

Journal of

THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SLIEMA STAMP SHOP



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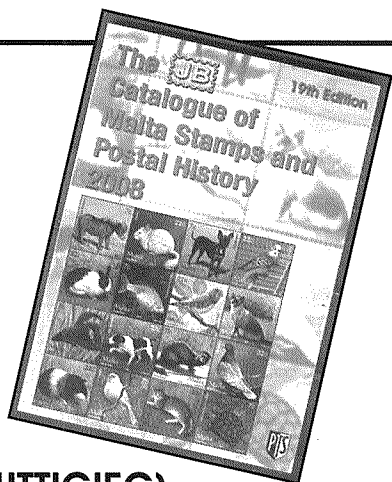
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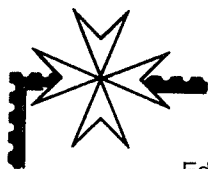
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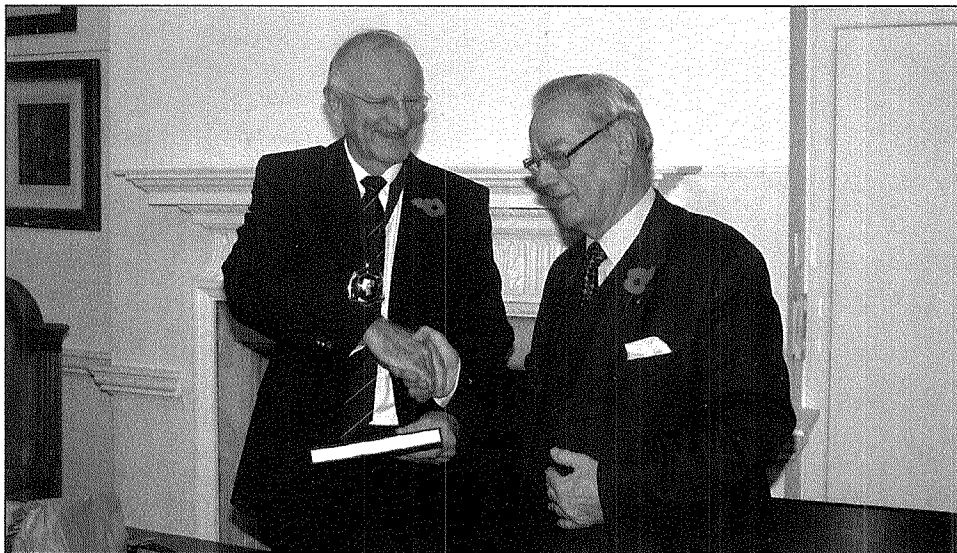
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Busy October-November for Dr Alfred Bonnici FRPSL

By
Ivan Mifsud



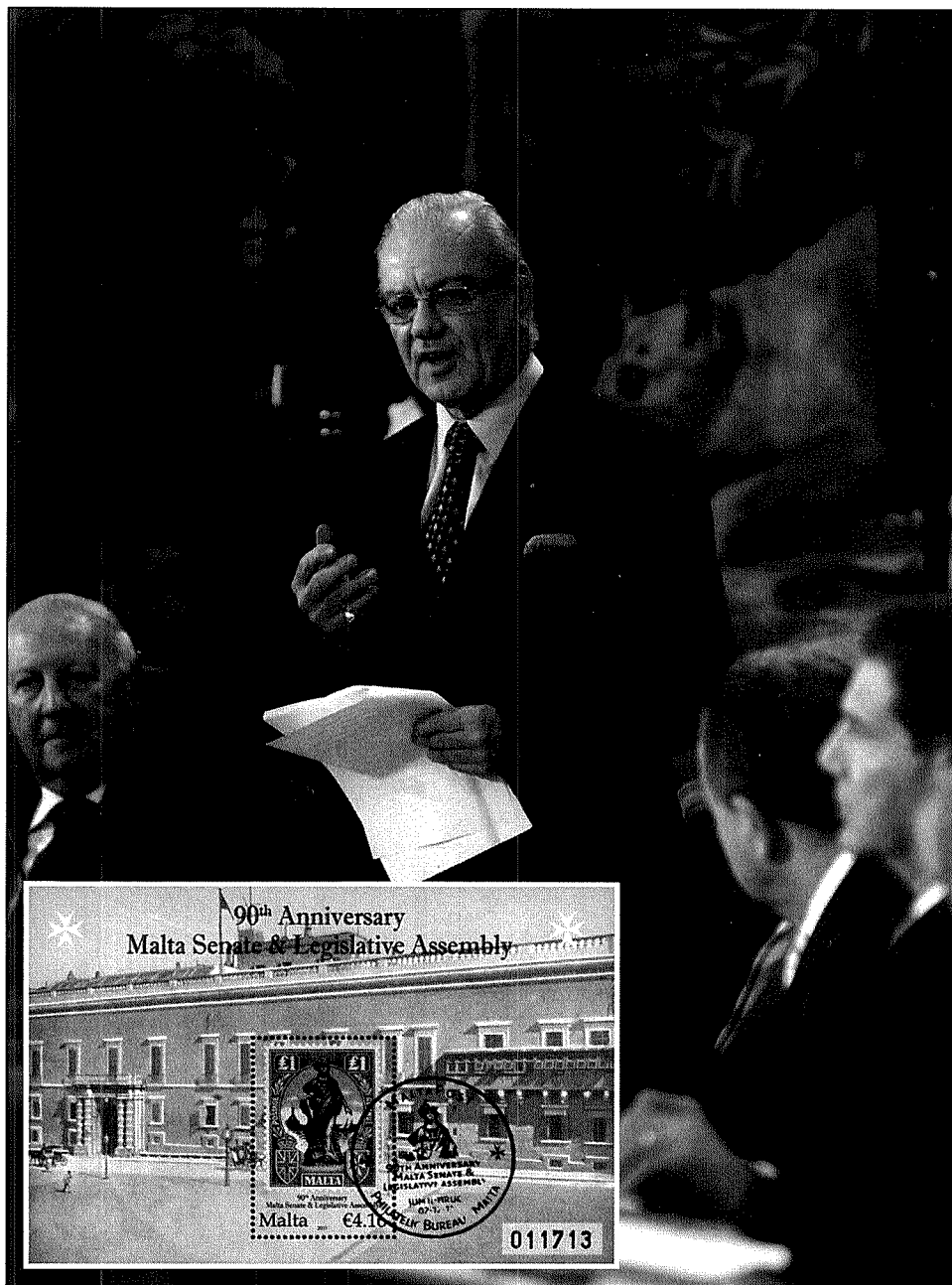
Dr A Bonnici FRPSL, President Malta Philatelic Society presenting a memento to Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi LL.D., at the inauguration of Maltex 2011, on 20 October 2011



Dr A Bonnici FRPSL, presenting a copy of his thesis “Postal History of the Order 1530-1798”, to Mr Brian Trotter RDP, FRPSL President of The Royal Philatelic Society London, for the Library, during his power point presentatiuon, cum display, on 10 November.



Dr A Bonnici MA(Melit), being congratulated by the Hon the Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi LL.D. on his graduation - MA(Melit), “cum laude” on 18 November.



Dr A Bonnici addressing the Malta Parliament in the Tapestry Chamber on the occasion of the 90 Anniversary from the 1921 constitution.

A commemorative miniature sheet was issued by the Malta Post on 02.12.2011

Dr Albert Ganado presented with the Helen Wallis Award in London

The sub-committee for the Helen Wallis Award of IMCoS (The International Map Collectors Society) has unanimously selected Dr Albert Ganado as the 2011 recipient for the prestigious Helen Wallis Award, in recognition for his varied contributions to cartography. Dr Ganado's various academic publications and his creation of the most comprehensive collection of Malta-related maps and plans has earned him the respect of academics and collectors worldwide. The Society, which has over 2,000 international members, comprises researchers, institutions, notably libraries and museums, map dealers as well as collectors, who all share a common love for the study and collection of maps and other material of a cartographic nature.

Back in 1983 IMCoS had decided to present an annual award which was then designated the R.V. Tooley Award, to be awarded to those persons who dedicated their lifetime to the study of cartography. In 1995, however, the award was renamed the Helen Wallis Award, in memory of the well-known scholar and researcher Dr Helen Margaret Wallis (1924-1995). She held the post of Map Librarian of the Map Room in British Library between 1967 and 1986.

The Award was presented to Dr Albert Ganado during the IMCoS Annual Dinner held at the East India Club in London on Friday 10th June, preceding the Annual General Meeting on Saturday and the London Map Fair which took place on Saturday and Sunday in the headquarters of the RGS (Royal Geographical Society).

The Award presentation, which always comes as a surprise to the recipient, normally requires that he or she is lured to attend the Annual Dinner in London. This was ably done with the assistance and complicity of the Malta Map Society's Secretary, Joseph Schirò and of the PRO, Dr Austin Sammut who attended the ceremony. Dr Ganado's daughters, Berta and Rita also accompanied Dr Ganado to London.

Tony Campbell, who is the current Chairman of the selection Committee and a well-known authority in cartography, held the *laudatio* after dinner. Dr Ganado was kept in the dark for as long as possible on the matter, while Tony Campbell gave his listeners a full account of Dr Ganado's academic achievements, his publications, his collection, and some anecdotes from his life as a collector.

The Award was then announced by the present Chairman of IMCoS, Dr Hans Kok, who invited Dr Ganado to receive the Award. He then gave his daughters, Berta and Rita, the honour of presenting their father with the Award. The Award consisted of a silver salver with the names inscribed of all the past winners inscribed on it,

including that of Dr Ganado. The recipient was also presented with a certificate.

The names of previous awardees make an impressive list. To give a few examples, in 1987 it was awarded to Mireille Pastoureau, whose book *Les Atlas Français, XVIe-XVIIe siècles* has become a very scarce publication and much in demand. Rodney Shirley was presented with the honour in 1995. Among other, Shirley has published a detailed descriptive catalogue of all the maps in the atlases of the British Library. In 1999 it was awarded to Günther Schilder. A festschrift in Dr Schilder's honour, entitled *Mappae Antiquae* and published in 2007, included a study by Dr Ganado on 'The Maltese Islands in Flemish Cartography'. Tony Campbell himself, who was also for some time the Map Librarian of the British Library, was similarly presented with the Award in 2000.

This memorable occasion was an honour not only for Dr Ganado and for the persons who accompanied him, but also a tribute to Malta and Maltese cartography.

Dr Albert Ganado is currently the President of the Malta Map Society - a very young and active Society, which was founded in 2010.



Dr Ganado being presented with the Helen Wallis Award by his daughters Berta and Rita in the presence Dr Hans Kok, Chairman of IMCoS.

GREX and Juror Guidelines*

*(Information Source FIP Journal No.114 of 2011.)

By

John A. Cardona

The following amendments to the General Regulations of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) for Exhibitions (GREX) were finalised by the FIP Board and have been taken into immediate effect subject to ratification at the 2012 FIP Congress.

ARTICLE 11 – Applications

Existing Regulation

- 11.1 Application for participation at a FIP Exhibition must be submitted through the Commissioner of the country where the applicant resides. Applications can also be submitted by residents of non-members through the Commissioner of a Member to which they are associated.
- 11.2 On application the exhibitor must sign a declaration of ownership of the exhibit and agree to accept all FIP regulations.

