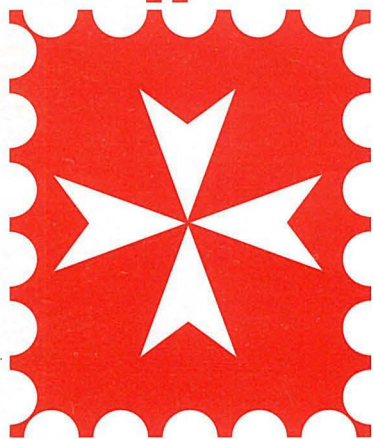




Journal of
THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

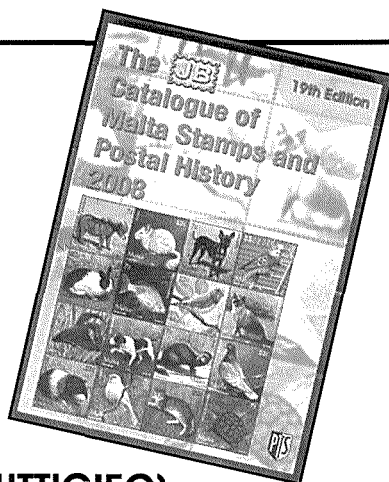
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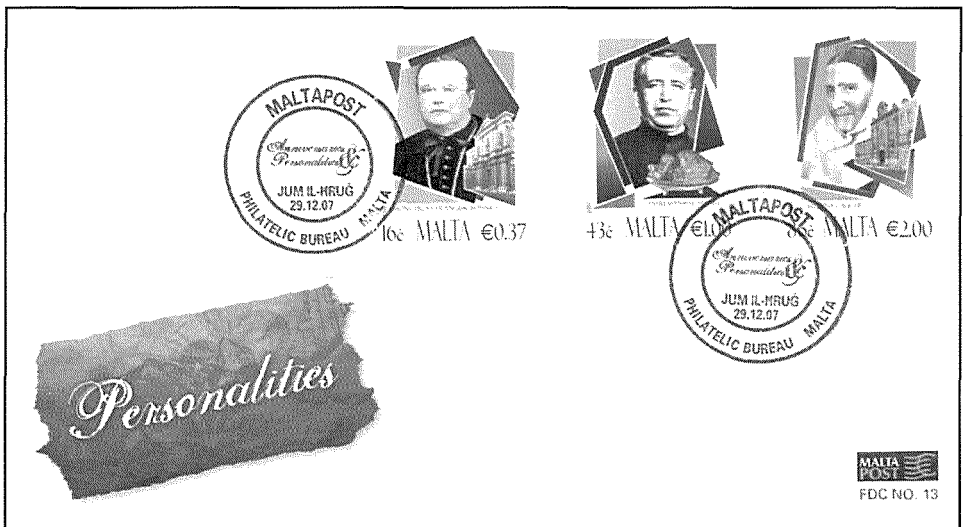
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Who was Mons Prof FRANGISK BONNICI?

by John Cardona



The Most Reverend Canon Monsignor Prof. Francesco Bonnici D.D. (1852-1905) was a **PHILANTROPIST - FOUNDER OF ST JOSEPH INSTITUTE HAMRUN**, known also as: **ISTITUTO CANONICO BONNICI**



Mons Prof Frangisk Bonnici. 16c, Patri Manuel Magri 43c. and C. Cauchi 86c.

Monsignor Prof Francesco Bonnici, was the son of Dr Guseppe Luigi Bonnici M.D. District Medical Officer in Cospicua, and Teresina nee Ferris, sister of Achille, and Canon Paolo Ferris. The brother of his great grand Father was Dun Salvator Bonnici who was instrumental by means of a Papal Bull, *Exigit Apostolici Officii* issued by Pope Pius VI, on the 21 May 1786, in elevating the Church of Senglea into a, Collegiata insinja becoming the First Archpriest of Senglea. He was also Theologian to Grand Master De Rhoan.

Mons F. Bonnici was born in Cospicua on the 14 July 1852, but as his father had been posted soon after his birth, to Mqabba he was raised there. He was the eldest of eight children, two becoming Medical Doctors; Theodoro becoming Professor of Surgery at our University, and Consultant Surgeon with the British Army, and Benjamin a General Practitioner who eventually practised in Floriana.

At the age of sixteen he joined the Theology course in our University, graduating at the age of 20 on the 18 July 1872 in Sacred Theology. When he finished his University studies, he was still under age to be ordained Suddjakonat, so he remained a Kjeriku.

Monsignor Scicluna Bishop of Malta, appointed him, although still a Kjeriku, Professor of Literature and Spiritual Director in the Seminary at Mdina, remaining in this post for three years. This was indeed a very special situation to have the Spiritual Director of the Seminary a Kjeriku, showing the great esteem Bishop Scicluna had for him, ordaining him in 1876.

Two years later the same Bishop appointed him Rector of Floriana Seminary, a post he held for five years, and was instrumental in reforming the whole academic structure of the Seminary, making it one of the best academic institutions in Catholic Malta.

In 1882 at the age of thirty he became a Canon of the Mdina Cathedral Chapter.

He excelled in teaching Christian Doctrine to children and youngsters, and on the 30 September 1884 at No 2 Carmel Str, Mqabba, in the house that he was brought up in, founded il-Missjoni ż-Żghira, formulating its rules, and together with a small group of Priests and lay men, went round Malta's villages to teach children and youngsters Christian Doctrine. This event was recorded on a marble slab, which is attached to the wall of his residence in 1934, commemorating the fiftieth year of the founding of, il-missjoni ż-Żghira. Maybe, this philanthropic fact, inspired later on, Dun Gorg Preca to form the MUSEUM. Mons F. Bonnici's pioneer work in this field inspired Dun George to expand. Probably this was the reason why, his future nephew the Rev Mons Enrico Bonnici, came out so strongly in favour of Dun Gorg, and was instrumental in persuading Bishop Dom Maurus Caruana to let Dun Gorg continue with his good work after his suspension.

When in 1885 Bishop Buhagiar came to Malta he appointed Mons F. Bonnici

as his personal secretary. Although occupying high office he remained close to the people and could see and feel, the poverty, and social ills prevailing at that time.

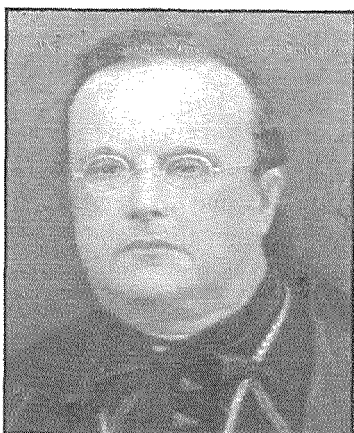
So his next dream was how he could find a home for poor boys, orphans or abandoned children, where they could be given a roof, food, religious instructions and a trade, so that when eventually they left the home they perhaps could find a job.

This was indeed an ambitious project, not only needing considerable initial expenditure, but the daily running cost which was greatly needed to be attended to continually.

He was not a rich man, but with the little he possessed and with what initially Bishop Buhagiar gave him, he was successful in opening the first home, near the Church of, tas-Samra on the 27 August 1888, and so his very humane philanthropic dream became a reality.

He opened this house for boys and as this was going to be the first trade school in Malta, what better name than St Joseph Institute - St Joseph having been himself a carpenter. It soon became full with children whom he picked up from the street, from immoral surroundings, and questionable circumstances, children who would probably ended up in prison. It was a relief to many families and consolation to others. So this initial home soon demanded a bigger one.

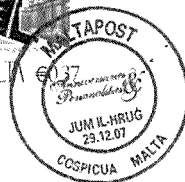
On the 13 May 1893, he was able to persuade the Government of the day, to give him on 99 year lease, a fairly large house, where St Joseph Institute is to day, surrounded by fields, and known as, il Palazzo l-ahmar, in the limits of Hamrun. It retained its original name of St Joseph, but became known also as Bonnici Institute after its founder as well.

