



Journal of
THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

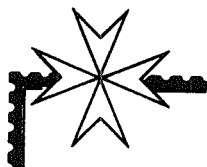
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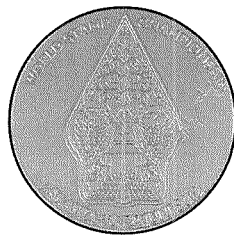
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Giorgio Peresso one of our members being conferred with the degree of Master of Arts in History by the Chancellor of the University of Malta Professor David J. Attard, in the presence of Pro-Rector Alfred J. Vella and Professor Dominic Fenech Dean of the Faculty of Arts, on November 18, 2011.

An Interesting Photograph with a Postal History Link

By
John V. De Battista



This 1888 albumen photograph shows a magnificent scene of Valletta's main street, *Strada Reale* (today known as Republic Street). Of particular interest to us is the Pillar Letter Box, prominently visible at the intersection with Victory Street in the lower right hand side of the photo. According to Post Office records quoted in Malta Study Circle paper 12, this particular box was the last of the six letter boxes servicing Valletta at the time to be emptied by post office staff on their collection round. It goes without saying that the reason for this is very obvious since the G.P.O. was located just a few meters away in *Strada Mercanti*!



Detail showing the pillar letter box

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

– *the past revisited*

By

Dane Garrod

Previous holders of these titles in the UK have had interesting lives, especially that of the last Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Dane Garrod's postal history collection explains how and why.

When The Queen conferred the title of Duke of Cambridge on Prince William of Wales on the morning of his wedding day in April 2011, a break of 107 years was bridged to the last holder of that title, H.R.H. Prince George, Duke of Cambridge. Apparently, this last Duke was a prolific writer, or so it seems because his correspondence can be found without great difficulty in the collections of postal historians as well as with postal/stamp dealers. This article will look briefly at the history of the first three creations of this dukedom, and then more closely at the fourth, this erstwhile George, and the postal history linked to him, as well as his Duchess, who in fact was not legally his Duchess at all...

The first two creations of Duke of Cambridge died in infancy, these being the one year old eldest son of the future King James II, in 1661, and his second son six years later in 1667 aged 4 years. The third creation was George, Electoral Prince of Hanover, who in time became King George II, when his honours merged in the crown. This takes us to more recent times, philatelically, and to the creation prior to the current holder of the dukedom, Prince William. Prince Adolphus was the seventh son of King George III, and because of the King's large family, a number of dukedoms were required to be created, and Adolphus was given Cambridge. When he died in 1850, his only son, George aged 31 years, became Duke of Cambridge.

George had been educated in Hanover, and like his father, he embarked upon a military career, one which lasted a long lifetime. Serving in Gibraltar, Ireland, the Ionian Islands, and then in the Crimea (but apparently never in Malta), no-one could say he didn't see military engagement, as he was present at the battles of Alma, Balaclava and Inkerman, and at the siege of Sebastapol. The Duke was appointed commander-in-chief of the British Army, a position he held for 39 years until he was obliged, some will say forced, to resign his post. The problem was that although the welfare of his soldiers was a great concern, he earned a reputation for being resistant to change. The consequence was that the British Army remained unchanging and lagging behind its counterparts in Europe.

Perhaps of more interest was his private life, the Duke of Cambridge making no secret of his view that "*arranged marriages were doomed to failure*". He married privately and in contravention of the 1772 Royal Marriages Act to actress Sarah

Fairbrother in 1847, by whom he already had two illegitimate children, and who previously had had two children by other men. Perhaps not a suitable wife one could say, but we should not judge in hindsight and at a distance. As the marriage did not exist in British law, although it had taken place in St. John's Church in Clerkenwell, Sarah was not entitled to be known as the Duchess of Cambridge or accorded the style of Her Royal Highness. In fact, her very existence was ignored by The Queen. Sarah called herself 'Mrs. Fairbrother', and later 'Mrs FitzGeorge'. The Duke was a weak man where women were concerned, and it is likely that Sarah, then pregnant for the fifth time, cajoled him into marriage, she herself having obtained the licence. George had other affairs and was quite unworthy of her steady attachment.

Since 1837, when he was 18 years old, he had known Mrs. Louisa Beauclerk whom he later described as "*the idol of my life and my existence*". He saw much of her in 1847, the year he married Sarah, and she was his mistress from at least 1849 until her death in 1882. As early as 1849 he had decided that he would be buried near Mrs. Beauclerk and it was solely on her account that Mrs. FitzGeorge and he were buried in Kensal Green Cemetery (Fig.8), about sixty feet away from Mrs. Beauclerk's grave, where they can be seen today.

When writing letters, even in a semi-official capacity, the Duke would sign them 'George', but on the envelopes he would sign 'Cambridge' in the bottom left corner. This included letters delivered by messenger rather than through the collection and delivery of the Post Office, and the first example here shown (Fig.1) is an undated envelope addressed to The Lord Harlech at his home address of 30 James Street, Buckingham Gate, London. This is from the period 1876 to 1904, the latter year being when Prince George, Duke of Cambridge, died at age 84 years.

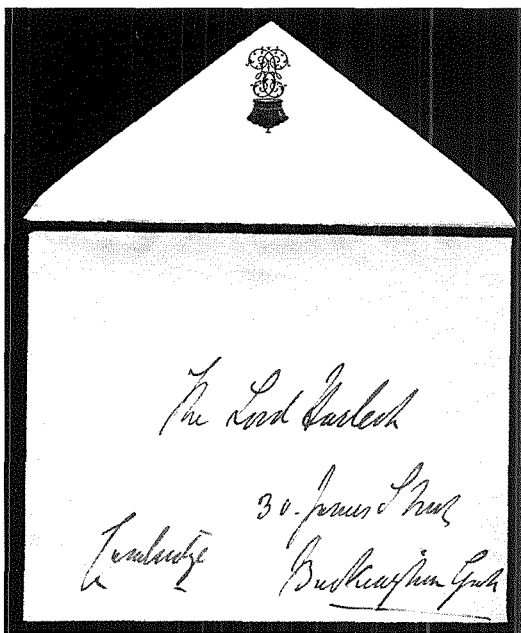


Figure 1. Envelope with initials and crown, and signed 'Cambridge'

This personalised postal stationery is black-edged, and has his entwined initials surmounted by a crown on the envelope flap.

In 1877, Sir Dighton Probyn VC had been appointed Comptroller and Treasurer of the Household of The Prince of Wales, and Prince George wrote to him on 12

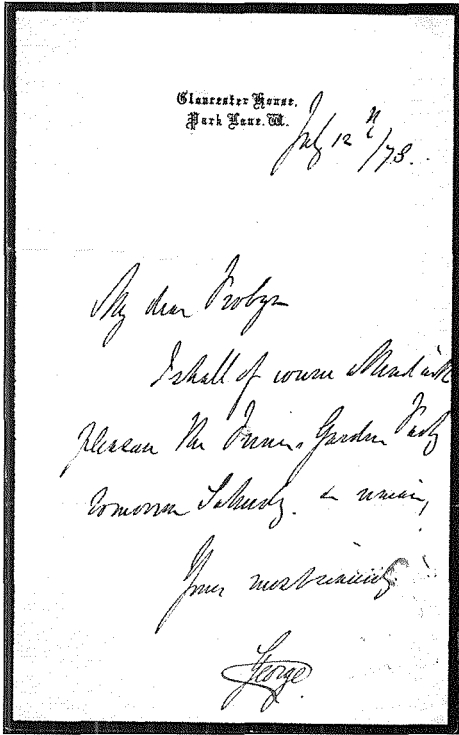


Figure 2. Letter to Sir Dighton Probyn VC, and signed 'George'

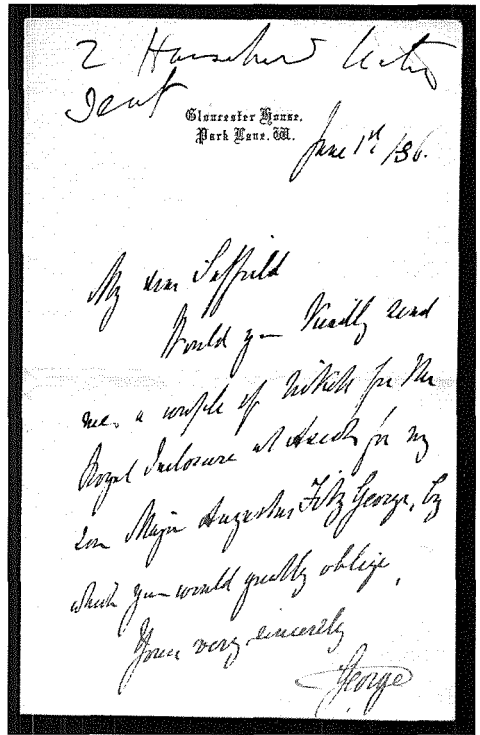


Figure 3. The Duke of Cambridge writes for tickets to the Royal Enclosure at Ascot

July 1878 as “My dear Probyn” to say “I shall of course attend with pleasure the Garden Party tomorrow Saturday.” (Fig.2). Written from his home at Gloucester House in Park Lane, London, as the headed writing paper shows, it confirms that although his wife was apparently unacknowledged in some society, the Duke was within the Royal circle and was what we today would call ‘a minor royal’. In this capacity, he wrote in June 1886 to Baron Suffield (Fig.3) saying “Would you kindly send me a couple of tickets for the Royal Enclosure at Ascot for my son Major Augustus FitzGeorge..” This is also from Gloucester House, but this time not on black-bordered writing paper, and Baron Suffield, or his secretary perhaps, has scrawled at the top “2 Household tickets sent”. With his ‘Duchess’, the Duke of Cambridge had three sons, all of whom had military careers, and took the surname FitzGeorge.

