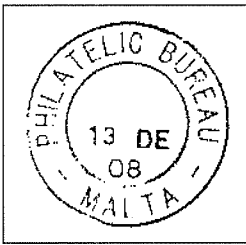


Postal Diary

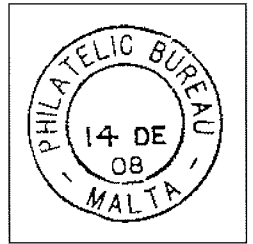
7 December 2008 – 6 May 2009

by Joseph Fenech

12 December 2008



A Temporary Branch Post Office was set up at the Christmas Village in Ta' Qali on Friday, 12 December, Saturday, 13 December (a National Holiday) and on Sunday, 14 December 2008. This Temporary Branch offered sales of stamps and postal stationery, other postal services and full posting



facilities including parcel post service. This MaltaPost Branch also provided the personalised stamps service.

24 December

MaltaPost plc informed the general public that the Sub-Post Office at Malton Stationery, Triq Ċensu Xerri, Sliema SLM 3062, which had been temporarily closed, was again open for business.

26 December

By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no mail delivery was carried out, and the MaltaPost branches did not open for business, on Friday, 26 December 2008. Normal postal service was resumed on Saturday, 27 December 2008. Moreover, an early collection (2.00 pm) from all letter boxes took place on the 24 December 2008.

2 January 2009

By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no mail delivery was carried out, and the MaltaPost branches did not open for business, on Friday, 2 January 2009. Normal postal service was resumed on Saturday, 3 January 2009.

Moreover, an early collection (2.00 pm) from all letter boxes took place on the 31 December 2008.

3 January

By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the MaltaPost branch at St. Julians did not open for business on Saturday, 3 January 2009. This closure took place due to the transfer of the branch from Triq Elija Zammit to the new postal branch within the premises of Lombard Bank Malta in Paceville Avenue, St. Julians, which started to operate as from Monday, 5 January 2009.

15 January

By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, mail from all letter boxes was collected at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 15 January 2009.

15 January

MaltaPost plc informed the public that due to the unstable situation in the Gaza Strip and southern part of Israel, Israel Post had communicated that the transfer of mail of any kind into the Gaza Strip had been temporarily suspended. Besides, the delivery of mail in southern Israel was subject to delays.

15 January

MaltaPost plc announced that, for the year ended 30 September 2008, it had registered a profit before income tax of €2.90 million as compared to €1.66 million the previous year. Earnings per share improved to €0.07 for the financial year 2008 from €0.04 in 2007. Revenue increased by 10.51% from €18.53 million to €20.47 million. Total assets increased by 11.5% to €21.4 million from €19.2 million in 2007. The Board of Directors proposed a final dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share for approval at the Annual General Meeting. MaltaPost commented that the main events in the previous year which had enhanced its performance further included the increased volumes of post during the General Elections and the philatelic/numismatic issues commemorating the introduction of the euro.

23 January

Legal Notice 28 of 2009 – Postal Services (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009 – was published under the Postal Services Act (CAP. 254) in Government Gazette No. 18, 369 of 23 January 2009. The provisions of this Legal Notice introduced in the principal regulations the definitions of “postal identifier” and “postmark”. The “postal identifier” is defined as “any postage stamp, postmark or impression that is unique to each postal operator and which satisfies the following:

(a) it is affixed to, or impressed on, or printed on postal articles; (b) it exclusively identifies the postal operator; and (c) it clearly indicates to members of the public that those postal articles have been, or are intended to be, accepted by that postal operator for the purpose of being conveyed by post. A “postmark” is indicated as being “any mark or impression applied by a postal operator to a postal article for any postal purpose”. The new regulations oblige a postal operator to affix to, impress or print on, a postal article its postal identifier (unless the postal identifier of the conveying postal operator is already affixed to, impressed or printed on the postal article). According to the regulations in question, a postal operator who provides postal services which fall within the scope of the universal service shall ensure that a postal article carried by him is marked with a postmark which also indicates the date when it was delivered into the care of the said postal operator.