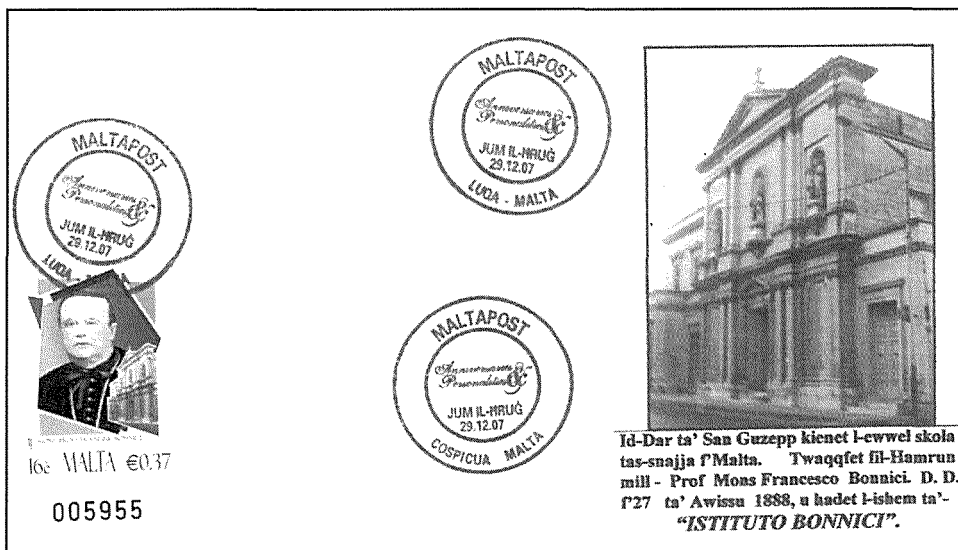


Prof. Mons. Francesco Bonnici D.D. (1852-1905)
Founder of St Joseph Institute - Hamrun
(Canonico Bonnici Institute)
First Trade School in Malta: 27 August 1888



16c MALTA





In 1905 one of his successors Dun Gorg Bugeja as Director of the Institute was able to obtain it from the Government on perpetual lease, for 20 guineas a year, and later it was reduced to one guinea a year.

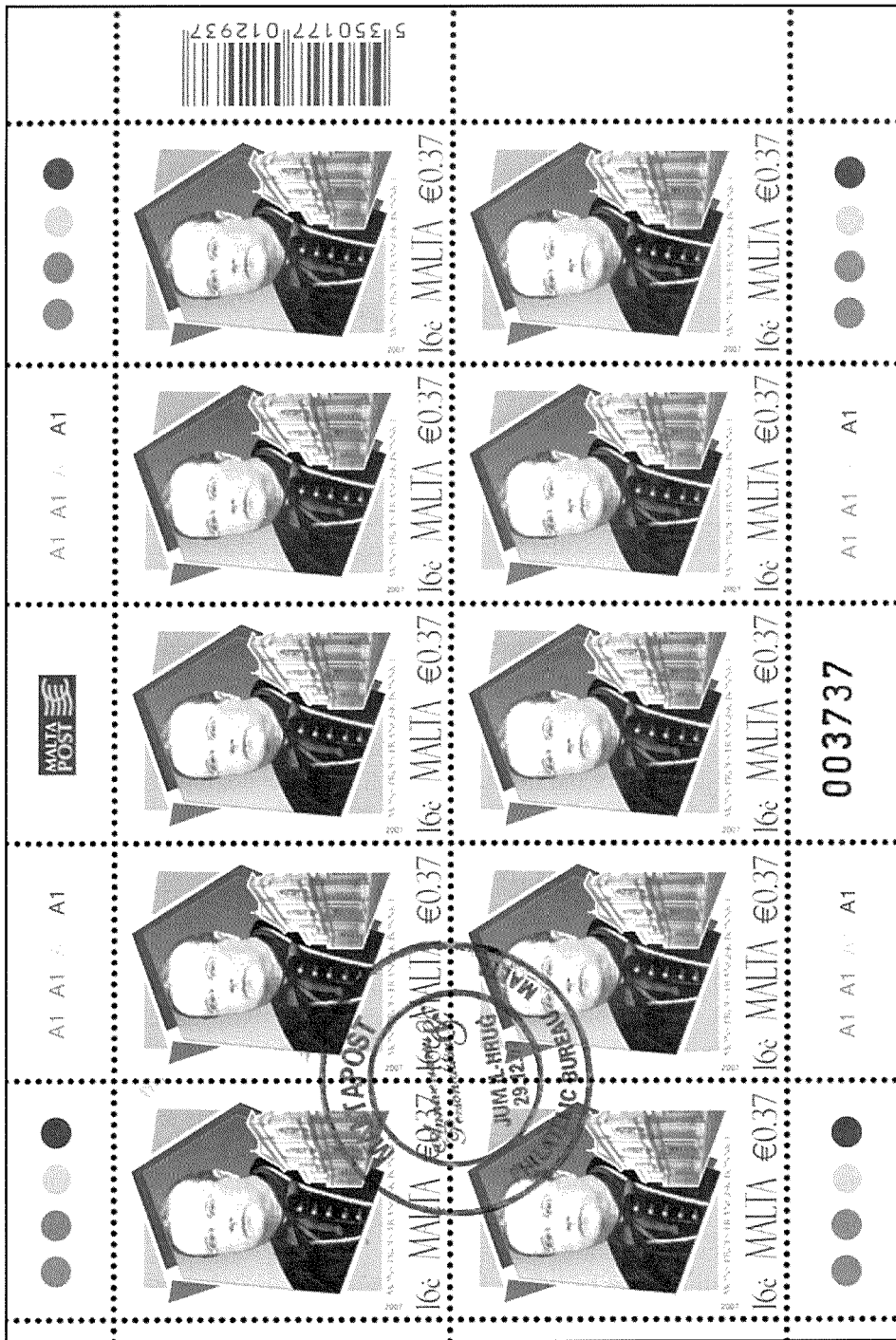
This was the first trade school (Institute) in Malta where boys without any future, were thought a large variety of trades, to become: carpenters, cobblers, tailors, confectioners, bakers, printers etc.

It was in the print shop of this institute that his future nephew Mons Enrico Bonnici, a future Director of the Institute published the first edition of *Il-Lehen Is-Sewwa*, as its first Editor, on the 1st September 1928 during the religious conflict between Lord Strickland and the Church.

The boarding children needed people to look after them, and Mons F. Bonnici founded a semi Religious Order which he named, *Congregazione dei fratelli Della Carita* enrolling men of exemplary character, wearing a grey cassock. Among them there was Fra Luigi Poggi. Helping the Director Mons F. Bonnici, in the management and running of the Institute, there was Dun Giuseppe Cauchi from Floriana and Dun Alfred Gatt from Valletta a saintly man, who was and still is held in high esteem by many devoted Maltese.

Not far from this Institute in, Villa Santa Venera in the same street he opened up another house for babies calling it the Institute of the Sacred Family. The two sisters of Mons F. Bonnici who were nuns together with some of their colleagues, and the sisters of Dun Ang Dalli took care of the babies. Unfortunately due to lack of funding this house had soon to close down.

St Joseph Institute also had financial problems and in order that the Institute would not also close down as the Institute of the Sacred Family had done, he



embarked on a big fund raising campaign, and began publishing a periodical, which he named, *il-Fabbro di Nazareth - Bollettino Mensuale della Casa di San Giuseppe*.

By means of this Journal he wanted to bring St Joseph Institute more to the attention of the public, by giving information about its function, about the education of the boys, and their need of assistance, and its need to survive. In the first issue we read;

“The house of St Joseph is above everything else a home opened for the poor children whose parents cannot afford to educate them. In the Institute we have Laboratories where the youngsters while learning a trade, prepare themselves for a future job and so be in a position to become good citizens.

In the Institute we have a school for primary education, with a curriculum in keeping with the requirements of the various trades. This house is more than an, Orfanatrofju, because it welcomes not only those without parents, but also those whose parents were unable, or do not want to look after their children because of their poverty. Sometimes it is the parents themselves that evict the children.

In the second issue we find;

We picked up a child of eight years, sprightly and full of beans. He did not know his surname, nor did he know the name of his parents. You do not have a mother, I asked?, Yes he replied I had once upon a time a mother, but one night when I went and knocked on the door nobody opened the door for me. I wept on the door step, a woman that lived down the road saw me, took me to her home and fed me and treated me like her child. One day while playing in the street, somebody who I do not know grabbed me and took me to a house I do not know where.

Mons Bonnici ends this article by stating

“We could well understand what happened, and we thank Divine Providence that we were able to rescue this boy from the hands of the devil. If we had not, that boy would not be an angel of innocence as he is today.

A shocking story even to day, let alone in 1896.

Another fund raising activity was the founding in 1897 of the I-Opera della Buona Morte everybody could enroll at a fee of 1d a month. When a member was dying and the Institute notified, the children went in front of the Blessed Sacrament and prayed for the member. After his death, prayers and masses for the repose of the member’s soul were held. The Opera della Buona Morte is still in existence to day.

