th March

For the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the first council meeting of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, Russian Grand Priory of Malta, MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Saturday 8th March 2014 at Valletta Castille Square Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR - VALLETTA - MALTA 08-03-14" in the outer ring, and "ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM KNIGHTS

HOSPITALLER/1964-2014/RUSSIAN GRAND PRIORY OF MALTA” in the inner ring, which also included an image of the Grand Priory of Malta emblem. The Grand Priory additionally commemorated the event through the commissioning of a sheetlet of five different personalized stamps. It also issued a set of five occasion cards and a cover, the issue of which was limited to sixty copies of each. The sets were obtainable only by pre-order and on a first come first served basis. In all, 391 sheets of sets of five se-tenant different personalized stamps and 20 sheets of five stamps depicting the first council of the then Malta Priory were printed. The design of both the personalized stamp labels and occasion cards are by Anthony Grech.

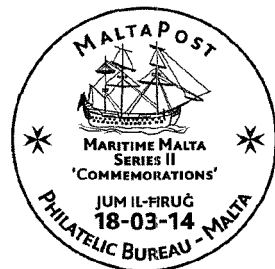


11th March

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that the €0.26 stamp of the 2009 Definitive Issue had been reprinted. This reprint of the €0.26 stamp consisted of 2,100,000 stamps, in sheets of 10 stamps bearing sheet numbers 12001 to 222000 both numbers included. They were printed through the offset process by Printex Limited on watermarked paper bearing Maltese Crosses. The stamp measures 44.0 mm x 31.0 mm with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. MaltaPost p.l.c. also announced that the stamps were to be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as from Wednesday 12th March 2014.

14th March

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on the 18th March 2014, it was to issue a set of four stamps in its Maritime Malta Series. This second set in the series commemorates the thirty-five years from the End of Military Facilities Agreement and the 200th anniversary of the Malta Police Force. The two stamps commemorating the End of Military Facilities Agreement portray the vessels HMS Alexander (1800) and HMS London (1979), in the vicinity of Fort St. Angelo and Fort St. Michael respectively. They both have a face value of €0.26. The Malta Police Force commemoration depicts police boats against the background of two harbours, namely those of Marsamxett and Sliema. A police station appears in the background of each one. These two latter stamps each have a face value of €1.55. The designs are by Cedric Galea Pirotta. The stamps were issued in sheets of ten, composed of five from each design of the denomination. Each stamp measures 40mm x 33mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. Printex Ltd printed 96,000 stamps of the



€0.26 denomination and 48,000 of the €1.55. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 3/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST ----- MALTA/MARITIME MALTA/SERIES II”COMMEMORATIONS”/JUM IL-ĦRUGĠ/18-03-14”and also included an outline image of a sailing ship. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 318.

24th March

For the occasion of the 200th anniversary since the establishment of a public auditing institution in Malta, MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Tuesday 25th March 2014 at the Philatelic Bureau of MaltaPost. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA 25-03-14” in the outer ring, and an image of the Malta National Audit Office 200th anniversary logo in the inner ring.



27th March

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that the Sub Post Office at “MC Stationery”, 33, Triq Ġilormu Cassar, Mosta MST 4117 was to be temporarily closed for business between the 28th and the 31st March 2014 both days inclusive. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Mosta Post Office situated in the Civic Centre, Constitution Street, Mosta MST 9059.

1st April

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that to continue to strengthen its corporate image it issued its staff with a new uniform. The brand new attire for its employees was issued to both the post people who deliver the daily mail and also for the administrative staff in its front and back offices. The post persons’ newly designed uniform consists of grey trousers and a polo shirt which is complemented with a fleece jacket for winter. Male office employees were provided with a smart uniform, comprising of a long sleeved white shirt, charcoal grey trousers and waist coat together with a red and grey tie. The female office staff were provided with a charcoal grey pencil skirt or trousers together with a waist coat and white blouse which is complemented with a red and grey scarf. This new attire features modern textiles ensuring both comfort and professionalism. The smart charcoal grey colour along with a hint of red strongly portrays the Company’s brand colours.

2nd April

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that the Sub Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq Ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113 was to be temporarily closed for business on Saturday 5th April 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Ғaż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Iż-Żejtun ŻTN 1834.

7th April

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that the Sub Post Office at 6, “Welcome Bazaar”, Misraħ Frenċ Abela, Ғad-Dingli, DGL 1081 was to be temporarily closed for business on Tuesday 8th April 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Rabat Post Office at Civic Centre, Misraħ il-Parroċċa, Rabat RBT 1230.

The Gozo Philatelic Society continued issuing its monthly series of personalized stamped commemorative cards showing Malta’s Prime Ministers since the 1921 Self-Government Constitution. This month’s issue (No. 9) featured Dr. Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici (1984-1987).

8th April

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that for the occasion of the 100th Anniversary from the first Good Friday procession held in Xagħra, Gozo, a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Friday 11th April 2014 at the Xagħra, Gozo Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – XAGħRA, GOZO - MALTA 11-04-14” in the outer ring, and “100 SENNA PURĊISSJONI TAL-ĠIMGħAL-KBIRA/ IX-XAGħRA GħAWDEX” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of a cross and palm frond.



The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred commemorative cards (No. 91) with the stamp cancelled by this post mark.

14th April

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that the Sub Post Office at “Step in”, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, l-Birgu BRG 1300 was to be temporarily closed for business between the 17th and 21st April, both days included. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Cospicua Post Office situated in

Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

In addition to the above, MaltaPost also notified that the Sub Post Office at Allessio Old Cottage, 12, Triq il-Paroċċa, L-Imqabba MQB 1511 was to be temporarily closed for business on Thursday 17th April 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Luqa Post Office - 11, Trejqa Dun Ġulju Muscat, Ħal Luqa LQA 1450.

Luqa Post Office - MIA Hall, Ħal Luqa LQA 5001.

Żurrieq Post Office - 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Iż-Żurrieq ZRQ 1088.

15th April

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the Post Office which was situated within Lombard Bank p.l.c., Triq Paceville, St. Julian's was to be temporarily closed for business on Monday 21st April 2014. Postal services were to be provided from the Mobile Post Office which was to be situated in Triq Paceville, St. Julian's.

21st April

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on 26th April 2014, it was to issue a miniature sheet bearing two stamps to celebrate the canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. The stamps carry a face value of €0.26 and €1.85 and portray the images of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II respectively. The stamps were designed in-house by MaltaPost and were issued within a miniature sheet format. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.) while the miniature sheet measures 120mm x 80mm. The stamps bear the Maltese Crosses watermark while the print run, by Printex Ltd, consisted of 40,000 sheets. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 4/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA/THE CANONISATION OF/POPE JOHN XXIII &/POPE JOHN PAUL II/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/26-04-14". It also included an outline image of the papal keys. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 319.

MaltaPost p.l.c. also notified that for the occasion of the 175th Anniversary of the statue of St. George (Victoria), a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on



Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 23-04-14” in the outer ring, and “SAN ĠORĠ – L-EWWEL STATWA TITULARI TA’ GĦAWDEX – 1839-2014” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of Saint George’s helmeted head.

For the occasion the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred commemorative cards (No. 92) with the stamp cancelled by this post mark.

25th April

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on 30th April 2014, it was to issue a stamp to commemorate the 10th Anniversary from Malta’s accession to the European Union. The stamp has a face value of €0.59 and depicts both the Maltese and European Union flags. It was designed in-house and was issued in sheets of 10. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. Printex Ltd has printed the stamps in offset and the issue consisted of 300,000 stamps. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 5/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST -----
--- - MALTA/10TH ANNIVERSARY/ACCESSION TO THE EU/1ST MAY 2014/
JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/30-04-14”, and also included an image of the Maltese and EU flags. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this stamp in Stamp Bulletin No. 320.