Amendment

- 11.3 *An exhibitor may change the country from where he exhibits by simply informing the original country and the FIP Secretary General in writing by Registered Mail of his decision and stating the new country from which he will be exhibiting in the future. A copy of this letter must be sent to the original country Federation. The new country Federation must also agree to the change in writing to the FIP Secretary General. This change is fixed and exclusive for at least five years, starting from the day FIP records the change. The exhibitor must also indicate in writing to all parties concerned some personal or Society affiliation to the new exhibiting country Federation as indicated in FIP Statute Article 48.1.*
- 11.4 *If the exhibitor is also a FIP Accredited Juror, the new exhibiting country Federation has the option of requesting him as a FIP Juror affiliated with the new Federation by writing to the FIP Secretary General to ask for the approval of the FIP Board.*

Reason for Amendment

- 11.3 This helps to correct problems that have arisen wherein country Federations have used their authority to not allow exhibitors permission to exhibit in international FIP exhibitions. Permission to apply to exhibit in international

exhibitions should not be used as a weapon of control by restricting the rights of individuals to exhibit. This new Article gives individuals a mechanism to change their exhibiting country if such a change is needed and appropriate.

This provides a simplified way to transfer a FIP Juror Accreditation from one Federation to another with the approval of the FIP Board.

ARTICLE 15 – Limitation on Entries

Existing Regulation

15.2 Jury members, senior consultants to the Jury, members of the Expert Group, the FIP Consultant and apprentice Jury members who are serving at that exhibition and their blood relations and relations by marriage are not eligible to participate in any Competitive Class.

Amendment

15.2 *Jury members, senior consultants to the Jury, members of the Expert Group, and apprentice Jury members who are serving at that exhibition and their blood relations and relations by marriage are not eligible to participate in any Competitive Class.*

Reason for Amendment

15.2 This will allow the FIP Consultant the choice of exhibiting in future exhibitions. The FIP Board Members will be acting as Jurors in fewer upcoming exhibitions and removal of the constriction allows the Consultant the chance to exhibit. New Guidelines being prepared for FIP Consultants make it clear that the Consultants will not be entering the Jury Room during exhibitions and procedural problems in the Jury regarding FIP Rules, etc, are to be managed by the Honorary President of the Jury, normally the FIP President or his designee as is specified in Article 32.1 of the GREX.

ARTICLE 21 – Appointment of Commissioners

Existing Regulation

21.4 Failure to appoint a Commissioner will be interpreted as the intention of the FIP Member not to appoint a Commissioner for the Exhibition in question. If no Commissioner is appointed then the National Federation shall act as Commissioner. If the Member declines to appoint the Federation as Commissioner no exhibits can be accepted from that Member.

Amendment

21.4 Failure to appoint a Commissioner will be interpreted as the intention of the FIP Member not to appoint a Commissioner for the Exhibition in question. If no Commissioner is appointed then the National Federation shall act as Commissioner. If the Member declines to appoint any Commissioner, exhibitors are entitled to exhibit via another Federation Commissioner with the agreement of that Commissioner's own Federation. Nevertheless, any such transport will not affect the listing of the original country Federation of the exhibitor on entry forms, catalogues, and Palmarès.

Reason for Amendment

The previous wording of Article 21.4 was unfair in that it did not allow exhibitors some flexibility to exhibit in an exhibition where a specific country Federation decided not to appoint a Commissioner. This allows the use of another Commissioner to accept to carry an exhibit from another country. However, the exhibit will still be listed by the Exhibition as coming from the home country of the exhibitor.

ARTICLE 51 – Transport of Exhibits

Existing Regulation

- 51.1 The exhibitors will bear the charges for sending the exhibits to the host country but any charges in the host country are to be borne by the Exhibition Management. The Exhibition Management shall return all exhibits at its own expense and by the same manner of transportation (including sending the exhibits as valuable cargo) as the Exhibitor or Commissioner submitted them unless an alternative method has been requested and agreed in advance.
- 51.2 If the exhibit is returned by insured post, the Exhibition Management is liable only to the maximum cover permitted by the Postal Authorities.
- 51.3 Excess baggage allowance for return of hand carried exhibits shall be determined by the weight of the incoming exhibits plus a minimum of 10% for catalogues, prizes and medals if carried by the Commissioner.

Amendment

51.1 The exhibitors will bear the charges for sending and returning the exhibits to the host country but any charges in the host country are to be borne by the Exhibition Management.

Reason for Amendment

These three articles have been a contentious issue at a number of recent exhibitions

and the Board feels that the sponsoring exhibitions should not have to bear the burden of these excess costs. Such costs, if any, should be a matter between the individual Commissioners and the exhibitors and taken into account beforehand.

ARTICLE 56 – Congress

Existing Regulation

56.2 The organizers of a FIP Congress are responsible for the technical and organisational preparations and holding of the Congress. They are obliged to:

- provide suitable rooms for the Congress, for meetings of the FIP Board and for meetings of the FIP Philatelic Commissions;
- organise simultaneous translation in English, German, French and Spanish and tape-recording of the plenary meeting of the Congress;
- establish a Congress secretariat with multi-lingual secretaries and necessary office equipment.

56.3 The organizers of a FIP Congress are responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses (equivalent to those provided under Article 35 and 36 of GREX) of

- the FIP Board;
- the Secretary General;
- the Chairman of the Commissions and Sections; and
- Consultants (appointed under Article 39 of the Statutes).

Lisbon, October 2010.

Amendment

56.2 *The organizers of a FIP Congress are responsible for the technical and organisational preparations and holding of the Congress. They are obliged to:*

- provide suitable rooms for the Congress, for meetings of the FIP Board and for meetings of the FIP Philatelic Commissions;
- organize simultaneous translation in a minimum of two languages and audio recording of the plenary meeting of Congress;
- Establish a Congress secretariat with necessary office equipment.

56.3 The organizers of a FIP Congress are responsible for the travel and

accommodation expenses (equivalent to those provided under Article 35 and 36 of GREX) of

- the FIP Board;
- the Secretary General; and
- Consultants (appointed under Article 39 of the Statutes).

Zurich, February 2011.

Reason for Amendment

56.2 The Current four language requirement is outdated and not cost effective and discourages Organising Committees from wanting to host a FIP Congress.

A change to stipulating only two languages allows FIP to choose the most appropriate languages considering the location of the Congress.

A written requirement to support multi-lingual secretaries in an office at the Congress site is outdated and not cost effective.

56.3 A requirement for the organizers of a FIP Congress to pay all of the travel and accommodation expenses of all the Commission and the Section Chairmen has been a major deterrent in locating venues for past FIP Congresses. In many cases these Chairmen are members of the Jury of the concurrent Exhibition or have other means of support. Eliminating this requirement will allow more choice for future Congress venues.

Guidelines for the duties and accreditation of Jurors In FIP World and specialized Exhibitions

by
John A. Cardona

CHAPTER II - Accredited Jurors

ARTICLE 2 – Period of Service

Existing Regulation

2.1 Jurors shall remain on the accredited list for a period of eight years after which they may be required to be reassessed unless:

- they have been nominated or approved as a Team Leader
- they have served at least twice in the previous four years.

Amendment

2.1 *Jurors shall remain on the accredited list for a period of ten years after which they may be required to be reassessed unless:*

- they have served at least twice in the previous eight years.

Reason for Amendment

This change simply makes the years of initial period of service slightly longer to all for the somewhat reduced numbers of opportunities to serve on juries due to fewer Exhibitions in the last decades.

Removing the Team Leader clause makes sense as it would really never be applicable.

ARTICLE 3 – Newly accredited Jurors.

A report by the Team Leader endorsed by the Jury President shall be submitted on the first occasion a newly accredited juror serves as a full member of a jury. This shall cover the competence and diligence of the juror.

Amendment

As above but add “3.1” at the beginning of the clause.

3.2 *If in the selection of a Jury, the FIP Board decides not to take any of the three Jurors nominated by the Member Federation according to the GREX, then the Board may select an additional newly accredited or other Juror from the same Federation.*

Reason for Amendment

The change in this clause allows more flexibility for the FIP Board to select underused newly accredited jurors for exhibitions and other jurors as well.

CHAPTER III – Apprentice Juror

ARTICLE 12 – Requirements

Existing Regulation

12.1 To serve as an Apprentice at a FIP Exhibition an Apprentice Juror shall:

- a) Have been an exhibitor in a FIP exhibition and must have received at least Vermeil Medal in a Competitive Class.

Amendment

12.1 To serve as an Apprentice at a FIP Exhibition an Apprentice Juror shall:

- a) *Have been an exhibitor in a FIP exhibition and must have received at least a Vermeil Medal within the last 10 years from the application date in his specific selected Competitive Class.*

Reason for Amendment

This brings the initial requirement for an Apprentice in line with the current requirement for someone to Cross Accredit. As cross accreditation candidates must have received their Vermeil Medal within 10 years of cross accreditation, it makes sense for this to apply to new Apprentices as well.

ARTICLE 14 – Accreditation

Amendment

(New Clause) 14.5 An Apprentice can only apply for and be approved for one philatelic Class.

Change the number of existing Clause 14.5 to “14.6”.

Reason for Amendment

If Cross Accreditation applicants must go through fairly stringent requirements to become accredited in another Class, it is unfair to allow a first time Apprentice to be initially accredited in more than one Class.

CHAPTER IV – Cross Accreditation

Article 16 – Accreditation

Amendment

(New Clause) 16.4 To Cross Accredit an applicant must participate as a Juror during the entire exhibition. This can be accomplished by being present on the Jury without voting rights or other financial and social privileges given to voting Jury Members.

Reason for Amendment

Cross Accreditations in the past have managed simply by an applicant showing up and judging 3 – 4 exhibits in the new Class and being approved or not. Having the applicant participate in the entire judging process of the Exhibition allows a much better chance for the applicant to be fairly evaluated from a number of parameters.

CHAPTER VI – Team Leaders

Article 22 – Team leader apprentice

Existing Regulation

22.2 In order to be selected as a possible Team Leader, the accredited Juror must:

- have acted at least in three opportunities as a Juror in the category in which he is accredited
- have participated in courses or seminars organized for Team Leaders in different classes of Competition recognized by the FIP.

Amendment

22.2 *In order to be selected as a possible Team Leader, the accredited Juror must:*

- have acted at least in three opportunities as a full Juror in the category in which he is accredited

22.6 *To serve as a Team Leader Apprentice the applicant must be acting as a full Juror during the designated FIP Exhibition.*

22.7 *Any Juror who is already certified as a Team Leader in a Class and wishes to be designated as a Team Leader in another Class for which he is already certified as a Juror must send in a request to the FIP Board for consideration.*

Reason for Amendment

22.2 A requirement that was not completely clear in the past.

The courses and seminars organized for Team Leaders have never been put in place and are not intended to be at this point in time.

22.6 This was not stated in the Guidelines before and needed to be clarified as an obvious requirement and also to make clear his role in the designated FIP Exhibition.

22.7 This cuts out a lot of unrequired work and forms. A person who is an already qualified Team Leader would normally be equally qualified to serve as a Team Leader in another Class in which the individual is already an accredited Juror.

Belgian Postal Stationery

By
Chris Howe

The standard reference work for Belgian Postal Stationery is “Les Entiers Postaux de Belgique” published by the Postal Stationery Society of Belgium with the support of Pro-Post, available in French or Dutch.