In 1890 Mons Bonnici was appointed Professor of Philosophy at the University and in 1900 appointed Professor of Moral Theology in the same Malta University. Who would have told him that his nephew Mons Prof Carmelo Bonnici would occupy the same chair of Moral Theology thirty five years later?

In 1898 ten years after the foundation of the Institute he became sick and had to let go the Directorship, but he did not abandon the Institute, so much so that he continued paying off the debt he had incurred on behalf of the Institute, and after his death his mother learned that he still had to pay £80 for bread supplied to the Institute, paid it herself, as he died penniless.

He died at midnight of Christmas Eve of 1905 in his mother's house in Hamrun in the street to day named after him as Canon Bonnici. He was buried in the Mdina Cathedral. In 1952 during the directorship of his nephew Mons Enrico Bonnici his remains were exhumed and reburied in a grave that Mons De Piro during his directorship had prepared for him in Saint Joseph Institute.

His students on learning about his death quickly formed a committee representing the various religious organizations he was involved in and at their own expense paid for a solemn funeral held in the Jesuits Church in Valletta on the 15 January 1906, and the marble slab on his grave in the Mdina Cathedral. Mons Prof E. Vassallo who was a great admirer of Mons F. Bonnici delivered l-Elogio Funebre Recitato nella Chiesa del Gesu, which was printed at St Joseph Institute, by the printing press he founded, and which exists even to day.

Hundreds of boys have been able to be educated there over the years, and after Mons F. Bonnici's demise, numerous Directors have been appointed, all worked hard to improve on what they found. In the 1950's a meat Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Prof Walter Ganado, and a Bread Committee as well which is still in operation to day. You can help by a donating Lm15 = €34.94

At the moment members of the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSSP) are administering the Institute having an uphill battle to make ends meet. A yearly almanac has been published since 1908, and they deserve our continued financial help.

It is indeed to be commended that the Malta Post has included in its Personalities Stamp set this year Mons Prof F. Bonnici whose Institute is still helping those in need in 2007.

(Dr A Bonnici M.D, is a grand nephew of Mons F Bonnici)

Ref; Mons Francesco Bonnici D D; Elogio Funebre by Sac Prof Emmanuele Vassallo J.C.D

Mons Kan Prof F Bonnici D D; "Taghrif Fuq il Hajja u l-opri tieghu by Mons Enrico Bonnici

Id Dar ta San Gusepp; Alexander Bonnici O.F.M.Conv

The Silver Jubilee Issue of 1935

*by Graham Pound
(Malta Study Circle U.K.)*

The Silver Jubilee Issue of 1935

With the unexpected death of his elder brother Prince Albert Victor in 1891, George became the heir apparent, and when his father, Edward VII died, George became King on 6 May 1910 at the age of 45.

On 24 August 1934 the British Secretary of State for the Colonies sent the following telegram to each colony:-

“H. M. the King has approved an issue of special postage stamps throughout the Colonial Empire to Commemorate the Silver Jubilee. Single designs with appropriate heading for each territory are now being prepared. Proposed issue should be on sale from, or as soon as possible after, the 10 May 1935 until the end of the year and limited to four denominations. Suggest 1. Shilling or local equivalent. 2. Inland letter rate. 3. Foreign letter rate. 4. One other denomination not exceeding 6d. Please telegraph value to be printed and quantity of each value required excluding those for sale in the UK.”

A further circular issued on 5 December 1934 contained the following:-

“The series will comprise four denominations only in uniform design as depicted in the accompanying leaflet. The stamps will be printed in two colours in sheets of sixty each. The appropriate heading for each territory will be inserted in place of the word “Specimen” where this appears in the illustration and the duty in the oval panel in the left bottom corner.

It is His Majesty’s wish that this issue should be placed on sale on the 6 May 1935, and continue in use until 31 December 1935 when the residues whatsoever are to be destroyed. The sale of the corresponding denominations in the permanent series of stamps is to be discontinued during the currency of the Silver Jubilee issue. Arrangements are being made with the Crown Agents for the Colonies for the sale of the stamps to dealers in this country and a public announcement concerning the issue will be made on 1 February 1935 by which date the despatch should have been received in all the dependencies concerned. I assume that you will also wish to make a public announcement on that date in the territory under your administration”.

On the 29 January 1935 the British Secretary of State for the Colonies announced that these commemorative stamps would be placed on sale on 6 May 1935.

Three printing firms holding Government contracts submitted a total of eighteen competitive designs. The one chosen was that by H. Fleury of Waterlow & Sons Ltd. It consisted of a vignette showing a view of Windsor Castle and a frame

consisting of the crowned head of the King, set in oval frame formed by the collar of the Order of the Garter with its pendant badge of St George and the Dragon. In the background are crossed scepters and the Sword of State. The head of the King was adapted by the engraver from the portrait stamps of India.

Master dies for the frame and vignette were engraved by Waterlow and Sons and were used to prepare the printing plates used by the three printers Waterlow's, Bradbury Wilkinson's and De la Rue who shared the order as it was so large, (the total requirement for all the territories was in excess of 50 million stamps), and the time for completion so short. Bradbury Wilkinson were required to print for 14 territories by 4 values (not including Newfoundland whose four values were each printed from a single plate). It is interesting to note that there are differences in the vignette, for example, in the number of lines running down the wall, on the right of the round tower, to the river. Bradbury Wilkinson has 1, Waterlow has 2, and De la Rue 3.

It was a joint tender by the three printers to the Crown Agents. The following imperforate colour trials of the accepted designs on watermarked paper are in the Royal Collection:-

Grey Black & Deep Green	Blue & Green	Green & Mauve
Black & Mauve	Blue & Grey	Green & Indigo
Red & Purple	Indigo & Red	Vermillion & Green
Mauve & Green	Mauve & Brown	Red Brown & Black
Green & Vermillion	Green & Sepia	Brown & Deep Blue

The Malta stamps were printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co on Multiple Script CA watermarked paper supplied by De la Rue. The paper on reels 25 1/2 inches wide was manufactured by W. Howard & Sons and gummed by Samuel Jones & Co. De la Rue was responsible for the issue of the paper to the three printers. The printed size sheet was 25 x 13 inches to take 120 vignettes i.e. two panes of sixty, side by side. After the vignettes were printed the sheets were guillotined into two before the application of the frame plate. The perforation is 11 x 12 (comb), and there are perforation guide crosses in the selvedge 9 1/2 mm. from the outside edge of the nearest stamp. The values and colours were:-

1/2d Black & Green,	2 1/2d Brown & Deep blue
6d Light blue & Olive green,	1/- Slate & Purple

All values, as printed, were perforated SPECIMEN in an arc, the letters being 4 mm high. An imperforate copy of the 1/- value is also known perforated SPECIMEN.



Registered Cover to Guernsey showing the "Lightning conductor" on the 6d value

Although the quantities sold have not been ascertained, the Crown Agents' archives record that the following sheets, consisting of single panes, were despatched on the following dates:-

	½d	2½d	6d	1/-
28 March 1935	35,596	5,511	1,982	1,087
1 November 1935	4,112		550	366
Totals	39,708	5,511	2,532	1,453

These quantities are sheets of 60, thus the numbers of stamps supplied were:- ½d—2,382,480; 2½d—330,660; 6d—150,920; 1/-87,180, and include those sold by the Crown Agents.

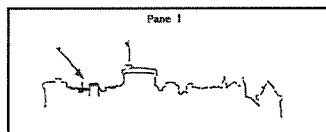
The stamps were, as intended, placed on sale on 6 May 1935 and first day covers are known bearing a 7 AM postmark.

Bradbury Wilkinson produced six vignette plates each consisting of two half plates (or panes) of sixty vignettes and they described the two plates used for the First printing of Malta stamps in March 1935 as numbers 5 and 6. However, we have called them plates 1, 2, 3, & 4, although plates 1 & 3 as well as 2 & 4 were permanent pairs, each constituting a 120 vignette set printing plate. The two printing plates were combined for the first printing, thus 240 vignettes were printed concurrently. Thus Bradbury Wilkinson only used two of the six vignette

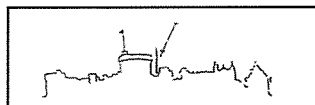
plates that they had produced for Malta.

The first jubilee stamps printed by Bradbury Wilkinson were for the Gilbert & Ellice Islands as they were the most remote territory, and there are no recorded varieties on these stamps. Further territories were then printed and by the time that they came to print for Malta a number of cracks had developed on the plates causing the following varieties to be recorded.