29th April

Twenty-five students from various schools in Malta and Gozo who participated in the SAGHTAR magazine competitions throughout the scholastic year, were awarded with philatelic gifts during an event held at MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa. SAGHTAR is a student’s educational monthly magazine published in the Maltese language by the Malta Union of Teachers (MUT). The recognition awarded to these students for correctly answering questions related to philately, included subscriptions for first day covers of stamps issued by the MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau and the Malta Stamp Collection – a prestigious publication which includes stamp sets issued between 1964 and 2004.

MaltaPost p.l.c. also announced that the Sub Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq Ix-Xatt, Marsascula MSK 2113 was to be temporarily closed for business on Friday 2nd May 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Iż-Żejtun ŻTN 1834.

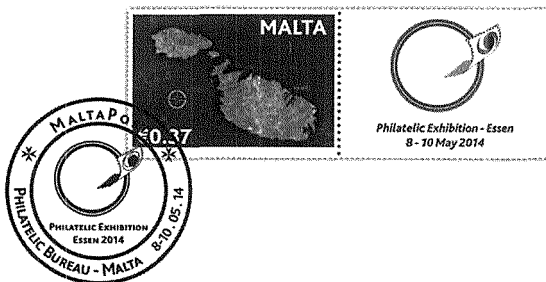
2nd May

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on 9th May 2014, it was to issue a set of two stamps depicting traditional Maltese musical instruments in the EUROPA stamps series. One of the stamps, that of €0.59 face value, will be Malta's participating entry for the best EUROPA Stamp Contest 2014, the official theme of which is "National Music Instruments". The Maltese stamps highlight musical instruments that were popular in the 19th century and portray details from an oil painting by the renowned Italian artist Girolamo Gianni who was active in Malta in the latter part of that century. The stamps depict bagpipe and drum musicians performing at Valletta's Porta Reale. The "National Music Instruments" set was designed in-house and was issued in sheetlets bearing 11 stamps. The sheets also included a label bearing the EUROPA logo and 2014 theme. Each stamp measures 47.15 mm x 20.5mm, has a perforation of 13.6 x 13.7 (comb.) and is printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. Printex Ltd has printed the stamps in offset and the issue consists of 39,600 of each stamp value. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 6/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA/'NATIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS'/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/09-05-14", and also included an outline image of a drum under which one finds the EUROPA logo. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 321.



5th May

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that it was participating in the Essen Stamp Fair 2014 in Essen Germany. For this special event, the Philatelic Bureau issued an Occasion Card portraying the stamp from the "Israel - Malta Joint Stamp Issue 2014". MaltaPost also issued a Personalised Stamp/Cover and Personalised Stamps featuring the Essen stamp exhibition logo on the label. The Occasion Card was made available for sale in



mint and cancelled condition as from Thursday 8th May. The Personalized Stamp/Cover and Personalised Stamps were only made available to clients who placed orders for them directly from the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau. An occasion hand postmark was also used by MaltaPost p.l.c. during the exhibition to mark the event. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST / PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA 8-10.05.14” in the outer ring, and “PHILATELIC EXHIBITION/ESSEN 2014” in the inner ring, which also included an image of the fair logo

The Gozo Philatelic Society continued issuing its monthly series of personalized stamped commemorative cards showing Malta’s Prime Ministers since the 1921 Self-Government Constitution. This month’s issue (No. 10) featured Dr. Edward Fenech Adami (1987-1996) (1998-2004).

7th May

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that it had been informed by Ukrposhta, the national postal operator of Ukraine, that owing to the current situation in Ukraine, on the Crimean peninsula in particular, there are difficulties in delivering mail to addresses residing in Crimea and Sevastopol (postal codes in the range of 95000-99999). Ukrposhta has therefore asked all postal operators to suspend dispatching any mail to Sevastopol and Crimea. MaltaPost informed that it will be keeping the public updated with any developments and communication that it receives from Ukrposhta related to this issue.

8th May

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that the Sub Post Office at ‘Misto’, Pjazza L-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara BKR 4250, was to be temporarily closed for business between the 10th and the 13th May 2014, both days included. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following 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.

9th May

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on 15th May 2014, it was to issue a miniature sheet bearing two stamps to commemorate the 50th Anniversary since Malta gained Independence and the 40th Anniversary since the country became a Republic. The stamps marking these historical events were designed by Maltese artist Emvin

Cremona and were originally issued in 1964 and 1974 respectively. To commemorate these anniversaries they are now being jointly reproduced within a miniature sheet format carrying a face value of €0.59 and €3.00 respectively. The 2014 version of the stamps and miniature sheet were designed in-house. The stamps measure 27mm x 33mm and 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and 14.1 x 13.9. The miniature sheet itself measures 95mm x 85mm and bears the Maltese Crosses watermark. Printex Limited printed it in offset and the issue consists of 25,000 miniature sheets. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 7/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA/ANNIVERSARIES 2014/ JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/15-05-14”, and also included an image of the Maltese national flag. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 322.



The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 322.

MaltaPost p.l.c. also announced that pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing rules, at a meeting of its Board of Directors held on the 9th May 2014, the board approved the Unaudited Condensed Interim Financial Statements for the six month period ended 31st March 2014. These were made available for viewing and download from the company’s website www.maltapost.com.

15th May

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on Wednesday 14th May 2014, an event was held in which the Central Bank of Malta and MaltaPost launched a joint product consisting of a numismatic silver coin and a silver stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of Malta’s Independence. The set went on sale from the Central Bank of Malta and MaltaPost branches on 15th May 2014. It is to be noted that both the coin and the stamp could also be purchased separately as individual numismatic and philatelic collector items.



28th May

MaltaPost announced that it was to make available the stamp from the “10th Anniversary Accession to the European Union” set in a single se-tenant stamp

format. The single se-tenant stamp was made available as from Friday 30th May 2014. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau issued copies of the stamp with the label being personalized with the MaltaPost logo on a white background. These copies could be obtained through orders made directly to the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau.



It was also notified that the Sub Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq Ix-Xatt, Marsascula MSK 2113 was to be temporarily closed for business on Saturday 31st May 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Iż-Żejtun ŻTN 1834.

29th May

MaltaPost donated numerous toys to children receiving treatment at Mater Dei hospital. These toys were donated by the company’s staff and will be placed in the paediatric and children outpatients playing rooms. The gifts were presented by MaltaPost’s Marketing Department representative Yolande Spiteri and a representative from the Human Resources Department Marisa Caruana who were welcomed by Mater Dei’s Voluntary Service Co-ordinator David Pisani and Dr Bubbly, a representative from Dr Clown – an NGO which seeks to ease the pain and boredom children feel whilst they receive care in the wards and outpatients’ clinics of Mater Dei.

2nd June

The Gozo Philatelic Society continued issuing its monthly series of personalized stamped commemorative cards showing Malta’s Prime Ministers since the 1921 Self-Government Constitution. This month’s issue (No. 11) featured Dr. Alfred Sant (1996-1998).

5th June

MaltaPost notified that the Sub Post Office at Malton Stationery”, 7, Triq Ċensu Xerri, Sliema SLM 3062 was to be closed for business on Friday 6th June 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Sliema Post Office situated at 118, Triq Manwel Dimech Sliema SLM 1055.

Sliema Post Office situated at 39, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Sliema SLM 1902.

It also notified that the Sub Post Office at “Misto”, Pjazza L-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara BKR 4250 was to be temporarily closed for business between the 9th and the 14th June 2014 both days included. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following 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.

