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THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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



2012

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Sliema Stamp Shop
91, Manwel Dimech Street, Sliema, SLM 1055 Malta
Tel: +356 21342189
Fax: +356 21346069
e-mail: sales@sliemastampshop.com.mt
<http://www.sliemastampshop.com.mt>



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Members of Federation Internationale de Philatelie
F. I. P. Commissioner johnacardona@gmail.com
<http://www.sliemastampshop.com.mt/MaltaPhilatelicSociety>

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2013 Committee

**President &
Journal Editor:** Chev. Dr. A. Bonnici MD, MA(Melit) FRPSL, KM, UOM
(Tel: 2133 8437, 9949 5066), abonnici@maltanet.net
34 "Casa Bonnici", Sir Augustus Bartolo Street, Ta' Xbiex,
XBX 1093, Malta.

**Vice President &
Ass. Treasurer:** Mr. J. Buttigieg (Tel: 2134 2189, 9942 4874)
sales@sliemastampshop.com.mt

**Secretary/ Treasurer
& F.I.P. Commissioner** Mr. John A. Cardona (Tel: 2189 2141, 9983 6966)
johnacardona@gmail.com - 56, Triq Santa Marija, Tarxien,
TXN 1703, Malta.

**Ass. Secretary,
Web site admin &
Public Relations Officer:** Mr. John De Battista (Tel: 2141 1919)
debfamily@hotmail.com

**Liaison with Malta
Study Circle UK:** Mr. H. Wood (Tel: 2133 0336) - hwood@go.net.mt

Members: Mr. A. Camilleri (Tel: 2138 0113) - toncam@go.net.mt
Mr. J. Lanfranco (Tel: 2131 2361) - jglanfranco@malta.com
Mr. A. Caruana Ruggier (Tel: 2124 3518) - alcarug@gmail.com
Mr. S. Parnis (Tel: 2169 7547, 7904 5780) - samritpar@gmail.com
Mr. John Micallef (Tel: 2143 3545, 9943 2945) - elcamino@onvol.net
Mr. C. Mejlaq (Tel: 2149 8069, 7973 4088) - charlessmejlaq@gmail.com

Overseas Rep: Mr. Chris Howe, Sandringham Gardens, Fishtoft, Boston Lines PE21 9QA, UK
chrishowe@skanderbeg.fsnet.co.uk
Dott. Luciano Cruciani, Viale Telese 35, Roma 00177, Italy.
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ncutajar@optusnet.com.au
Mr. Paul Bondin, 86 Ocean Street, Woollahra, NSW 2025, Australia (Sydney Area)
paulbondin@singermedical.com.au

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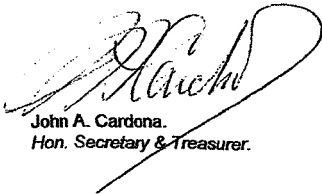
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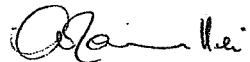
MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

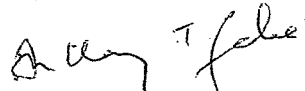
BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2012

		<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
FIXED ASSETS	<u>Page</u>	€	€
At Cost	4,304	7	
Less Depreciation	<u>4,304</u>	0	0
 CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed Deposit Account	8	4,000	1,631
Current Account	9	<u>5,570</u>	<u>6,467</u>
		9,570	8,098
 CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions in Advance		<u>(585)</u>	<u>(512)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		8,985	7,586
 ACCUMULATED FUND		 <u>8,985</u>	 <u>7,586</u>


John A. Cardona.
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer.


Prof. G.E. Camilleri.
Auditor


Rev. A. Galea.
Auditor.

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NOTE: Published above are the confirmed accounts for the year which ended on 31st December, 2012 and which were approved and adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd January 2013. It will be noted that reference is made to a number of pages on the Balance Sheet and a series of notes on the Income & Expenditure Account. These are not enclosed to save space. However, if any member would wish to receive these documents please contact us and we will be delighted to furnish a copy.

MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

31 December 2012

<u>2011</u>		<u>2012</u>
€ INCOME	<u>Notes</u>	€
1,566 Subscription receivable	(1)	1,593
33 Interest received	(2)	14
129 Donations	(3)	100
2,085 <i>Maltes XIII</i> Philatelic Exhibition	(4)	1,829
66 Disposal of commemorative keyrings		<u>0</u>
3,879 Total Income		3,536
EXPENDITURE		
530 Journal distribution costs	(5)	645
322 Newsletter distribution costs	(6)	323
524 Sundry administrative expenses	(7)	368
263 F.I.P. affiliation fee	(8)	298
130 St. Publius Hall / Oratory - rental	(9)	224
220 Christmas "get together"	(10)	242
35 Suffrages	(11)	25
9 Bank charges	(12)	<u>12</u>
(2,033) Total Expenditure		(2,137)
1,846 SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		1,399
5,740 FUND OPENING BALANCE		7,586
7,586 FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END		8,985

Postal Diary

1 March – 31 December 2012

by
Joseph Fenech

5 March 2012

On the 5 March 2012, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 045/2012 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the fourth quarter (October – December) 2011. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic amounted to over 12.8 million items, up by 4.7% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2010. Total parcels and other items were recorded at 25,659, a decrease of 3.5% when compared to the previous year (26,579 parcels/other items sent then).

7 March

On Wednesday, 7 March 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a set of two stamps adding to the Definitive Set that had originally been issued on 29 December 2009. The €0.20 stamp depicts a gold coin (representing the Byzantine Period), while the €0.69 stamp depicts the George Cross Medal (and represents the British Period). Apart from having different background colours, the two stamps bear additional values to reflect the increased postal tariff introduced on 29 July 2011. 500,000 copies of the €0.20 stamp, and 40,000 copies of the €0.69 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. 1/2012). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- MALTA/DEFINITIVE ISSUE/ADDITIONAL VALUES/JUM IL-ĦRUGĠ/07-03-12”, and also included an image of the gold coin featured on the €0.20 stamp. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 297. In this stamp bulletin, the date of issue of this set of stamps is erroneously shown as being “07 March 2011”.



7 March

In a press release issued on 7 March 2012, MaltaPost plc announced that it had recently held the Annual Staff Meeting, during which employees were given an

update on the Company's performance during the previous year, and a number of employees were presented with special prizes awarding their performance and accomplishments during 2011. In this regard, the Best Postal Area Group Award went to the Postal Area Group at the Xewkija Delivery Hub in Gozo, the Best Post Office Award was won by the Qawra Post Office, while Emanuel Spiteri from the Operations Department was awarded the Best Employee of the Year 2011.

16 March

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox in Triq Profs. Walter Ganado, Pembroke (carrying MaltaPost Identification Code L247), had been closed for an indefinite period because of construction works.

23 March

On Friday, 23 March 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a set of five stamps to commemorate two renowned international artists who both visited and painted scenes of Malta and Gozo. The artists were Henry Mayo Bateman (1887 – 1970) and Edward Lear (1812 – 1888). The five stamps are reproductions of the original artworks of these artists. Bateman spent his last years in Ġhajnsielem, Gozo, where he died on 11 February 1970. On his part, Lear visited the Maltese Islands many times. The €0.20 stamp depicts



a view of Marsalforn, Gozo, the €0.26 stamp shows Qala, Gozo, the €0.37 stamp portrays Ġhajnsielem, Gozo, the €0.67 stamp shows the Inquisitor's Palace in Ġirgenti, while the €0.97 stamp depicts the Gran Fontana in Fontana, Gozo. The first three stamps reproduce paintings by H.M. Bateman – these paintings are from the National Collection – Heritage Malta. The last two stamps reproduce paintings by E. Lear – these paintings are on view at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. 500,000 copies of the €0.20 stamp, 40,000 copies of the €0.26 and €0.37 stamps, 60,000 copies of the €0.67 stamp, and 40,000 copies of the €0.97 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. 2/2012). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS/AND MALTA/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/23-03-12”, and also included copies of the signatures of both artists Bateman and Lear. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 298.

30 March

Legal Notice 105 of 2012 – Public Procurement of Entities operating in the Water, Energy, Transport and Postal Services Sectors (Amendment) Regulations, 2012 – was published in terms of the Financial Administration and Audit Act (CAP. 174), as a supplement to the Malta Government Gazette No. 18,897 dated 30 March 2012.

2 April

The Sub-Post Office at Tunny Net Souvenir Shop, Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa opened again for business with effect from Monday, 2 April 2012.

2 April

The Sub-Post Office at 34, Midas, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113 was closed for business on Monday, 2 April 2012.

3 April

On Tuesday, 3 April 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a set of eight stamps titled ‘Occasions 2012’. The stamps depict a broad selection of images representing the celebration of various occasions or events. Each stamp in the set carries a face value of €0.37. Five of these stamps represent, respectively, celebrations related to weddings, graduations, sports competitions, Christmas, as well as generic occasions.

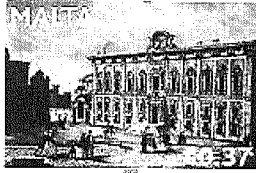
The other three stamps depict St. John’s Co-Cathedral (with feast fireworks in the background), Comino and also the painting of the Auberge de Castille by Charles Frederick de Brocktorff. The stamps were printed in the following quantities: weddings and Christmas stamps – 30,000 of each; generic celebrations and sports stamps – 40,000 of each; feasts, graduation and Comino stamps – 60,000 of each; Auberge de Castille stamp – 120,000 copies. 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. The set was also printed with a se-tenant, stamp-size blank label allowing senders to “personalise” their stamps which, given their denomination, could be used both on local as well as overseas mail. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 3/2012 – set of 2 envelopes). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - - - - - MALTA/OCCASIONS 2012/JUM IL-HRUG/03-04-12”, and also included an image of the champagne bottle and glass depicted on one of the stamps in the set. The FDC marked 1 of 2 featured an image of the champagne bottle and glasses found on one of the stamps in the set, on the left hand side, while the FDC marked 2 of 2 featured



an image of St. John's Co-Cathedral (with feast fireworks in the background), as depicted on another of the stamps in the set, on the left hand side of the cover. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 299.

3 April

MaltaPost plc notified that, with effect from Tuesday, 3 April 2012, it was making available all stamps from the set 'Occasions 2012' in



single se-tenant stamp format. The label attached to the stamp was to be personalised with the MaltaPost logo.

4 April

The Environment and Planning Commission (EPC)/Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) Board approved an application (Case Number PA/01216/11) by MaltaPost plc, and issued the relative development permit, so that the house at 135, Archbishop Street, Valletta, would undergo a change in use from residential to postal history museum, and the necessary internal alterations and additions be carried out accordingly.

9 April

The Post Office situated within Lombard Bank plc, Triq Paceville, St. Julian's, was closed for business on Monday, 9 April 2012. On this day, an alternative service was provided by MaltaPost through the Mobile Post Office which was stationed in the same street for the day.

13 April

On the 13 April 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the results of a survey it had carried out between January and February 2012, in order to gauge organisations' perceptions and satisfaction levels with regard to the bulk-mail service, amongst other postal services provided by MaltaPost plc. The bulk-mail service refers to postal articles consisting of 50 items or more (of identical format, size and weight step) that are deposited with a postal operator, at the same place and at the same time to be conveyed and delivered to the addresses indicated on the postal articles. 40 organisations participated in this survey conducted by M. Fsadni & Associates. With regard to price levels, 61% of participating organisations stated that the prices of the bulk mail services were reasonable. Additionally, 48% of all surveyed organisations claimed to be highly satisfied with such services. All

in all, the survey showed that 68% of large bulk mailers rated the overall quality of postal services provided by MaltaPost as very good while 48% of those interviewed claimed to have seen an improvement in the services provided at the time.

14 April

On Saturday, 14 April 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a stamp within a miniature sheet to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to Malta. The miniature sheet, which bears a denomination of €4.16, is a reproduction of a photograph of the ceremony wherein the George Cross was awarded to Malta (on 15 April 1942). The stamp itself features an image of the George Cross. 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 120mm x 80mm. 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. 4/2012). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/70TH ANNIVERSARY/GEORGE CROSS/15 APRIL 1942/JUM IL-HRUĠ/14-04-12”, and also featured an image of the George Cross in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this miniature sheet in the stamp bulletin No. 300.



