

Postal Diary

21 January 2010 – 5 April 2010

by Joseph Fenech

21 January

MaltaPost plc notified that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, mail from all public letterboxes was collected at 14.00 hrs. on Thursday, 21 January 2010.

21 January

MaltaPost plc announced that for the year ended 30 September 2009, it had registered a profit before tax of €3.19 million as compared to €2.90 million the previous year (representing an increase of 10%). Earnings per share (at €0.07) remained at the same level of the previous financial year. Revenue decreased by 1.4% from €20.48 million to €20.19 million, which was mainly due to lower volumes of domestic mail and lower philatelic sales. The decline was compensated by an increase in international mail. The Cost-to-Income ratio improved to 85.9% from 87.6%. Total assets increased by 3.1% to €22.07 million from €21.41 million in 2008. The shareholders' funds increased by 20.9% to €10.88 million.

1 February

A new Sub-Post Office opened with effect from Monday, 1 February 2010, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Marcham Stationery, Triq Santa Marija, Ghaxaq GXQ 1716. This Sub-Post Office opens from Monday to Friday between 7.00am and 12.00 noon, and 4.00pm and 7.00pm, and also on Saturday between 7.00am and 12.00 noon. This Sub-Post Office replaced the previous Sub-Post Office, which operated from Rose Bazaar, Triq Santa Marija, Ghaxaq, and which terminated its Sub-Post Office operations also with effect from 1 February 2010. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'GHAXAQ S.P.O. – MALTA' started to be used at the new Sub-Post Office (the same date-stamp used at the previous Sub-Post Office was in fact retained). An interesting feature about this date-stamp is that the '10' representing the year 2010 is inserted above the day/month in the inner ring of the date-stamp. This was also



the case when the date-stamp was used at the previous Sub-Post Office, however, then, the month was shown before the day.

2 February

MaltaPost plc notified that the Sub-Post Office at ‘Penhouse Stationery’, Pjazza I-Eroj, Birkirkara BKR 4252, was no longer operating as a Sub-Post Office.

5 February

On the occasion of the 1950th anniversary of St. Paul’s Shipwreck in Malta, a special hand postmark – “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/GOZO/05.02.10/St. Paul’s Shipwreck/1950th Anniversary”, was used on Friday, 5 February 2010, at the MaltaPost Branches of Valletta (Dar l-Annona, Misraħ Kastilja) and Rabat (Malta), and Victoria, Gozo.



9 February

As per notification No. 153 appearing in Government Gazette No. 18,545 dated 9 February 2010, for the purposes of sub-article (5) of article 9 of the Postal Services Act (Cap. 254), the Malta Communications Authority notified that on the 4 February 2010, a licence was granted to DHL International Limited to provide postal services which are not reserved but which fall within the scope of the universal services.

10 February

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dun Mikiel Azzopardi, the founder of ‘Id-Dar tal-Providenza’ (Houses for Persons with Disability), a special hand postmark “MALTAPOST – QORMI – Dun Mikiel Azzopardi – mitt sena mit-twelid tiegħu/10 ta’ Frar/1910 – 2010/ID-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA/SIĠĠIEWI”, was used on Wednesday, 10 February 2010, at ‘Id-Dar tal-Providenza’, Triq Għar Lapsi, Siġġiewi. With the collaboration of MaltaPost, ‘Id-Dar tal-Providenza’ also issued a commemorative personalised cover to mark the same anniversary. The cover includes a personalised stamp depicting a sculpture of Dun Mikiel Azzopardi, cancelled with the special hand-stamp. Besides, a personalised



pack with another 5 different personalised stamps was issued. Four of the stamps portray different images of Dun Mikiel Azzopardi, while another (the middle stamp in the sheet) shows an aerial view of ‘Id-Dar tal-Providenza’. The cover and personalised pack were also available for sale at all MaltaPost Branches between 19 February and 19 March 2010, with all proceeds from the sale of these philatelic items going in aid of ‘Id-Dar tal-Providenza’.

On the same occasion, covers cancelled with the special hand postmark could also have the impression of a Qormi circular date-stamp applied to them (Siggiewi falls within the confines of the Qormi Branch Post Office). This circular date-stamp was a new one and was being used for the first time on that particular occasion.