10th June

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that it was to issue a miniature sheet bearing two postage stamps to mark the 2014 FIFA World Cup™. The miniature sheet was made available as from Thursday 12th June 2014 and the stamps carry face values of €0.59 and €1.55. They respectively depict the emblem of the event, the design of which is based on the idea, of three victorious hands together raising the FIFA World Cup™ trophy and the official mascot Fuleco™, an armadillo known to defend itself from predators by rolling up into a ball. The miniature sheet, designed by MaltaPost’s graphic designer Sean Cini, measures 120mm x 86mm and bears the Maltese Crosses watermark. Each stamp measures 35mm x 35mm with a perforation of 13.75 x 13.75 (comb.). Printex Limited printed the sheet in offset and the issue consists of 50,000 sheets. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 8/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST ----- MALTA/JUM IL-HRUG/12-06-14”, and also included an image of the Brazil 2014 FIFA World Cup slogan. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 323. It should be noted that in the bulletin an error in the description with regards to face values in relation to stamp design has been observed.



23rd June

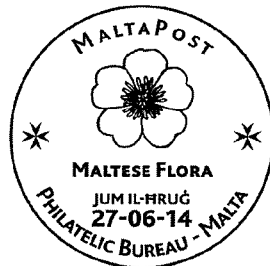
MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, due to the Isle of MTV Concert being held in Floriana on Wednesday 25th June 2014, the Letter Box no. 252 in Triq San Publiju, Floriana will not be

accessible. Therefore, collection from the mentioned letterbox was to be effected at 15.00hrs instead of 19.00hrs. It also notified that the nearest public Letter Box is situated at Triq Sant'Anna, Floriana.

24th June

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that it was issuing a set of three stamps depicting flowers found in the Maltese countryside. The stamps were made available as from Friday 27th June 2014 and carry a face value of €0.26, €0.59 and €1.16. They respectively depict the Field Gladiolus, the Wavy Leaf Mullein and the Conical Orchid. The €0.59 stamp illustrating the Wavy Leaf Mullein bears the official Small European Postal Administration Cooperation (SEPAC)

logo and will form part of a SEPAC joint stamp issue folder. The theme for this year's SEPAC collection will be 'Flowers' and participating states will be presenting stamps illustrating flowers from their country. The stamps were designed in-house by MaltaPost, and were issued in sheets of 10. Each stamp measures 20mm x 38mm with a perforation of 13.6 x 14.0 (comb.) and bear the Maltese Crosses Watermark. The sheets measure 154mm x 110mm and each denomination incorporates a different illustration of the Maltese countryside along the right hand side. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 1,890,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 477,000 of the €0.59 stamp and 54,000 of the €1.16 stamp. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 9/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST ----- -- - MALTA/MALTESE FLORA/JUM IL-HRUĠ/27-06-14", and also included an outline image of a flower. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 324.



Furthermore, MaltaPost p.l.c. also issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. The announcement reads:

"The Company hereby announces the appointment of Mark Vella, I.D. No 197473M of 16, Triq Il Pruna, Attard, as Chief Information Officer with effect from 14th July 2014. Mr. Vella previously occupied the post of IT Senior Business Relationship Manager within the commercial division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation. There is no matter to be disclosed regarding Mark Vella in terms of Listing Rules 5.20.5 to 5.20.9. The Senior Management team of MaltaPost p.l.c. is now:- Joseph Gafa' (Chief Executive Officer), Carmen Ellul (Chief Financial Officer), Daniel Grech (Chief Commercial Officer), Pierre Montebello (Chief Operating Officer), Mark Vella (Chief Information Officer)."

26th June

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024 was to be temporarily closed for business on 30th June 2014, morning only. The public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Mithna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107.

In addition, MaltaPost p.l.c. also informed the public that with immediate effect the outlet 'Misto Stationery', Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar will no longer operate as a Sub Post Office. Birkirkara residents may wish to make use of postal services provided at Birkirkara Post Office situated in 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013 or at the following Sub Post Offices:

“Oreana Stationery”, 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR 4532.

“Landau Stationery”, 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara BKR 9085.

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

MaltaPost also informed that a group of MaltaPost staff members participated in the 10th edition of the Puttinu Cares Football Marathon which took place at the Marsa Sports Grounds earlier in the month. MaltaPost’s Head of Human resources Mrs. Stefania Camilleri explained that “This forms part of a larger Corporate Social Responsibility plan which the company has embarked on in order to sensitize its staff members of the hardships encountered by a number of members within our society and to respond to this by giving a helping hand”.

30th June

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the general public that a new public letter box has been installed in St. Paul’s Street in St. Paul’s Bay (next to the new MaltaPost branch). Last Collection times: Weekdays after 7.00 pm Saturdays after 3.00 pm.

4th July

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on Wednesday 9th July it was to issue a postage stamp to mark the co-operation between members of the Postal Union for the Mediterranean (PUMed) which was officially established in 2011 and whose headquarters are stationed in Malta. The stamp forms part of an omnibus issue entitled ‘The Mediterranean Sea’, with the participating countries being Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia and Syria. PUMed



currently includes twenty postal operators across the Mediterranean region, which besides those participating in this omnibus issue also includes Croatia, France, Italy, Mauritania, Monaco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. The stamp design, which features the Mediterranean Sea with its surrounding countries, is by Ms. Amany Ahmed Ali of Egypt Post Postal Printing House, and was adopted after an international design contest for the purpose was held between six member countries, namely Cyprus, Egypt, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Slovenia.. The Maltese stamp, which carries a face value of €1.85, was issued in sheets of 10. It measures 41mm x 30.5mm with a perforation of 13.7 x 13.8 (comb.) and is printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The sheet measures 118mm x 182.5mm. Printex Limited produced the stamp in offset and the print run consists of 50,000 stamps. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 10/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST ----- MALTA/EUROMED POSTAL/’THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA’/JUM IL-ĦRUG’/09-07-14”, and also included an outline image of the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea set in a partial globe. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this stamp in Stamp Bulletin No. 325. It is to be noted that France did not participate in the omnibus issue as recorded in the said stamp bulletin.

5th July

On the occasion of the 400th Anniversary from the last Turkish attack on the Maltese Islands on Sunday 6th July 1614, the Żejtun Local Council (ŻLC) in collaboration with the Żejtun Philatelic Group issued a set of two commemorative cards and two personalized stamps to mark the event. The cards, numbered 2 & 3, respectively depict the Titular Painting to be found at the Old Parish Church and the Titular Painting at St. Clement Church, Żejtun. The labels attached to the personalized stamps depict details from each of the two paintings, namely that of a map of the attack and a portrait of hero Klement Tabone. This limited issue of the cards and stamp sets, which could only be purchased from the ŻLC, was of 100 for each of the cards and 150 for each of the personalized stamps. The council, on request, besides in mint condition also issued the personalized stamps affixed on local council envelopes cancelled with the Żejtun Post Office metal dater on Saturday, 5 July as FDI covers.

7th July

The Gozo Philatelic Society continued issuing its monthly series of personalized stamped commemorative cards showing Malta’s Prime Ministers since the 1921 Self-Government Constitution. This month’s issue (No. 12) featured Dr. Lawrence Gonzi (2004-2013).

8th July

For the occasion of the 200th Anniversary since the Malta Police force was established, MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Saturday 12th July 2014 at the Castille Square Post Office in Valletta. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST CASTILLE SQR. – VALLETTA – MALTA 12.07.14” in the outer ring, and “200 YEARS. MALTA POLICE FORCE 1814-2014” in the inner ring which also included the Malta Police Force emblem.



In addition to the above, for the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Xagħra Bubonic Plague, MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Saturday 26th July 2014 at the Xagħra Gozo Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – XAGħRA, GOZO - MALTA 26-07-14” in the outer ring, and “200TH ANNIVERSARY/1814 2014/XAGħRA BUBONIC PLAGUE” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of a cross on a pedestal.