To mark this same anniversary, the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau also launched a Commemorative Folder (marked Commemorative Folder No. 6), which includes an individually numbered miniature sheet, a short message by the then Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi, as well as a brief write-up on the George Cross. MaltaPost issued 3,000 copies of the Commemorative Folder, each individually numbered (and bearing the same number as the miniature sheet found inside). Together with the miniature sheet and the Commemorative Folder, MaltaPost also issued a Limited Edition Silver Replica Stamp depicting the George Cross. This Silver Replica Stamp is a reproduction of the €0.69 stamp from the Definitive Issue – Additional Values and is struck in Brilliant Uncirculated (Proof-like) 999.0 Silver. The Silver Replica Stamp, of ‘Observe and Reverse’ design, weighs 20g, and measures 45mm x 30mm. Each stamp was individually numbered and presented in an elegant presentation box with a Certificate of Authenticity. 2,000 Silver Replica Stamps were issued. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this Silver Replica Stamp in a stamp bulletin (unnumbered) issued specifically on the subject.

18 April

MaltaPost plc notified that the letterbox in Triq Profs. Walter Ganado, Pembroke (carrying MaltaPost Identification Code L247), which had been temporarily inaccessible due to construction works, was again back in service.

3 May

The €0.20 stamp from the Definitive Issue – Additional Values was reprinted, and issued for sale on Thursday, 3 May 2012. This reprint consisted of 1,800,000 stamps, in sheets of 10 stamps bearing sheet numbers 58,001 to 238,000, both numbers included. The stamps measure 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0, and were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. An interesting feature found in the image of the date-stamp illustrated here, and used to cancel the reprinted €0.20 stamp mentioned, is that the letter ‘D’ in the inner ring of the date-stamp is in fact inverted.



9 May

On Wednesday, 9 May 2012, MaltaPost plc issued the EUROPA stamp set for 2012. This set of two stamps was themed “Visit Malta”, in line with the EUROPA 2012 theme “Visit”, which encouraged each country to choose a particular local spot to highlight for visitors. MaltaPost chose to highlight the Grand Harbour, and the chosen panoramic picture, spread across a pair of se-tenant stamps, taken from the Upper Barrakka Gardens, shows the historic Three Cities opposite, with Fort St. Angelo in the centre. The photograph also shows part of the Saluting Battery situated just below the Upper Barrakka Gardens. The two stamps in this set, valued at €0.37 and €1.19 respectively, participated in the Best EUROPA Stamp Contest organised by PostEurop. The pair of se-tenant stamps, designed by Sean Cini, measures 88.0mm 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. Stamp booklets containing five €0.37 stamps from this EUROPA set, were also issued on the same occasion. The inside of the front cover of this booklet included an image of the special commemorative hand-stamp used to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue of this set. The first day cover issued by MaltaPost

on this occasion was marked FDC No. 5/2012. The special commemorative hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/EUROPA/VISIT MALTA/JUM IL-ĦRUGĠ/09-05-12”, and also featured the outline of the map of the Maltese Islands in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 301.

9 May

On the 9 May 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a company announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this, MaltaPost announced that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company held on the 8 May 2012, the Board approved the Unaudited Condensed Interim Financial Statements for the six month period ended 31 March 2012. In this period, MaltaPost reported a profit before tax of €796,000, compared to €1.69 million for the corresponding period the previous year. Turnover increased by 3.1% to €11.0 million. Traditional mail volumes were still on the decline; however, this was compensated by an increase in weight of cross-border traffic which registered an increase in revenue despite being negatively impacted by the change in tariff structure as determined by the UPU. Other non-postal revenue also contributed positively to the increase in turnover. Other expenses increased by 22.6% principally as a result of increased mail costs and labour costs. Total assets increased by 7.9% to €29.6 million. Shareholders’ funds increased by 1.4% to €14.7 million.

14 May

On the 14 May 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued a notice (Ref.: MCA/O/12-0856) to all Authorised Postal Operators regarding the postal obligations and regulations in particular the “postal identifier” marks that should be unique and identify each postal operator handling the respective postal articles – namely a postage stamp, postmark or impression which is unique to the postal operator delivering the postal article in question and which postal identifier must be affixed on, or printed on, the postal article.

22 May

On the 22 May 2012, the National Statistics Office (NSO) released the Transport Statistics 2011, covering the data period January – December 2010. This annual publication comprises statistical information on all modes of transport relevant to Malta – air, sea and road – in this case in respect of reference year 2010. It also includes a set of transport accounts. According to this publication, during 2010, a total of 1,436,410 kg of mail was processed by the Malta International Airport, up by nearly 1% over 2009 (when 1,422,938 kg of mail were processed). In 2010, the mail processed in the first quarter of the year amounted to 364,744 kg, that

processed in the second quarter amounted to 350,895 kg, that processed in the third quarter amounted to 354,185 kg, while that processed in the last quarter of the year totalled 366,586 kg.

22 May

On the 22 May 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) launched a consultation (document MCA/C/12-0872) on the “Pricing of Postal Redirection Services provided by MaltaPost plc”. Postal redirection services allow an addressee who has moved to a new address to continue receiving mail, bearing the previous address, for a period of time. MaltaPost plc, as the designated Universal Service Provider, is required to provide redirection services as part of its Universal Service Obligation. At the time when the consultation was launched, MaltaPost used to charge, for redirection requests and the extension of existing redirections, according to the following annual tariff structure: inland mail/outbound cross-border mail - €4.66 for normal redirections, and €23.29 when the redirection was to a Post Office Box/Branch. MaltaPost submitted a proposal for the MCA’s consideration that prices for redirection services be amended according to the following tariff structure for general mail addressed to local addresses: individuals, NGOs, Not-for-Profit Organisations – free for the first 6 months, and €5.00 for the second 6 months; businesses and other entities - €10.00 for the first 12 months. MaltaPost had also proposed that the company enjoy freedom to price and operate all other redirection requests. After its assessment, the MCA considered that the tariffs proposed by MaltaPost were not priced excessively. In its assessment, the MCA also recognised that postal redirection services were primarily intended as an interim solution to customers’ relocation needs, and that multiple-tier prices should be sufficient to screen users genuinely using the service as a temporary solution for relocation purposes. In line with the above, while the service would continue to be part of the universal service, when considering the cost involved in providing the service and the impact on postal operations, MaltaPost would be allowed freedom to price and operate other redirections. This consultation ran until noon of Wednesday, 30 May 2012.

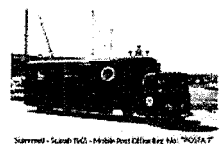
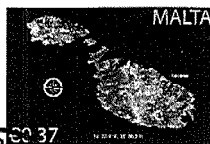
29 May

After undergoing extensive renovation works, the Ħaż-Żebbuġ MaltaPost Branch Post Office started operating once again from Triq Antonio Sciortino, Ħaż-Żebbuġ ŻBG 1962, with effect from Tuesday, 29 May 2012.

30 May

MaltaPost’s Vintage Mobile Post Office (with Registration Number “POSTA 1” – while the former Registration Number was GBI 108) was officially inaugurated on

Wednesday, 30 May 2012, outside the Law Courts in Valletta, in a ceremony attended by the then Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications, Dr Austin Gatt, and MaltaPost Chairman, Mr Joseph Said. MaltaPost was responsible for converting the 1965 Scammell Scarab into a Mobile Post Office, after purchasing it in 2009. This



vehicle, weighing 6500 kg and powered by a Perkins 4203 diesel engine, was restored by Manuel Cutajar of Żinnu Bus and Coach Works. The Scammell previously belonged to Simonds Farsons Cisk Ltd., who had purchased it in 1966 to transport beer and other beverages throughout Malta and Gozo. To mark the inauguration of this Vintage Mobile Post Office, MaltaPost issued a personalised stamp and cover featuring the restored 1965 Scammell, as well as a special hand postmark used on 30 May 2012 at the same Mobile Post Office. 500 copies of the personalised cover were issued, marked “MaltaPost Personalised Stamp/Cover No. 3/2012” on the reverse side, and each individually numbered. The personalised stamp is a €0.37 stamp from the “Occasions” issue, with a se-tenant label depicting the Scammell Mobile Post Office. The stamp was cancelled with the special hand postmark, which was inscribed “MALTAPOST – MOBILE UNIT – POSTA 1 – 30-05-12” in the outer ring, and “Scammell – Scarab 1965/Restored 2012/”POSTA 1” in the inner ring, which also included an outline image of the front of the Scammell – Scarab. Each personalised cover also included an informative card with illustrations detailing the history of the Scammell – Scarab and its conversion into the Vintage Mobile Post Office. After its inauguration, a hand date-stamp inscribed with the words “MALTAPOST – Mobile Unit – POSTA 1” (and with the date in a straight line in the inner ring) started to be used in the Vintage Mobile Post Office.

4 June

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the inauguration of the present National Library building in Valletta, a special hand postmark was used on Monday, 4 June 2012, at the MaltaPost Castille Square, Valletta Post Office.



The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. – VALLETTA – MALTA – 04-06-12” in the outer ring, and 1812 – 2012 in the centre, which also included an outline of the coat-of-arms of the National Library. The National Library issued a personalised stamp to commemorate this occasion.

4 June

A new Sub-Post Office opened with effect from Monday, 4 June 2012, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Future Focus, 9, Triq l-Imħażen, Floriana FRN 1118. The opening hours of the Sub-Post Office are from Monday to Friday, between 8.00am and 7.30pm. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words “MALTAPOST – Floriana S.P.O.” started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



6 June

On the 6 June 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued Document No. MCA/D/12-0889 outlining its Decision Notice following the consultation it had undertaken on “Pricing of Postal Redirection Services provided by MaltaPost plc”. After taking into consideration the consultation responses received, the MCA approved the revised tariff structure proposed by MaltaPost. The new tariffs could be introduced after 30 days from the publication of this Decision Notice. The MCA also concluded that other redirection services shall continue to be part of the universal service but the prices to be charged by MaltaPost shall be established by MaltaPost from time to time.

12 June

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L521) situated in Triq l-Imġarr, Xewkija, Gozo, was being closed for an indefinite period, due to construction works.

15 June

MaltaPost plc informed that between the 15 June and 30 September 2012, the St. Julian’s Post Office situated within Lombard Bank plc in Triq Paceville, was to open from Monday to Friday, between 8.00am and 1.00pm.

16 June

MaltaPost plc informed that between the 16 June and 30 September 2012, the Post Office outlet situated within the University of Malta, Msida, was to open from Monday to Friday, between 8.00am and 11.30am.

16 June

The Sub-Post Office at 12, 'St. Bees', Wesgħat il-Ġublew, Mgarr MGR 1040, was closed for business between the 16 and 23 June 2012, both days included.

20 June

On the 20 June 2012, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 119/2012 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the first quarter (January – March) 2012. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic amounted to almost 10.5 million items, decreasing by 0.6% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2011. Total parcels and other items were recorded at 21,326, a decrease of 7% when compared to the previous year (22,938 parcels/other items sent then).

25 June

MaltaPost plc notified that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L287) at Triq il-Kanun, Santa Venera, was being closed for an indefinite period.

26 June

MaltaPost plc notified that due to the Isle of MTV concert being held in Floriana on Tuesday, 26 June 2012, the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L252) at Triq San Publiju, Floriana, would not be accessible. Therefore, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, collection from this letterbox was to be effected at 3.00pm instead of the customary 7.00pm.

26 June

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L287) at Triq il-Kanun, Santa Venera, was again back in service.

27 June

MaltaPost plc notified that due to extensive road works, the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L429) situated in Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa (Ċirkewwa), was being closed for an indefinite period.

28 June

The Sub-Post Office at 'Aquavel', Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur GHR 1014, was closed for business between the 28 June and 1 July 2012, both days included.

30 June

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH1024, was closed for business on Saturday, 30 June 2012.

14 July

MaltaPost plc notified that a new public letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L548) was installed in Triq Kananea. Attard, next to the Sub-Post Office 'Higher Grades Stationery', with service to this letterbox commencing on Saturday, 14 July 2012. The last collection times for this letterbox were after 7.00pm on weekdays, and after 3.00pm on Saturdays.