30 January

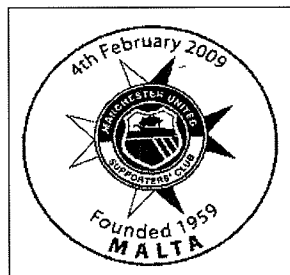
The Sub-Post Office at 7, Malton Stationery, Triq Ċensu Xerri, Tigne`, Sliema SLM 3062 was closed for business between Friday, 30 January and Thursday, 5 February 2009, both days included.

2 February

The Sub-Post Office at Aquavel, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014 was closed for business between Monday, 2 February and Friday, 6 February 2009, both days included.

4 February

A special hand postmark – 4th February 2009 – Manchester United Supporters’ Club – Founded 1959 – Malta – was used on Wednesday, 4 February 2009, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Manchester United Supporters’ Club in Malta.



11 February



A special hand postmark – Gozo Tourism Association – 10th Anniversary – 11 February 2009 – Victoria – Gozo – Malta – was used on Wednesday, 11 February 2009 at the Victoria, Gozo MaltaPost branch, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Gozo Tourism Association.

15 February

A special hand postmark – Malta Cultural Institute – 60th Anniversary – Hotel Phoenicia – Floriana – Malta - 15 February 2009 – was used at the Hotel Phoenicia in Floriana on Sunday, 15 February 2009, during the celebration concert organized by the Malta Cultural Institute to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Institute.



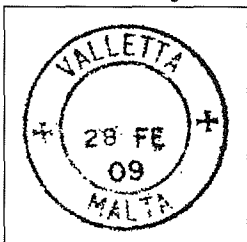
17 February

The Annual General Meeting of MaltaPost plc was held on Tuesday, 17 February 2009. Shareholders were presented with the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the financial year ended September 2008. Messrs. David Stellini and Philip A. 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.

20 February

The second silver replica stamp bearing the image of the titular statue of St. Paul from the Collegiate Parish Church of St. Paul's Shipwreck in Valletta, was issued by the Philatelic Bureau of MaltaPost on Friday, 20 February 2009, to commemorate the Pauline Year (Annus Paulinus). This stamp, which is a replica of the €3.00 stamp of the Annus Paulinus stamp issue, and weighs 20 grams, is the second in the series for MaltaPost. It was issued in Brilliant Uncirculated (Proof-like) condition, and with a size of 44.0 mm x 31.0 mm, and thickness of 1.53 mm. These silver stamps are struck in 99.9% pure silver and are individually numbered. The issue is limited to a maximum of 2,000 pieces. The stamp, which is available in a presentation box and has a certificate of authenticity, is being sold at a retail price of €50 (including VAT). MaltaPost offered customers the possibility to purchase the silver replica stamp carrying the same serial number as the Annus Paulinus commemorative folder.

28 February



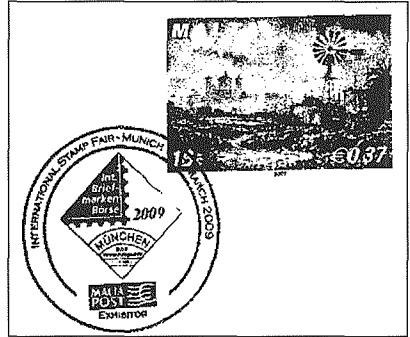
All MaltaPost services delivered from the Embassy Complex in Santa Lucia Street, Valletta, were transferred to the newly refurbished branch at 75, Old Bakery Street, Valletta. From this new branch, MaltaPost offers all postal services, philatelic products, as well as the encashment of Social Security cheques. The branch is open for the public from Monday to Saturday, between 8.30 am and 2.00 pm.

3 March

On 3 March 2009, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 034/2009 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the fourth quarter (October – December) 2008. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic amounted to around 12.9 million items, of which the absolute bulk represented letters and other printed items (up from circa 10.8 million items for the previous quarter). The total number of parcels sent through the national post in the period under review was 19,166 (compared to 16,131 in the previous quarter).

5 March

MaltaPost commemorated its participation in the International Stamp Fair held in Munich between 5 and 7 March 2009, through the issue of a Postal Card (Postal Card No. 30). This card includes a cancelled €0.37 stamp from the Scenery set which was issued in 2007. A special handstamp was also used with this Postal Card, both locally and also during the Fair itself.