In order to fully understand the complexity of Belgian Postal Stationery it is necessary to understand the country’s history. Belgium is a relatively new country on the European scene with most of modern Belgium forming part of the Southern Netherlands, a part of the Low Countries or “Pays-Bas”. The Southern Netherlands were controlled in turn by Spain (Spanish Netherlands 1579–1713) and then Austria (Austrian Netherlands 1713–94) before being captured by the French in 1794 and annexed to France. The Netherlands (Holland) overthrew French rule in 1813 and became known as the “United Provinces of the Netherlands”. After the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, the Congress of Vienna created the “United Kingdom of the Netherlands” for the House of Orange-Nassau by combining the United Provinces of the Netherlands with the former Austrian Netherlands. The Dutch Monarchy was unpopular with the Catholic French speaking majority in the South and there was economic disparity with trade and industry being centred in the Flemish speaking North. In August 1830 the Belgian Revolution broke out instigated by French speaking intellectuals and the Catholic clergy supported by French troops. The European powers alarmed by this turn of events rejected calls for a Republic and wary of French designs vetoed a French candidate as King in favour of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the uncle by marriage of Queen Victoria. Leopold was inaugurated as King on 21st July 1831.

Under the monarchy Belgium rapidly industrialised and communications expanded rapidly.

On May 5, 1835 the first railway in continental Europe opened between Brussels and Mechelen. By 1870, the Belgian state owned 863 km of rail lines, while the private enterprises owned 2,231 km.

The first adhesive postage stamps were issued on 1st July 1849.

The first telegraph line, running along the railway line from Brussels to Antwerp, was opened privately in 1846. In 1850 telegraph service provided by the state expanded over the next two years to include the country’s main towns and links with adjoining countries.

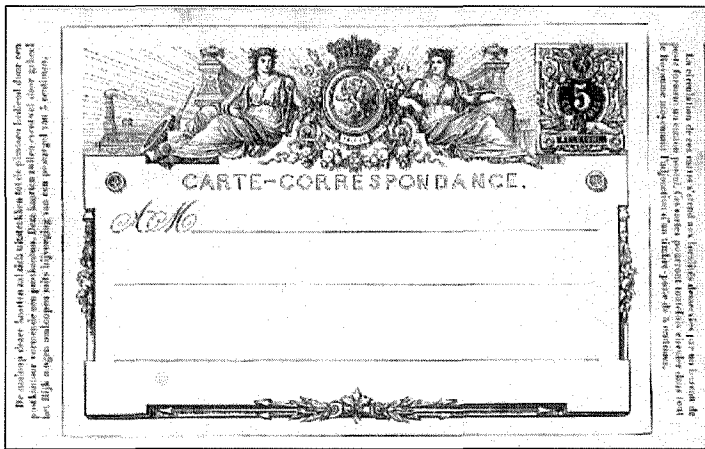
The first Belgian telephone services began to operate privately in 1879.

Postage stamps did not indicate the country of origin until 1869 and then in French only. The Flemish language had to wait until 1893. Language became an

increasingly complex factor in postal stationery.

French was originally the single official language adopted by the ruling elite but it progressively lost its overall importance as Flemish, since aligned with Dutch, became recognized as well. This recognition became official in 1898 and in 1967 a Dutch version of the Constitution was legally accepted. Belgium is now a federal state with the French speaking part reportedly being heavily subsidised by the Dutch speaking one.

Belgium employs, or has employed, the usual variety of postal stationery with the exception of paper wrappers. Postal stationery cards are the most complex element and form the subject of this article.

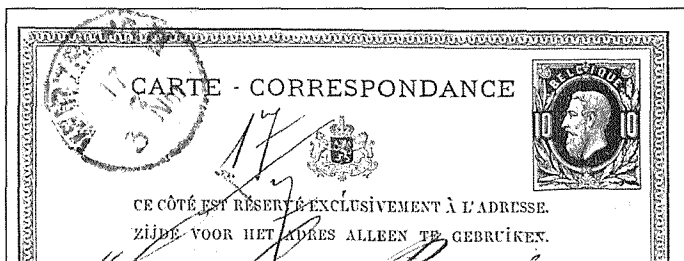


The First item of postal stationery issued on 1st January 1871 was a “CORRESPONDANCE CARD” that was only valid within the postal area where posted. Instructions to this effect were printed on the edges of the card. It could be upgraded to the whole kingdom by the addition of a 5-centime adhesive postage stamp. The example illustrated is a reprint, scarcer than the original and distinguished by the absence of horizontal line between the 2nd and 3rd address lines. The design of the imprint stamp depicting a lion lying down and facing the viewer “couchét gardant” is the same as the low value definitive postage stamps of the time, established a trend that continued until 1985 where a lion, either alone or within the state arms, was employed on internal postal stationery items.

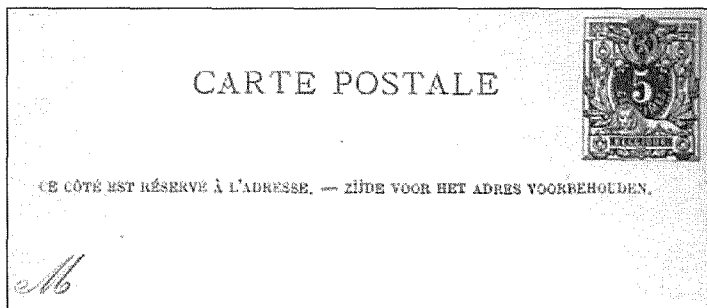
A year later the validity of the 5-centime card was extended to the whole of Belgium. Existing stocks were cut down from 140 mm wide to 120 mm to remove the instructions. New printings were 120 mm wide. The cut down cards can usually be distinguished from the new printings by remnants of the vertical lines separating the instructions from the rest of the card.



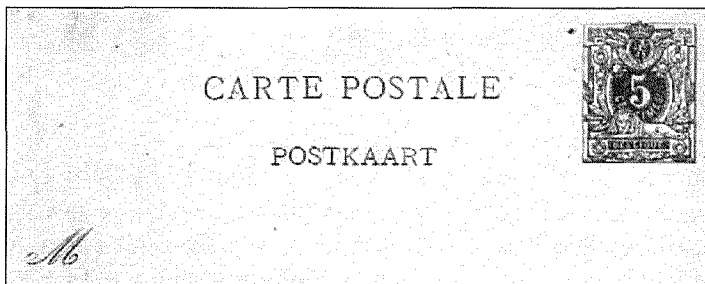
On 1st January 1873 a much simpler design of “CORRESPONDANCE CARD” was issued with the lion couchét gardant in rose lilac and also a similar card with a reply-paid card attached. The issue of outward/reply-paid cards continued until 1st June 1972. Unlike the simple post card that remained in the French language the nature of the outward/reply-paid pair was identified in both French RÉSPONSE PAYÉE and Flemish ANTWOORD BETAALD with just RÉSPONSE – ANTWOORD on the reply part.



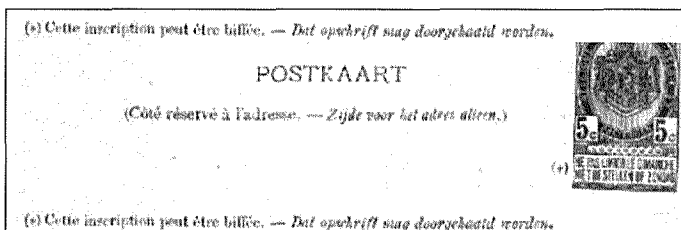
On 1st July 1875 Belgium joined the “General Postal Union”, as a result of the Treaty of Berne signed on 9th October 1874. This led directly to the issue of a 10-centimes “CORRESPONDANCE CARD” specifically for use to foreign destinations employing the effigy in black of King Leopold II looking to the left as the imprint stamp. The corresponding adhesive postage stamp issued in 1869 was in green.



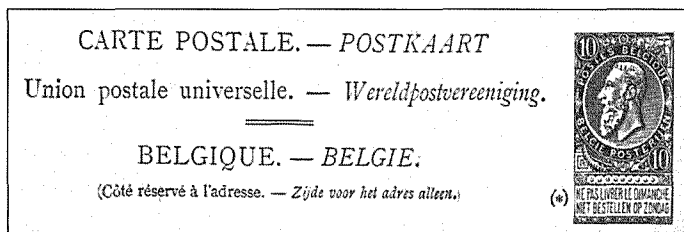
In 1879 the term “CORRESPONDANCE CARD” was replaced with “CARTE POSTALE” i.e. “Postcard” still using the lion couchét gardant in green although the postage stamp was in ochre.



In 1884 the legend became bi-lingual “CARTE POSTALE” above with “POSTKAART” below in smaller font. The imprint stamp remained in French only. The colour of the imprint stamp was now the same as the corresponding postage stamp probably to comply with UPU rules?

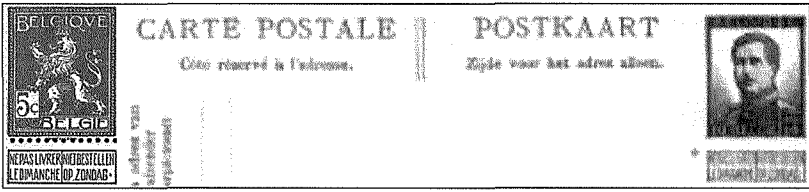
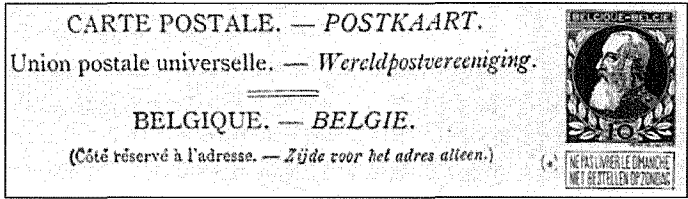


In 1887 the size of the cards was increased from 123 mm x 88 mm to 140 mm x 90 mm. This type of imprint stamp is known as “Armoiries” the coat of arms of Belgium. It was employed for two adhesive postage stamp issues one in 1893 and the other in 1907. The instruction at the bottom of the card relates to Sunday delivery.

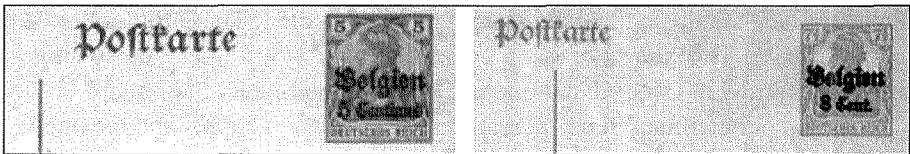


In June 1893, under the strong influence of the Catholic church, adhesive stamps were issued with a detachable label or “bandelette” with the bi-lingual legend “NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE NIET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAG” “DO

NOT DELIVER ON SUNDAY". In December 1893 the postal stationery series followed suit. Instructions on the bottom of the card were initially linked to the bandelette by an asterisk, then by (2) and then back to the asterisk as the number of instructions on the card changed. The design of the imprint stamp for the foreign mail rate depicts King Leopold II in what is known as the "Fine barbe" issue, first applied to postage stamps in 1893. This image was superceded in 1905 by what is known as the "Grosse barbe".

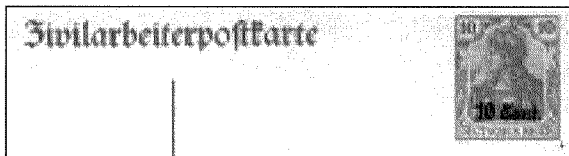


The death of King Leopold II led to the accession of his nephew as King Albert 1st in 1909. Stamps and corresponding postal stationery with a portrait of the new king appeared in 1912 and were known as the Pellens issue after the designer Edward Pellens whose name is included in the design of some of the stamps. The issue is a little complicated as the portrait appears in two sizes on the 10-centimes card and also on another without Pellens name. The internal 5-centimes card employs a rampant lion for the imprint stamp.