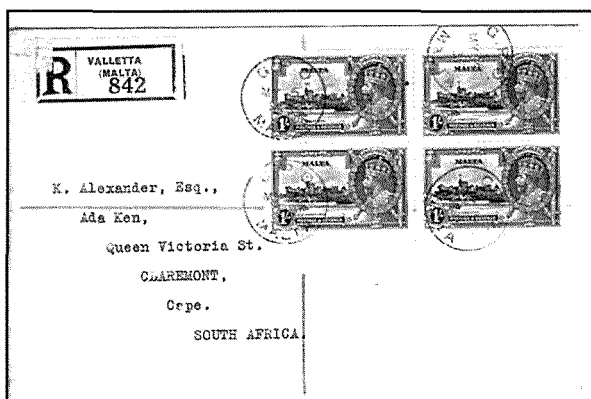
Row 3 No. 2. Short vertical lines between the two turrets at the extreme left.



Row 6 No. 1. Vertical hairline to the left of the round tower extending from the building to the border. An additional hairline, 1mm. to the left of the other hairline, extending downwards to the buildings on stamp 50. These lines are very faint but traces may be seen extending upwards into the margin above.



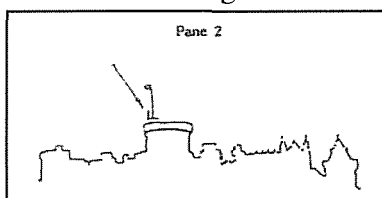
Row 9 No 1. Extra flagstaff, consisting of a vertical line which is the length of the normal flagstaff, rises from a gap in the buildings between the round tower and the turret on its right. Probably the best known variety on this issue.



Registered cover to South Africa showing the "Extra Flagstaff" variety.

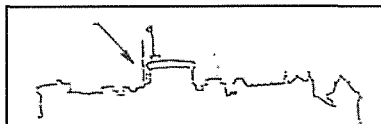
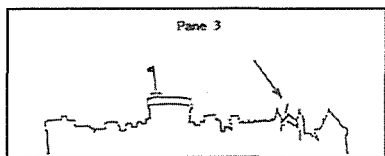
Row 9 No. 2. Long vertical hairline, (an extension from stamp 44) to the left of the round tower.

Row 10 No 2. Short vertical line to turret to right of round tower.



Row 2 No1. Short flagstaff, (a short vertical line), on the round tower at the left of the main flagstaff. A copy of this stamp is known with a short vertical hairline above the “M” of “MALTA” which may be an extension of the short flagstaff.

Row 8 No. 5. Diagonal from behind round tower.

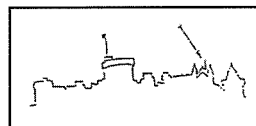


Row 8 No. 6 Vertical hairline on left of round tower

Row 1 No. 4. Short vertical line projecting from the left gable of St George’s Chapel.

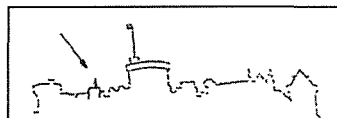
Row 2 No 2. Two “swans” in water.

Row 2 No. 5. “Lightning conductor” short vertical line projecting from the right gable of St George’s Chapel.



Row 9 No. 2. Two long faint vertical long hairlines, one each side of the conical tower.

Row 4 No. 3. Short horizontal lines in the sky between “MALTA” and the left hand vertical frame line.



Row 10 No. 2. Short projection on the turret at the left of the round tower.

Row 10 No. 6. Long vertical hairline extending from the left gable of the chapel just to the right of the pinnacle.

Frame Plates

Individual frame plates were used for each of the four values. The only constant variety noted is a re-entry on the 2½d value tablet.

The Second printing on 1 November 1935 used the combined plates 1 & 3, of 120 vignettes, which therefore include the extra flagstaff variety on plate 1 Row 9 no 1, and the lightning conductor on plate 3 Row 2 No 5. The printers decided to erase the extra flagstaff, and this had to be done by hand, but as the other varieties were less visible they were ignored. They also decided to erase it on 6d & 1/- values of Gambia.

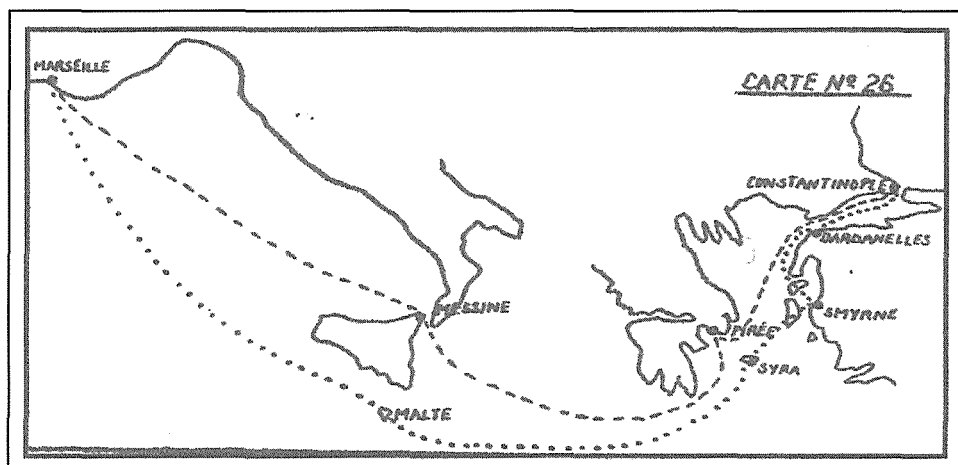
A sharp tool was used for the erasure of the flagstaff above the building line thus scratching the stamp surface very slightly, but in most cases the flagstaff can still be seen in part and it is therefore described as “partially erased”. As the 2½d value was not reprinted, this variety does not appear on that value. Thus the maximum number of varieties of the “extra flagstaff partially erased” is:-

	½d	2½d	6d	1/-
1 November 1935	2056	—	275	183

Messageries Imperiales and Malta

Levant Line (Ligne de Levant)

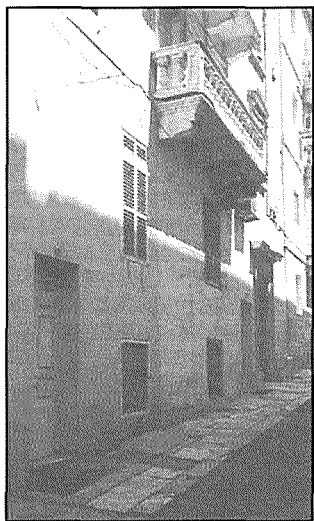
By Dr. A. Bonnici



The Messageries Imperiales – Levant Ligne, from Marseille to Constantinople was one of the Lines that the M.I. operated during the period 1851–1866, carrying passengers, freight and mail.

During these years, there were eight amendments to timetable and routes. (Neuvieme variante)

A Postal Agent was often on board these postal ships "Paquebot", who endorsed the letters with a special hand stamp, bearing the name of the ship and date. Later when stamps were introduced, they were cancelled by an anchor in a lozenge of dots.



Malta being more or less half way between Marseille and Constantinople, featured prominently, and a Malta M. I. Office operated from, 39 Old Mint Street, Valletta.

One of the duties of the Malta Agent was to hand on departure an Official Document to the Malta Customs, "*Etat Nominatif des Passagers*" which included the name of the Ship, the ship's Captain, Crew, Passengers, their Profession, Nationality, embarkation point and destination as well as the name of the Postal Agent.

The Captain on the other hand delivered on arrival,

a similar list to Customs and the Malta Agent.

The envelope was not yet invented in this early period, so the letters were folded, sealed and the address written on the front. Normally we find on them the rate in manuscript, the hand stamp of the sender or "Forwarding Agent" and the arrival Malta hand stamp.

These letters in Postal History language are called "entires".

SERVICES MARITIMES DES MESSAGERIES IMPERIALES						
DIRECTION DE L'EXPLOITATION						
Etat Nominatif des Passagers.						
Paquebot à vapeur le <i>Guineal</i> Capitaine <i>Caboulique</i>						
Lieu d'Embarquement	Nombre de Passagers	Nom et Prénom	Profession	Nation	Destination	Observations
Malte	1	M ^r J. B. Roussel	Négociant	Russie	Russie	
	1	Joseph Battaglia	Off.	Russie	"	
	1	M ^r J. B. Roussel	"	Russie	Naples	
	3	M ^r J. B. Roussel	"	Russie	Russie	
	1	M ^r J. B. Roussel	Religieux	Rome	Naples	
	1	Federico Montanari	Nég.	Russie	Neuchâtel	
	1	M ^r J. B. Roussel	Religieux	Russie	"	
	1	M ^r J. B. Roussel	Religieux	Russie	Genève	
	2	M ^r J. B. Roussel	Religieux	Russie	Russie	
	1	M ^r J. B. Roussel	Religieux	Russie	Russie	
	1	M ^r J. B. Roussel	Religieux	Russie	Russie	

Malte 8 Jan 1859.