9 March

MaltaPost plc announced that the transfer of mail to the Gaza Strip had resumed. It also stated that Israel Post was doing its utmost to reduce the backlog that had accumulated, but delays were still possible until all the mail which had been received was handed over to the Palestinian postal authorities.

12 March

A special hand postmark – 25 sena ta' hidma – Centro Cultural Hispano-Maltes – Ċentru Kulturali Spanjol-Malti – Valletta – 12-3-1984 – 2009 - was used on Thursday, 12 March 2009, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Spanish – Maltese Cultural Centre in Malta.

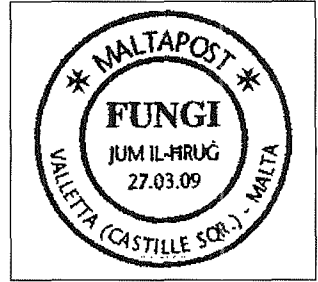


16 March

The Philatelic Bureau of MaltaPost issued the Year Pack 2008 on Monday, 16 March 2009. This Year Pack, the 21st in the Year Pack series, includes mint sets of all the stamps issued in 2008, and is presented in an attractive folder, with the International Year of the Planet Earth as its theme. The inside cover of the Year Pack carries technical details relating to the various issues.

27 March

On Friday, 27 March 2009, MaltaPost plc issued a set of five stamps featuring fungi which are found in Malta and Gozo. This set, designed by Stephen Mifsud, includes stamps which are 35.0mm x 35.0mm in size, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb). The stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and are available in sheets of ten. The stamps in the set have face values of €0.05 (*Laetiporus sulphureus*), €0.12 (*Montagnea arenaria*), €0.19 (*Pleurotus eryngii*), €0.26 (*Inonotus indicus*) and €1.57 (*Suillus collinitus*). MaltaPost plc issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 1/2009). The handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA” in the outer ring and “FUNGI/JUM IL-HRUĠ/27.03.09” in the inner ring. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 271.



1 April

A special hand postmark – 75 Sena – Don Bosco Qaddis u Ftuh ta’ l-Ewwel Oratorju f’Ghawdex – 1934 – 1 ta’ April – 2009 – Victoria, Gozo, Malta – to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the canonisation of Don John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Society, as well as the first Oratory at Victoria, Gozo, was used at the Victoria (Gozo) MaltaPost branch on Wednesday, 1 April 2009.



8 April

MaltaPost announced that owing to the earthquake in the province of L’Aquila in Italy (zip codes 67010 – 67199), collection and deliveries in this area were not possible at the time and were not to be resumed before at least another week.

20 April

MaltaPost launched “The Post Office Collection”, a first set of three model vans bearing the livery of the General Post Office and Posta Malta. This set, manufactured by Oxford Diecast Ltd. of the UK, includes models of vans used in Malta in the fifties, sixties and seventies. The models are those of a Bedford CA, a Morris 1000 and a Morris Mini Minor, all in 1:43 scale. This edition is limited to 4,000 sets, complete with a numbered certificate, and boxed and mounted on a wooden plinth, with each set retailing at €48 (including VAT).

20 April

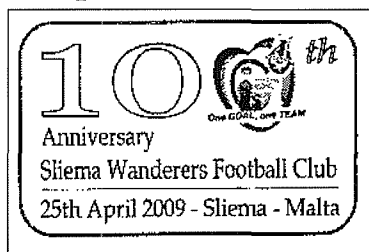
MaltaPost notified that Italy's designated postal operator, Poste Italiane Spa, had informed that inward and outward international postal operations (letter post, parcels and EMS items) had been gradually restored in the Aquila region which had been affected by the earthquake earlier that month. Postal service was being provided by 11 mobile post offices installed on trucks, and Poste Italiane was working with the Civil Defence officials to reopen the local post offices considered safe in L'Aquila and in other villages with postcodes 67000- 67999. Postal services had been delayed because the postal centre serving L'Aquila was still considered unsafe and only part of the road system was accessible, making it impossible to ensure compliance with international quality standards at the time. The mobile post office in Centicolella was responsible for the general delivery ("poste restante") of all parcels in the areas affected by the earthquake. To facilitate the delivery of these items to their addressees, senders were requested to indicate the address as follows:

Name and family name of addressee

Mobile phone number of addressee

Address – Presso Fermo Deposito Ufficio Postale Mobile, Localita` Centicolella, Cap 67100 L'Aquila.

