Postal Diary
22 October 2011 – 29 February 2012

by
Joseph Fenech

28 October

The Sub-Post Office at "D Spiral", Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691 was closed for business on the 28 and 29 October 2011 between 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

31 October

The Sub-Post Office at Tunny Net Souvenir Shop, Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa, was closed for business from the 31 October 2011 to 1 April 2012.

4 November

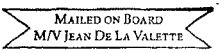
MaltaPost plc informed that, due to construction works, the letterbox located in Triq Profs. Walter Ganado, Pembroke, was being closed for an indefinite period. This letterbox carries MaltaPost Identification Code L247.

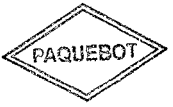
7 November

With effect from Monday, 7 November 2011, the Sub-Post Office situated at 'Troy DVD and Stationery', 51A, Triq ix-Xatt, Kalkara, was relocated to 4A, Pjazza Arċisqof Gonzi, Kalkara.

7 November

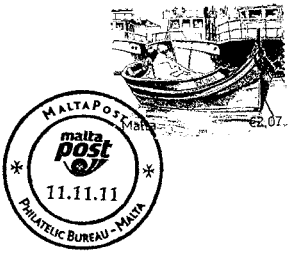
MaltaPost plc announced that it had installed a letterbox on board the M.V. Jean De La Valette, a vessel operated by Virtu` Ferries Ltd. Mail posted on board the vessel was to be marked "PAQUEBOT" and postage stamps cancelled accordingly. Mail posted during trips to Malta would be collected and processed upon arrival in Malta. The service of this letterbox commenced on Monday, 7 November 2011. In view of the relatively frequent albeit short voyages between Malta and Sicily, MaltaPost considered it more practicable to limit its Paquebot Mail service to the voyage between Sicily and Malta (but not the Malta to Sicily leg of the trip). Consequently, the onboard letterbox is only open on the Sicily to Malta voyage and mail is franked with Malta stamps (as the vessel is Malta-registered). The hand stamp marked "PAQUEBOT" is not applied on board the vessel but at the MaltaPost Central Mail Room in Marsa. This hand stamp is not a new one but has been in use for a number of years. It





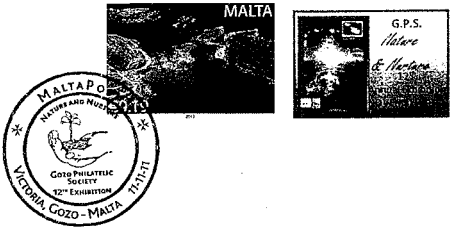
appears that in cases where a passenger buys a postage stamp or postcard from the shop onboard the vessel, the sales assistant marks the postcard/envelope with a rubber stamp reading "MAILED ON BOARD/M/V JEAN DE LA VALETTE".

11 November



The eleventh Philatelic Bureau card (PB11) in the series being issued by MaltaPost on a date when the day, month and year coincide – 11.11.11 – was issued on Friday, 11 November 2011. This card carried the €2.07 stamp from the Malta – Iceland Joint Issue 2011, which was issued in September 2011; the card itself depicts the Maltese fishing boat which also appears on the €2.07 stamp itself. Each Philatelic Bureau card was numbered, with the stamp cancelled with a hand-stamp showing the 11.11.11 date.

11 November



A special hand postmark inscribed "MALTAPOST/VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA/11-11-11" in the outer ring, and "NATURE AND NURTURE/ GOZO PHILATELIC/SOCIETY/12TH EXHIBITION" in the inner ring, was used on Friday, 11 November 2011 at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo branch, on the occasion of the 12th Annual Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Gozo Philatelic Society. The special postmark was designed by Gozitan philatelist Anthony Grech. This exhibition was held at the Ministry for Gozo Exhibition Hall, St. Francis Square, Victoria, Gozo between the 11 and 20 November 2011. A set of five different cards, as well as five different personalised stamps, were issued by the Gozo Philatelic Society to mark this edition of the exhibition. On this occasion, the Gozo Philatelic Society also launched a book, "Gozo – The Isle of Joy on Stamps", a full-colour publication promoting the island of Gozo through philately.