L'AGENT

Mr. KILMAN



Official List of passengers (Etat Nominatif des Passagers) showing the signature of the M. I. Malta Agent Mr. KILMAN 8 Jan 1859, and the official M. I. Malta Agency hand stamp.

Extrait Du rôle du Paquetot le Vatican

Pelissot	Emile	cap ^{me}
Grange	Isidore	second
Pellegrin	Joseph	Prisier
Aubert	Louis	Docteur
Bouvard	Charles	1 ^{er} m ^{re}
Dreyse	Charles	3 ^e 8 ^e
Deugis	André	m ^{re} d'ig
Pascal	Jean	Notable
Wermille	Jules	"
Mearillon	Jacques	"
Duc	Joseph	"
Cassin	Thomas	"
Pellegrina	Isidore	"
Névato	Paul	"
Hamong	Antoine	"
Stallier	Edmé	"
Bidibender	Henri	"
Poujol	Antoine	"
More	Antoine	"
Philipp	Antoine	Arrière
Denot	Jean	"
Abeggler	Joseph	"
Campiglia	Léonard	Arrière

Peyer	Denis	1 ^{er} chauffeur
Rever	Louis	chauffeur
Didiot	Charles	"
Peyroulan	Blaise	"
Sarcari	Paul	"
Dourelle	Joseph	"
Pontonnier	Henri	"
Peynier	Bernard	"
Lefer	Antoine	"
Loubert	Jean	Conducteur
Durbe	Paul	1 ^{er} Currier
Rever	Antoine	3 ^e 8 ^e
Lamau	Henri	Conducteur
Desoglio	Joseph	Arrière Currier
Milly	Thomas	m ^{re} d'hotel
Desq	Antoine	3 ^e 8 ^e
Emery	Samuel	Garçon
Pusteller	Joseph	"
Duglomo	Emile	"
Louvier	Auguste	"
Verrier	Henri	1 ^{er} chauffeur

Ostima agent des Postes



Arrivé à Malte le 30 Mars 1859

L. Pellegrin
 Agent des Postes

List of passengers and crew on the 30 March 1859 showing name of Captain of M.I. Vatican including the name of Postal Agent (Agent des Postes) OSTIMA which was handed to the Malta Customs.

no 44
Etat nominal du Personnel du Vatican

Paquebot
Le Vatican

Tellier Emile cap.^{me}
Grange Martin second
Telleprie Joseph 3^e
Coutant Louis dentier
Bouvard Charles mécan.
Drozzi Charles mécan.
Drozzi André m.^{re} 3^e
Pichal Jean m.^{re}
Hermann Jules "
Mouillon Jean "
Gattié Étienne "
Duc Joseph "
Telleprie Salomon "
Bisbender Henri "
Habitier Félix "
Hannay Antoine "
Moral Antoine "
Novaro Pascal "
Pouyet Pierre "
Philippe Victor "
Dumont Pierre "
Orsellin Joseph "
Campoglia Laurent

Loyer Lucien chauffeur
Héris Louis "
Didiot Charles "
Peyroulan Blaise "
Verrin Joseph "
Vignier Bernard "
Courlette parfont "
Lancani Barthélémy "
Jafet Antoine "
Moety François 2^e
Botz Alexandre "
Emery Daniel "
Piffolla Gaston "
Raghi mo Michel "
Lourmin Eugène "
Verrin Etienne f. s. ch.
Joubert Jean restaurateur
Favreau Léon cambouis
Dubre Paulx cuisinier
Voua Eugène "
Desogles Joseph "
~~Blanc~~
Du bourgnet agent de
Poste

Arrivé à Malte le 3 Février 1859

J^h Telleprie

45.

List & crew of M.I. Vatican on Messageries Imperiales note paper as of 3 February 1859, including the name of the Postal Agent; Ostima Du bourgnet (Agent des Postes)

LIGNE DU LEVANT via MALTA

M.I. ALEXANDRE (21 July 1853)



E. L. – 17 July 1853 – D’Amira – SMYRNE to Tagliaferro in MALTA stating;
“La presente vi sara rimessa dalla mia Cara Consorte”.

M.I. ALEXANDRE – SMYRNE (*Salles p 167*) arriving Malta on 21 July 1853, as per (*Malta Arrivals Customs Register Ms KL105, Vol 109, Folio 676*). Rate “5” pence and “3d n” (*nollegio*) M.I. ALEXANDRE: (1st Postal voyage, 1st November 1851, to Constantinople) LIGNE DU LEVANT: Deuxième variante, 2nd return Postal voyage from the Levant in 1853.

M.I. ALEXANDRE: (493tx) Lieut Engel Gerond (F).

Built in 1843 at La Ciotat, and launched 16 May, transferred to S A.M. 1 Oct 1853, and to M I on 28 Feb 1853. Broken up in 1864 at La Ciotat.



At **Malta**, all letters had to be fumigated, so on the 21st the entire was handed by Mrs Amira, to the Postal Agent on board, who endorsed it with the **M.I. ALEXANDRE 21 July 1853**, (h/s), which explains why it was not endorsed on leaving **SMYRNE** on the 17 July 1853 (*S p 167*)

“MALTE PURIFIE AU LAZARET” & ‘*tong fumigation mark on the side*’

M.I. AMERIQUE

1st Postal voyage to Levant (24 November 1860)
LONDON 23/11 – MARSEILLE 24/11 – MALTA 28/11

E.L. – 23 Nov 1860 – Baring Bros – LONDON (UK) – to MALTA 28 Nov 60, c.d.s (v), *endorsed in manuscript, “p french packet via Marseille” (24 Nov 1860)*

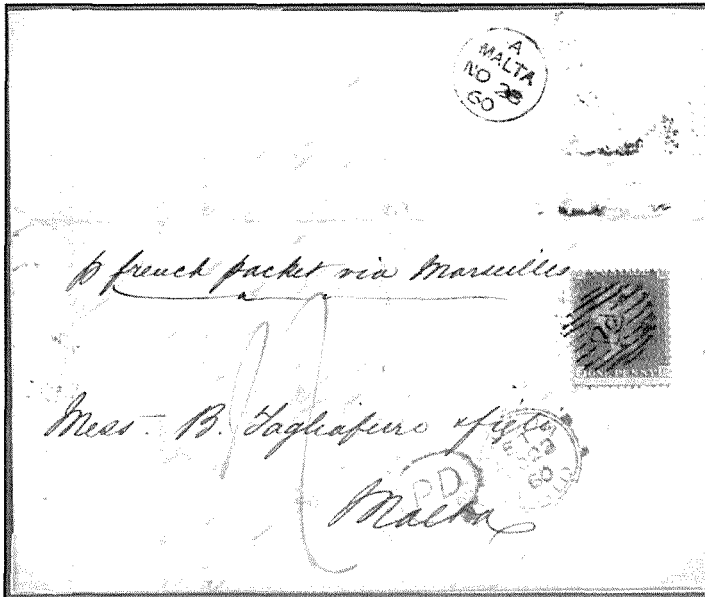
New Postal Rate – Q.V. 1d cancelled by No “51” in a *diamond*, and bars (*Billing p 267*) **LONDON/ET/NO 23/60 PAID (20mm)** in red, oval **PD** in red.

In spite of this at Marseille it was rated “1/-”, “11d” + 1d stamp = “1/-”



M.I. AMERIQUE, (1st Postal voyage to Constantinople),

(*Salles p. 175*),



M.I. AMERIQUE;
(1088tx), launched on
17 Jan 1857, built by
Forges et Chantiers de
la Mediterranee at La
Seyne.

In 1859 was converted
into a horse carrier for
the Italian campaign
and in July 1860
carried troops to Syria
and on the 24 Nov
1860 was placed on the
Levant mail service,
broken up in 1875 at
La Ciotat.

*On this First Postal voyage to the Levant via Malta, there was no ship hand stamp on board, and on the return trip on the 24 Dec 1860, the hand stamp of PERICLES was used. (*Salles p 119*)*

M.I. AMERIQUE

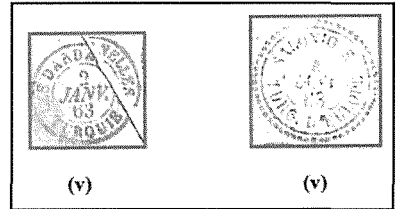
27 Dec 1862

E.L. – 27 December 1862, by Garissi Christodlo (h/s), (r), in MARSEILLE, endorsed “*Vap Amerique*” to Messrs Friandafillos in SALONIQUE via MALTA.