For the occasion, the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred commemorative cards (No. 93) with the stamp cancelled by this post mark.

MaltaPost p.l.c. also notified the general public that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, on Friday 11th July 2014, the last collection of mail from all letter boxes will be effected at 13.00.

15th July

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that for the occasion of the 175th Anniversary of the statue of St. George found in St. George’s Basilica in Victoria Gozo, the Holy Relic of St. George’s arm housed at the Benedictine abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice, Italy, will be brought to Malta and Gozo for the first time. MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that to mark the event, a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Saturday 19th July 2014 at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 19-07-14” in the outer ring, and “RELIKWA INSINJI TA’ DRIEGħ SAN ĠORĠ MARTRI” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of the reliquary.



The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred seventy-five commemorative cards (No. 94) with the stamp cancelled by this post mark.

18th July

MaltaPost p.l.c notified that the Sub Post Office at ‘Happy Kids Stationery’, Triq San Tumas, Fgura FGR 1608 will be temporarily closed for business on Monday 21st July 2014. MaltaPost p.l.c advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Paola Post Office situated in Civic Centre, Pjazza Antoine de Paule, Paola PLA 1266;
Żabbar Post Office situated in Civic Centre, Triq il- Kunvent, Żabbar ZBR 1351

21st July

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed its clients that following the attacks on Libya’s International airport, the transfer of mail into Libya has been temporarily suspended.

23rd July

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Marcham Stationery’, 4, Wesgħa Bir id- Deheb, Għaxaq GXQ 1651 will be temporarily closed for business between the 27th July and 1 August 2014. MaltaPost p.l.c advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the Żejtun Post Office situated at 37, San Luċjan Street, Żejtun ZTN 1834.

In addition to the above, MaltaPost also informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Higher Grades’, 93, Kanannea Street, Attard ATD 2703 will also be temporarily closed for business between the 28th and 30th July 2014. MaltaPost p.l.c advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the Balzan Post Office situated in 153, Main Street, Balzan BZN 1251.

25th July

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Aquavel’, St. Bartholomew Għarghur GHR 1014 will be temporarily closed for business on Friday 25th July 2014 (afternoon only) and Saturday 26th July 2014 all day. MaltaPost p.l.c advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office situated in the Civic Centre, 21st September Avenue, Naxxar NXR 1018.

31st July

On this day the Saint Paul’s Bay Post Office Branch (R13) was relocated from Sqaq

Tax-Xama` St. Paul's Bay SPB 1000 and started operating from new premises located at 511, St. Paul's Street, St. Paul's Bay SPB 3416. No new hand stamps were issued as a result of this relocation since the same hand stamps in use at the previous premises were also transferred in the move. A press release was belatedly issued by MaltaPost p.l.c. on the 12th August informing the general public about this relocation.



4th August

The Gozo Philatelic Society continued issuing its monthly series of personalized stamped commemorative cards showing Malta's Prime Ministers since the 1921 Self-Government Constitution. This month's issue (No. 13) featured Dr. Joseph Muscat (2013-to date). This thematic set of cards, the first by the GPS, was closed off by the issue of an additional card (No. 14) depicting all the prime ministers featured, together with a personalized stamp bearing the Maltese Coat-of Arms on the label.

7th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified the public that in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, on Thursday 14th August, a number of letter boxes were to be collected at 16:00hrs. The reason for the early collection was due to the activities celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady (Santa Marija) being held in several localities in Malta. The letter boxes involved were:

Attard: Letter Box 409 situated in Main Street; Letter Box 420 situated in Valletta Road.

Għaxaq: Letter Box 130 situated in St. Roque Square; Letter Box 131 situated in Labour Avenue.

Gudja: Letter Box 115 situated in Ray Caruana Street; Letter Box 141 situated in Ġilormu Cassar Street.

Mosta: Letter Box 376 situated in Constitution Street; Letter Box 391 situated in Main Street; Letter Box 392 situated in Catacombs Street.

Mqabba: Letter Box 39 situated in Parish Street; Letter Box 40 situated in Mikelang Sapiano Street.

Qrendi: Letter Box 32 situated in Rokku Buħaġiar Street.

To mark the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the Gozo Cathedral, MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that a special commemorative hand postmark was to be used



on Monday 11th August 2014 at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 11-08-14” in the outer ring, and “SINGULARI AMORI / 150 SENA KATIDRAL” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of the upper section of the Cathedral’s facade.

For the occasion, the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred twenty commemorative cards (No. 95) with the stamp cancelled by this post mark.

Furthermore, MaltaPost p.l.c informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘C@C Stationery, Trejjet Fleur de Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580 was to be temporarily closed for business on the 11th and the 18th August 2014. It advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the following outlets:

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

Landau Stationery situated in 84, Triq Dun Gejtano Mannarino, Birkirkara BKR 9085.

Oreana Stationery situated in 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR 4532.

D Spiral situated in Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691.

11th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public about a number of temporary closures of Sub Post and Branch Post Offices, namely:

The Sub Post Office at Louis Stationery, 49, Pjazza San Nikola, Siġġiewi SĠW 1070 was to be temporarily closed for business between the 20th and the 27th August 2014 both days included. It advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the Żebbuġ Post Office situated at Triq Sciortino, Żebbuġ ŻBG 1962.

Also, the Sub Post Office situated at 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024, was to be closed for business between the 18th and the 23rd August 2014 both days included. The public was advised that it may wish to use the postal services provided from the Post Office situated in 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107.

Another Sub Post Office named was that situated at 6, “Welcome Bazaar”, Misraħ Frenc Abela, Dingli DGL 1081 which was to be closed for business between the 14th and 20th August 2014 both days included. MaltaPost p.l.c. advised the public that it may wish to use the postal services provided from the Post Office situated at the Civic Centre, Misraħ il-Parroċċa, Rabat RBT 1230.

The final Press Release issued by MaltaPost on this day informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at MC Stationery, 33, Triq Ġilormu Cassar, Mosta MST

4117 was to be closed for business between the 16th and the 19th August 2014 both days included. The public was advised that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from the Mosta Post Office situated in the Civic Centre, Constitution Street, Mosta MST 9059.

12th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the general public that a new Post Office was opened at 511, St. Paul's Street, St. Paul's Bay. This Post Office replaced the Post Office which was situated at Tax-Xama' Lane within the same locality for its clients residing at St. Paul's Bay, Burmarrad, Bugibba, Golden Bay, Qawra, Wardija and Xemxija. The new St. Paul's Bay Post Office is open from Monday to Saturday between 7.30am and 12.45pm. (*see entry dated 31st July*).

21st August

The Sub Post Office at 'Aquavel', St. Bartholomew Street, Gharghur GHR 1014 was to be temporarily closed for business on Monday 25th August 2014. The public was advised by MaltaPost p.l.c. that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office situated in the Civic Centre, 21st September Avenue, Naxxar NXR 1018.

22nd August

In compliance with the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost p.l.c. issued the following *Interim Directors' Statement* under the signature of the company secretary Graham A. Fairclough:

"MaltaPost p.l.c. announces that during the period commencing 1 April 2014 up to the date of this Announcement, no material events and/or transactions have taken place that would have an impact on the financial performance of the Company, such that would require specific mention, disclosure or announcement pursuant to the applicable Listing Rules.

For the period under review, MaltaPost registered an improvement in performance when compared to the corresponding period last year. The increase in turnover has been principally due to new service offerings, product enhancements and also an increase in certain tariffs. As expected, this growth mitigated the negative effect on revenue from the industry-wide decline in traditional letter mail volumes.