Finally, for the Duke’s correspondence in this article, we have the Prince’s May 1889 letter and envelope addressed to Mrs Edward Mildmay (Fig.4), returning a signed document and commenting on her health improvement. The blue envelope is simply addressed to 131 Cromwell Road with no postal transit markings, and

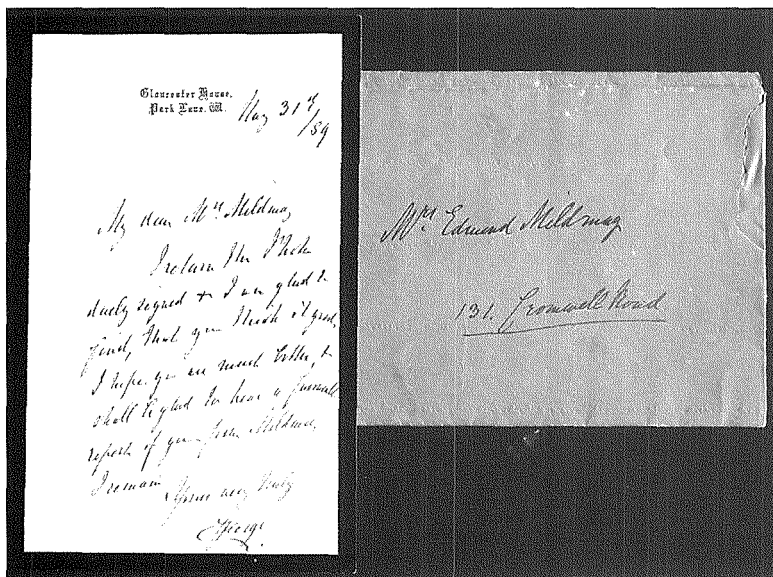


Figure 4. Taken by messenger from Park Lane to Cromwell Road, in London

would therefore have been delivered by messenger, either by coach or on horseback.

So what did this Victorian gentleman actually look like? We can see him in a collodion photograph taken in 1855 when he was aged 35 years (Fig.5), and from a portrait in full uniform in startling red (Fig.6), not dissimilar from that worn by Prince William, the current Duke of Cambridge, at his April 2011 wedding. As to Prince George’s demeanour and style, a contemporary account will provide the answer, and one hopes that it was kindly. He was “a bluff, fresh, hale, country gentleman, with something of the vigorous healthy frankness of the English skipper, and something, too, of the Prussian martinet; industrious, punctual, rising early, seeking rest late, fond of life and its pleasures, of good dinners, good cigars, pleasant women, of the opera, of the play.”

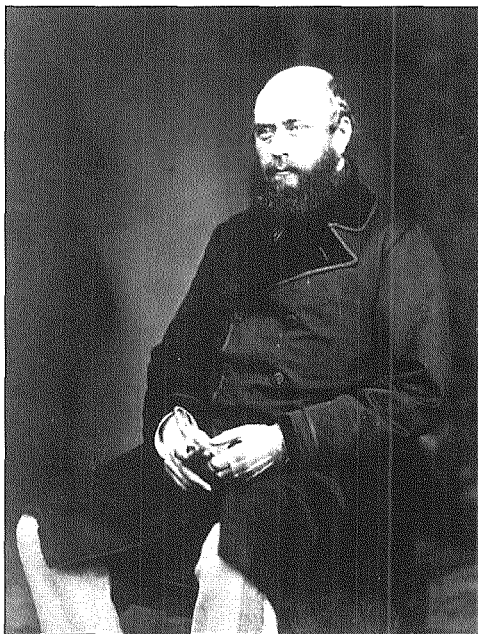


Figure 5. George, Duke of Cambridge, in 1855 aged 35 years



Figure 6. In full military uniform, the commander-in-chief of the British Army

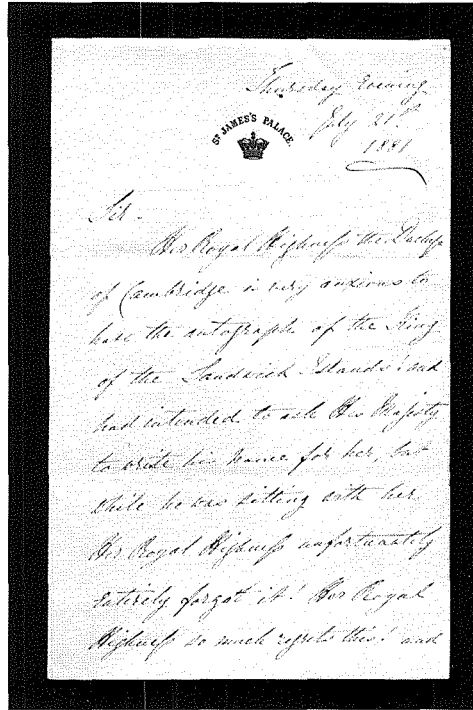


Figure 7. The Duchess of Cambridge requests King David Kalakaua's autograph



Figure 8. Funerary monument in Kensal Green, London

Let us now turn to his Sarah, apparently not the only love of his life, but the one with whom he had been joined in illegal matrimony. An extant letter (*Fig. 7*), fortunately saved 130 years ago, was written from St. James's Palace on 21st July 1881 by Lady Geraldine Somerset who was Lady-in-Waiting to the Duchess of Cambridge. Perhaps Sarah did use the title after all, even if not in an official or legal right. It bears quoting in full, even though without paragraph break, due to the interest of content:

“Sir,

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge is very anxious to have the autograph of the King of the Sandwich Islands! and had intended to ask His Majesty to write his name for her, but while he was sitting with her Her Royal Highness unfortunately entirely forgot it! Her Royal Highness so much regrets this! and has commanded me to send you her autograph-book and also a fan that was given her for the purpose of collecting interesting autographs, and to ask you whether you think you could ask the King, without giving His Majesty too much trouble! if he would very kindly inscribe his name for Her Royal Highness? If you think you can do so, will you kindly find the page in the book that bears the date of the King's own Birthday, & on that page get His Majesty to write his name, & beneath it “St. James's Palace, July 21st 1881” (the date of his visit here). On the fan, if His Majesty will kindly write his usual signature on one of the cards, - with today's date. Perhaps on the card next that one bears the Queen's signature? Her Royal Highness would be greatly obliged if you could do her this favour and if you think you could obtain this kindness of the King without indiscretion or trespassing too much on His Majesty's time.”

This letter accompanied the autograph book and fan of the Duchess, and we can but assume that the King was gallant, and granted her wish. The letter had been kept in a Victorian/Edwardian album, as evidenced by the lines of residue glue on the fourth page – regrettably these early collectors did not value the envelope/cover as we do today, and these were often consigned to waste.

As to George and Sarah's successors in their role as Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, I believe we are generally agreed that we are fortunate. Two young people who appear content and appreciative of their position in life, and who are already serving the UK and British Commonwealth with distinction. They will, for sure, appear on very many British Royal Mail issues through the coming years.

Submarine Warfare during WWI: Survivors of the *SS Magellan* December 1916

by
Marc Parren

Introduction

SS Magellan (Fig. 1) a French passenger steamer of 6,027 tons, was built by Messageries Maritimes in La Ciotat, France in 1897 and brought into service the next year as paquebot and named *SS Indus*. She served as paquebot with some three sister ships between Marseille and the Far East. In 1904 she was diverted to

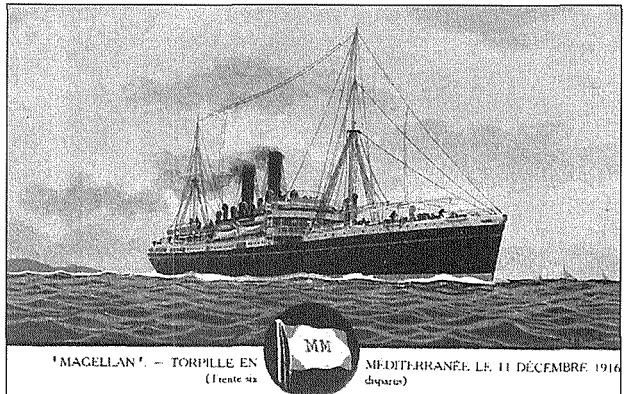


Figure 1. Viewcard commemorating the loss of *SS Magellan*

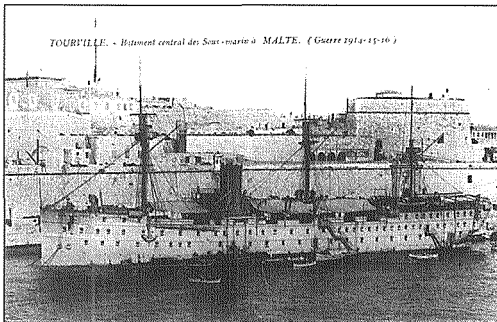


Figure 2. Viewcard of the French base depot ship the *Tourville* in Malta

serve as paquebot between Bordeaux and Buenos Aires and renamed *SS Magellan*. In 1912 she is diverted once more to the postal route of the Far East and at the outbreak of the war requisitioned to assure the postal service on the same line. Next during March and April 1915 she participates at the Dardanelles expedition.