21 July

The Sub-Post Office at 'Aquavel', Triq San Bartilmew, Ġhargħur GħR 1014, was closed for business between the 21 and 25 July 2012, both days included.

23 July

The Sub-Post Office at 'Marchams', 4, Wesgħa Bir id-Deheb, Ġhaxaq, was closed for business on Monday, 23 July 2012.

23 July

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH1024, was closed for business on Monday, 23 July 2012.

24 July

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the last collection of mail from all letterboxes was to be effected at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 24 July 2012.

25 July

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of poet Patri Anastasju Cuschieri O.Carm, a special hand postmark was used on Wednesday, 25 July 2012, at the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau. The postmark was inscribed "MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU – MALTA – 25-07-12" in the outer ring, and "1962 – 2012/50 sena mill-mewt" in the inner ring, which also included a copy of the signature of Patri A. Cuschieri.



26 July

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of San Ġorġ Preca, a special hand postmark was used on Thursday, 26 July 2012, at the MaltaPost Hamrun Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – HAMRUN – MALTA – 26-07-12” in the outer ring, and “SAN ĠORĠ PRECA/50 SENA MILL-MEWT/1962 – 2012” in the inner ring, which also included an image of San Ġorġ Preca. To further mark this anniversary,



MaltaPost also issued an Occasion Card, which reproduced a photograph of the then Dun Ġorġ Preca delivering a speech in Blata l-Bajda in August 1954. The Occasion Card, No. 29 in the series, features the imprinted Lm1 stamp (depicting Dun Ġorġ Preca) issued on 28 May 2007 just a few days before his canonisation by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican. The Occasion Card, which was individually numbered, was available for sale from all Post Offices, in mint or cancelled format.

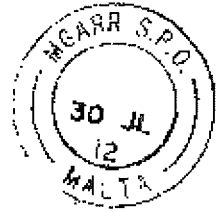
27 July

On Friday, 27 July 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a set of two stamps (within a miniature sheet), to commemorate the 2012 London Olympic Games, which were starting on that very same day. The €0.37 stamp portrays the official Olympic Games logo, which was designed by Wolff Olins, and represents the four ‘brand pillars’ of access, participation, stimulation and inspiration; the symbol is a representation of the number 2012, with the Olympic Rings embedded within the zero. The €2.11 stamp depicts Wenlock, the official mascot of the 2012 Olympic Games, developed by the London-based creative agency, Iris. Wenlock’s name was inspired by Much Wenlock in Shropshire, England, and its Wenlock Olympian Games that had in turn served as one of the inspirations for Baron Pierre de Coubertin to re-establish the Olympic Games in their modern form. This set of stamps was designed by Sean Cini. The (individually numbered) miniature sheet measures 120mm x 80mm, while each stamp measures 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. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 6/2012). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/LONDON 2012/OLYMPIC GAMES/JUM IL-HRUĠ/27-07-12”, and also included an outline image of the official Olympic Games logo in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 302.



31 July

MaltaPost plc notified that the outlets at ‘Best Mark’, 13, Triq Rokku Buhagiar, Qrendi, and ‘St. Bees’, 12, Wesgħat il-Ġublew, Imġarr, would no longer operate as Sub-Post Offices as from Tuesday, 31 July 2012. The Sub-Post Office at Imġarr did in fact cease to operate on that date, with the last day as Sub-Post Office being the 30 July 2012. However, the last day of operation of the Qrendi Sub-Post Office was in fact the 31 July 2012.



1 August

In a press notice issued on the 1 August 2012, MaltaPost plc announced that it had launched ‘SendOn’, a new forwarding service providing increased opportunities of online shopping for Maltese consumers, even from UK online stores that do not normally ship products to Malta. To make use of this service, online shoppers need to complete the relative registration form available online at <http://maltapost.com/sendon>. Following sign-up and payment of a membership fee of €5.00, the customers will receive a reply via e-mail with a unique user identifier and the UK address to be used when purchasing. Customers could then shop at any UK website, making sure to check the total cost of the service by using MaltaPost’s online rate calculator. When making the purchase, the customer is to communicate the ‘SendOn’ UK address to the online shop. MaltaPost will then arrange to ship the customer’s order/s to his/her Malta delivery address. Typically, delivery should be effected in less than a week.

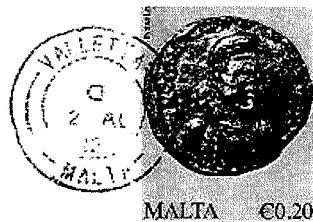
1 August

On the 1 August 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) launched a consultation document (MCA/C/1143/12) on “Regulating the Postal Sector in a fully liberalised market – an ex-ante framework for the regulation of competition”. Through this consultation document, the MCA sought views from the industry and members of the public on a proposed framework for the regulation of competition as outlined in the same consultation paper. The MCA also sought views on the corresponding proposed amendments to the Postal Services (General) Regulations. The consultation period was to run till the 18 September 2012.

2 August

MaltaPost plc announced that the €0.20 stamp from the Definitive Issue – Additional Values, had been reprinted. This second reprint of the €0.20 stamp consisted of 1,000,000 stamps. These stamps were available in sheets of 10 stamps each, with the said sheets bearing numbers 238,001 to 338,000, both numbers included. The

stamps measure 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0, and were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. This reprinted stamp was issued for sale as from Thursday, 2 August 2012. Once again, it is pointed out that in the date-stamp shown, used to cancel the reprinted €0.20 stamp mentioned, the letter 'D' in the inner ring of the date-stamp is in fact inverted. The first reprint, involving sheets with numbers 58,001 to 238,000, had been issued on 3 May 2012.



251636

7 August

Legal Notice 262 of 2012 – Maltapost p.l.c. Licence (Modification) (Amendment) Regulations, 2012 – was published as a supplement to Government Gazette No. 18,951 dated 7 August 2012. Through this Legal Notice, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-articles (1) and (2) of article 80 and by article 81 of the Postal Services Act (CAP. 254), the then Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications, after consultation with the Malta Communications Authority, brought into effect changes in the prices of postal redirection services provided by MaltaPost plc.

10 August

On Friday, 10 August 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a set of 88 stamps to commemorate the 70th anniversary of “Operation Pedestal”, the arrival of the Santa Marija Convoy in the Grand Harbour (on the 15 August 1942). Each stamp in this set, with a face value of €0.26, depicts one of the vessels that somehow took part in this historical operation. These included:

14 merchant ships – Almeria Lykes, Brisbane Star, Clan Ferguson, Deucalion, Dorset, Empire Hope, Glenorchy, Melbourne Star, Port Chalmers, Rochester Castle, Santa Elisa, Waimarama, Wairangi and the Ohio;

23 vessels making up Force Z – H.M.S. Nelson, H.M.S. Rodney, H.M.S. Victorious, H.M.S. Indomitable, H.M.S. Eagle, H.M.S. Phoebe, H.M.S. Sirius, H.M.S. Charybdis, H.M.S. Laforey, H.M.S. Lightning, H.M.S. Lookout, H.M.S. Quentin, H.M.S. Somali, H.M.S. Eskimo, H.M.S. Tartar, H.M.S. Ithuriel, H.M.S. Antelope, H.M.S. Wishart, H.M.S. Vansittart, H.M.S. Westcott, H.M.S. Westler, H.M.S. Zetland and H.M.S. Wilton;

15 vessels making up Force X – H.M.S. Nigeria, H.M.S. Kenya, H.M.S. Manchester, H.M.S. Cairo, H.M.S. Ashanti, H.M.S. Bicester, H.M.S. Bramham, H.M.S. Derwent,

H.M.S. Foresight, H.M.S. Fury, H.M.S. Icarus, H.M.S. Intrepid, H.M.S. Ledbury, H.M.S. Pathfinder and H.M.S. Penn;

2 vessels making up Force Y – H.M.S. Badsworth and H.M.S. Matchless;

7 vessels from Operation Bellows – H.M.S. Furious, H.M.S. Keppel, H.M.S. Malcolm, H.M.S. Amazon, H.M.S. Venomous, H.M.S. Wolverine and H.M.S. Vidette;

4 corvettes – H.M.S. Jonquil, H.M.S. Geranium, H.M.S. Spiraea and H.M.S. Coltsfoot;

2 fleet oilers – Brown Ranger and Dingledale;

11 vessels making up Malta Force – Speedy, Rye, Hebe, Hythe, ML 121, ML 126, ML 134, ML 135, ML 168, ML 459 and ML 462;

2 tugs – Jaunty and Salvonia;

8 submarines – H.M.S. Unbroken (P42), H.M.S. Safari (P211), H.M.S. Ultimatum (P34), H.M.S. Unruffled (P46), H.M.S. Utmost, H.M.S. United (P44), H.M.S. Una and H.M.S. P222.

80,000 sets of these stamps were printed. The stamps, which were designed by artist Cedric Galea Pirota, were issued in 11 sheets, each with 8 different stamps. The top two spaces in each of the 11 different sheets are taken up by labels, with the label on the left hand side being common in all sheets, and with the label on the right hand side reproducing a different photograph of Operation Pedestal in each case. Each stamp measures 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. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 7/2012 – set of 22 envelopes). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - --- - - - - - - - - - - MALTA/70TH ANNIVERSARY/ OPERATION PEDESTAL/1942 - 2012/ JUM IL-ĦRUG/10-08-12”, and also included an outline image of a warship. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 303.



----- MALTA/70TH ANNIVERSARY/
OPERATION PEDESTAL/1942 - 2012/
JUM IL-ĦRUG/10-08-12”



To coincide with this stamp issue, Midsea Books Ltd., in collaboration with MaltaPost plc, published a book giving a detailed account of Operation Pedestal.

The book, titled “Operation Pedestal – The story of the Santa Marija Convoy”, was written by John A. Mizzi, and was available for sale from all MaltaPost branches, as well as leading booksellers, as from 10 August 2012.

10 August

On the 10 August 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) launched a consultation document (MCA/C/12-1186) on “Regulating the Postal Sector in a fully liberalised market – an authorisation regime for a fully liberalised market”. Through this consultation document, the MCA sought views from the industry and members of the public on changes being proposed to the licensing structure (for the provision of postal services), together with the related administrative charging principles as outlined in the same consultation paper. The MCA also sought views on the proposed legal amendments putting into effect the revised licensing structure. The consultation period was to run till the 24 September 2012.

11 August

The Sub-Post Office at Fleet Stationery, Triq Testaferrata, Ta’ Xbiex XBX 1402, was closed for business between the 11 and 18 August 2012, both days included.

13 August

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH1024, was closed for business between the 13 and 20 August 2012, both days included.

14 August

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, mail from the letterboxes listed below was to be collected at 4.00pm on Friday, 14 August 2012, due to the activities related to the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady held in several localities around Malta:

Attard

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L409 – Triq il-Kbira;
- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L420 – Triq il-Belt Valletta.

Ghaxaq

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L130 – Triq San Filippu;
- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L131 – Vjal il-Labour.

Gudja

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L115 – Triq Raymond Caruana;

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L141 – Triq il-Kbira.

Mosta

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L376 – Triq il-Kostituzzjoni;

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L391 – Triq il-Kbira;

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L392 – Triq il-Katakombi tal-Bistra (Taz-Zokrija H/E).

Mqabba

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L39 – Triq il-Parroċċa;

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L40 – Triq il-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija.

Qrendi

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L32 – Triq Rokku Buhagiar.

16 August

The Sub-Post Office at C@C Stationery, Trejġet Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580, was closed for business on the 16 and 17 August 2012, both days included.

17 August

MaltaPost plc notified that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L521) in Triq l-Imgarr, Xewkija, Gozo, which had been temporarily inaccessible due to construction works, was again back in service.

17 August

On the 17 August 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. In this announcement, MaltaPost declared that during the period commencing 1 April 2012 up to the date of the announcement, no material events and/or transactions had taken place that would have an impact on the financial performance of the Company, such that would require specific mention, disclosure or announcement pursuant to the applicable Listing Rules. MaltaPost plc also stated that turnover figures were marginally lower than those for the same period the previous year; there were also lower profitability levels on normal trading activity when compared to the same period the previous year. Traditional mail volumes remained on the decline. However, this was compensated by an increase in the amount of international mail processed and a volume growth over the previous year in the parcels and packets sector.