Although the Company is mindful of cost containment and efficiency enhancements, expenses increased mainly due to staff costs, cross-border mail delivery costs and inflationary pressures. MaltaPost is committed to ensure that its business model allows it to maintain a sustainable Universal Service, while diversifying its business

by taking advantage of the various opportunities that the growth in e-commerce provides. The directors are confident that for the year ending September 2014, the Company will deliver an improved profit when compared to the corresponding period last year.”

26th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Paul’s Arcade’, Triq il-Kaħli, San Pawl il-Baħar SPB 3015 was to be temporarily closed for business between 27th August and 3rd September 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from the newly opened St. Paul’s Bay Post Office situated at 511, St. Paul’s Street, St. Paul’s Bay, SPB 3416.

27th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the annual online competition for the most beautiful EUROPA stamp was open and that entries from across Europe are competing for the best 2014 design. This year’s EUROPA theme is “National Musical Instruments”. The Maltese entry is the €0.59 value stamp from the set issued on 9th May. The stamp portrays a detail from an oil painting by the renowned Italian artist Girolamo Gianni, who was active in Malta in the latter part of the 19th century and features a musician playing the traditional Maltese Bagpipe, “*Iz-Żaqq*” at Valletta’s Porta Reale..MaltaPost invited the public to support and vote for the Maltese stamp and reminded that the competition ends on 31st August 2014 with the winning stamp being announced on 24th September 2014 in San Marino.

4th September

Maltapost p.l.c. announced that together with the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) it was offering a Diploma course, recognised within the national qualification framework standards, in postal services.

The course, the duration of which spans one scholastic year, is aimed to acquaint students with both technical and theoretical knowledge of the postal service. It was stated that at the end of this Diploma course, students will have acquired an understanding of the functions and purpose of the organisation and possess a technical knowledge of the process and delivery of mail. They will also be familiar with postal regulations, procedures and be capable to carry out all operational postal service duties in a professional and efficient manner. Besides the traditional classroom teaching method this course also includes simulation and ‘on-the-job’ training.

Candidates wishing to take up the course must be in possession of an MCAST foundation certificate or 2 SEC/O - level passes from English Language, Maltese or Mathematics together with a clean police conduct.

5th September

MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that for the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the diocese of Gozo, a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Tuesday 16th September 2014 at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 16-09-14” in the outer ring, and “DIOCESIS GAUDISIENSIS / 1864-2014” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of the bishop’s mitre and staff.



For the occasion, the Gozo Philatelic Society issued its second limited edition thematic commemorative card set, consisting of ten cards depicting Gozo’s bishops since the establishment of the diocese. Each of the different personalized stamps franking the cards was cancelled by this post mark.

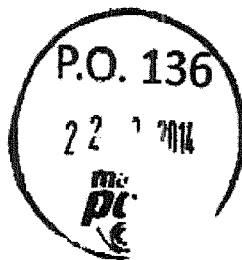
9th September

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq Ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113 was to be closed for business on Friday 12th September 2014. It advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Iż-Żejtun ŻTN 1834

A new MaltaPost hand postal marking type was first observed used on 22nd October (*opposite*) on a Registered Mail White OPR/014-REV9 notice and through this entry is being recorded for the first time. It consists of a “P.O. XXX (numeral)/XX.XX.XXXX (date in one line)/ maltapost logo” enclosed in an 18.5 mm circular ring. The introduction and purpose of this “Postal Operator” designated hand stamp was unannounced. Questions put to MaltaPost with regards to the hand stamp have so far revealed that these unique numeric postal operator identifier markers were originally issued on the 9th September 2014. Three hundred personalized rubber hand stamps were available and these are for use by all postal operators at hubs and courier. It was also stated that their use is limited to stamping all bulky items received from abroad and also for postal operators to stamp notices instead of writing their names in full.



15th September

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that as from Wednesday 24th September, the folder

‘Beautiful Corners of Europe 5’ published by SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation) was to be made available for sale from all its Post Offices. This is the fifth folder issued by SEPAC and includes stamps and images from fourteen European postal administrations, namely; 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, Poste San Marino, Post Luxembourg, and the Vatican Post Office.

The theme for this year’s SEPAC collection was ‘Flowers’ with all participants presenting stamps illustrating flowers from their respective country. The Maltese stamp in the SEPAC Folder illustrates the Wavy Leaf Mullein (Xatbet l-Andar) with a €0.59 face value from the set ‘Maltese Flora’ issued earlier this year.

18th September

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq Ix-Xatt, Marsascala MSK 2113 was to be temporarily closed for business on 19th and 20th September 2014. It advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Iż-Żejtun ŻTN 1834.

19th September

For the occasion of the 50th Anniversary since Malta gained Independence, MaltaPost notified that a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Saturday 20th September 2014 at the Valletta Castille Square Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. - VALLETTA - MALTA 20-09-14” in the outer ring, and “50 SENA MALTA INDIPENDENTI” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of the Independence Monument figure.



20th September

The College of Nationalist Party ex-Members of Parliament released commemorative philatelic material to mark the 50th Anniversary of Independence. The personalized stamps set consists of two stamps, one with the label commemorating former Prime Minister Dr. Ġorġ Borg Olivier and the other showing the marble plaque marking the gaining of Independence affixed on the front wall of the Grand Master’s Palace in Valletta. The College also issued a “twin-pack” consisting of a first day cover

(franked with Ġ.B.O stamp) and a commemorative card (franked with marble plaque stamp) both of which bore the personalized stamps cancelled by the “50 SENA MALTA INDIPENDENTI” special commemorative hand postmark . It is to be noted that First Day Covers were autographed by the leader of the Nationalist Party, Dr. Simon Busuttil. The total number of FDCs and cards issued was limited to 550 each. In all, 3050 personalized stamps from each version were printed. The commemorative material could be purchased from the Nationalist Party headquarters for the price of one euro per unused stamp and five euro each for the First Day Cover and Commemorative Card.

23rd September

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on Tuesday 30th September it would be issuing a set consisting of twenty-eight stamps featuring the Grandmasters of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta reigning between 1530 and 1798, the period the Order ruled over Malta. The stamps each carry a face value of €0.26 and each depicts the portrait of one of the Grandmasters. The images used for the first twenty-three were lifted from: “Histoire de l’Ordre de Malte” written by René Aubert de Vertot (1655-1733), whereas the portraits of the last five grandmasters were drawn by Maltese artist Cedric Galea Pirotta. The stamps were issued in a set of 3 sheets - 1 sheet of 8 stamps and 2 sheets of 10 stamps each. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb) and bear the Maltese Crosses watermark. Each sheet measures 180mm x 113mm and the sheet of 8 stamps also includes an illustration of an old map of the Maltese Islands. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue. Three official covers were released, each bearing a different cachet reproducing a detail from the stamps with portrait of GM L’Isle Adam, De Verdale and Caraffa respectively. The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST/----- - MALTA/THE/GRANDMASTERS/1530-1798/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/30-09-14”, and also included an outline image of the Maltese Cross. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this stamp set in Stamp Bulletin No. 326. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 36,000 of each sheet. The stamps were made available for sale in whole sheets. It is to be noted that this resulted in that persons wanting to purchase a copy of the L’Isle Adam stamp to affix in the space provided at the back of the MaltaStamp bulletin, had no option but to buy a complete sheet of eight stamps which included the copy.



24th September

The Žejtun Philatelic Group in collaboration with the Žejtun Local Council held an

exhibition of philatelic material at the Ċentru tal-Arti u Artigjanat in Saint Gregory Street, Żejtun as part of the annual cultural activities held in the locality.

29th September

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that between 1st October 2014 and 12th June 2015, the St. Julian's Post Office situated within Lombard Bank p.l.c. in Paceville Avenue, will be open from Monday to Friday between 08.30 and 14.30, while the Post Office situated at the University of Malta will be open from Monday to Friday between 08.00 and 17.00.