Submarine attack and the landing at Malta.

December 1916, *SS Magellan* with 736 persons on board formed part of a convoy travelling from Shanghai to Marseille. The voyage across the Mediterranean last several days and is dangerous due to the omnipresence of mines and submarines. The *SS Magellan* was accompanied by the French troopship *Amiral Mogan* while escorted across the Mediterranean by *HMS Cyclamen* and the French destroyer *Sabre* when it was torpedoed around 7.30 am 10 miles south of the island of Pantellaria by the German submarine *U-63*. The ship was hit by two torpedoes and sank within two hours with 36 victims of which 26 passengers. When the French destroyer *Sagaie* and the paquebot *SS Sinai*, also owned

by Messageries Maritimes, came to the rescue of the survivors of *SS Magellan*, the *SS Sinai* was also torpedoed by *U-63* and stayed afloat for another six hours before she sank too.

The survivors were landed in Malta and to stay on board the French base depot ship the *Tourville* (Fig. 2). The two viewcards depicting survivors of the *SS Magellan* were taken immediately after their rescue and sent at the end of December 1916 to one of the girlfriends of a survivor mentioning that in a few days a ship would arrive from Salonika to transport them to Marseille (Fig. 3 & 4). The writer of the viewcards can be identified wearing a black beret and standing left on the viewcard taken in a room and written on 27 December, while the one taken outside and written on 28 December he can be seen standing at the top row in the middle (with a cross over his head).

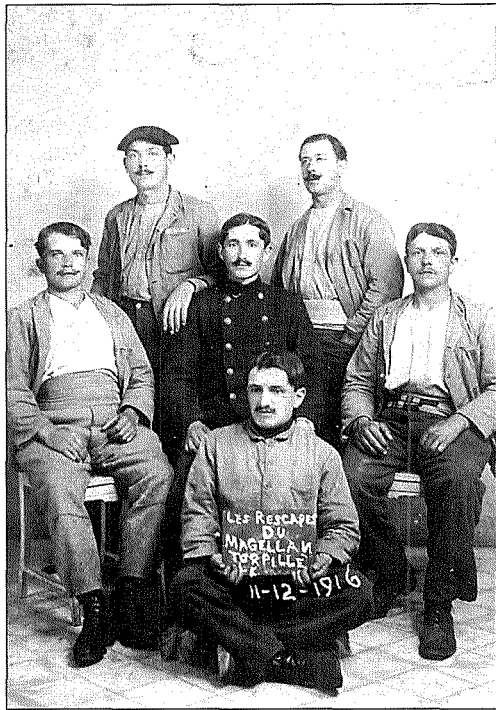
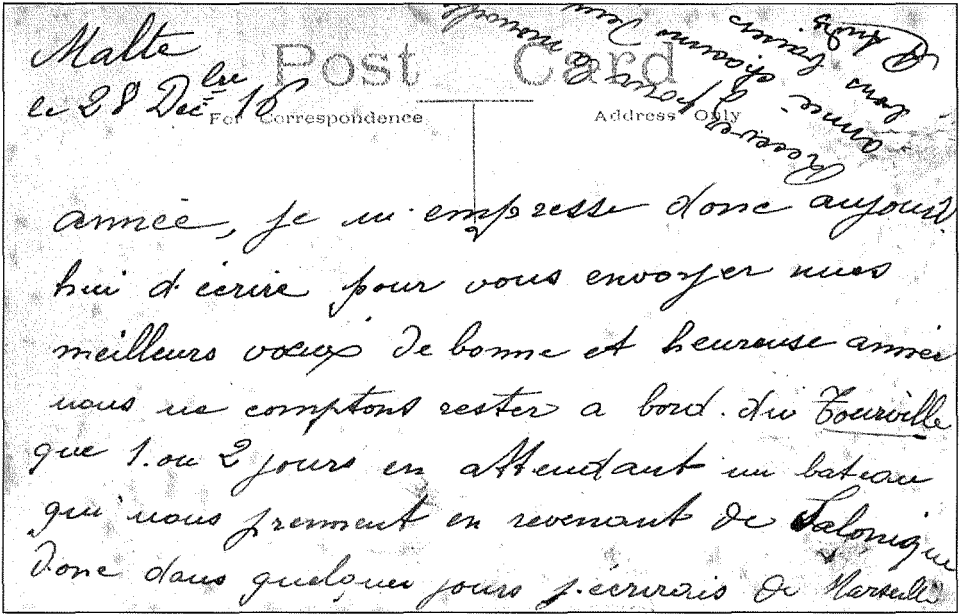


Figure 3. Viewcard depicting survivors in a room dated 27 December 1916



Figure 4. Viewcard depicting survivors dated 28 December 1916



Epilogue

One of the landed persons was the so-called '*contrôleur des postes*' or postal orderly named Jules Hardy of the SS *Magellan* and might have saved some of the mail on board. Three military were not as fortunate as they succumbed to their injuries while at Malta and were buried at the Bighi cemetery. Two soldiers formed part of the *1er Régiment de marche d'Afrique*, battalion of the Foreign Legion (1) the Belgian Alexandre Verdels who died on 11 December, and (2) the Frenchman Alexandre Emile Guegan who died the next day. While of the *115e Régiment d'infanterie territoriale* it concerned the Frenchman Victor Carbonnel. Also the French troopship *Amiral Mogan* was not all that fortunate as it sank the next month forming part of a convoy on its way from Marseille to Salonika after being torpedoed by a submarine.

*Every member
 should try
 to enrol another member*

SMS Emden: How a German Royal letter ended up in Malta during WWI

by
Marc Parren

Introduction

We have a letter at hand written by William Prince of Hohenzollern (*Wilhelm Fürst von Hohenzollern*), General of the Infantry during the war addressed to his youngest son Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern who was a Prisoner of War in Malta at the time of writing. It is dated 3rd February 1915 and sent from Sigmaringen in the German federal state of Württemberg which formed the seat of the House of Hohenzollern. It is addressed to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau at London where it received the single circle 'P.C. / POST FREE / PRISONERS OF WAR' cachet and in pencil it was indicated that he resided in Malta. We will next tell the story of Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern being second torpedo officer on the light cruiser *SMS Emden* and his stay in Malta. An important primary source of information used for this write up is a book published by him in 1925 titled 'Emden: Meine Erlebnisse auf S.M. Schiff 'Emden'.

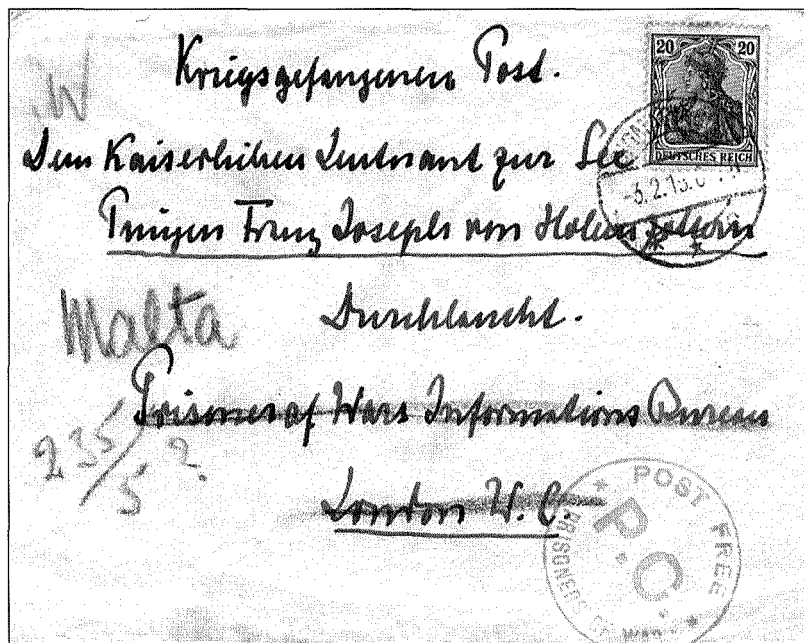


Fig. 1a. Front of a cover sent 3 February 1915 Sigmaringen addressed to Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern.

The Hohenzollern family and Sigmaringen

The House of Hohenzollern is a noble family and royal dynasty of electors, kings and emperors of Prussia, Germany and Romania. It originated in the area around the town of Hechingen in Swabia during the 11th century. They took their name from their ancestral home, the Burg Hohenzollern castle near Hechingen. The family uses the motto *nihil sine deo* (English: nothing without God). The family split into two branches, the Catholic Swabian branch and the Protestant Franconian branch, known also as the Kirschner line. The Franconian-Kirschner branch eventually after the unification of Germany and the creation of the German Empire in 1871 formed the German Royal Family. The Swabian branch which we follow here ruled Hohenzollern (Hohenzollernsche Lande in full) which was a de facto province of the Kingdom of Prussia. It was created in 1850 by joining the principalities of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen and Hohenzollern-Hechingen after both formerly independently ruling Catholic princely lines of the House of Hohenzollern had handed over their sovereignty to Prussia, ruled by the Protestant branch of the Hohenzollern. It used the same coat of arms as the main coat of arms of the ruling house.