20 August

The Sub-Post Office at 6, 'Welcome Bazaar', Misrah Frenċ Abela, Dingli DGL 1081, was closed for business between the 20 and 22 August 2012, both days included.

21 August

In a press release circulated on the 21 August 2012, MaltaPost plc notified that it had introduced its first Postal Kiosk on the campus of the University of Malta (Gateway Building), Msida. MaltaPost stated that this self-service Postal Kiosk was introduced at the University due to the high demand for postal services after regular opening hours, in this particular area. The Postal Kiosk, which is accessible and available at all hours,

all week, is intuitive and easy to use, and it provides step-by-step instructions to guide users to perform their transactions as quickly and efficiently as possible. The self-service Postal Kiosk relies on innovative software called Swift Postal, and enables customers to not only access postal services but also to pay telephone and electricity bills. The Postal Kiosk provides self-adhesive labels instead of stamps, each according to the weight and destination of the letter to be posted. Apart from the MaltaPost logo and the QR code, each label includes various details, such as the date and time of the transaction, the service requested, the postage rate, the weight of the letter, the destination, the Postal Kiosk reference, as well as the sale number. The fiscal receipt given at the end of the transaction again includes most of the details mentioned.



22 August

A new Sub-Post Office opened with effect from Wednesday, 22 August 2012, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at 6, Triq Dun Karm Caruana, Għasri GSR 1021, Gozo (within the premises of the Għasri Local Council). The opening hours of the Sub-Post Office are from Monday to Friday, between 8.30am and 12.30pm, and on Saturday, between 8.30am and 11.00am (summer time-table), and from Monday to Friday, between 8.30am and 4.00pm, and on Saturday, between 8.30am and 11.00am (winter time-table). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words "MALTAPOST – Għasri S.P.O." started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



27 August

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Aquavel’, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014, was closed for business on Monday, 27 August 2012.

28 August

MaltaPost plc notified that, with immediate effect, the outlet at 6, Drago Stationery, Ċentru Ċiviku, Dawret it-Torri, Santa Luċija, had ceased to operate as a Sub-Post Office.

7 September

On the 7 September 2012, the National Statistics Office (NSO) released the Transport Statistics 2012, covering the data period January – December 2011. This annual publication comprises statistical information on air, sea and road transport in Malta - in this case in respect of reference year 2011. It also includes an additional section focusing on transport accounts. According to this publication, during 2011, a total of 1,348,314 kg of mail was processed by the Malta International Airport, a decrease of 6.1% over 2010 (when 1,436,410 kg of mail were processed). In 2011, the mail processed in the first quarter of the year amounted to 316,440 kg, that processed in the second quarter amounted to 310,778 kg, that processed in the third quarter amounted to 316,569 kg, while that processed in the last quarter of the year amounted to 404,527 kg.

12 September

The Sub-Post Office at 6, ‘Welcome Bazaar’, Misraħ Frenċ Abela, Dingli DGL 1081, was closed for business between the 12 and 19 September 2012, both days included.

12 September

MaltaPost plc notified that the letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L408 situated at Triq il-Pitkali, Attard, was shifted by a few metres up the same street, because of construction works.

13 September

On the 13 September 2012, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 177/2012 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the second quarter (April – June) 2012. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic exceeded 9.9 million items, decreasing by 9.2% when compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Total parcels and other items were recorded at 20,130, a decrease of 10.6% when compared to the previous year (22,509 parcels/other items sent then).

22 September

The Sub-Post Office at 'Aquavel', Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014, was closed for business on Saturday, 22 September 2012.

26 September

On Wednesday, 26 September 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a set of four stamps titled 'Treasures of Malta – Historic Gates'. The €0.20 stamp depicts the Notre Dame Gate in Żabbar, the €0.37 stamp shows the Cuvre Port Gate in Vittoriosa, the €0.67 stamp depicts the Lunzjata Valley Gate in Victoria, Gozo, while the €0.69 stamp shows the Fort Chambray Gate in Ghajnsielem, Gozo. 600,000 copies of the €0.20 stamp and the €0.37 stamp were printed, while 50,000 copies of the €0.67 stamp and the €0.69 stamp were printed. The stamps were designed by artist Cedric Galea Pirotta. 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. 8/2012). The hand-stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST - ----- MALTA/TREASURES OF MALTA/'HISTORIC GATES'/JUM IL-ĦRUG/26-09-12", and also included an outline image of the Notre Dame Gate featured on the €0.20 stamp. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 304.



29 September

On the occasion of the cultural event 'Notte Bianca', held in Valletta during the night between the 29 and 30 September 2012, a special hand postmark was used on the 29 September 2012 at the MaltaPost stand set up in the Auberge de Castille, between 7.00pm and 1.00am. The postmark was inscribed "MALTAPOST – AUBERGE DE CASTILLE – VALLETTA – MALTA – 29-09-12" in the outer ring, and "MALTA COUNCIL FOR CULTURE & THE ARTS/NOTTE/BIANCA/Lejl Imdawwal" in the inner ring. On the same occasion, MaltaPost plc also issued a Post Card reproducing the €0.37 stamp showing the painting of the Auberge de Castille by Charles Frederick de Brocktorff (stamp which had been issued as part of the 'Occasions 2012' set on 3 April 2012). This Card, marked Post Card No. 38, was available for sale, in both mint and cancelled format, from the MaltaPost stand at the Auberge de Castille.



During the same event, the Office of the Prime Minister issued a booklet about Malta stamps, intended for distribution to children. This booklet, titled “Ramon u Kristina – Il-Kollezzjoni taz-zija Ġulja”, was written by Trevor Żahra, and includes general information about the first Malta stamp, as well as events and anniversaries which have been commemorated on different Malta stamps throughout the years.

1 October

MaltaPost plc announced that new letterboxes were installed in Triq Taltas, Żejtun (MaltaPost Identification Code L433) and in Triq Toni Żahra, Żejtun (MaltaPost Identification Code L434). Service to these two letterboxes commenced on Monday, 1 October 2012. The last collection times for these letterboxes were after 7.00pm on weekdays, and after 3.00pm on Saturdays.

1 October

MaltaPost plc informed that between the 1 October 2012 and the 14 June 2013, the St. Julian’s Post Office situated within Lombard Bank plc in Triq Paceville, was to open from Monday to Friday, between 8.30am and 2.30pm.

1 October

MaltaPost plc informed that between the 1 October 2012 and the 15 June 2013, the Post Office outlet situated within the University of Malta, Msida, was to open from Monday to Friday, between 8.00am and 5.00pm.

1 October

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L429) situated in Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa (Ċirkewwa), which had been temporarily inaccessible due to road works, was again back in service.

8 October

On the 8 October 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) launched a ‘Consultation and Proposed Decision on a Price Control Mechanism for MaltaPost plc and Revised Postal Tariffs’ (Document No. MCA/C/12-1372). This consultation and proposed decision took into account the main factors considered by the MCA in the development of a proposed price control mechanism for MaltaPost plc and the MCA’s position on the tariff revisions requested by MaltaPost. Throughout 2012, MaltaPost had been negatively impacted by changes in the regulatory framework, set by the Universal Postal Union. This, coupled with considerable reductions in the volumes of domestic mail, was putting increased pressures on the long-term sustainability of the universal service area, that is, quality postal services, or

products, which Maltese citizens had a right to access, at fair and affordable prices, irrespective of where they lived. Following technical consultations with MaltaPost on the price control mechanism, MaltaPost submitted its request for tariff revisions.

In evaluating these requests, the MCA applied a two-pronged test to ensure primarily that the proposed tariffs were in line with the price control mechanism and furthermore, to assess affordability implications. After due consideration and thorough analysis of the requests made by MaltaPost, the MCA believed that price increases in a number of universal services were necessary in order to safeguard the provision of such services. Also, the MCA deemed that the revised postal tariffs would generally remain affordable to users and would retain the position which, at the time, was that of being amongst the lowest within the EU. To this effect, the MCA was proposing to accept the tariff revisions requested by MaltaPost for the financial year 2013. The MCA was also proposing to provisionally accept MaltaPost's price proposals for the period 2014 – 2015, unless these were found to be non-compliant with the parameters of a future price control mechanism for the said period. This consultation process was to run until Friday, 19 October 2012.

9 October

The Sub-Post Office at C@C Stationery, Trejjet Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580, was closed for business between the 9 and 14 October 2012, both days included.

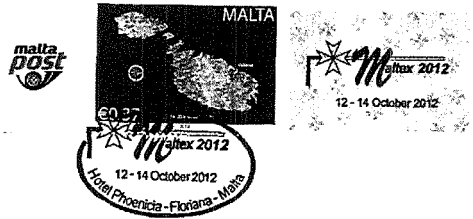
9 October

On the 9 October 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued the 'Communications Market Review' for the period January to June 2012 (Document No. MCA/O/12-1379). With regard to the postal sector, in terms of activity, the overall performance of the postal sector in the first half of 2012 was weaker than that registered in the first half of 2011. Postal activity in the competitive area was down by 6.3%, with mail volumes falling by 16,419 items. Lower activity in the competitive area was attributable to less domestic postal mail and inbound cross-border mail volumes, down by 8.4% and 9.1% respectively. Postal activity in the universal service area was down by nearly 5%, with mail volumes falling by nearly 1.1 million items. Lower activity in the universal service area was mainly attributed to a fall in domestic postal mail volumes and a fall of inbound cross-border mail volumes, down by 6.6% and 2.1% respectively. During the first half of 2012, postal mail volumes in the universal service area accounted for 98.8% of all postal mail volumes for the period. During the reporting period, MaltaPost met all Quality of Service delivery targets set by the MCA for the delivery of postal mail items. Malta's

nominal stamp prices for domestic standard letters and letter mail within Europe remained the lowest in the EU.

12 October

MaltaPost plc participated in the 13th Maltex Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Malta Philatelic Society at the Green Lounge of the Hotel Phoenicia in Floriana between Friday, 12 October and Sunday, 14 October 2012. The MaltaPost stand was open for business during the opening hours of the exhibition, namely between 9.00am and 6.00pm on Friday and Saturday, and between 9.00am and 12.00 noon on Sunday. All mail posted at this exhibition was cancelled with a special cancellation hand postmark which was inscribed “Maltex 2012/12 – 14 October 2012/Hotel Phoenicia – Floriana – Malta” and also included the logo of the exhibition. A temporary letterbox service was also provided during the opening hours of the exhibition.



For this special event, MaltaPost issued an Occasion Card, a Postal Card, a Maltex Personalised Cover, as well as a Personalised Stamp commemorating the exhibition. The Occasion Card, No. 30 in the series, depicts the Notre Dame Gate in Żabbar, with the imprinted €0.20 stamp showing the same Gate from the ‘Treasures of Malta – Historic Gates’ set issued on 26 September 2012. This Occasion Card commemorated the Maltex 2012 Stamp Exhibition. The Postal Card, No. 34 in the series, is a picture of the Grand Harbour taken from the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta, with the imprinted pair of se-tenant stamps, of face value €0.37 and €1.19 respectively (depicting the same Grand Harbour view), from the ‘EUROPA 2012 – Visit Malta’ set issued on 9 May 2012. Both cards were individually numbered, and were available for sale in mint or cancelled format. The Maltex Personalised Cover, marked ‘MaltaPost – Personalised Stamp/Cover No. 4/2012’ on the reverse side, included a personalised stamp depicting the Maltex 2012 exhibition logo, cancelled with the special cancellation hand postmark used by MaltaPost during the exhibition.

The Maltex 2012 exhibition, themed “Malta in War and Peace”, was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. George Abela, President of Malta, on Thursday, 11 October 2012. Artist Cedric Galea Pirota, who designed the artworks for the ‘70th Anniversary of Operation Pedestal’ and the ‘Treasures of Malta – Historic Gates’ stamp sets, was in attendance at the exhibition on Saturday, 13 October 2012, between 9.00am and 2.00pm, to meet philatelists.

16 October

MaltaPost plc notified that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L254) situated in Triq ir-Repubblika, Valletta, was being closed for an indefinite period because of construction works.