The Germans were well prepared for war and on 1st October 1914 "Germania" postcards overprinted "BELGIEN" and with the value in "CENTIMES" were issued. The Germans imposed rigid control over postal services and all mail was censored. During the invasion and immediate aftermath troops looted post offices and Belgian post cards were posted home as souvenirs and widely used by philatelists in the German forces. In 1916 the value overprint was modified to read

“CENT”. It has been suggested that this was an attempt to carry favour with the Flemish community. Towards the end of the year the internal postcard rate was increased to 8 centimes.

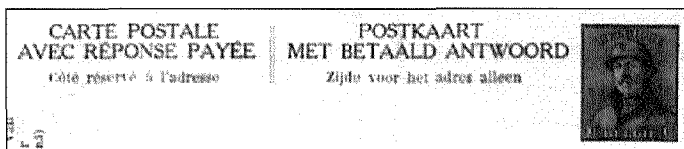
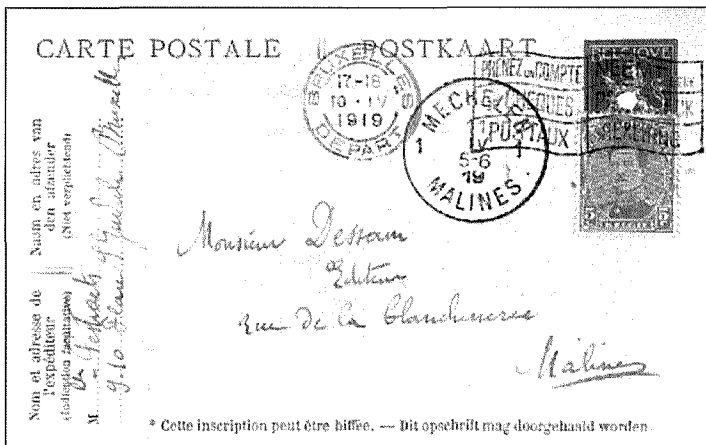


In areas immediately behind the front line known as the “etapes” or “staging” zone the civil population was administered by the military and mail was limited to open envelopes and postcards. It has been suggested that feldpost staff were unhappy handling “foreign” mail and on 1st December 1916 the legend “BELGIEN” was removed from both stationery and adhesive stamps. An alternative theory is that the items marked with “CENT” alone were acceptable in adjacent occupied areas of France.



On 13th October 1914, as a result of the German invasion of Belgium, the Belgian Government was evacuated by sea and arrived at Le Havre in France that same evening. They were accommodated at the Hotel de Sainte Adresse, in a suburb of Le Havre and on the 18th October a Belgian Post Office was opened within the French Post Office, also within the Hotel, using a loaned French date stamp. Mail originating at Le Havre and within un-occupied areas of Belgium used existing Belgian stamps and postal stationery until they were demonetarised on the 15th October 1915 on which date new stamps and postal stationery were issued. These did not have the “Sunday label”. The image of King Albert employed is rather uninspiring and different printings in London and one in Haarlem complicate the issue.

At the end of hostilities all postal materials were in short supply and the free issue of postal stationery demonetarised in 1915 was authorised to be used with a 5-cent adhesive postage stamp. [The “Centimes” appeared on some imprint stamps until 1893, subsequent issues employed “C” or no currency indication at all; so for the rest of this article the English version is used.] The demonetarised item generally, but not invariably, had a hole punched through the imprint stamp. In June 1919 a 5-cent card similar to that demonetarised was issued. This card is illustrated below with the imprint stamp overprinted for use in occupied Germany.



In 1919 there was a stamp issue to commemorate the liberation with an image of King Albert known as “Tin Hat” or “Casque” and in 1920 a postcard.

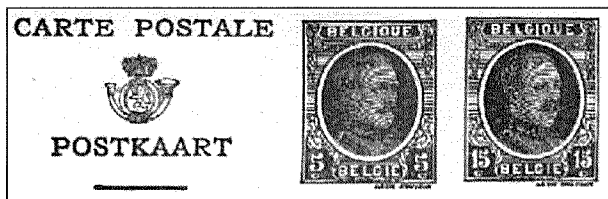


After the armistice the German districts of Eupen, Malmédy and Saint Vith plus the previously neutral territory of Moresnet were occupied by Belgium under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and then in 1925 annexed. Within these “Eastern Cantons or Kreis” a limited number of Belgian stamps from the 1915 definitive series were used from 15th January 1920 these being overprinted “**EUPEN & MALMEDY**” and surcharged in German currency. A significant proportion of the population in these annexed areas spoke German adding a new complication to postal stationery.

Subsequently on 20th March 1920 the entire 1915 definitive stamp series and also some postal stationery were issued overprinted “**EUPEN**” and the same issues also overprinted “**MALMEDY**”.

There is some confusion about post cards rates at this time. A 10-cent on yellow card was issued on 15th December 1919 for internal use and a “liberation” issue on 1st June 1920 had 10-cent cards for both internal (yellow card) and foreign use

(blue card). After 50 years of a single rate things were about to change and over the following 50 years it rose to 2,50 francs albeit with some long periods of stability. On 16th January 1985 the post-card rate became the same as the letter rate. During this 50-year period the need to surcharge existing stocks complicates the situation such that completion against the catalogue becomes a virtual impossibility.



The stamp depicted is the “Houyoux” first issued as both postage stamps and on postal stationery in 1922 and lasting until 1930 when it was replaced with a heraldic lion as shown below. In 1927 the first tri-lingual French/Dutch/German postcard was issued, all previous issues having been French or French dominant, French/Dutch bilingual. This image of the King was the last one of the ruling Monarch to appear on an ordinary postcard until King Albert II in 1996.



One-way of achieving the surcharge was to re-run cards currently in manufacture applying a second imprint stamp. The first occasion for this was in 1926 with the addition of a 5-cent imprint to the 15-cent card before a 20-cent could be issued. The rate increased twice in 1926 necessitating a 5-cent imprint to the 20-cent card and then in 1927 a red ink “10 cent” surcharge.

In some cases a mechanical surcharge was applied in the form of an elongated octagon. It is this type of surcharge that causes the massive complications of later years, as the number on the bottom of the surcharge, in this case “P010”, is unique to a particular post office. There were very few of these employed up until WWII but subsequently there may be several dozen different overprints. This is particularly true with the advertising post cards. In some cases more than one surcharge was required.

The internal postcard rate was reduced to 35 cents on 1st February 1935. The reduction in rate from 50 cents to 35 cents was initially achieved by a surcharge in red on the stamp imprint. The normal series of postcards show three types of

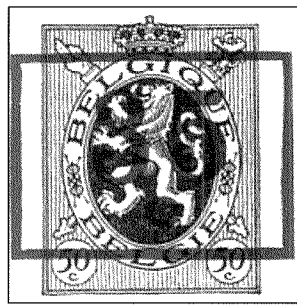
surcharge (a) “typographic”, (b) “à la timbreuse électrique” and the very similar surcharge (c) “à la pédale”.



(a)

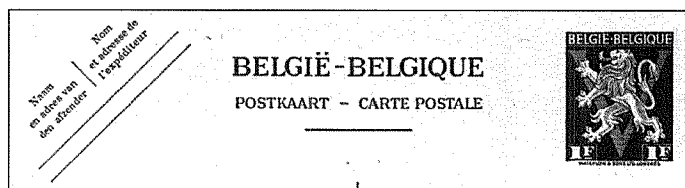


(b)



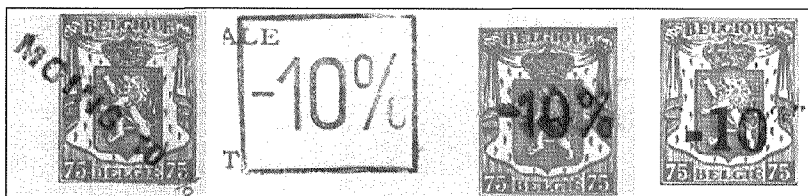
(c)

Unlike their actions in the Great War the Germans did not interfere with postal arrangements in World War II and there was very little internal censorship. They did annex the Eastern Cantons in May 1940 and in “celebration” some postal stationery and adhesives were over printed “Eupen ist frei” by one or more supporters of the German annexation within the Belgian postal service in those areas. The German authorities did not approve of the overprint and although there are some “postally” used examples their status is unsure. German postal stationery and stamps were employed in these areas until Germany’s defeat and the Germans did employ some celebratory postmarks. As these areas were now in Germany mail into and out of Belgium were censored and charged at the foreign rate.



To celebrate the victory in 1944 cards were issued in two language variants depicting a lion rampant on a “V”; 50-cent in green for internal and 1-franc in red for overseas. The corresponding adhesive postage stamps were produced in 16 values and remained valid until 1st October 1959.

An across the board reduction in postal rates was introduced on 20th May 1946 at very short notice and this was generally achieved by overprinting all existing stocks of both stamps and postal stationery with “-10%”. To achieve this, local post offices were authorised to produce their own hand stamp and as a result over 400 different overprints exist. The overprints are listed in the “Entiers” catalogue.



This design of the 75-cent stamp, known as the “Petit sceau de l’etat”, first appeared in 1935 both as a stamp and as postal stationery and lasted throughout the war until 1951. The Belgian Trade and Industry design was short lived lasting from 1948 to 1950. Following the introduction of the “number on heraldic lion” imprint in 1951 there were 9 changes post card design with a phosphor band to the left of the imprint stamp being introduced in 1968 as part of the mechanisation of handling. A ribbon or “banderole” was added to the imprint stamp design in 1977 and birds were introduced in 1986, followed by King Albert II in 1996. The simple post card died out in 2003 with a No Value Indicated card incorporating the “PRIOR” logo adjacent to the stamp. The “service” is still available through the long running illustrated card series that are widely used for competition entries – it saves the organiser opening envelopes.

There were a number of booklets of 10 cards issued from 1937 to 1942 and also in 1948. The cards from these booklets are perforated on the left edge.

Over the years 1873 to 1938 a very small number of cards were officially printed with advertising and sold at a reduced price. There is a specialist publication dealing with these. Naturally many postcards had advertisements privately applied often by hand stamps.