Fig. 1b. Backside of a cover sent 3 February 1915 Sigmaringen by William Prince of Hohenzollern.

The sender of the letter was William Prince of Hohenzollern (* 7 March 1864, at Schloss Benrath near Düsseldorf – † 22 October 1927 at Sigmaringen) who was the eldest son of Leopold Prince of Hohenzollern and Infanta Antónia of the Royal Family of Portugal. Between 1880 and 1886, William was heir presumptive to the Romanian throne, which rights he renounced on 20 December 1886. On 27 June 1889, William married Princess Maria Teresa of Bourbon-Two Sicilies. William and Maria Teresa had three children: a daughter named Augusta Victoria of Hohenzollern (* 19 August 1890 – † 29 August 1966), and a twin born on 30 August 1891 (1) Frederick Victor Prince of Hohenzollern († 6 February 1965), and (2) Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern in 1933 († 3 April 1964). The latter son was the addressee of our letter.



Photo 1. Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern in naval uniform. Courtesy Anthony Camilleri.

The *SMS Emden* in the Far East and the Battle of the Cocos Islands

During World War I Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern served in Germany's Kaiserliche Marine (Imperial Navy) as the second torpedo officer on the light cruiser *SMS Emden*. The *SMS Emden* was launched at Danzig on 26 May 1908 and was commissioned into the Kaiserliche Marine on 10 July 1909. She was named after the German city of Emden, which sponsored the warship. On 1 April 1910, the *SMS Emden* officially entered the fleet and was assigned to the East Asian Station at Tsingtao in Germany's Chinese Kiautschou colony. In May 1913, *SMS Emden* received her last commanding officer, Korvettenkapitän Karl von Müller. The chivalry of Captain von Müller during his command would earn him the respect of both friends and foes.

SMS Emden left Tsingtao on 31 July

1914 and was at sea when news of the beginning of World War I was received on 2 August. Soon after it became an independent raider in the Indian Ocean capturing mainly British ships. Several warships from the British Australian and Far East squadrons, as well as a few French, Japanese and Russian cruisers, were dispatched to hunt down the *SMS Emden*. Finally the Australian light cruiser *HMAS Sydney* which was larger and faster than the *SMS Emden* engaged her at the Cocos Islands, and forced the *SMS Emden* to beach on North Keeling Island to avoid sinking on 9 November 1914. German losses were 131 dead and 65 wounded. Some 6 officers, 5 warrant officers, 39 petty officers, and 67 men remained unharmed. Captain von Müller and the rest of his crew were made Prisoners of War (PoW). The officers were, however, allowed to retain their swords as a mark of honour. Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern finely remarks that none of them had any swords along.

The captured German sailors were taken aboard the *HMAS Sydney* on 11 November and next proceeded to Colombo, Ceylon. On 15 November Colombo was reached, where all the wounded were landed and placed in hospital before being transferred to Australia, and all the other survivors of the *SMS Emden*'s crew were transferred to three Australian and New Zealand troop ships, to be taken to Malta. These vessels forming part of the first ANZAC convoy to Egypt were *HMAT A3 Orvieto*, *HMAT A5 Omrah* and the *HMNZT Ruapehu*, the latter was at that time transporting the Otago Battalion of the main body of the NZ Expeditionary Force. Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern together with other officers such as Captain von Müller, Lieutenant Fikentscher, medical doctor Luther, two deck officers and 30 sailors were boarded on the steamer *HMAT A3 Orvieto*. Some of the PoW's were offloaded at Suez, with the remainder transferring at Port Said on to *HMS Hampshire* for the trip to Malta. They finally arrived at Malta on 6 December 1914.

The *SMS Emden* crew and their internment in Malta

Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern describes in detail camp life. He was interned in Verdala Barracks in the old fortifications of the Three Cities. Verdala was meant for officers and was some 200 m long by 40 m wide, apart from one part at the west side which was some 70 m wide. Around this court the rooms were found. According to him there were also civilian internees housed here such as traders, and personnel of large firms and hotels in Egypt and Malta. In addition crews of German and Austrian steamers as well as nationals of German allies. Some 650 internees were kept over here. South of Verdala was the main camp confined, St. Clement's Camp holding some 850 internees who were mainly lodged in tents. Polverista was another camp with barracks where initially very few persons were interned and if so mainly women. Fort San Salvatore was where some 150 lower ranking members of the *SMS Emden* were interned. Initially there was no contact allowed between the respective camps, much later limited contact was permitted. A specific barrack of Cottenera hospital was dedicated for the internees where Red Cross staff took care of them.

According to Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern there were great delays noted in delivery of mails and money transfers. Also unfavourable exchange rates took place when the Swiss Delegation in London on behalf of the Red Cross during Christmas 1917 organised a transfer for him of 2000 Mark and he received £60 instead of £81. The censors also destroyed or withheld letters, without informing the sender. He mentions that just after arriving at Malta he sent a message home and had hoped for a speedy reply. However, he complains that he received his first letter only after three and a half months blaming the British censors who expected him to include secret messages. I have the suspicion that the cover illustrated here concerns this first letter he received. A similar bitter complaint by him concerned

a letter he sent to his sister the Queen of Portugal. He states what kind of sensitive news he could send from Malta, as he was not allowed to leave the Verdala Barracks during the first two years of his internment.

Social unrest at the end of World War I led to the German Revolution of 1918, and this political change would lead to the collapse of the German ability to continue fighting. With the formation of the Weimar Republic the Hohenzollerns were forced to abdicate, thus bringing an end to the modern German monarchy. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 set the final terms for the dismantling of the German Empire. Franz Josef Prince of Hohenzollern left Malta in the night of 12 November 1919, and travelled over Syracuse, Messina, Naples, Rome, Milan, Zurich, Konstanz, Sigmaringen where he arrived in the morning of 18 November. The *SMS Emden* had an extraordinary record capturing British ships, and as a result all those who served on her, including Franz Josef, were given the right to add the ship's name to the end of their surnames which he finally decided to do in 1933. The princely House of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen never relinquished their claims to the princely throne of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen or the royal throne of Romania. Because the last reigning king of the Romanians, Michael I, has no male issue, upon his death the claim will devolve to the head of the House of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen.

Source

1. Franz Josef, Prinz von Hohenzollern (1925). Emden: Meine Erlebnisse auf S.M Schiff 'Emden'. Verlag Richard Eckstein, Leipzig (reprinted as 'Emden: The Last Cruise of the Chivalrous Raider, 1914', Brighton: Lyon, 1989, ISBN 0904256456).

Maltex 2013

*will be held at the Hotel Phoenicia, Floriana
from the
18th till 20th October 2013*

Start preparing from now

Members of the UK - Malta Study Circle
will be visiting Malta and participating

Some Pitfalls and Traps to be avoided in stamp collecting

by
R.A. Rostron

(A talk cum display given to the Malta Philatelic Society members on
5th December, 2012)

Prepared for printing by John A. Cardona

The first part of my talk comprised outlining my early days of stamp collecting in the 1940's / 50's, the blunders I made in ignorance and leading to a guide, through sensible steps to take, in forming a collection. I do not intend to cover this section in the interests of brevity. I will concentrate on the second part in which the subject of collecting the G.B. Dorothy Wilding Definitive Issues of the 1950's / 60's is used as a "vehicle" to demonstrate how important is the need for awareness.

Following the demise of King George VI and his eldest daughter Elizabeth taking over to become Queen Elizabeth the Second, the stamp designer Dorothy Wilding succeeded with her design of the Queen's head to appear on the new British Definitive issues. These were printed by Harrison & Sons in photogravure and the first two stamps, the 1½d green and 2½d red were issued on the 5th December, 1952. A basic FDC is shown in Figure 1.

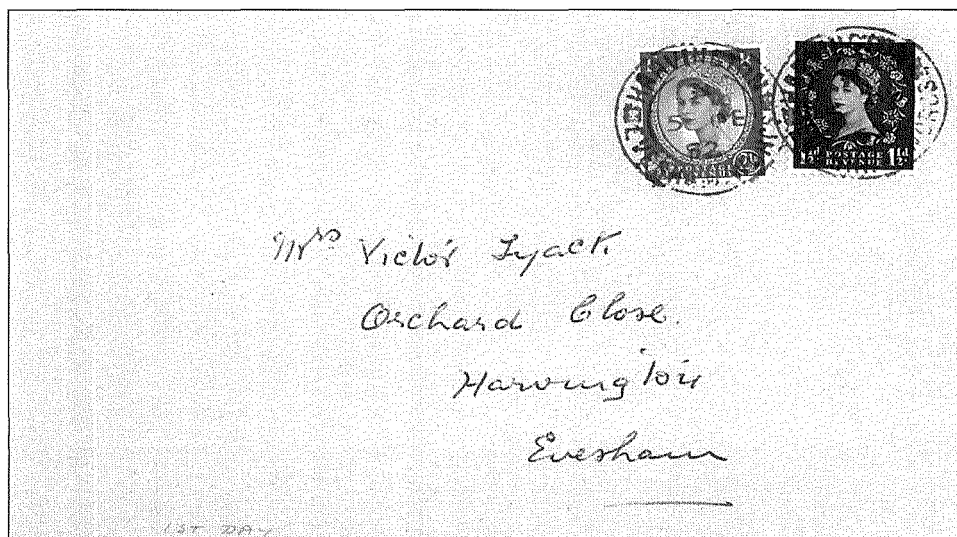


Figure 1

During 1953/4, 17 values were issued on 6 different dates, hence there are 6 different FDCs to look out for! The basic set looks as shown in Figure 2. Its watermark is shown in Figure 3 being the Tudor Crown. The Post Office also arranged for the stamps to be issued in Booklets (panes) and via vending machines (coils). These resulted in the stamps having inverted or sideways watermarks. Note that watermarks are not shown in the Stanley Gibbons Simplified Catalogue, one needs the 'Concise' or 'Specialised'. Thus *beware*, there are 3 values with sideways and 5 with inverted watermarks.