25 April



A special hand postmark – 100th Anniversary – Sliema Wanderers Football Club – 25th April 2009 – Sliema – Malta – was used at the MaltaPost Sliema branch on Saturday, 25 April 2009, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Sliema Wanderers Football Club. A limited edition commemorative cover (limited number of 500) was issued to commemorate the same

occasion, with proceeds from the sale of this cover going to the “Puttinu Cares – Children’s Cancer Support Group”. This cover, which included a personalised stamp issued for the same occasion, was sold from the MaltaPost Sliema branch and from the MaltaPost Mobile Unit at the Marsa Sports Ground during the marathon organised for the same cause.

28 April

On Tuesday, 28 April 2009, MaltaPost plc issued a set of stamps featuring vintage postal transportation used by the local postal administration during the twentieth century. The four stamps in this set are 35.0mm x 35.0mm in size, with



a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb). The stamps were printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and are available in sheets of ten. The images in the set, sourced from MaltaPost archives, feature details from four different means of postal transportation used in Malta, namely the Dornier Wal-S.A.N.A. seaplane (€0.09 stamp), B.S.A. Motorcycles (€0.35 stamp), Raleigh bicycles (€2.50 stamp) and the Gozo Mail Boat (€3.00 stamp).

MaltaPost plc issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 2/2009). The handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA” in the outer ring and “VINTAGE POSTAL/TRANSPORTATION/JUM IL-HRUĠ/ 28.04.09” in the inner ring. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 272.

30 April

On Thursday, 30 April 2009, MaltaPost plc issued a stamp to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the euro. The stamp, designed by Edward D. Pirota, has a face value of €2.00, and is 35.0mm x 35.0mm in size, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb). The stamp was printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and is available in sheets of ten. The stamp reproduces a replica image of the new



€2 coin issued in January 2009 to celebrate ten years of economic and monetary union. The actual design, which symbolises the euro as the latest step in the long history of European economic integration, was created by G. Stamatopoulos. MaltaPost plc issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 3/2009). The handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA” in the outer ring and “euro/10th Anniversary/JUM IL-HRUĠ/30.04.09” in the inner ring. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 273.

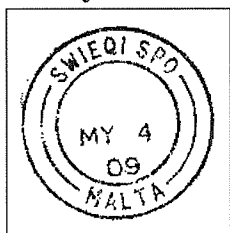
30 April

The Philatelic Bureau of MaltaPost issued an Occasion Card (Occasion Card No. 21) on Thursday, 30 April 2009 to mark the fifth anniversary of Malta’s accession to the European Union. This card carries an imprinted stamp (mint condition) of €1.20 value showing former Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami and former Foreign Minister Joe Borg signing the Accession Treaty in Athens in 2003. A special



postmark – Malta – EU Accession – 5th Anniversary – was used at the MaltaPost branch at Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, to commemorate the same occasion. Pre-cancelled cards with the special postmark (but showing Philatelic Bureau – Malta, instead of Valletta – Malta in the lower end of the outer ring) were made available for sale from all MaltaPost branches as from Tuesday, 5 May 2009.

4 May



A new Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 4 May 2009 to provide all postal services, as well as bill payment services, at 146, ‘Golosa’, Triq is-Swieqi, Swieqi SWQ 3412 (Telephone No. 2737 4800). The Sub-Post Office is open from Monday to Friday, between 7.15 am and 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm, and between 7.15 am and 9.00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words ‘Swieqi SPO’ started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.

6 May

A special hand postmark – Ġorġ Pisani – 100 sena minn twelidu – 1909-2009 – Victoria – Gozo – Malta – 06.05.2009 – was used at the MaltaPost Victoria (Gozo) branch on Wednesday, 6 May 2009, to mark the 100th anniversary from the birth of Gozitan poet, writer and patriot, Ġorġ Pisani. This special postmark, which was issued on the initiative of the Gozo Philatelic Society, was designed by Anthony Grech, a member of the same Society.