30th September

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that it had launched PostaPay&Save - a Payment Account with a passbook that allows customers to safely receive funds, make payments while also budgeting efficiently. Individuals may deposit cheques or cash into the account and then pay bills and withdraw money as necessary. With this passbook customers can keep a record of every transaction made, allowing them to monitor the flow of funds. It can be used by anyone over the age of 18, and allows customers to transfer to and receive funds from other PostaPay&Save Payment Accounts - all with immediate effect and free of any charges.

The PostaPay&Save Payment Account is a Lombard Bank product that is being offered at specific MaltaPost offices.

The service will initially be made available at the following Post Offices:

Birkirkara: 58, Valley Road.

Cospicua: Block 14, Fuq San Pawl.

Marsa: MaltaPost Head Office, Qormi Road.

Mosta: Civic Centre, Constitution Street.

Nadur, Gozo: 13, North Street.

Sliema: 39, Sir Adrian Dingli Street

It is also available from Lombard Bank at 82, St Sebastian Street, Qormi.

2nd October

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Midas', 34, Triq Ix-Xatt, Marsascula MSK 2113 was to be closed for business on 3rd October 2014. It advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Iz-Żejtun ŻTN 1834.

3rd October

The *Times of Malta* reported that on the 2nd October, in a sitting in the First Hall of the Civil Court presided by Mr. Justice Mark Chetcuti, MaltaPost p.l.c. was ordered to pay over thirty thousand euro to Messrs. Said International Limited with regards to stamps bought by the same company before Malta adopted the euro currency. The case was instituted by Messrs. Said after MaltaPost refused to exchange the invalidated stamps (issued after January 1st 1998) with valid ones having an equal value or, alternatively, paying their equivalent in euro, notwithstanding the fact that the application by Messrs. Said had been made in accordance with the terms of the legal notice which invalidated the stamps.

It is interesting to point out that as reported in the on-line version at *Timesofmalta.com*, Mr. Justice Chetcuti held the age-old maxim that **The main purpose of purchasing stamps was for using them as postage. However, the owner of a stamp could also use it for purposes of philately or any other purpose so long as he had paid its pre-paid value. A person could purchase a stamp for collection purposes and then change his mind and use it for postage.**

It should be noted that earlier this year MaltaPost had been ordered to replace nearly twenty-four thousand euro worth of stamps held by Mr. John Curtin, in a decision taken by the Courts on 24th February 2014 in a similar and almost identical case.

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that it is participating in the DemoEV pilot project organised by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. The main goal of this project is to introduce and promote the use of electric vehicles in the Maltese Islands by demonstrating the feasibility of full electric vehicles as well as to provide one solution towards meeting the 2020 climate change targets.

8th October

Together with postal administrations from other member countries of the Universal Postal Union, MaltaPost p.l.c. commemorated World Post Day which marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players.

World Post Day is celebrated by postal operators around the World each year on 9th October. The purpose of World Post Day is to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries.

9th October

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced its participation in the 15th Maltex Philatelic Exhibition 2014 organised by the Malta Philatelic Society. For this special event the Philatelic Bureau informed that it was to issue an Occasion Card, a Postal Card, a Personalized Stamp and a Personalized Cover.

It was also notified that both cards were to be available in mint and cancelled condition as from Friday 17th October from the MaltaPost stand at the Maltex Exhibition, all Post Offices, and from the Philatelic Bureau. A temporary letter box service was also to be provided during the opening hours of the Exhibition.

16th October

The Maltex 2014 Philatelic Exhibition was officially inaugurated at the Phoenicia Hotel Floriana by H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta.

Dr. Alfred Bonnici, President of the Malta Philatelic Society and members of the MPS Committee welcomed H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and other guests, following which speeches for the occasion were delivered by both presidents. The exhibition was blessed by Rev. Alfred Sacco S.D.B. A tour of the exhibits and drinks for members of the MPS and specially invited guests present for the opening ceremony followed.

17th – 19th October

The three-day 15th Maltex Philatelic Exhibition 2014 opened to the general public on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th October between 09.00 and 18.00 and on Sunday 19 October between 09.00 and 12.00.



During the exhibition, mail could be cancelled with the occasion hand postmark prepared by MaltaPost for the event. The hand stamp was inscribed “Maltex 2014/17-19 October 2014/Hotel Phoenicia - Floriana - Malta” inside an oval shaped outer ring, with the Logo of the Exhibition being used for the Maltex 2014 part of the inscription.

As announced on the 9th October, on Friday 17th MaltaPost p.l.c. issued philatelic items connected with the exhibition, a brief description of which follows.

The “Occasion” Card is based on a photograph by Guido Bonnet and shows a flower found in the Maltese countryside, ‘The Field Gladiolus’ (Habb il-Qamh tar-Raba’). The *imprinted* stamp is a reproduction of the ‘Conical Orchid’ €1.16 value from the set ‘Maltese Flora’ issued in June 2014, which incidentally also included ‘The Field Gladiolus’ with a €0.26 face value.

The Postal Card, which includes the Europa 2014 logo, depicts a *cut-out* of the bagpipe and drum musicians from the nineteenth century oil painting by the renowned Italian artist Girolamo Gianni, details from which were



used for the Malta ‘EUROPA 2014 ‘National Music Instruments’ set. The imprinted stamps on the card consist of a reproduction of the same two-stamp set.

The Personalized Stamp label features the Maltex 2014 Logo with the date 17-19 October 2014 beneath, superimposed on a background composed of Maltese Crosses in shades of light grey; while the Personalized MaltaPost Cover has a cachet composed of a collage of recent commemorative stamp issues and is franked by the Maltex 2014 personalized stamp cancelled with the Maltex occasion hand stamp.

20th October

For the occasion of the 400th Anniversary since the arrival of the bust of Saint Ursula in Gozo, MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Tuesday 21st October 2014 at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office.



The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 21-10-14” in the outer ring, and “SANT’ ORSLA · 1614-2014” in the inner ring below an image of Saint Ursula.

The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred commemorative cards (No. 96) with the stamp cancelled by this post mark.

24th October

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that a new Letterbox has been installed in Triq il-Kardinal Alessandro Franchi, in Fontana Gozo.

27th October

The Times of Malta on-line newspaper reported that several Valletta letterboxes were used as a medium for well-known street artist Christian Guémy. The artist, who marks his works C215 and originally hails from Paris, was in Malta holidaying with his daughter. He has a particular soft spot for Caravaggio and this was reflected in the artwork which was seen painted on several post-office boxes and other street furniture strewn across the capital.

The article also mentioned that one of his artworks is part of the permanent public collection at the Paris Postal Museum and that the French post-office has released a stamp depicting one of his pieces featuring the face of his daughter. No authorisation was requested for this controversial “initiative” and the work was looked upon with mixed feelings by members of the public. Some considered it as a “stroke of creativity” while others branded it as a “defacement of public property” and “vandalism”. On his part the artist stated that “It is my way of appreciating the city, of giving something back to it, and I hope that the people will enjoy my work.” The article made it to the front page of the “Times of Malta” 28th October issue.