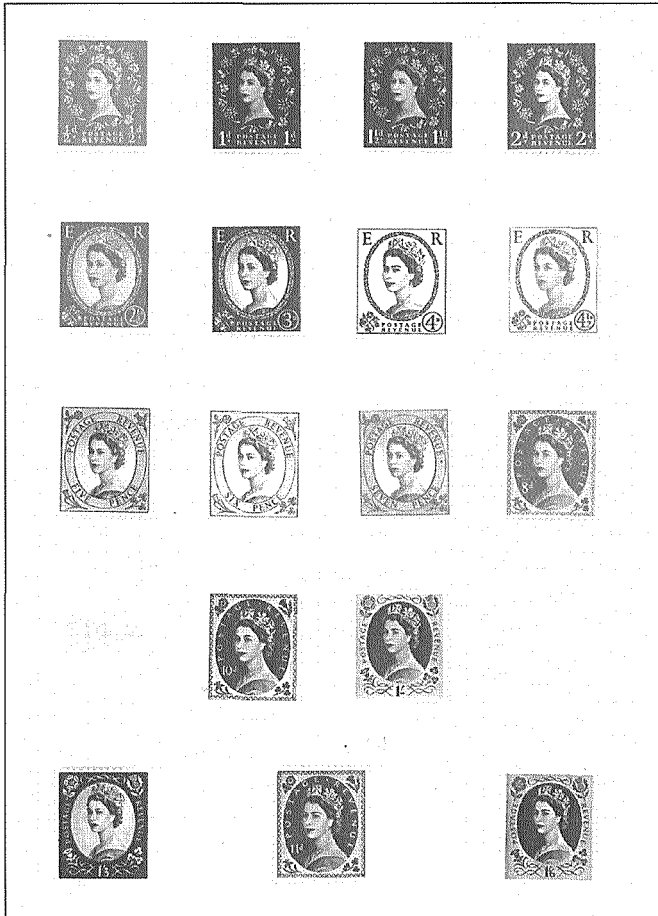


Figure 2

Watermark
Tudor Crown
Upright

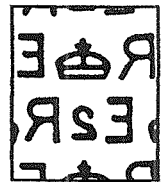


Figure 3

September 1955 saw the set re-issued using the St. Edwards Crown watermarked paper, see Figure 4. The 2d brown being in two shades making 18 stamps in the set. N.B. this set has 5 sideways watermark values and 7 inverted.

**Watermark
St Edwards Crown
Upright**



Figure 4

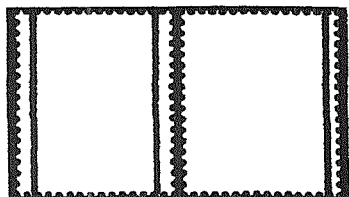
Graphite-lined and Phosphor Issues

These are used in connection with automatic sorting machinery, originally experimentally at Southampton but now also operating elsewhere. In such areas these stamps were the normal issue, but from mid 1967 all low-value stamps bear phosphor markings.

The graphite lines were printed in black on the back, beneath the gum; two lines per stamp except for the 2d (see below).

Progress of the development in Automatic Sorting Machines saw the introduction of a set of 6 stamps with graphite lines on the back, beneath the gum. Note the 2d has one line, whereas the rest have two, see Figure 5.

October 1958 saw the set re-issued using a multiple crown watermark on cream paper, see Figure 6. There were 17 values – no 11d plum but a 4½d brown. N.B. There are 6 values with the



174 175 (2d only)

Figure 5

watermark sideways with the crown pointing left and 4 with it pointing right. There are also inverted watermarks to look out for and the set becomes even more complex by being re-issued on white paper.

The Graphite set was reissued on 24th November, 1958 with two more values added and on multiple crown watermark paper, but only inverted watermarks need be looked out for i.e. no sideways watermarks.

**Watermark
Crowns
Cream Paper**

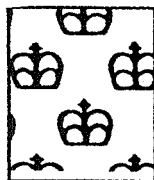


Figure 6

18th November, 1959 saw the set re-issued but in addition to graphite lines on the back phosphor lines were added on the front. The St. Edwards Crown watermarked paper was used for ½d, 1d and 1½d values and multiple Crowns for the other 5 stamps.

During 1960 – 67 the multiple crown watermark set was re-issued now bearing phosphor bands on the front. Beware of colour variations of these – green, blue or violet and vary in number, one or two bands. There are many watermark varieties.

Other varieties to beware of on Wildings are e.g. coil joins where stamps were used in vending machines and misplaced graphite lines, see Figure 7. Figure 7a shows booklet panes which can result in sideways and inverted watermarks.

MIS-PLACED GRAPHITE LINES - 1958

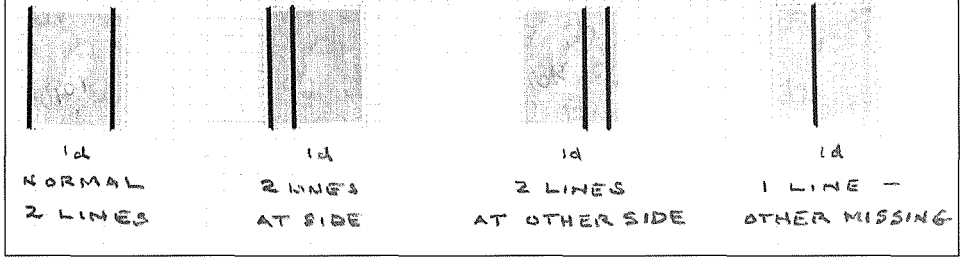


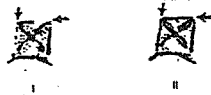
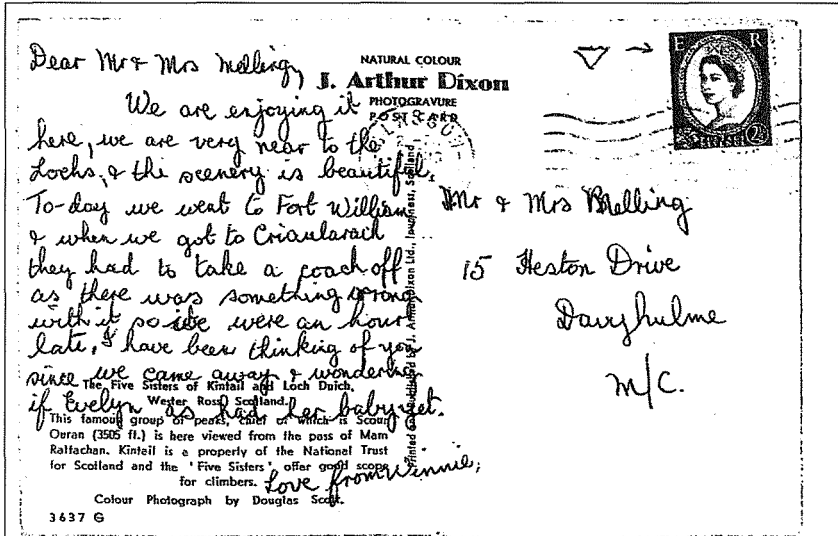
Figure 7



Figure 7a



FLAWS. These there are in abundance on Wilding issues, mainly spots and scratches but some are quite interesting. Also of special note is a 'design-type' variety in the Queen's Crown Diadem. See Figure 8.



Two types of the 2d.

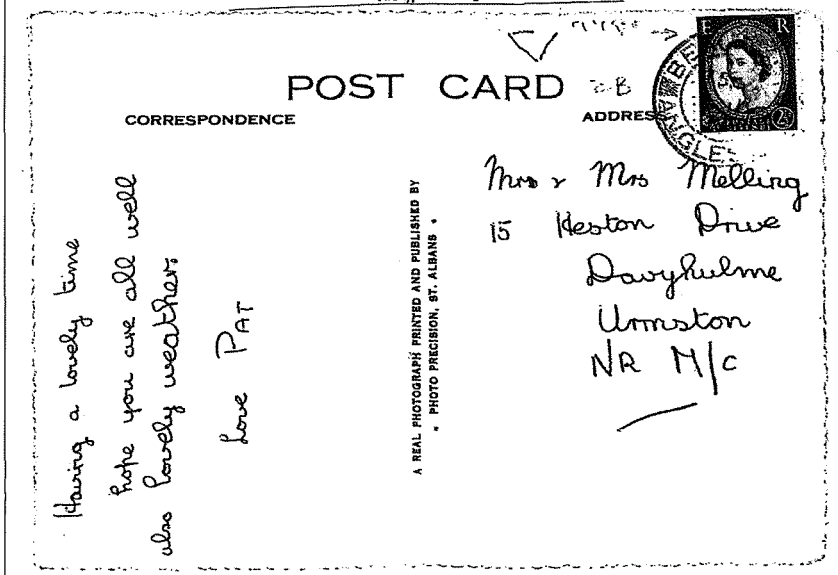


Figure 8

CURIOS. The backs of Queen Elizabeth 2d value, as shown in Figure 9, were used by someone with an incredible 'hand' and eyesight to write out the '23rd Psalm' (Figure 9a) and 'The Lord's Prayer' (Figure 9b). They are both dated 1959.