16 October

On the 16 October 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued a decision whereby it imposed a €500 administrative fine on Mailbox Services Group after the MCA determined that this company had provided postal services without being authorised to do so in terms of the Postal Services Act (CAP. 254 of the Laws of Malta). This decision was issued following a complaint received by the MCA (from MaltaPost plc). In the decision, the MCA warned Mailbox that if it continued to provide a postal service without having the requisite authorisation to do so, then the MCA would undertake further regulatory sanctions appropriate to the circumstances.

23 October

On the 23 October 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the 'MCA End-User Half Yearly Report – January – June 2012' (Document No. MCA/O/12-1393). This report provided an analysis of the complaints and enquiries received by the MCA in the first half of 2012 and also focused on enforcement actions and related monitoring activities undertaken by the MCA during this period. The MCA considered that the publication of this information raised awareness on consumer tools and rights in the sectors regulated by the MCA while also highlighting those practices which were creating difficulties for end-users and which were to be closely monitored by the MCA. With specific reference to the postal sector, the most common issues raised related to claims regarding late and/or undelivered regular mail. Another complaint received related to the inability to deliver bulky letter packets due to the restricted dimensions of the addressees' letterbox. Other claims received related to the collection of registered mail following unsuccessful delivery.

25 October

On the 25 October 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Listing Rules of the Malta Financial Services Authority. Through this announcement, MaltaPost informed that it had received notice from Redbox Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lombard Bank Malta plc, of the intention to increase its shareholding in MaltaPost plc from the 67.72% shareholding at the time to not more than 74.5%.

31 October

On Wednesday, 31 October 2012, MaltaPost plc issued the Christmas 2012 stamp set. This set of three stamps reproduced Old Master paintings representing the Holy Family. The stamps depict the paintings “The Adoration of the Magi”, by a German follower of Peter Paul Rubens – stamp value €0.20, “The Holy Family”, by the Circle of Denys Calvaert – stamp value €0.37, and the “Holy Family”, by the Dutch School – stamp value €0.63. 2,700,000 copies of the €0.20 stamp, 550,000 copies of the €0.37 stamp and 150,000 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. 9/2012). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - - - - - MALTA/CHRISTMAS 2012/JUM IL-ĦRUG/31-10-12”, and also included an image of the Baby Jesus as featured on the €0.37 stamp of this set. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 305.



31 October

On the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Giovanni Pietro Francesco Agius De Soldanis, a Gozitan cleric, linguist, librarian and historian, a special hand postmark was used on Wednesday, 31 October 2012, at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 31-10-12” in the outer ring, and “G.P.F. AGIUS DE SOLDANIS/300 SENNA MINN TWELIDU/1712 – 2012” in the inner ring, which also included an image of Agius De Soldanis in the centre. This postmark was designed by Gozitan philatelist Anthony Grech.



1 November

On the 1 November 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published Document No. MCA/O/12-1397 – “Regulating the Postal Sector in a fully liberalised market – an ex-ante framework for the regulation of competition” – outlining the response to the Consultation Document which the MCA had launched previously on the subject, as well as the envisaged next steps. In general, the respondents agreed with the need for an appropriate ex-ante framework for the regulation of

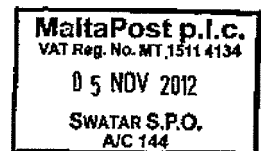
competition in a fully liberalised market environment that ensures a level playing field and safeguards the provision of the universal postal service. In some instances, however, the approaches proposed did not tally. No changes to the draft amendments to the Regulations annexed to the Consultation were proposed by the respondents. The MCA was to take the necessary steps to have the proposed amendments to the Regulations cleared and duly published. Following the publication and coming into force of the proposed amendments to the Regulations, the MCA was to designate MaltaPost as having Significant Market Power in the following postal services markets: letter-post services market, bulk letter-post services market, registered letter-post services market, and parcel-post services market. In addition, the MCA was to commence the first round of the market reviews as outlined in the same document MCA/O/12-1397.

1 November

On the 1 November 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published Document No. MCA/O/12-1398 – “Regulating the Postal Sector in a fully liberalised market – an authorisation regime for a fully liberalised market” – outlining the response to the Consultation Document which the MCA had launched previously on the subject, as well as the envisaged next steps. In general, the respondents agreed with the need for a streamlined licensing regime within the scope of the universal services that ensures a level playing field and safeguards the provision of the universal service. In some instances, however, the approaches proposed did not tally. Having considered the responses to the consultation, the MCA planned to maintain the existing authorisation regime as envisaged. The MCA was to take the necessary steps to have the proposed changes to legislation cleared and duly published. The MCA was also to update the specimen licence for the provision of services within the scope of the universal services. A new licence was to be granted to MaltaPost plc when its licence expired on the 30 April 2013.

5 November

A new Sub-Post Office opened on Monday, 5 November 2012, to provide all postal services, as well as bill payment services, at Misto Stationery, Pjazza Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara BKR 4253. The Sub-Post Office opens for business from Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and 12.00 noon, and between 4.00pm and 7.00pm, and on Saturday, between 9.00am and 12.00 noon. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words “B’kara SPO – MALTA” started to be used at this Sub-Post Office. Interestingly, the rectangular hand-stamp used at this Sub-Post Office to cancel bills,



etc. does not include the words 'B`kara SPO' like the metal hand date-stamp, but 'Swatar S.P.O.' instead.

8 November

On the 8 November 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published Document No. MCA/D/12-1412, the response to the Consultation and Decision Notice on the "Price Control Mechanism for MaltaPost plc and Revised Postal Tariffs". In its Decision Notice, the MCA stated that it was accepting the proposals by MaltaPost to revise the prices of a number of postal products/services. Revised prices were approved for Domestic Single Piece Letter Mail, Domestic Bulk Letter Mail, Domestic Registered Mail and International Registered Mail. The prices of Domestic Single Piece/Bulk Letter mail would also apply to Domestic Postcards, Domestic Printed Papers and Domestic Direct Mail. Also, International Outbound Printed Papers and International Outbound Postcards would be charged at the existing prices of International Outbound Letter Mail. MaltaPost would also be able to offer bulk-mail discount schemes on non-discriminatory bases.

The first set of changes was approved with effect from Monday, 19 November 2012. This set included: the increases approved for Domestic Bulk Letter Mail, Domestic Registered Mail and International Registered Mail; the grouping of Domestic Postcards, Domestic Printed Papers and Domestic Direct Mail with Domestic Letter Mail; and the grouping of International Outbound Postcards and International Outbound Printed Papers with International Outbound Letter Mail. The remaining changes relating to Domestic Single Piece Letter Mail (0 – 50g - €0.26; 50 – 100g - €0.32; >100g, up to 2kg, for each additional 50g - €0.20) were to come into effect on Monday, 1 April 2013. The MCA also accepted MaltaPost's price proposals for tariffs for the period 2014 – 2015, unless, following the MCA's review, these were found to be non-compliant with the parameters of the subsequent 2014/5 price control period. In setting this price control, the MCA was to assess any new developments that would come to light, as well as the assumptions, forecasts and efficiency levels considered by MaltaPost, prior to confirming such tariffs.

9 November

MaltaPost plc notified that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L542) situated in Pjazza Żjara tal-Madonna, Għarb, Gozo, which had been temporarily inaccessible due to construction works, was back in service.

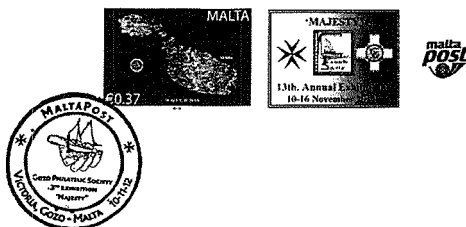
9 November

On the 9 November 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Listing Rules of the Malta Financial Services Authority. In this

communication, MaltaPost announced that following upon submissions to the Malta Communications Authority (MCA), as well as a public consultation process, the MCA had published its decision on ‘Price Control Mechanism for MaltaPost plc and revised postal tariffs’. In this connection, the MCA had accepted to revise the prices of certain postal products, with the first set of changes taking effect as from Monday, 19 November 2012.

10 November

A special hand postmark inscribed “MALTAPOST - VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA - 10-11-12” in the outer ring, and “GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY/13TH EXHIBITION/”MAJESTY”” in the inner ring, was used on Saturday, 10 November 2012 at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo branch, on the occasion



of the 13th Annual Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Gozo Philatelic Society. The special postmark was designed by Gozitan philatelist Anthony Grech. The exhibition was held at the Ministry for Gozo Exhibition Hall, St. Francis Square, Victoria, Gozo between the 10 and 16 November 2012. A set of five different cards, together with a special postcard, as well as five different personalised stamps, were issued by the Gozo Philatelic Society to mark this edition of the exhibition.

15 November

In a press release issued on the 15 November 2012, MaltaPost plc notified that following approval given by the Malta Communications Authority, new postal tariffs were to apply for different postal products/services. With effect from Monday, 19 November 2012, the following postal rates were to apply:

Domestic Bulk Letter Mail	Current Rate	Rate effective 19 November 2012
0 – 50g	€0.19	€0.24
50 – 100g	€0.26	€0.30
>100g, up to 2kg, for each additional 50g	€0.09	€0.20
Domestic Registered Mail	Current Rate	Rate effective 19 November 2012
Registration fee	€0.49	€0.90
Advice of delivery	€0.40	€0.90

International Registered Mail	Current Rate	Rate effective 19 November 2012
Registration fee	€1.40	€2.25
Advice of delivery	€0.61	€1.75

Domestic Printed Papers					
Current Rate		Rate effective 19 November 2012 (for less than 50 items)		Rate effective 19 November 2012 (for Bulk Mail: 50 or more items)	
0 – 50g	€0.16	0 – 50g	€0.20	0 – 50g	€0.24
>50g, up to 2kg, for each additional 50g	€0.05	50 – 100g	€0.26	50 – 100g	€0.30
		>100g, up to 2kg, for each additional 50g	€0.09	>100g, up to 2kg, for each additional 50g	€0.20

International Outbound Postcards			
Current Rate		Rate effective 19 November 2012	
Zone 'A'	€0.37	Zone 'A', up to 20g	€0.37
		Each additional 20g	€0.30
Zone 'B'	€0.51	Zone 'B', up to 20g	€0.51
		Each additional 20g	€0.40
Zone 'C'	€0.63	Zone 'C', up to 20g	€0.63
		Each additional 20g	€0.49
Zone 'D'	€0.86	Zone 'D', up to 20g	€0.86
		Each additional 20g	€0.68

International Outbound Printed Papers	Current Rate	Rate effective 19 November 2012
Zone 'A', up to 20g	€0.26	€0.37
Each additional 20g	€0.26	€0.30
Zone 'B', up to 20g	€0.35	€0.51
Each additional 20g	€0.35	€0.40
Zone 'C', up to 20g	€0.44	€0.63
Each additional 20g	€0.44	€0.49
Zone 'D', up to 20g	€0.58	€0.86
Each additional 20g	€0.58	€0.68

23 November

Legal Notice 408 of 2012 – Postal Services (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2012 – was published as a supplement to Government Gazette No. 18,991 dated 23 November 2012. Through this Legal Notice, in exercise of the powers conferred by article 81 of the Postal Services Act (CAP. 254), the then Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications, after consultation with the Malta Communications Authority, brought into force various amendments to the Postal Services (General) Regulations.

23 November

Legal Notice 409 of 2012 – Postal Services (Designation of Universal Service Provider) Order, 2012 – was published as a supplement to Government Gazette No. 18,991 dated 23 November 2012. Through this Legal Notice, in exercise of the powers conferred by article 81 of the Postal Services Act (CAP. 254), the then Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications, after consultation with the Malta Communications Authority, informed that MaltaPost plc was thereby designated as the universal service provider with an obligation to provide various universal services, as specifically listed in the said Legal Notice. At the same time, the Postal Services (Designation of Universal Service Provider) Order, 2004, was thereby revoked.

30 November

The Sub-Post Office at Tunny Net Souvenir Shop, Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa MLH 9063 was closed for business between the 30 November 2012 and 1 April 2013.

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. The last recommended posting date for letters/postcards/parcels sent to a Maltese address was 15 December 2012, the last posting date for those addressed to Europe was 10 December 2012, while the last posting date for those addressed to the rest of the world was 1 December 2012.