1st Postal voyage – 24 Nov 1860 to Constantinople

LIGNE DU LEVANT: Sixième variante, 2nd Postal voyage in 1862

Rate in manuscript (x) “3” (45c rate x 3 = 150c), franked by 10 + 20 + 40 + 80c = 150c, cancelled by anchor in lozenge of dots, via MALTA – DARDANELLES (2 JANV 63), (v) arriving in SALONIQUE TURQ D’EUROPE (4 JANV 63) (v)



M.I. AMERIQUE

6 June 1863

E.L. – 6 June 1863 by Messrs Spartalli in **MARSEILLE**, endorsed with their hand stamp, (r) and “*per Vapeur Poste*” in *manuscript*, to **MALTA**.

40c pale organe Napoleon III, perforation 14x13½, cancelled by anchor in lozenge of dots (r), endorsed by Postal agent on board by ship hand stamp, “AMERIQUE / 6 JUIN 63”, h.s. (r), (S. p 177), direct to **MALTA**, arriving on the 10 June 1863, c.d.s. (v). Small box Black PD



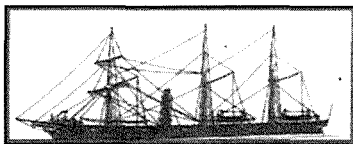
M.I. BORYSTHENE: Ship Hand Stamp

(16 April 1857)

E.L. – 16 April 1857 – F Zino – CONSTANTINOPLE, (h/s), to MALTA – 22 April 1857, at 2 am as per Malta arrival c.d.s, (v). & (M.A.C.R; Vol No 131, Folio 20). Rate x (3) = “1/6” (one shilling six pence) *in manuscript*.

M.I. BORYSTHENE: (1st Postal voyage 7 January 1856 to Constantinople)
LIGNE DU LEVANT: Cinquième Variante, 16 April 1857, (S p 172), 2nd Postal voyage in 1857

M.I. BORYSTHENE, (694 tx) Lieut Du Budon, sister of Hydaspe, Meandre Built by John Laird, Birkenhead, and launched 23 April 1853. Unused as a Crimea war transport. Was Lost 15 Dec 1865 on the Island of Plane bound Marseille – Oran.



M.I. CAIRE: Ship Hand Stamp

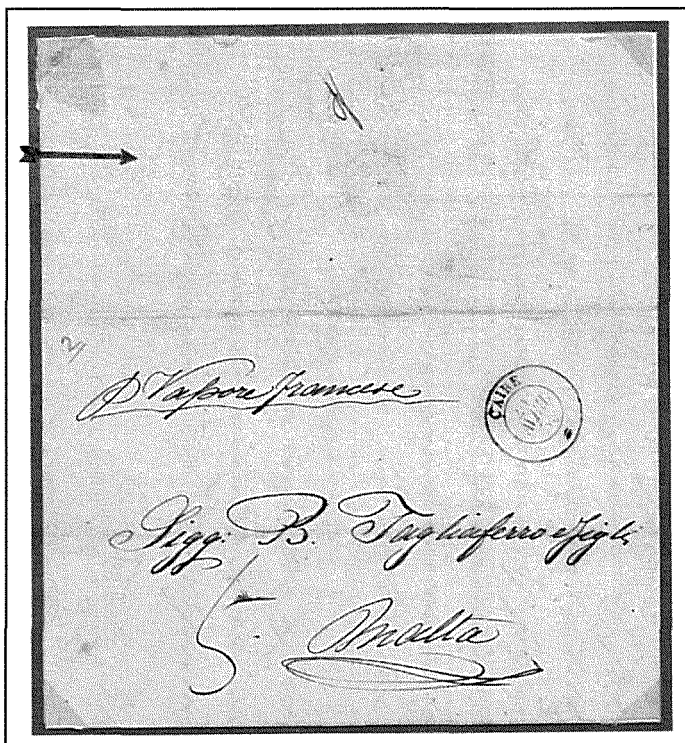
(20 April 1853)

E.L. – 19 April 1855 – Valsamachy Brothers / Ship Borkers, (h/s), (v), – endorsed “*P. Vapore Francese*”. – CONSTANTINOPE (20 April 1855) to MALTA – 25 April 1855, as per file entry and *Malta Arrival Customs Register Section KL. MS 114, Vol 118, F 10*

Rate 5d = 4d sea carriage + 1d Malta Rate = 5d.

M.I. CAIRE: (1st Postal voyage 23 October 1851 to Egypt), this being the 2nd LIGNE DE LEVANT: Quatrième variante, only two trips in 1855

M.I. CAIRE, (483 tx) Lieut Karaval (F); sister of Osiris. Built in 1843 at the Naval Yard, La Ciotat, launched on 1 July 1843. In 1859 carried troops Marseille – Genoa during the Italian Campaign which followed the secret pact of PIOMBIERES by which Napoleon III backed Cavour militarily against Austria.



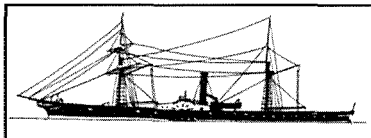
Salles p 170, says it left Constantiple on the 19, but hand stamp of Caire is 20 April 1855

M.I. CARMEL: No Ship Hand Stamp

(18 June 1857)

E.L. – 18 June 1857 – Zino – CONSTANTINOPLE 18/6 (h/s)r, to MALTA 24/6 (h/s)v Rate 2/6” two schillings and six pence, high rate.

M.I. CARMEL 18 June 1857 (*S p 172*), arriving
MALTA 24 June 1857 30 mm (h/s) (v) and
A.C.R.Ms 127, V 1131 F 168



1st Postal voyage 18 January to Constantinople
4th return Postal voyage in 1857 via MALTA

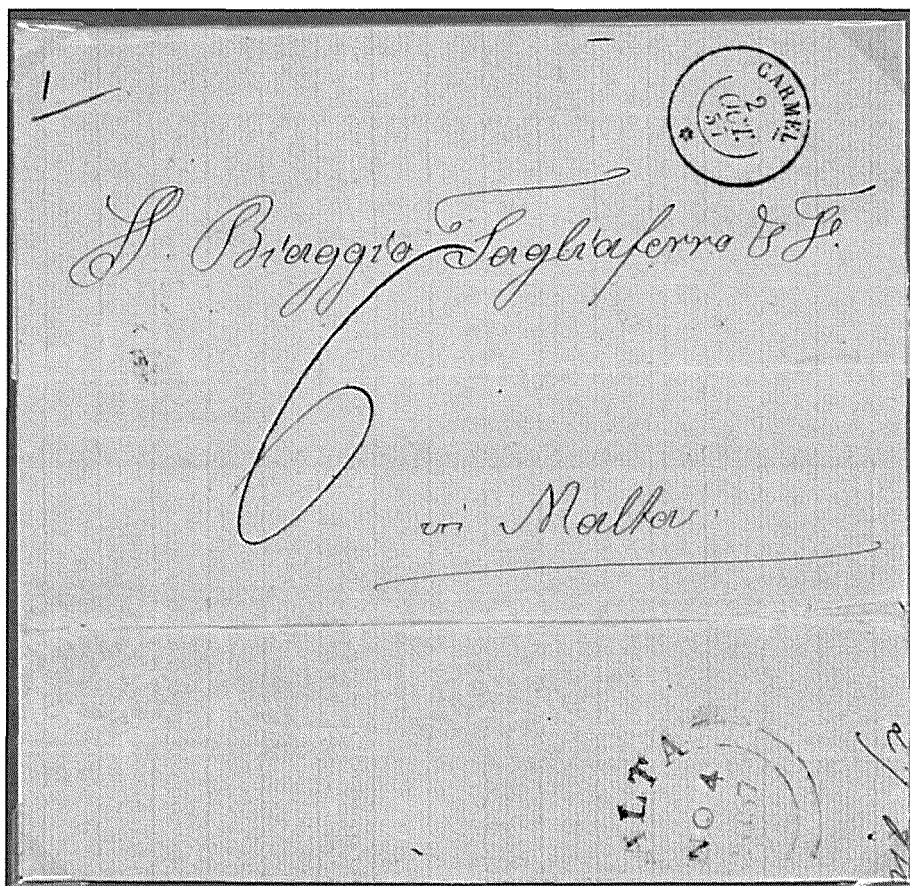


Ligne Du Levant,
from Syrie to Marseille via Malta
Constantinople (28 October 1857 – Malta 4 November 1857)
M.I. Carmel: Ship Hand Stamp (2(8) October 1857)

E.L. – Rodocanacchi in ODESSA – 12 October 1857, going first to CONSTANTINOPLE, (28 October 1857) to MALTA – 4 November 1858 as per c.d.s, (v)

Rated “6” pence = 5d sea carriage + 1d Malta Inland Rate

M.I. CARMEL: (1st Postal voyage 18 January 1855 to Constantinople, 6th return Postal voyage in 1857, 28 October (*Salles p 173*). Slug 8 missing from date (28) hand stamp.