11 November

MaltaPost plc informed the public that the letterbox with Identification Code L261, situated in Triq il-Merkanti, Valletta, was being closed for an indefinite period because of maintenance works.

14 November

A new Sub-Post Office opened with effect from Monday, 14 November 2011, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at MC Stationery, 33, Triq Ġlormu Cassar, Mosta MST 4117. The opening hours of the Sub-Post Office are from Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and 12.00 noon, and 4.00pm and 6.00pm, and on Saturday, between 9.00am and 12.00 noon. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words "MOSTA S.P.O. – MALTA" started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.

15 November

On Tuesday, 15 November 2011, MaltaPost plc issued the Christmas 2011 stamp set. This set of three stamps reproduced Old Master paintings representing the Holy Family. The stamps depict the paintings "The Holy Family in an interior" – stamp value €0.20, "The Madonna and Child with Infant Saint John the Baptist" – stamp value €0.37, and "The Rest on the Flight into Egypt" – stamp value €0.63. 1,800,000 copies of the €0.20 stamp, 400,000 copies of the €0.37 stamp and 120,000 copies of the €0.63 stamp were printed. The stamps were designed in-house by MaltaPost. The size of the stamps is 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and are available in sheets of 10. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 7/2011). The hand-stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST - ---------- - MALTA/CHRISTMAS 2011/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/15-11-11", and also included an image of the Madonna and Child featured on the €0.20 stamp. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 295.

16 November

In Government Gazette No. 18,831 dated 16 November 2011, the Industrial Property Registrations Directorate notified that in accordance with Article 37(4) of The Trademarks Act 2000, the following trademarks were being registered and published:

Trade Mark Nos.: 48714, 48715, 48716, 48717, 48718
MarK: MALTAPOST
Proprietor's name: MaltaPost PLC
Filing Date: 18 March 2009

Trade Mark Nos.: 48719, 48720, 48721, 48722, 48723
Mark: Maltapost
Proprietor's name: MaltaPost PLC
Filing Date: 18 March 2009

Trade Mark Nos.: 48724, 48725, 48726, 48727, 48728
Mark: POSTA MALTA
Proprietor's name: MaltaPost PLC
Filing Date: 18 March 2009

Trade Mark Nos.: 48729, 48730, 48731, 48732, 48733
Mark: POSTA LTD – MALTA
Proprietor's name: MaltaPost PLC
Filing Date: 18 March 2009

16 November

On 16 November 2011, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the Communications Market Review for the period January to June 2011 (Document No. MCA/0/11 – 0630). This report, which was subsequently updated on 2 December 2011, presented key trends and developments in the Maltese communications and postal sectors for the first half of 2011. Furthermore, the report also provides an insight into customer complaints filed with MCA concerning electronic communications and post. According to the report, postal mail volumes handled in the first half of 2011 totalled 21.8 million items, 0.4% less than in the first half of 2010. This drop was attributable to a lower number of letter mail items which outweighed a higher number of bulk mail items, parcel mail items and registered mail items. In absolute terms, letter postal mail volumes went down by 185,283 items. On the other hand, bulk mail and parcel mail volumes were up by 51,475 items and 17,156 items respectively. Registered mail volumes were also up, this time by 38,337 mail items. This review distinguished between two postal areas, the universal service area and the competitive area. In the first half of 2011, postal mail volumes in the universal service area were down by 0.6% when compared to the first half of 2010. On the other hand, postal mail volumes within the competitive area were up by 20.2%. However, in absolute terms, the drop in postal activity in the former case more than outweighed the gain in the latter. During the reporting

period, all Quality of Service ("QoS") delivery targets, set by the MCA for the delivery of postal items, were met by MaltaPost (as the Universal Service Provider).

28 November

MaltaPost plc announced that it had launched a set of six Christmas cards illustrating reproductions of six Old Master paintings representing the Nativity, Madonna and Child, and The Holy Family. The reproductions were featured in the Christmas stamp issues from the previous years. This pack of Christmas cards, which retailed at €2.00 per pack, also included six white blank envelopes. The message inside the cards read: "Il-Milied it-Tajjeb/Happy Christmas", and each card was labelled as "A MaltaPost Product".