29th October

The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the results of a survey that it carried out between June and July 2014, in order to evaluate business perceptions and satisfaction levels regarding postal services in Malta. Results indicate that the majority of businesses claim to have received and sent, more or less, the same number of addressed letters over the previous 12 months. Notwithstanding this, when compared to a similar survey carried out two years ago the decline in letter mail volumes continued to grow as more businesses resorted to other alternatives such as emails and online services. Moreover, the survey results suggest that businesses have high price elasticity with 64% of business respondents say that they would switch to non-postal alternatives, should the price of addressed letters increase by 5% to 10%. On the other hand, results from this survey indicate that demand for parcel post services has grown. Indeed, in contrast to 51% in 2011, this time 63% of businesses confirmed that they had received a parcel during the last 12 months. With regards to the popularity of post offices in Malta, the survey shows that 72% of businesses have been to the post office during the last 12 months. The frequency with which businesses visit the post office, however, has fallen when compared to 2011. The most demanded services at the post office by businesses relate to parcels and purchase of stamps. *Source:* <http://www.mca.org.mt/service-providers/surveys/mca-survey-results-local-postal-services-0>

31st October

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the Sub Post Office at Tunny Net Souvenir Shop, Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa MLH 9063 will be closed for business from 1st November 2014 till 1st April 2015. It advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107.

Mellieħa Sub Post Office situated at 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024.

3rd November

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on Friday 7th November it will issue a set of three stamps depicting military hospitals that were instrumental in saving the lives of tens of thousands of sick and wounded that were brought to and cared for in Malta during World War I.

During that war a total of twenty seven hospitals and camps were set up across Malta and Gozo so as to accommodate thousands of wounded Allied servicemen.

The first group of six hundred casualties arrived from Gallipoli on 4th May 1915. Initially, numerous wounded men were disembarked on the quayside by Valletta's ancient Sacra Infermeria hospital. They were then moved on to other hospitals around the Island. This activity earned Malta the title 'Nurse of the Mediterranean'.

The stamps carry a face value of €0.10, €0.59 and €2.00 and portray the images of Bighi Hospital, Floriana Hospital and HMHS Rewa respectively. They were designed by Paul Psaila, and were issued in sheets of ten stamps on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 14.1 x 14.2 (comb.), while the sheets measure 119mm x 186mm. Printex Limited printed the stamps in offset and the issue consists of 240,000 of the €0.10 stamp, 300,000 of the €0.59 and 72,000 of the €2.00 value. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 12/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST/ ----- MALTA/ WORLD WAR I/CENTENARY/1914-1918/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/07-11-14", and also included an outline image of a poppy. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this stamp set in Stamp Bulletin No. 327.



5th November

The *Times of Malta* reported that on 4th November MaltaPost p.l.c. wrote to the Valletta mayor complaining that its pillar boxes were being "defaced" by works of street artist Christian Guémy. It was also reported that these boxes were being repainted after MaltaPost established that the mayor had never granted permission to the artist to use postal facilities for this purpose.

Amongst the comments passed by Valletta mayor Alexei Dingli in his reaction to this, he is quoted as having said "I think it's utterly ridiculous that MaltaPost cannot see beyond its nose. Is this its contribution to Valletta 2018!" As had happened when the news of these artworks first broke out on 27th October, reactions to the "painting over" were received with very mixed feelings by the public. Some bloggers commenting on the T.O.M. on-line version of the story even pointed out

the possibility that in actual fact it could be that some letter boxes might have not been painted over at all but were replaced.

7th November

For the occasion of the 250th anniversary since the arrival of the statue of San Koronatu at Nadur, MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that a commemorative hand postmark was to be used on Saturday 8th November 2014 at the Nadur Gozo Post Office.



The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – NADUR, GOZO - MALTA 08-11-14” in the outer ring, and “RELIKWI TA’ SAN KORONATU FIN–NADUR/250 SENA” with the PAX symbol in the middle enclosed within two palm fronds and a crown in the inner ring.

The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred commemorative cards (No. 97) with the stamp cancelled by this post mark.

12th November

For the occasion of the Gozo Philatelic Society’s 15th Exhibition, MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that an occasion hand postmark was to be used on Friday 14th November 2014 at the Victoria Post Office.



The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 14-11-14” in the outer ring, and “GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY – 15TH EXHIBITION” and an outline image of the Gozo lateen sailing boat in the inner ring.

13th November

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on Monday 17th November it was to issue a set of four stamps depicting scenes from the annual live crib production staged by the residents of the village of Għajnsielem in Gozo – “*Bethlehem f’ Għajnsielem*”.



The stamps carry a face value of €0.26, €0.59, €0.63 and €1.16. The €0.26 stamp draws focus on the traditional Nativity scene, while the €0.59 stamp gives prominence to the Magi as they visit the Holy Family. The €0.63 stamp features shepherds close to a fire with the Għajnsielem church in the background and the €1.16 stamp portrays the Holy Family in the stable. Photographer Daniel Cilia shot the photos featured on the stamps.

The stamps were designed by MaltaPost and were issued in sheets of 10 stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 14.1 x 14.2 (comb.), while the sheets measure 119mm x 186mm. Printex Limited printed the set in offset on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper and the issue consists of 1,300,000 of the €0.26, 260,000 of the €0.59, 80,000 of the €0.63 and 28,000 of the €1.16. MaltaPost p.l.c. prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 13/2014). The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST/-----
- MALTA/CHRISTMAS 2014/JUM IL-ĦRUG/17-11-14”, and also included an outline image of the Holy Family. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this stamp set in Stamp Bulletin No. 328.

14th November

This year’s edition of the Gozo Philatelic Exhibition, organized annually by the Gozo Philatelic Society, was opened from the 14th to the 21st of November. The theme chosen for this 15th edition was “Maltese Anniversaries and Commemorations”.

The exhibition took place at the Gozo Ministry Halls in St. Francis Square, Victoria.

Members of the Society could participate in various philatelic categories, namely Postal History, Social Philately, Traditional and Junior Section. The display included old and rare philatelic material.

The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred fifty occasion cards (No. 98) bearing a personalized stamp commemorating the exhibition, which were cancelled with the 15th exhibition occasion post mark prepared by MaltaPost.

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that with immediate effect, it had recommenced the acceptance of postal articles addressed to Libya. As communicated to MaltaPost p.l.c. by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the mail conveyance services to and from Libya (letter, post, postal parcels and EMS) have returned to normal, via Mitiga International Airport and Misrata International Airport in Libya.

See entry for 21st July, 2014.

MaltaPost p.l.c. also announced that its SendOn service, which allows clients to shop from online stores within the European Union which do not ship directly to Malta, had added a considerable number of features to make the service more convenient for its clients. Amongst these, clients could now benefit from a reduced minimum delivery rate of €6 for items weighing up to 500g. instead of the previous €12. This rate incorporates the delivery of the item to the clients’ address. If the customer prefers, MaltaPost is now offering a number of different options of how delivery is effected locally, including preparing the item for pick-up from one of its thirty-five retail outlets or having the item delivered to another

address, such as that of a relative or to the client’s workplace where they’ll be present during the day.

17th November

MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Malton Stationery’, 7, Triq Ċensu Xerri, Sliema SLM 3062 was be temporarily closed for business on Tuesday 18th November 2014.

It advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Sliema Post Office situated at 118, Triq Manwel Dimech Sliema SLM 1055.

Sliema Post Office situated at 39, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Sliema SLM 1902.

The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred fifty “Christmas Greetings” commemorative cards (No. B8) which it sent out to all its members as a token of thanks for support throughout the year. The card features a photo by Joseph Sultana showing a nativity scene with the Christmas stamp issued today cancelled by the 2014 Christmas Set occasion hand postmark from the Ghajnsielem post office.

27th November

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Miranda Publishers, MaltaPost notified that an occasion hand postmark will be used on Monday 1st December 2014 at the Valletta Post Office of Castille Square. This occasion hand stamp commemorates the 50th Anniversary since Malta gained Independence and the 10th Anniversary from Malta’s accession to the European Union.



The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. - VALLETTA - MALTA 01-12-14” in the outer ring, and “1964 MALTA 2014 / INDEPENDENCE EU MEMBERSHIP” with images of the Maltese and EU flags, framed numbers 50 and 10 and the year 2014 in the inner ring.