M.I. CYDNUS: Ship Hand Stamp

(20 March 1861)

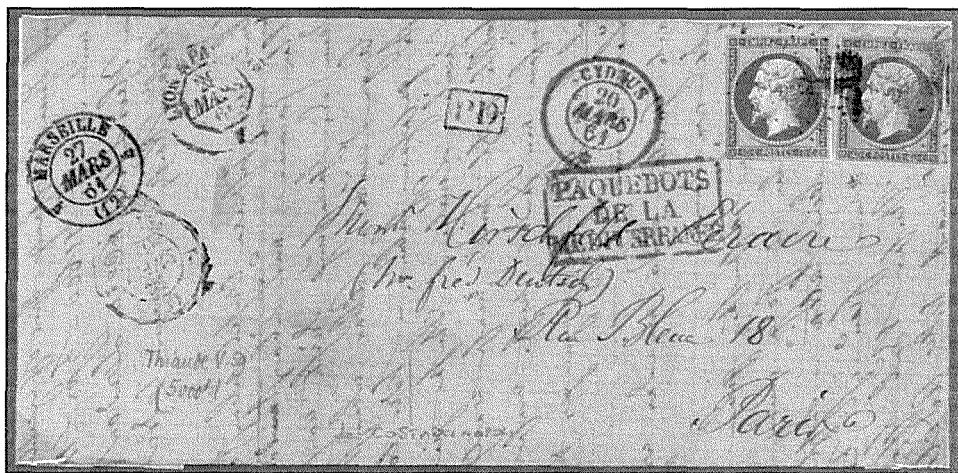
E.L. – 20 March 1861 – A. Seyer – CONSTANTINOPLE – MARSEILLE –
PARIS via MALTA

M. I. CYDNUS: 20 MARS 61, blue/grey (h/s) (r), (S. p 175), & P.D.

Imperforate Louis Napoleon 10 + 40 cancelled by anchor in lozenge of dots.

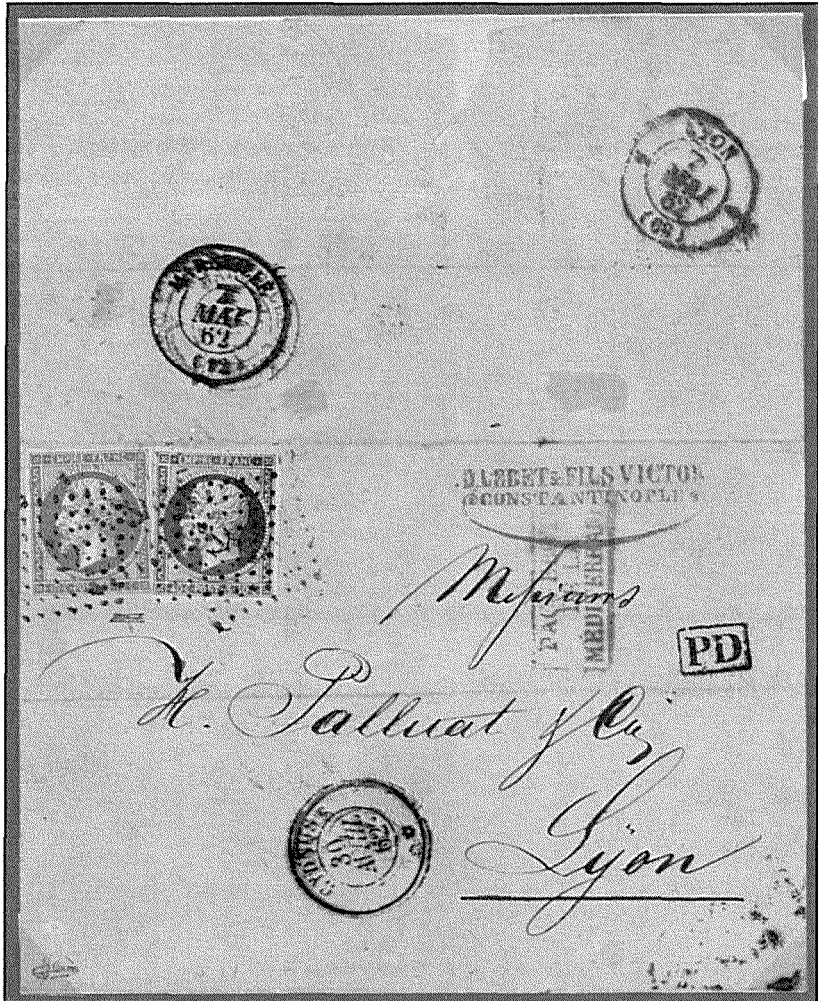
Red (1.7 x 3.1mm), PAQUEBOTS/DE LA /MEDITERANEE

MARSEILLE (27 MARS 61), LYON-PARIS (28 MARS 61), PARIS (29
MARS 1861)



(30 April 1862)

Imperforate 10c & 40c Louis Napoleon, cancelled with anchor in lozenge of dots and ship hand stamp, CYDNUS/30/AVRIL/62, (S. p 176) small box PAQUEBOTS / DE LA/ MEDITERRANEE in red, arriving in MARSEILLE & LYON on the 7 May 1862, c.d.s, (h/s) (v)



M.I. DANUBE: Ship Hand Stamp

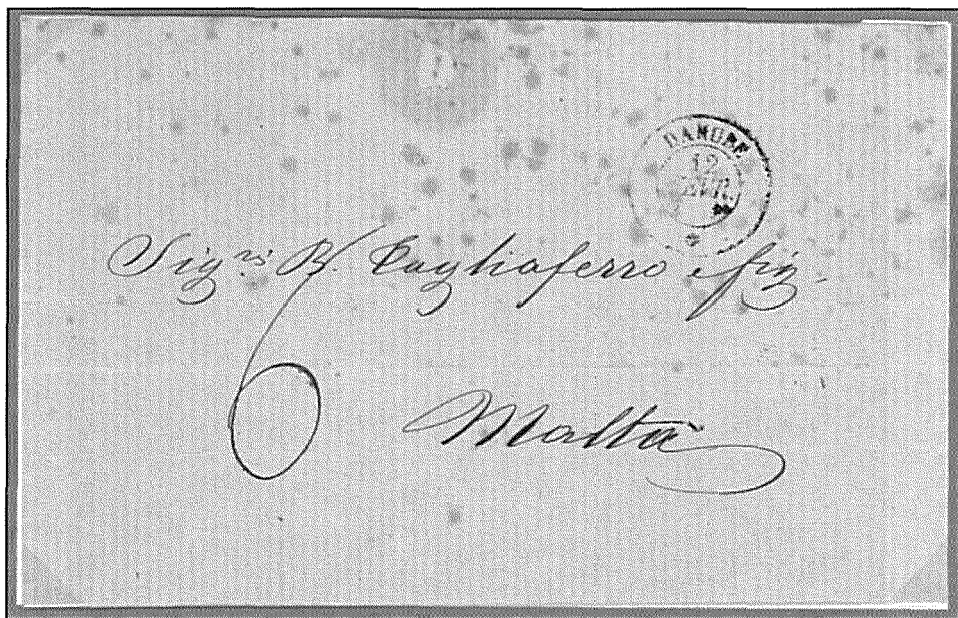
(12 Feb (57) is missing)

E. L. – 12 Febraury 1857 – S. G. Pederomito in CONSTANTINOPLE to MALTA, (20 Feb 1857) via SMYRNE, (Salles p 172-179)

Rate “6” *pence* in manuscript = 5d sea carriage 1d Malta Inland Rate

M.I. DANUBE (1st Postal voyage 3 December 1855 to Constantinople)

LIGNE DU LEVANT: Cinquième Variante, 1st Postal voyage from the Levant in 1857



HMHS Rewa torpedoed January 1918.

by Marc Parren

The cover depicted here should be one of the last postal documents originating from the hospital ship *Rewa* before it was sunk in early January 1918. The cover with its accompanying letter was written on board the HMHS *Rewa* by a staff member on the 16th November 1917. HMHS *Rewa* was a 7,267 ton ship built for the British India Steam Navigation Company in 1906, and converted to a hospital ship in August 1914 (Firebrace 1991). Having sailed from Malta the HMHS *Rewa* was carrying 279 cot and walking wounded cases from Greece. She was in the Bristol Channel, when on the 4th January 1918, Wilhelm Werner in his U-55, lined her up, and soon sank her with his torpedoes despite the fact that the *Rewa* was clearly marked as a hospital ship. This should not have come as a surprise since in April 1917, Germany advised that it would not give anymore consideration to the Red Cross flag flown by hospital ships (Barnichon 1998). Four engine-room crewmen died, and the ship was very lucky to get away with such light casualties. Remaining crew and patients were rescued by local craft and landed safely at Swansea (Ball 2003).