1 December

On 1 December 2011, MaltaPost plc issued a company announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. This announcement stated that the Board of Directors of MaltaPost plc had approved the published preliminary statement of annual results as extracted from the Company's Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2011. The Board resolved that these audited Financial Statements be submitted for the approval of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting which was scheduled for the 17 January 2012. The Board of Directors further resolved to recommend for the approval of the said Annual General Meeting the payment of a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share, and that shareholders be given the option of receiving the dividend either in cash or by the issue of new shares. The Attribution Price, at which the number of new shares were to be issued will be determined, was established at €0.98 per nominal €0.25 share. According to the extract from these Financial Statements, for the financial year 2011, MaltaPost registered a profit before tax of €3.05 million compared to €3.20 million the previous year (a decrease of 4.8%). Earnings per share stood at €0.06. Turnover increased by 4.9% from €20.40 million to €21.40 million. This was the result of a continued increase in cross-border traffic volumes and mail-house logistics services. Traditional mail volumes remained on a downward trend. Expenses increased by 6.6% to €18.64 million, principally due to higher cross-border mail volumes and labour costs. Cost-to-Income ratio stood at 87% which was comparable to industry standards. Total Assets increased by 30.7% to €27.47 million following the purchase of the Head Office property in Marsa. Shareholders' funds increased by 12.4% to €14.53 million.

1 December

In a publicity brochure it had circulated, MaltaPost plc recommended early posting before Christmas so as to enable MaltaPost to maintain the optimum level of

service. Letters, postcards and parcels posted to a Maltese address were to be sent by the second week of December, airmail letters and cards to Europe were also to be posted by the second week of December, airmail letters and cards to the rest of the world were to be sent by the first week of December, air parcels to Europe were to be despatched by the first week of December, while air parcels to the rest of the world had to be posted by the last week of November.

2 December

On Friday, 2 December 2011, MaltaPost plc issued a stamp within a miniature sheet to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Malta Senate and Legislative Assembly. The stamp in this miniature sheet, which bears a denomination of €4.16, replicates a stamp issued in 1922 and depicting an allegorical representation of Melita by Edward Caruana Dingli. On the other hand, the background of the miniature sheet shows the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta, where the first sessions of the Senate and Legislative Assembly were held. 30,000 individually numbered miniature sheets were printed. The stamp in the sheet is 44.0mm x 31.0mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb), while the miniature sheet measures 130mm x 85mm. The sheets, which were designed in-house by MaltaPost, were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 8/2011). The hand-stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST - ---------- - MALTA/90TH ANNIVERSARY/ MALTA SENATE &/LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/02-12-11", and also featured the upper part of the allegorical representation of Melita replicated in the stamp in the miniature sheet, in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this miniature sheet in the stamp bulletin No. 296.

To mark this same anniversary, the Philatelic Bureau also launched a Commemorative Folder (marked Commemorative Folder No. 5), which includes an individually numbered miniature sheet, a short message by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon. Michael Frendo, as well as a brief description of the events that had led up to the inauguration of the Senate and Legislative Assembly, by historian Prof. Joseph M. Pirotta. The first Maltese Legislature was formally opened on 1 November 1921 by His Royal Highness Prince Edward. MaltaPost printed 3,000 copies of the Commemorative Folder, each being individually numbered.

Copies of the philatelic material issued on this occasion were presented to the Speaker of the House of Representatives by MaltaPost Chairman Mr Joseph

Said, in a short ceremony held at the House of Representatives on Wednesday, 30 November 2011.

5 December

On 5 December 2011, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 233/2011 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the third quarter (July – September) 2011. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic amounted to over 10.3 million items, dropping by 2.4% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2010. Total parcels and other items were recorded at 21,341, an increase of 10.1% when compared to the previous year (19,377 parcels/ other items sent then).

12 December

MaltaPost plc informed that the company was again accepting postal articles addressed to Libya, after the Libyan Postal Operator had confirmed the resumption of its delivery services.