Figure 9

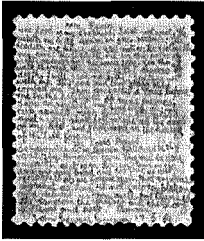


Figure 9a

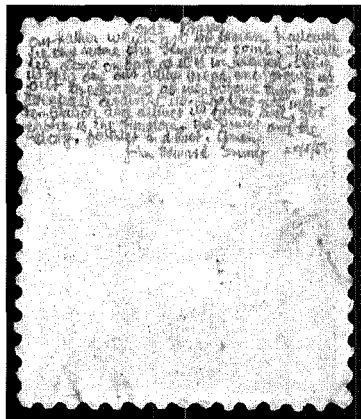
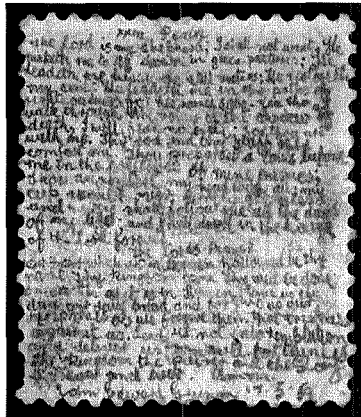


Figure 9b

A mint set of multiple crown watermark stamps is shown at Figure 10 overprinted with black bars – strictly for use by the Post Office for Staff Training and Familiarisation purposes.



Figure 10

SUMMARY. The Wildings form a good example of how easy it can be to start collecting a set of stamps which superficially may look alike, but unless you start out with enough information as was pointed out in Part I, the Traps are numerous and the Pitfalls can be deep.

Part I also gave some ideas on how to mount and arrange the mint or used stamps, hopefully without “teaching grandmother to suck eggs” as we say in England, i.e. teaching people something they already know.

Once again it was a pleasure to give a presentation to the members of the Malta Philatelic Association.

75 years ago
the first Malta Air Mail took off
on 1st April 1938

British Diplomacy at the Balkans during WWI

by
Marc Parren

Introduction

On 28 June 1914, Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb student, assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo, Bosnia. The political objective of the assassination was to break the Austro-Hungarian's south-Slav provinces off from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The assassination triggered a chain of events that embroiled Russia and the major European powers. The dispute between Austria-Hungary and Serbia escalated into what is now known as World War I, which involved Russia, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. Within a week, Austria-Hungary had to face a war with Russia, which had the largest army in the world at the time. The result was that Serbia became just another front to the massive fight that started to unfold along Austria-Hungary's border with Russia. The need to protect against a Russian invasion of Austria-Hungary meant that thousands of Austro-Hungarian troops had to be diverted from the Balkan Army to the Galician front, and this in turn spoiled Austria-Hungary's initial plans for the invasion of Serbia. The Serbian Campaign started on 28 July 1914, when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia and her artillery shelled Belgrade the following day. The Austro-Hungarian Army launched several massive attacks against Serbia until the end of the year with no change in the border, but casualties were enormous as the Serbian army suffered 170,000 men killed, wounded captured or missing while the Austro-Hungarian losses were approaching 215,000 men killed, wounded or missing.

Early in 1915 the Germans were pushing to take Serbia since it would provide a rail link from Germany, through Austria-Hungary and down to Istanbul (and beyond). This would allow the Germans to send military supplies and even troops to help the Ottoman Empire. While this was hardly in Austria-Hungary's interests, the Austro-Hungarians did want to defeat Serbia. The Austro-Hungarians and Germans began their attack on 7 October 1915, with their troops crossing the Drina and Sava rivers, covered by heavy artillery fire. Once they crossed the Danube, the Germans and Austro-Hungarians moved on Belgrade itself and the town was captured on 9 October and by the end of the year the entire country was occupied with the Serbian Army fleeing to Greece.

Sir Charles Louis des Graz

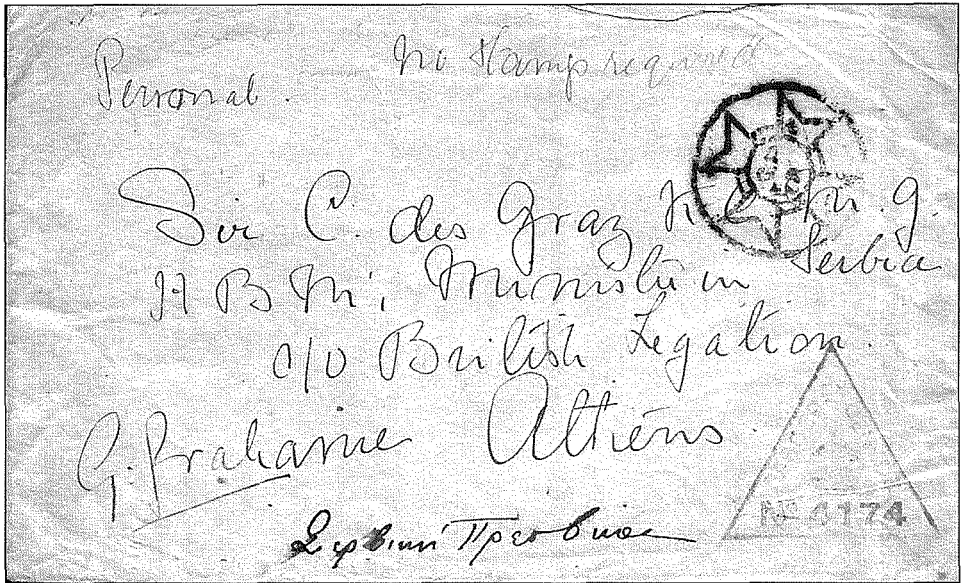
Why is this of interest? Since we have an unfranked cover at hand dispatched

by one Mr. G. Grahame in Malta to Sir C. des Graz K.C.M.G., H.B.M. Minister in Serbia, c/o British Legation, Athens and raises the question whom we deal with and what they did.

We first should ask ourselves who the addressee was. Sir Charles Louis des Graz was born in 1860, educated at Harrow and at Trinity College, Cambridge where he obtained his B.A. in 1883. He started a diplomatic career in 1884 and was sent to Constantinople. Next he became Secretary of Legation in Athens in 1888, at The Hague 1891-94; Saint Petersburg 1894-1901; as Secretary of Legation at Teheran 1901-1903, and at Athens 1903-5; Councilor of Embassy at Rome 1905-8; Charge d'Affaires at Cettinje 1906-8; and Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Bolivia 1908-10 and Callao, Peru and Ecuador 1908-13. On 1 October 1913 he was nominated Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Serbia, at the British Legation, Belgrade which position he held until 1919. The latter is reflected at the cover where one addresses him as His British Majesty (H.B.M.) Minister in Serbia.

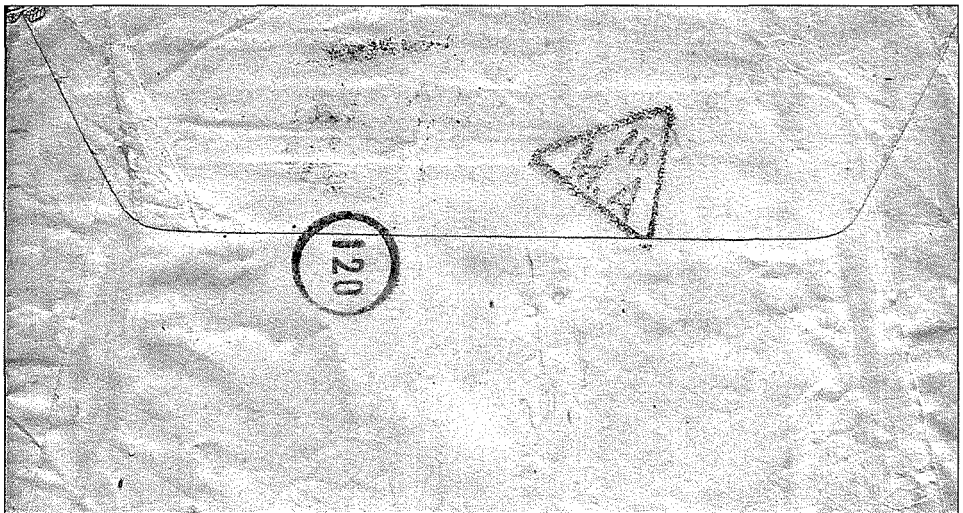
The cover shows that he was awarded the Order of St Michael and St George conferred to men and women who render extraordinary or important non-military service in a foreign country or loyal service in relation to foreign affairs. Also Knights Commander of Saint Michael and Saint George (K.C.M.G.) are entitled to use the prefix "Sir". The Order was founded to commemorate the British amicable protectorate over the Ionian Islands, which had come under British control in 1814 and had been granted its own constitution as the United States of the Ionian Islands in 1817. It was intended to reward "natives of the Ionian Islands and of the island of Malta and its dependencies, and for such other subjects of His Majesty as may hold high and confidential situations in the Mediterranean." In 1864, however, the protectorate ended and the Ionian Islands became a part of Greece. The Order's basis was revised in 1868; membership was granted to those who "hold high and confidential offices within Her Majesty's colonial possessions, and in reward for services rendered to the Crown in relation to the foreign affairs of the Empire."