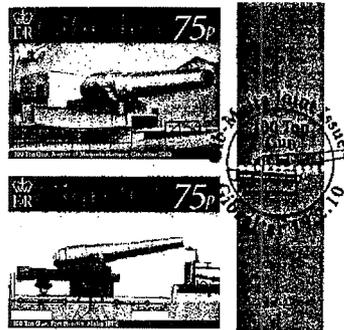
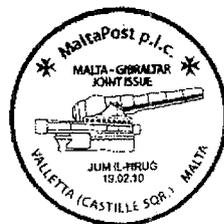
17 February

A new Sub-Post Office opened with effect from Wednesday, 17 February 2010, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Kunsill Lokali Kerċem, Pjazza Orvieto, Kerċem KĊM 1360, Gozo. The opening hours of the Sub-Post Office are from Monday to Friday, between 8.00am and 12.30pm, and 1.15pm and 4.45pm, and Saturday between 8.00am and 11.30am. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words ‘KERCEM SPO – GOZO’ started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



19 February

On Friday, 19 February 2010, the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau issued a set of four stamps in a joint issue with Gibraltar Post. This set consists of a miniature sheet of four stamps depicting views from the 1880’s and 2010 of the RML 17.72 inch ‘100 Ton’ Guns found in Malta (Fort Rinella) and in Gibraltar (Napier of Magdala Battery). The miniature sheets, designed by British artist John Batchelor, are 118 mm X 102 mm in size. The four stamps on these sheets measure 41 mm X 30.5 mm, with a perforation of 13.66 X 13.77 (comb). The denomination of each Malta stamp is that of €0.75, while that of each Gibraltar stamp is 75p. The stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. MaltaPost plc also issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the stamps



on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 1/2010). The handstamp was inscribed “MaltaPost p.l.c. - - - - - MALTA/MALTA – GIBRALTAR/JOINT ISSUE/ JUM IL-HRUĠ/19.02.10”, and also included an image of the ‘100 Ton’ Gun. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 280. The special handstamp used to cancel the Gibraltar miniature sheet was inscribed “Gib - Malta Joint Issue – Gibraltar 19.2.10/100 Ton/Gun” and also included an image of the ‘100 Ton’ Gun.

20 February

MaltaPost plc informed the public that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the new Saturday opening hours of the MaltaPost Branch at 75, Triq l-Ifran, Valletta, were to be between 8.30am and 1.00pm, starting as from Saturday, 20 February 2010. The opening hours between Monday and Friday were to remain unchanged, that is between 8.30am and 2.00pm.

23 February

MaltaPost plc notified that due to construction works, the letterbox situated in Triq Antonio Nani, Ghar Barka, Rabat was being closed and put out of service for an indefinite period.

23 February

In view of its commitment towards the environment, MaltaPost introduced the first postal eco-friendly electronic vehicle, which is able to carry voluminous mail, parcels and other bulky items. Ms Lorraine Pace was the first Postal Operator to use this eco-friendly electric vehicle on her daily deliveries.

24 February

The Annual General Meeting of MaltaPost plc was held on Wednesday, 24 February 2010. Shareholders were presented with the Audited Financial Statements of the company for the financial year ended September 2009, details of which had already been given by MaltaPost in January. Messrs. David Stellini and Philip Tabone were re-appointed as Directors, and together with Joseph Said (Chairman), Joseph Azzopardi and Aurelio Theuma form the Board of Directors of MaltaPost plc.

4 March

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieha MLH 1024 was closed for business between Thursday, 4 March and Saturday, 6 March 2010, both days included.

8 March

On 8 March 2010, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 040/2010 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the fourth quarter (October – December) 2009. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic amounted to around 12.8 million items, almost at par with 2008. The total number of parcels sent through the national post in the period under review was 25,683, an increase of 33.1% when compared to the same quarter of the previous year (when 19,301 parcels were sent).

17 March

On Wednesday, 17 March 2010, MaltaPost plc issued the third set of the stamp series entitled 'Occasions'. The eight stamps in this set were designed by Sean Cini. Seven of the stamps have values of €0.19, while another stamp has a value of €0.37. The stamps are 44.0 mm X 31.0 mm in size, 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 ten. These stamps are primarily intended to be used together with a set-tenant personalised stamp, according to the particular occasion. MaltaPost issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 2/2010). The handstamp was inscribed "MaltaPost - ----- MALTA/OCCASIONS/JUM IL-HRUĠ/17.03.10", and also included an outline map of the Maltese Islands, which is also the image shown on one of the stamps in this set (the €0.37 stamp). The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 281.



20 March

The MaltaPost Branch situated at Triq J.F. De Chambrai, Ghajnsielem GSM 1051, Gozo, was relocated for refurbishing purposes, between 20 March and 24 May 2010, both days included. In the interim, postal services were being made available from a temporary location situated within the church premises of Ta' Loretu Church in Triq il-Fawwara, Ghajnsielem GSM 1031.

5 April

By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the St. Julians MaltaPost Branch situated within the Lombard Bank plc in Triq Paceville, did not open for business on Monday, 5 April 2010. Normal service was resumed on Tuesday, 6 April 2010.