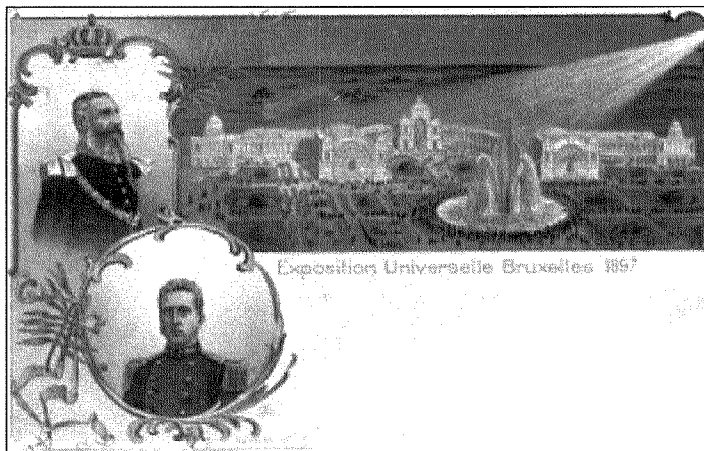
Members are reminded to pay their membership fee for the year 2012

Please send your remittance to:

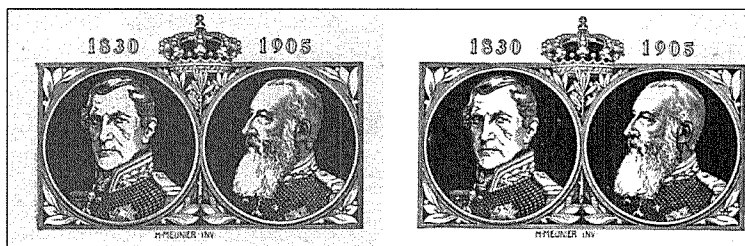
Mr. John A. Cardona

56 Triq Santa Marija, Tarxien TXN 1703 Malta

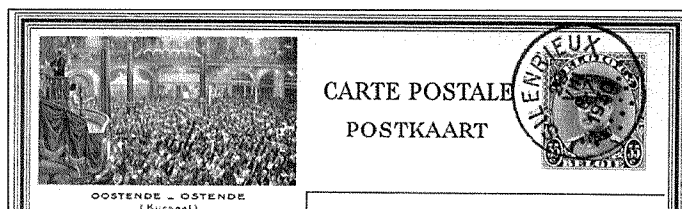
Illustrated Post Cards



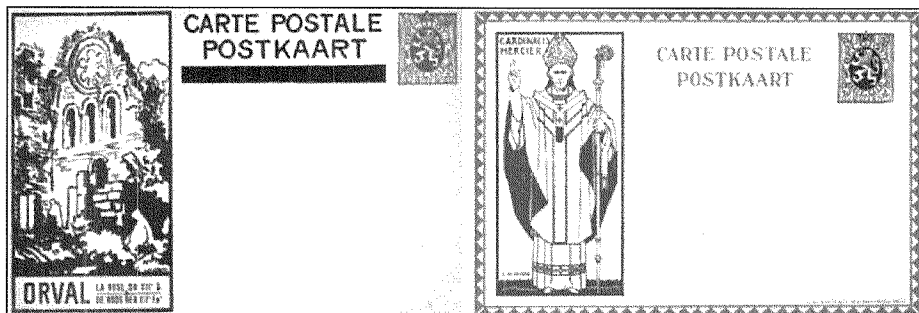
The first illustrated card was issued for the Brussels Universal Exposition of 1897 with the design printed on the reverse of the normal post card with a similar card for the 1910 Exposition.



A 4.5 mm x 3 mm commemorative design depicting King Leopold I and II was produced in 6 colours for Belgium's 75th anniversary in 1905 with the design printed top right on the reverse of the postcard. There were 2 printings of a 10 card series issued in 1936 commemorating the opening of the postal museum. A 2-card issue of 1939 commemorated the "Memling" exposition and uniquely employed the image of King Leopold III.



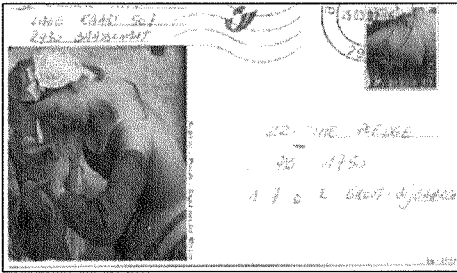
From 1928 to 1939 hundreds of cards were produced with an illustration on the postal side of the card. The majority of the early period cards were in support of tourism, initially franked at the postcard rate, but later surcharged with an added 25 cents, presumably to raise finance to promote tourism. The higher catalogue value attributed to used cards suggests that these were not popular with the public! The King's image is known as "En Casquette" or "Kepi" and appeared briefly as a postage stamp in 1931 and was employed as a mourning stamp after the death of King Albert in 1932. This image only appears on these "tourism" cards.



The 35-cent heraldic lion appeared in 1928 surcharged 25-cent to raise funds for the restoration of Orval Abbey and in 1933 two series of 12 cards, 6 views in 2 different colours, were produced in 1928/29 surcharged 50-cents to support the erection of a monument to Cardinal Mercier outside St. Michael and Gudula Cathedral in Brussels. Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Mechelen and Primate of Belgium, was fervently opposed to the use of the Flemish language. There were a few other charitable issues including a 1931 Christmas issue that uniquely had the image of Queen Elisabeth as the imprint stamp.

A public service information card warning of Colorado beetles was issued in 1934 with the heraldic lion and in 1935 with the Petit sceau de l'etat as imprint stamps.

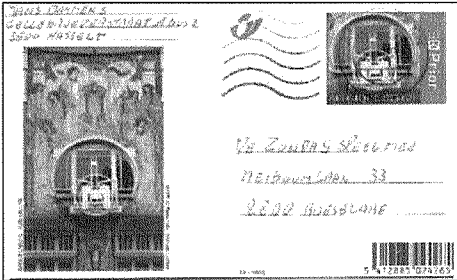
After the war there were infrequent issues all aimed at philatelists until 1993 when annual issues started. Initially one or 2 cards a year but numbers have rapidly increased since. In 1999 the first No Value Indicated card was issued and in 2002 a barcode and the "PRIOR" logo adjacent to the stamp was included in the card design. In 2003 the "PRIOR" logo was modified for no apparent reason only to be abandoned in 2007 in favour of a circled number 1.



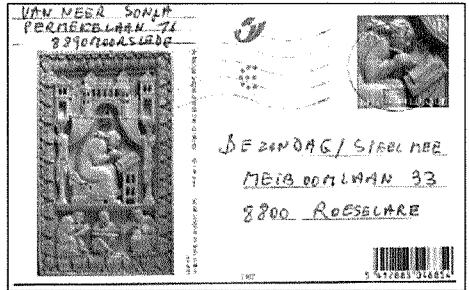
First "No Value Indicated"




"PRIOR" and a Barcode added.



"Go Faster" PRIOR Logo




Circled number 1.



Cochez la mention adéquate:

- Encore merci pour cette inoubliable soirée.
- Encore merci pour le coup de main!
- Félicitations pour cette promotion!

LA POSTE 

Cette carte préaffranchie est valable jusqu'à fin février 2003.

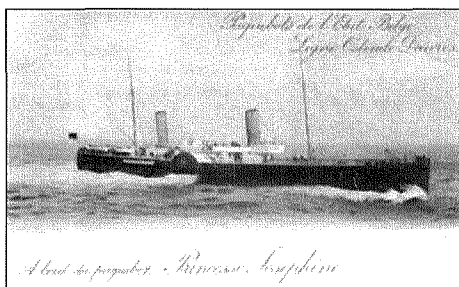
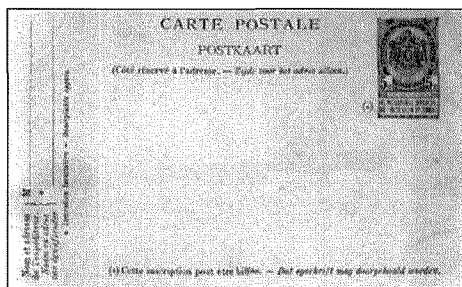
In October 2002 a booklet, introducing a 2-tier system introduced from 18th November 2002, was distributed to every postal address in Belgium complete with a tariff booklet. The second tier was "Day plus 3" at 0,41€D. The booklet incorporated a free postal stationery card at the internal rate of 0,49€D. In fact this tariff proved to be more trouble than it was worth and was abandoned on 1st October 2007.



On 31st May 2005 the post office produced a free postcard with a 0.44 euro buzin bird imprint stamp in support of an anti-smoking campaign. The cards were distributed in 9 major railway stations and some post offices with very little pre-issue publicity. Several similar free issues were made in 2006 and one in 2007.

Paquebot Cards

Paquebot cards are a subsection of the illustrated cards, and were initiated in 1899. These were used on the Ostend to Dover route and employed the standard 5 and 10-cent postcard in the same manner as the Brussels Universal Exposition cards of 1897. The outward journey had the text in red and the return journey in dark grey and several series of up to 36 cards were issued up to the war. After the war 15 and 30-cent cards were issued that were subsequently surcharged as rates changed. The cards were invalidated at the end of 1930.



Advertising Post Cards

In 1933 the internal “Publibel” series of Belgian advertising postcards was introduced printed by l’Agence Belge de Publicite Postale with the objective of raising funds for various charities. The design of the card includes an advertisement in the bottom left hand corner adjacent to the space for the delivery address and below the space for the sender’s address. The advertisement, which may be

sponsored by government or commercial enterprises, appears in single language variants, French, Flemish or German and multiple language variants depending on the area in which the sponsor required the cards to be distributed.

The series reflects the changes in internal postcard rates seen in ordinary postcards, but is unique in employing only definitive stamps with the lion design current at the time of issue. The stamp imprints follow the four main series of adhesive stamps namely the short-lived “lion héraldique” (1929-32), the “petit sceau de l’Etat or lion écusson” (1935-51), the “chiffre sur lion” (1951-77) and finally the “chiffre sur lion avec banderole”. There are stamp values within the publibel cards that are not reflected in the adhesive postage stamp series and some of the colours are different where values correspond.

The first 200 or so cards are not numbered but, with a few exceptions, cards after this include a number at the bottom of the left edge or left, bottom edge. Cards after No. 2225 include the letters F (French), V or N (Vlaams very short-lived or Néerlandais Dutch) or A (German) used singly or in combinations to denote the language(s) employed on the cards. The cards appear in two sizes 140 x 90 mm. and 148 x 104 mm.

Although primarily intended for internal use, there were two short tourist series issued in 1949 and 1957 for destinations abroad. Both were on the blue card usual for “cartes pour l’étranger” and employed the 2,50fr. agricultural definitive in carmine or the 2,50fr. chiffre sur lion definitive in red. Many internal publibels were sent to destinations abroad with suitable additional adhesives added.

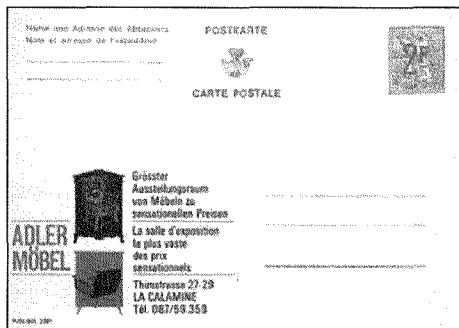
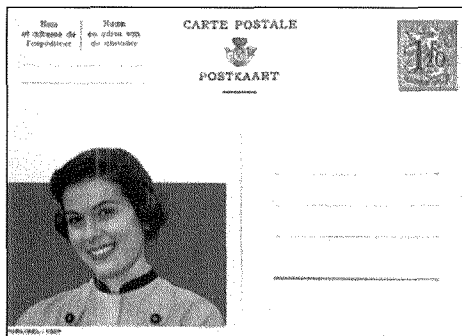
Surcharges in a variety of forms were employed when postage rates changed; such usage increasing during periods of rapid inflation to the extent that some cards exist with different stamp values whilst others are virtually unknown used without surcharges. Only a small number of cards were included in the -10% surcharges of 20 May 1946.

There are approximately 3000 different cards issued in print runs of between 500 and 2 million.

The numbers of cards issued declined rapidly in the 1980’s and ended with the 10fr. cards of 1984.

Members are reminded of two special dates namely, the yearly ‘get together’ on Wednesday 21st Dec 2011 and the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25th Jan 2012. Both functions are being held at St. Publius Oratory, Floriana (opposite the Pimary School in St. Thomas Street) and both will start at 18.00 hrs.

The XII Maltex Participating Certificates will be distributed during the ‘get together’.



No advert "Miss Publibel" and "Adler" the ONLY German/French variant.

Numbers 1122, 1123, 1124, 1126, 1127 & 1129 exist in three frankings, 90c chiffre sur lion in blue, 90c chiffre sur lion in blue plus 30c printed in red and 1.20fr. chiffre sur lion in olive.