12 December

MaltaPost plc announced that it was extending its nationwide delivery service and the opening hours of various post offices, including that of the Parcel Office at its Head Office in Marsa, in order to enhance its service during the peak Christmas period. Postal services at the MaltaPost Head Office were to be available between Monday and Saturday between 8.00am and 7.00pm, while the Parcel Office (for collection of notified non-dutiable parcels, bulky packets and EMS items) was to open Monday to Saturday between 8.00am and 9.00pm. Customs clearance service at MaltaPost Head Office was to be available between Monday and Friday between 8.00am and 12.45pm, and 1.45pm and 7.00pm, and on Saturday between 8.00am and 12.45pm. MaltaPost could also clear items from customs on the customer's behalf at a nominal fee upon receiving authorisation from clients. The post offices at Mosta, Rabat, Birkirkara, Paola and Sliema were to open from Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 12.45pm, and 4.00pm and 7.30pm, and on Saturday between 7.30am and 12.45pm. MaltaPost's nationwide delivery service was also extended until 9.00pm from Monday to Sunday. This extended service was to remain effective until the 23 December 2011. Moreover, the Mobile Post Office was to be stationed in Republic Street, Valletta, during the festive season.

12 December

A Santa Claus Post Office was set up opposite the Law Courts in Republic Street, Valletta. Besides providing postal services, this post office also offered children the possibility of taking a photo with Santa Claus and then having personalised

stamps produced on the same occasion. This post office was open between 9.00am and 1.00pm, and 4.00pm and 7.00pm, on the 12, 14, 15, 16 and 19 December 2011, and between 9.00am and 8.00pm on the 13, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 and 23 December 2011, as well as between 9.00am and 2.00pm on 24 December 2011. A letterbox was also installed next to the Santa Claus Post Office for public use during the Christmas period.

16 December

MaltaPost plc informed that the outlet at 41, 'Old Trafford', Triq l-Arznell, Marsaxlokk MXK 1401, was no longer operating as a Sub-Post Office.

19 December

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox in Triq Profs. Walter Ganado, Pembroke, which had been temporarily inaccessible due to construction works, was now back in service. This letterbox carries MaltaPost Identification Code L247.

23 December

The Year Pack including all the eight stamp issues for 2011, was issued by MaltaPost on Friday, 23 December 2011. This Year Pack was presented in an attractive folder which also included all the technical details of the 2011 issues. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this Year Pack in a specific stamp bulletin (unnumbered) issued at the same time.

23 December

On the 23 December 2011, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this announcement, MaltaPost listed a number of resolutions that were to be presented for consideration at the MaltaPost plc Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for Tuesday, 17 January 2012. The first resolution was for the AGM to receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements and consider the Report of the Directors and of the Auditors, for the year ended 30 September 2011. The second resolution was to declare a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share, representing a final net payment of €1,267,124 either in cash or by the issue of new shares at the option of each individual shareholder. The third resolution was to re-appoint as auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers and to authorise the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration. The fourth resolution was to appoint Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company. The fifth resolution was to establish at €30,000 the maximum annual aggregate Directors' remuneration for the holding of their office.

24 December

MaltaPost plc informed that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa, was to open from 8.00am to 4.00pm on the 24 December 2011.

24 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, mail from all public letterboxes was to be collected at 1.00pm on the 24 December 2011.

26 December

MaltaPost plc informed that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no collection or delivery of mail was to be effected, and all post offices were to remain closed for business, on Monday, 26 December 2011. Normal service was to resume on Tuesday, 27 December 2011.

30 December

MaltaPost plc informed that on the 30 December 2011 between 1.00pm and 2.30pm, the St.Julian's Post Office situated within Lombard Bank plc, Triq Paceville, would only accept collection of registered letters, packets and parcels.

31 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa was to open from 8.00am to 4.00pm on the 31 December 2011.

31 December

MaltaPost plc informed that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, mail from all public letterboxes was to be collected at 1.00pm on the 31 December 2011.

2 January 2012

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no collection or delivery of mail was to be effected, and all post offices were to remain closed for business, on Monday, 2 January 2012. Normal service was to resume on Tuesday, 3 January 2012.