The cover was cancelled by the undated GPO (GPO-1) canceller mostly seen on registered mail and forces mail. However, the fact that it was not addressed to Sir Charles Louis des Graz in Belgrade but rather in Athens, Greece let me believe it was sent after 1915. This is confirmed by the fact that the triangular censorship handstamp with number 4174 (CS-T1 4174) applied to this cover is first noted on a cover dating 31 July 1916. What is also astonishing is the fact that on the front is written "Personal" and "No stamp required". This is most likely a privilege for diplomatic relations as there is no indication that it concerns a military sender who would have indicated "on active service" in that case. Unfortunately I could not find any background information on G. Grahame the sender. However, Malta was a pivotal point in the Mediterranean to coordinate British actions in the wider



Front

region. May-be someone in Malta can shed more light on him. The front shows also a line written in Cyrillic I was not able to decipher and at the back two handstamps a circle with the number 120 and a triangle with 15 over M.A. The latter seems to be a Greek censorship type. May-be someone can tell as well where and by whom they were applied. I can be contacted by email: marcparren@hotmail.com.



Back

The Pneumatic Post of Paris

by

J.D. Hayhurst O.B.E.

Edited by C.S. Holder

Prepared in digital format by Mark Hayhurst

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Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Part 1

Introduction

The first half of the 19th century saw an unprecedented acceleration of communication through the introduction of the electric telegraph. Its principal application was to commercial intelligence for the merchants on the stock exchanges for whom fortunes could be won by the receipt of advance information, but the gain in speed from the telegraph could be lost if a message took a long time to get from the telegraph office to the stock exchange. It was to avoid this delay that in 1853 J. Latimer Clark installed a 220 yard long pneumatic tube connecting the London Stock Exchange in Threadneedle Street with the Central Station in Lothbury of the Electric Telegraph Company which had been incorporated in 1846. There were similar installations in Berlin in 1865 between the Central Telegraph Office and the Stock Exchange, and in 1866 in Paris out of the place de la Bourse.

Other cities followed and tube systems were opened not only for the transport of telegrams but also for individual letters and for letters in bulk. The transport of letters in bulk required large diameter tubes such as exist today in Hamburg and as once existed in a number of American cities. Provision for the transport of individual letters was made in Vienna and Prague, Berlin, Munich, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Naples, Milan, Paris and Marseilles. There were ephemeral installations for private letters at the South Kensington Exhibition of 1890, at the Karlsbad Philatelic Exhibition of 1910, and at the Turin International Exhibition of 1911.

Today, the pneumatic post survives only in Paris and Italy. Pneumatic tubes are still however widely used for the transport inside many cities of the world of small batches of telegrams, express letters and air mail letters. These tubes are generally of a diameter of about 3 inches and the messages are carried in cylinders which are propelled along the tube by an air pressure differential from the back to the front, attaining speeds of around 25 mph. Letters and cards which have been transported in the tubes are invariably creased where they have been rolled up for insertion in a cylinder.

The Parisian Network

The network in Paris was commenced in 1866 by the construction of an experimental line between the telegraph offices at Grand Hotel and place de la Bourse. This was extended in 1867 into a one-way hexagon from place de la Bourse through the telegraph offices rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, rue de Rivoli, rue des Saints-Peres, the Central Telegraph Office (rue de Grenelle), rue Boissy d'Anglas, and back to Grand Hotel. During the following decade single line polygonal systems were linked to this hexagonal system and a double tube (two-way) was laid between Central and Bourse, but the network remained always within the limits of the pre-1791 octroi of Paris, roughly corresponding to the inner *arrondissements*.

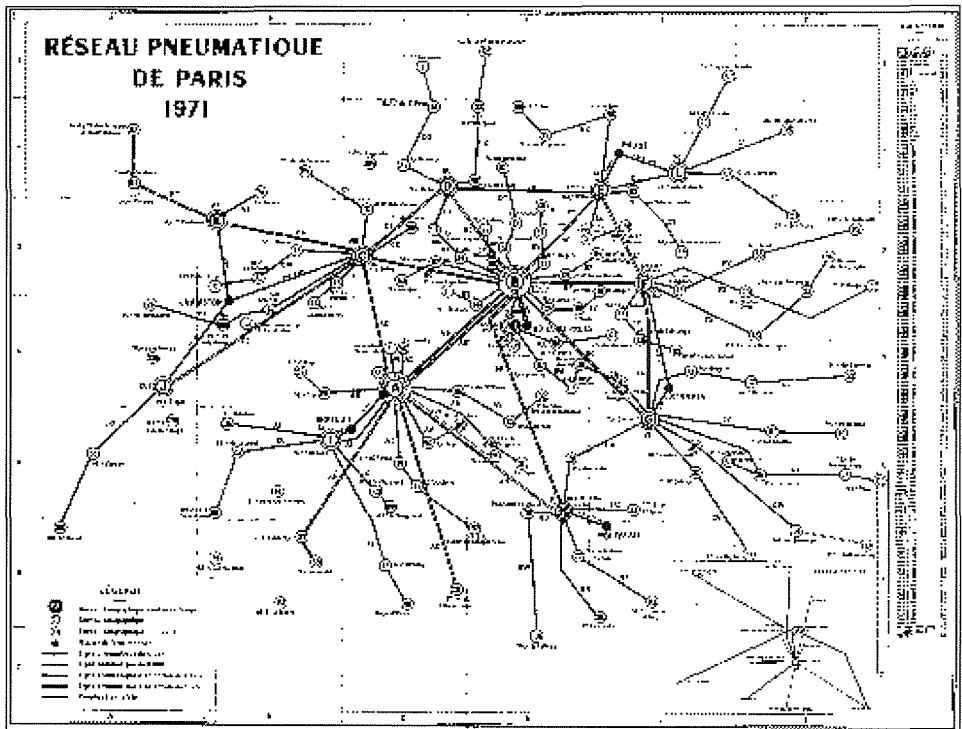


Figure 1. Map of the Parisian Pneumatic Post Network.

In 1879, with the opening of the service to the public, there was a new motive for expansion and, in 1881 plans were approved to extend the network of tubes across the whole of Paris. There were to be four stages each taking about one year to achieve: by 1 February 1882 the 16th and parts of the 15th and 17th arrondissements; by 1 April 1883 the rest of the 17th, the 18th, and part of the 19th; by 1 February 1884 the rest of the 19th, the 12th and 20th; by 15 December 1884 the rest of the 15th, the 13th and 14th. The system of tubes running across the whole of Paris

(generally located in the sewers) consisted of tubes of 65 mm diameter but from 1888 many tubes of 80 mm diameter were installed and today about one-third of the system uses the larger diameter. Also from 1888 began the elimination of the one-way polygonal networks and their replacement by double tubes.

Since the end of the 19th century there have been numerous detail changes of the network inside Paris but only one tube has gone outside Paris: that to Neuilly opened in 1914. It had been intended to extend the tubes widely through the suburbs but the 1914-18 war suspended the project and it was never revived. Nevertheless, in 1907 the transport of pneumatic mail beyond the limits of Paris was made possible by the employment of special messengers operating in 19 suburban areas. By 1916 these messengers were on bicycles and operating in most of the towns of the department of the Seine and also in Enghien-les-bains, Sevres, and St Cloud in the department of the Seine et Oise. Raincy was added in 1921.

Today, the service works inside Paris and to Neuilly by the tubes and thence outwards throughout most of the suburbs by messengers on motorcycles. Inwards the service uses post office vans between the suburban post offices and those offices on the limits of Paris which are on the tube network.

There is also another network between French government offices radiating from Central but with one line joining the Senate and the -Assemblée Nationale with the

Journal Official. Along this line pass the transcripts of the parliamentary debates which are printed and published within twenty-four hours.

The cylinders are propelled along the tubes pneumatically, ie by air either compressed or depressed: they are either blown forwards or sucked forwards from one office to another. The pressures come from compressors feeding groups of offices; these compressors were originally simple heads of water, then driven by steam engines, and finally by electrical machines. There are today 7 such installations, supplying pressure to 12 offices in the network.

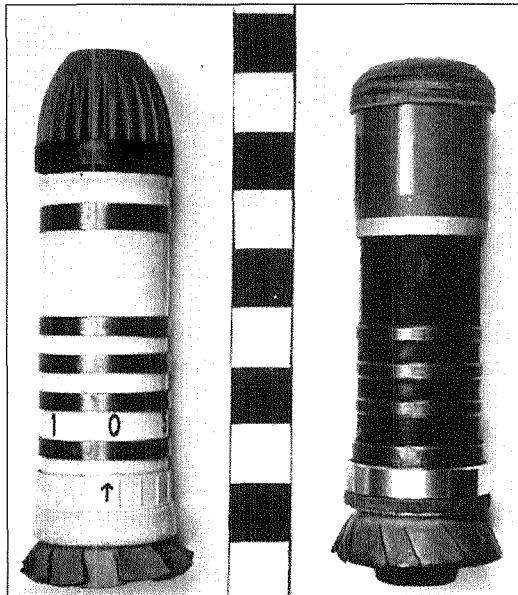


Figure 2. Pneumatic Post cylinders, new and old, showing the electrically conducting bands introduced after 1931.