3 December

In order to further enhance the postal service during the Christmas period, MaltaPost plc extended the opening hours of a number of its post offices, between the 3 and 23 December 2012. The post offices in Birkirkara, Mosta, Paola, Rabat, Sliema and Victoria, Gozo, were to open between 7.30am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday, and between 7.30am and 1.00pm. on Saturday, while the post office at the Marsa

Head Office was to open between 8.00am and 7.00pm from Monday to Saturday. All other post offices retained the usual opening hours.

4 December

MaltaPost plc announced that it was once again marketing a set of six Christmas cards illustrating reproductions of six Old Master paintings representing the Nativity, Madonna and Child, and The Holy Family (same cards as those launched in Christmas 2011). The reproductions had been featured in the Christmas stamp issues from the previous years. The pack of Christmas cards retailed at €2.00 per pack, and included six white blank envelopes, as well as six €0.20 postage stamps. The message inside the cards read: “Il-Milied it-Tajjeb/Happy Christmas”, and each card was labelled as “A MaltaPost Product”.

4 December

On the 4 December 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this communication, MaltaPost announced that it had approved the published Preliminary Statement of Annual Results as extracted from the Company’s Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2012. The Board resolved that these audited Financial Statements be submitted for the approval of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for the 10 January 2013. The Board of Directors further resolved to recommend for the approval of the Annual General Meeting the payment of a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share, as well as the option to shareholders of receiving the dividend either in cash or by the issue of new shares. The Attribution Price, at which the number of new shares to be issued was to be determined, had been established at €0.70 per nominal €0.25 share. With regard to the financial year ended 30 September 2012, it was stated that profit before tax decreased by 32.3% to €2.06 million. Turnover decreased by 1.3% to €21.12 million. The Company’s income remained characterised by a decline in traditional mail volumes and a growth in the packets business generated through e-commerce. This growth was reduced by the negative impact of changes in the tariff structure as established by the UPU. Expenses increased by 2.6% to €19.12 million, mainly as a result of higher cross-border tariffs. Net finance income decreased by 77.3% to €65,000. The Cost-to-Income ratio stood at 90.5%. Total Assets increased by 5.2% to €28.97 million. Shareholders’ funds increased by 7.2% to €15.58 million.

8 December

Santa’s Post Office was set up once again by MaltaPost plc opposite the Law Courts in Republic Street, Valletta, commencing on Saturday, 8 December 2012. Besides providing postal services, this post office also offered children the possibility of

taking a photo with Santa Claus, besides posting their letters to him. Santa's Post Office was open until the 24 December 2012.

12 December

The twelfth and last Philatelic Bureau card (PB12) in the series issued by MaltaPost on a date when the day, month and year coincide – 12.12.12 – was issued on Wednesday, 12 December 2012. This card carried the €0.37 stamp from the 'Occasions 2012' set issued in April 2012; the card itself depicts the champagne bottle and glass shown on the same stamp. Each Philatelic Bureau card was numbered, with the stamp cancelled with a hand-stamp showing the 12.12.12 date.



14 December

The Sub-Post Office at 'Step In', Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Vittoriosa BRG 1300, was closed for business on the 14 and 15 December 2012.

17 December

On the 17 December 2012, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 244/2012 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the third quarter (July – September) 2012. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic exceeded 9.4 million items, decreasing by 5% when compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Total parcels and other items were recorded at 20,660, a decrease of 3.2% when compared to the previous year (21,341 parcels/other items sent then).

18 December

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L254) situated in Triq ir-Repubblika, Valletta, which had been temporarily inaccessible due to construction works, was again back in service.

19 December

The Year Pack including all the nine stamp issues for 2012, was issued by MaltaPost on Wednesday, 19 December 2012. This Year Pack was presented in three folders which also included all the technical details of the 2012 issues. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this Year Pack in a specific stamp bulletin (unnumbered) issued at the same time.

20 December

On the 20 December 2012, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this communication, MaltaPost announced a number of resolutions that were to be presented for consideration at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of MaltaPost plc that was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 10 January 2013. The first Ordinary 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 2012. The second resolution was for the AGM to declare a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share, representing a final net payment of €1,307,544 either in cash or by the issue of new shares at the option of each individual shareholder. The third resolution was for the AGM to re-appoint as auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers, and to authorise the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration. The fourth resolution was for the AGM to appoint Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company. The fifth resolution was for the AGM to establish at €30,000 the maximum annual aggregate Directors' remuneration for the holding of their office. One Extraordinary Resolution was also presented, and this was for the AGM to amend the Memorandum of Association of the Company as explained in the circular to shareholders.

24 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the last collection of mail from all letterboxes was to be effected at 2.00pm, on the 24 December 2012.

24 December

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 the 24 December 2012.

24 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the St. Julian's Post Office was to open between 8.30am and 1.00pm, on the 24 December 2012.

26 December

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 Wednesday, 26 December 2012. Normal service was to resume on Thursday, 27 December 2012.

26 December

The Sub-Post Office at 'Midas', 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on the 26 December 2012.

26 December

On the 26 December 2012, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued Decision Notice MCA/D/12-1451 regarding the "Designation of MaltaPost plc as having Significant Market Power (SMP)". This decision designated MaltaPost as having SMP in the following postal service markets in Malta: the letter-post services market, the bulk letter-post services market, the registered letter-post services market and the parcel-post services market. Given the position of SMP in these postal services markets, MaltaPost was required to abide by the following regulatory obligations: cost orientation, non-discrimination, provision of services on an unbundled basis, approval and publication of tariffs, as well as accounting separation. The effective date of this decision was the 1 January 2013.

31 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the last collection of mail from all letterboxes was to be effected at 2.00pm, on the 31 December 2012.

31 December

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 the 31 December 2012.

31 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the St. Julian's Post Office was to open between 8.30am and 1.00pm, on the 31 December 2012.

31 December

The Sub-Post Office at C@C Stationery, Trejjet Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580, was closed for business between the 31 December 2012 and the 5 January 2013, both days included.

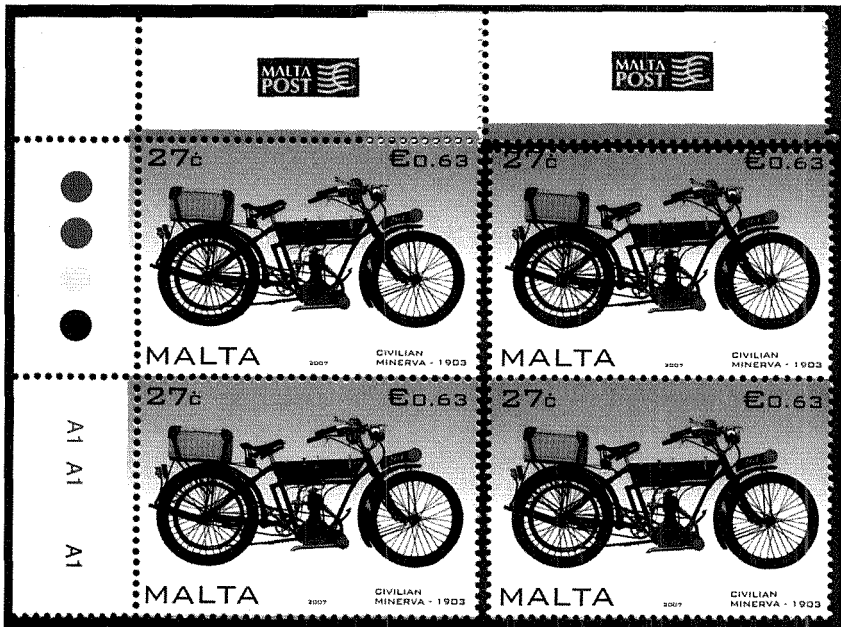
An Interesting Modern Error on Malta Stamp

by
C. Bonnici

We go back to 2007 (12th September) when MaltaPost issued 4 stamps entitled "Motorcycles". The 27c (€0.63) stamp (SG1555) featured a 1903 Civilian 'Minerva', reputed to be the oldest motorcycle in Malta, and also the oldest vehicle on the road.

The photo shows two pairs of this stamp (*top LHS corner of 2 sheets*). The pair on the left is normal, but the top stamp of the pair on the right is shorter by one perforation. Unfortunately the top and left part of the selvedge were removed before the error was noticed, but the top part was saved as shown.

The stamp with the error was bought from the St. Paul's Bay B.P.O. (Sqaq Tax-Xama') on the first day of issue.



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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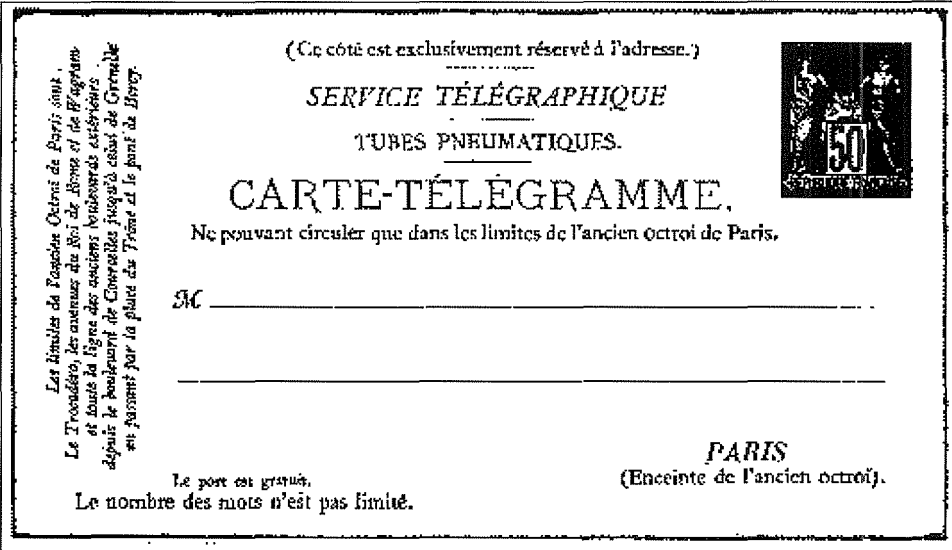
Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

continued from April 2013 Edition

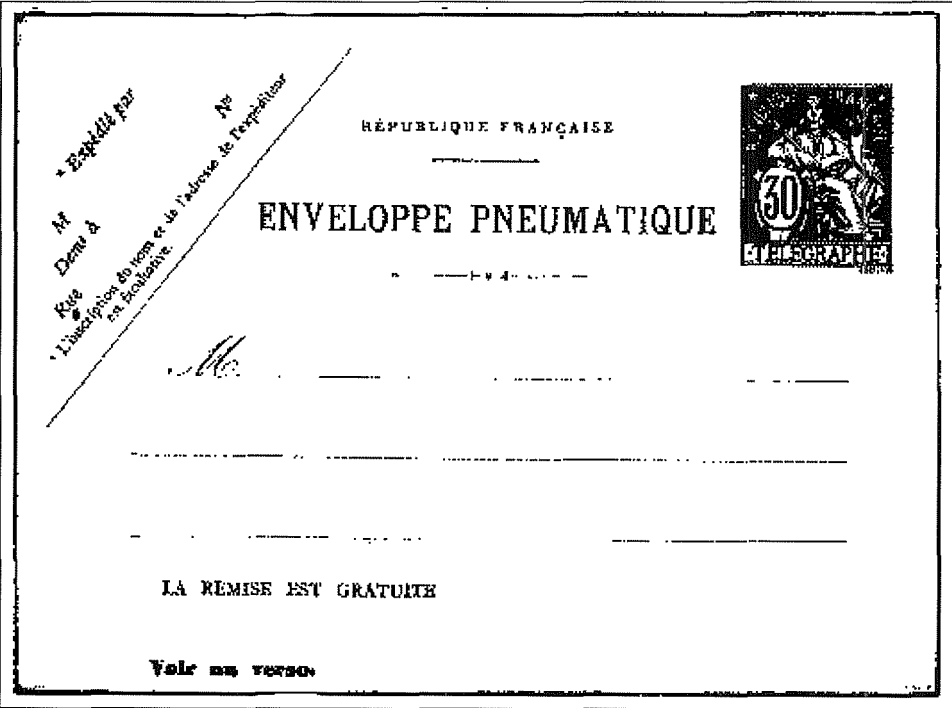
The Postal Stationery of the Pneumatic Post

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.