4 January

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the death of Ninu Cremona, a Gozitan

writer, a special hand postmark was used on Wednesday, 4 January 2012, at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed "MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 04-01-12/40 SENA MILL-MEWT TA'/ NINU CREMONA/1972 – 2012" and also included an image of Ninu Cremona in the centre. This postmark was designed by Gozitan philatelist Anthony Grech.

17 January

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, mail from all public letterboxes was to be collected at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 17 January 2012.

17 January

MaltaPost plc informed that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa was to open between 8.00am and 4.00pm on Tuesday, 17 January 2012.

17 January

In a Company Announcement issued by MaltaPost plc on the 17 January 2012 pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost announced that the Annual General Meeting of the company held on Tuesday, 17 January 2012, approved all the five ordinary resolutions on the agenda. Following the above meeting, the Board of Directors of MaltaPost plc was made up of Mr Joseph Said (as Chairman), Mr Julius Bozzino, Mr David Stellini, Mr Philip Tabone and Mr Aurelio Theuma.

A number of interesting facts emerge from the MaltaPost plc Annual Report for 2011. During the year in question, MaltaPost completed the acquisition of a building in the centre of Valletta that will eventually house Malta's first postal museum. At the end of the year, the MaltaPost workforce stood at 622 employees, including staff working on both a full and part-time basis. The number of shareholders of the company as at 30 November 2011 totalled 2,259, having in total 31,678,103 shares. MaltaPost plc has one class of shares and each share is entitled to one vote. Redbox Limited, a subsidiary of Lombard Bank Malta plc, held 67.0% of the share capital of the company as at 30 November 2011. At year-end, there were 33 Post Offices (28 in Malta and 5 in Gozo), 29 Sub-Post Offices (26 in Malta and 3 in Gozo) and 1 Mobile Post Office.

20 January

Legal Notice 21 of 2012 – Postal Services Act (Amendment of the Second Schedule) Regulations, 2012 – was published as a supplement to Government Gazette No. 18,857 dated 20 January 2012. Through this Legal Notice, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 20 of the Postal Services Act (CAP. 254), the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications, after consultation with the Malta Communications Authority, informed that as from the 1 January 2013, the services reserved under the Second Schedule to the said Act shall no longer be reserved for the universal services provider designated in accordance with this Act.

26 January

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox situated in Pjazza Żjara tal-Madonna, Għarb, Gozo, was to be removed with effect from Thursday, 26 January 2012, for an indefinite period, because of construction works.

30 January

MaltaPost plc announced the reprinting of a €0.37 stamp from the "Occasions" stamp set originally issued on 17 March 2010. The stamp, which features an aerial view of Malta, was reprinted with a se-tenant stamp-size blank label, and was only to be made available as part of a personalised stamp order. 20,000 copies of this stamp were reprinted, in sheets of 5 stamps each with a se-tenant stamp-size blank label. Each stamp measures 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. The stamps were offset printed by Printex Limited on watermarked paper bearing Maltese Crosses. As from Tuesday, 31 January 2012, the said stamp was made available for sale as part of an order for personalised stamps.

31 January

On 31 January 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published its Annual Plan for the year 2012 (document MCA/12/0737/0). This plan focused on the priority work-streams and related individual tasks that the MCA intended to undertake during 2012. In the field of postal services, the MCA identified three strategic objectives emerging from the MCA's strategic plan update covering the period. The first strategic objective concerned attaining, within envisaged timeframes, a liberalised postal services environment that ensures ease of entry to new undertakings and sustainable competition. The second strategic objective dealt with ensuring that postal undertakings provide a transparent, value for money service to users whilst adhering to incumbent social obligation. The third strategic objective aimed at contributing to the ongoing discussion, at an international level, on the consistent implementation and ongoing development of the postal regulatory framework and related issues.

1 February

The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the results of two surveys it carried out in November 2011, in order to gauge household and small business perceptions and satisfaction levels with regard to the postal service provided by MaltaPost plc. Results indicate that the majority of customers (both households and small businesses) claim that the number of addressed letters sent has remained the same over the previous 12 months. Notwithstanding this, 32% of households and 23% of small businesses claim to have reduced the number of addressed letters they send and resorted to other alternatives, namely e-mails and eCommerce. The survey also shows that post offices in Malta remain popular, with 72% of households and 64% of small businesses claiming to have visited post offices during the last 12 months. The most popular services provided by post offices to households relate to the payment of bills and the purchase of stamps. Small businesses, on the other hand, mostly visit the post office to purchase stamps and collect parcels. In terms of satisfaction, 90% of household respondents and 89% of small businesses say that they are satisfied with the level of services and facilities provided at the post office.