From Publibel number 2292 a fluorescent band was added to the left of the "stamp". From Publibel 2619 the width of the fluorescent band was reduced from 5.5 mm to 2.5 mm


Change of Address Card

In 1937 a change of address card was introduced by mechanically franking a formular card and promptly superseded by a bilingual, French dominant card with the 10-cent state shield as an imprint stamp replaced in 1938 with 3 10-cent bi-lingual cards French/Flemish, Flemish/French and French/German. In 1949 the French/German variant was temporarily abandoned until 1952 and the introduction of the chiffre sur lion imprint stamp when a tri-lingual card replaced it. This was initially French/Flemish/German and subsequently German/French/Flemish before expanding to 5 cards 2 monolingual and 3 bilingual. Numerous surcharges of the red mechanical type and possibly overproduction lead to a very complicated catalogue up to 1983. These cards were franked substantially below the post card rate until the 1970s after which the gap closed considerably but there is still a marginal difference. From 1990-1994 the bird definitive series replaced the "Lion and Number" type of imprint stamp. In 1996 the system was re-branded as "MUTAPOST", the image of King Albert II was employed as the imprint stamp and the number of language variants reduced to 3, French, Flemish and German. Two new formats were introduced in 2003 with the logo "PRIOR". Both issues are monolingual.

Avis de changement d'adresse — Bericht van adresverandering	
Noms et initiales des prénoms :	Naam en begijletters der voornamen
Profession :	Beroep
ANCIENNE ADRESSE — OUD ADRES	
Rue et n° :	Straat en huisnummer
Lieu de la résidence :	Naam der woonplaats
NOUVELLE ADRESSE — NIEUW ADRES	
Rue et n° :	Straat en huisnummer
Lieu de la résidence :	Naam der woonplaats
<small>(Deserté, dév. pour un autre adresse postale)</small>	
N° du compte chèque postal :	Postcheekrekening N°
N° de téléphone :	Telefoon N°
Valable à partir de :	Geldig vanaf
Signature :	Handteekening

1937 Issue





ADRESSE — ADRES

M

Wij wonen op een nieuw adres vanaf : [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

oud adres → nieuw adres


straat : straat :

nummer : bus :

post nr. : [] [] [] [] post nr. : [] [] [] []

plaats : plaats :

andere informatie tel. : fax :



5 412885 009448

2002

handteekening

The 2003 issue depicting King Albert II note the Barcode

Postal Packet Cards

Postal packet cards were issued in 1897 and 1920 for use by the railway to inform recipients that a parcel awaited collection. Formular cards employing “official” adhesive stamps superseded these around 1926.

AVIS DE RECEPTION
KENNISGEVING VAN ONTANGING

(200 mètres à l'adresse — 200 meter afstand tot de bestemming)



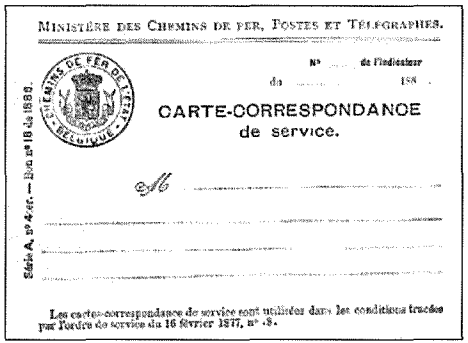
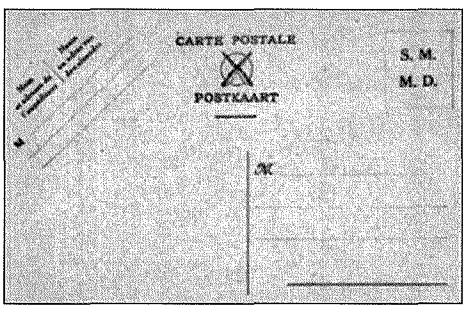
Monsieur le Juge de Paix
 Avenue de la Paix 11
 Courmayeur

(1) Adresse de l'expéditeur du colis. (N° de la gare de départ)
 (2) Adresse de l'expéditeur du colis. (N° de la gare de destination)

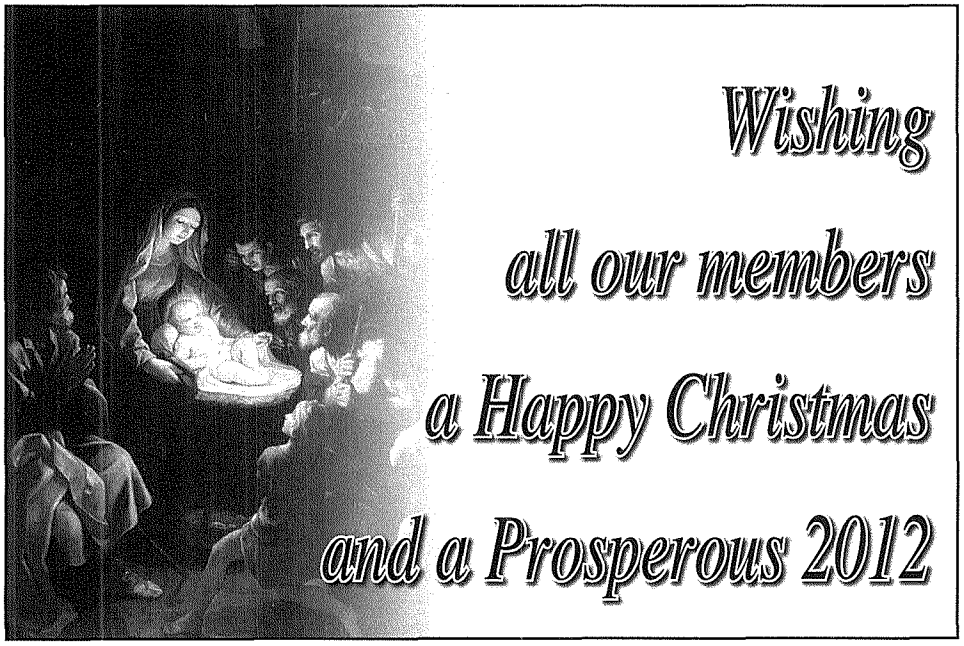
1897 Postal Packet Card



1920 Postal Packet Card



The cards above probably don't qualify as postal stationery. The S.M./M.D. card was for use by military forces during the mobilisation for WW2. Many types of service cards were employed for inter government department communications. They exist in a number of colours.



The Autographed 1987 8c Arvid Pardo Stamp

By

David A. Pardo

Collecting autographed stamps can be a lot of fun. Perhaps the most well known philatelist in this specialty was Malcolm MacGregor. He amassed items signed by different people in whose honor the stamps were issued, celebrities in all walks of life – kings and queens, statesmen, artists, athletes, aviators, clergy, composers etc. Curiously, he did not possess any stamp autographed by a royal family member of England. Here is what he had to say in pursuing this adventure: “Endeavoring to get together a collection of autographed stamps one must be prepared for a number of rebuffs for not all of the notables portrayed on stamps will readily respond to a request for autographs. Sometimes involved negotiations are necessary before they are ready to comply.”¹ MacGregor attests that he visited consulates and embassies where he was sometimes subjected to a thorough cross-examination of his life history before he obtained the autograph. But, he also made friends with distinguished people and received many invitations to visit them in their home countries. Certainly a very good way to meet interesting and prominent personalities! He eventually bequeathed his collection to the National Museum of American History.

According to Richard Novick, another avid autograph stamp hunter, requests can be denied altogether since some people such as Queen Juliana of the Netherlands or Winston Churchill made it a policy not to sign any stamps. And yet, he also found the hobby an exciting occupation. He recounts that he always waited for his mail to arrive to see if his request had been granted – and then there was the thrill of opening an envelope to find the signed stamp.

Judging the rarity of an autographed stamp is difficult since there are no controls over a celebrity’s signature. A case in point happened on October 26, 2010 when Margit Pardo, the wife of Arvid Pardo whose image is displayed on the December 18, 1987 8c postage stamp commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the UN resolution of the peaceful use of the seabed and ocean floor, died. She bequeathed five autographed sheets of the 8c stamp to her three children. (See figure 1 for a partial shot). One of the five sheets was given to the International Maritime Law Institute at the University of Malta under the directorship of Professor David Attard. These sheets were notarized by Carolyn Chiles for authenticity in Houston, Texas about a year before ambassador Pardo died on June 19, 1999 in Seattle. (See figure 2 and note the expiration date on the notary emblem). According to Malta Post, there is no other known stamp autographed by a Maltese personality who bears his or her image on the stamp. Stamp designer’s signatures on cards and covers are known, however. Arvid Pardo, as far as I can tell, never signed any other stamps, which would make these sheets rare.

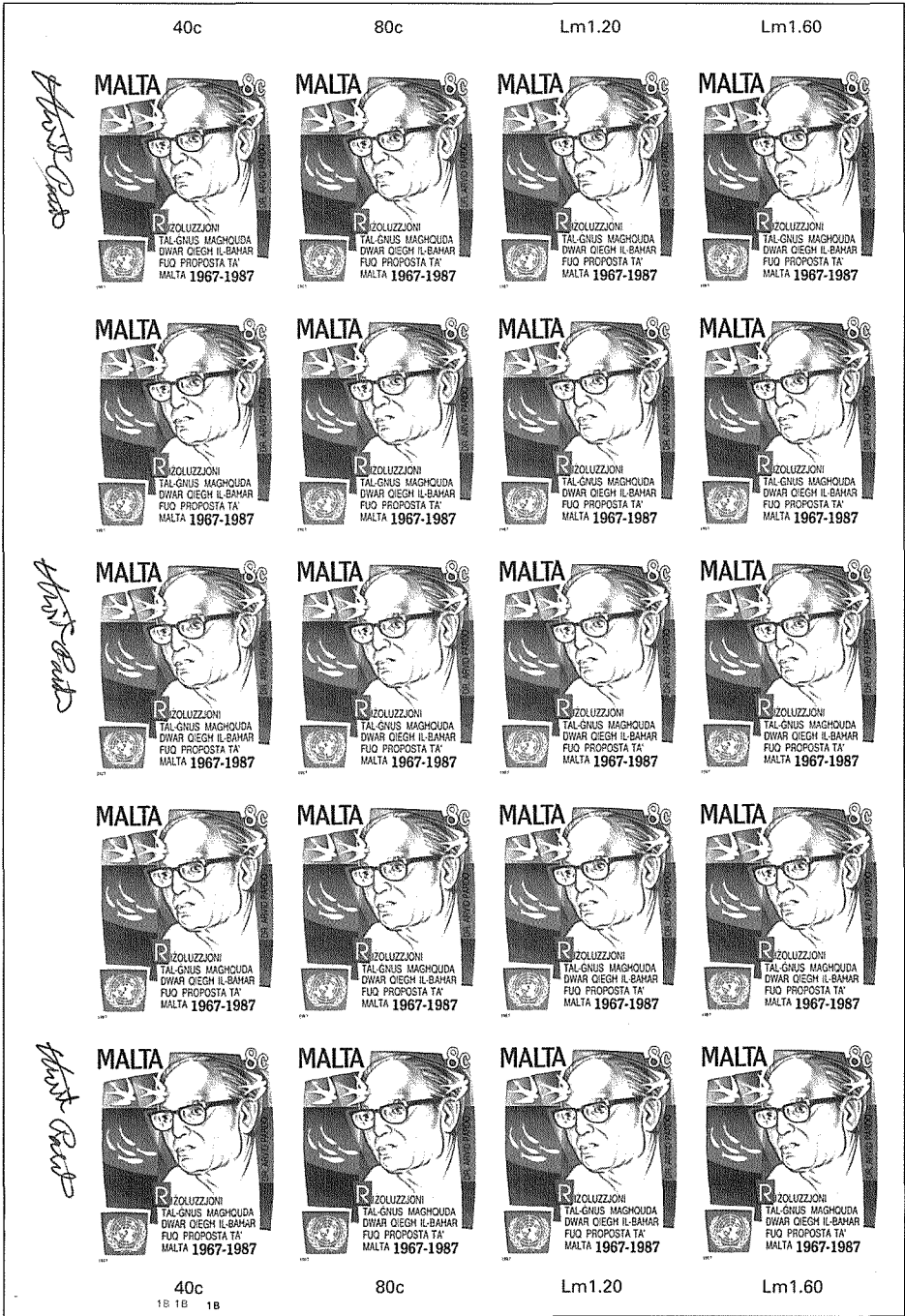


Figure 1: The Autographed 8c 1987 Arvid Pardo Stamp

Why was the stamp issued in the first place? After considerable research, it still remains a great mystery to me who exactly recommended the issuance to the postal authorities, although I suspect Fr. Peter Serracino Inglott, then Rector of the University of Malta, and perhaps Salvino Busuttil, then Director of the Foundation for International Studies, were instrumental.