Furthermore, MaltaPost p.l.c. also informed the public that the winter opening hours of the Post Office situated at the University of Malta will change with effect from 1 December 2014. This Post Office will now be open from Monday to Friday between 07.30 and 16.30.

The final news from MaltaPost p.l.c. for the day was that it informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Alessio Old Cottage’, 12, Triq il- Paroċċa, Imqabba MQB 1511 will be closed for business between the 28th November and 7th December 2014, both days included.

It advised the public that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Luqa Post Office - 11, Trejqa Dun Ġulju Muscat, Hal Luqa LQA 1450.

Luqa Post Office - MIA Hall, Hal Luqa LQA 5001.

Żurrieq Post Office - 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Żurrieq ZRQ 1088.

28th November

For the occasion of the opening of the Christmas related events in Gozo, MaltaPost p.l.c. notified that a occasion hand postmark will be used on Friday 5th December at the Victoria Post Office.

The hand stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 05-12-14” in the outer ring, and “MILIED F’GHAWDEX” in the inner ring which also included an outline image of the Holy Family with three hills and a star in the background.



01st December

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that on 5th December 2014, it will be issuing its Year Pack, a collection consisting of all stamp sets issued during this year. The stamp sets will be in mint condition, with the pack format following the usual presentation style, namely a folder which includes technical details related to all the issues contained.

**Every member should try and enrol a new member.
Please remit your membership dues for 2015 immediately
to Mr. J. Cardona,
56, Triq Santa Marija, Tarxien, TXN 1703, Malta.**

Inspite of increase in production costs membership fees have remained the same.

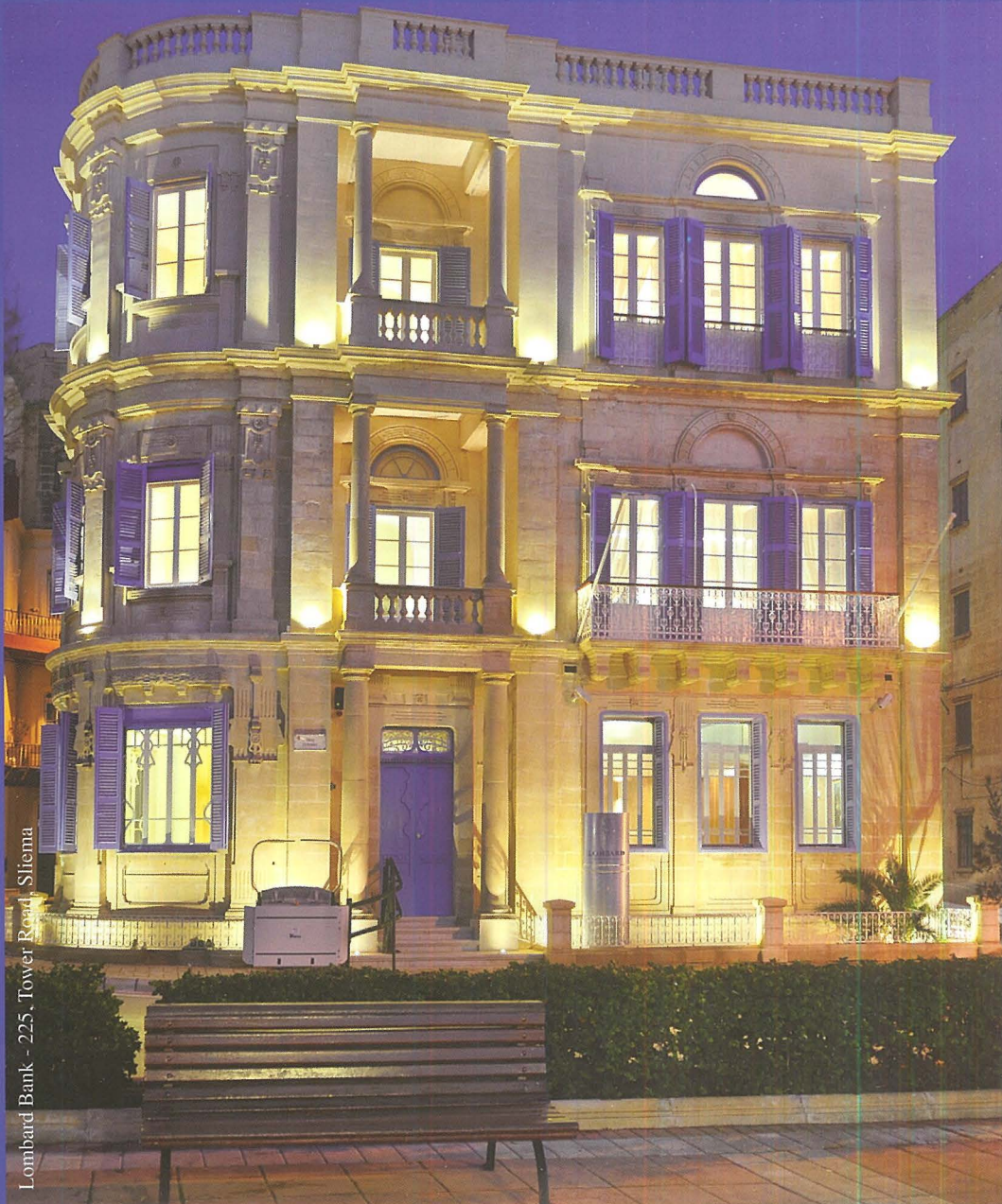
The rates payable are:-

Local Members	(Adults)	Eur 8.00
	(Junior Members)	Eur 2.33
Overseas Members	Australia	Aud 32.00
	Canada	Cad 22.00
	Euro Countries	Eur 16.00
	South Africa	US\$ 25.00
	U.K.	GBP 9.00
	U.S.A.	US\$ 17.00



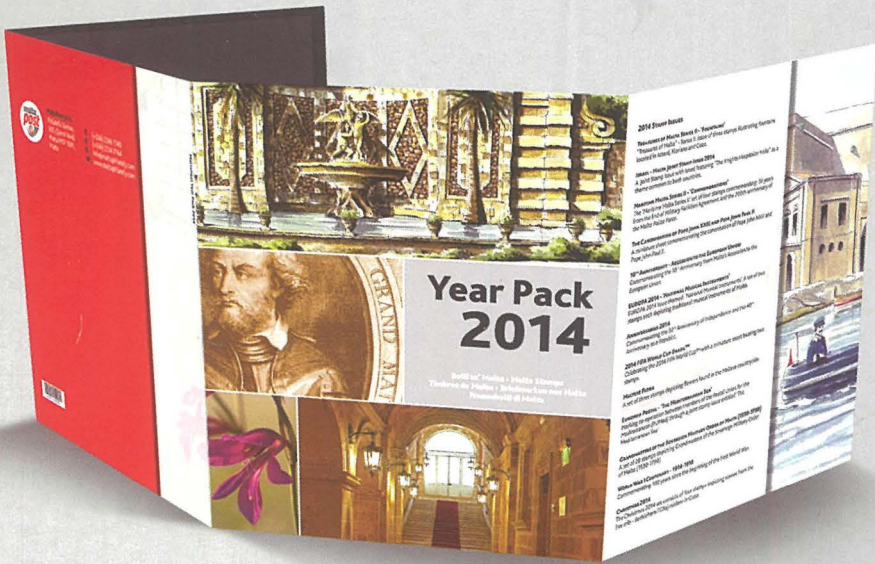
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Start Your Malta Stamp Collection Now

Year packs are an easy way to collect the year's complete issue of stamps. They are presented in an attractive folder with a protective cover and include all technical details related to the year's stamp issues.



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