As for other services offered by MaltaPost, namely collection and delivery of parcels and collection and delivery of registered mail, the majority of both households and small businesses claim to be satisfied with these services and are confident that such postal articles are delivered safely. To this effect, 87% of households and 91% of small businesses are satisfied with the overall quality of postal services provided by MaltaPost. The majority of households (62%) have been found to spend between €0 - €10 a year on postal articles, whilst 35% of small businesses claimed to have spent more than €30 during the last 12 months. Only 3% of households used alternative operators to send postal articles. In comparison, small businesses use alternative operators more, with 15% claiming to have used other providers besides MaltaPost to send their postal articles. The survey was carried out by M. Fsadni & Associates on behalf of the MCA. The sample size of the survey was proportionally distributed across the 9 postal regions defined by MaltaPost.

6 February

The Sub-Post Office at 34, Midas, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113 was closed for business on Monday, 6 February 2012.

13 February

On Monday, 13 February 2012, MaltaPost launched a new website, completely dedicated to Malta stamps, www.maltaphilately.com. The website allows one to purchase stamps, collectibles and philatelic accessories. It also features a catalogue

with images of all the stamps issued in Malta since 1860, including details on each stamp.

15 February

On 15 February 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this announcement, MaltaPost stated that during the financial period commencing on 1 October 2011 up to the date of the announcement, no material events and/or transactions had taken place that would have an impact on the financial position of the Company, such that they would require specific mention, disclosure or announcement pursuant to the applicable Listing Rule. The Company also declared that its revenue from postal activities for the period under review increased. However, the local letter service remained a loss-making activity as the rates then charged were not commercially viable. Concurrently, operating costs rose thereby resulting in profit levels lower than for the same period the previous year.

17 February

The Sub-Post Office at 'Welcome Bazaar', 6, Misraħ Frenċ Abela, Dingli was closed for business on the 17 and 18 February 2012.

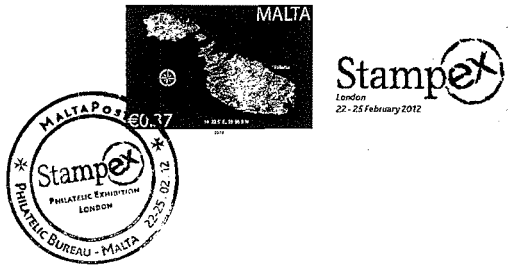
18 February

On the occasion of the Episcopal Ordination of Fr. Prospero Grech OSA, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 18 February 2012 at the post offices in Victoria, Gozo and Castille Square, Valletta. The postmark used at Victoria was inscribed "MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 18-02-12/ĊELEBRAZZJONI TAL-ĦATRA/ KARDINALIZZJA TA' MONS/PROSPERO GRECH", while that used in Valletta was inscribed "MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. - VALLETTA – MALTA – 18-02-12/ ĊELEBRAZZJONI TAL-ĦATRA/KARDINALIZZJA TA' MONS/PROSPERO GRECH", respectively; both postmarks include Cardinal Grech's episcopal coat-of-arms in the centre.

22 February

To mark its participation in the Stampex Fair 2012, held in London between the 22 and 25 February 2012, MaltaPost plc issued an Occasion Card, a personalised stamp, as well as a personalised cover showing this same personalised stamp. The Occasion Card, No. 28 in the series, shows a detail of the Malta Queen Victoria Halfpenny

Yellow issued in 1860, and includes an imprinted image of the stamp forming part of the miniature sheet issued on 1 December 2010 to mark the 150th anniversary of the First Malta Stamp. This imprinted stamp was cancelled with a special hand postmark inscribed "MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU – MALTA – 22-25.02.12" in the outer ring, and "Stampex/PHILATELIC EXHIBITION/LONDON" in the centre. The individually numbered Occasion Card was put up for sale in mint and cancelled versions as from Wednesday, 22 February 2012. The personalised cover and stamps were issued for sale as from Tuesday, 28 February 2012. The personalised cover, marked "MaltaPost – Personalised Stamp/Cover No. 2/2012", included the personalised stamp issued for the occasion, cancelled with the above-mentioned special hand postmark.