Certainly there was cause. On November 1, 1967, in the same year as the six day war, Dr. Pardo addressed the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, which culminated in a resolution that was unanimously adopted by the Plenary Session. What made the speech famous was the introduction of a new international legal principle, the “common heritage of mankind” (CHM), that was finally incorporated in the Law of the Sea treaty of 1982. Most conceptions of the CHM have consisted of five main points. First, there can be no private or public appropriation of the commons. Second, the resources of the common heritage area must be used and managed by all countries. Third, all nations must actively share in the resources afforded by the commons. Fourth, the commons cannot be militarized. And, finally, the areas of concern should be preserved for future generations. Although the Moon treaty has expressly incorporated the CHM and the Antarctic treaty has been considered a good example of CHM in practice, these conditions have been and are being violated through expropriation by squabbling nation-states. Furthermore, the U. S., Russia and China are attempting to militarize outer space.

Dr. Pardo’s prediction over forty years ago of serious armed conflict on the high seas seems likely to come true in the not too distant future. The reason? Money and power, of course. Scientists estimate that one quarter of all untapped oil and gas reserves lies in the Arctic. Since global warming is making the northern region more accessible, and more navigable, intense competition for these resources is developing here between the U. S., Russia, Canada, Denmark and Norway among others. Much attention and rationalization have been devoted to maritime boundary disputes between these states. China has acknowledged that the Arctic is mainly a regional issue, but has claimed that it is also an inter-regional one due to international shipping. Therefore, the interests of non-Arctic states have to be recognized.

On a possibly cheerier note about human nature, there has been considerable speculation that the CHM principle might be applied in religion. Back in the 1980s, Jordan requested to register the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls on the World Heritage List, established under the UNESCO convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and National Heritage. By that time, of course, Jordan was no longer in control of the Old City, but its request was granted. A further development might be the recognition of a *corpus separatum* under the CHM, a variation of the 1947 UN proposal. For what purpose? Simply put, to develop a new religious text, a new bible so to speak. In this time and space, the very idea of a new bible underlying a new religion to supplement discovery of the universe itself conjures up numerous,

indeed, almost limitless, possibilities. The content would be a challenge in itself, trying to lay the foundation for some kind of global consensus with due attention to the diverse spectrum of opinion. If Israel were to take up the lead, it would certainly provide a “moral” justification for the nation’s existence. And, more importantly, reaching a consensus now which could guide or even shape the globe would teach us something about ourselves and the meaning of goodwill and interpersonal skills. The completion of such an endeavor, in effect, would be the diplomatic coup of the Aquarian age. Should a new bible be taken seriously, it would be interesting to see how the current dispute between the Israelis and Palestinians would play out in the coming months and years.

Malcolm MacGregor, “Collecting Autographed Stamps and How to Go About it”, *Stamps*, September 25, 1954; 446-447.

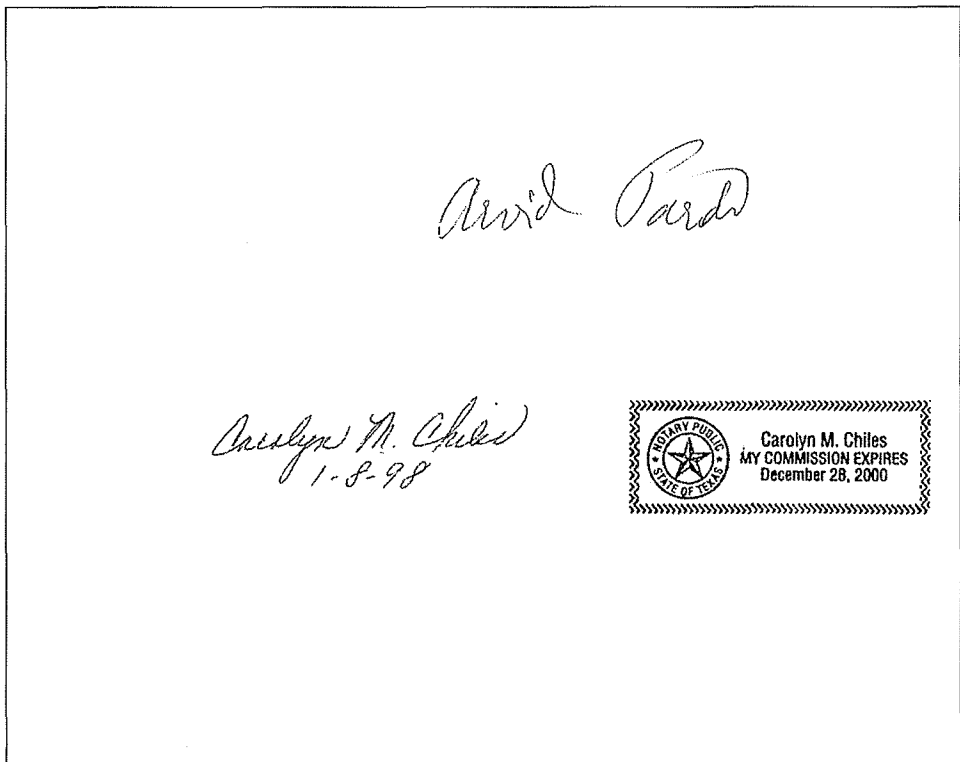


Figure 2: The notarized signature of Dr. Arvid Pardo

Update on MaltaPost Postage Paid Envelopes

by
John De Battista

The following is an update of the article originally published in the PSM Journal Issue 36/1 of April 2007 and concerns the issue of the subsequent versions of postage paid envelopes released by MaltaPost. The first was issued sometime around October 2010 (designated as Group 5) while the second in August 2011 (designated as Group 6).

The major differences in the Group 5 version lie in the sizes of both the imprinted stamp, which is now significantly smaller than that used on the Group 4 lot which measured 49.00 x 22.50 mm; and that of the logo. Of particular interest to us philatelists is that this is the first time around that the size of the area used for indicating prepayment is less than the regulatory minimum requested for such impressions by the UPU, as it measures 39.0 mm by 6.5 mm (253.5 mm²). The full text of the section of the Letter Post – Conv. Art 8; RL 115 presently relating to these kinds of impressions reads as follows:

* “3.1 Franking impressions obtained from a printing press or by another printing or stamping process shall bear the name of the member country of origin and, if appropriate, of the office of posting in roman letters, which may be supplemented by the same information in other letters. They shall also bear an indication that postage has been prepaid, for example in the form “Taxe perçue” (Charge collected). **In every case, the phrase adopted shall be shown in bold letters in a space the area of which shall not be less than 300 mm².** The date-stamp, if used, shall not appear in this space.”

**The UPU Letter Post Manual (Berne 2009 International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union)*

As for the previous versions, it looks that MaltaPost are still of the opinion that the printing quality of these envelopes does not give rise to a security concern, since both the imprint and the blue ink colour shade used still remain very inconsistent between one print and another. Under these circumstances, collectors can still find a large range of shades for both the printed stamp and envelope. For the sake of simple classification it is best to keep defining these colour shades mainly into two, namely dark blue and light blue, although for the record it must be mentioned that there also exist blue shades with a greenish tinge.

A general note on the Group 1 to Group 5 MaltaPost Postage Paid envelopes is that from a study of hundreds of such envelopes, it has since been observed that the

Postal Diary

29 March – 30 June 2011

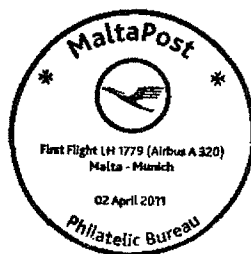
by
Joseph Fenech

30 March

MaltaPost plc informed that a number of letters in letter box numbered 278, situated in Triq il-Lunzjata, corner with Triq il-Kbira San Ġużepp, Hamrun, were damaged by fire. The last collection from this letter box was effected on Monday, 28 March 2011 at 7.31 pm, and MaltaPost officials became aware of the incident on Tuesday, 29 March 2011 at around noon. Service to this letter box resumed as normal. All the mail in the letter box, including the damaged mail, was duly delivered.

2 April

On the occasion of the inaugural flight of the new Lufthansa Airbus A320 on Saturday, 2 April 2011, a special hand postmark was used at the Philatelic Bureau on the same date. The special postmark was inscribed “MaltaPost – Philatelic Bureau/First Flight LH1779 (Airbus A320)/Malta – Munich/02 April 2011” and also included the Lufthansa logo.



7 April

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor Ġuże` Aquilina, a special hand postmark was used on Thursday, 7 April 2011 at the MaltaPost Victoria Gozo Branch. The special postmark was inscribed “Ġuże` Aquilina/Mitt Sena/minn Twelidu/1911 – 2011/7 ta’ April/MaltaPost – Victoria – Gozo”, and also included the image of Prof. Aquilina. This postmark was designed by Gozitan philatelist Anthony Grech.



13 April

MaltaPost plc informed that the Mobile Post Office was back in service.

14 April

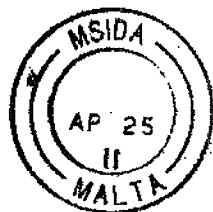
On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Gozo Civic Council, a special hand postmark was used on Thursday, 14 April 2011 at the MaltaPost Victoria Gozo Branch. The postmark was inscribed “Kunsill Ċiviku ta’ Ghawdex

– 50 Sena mit-Twaqqif – 1961 – 2011/14 ta’ April 2011/ MaltaPost – Victoria – Gozo”. The postmark was designed by Gozitan artist and philatelist George Vella.



15 April

On 15 April 2011, MaltaPost plc announced that it had opened a new branch on the campus of the University of Malta, Msida. The post office offers all basic postal services available at other MaltaPost branches as well as the encashment of Central Bank of Malta cheques, besides the sale of a wide variety of stationery and greeting cards. The branch is located in the ground floor of the Administration Building of the University and is open from Monday to Friday between 8.30 am and 1.30 pm and between 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm. Following informal contacts with the Philatelic Bureau, it transpired that this Branch actually opened for business, without any public announcement, on Monday, 28 March 2011. The date stamp used at this Branch was that previously used at the former Msida Branch Post Office.



18 April

An armed robbery took place at the MaltaPost branch post office in Sqaq tax-Xama`, St. Paul’s Bay. A sum of cash not exceeding €3,000 was stolen in this hold-up.

27 April

MaltaPost plc notified that the letter box numbered 265 in Triq Mikiel Anton Vassalli, Valletta, was damaged, and was temporarily out of service. None of the mail found inside suffered any damage.