For a long time the cylinders went from one office to the next where their contents were sorted for

the next stages of their journeys. Much time was spent in the manual redirection of cylinders but, after experiments in 1931, automatic navigation was introduced using apparatus which could accept or pass on cylinders according to the setting of electrically conducting bands encircling the cylinders.

The administration of the service started with the *Télégraphes* since it was then intended for the transport of telegrams and the first network connected offices of the *Télégraphes* which were quite distinct from those of the Postes. In 1878 the Postes and the *Télégraphes* were joined and became the *Postes et Télégraphes*. Later, the Téléphones was added to make the *P. T. T.* which still today remains the familiar designation of the *Postes et Télécommunications*. Inside the larger organisation, the responsibility for the pneumatic service remained with the *Télégraphes* or its successor the *Télécommunications*. The cooperation between the separate parts of the ministry is well illustrated by the events of 1927 when floods put the Segur telephone exchange out of action; telephone subscribers were allowed to send letters by tube for 30 centimes, the cost of a telephone call, instead of the normal 1.50 franc charge. Although not operated by the Postes, the service must still be considered to be postal since the addressee receives the original manuscript (or typescript) message of the sender on a letter, or card, or letter-card each of which falls within the generic term 'pneu'.

The service does not have its own offices but pneumes are posted in special boxes which have slits narrower than those for conventional mail. The fusion in 1878 of the Postes and *Télégraphes* led to a rationalisation of their offices and the purely telegraphic offices gradually disappeared. At the end of 1879, the first year of public use of the pneumatic tubes, there were 36 offices in Paris with pneumatic installations but only 6 of them provided a postal service; before the end of the century all sole telegraph offices had been closed. The telegraph offices had been numbered serially in 1871 and the post offices in 1863; as the two merged the joint offices took the postal number. Up to their individual closures the few telegraph offices which remained were allotted postal numbers as, for example, Ecole Militaire, which had had the number 15 as a telegraph office in 1871, was given the number 46 in the postal series until its closure in 1891. These office numbers had a purpose: an instruction of 1871 required that each telegram (and hence, later, each pneu) should carry in its top left-hand corner the two digit number of the office of despatch preceded by the number of that telegram as recorded in the daily register. Thus the 341st pneu sent out on one day by Bourse (98) would carry 34198. Since the first nine post offices were numbered only by a single digit their telegraph counters used the post office numbers preceded by a zero. These office numbers were not initially used to indicate the destination of a pneu. At the office of posting, the name of the office nearest the addressee was written in the top left hand corner so as to facilitate its navigation through the tube network; just

after the turn of the century there was a gradual replacement of the office name by the office number.

There was a curious situation in 1900 when the seven post offices at the International Exhibition were temporarily allotted telegraph office numbers from 10 to 16, numbers which were being used at the same time by the normal Paris post offices 10 to 16. To avoid confusion, the pneus from these offices were recorded in each daily register starting at 501; thus the 27th pneu sent out on a particular day from Alma (12) would carry 52712.

Shortly afterwards, the practice of numbering pneus was discontinued.

The Postal Stationery of the Pneumatic Post

Until 1898 when private cards and envelopes were admitted, the use of the official postal stationery was obligatory for pneumatic mail. The decree which opened the tubes to the public was signed on 25 January 1879 by MacMahon in the last days of his presidency and came into effect on 1 May 1879. It prescribed two franked forms: one, open, at 50 centimes, and one, closed, at 75 centimes, in modern parlance respectively a card and a letter-card although the latter was on thin paper.

The intention had been that the imprinted stamp should be the *Chaplain* type which had been the runner-up in the 1875 competition for the design of a new adhesive postage stamp but the upheaval which followed the resignation of MacMahon reverberated throughout the French civil service and the dies of the *Chaplain* type were not available in time to have the imprinted postal stationery ready by 1 May. It was therefore decided to use temporarily the *Sage* design, which had won the competition and was on the current postage stamps, modified by the deletion of POSTES. Thus, on 1 May two forms were on sale bearing this modified *Sage* design: a cream card titled '*Carte Télégramme*' with a red imprinted stamp, and a blue letter-card titled '*Télégramme*' with a black imprinted stamp. These inscriptions reflect the insistence that the service was provided by the *Télégraphes* and that the missives were regarded as telegrams except that for a fixed fee there was no limit to the number of words that could be sent. The absence of a limit was quickly recognized by the public; a card dated 15 May 1879 includes the following passage 'We are taking advantage of the freedom which renders henceforth the postcard telegram no longer limited by sending you with our best wishes our friendly greetings' which, in French, took 27 words and, by itself, would have cost 75 centimes at the then current rate for telegrams. The letter-cards carried on the back a prohibition against the inclusion of any sheet of paper or of anything at all; if the weight exceeded that of the letter-card as sold it would be transferred to the post.

to be continued in August 2013 issue

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

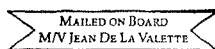
MaltaPost plc informed that, due to construction works, the letterbox located in Triq Profs. Walter Ganado, Pembroke, was being closed for an indefinite period. This letterbox carries MaltaPost Identification Code L247.

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 Arcisqof Gonzi, Kalkara.

7 November

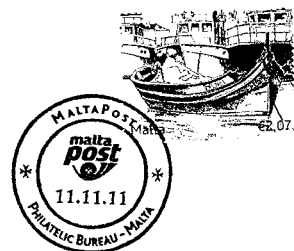
MaltaPost plc announced that it had installed a letterbox on board the M.V. Jean De La Valette, a vessel operated by Virtu` Ferries Ltd. Mail posted on board the vessel was to be marked “PAQUEBOT” and postage stamps cancelled accordingly. Mail posted during trips to Malta would be collected and processed 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”.

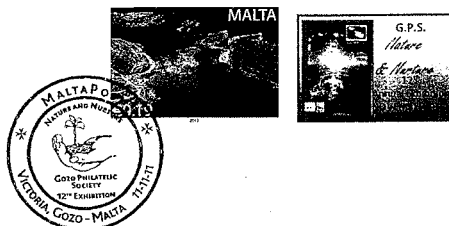
11 November

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

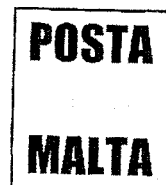


Trade Mark Nos.: 48724, 48725, 48726, 48727, 48728

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-HRUĠ/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

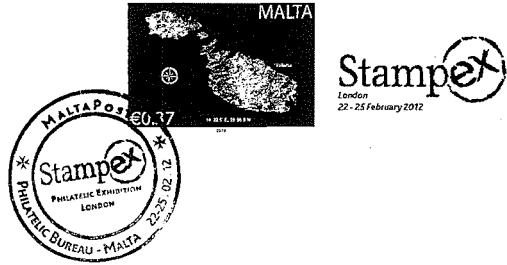
On the occasion of the Episcopal Ordination of Fr. Prospero Grech OSA, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 18 February 2012 at the post offices in Victoria, Gozo and Castille Square, Valletta. The postmark used at Victoria was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 18-02-12/ĊELEBRAZZJONI 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

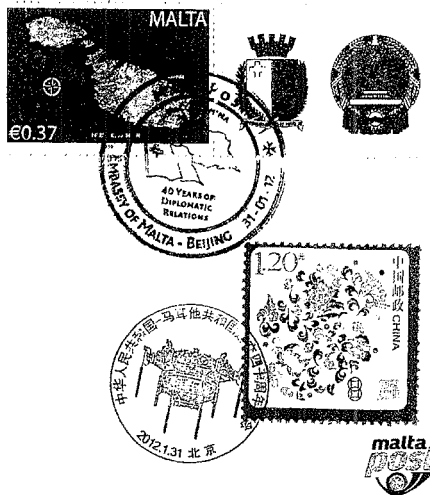
A special hand postmark was used at the MaltaPost Castille Square, Valletta branch, on Wednesday, 29 February 2012, to commemorate the exhibition of photographs of the Colombaia and Windmills at Trapani, held at the Italian Cultural Institute in Valletta. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – CASTILLE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

Printex



Security printers since 1971,
producing stamps for Maltapost and the
Vatican Philatelic Bureau, amongst others.

Lombard Bank - 225, Tower Road, Sliema



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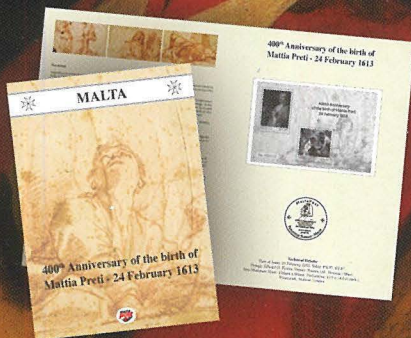
400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MATTIA PRETI - 24 FEBRUARY 1613



SILVER REPLICA STAMP

MaltaPost issued a Limited Edition Silver Replica Stamp depicting Mattia Preti's portrait. It is struck in 999.0 Silver.

Each stamp is individually numbered and the issue is limited to 2,000 pieces.



COMMEMORATIVE FOLDER No. 7

MaltaPost issued a numbered Commemorative Folder (limited to 3,000) which includes a miniature sheet of the 400th Anniversary of the birth of Mattia Preti - 24 February 1613.



committed to deliver

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