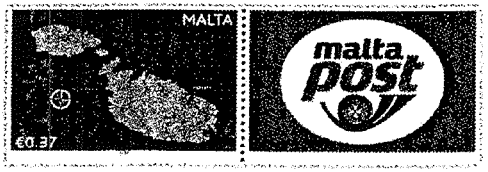


24 February

On 24 February 2012, MaltaPost issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this, MaltaPost announced the appointment of Ing. Daniel Grech as Chief Commercial Officer with effect from 7 May 2012. There was no matter to be disclosed regarding Daniel Grech in terms of Listing Rules 5.20.5 to 5.20.9. Following this appointment, the senior management team of MaltaPost plc was composed of the following: Joseph Gafa' (Chief Executive Officer), Carmen Ellul (Chief Financial Officer), Daniel Grech (Chief Commercial Officer) and Pierre Montebello (Chief Operating Officer).

28 February

MaltaPost plc announced that it had reprinted the €0.37 stamp from the "Occasions" stamp issue of 17 March 2010 in single se-tenant stamp format. The label attached to the stamp was personalised with the MaltaPost logo.



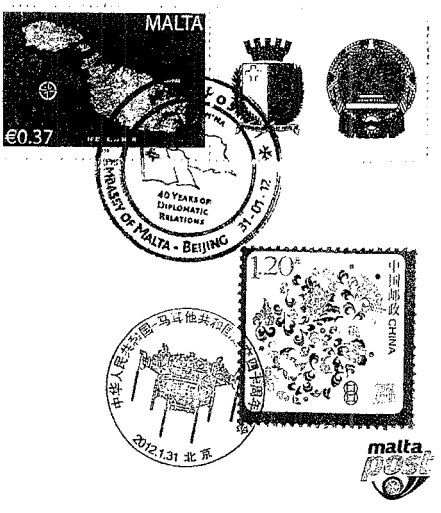
29 February

A special hand postmark was used at the MaltaPost Castille Square, Valletta branch, on Wednesday, 29 February 2012, to commemorate the exhibition of photographs of the Colombaia and Windmills at Trapani, held at the Italian Cultural Institute in Valletta. The postmark was inscribed "MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. –

VALLETTA – MALTA – 29-02-12" in the outer ring, and "PHOTO GALLERY ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE, VALLETTA/WEALTH OF THE/PROVINCE OF/TRAPANI" in the inner ring, which also included the image of a windmill as well as an outline image symbolising the town of Trapani in Sicily.

29 February

On Wednesday, 29 February 2012, MaltaPost notified that it had issued a personalised stamp/cover to commemorate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malta and the People's Republic of China. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on 31 January 1972. The personalised stamp and cover issued by MaltaPost bears a €0.37 stamp from the "Occasions" issue, with a se-tenant label showing the official emblems of the two countries. The stamp was cancelled with a special hand postmark used at the Embassy of Malta in Beijing, China, on 31 January 2012. This special postmark was inscribed "MALTAPOST – EMBASSY OF MALTA – BEIJING – 31-01-12" in the outer ring, and "MALTA – CHINA/40 YEARS OF/ DIPLOMATIC/RELATIONS" in the inner ring, which also included an outline image of the Maltese and Chinese flags. The cover, which is marked (on the reverse side) "MaltaPost – Personalised Stamp/Cover No. 1/2012", also includes a China stamp and cancellation date mark.



Together with this cover, the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau also sold a limited edition cover issued on the same occasion by the China National Philatelic Corporation. This cover and postmark were designed by Ma Xiaoling. 80,000 copies of this cover were issued, each individually numbered. The cover includes the €0.37 Malta stamp from the "Occasions" issue, cancelled with the special hand postmark, as well as a China stamp and cancellation date mark. Both covers were issued for sale locally by MaltaPost on Thursday, 1 March 2012.