29 April

On Friday, 29 April 2011, MaltaPost plc issued a philatelic commemorative set of four stamps presented in a miniature sheet, titled “WWF” 50th Anniversary”. The four stamps in the miniature sheet feature four different images of the ‘Chimaera monstrosa’, commonly known as rabbit fish in the Maltese Islands. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, this fish has ‘Near Threatened Status’ and will probably soon qualify as ‘Vulnerable’, as the population continues to decrease. The stamps in the miniature sheet, of which 70,000 copies were printed, carry face values of €0.51, €0.63, €0.67 and €0.97. The miniature sheet, which was designed in-house by MaltaPost, measures 130mm x 85mm, while the stamps measure 41.0mm x 30.5mm, 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 only as numbered miniature sheets. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 2/2011). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST----- - MALTA/”WWF”/50TH ANNIVERSARY/JUMIL-ĦRUG/29-04-11”, and also featured an image of the WWF logo. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 290.



4 May

The winners of the EUROPA Postage Stamp Design Competition were announced during an award-giving ceremony held on Wednesday, 4 May 2011 at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa. The winners of this competition were Ms Nicole Sciberras, a 14 year old student at the Malta School of Art, and Ms Brenda Camenzuli, a 14 year old student from the St. Ignatius College, Girls' Junior Lyceum, Blata l-Bajda. The winning designs were to be featured in the stamp issue themed “EUROPA 2011 – FORESTS”, with the €0.37 stamp being designed by Nicole Sciberras and the €1.19 stamp being designed by Brenda Camenzuli. The said €0.37 stamp will eventually participate in the Best EUROPA Stamp Contest amongst EUROPA stamps issued by the 49 postal administration members of PostEurop.

4 May

MaltaPost plc notified that the letter box numbered 265 in Triq Mikiel Anton Vassalli, Valletta, which had been temporarily out of service, was once again back in use.

9 May

On Monday, 9 May 2011, MaltaPost plc issued the EUROPA stamp set for 2011. This set of two stamps was themed ‘EUROPA 2011 – FORESTS’. The €0.37 stamp was designed by Nicole Sciberras, while the €1.19 stamp was designed by Brenda Camenzuli, with the choice of these young artists’ designs being made following a Stamp Design Competition organized by MaltaPost in November 2010 for students between Forms 1 and 5 attending any secondary school in Malta or Gozo. The stamps depict the artists’ personal interpretation of “Forests” in the context of the Maltese Islands. The €0.37 stamp will participate in the Best EUROPA Stamp Contest amongst all official EUROPA stamps. 70,000 copies of each stamp in this set were printed. The stamps measure 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 sheetlets of 10 stamps (each sheetlet measuring 155mm x 165mm). 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 handstamp used to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue of this set.



The first day cover issued by MaltaPost for this set was marked FDC No. 3/2011. The special commemorative hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST-----MALTA/EUROPA/”FORESTS”/JUM IL-HRUG/09-05-11”, and also featured the image of a tree in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 291.

9 May

On 9 May 2011, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the Communications Market Review (July to December 2010) – Doc. No. MCA/O/11-0312. This report outlines the key trends and developments in the Maltese communications and postal sectors for the second half of 2010. According to this report, total mail volumes handled in the second half of 2010 totalled 22.9 million items, 2.2 percentage points lower than in the second half of 2009. This decline is attributable to lower bulk mail and parcel mail volumes which outweighed higher letter mail and registered mail volumes. Letter mail items and registered mail items were up by 1.2% and 15% respectively. Bulk mail items and parcel mail items were down by 4.9% and 19% respectively. During the period under review, all Quality of Service (“QoS”) delivery targets set by the MCA for the delivery of postal items were met.

12 May

In a company announcement, MaltaPost plc informed that for the six months ended 31 March 2011, it had registered an increase in revenue of 1.4% to €10.7 million (from €10.6 million in 2010), but a decline in profit before tax of 9.3% to €1.7 million (from €1.9 million in 2010). Profit after tax decreased by 6.1% to €1.1 million (from €1.2 million in 2010). There were several factors contributing to this performance, when compared to the same period the previous year. The increase in revenue was principally due to increases in international inbound and outbound mail traffic volumes. These were partially offset by the continued downward trend of traditional mail volumes. Other non-postal revenue streams steadily increased over the previous year. Employee compensation and benefits increased marginally

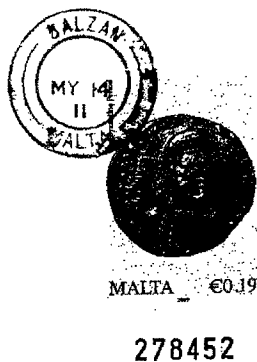
by 0.9% to €5.1 million. Other operating costs rose by 9.2% to €3.7 million. This was the result of higher mail costs, utility bills and Information Systems support costs. Finance income increased by 24.2% as a result of a gain on the sale of certain investments held in the company's portfolio. This was, in part, set off by lower interest income. Property, plant and equipment increased by 41.7%. A property was purchased to house a postal museum and additional improvements were made to the branch network as well as the Head Office building. Shareholders' funds increased to €22.5 million from €21.0 million as at 30 September 2010, principally as a result of a good number of shareholders opting to take the 2010 dividend in shares rather than cash.

12 May

Another armed robbery took place at the MaltaPost Branch in St. Paul's Bay on Thursday, 12 May 2011. In this hold-up, the second at this branch in three weeks, an armed and hooded robber made off with about €2,000 in cash from a man waiting at the post office.

14 May

The €0.19 stamp of the Definitive 2009 set issued on 29 December 2009 was reprinted and made available for sale from all post offices as from Saturday, 14 May 2011. The new run consisted of 1,620,000 stamps, in sheets of 10 stamps. These sheets bear the numbers 200,001 to 362,000, both numbers included. The stamp measures 44.0mm x 31.0mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The stamps were printed by the offset process by Printex Limited on watermarked paper bearing Maltese Crosses.



23 May

The sheet of stamps incorporating all the 17 stamps of the Definitive 2009 set issued on 29 December 2009 was reprinted and made available for sale from all post offices as from Monday, 23 May 2011. The new run consisted of 4,000 sheets, numbered 7,501 to 11,500, both numbers included.

27 May

MaltaPost plc notified that a new public letter box was installed in Dawret il-Gzejjer, Buġibba, San Pawl il-Baħar. Service to this letter box commenced on Friday, 27 May 2011. The last collection time for this letter box was after 7.00 pm on weekdays and after 3.00 pm on Saturdays.

31 May

MaltaPost plc continued with its upgrading programme with the opening of a new post office at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba, San Pawl il-Baħar; this post office replaced the post office which was situated at Triq it-Turisti, Qawra, San Pawl il-Baħar. The new post office offers all basic postal services as well as the encashing of Central Bank of Malta cheques and the sale of a wide variety of stationery and greeting cards. This post office is open from Monday to Saturday, between 8.00 am and 1.30 pm.

3 June

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Welcome Bazaar’, 1, Misraħ Frenċ Abela, Dingli DGL 1081, was closed for business between Friday, 3 June and Monday, 6 June 2011, both days included.

6 June

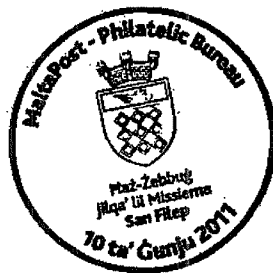
On 6 June 2011, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 108/2011 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the first quarter (January – March) 2011. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic amounted to around 10.8 million items, a marginal increase when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2010. The total number of parcels and other items sent through the national post in the period under review was 15,833, a drop of 27.7% over the first quarter of 2010 (21,910 parcels/other items sent then).

8 June

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Step In’, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300, was closed for business between Wednesday, 8 June and Saturday, 11 June 2011, both days included.

10 June

On the occasion of the feast of St. Philip of Agira, a special hand postmark was used on Friday, 10 June 2011 at the Haż-Żebbuġ Post Office. The special postmark commemorated the initiative of the Haż-Żebbuġ Local Council in bringing over to Malta the silver urn with the holy remains of St. Philip of Agira. The postmark was inscribed “MaltaPost – Philatelic Bureau/Haż-Żebbuġ/jilqa’ lil Missierna/San Filep/10 ta’ Ġunju 2011”, and also included the coat of arms of Haż-Żebbuġ.



10 June

On 10 June 2011, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued Consultation Document MCA/C/11-0366 on the Review of MaltaPost’s tariff adjustment proposals

on Domestic Letter Mail, Registration of Domestic Articles, and Foreign Outbound Parcels Requests. In 2009, MaltaPost had submitted a number of tariff requests to the attention of the MCA, covering domestic letter mail, registration of domestic postal articles and foreign outbound parcels. The tariff requests were evaluated separately and where it was deemed that a request is fully justified and there is no risk of jeopardising the future price mechanism, the MCA proposed that such an adjustment is granted. The scope of this consultation paper was to give a status report on the work streams involved, as well as to put to consultation the MCA's proposed decisions on MaltaPost tariff requests, which in turn represents the main focus of the consultation document. The consultation period for this proposed decision was to run until noon on Thursday, 7 July 2011.

15 June

MaltaPost plc announced changes in the opening hours of the St. Julian's and University Post Offices. Between the 15 June and 30 September 2011, the St. Julian's Post Office situated within the Lombard Bank plc in Triq Paceville, St. Julian's, was to open for business from Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 1.00 pm. On the other hand, between the 16 June and 30 September 2011, the Post Office situated within the University of Malta, Msida, was to open from Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 11.30 am.

16 June

MaltaPost plc announced that between the 16 June and 30 September 2011, customs clearance service at the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost plc Head Office in Marsa was to be available from Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 1.15 pm and 1.30 pm and 5.00 pm. MaltaPost could also clear items from customs on the customers' behalf at a nominal fee upon receiving the relative authorisation from clients.

30 June

MaltaPost plc notified that due to the Isle of MTV concert being held in Floriana on Thursday, 30 June 2011, the letter box numbered 252 at Triq San Pubilju, Floriana, would not be accessible. Therefore, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, collection from this letter box was to be effected at 3.00 pm instead of the customary 7.00 pm.

30 June

The Sub-Post Office at 'Aquavel', Triq San Bartilmew, Hal Għargħur GHR 1014, was closed for business between Thursday, 30 June and Saturday, 2 July 2011, both days included.



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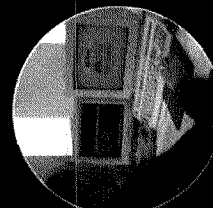
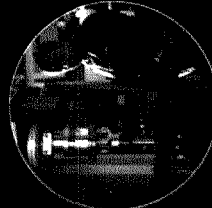
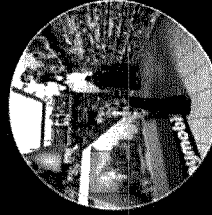
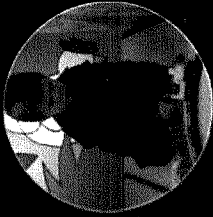
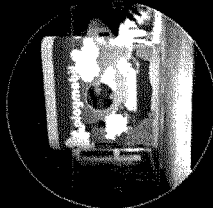
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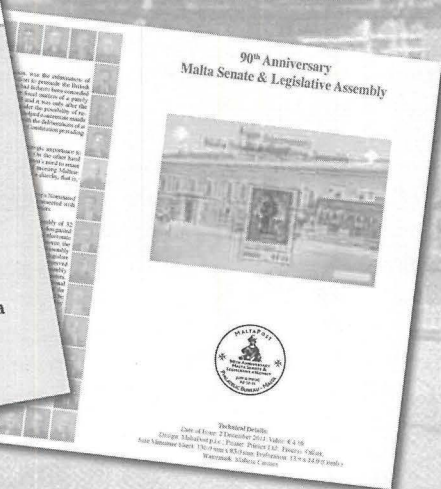
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