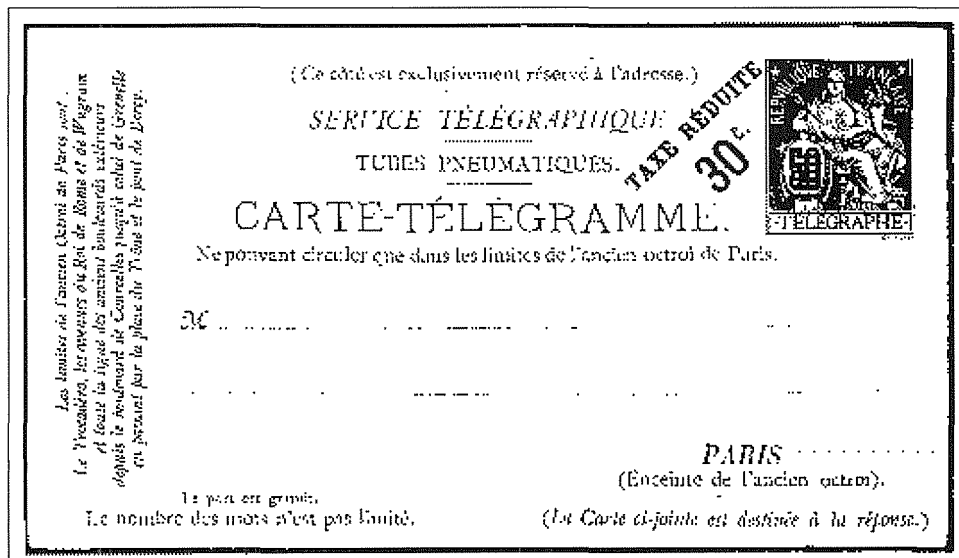


"Sage" design 50c card of 1879.

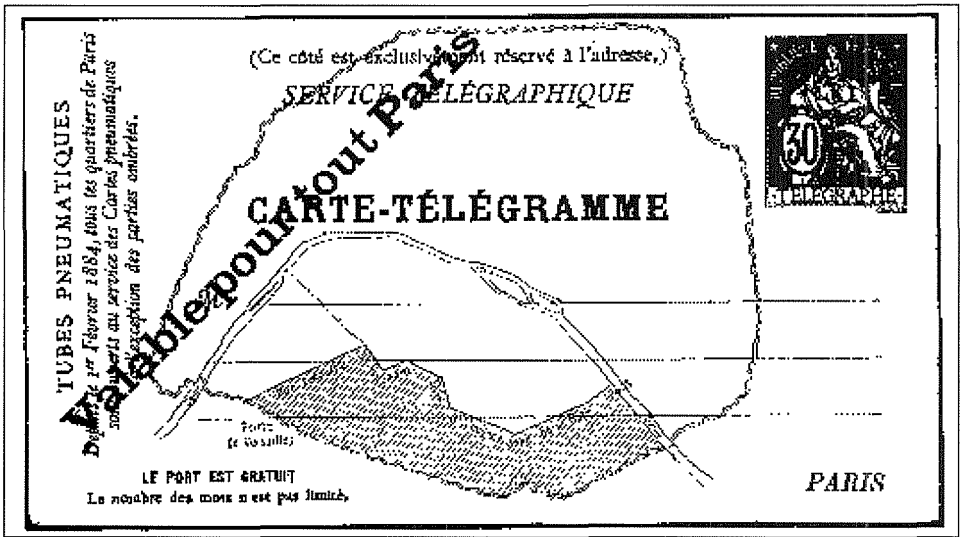


"Chaplain" design 30c envelope of 1902.

By the end of 1879 the *Chaplain* dies were completed and cards were put on sale with this design of imprinted stamp which embodied the work 'TELEGRAPHE'. The first card was a reply card, at 2 x 50 centimes, and was followed by a single card. The pneumatic post was an immediate and outstanding success, the volume of telegrams increasing by 80% and the revenue by 90%. So between 1 May 1879 and 30 April 1880. In accordance with a promise made in 1878 to try to bring down the price of a telegram the Minister of the *Postes et Télégraphes* made the proposal, approved by the President, Grévy, on 22 May 1880, to reduce the price of the pneumatic card to 30 centimes and that of the letter-card to 50 centimes. Existing stocks of the two 50 centimes cards, the reply card, and the letter-card were overprinted 'Taxe réduite' and the appropriate new value. At the end of the year new cards and a new letter-card appeared bearing the new rates. However, by this time, the decision had been taken to extend the tube network in the four stages that have been described above and three cards and three letter-cards (but not reply cards) were issued bearing coloured maps on the front to show the areas successively covered by these stages. On the cards the imprinted stamp was now in black. At the final stage, with the network covering the whole of Paris, the card and letter-card of the third stage, together with the reply card issued prior to the extensions being launched, were overprinted 'Valable pour tout Paris'. The cards of this series can claim to be the first regular coloured postcards of France.



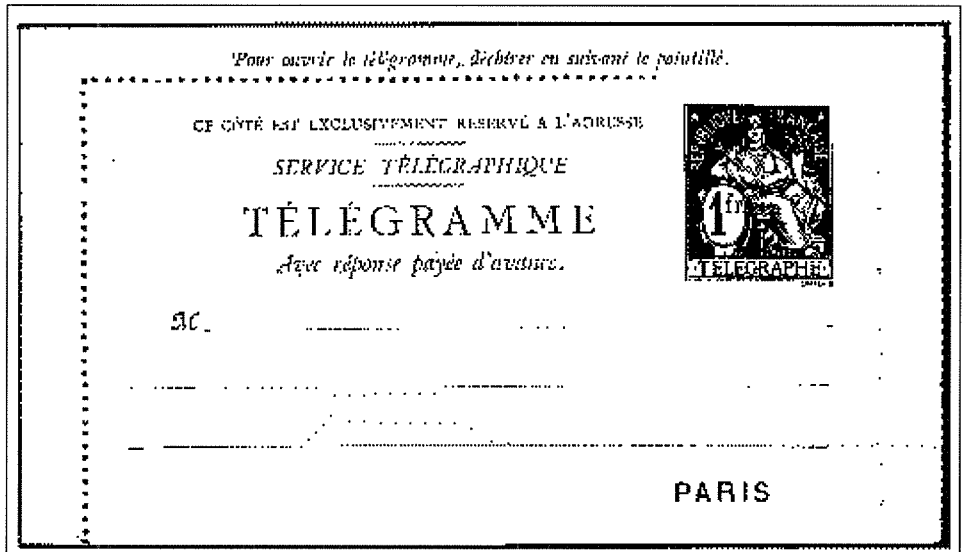
"Taxe réduite" 30c on 50c "Chaplain" card of 1880.



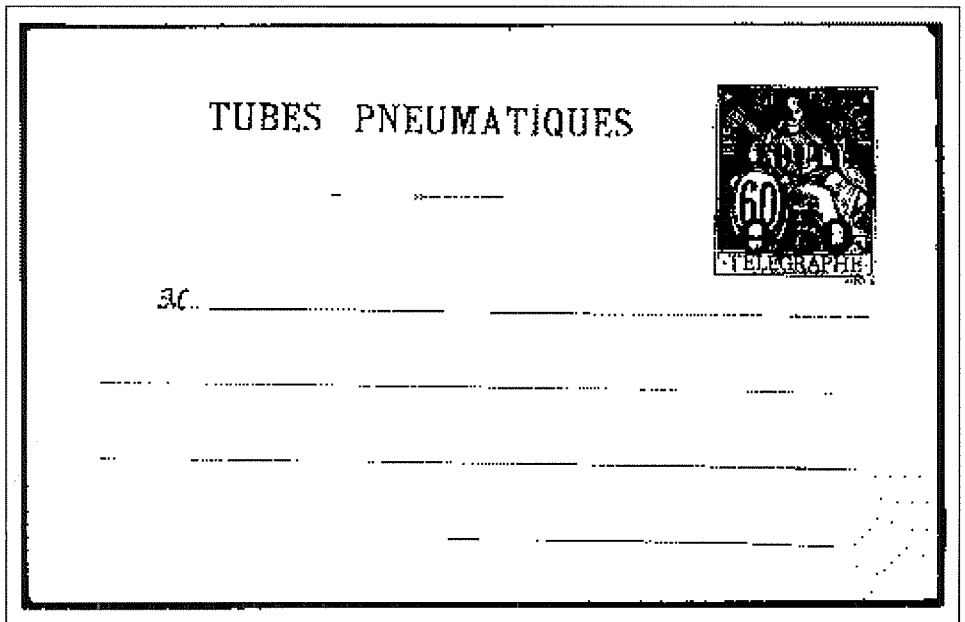
30c "Chaplain" card showing outline map of area and "Valable pour tout Paris" overprint of 1885.

New cards, single and reply, and a new letter-card were issued (in August 1885, February 1887, and August 1885 respectively) for use in this wider area and these remained unchanged until 1897 apart from minor variations such as, for the letter-cards, different patterns of perforation. During this period two new items of postal stationery appeared. In December 1884 a reply letter-card was put on sale at 1 franc; it consisted of an ordinary letter-card but printed in red with a black stamp (in two types: 1 fr and 1 F) with a small coupon joined, at first perforated and later imperforate, to be detached at the addressee's post office and exchanged for an ordinary letter-card which was delivered with the original letter-card. The second addition was an envelope, 115 x 75 mm, introduced in January 1885 and sold for 75 centimes which, within a weight limit of 7 grams, could contain anything that was not rigid. The envelope was violet with a pink stamp and was inscribed 'Tubes Pneumatiques'. In November 1886, the price was reduced to 60 centimes and existing stocks were overprinted, the old value being cancelled by either 5 or 6 lines. The definitive envelope appeared in 1889 but in 1896 the price was again reduced, this time to 50 centimes, and again the existing stocks had to be overprinted. Coincident with this second reduction, the weight restriction was amended, envelopes up to 30 grams being thereafter accepted. Up to 7 grams the charge was 50 centimes, from 7 to 15 grams 1 franc, and from 15 to 30 grams 1.50 franc, postage stamps being added to make up the correct charge. These ranges of weights remained in force throughout all subsequent changes of tariff until 1971 when the basic rate applied up to 15 grams. The tariffs quoted thereafter are the

basic rates; in the higher weight ranges the charges were generally about twice and three times the basic rate.



1fr. reply-paid Telegram of 1885.



"Tubes Pneumatiques" envelope 50c on 60c "Taxe réduite" of 1896.

In 1896 it was decided to retitling the postal stationery of the pneumatic post, the 'carte telegrammed becoming a *'carte pneumatique'*, the *'télégramme'* a *'carte pneumatique fermée'*, and the envelope an *'enveloppe pneumatique'*. New stationery bearing these inscriptions appeared from 1896 onwards, the cards and letter-cards retaining their previous formats but the envelopes were issued in two new different sizes: 145 x 85 mm and 125 x 95 mm. The same year saw the application of 'dates' to the postal stationery of the pneumatic service, other than envelopes which did not carry them until 1898; the first digit was the last digit of the year and was followed by two digits representing the week of the year. Thus: 703 denoted the 3rd week of 1897 (or 1907, or . . .) and identified the week in which the item was printed. The practice was discontinued for envelopes in 1900 but remained with letter-cards until 1939. From these dates it can be deduced that some items were sometimes reprinted at weekly intervals but at other times the periods between reprintings were considerable.

An alteration to the instructions on the back of the letter-cards was necessary after, in 1898, the use of privately printed cards, letter-cards and envelopes was permitted. The official but non-pneumatic postal stationery had, in fact, been admitted since 1886 with the difference in charge made up with postage stamps. Since additional but always flexible matter could now be enclosed in the official letter-cards, the three lines of the withdrawn prohibition were cancelled by six thin or thick bars. Reprinted letter-cards, single and reply, were issued in 1899.

After the admissibility of private stationery in 1898, many Parisian printers produced light weight envelopes inscribed *'Télégramme Pneumatique'* or *'Service Pneumatique'*. Their dimensions followed those of the official postal stationery which, after 1929, defined on the reverse the maximum as 148 x 115 mm. This was enlarged in 1942 to 155 x 125 mm and, again, in 1970. to 225 x 125 mm. Cards and envelopes exceeding these dimensions were transferred to the normal post. 1902 saw major changes: the card was abolished, the letter-card was now itself titled *'carte pneumatique'* and its price and that of the envelope reduced to 30 centimes. The price of the reply letter-card became 60 centimes. Existing stocks were overprinted with the new charge either by hand or by machine and since they included both earlier and recent issues a large number of combinations resulted.

The definitive letter-cards and envelopes appeared in 1902, each introducing on its front top left hand corner a space for the sender, if he so wished, to insert his own name and address. The letter card was initially in grey-blue with a black stamp and then in a number of shades around light blue with a carmine stamp the same as the envelope. The reply letter-card was issued in 1903 and consisted of two parts joined vertically, with the reply portion a smaller version of the outward portion and enclosed within it. When the service was extended outside Paris in 1907 with

the aid of special messengers, information on the backs of the letter-cards, single and reply, was amended accordingly.

The stamps on these letter-cards and envelopes were those of the Chaplain design first introduced in 1880 and in continuous use until 1907 when it suffered the first of two displacements by the appearance of the Sower design in purple on the letter-cards and on the envelope. The Sower design surprisingly embodied the word 'POSTES' and the first issues with it continued the information about the service being available in 19 localities outside Paris, amended progressively to 20, 26, 42, and finally in 1916 to an indefinite number of localities, being most of the towns in the then department of the Seine together with three towns in Seine-et-Oise.

The war of 1914-18 saw a general increase of prices and by a decree of 30 December 1916 the charge of pneumatic mail went up on 1 January 1917 to 40 centimes.

However, it was not until 1919 that new stationery was issued and it brought back the *Chaplain* design, the stamp being in brick-red. During the two years before the new letter-cards and envelopes became available, the old ones continued in use with postage stamps affixed to cover the additional charge, a practice to be frequently repeated when there were later increases of tariff. It should be noted that, apart from those of 1 May 1879, the first day of issue of a pneu cannot be exactly identified with any certainty since no announcements are made either before or after a new one is put on sale. Thereafter, the charge rose steadily: to 60 centimes on 1 April 1920, to 75 centimes on 25 March 1924, to 1 franc on 16 July 1925, and to 1.50 franc on 1 May 1926. Letter-cards and envelopes in grey-blue with violet stamps were printed for each of these rates except that there was no envelope at 75 centimes. In 1929, when the 1.50 franc letter-card and envelope were reprinted, a new item of information was added on the reverse: cards were on sale with a reply coupon. No such card has ever been reported and is believed that the cards never existed even though the announcement continued to appear on all postal stationery for the following twenty years. The 1.50 franc rate was maintained until July 1937 but in 1930 the colour of the stamp was changed to brick-red and the letter-cards and envelopes tended to be in a much lighter shade than before. On 12 July 1937 the rate was raised to 2 francs and new letter-cards and envelopes were printed; this was to be the last envelope.

Since 1897 all the postal stationery had carried the inscription '*République Française*'. The Third Republic was replaced on 10 July 1940 by the French State and when the charge for pneumatic letter-cards was increased on 2 January 1942 to 3 francs the new letter-card was inscribed 'Etat Français' and the stamp was the *Bersier* type of Petain in which, around the Marshal's head, are the words 'POSTES FRANCAISES'. With the Liberation of 1944 there was a reversion to the *Chaplain* design still at 3 francs but the inscription '*République Française*' was not restored.

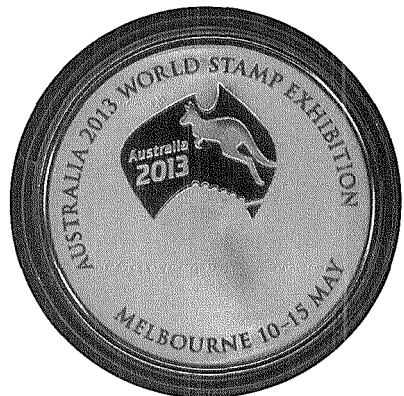
The *Chaplain* design, always accompanied by the word 'TELEGRAPHE' has been retained continuously since and so, between 1880 and 1974 it has been in use for 80 out of 94 years.

After 1944 the letter-card has kept much the same appearance in shades around grey-blue with the stamp in brick-red, but the charge has risen faster than ever before. It went up to 6 francs on 1 March 1945 and, before the new letter-card had been issued, to 10 francs on 1 January 1946. Consequently no 6 francs letter-card can be found used which does not bear postage stamps. The 10 francs rate had no definitive letter-card, nor did the next rate, 13.50 francs, applied from 1 April 1947. The rate went to 19 francs on 8 July 1947, 30 francs on 21 September 1948, 45 francs on 6 January 1949, 100 francs on 1 July 1957, and 125 francs on 1 January 1959. Furthermore, from 1 May 1947 there has been a charge for the letter-card itself. After the new franc was introduced in 1960 a letter-card at 1.25 franc was issued, raised to 1.50 franc on 1 June 1964 and to 1.60 franc on 15 January 1965. With the increase, on 3 January 1971, to 3 francs (to which had to be added a further 5 centimes for the letter-card itself), the rate from 1971 was the same as that in 1942-45 but in reality 100 times more because of the difference between the old and new francs. On 7 July 1973 there was a further increase to 3.90 francs.

to be continued

Silver Awards in Australia 2013

Mr. J. Buttigieg and MPS Journal



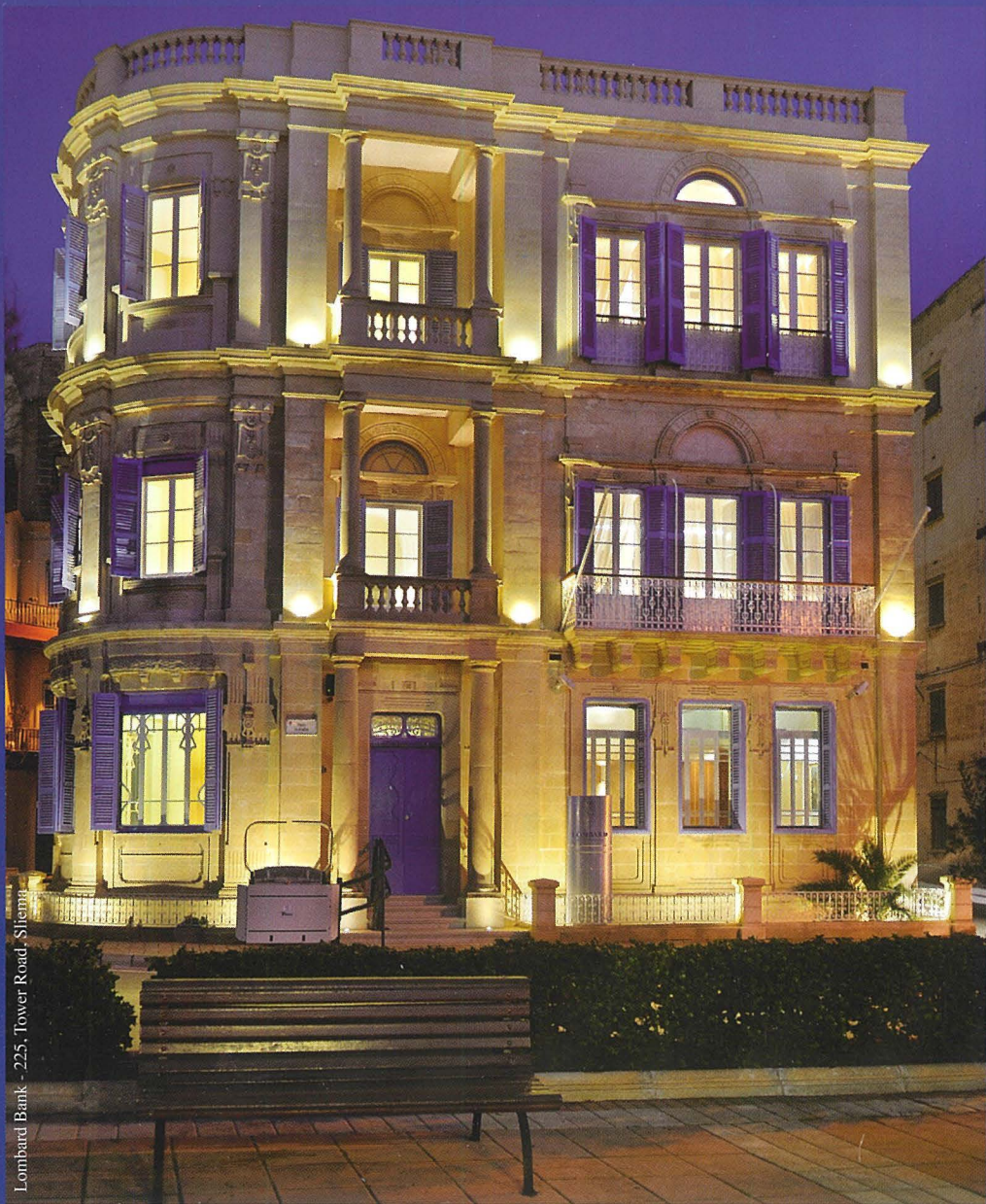
Printex



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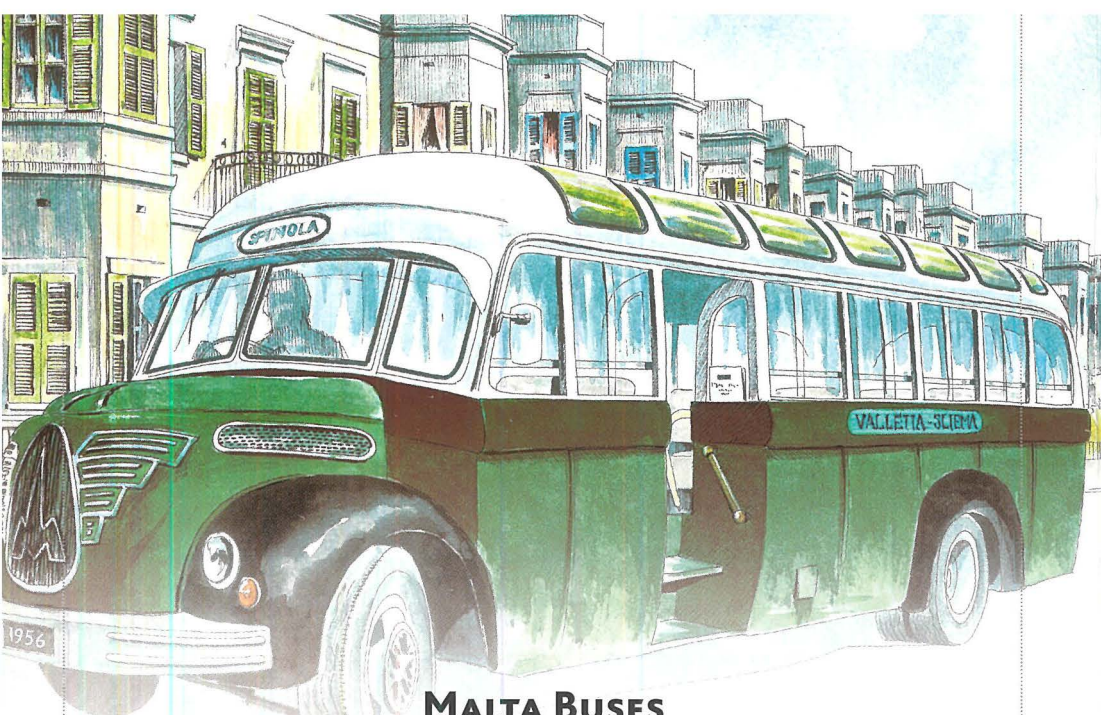
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Tel: +356 25581117 • Fax: +356 25581151 • e-mail: mail@lombardmalta.com • www.lombardmalta.com • SWIFT Code: LBMAMTMT
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MALTA BUSES "THE END OF AN ERA - SERIES II"



MaltaPost continues its series of 'Malta Buses -The End of an Era' with the issue of six stamps illustrating some of the Island's most iconic buses which are no longer in operation.

Issue Date: 27 August 2013



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Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c.,
305, Triq Ħal Qormi, Marsa MTP 1001

T: (+356) 2596 1740 F: (+356) 2124 2764

E: info@maltaphilately.com W: maltaphilately.com