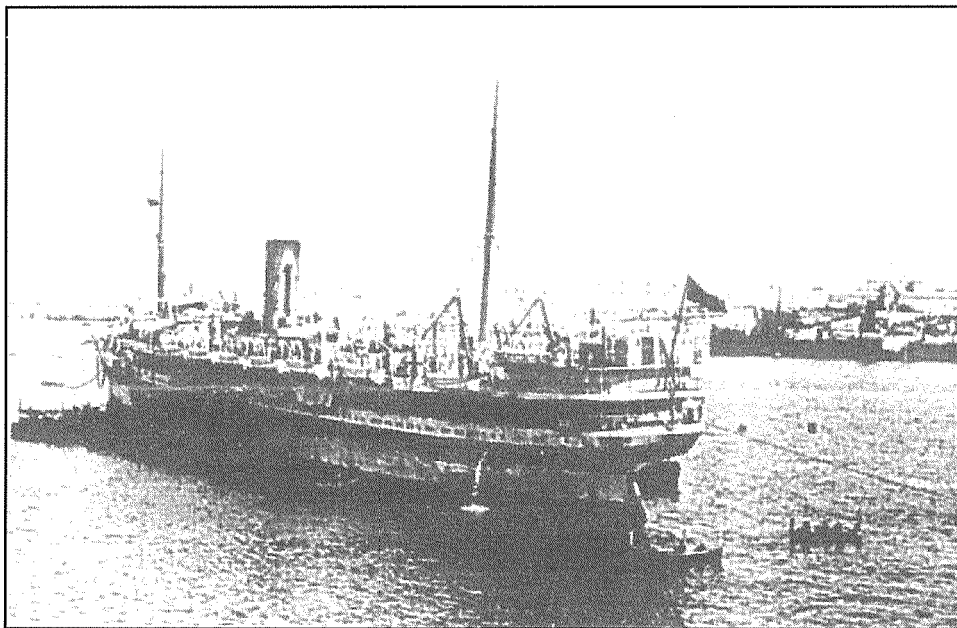


Fig. 1. HMHS Rewa in Valletta Harbour

Of interest to note is that in the course of 1917 sailings of hospital ships were to form part of convoys, sailing preferably at night. Another protective measure taken was to carry German hostages on board. On some vessels, it was necessary to remove some hospital beds to accommodate the hostages while on converted passenger vessels this did not have to be done and the hostages often enjoyed first class cabins. As allied defenses strengthened and the convoy system was enforced, U-Boat successes declined although they remained the main danger to Allied shipping until the very end of the war.

Now looking at the contents of the letter it seems likely that the HMHS Rewa was docked at Malta at the time of writing as it reads as follows:

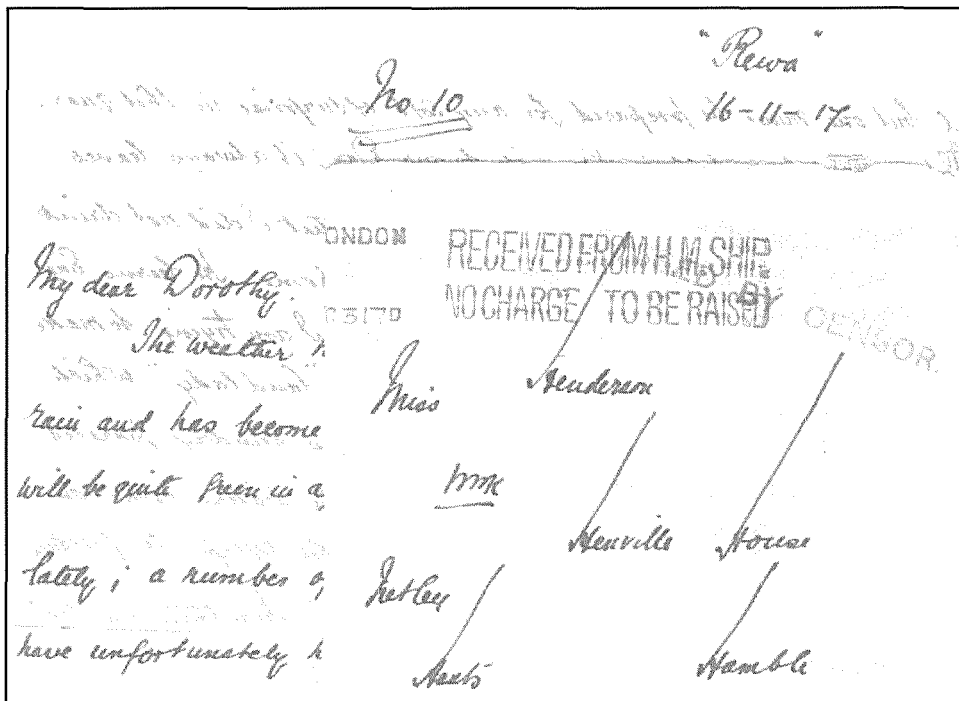
“My dear Dorothy,

The weather has changed with a vengeance. It has started to rain and has become quite cold. If it goes on like this the old dust heap will be quite green in a few days. We have had quite a lot of work lately; a number of bad cases have streamed in suddenly and we have unfortunately had a death. There will probably be a lull now for some time as this is really a healthy time of the year. I have not been ashore very much during the last two or three days. Work kept me on board during the early part of the week and now the weather is doing so. We expect that the “Karapara” is home now and we are awaiting news of her as we have only about 2 months’ grab on board and we shall have to send for more if we stay out very long.

I see that things both in Russia and Italy begin to look more hopeful but one must be prepared for any sort of surprise in that quarter. I have just been talking Spanish to our Don; it always leaves me very thirsty and makes me deplore the fact that I did not drink more beer when I had the chance years ago at home. He learns English in the morning and I learn Spanish at night. I am trying to make him learn the difference between “hostess” and “landlady” which he seems to consider synonymous terms. He has also sundry phrases which I must knockout of his head before the sisters come on board. I seem to have every duty in the world except the pursuit of medicine and surgery. How is the gardening? Here they are digging the soil for amusement! Best love from

William W Keir”

The rains changing the landscape from dust to green could well apply to Malta. Since I have not gotten hold of the log book I am not able to confirm the ships position in mid-November. The sister ship HMHS Karapara expected to being home in the UK at the time of writing also directs to a possible positioning in the Mediterranean. Most unfortunate the cover has no indication of originating from Malta as it just received the 3rd December 1917 London, “RECEIVED FROM



H.M.SHIP / NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED” Krag machine cancellation. The unframed censorship mark reading “PASSED BY CENSOR.” is classified by Gould (1998) as Type 4C. This particular censorship mark is unrecorded by him and has the following dimensions: length 68 mm (excluding stop) by 4 mm height; distances P-B 29 mm, P-C 42 mm; stop rectangular. Further HMHS Rewa covers might attribute this censorship mark to the ship. At the same time neither Firebrace (1991) nor Ball (2003) describe any hospital ship handstruck marks and cachets for HMHS Rewa. So this may mean that they had none aboard unless someone proves the opposite.

- Ball, D. (2003). British and Empire hospital ships at Malta in WWI. *Melita* 15(11): 355-370.
- Barnichon, G. (1998). *Les navires hopitaux français au XXe siècle*. Editions Marcel-Didier Vrac, Le Touvet, France. With English translation by P. Rouillet.
- Firebrace, J. (1991) *British Empire campaigns and occupations in the Middle East 1914 -1924. A postal history*. Christie’s Robson Lowe, London, Bournemouth, U.K.
- Gould, M.H. (1998). *British naval post & censor marks of the First World War*. Postal History 2000, Burnham-on-Crouch, U.K.

Postal Diary

10 December 2007 – 14 March 2008

by Joseph Fenech

10 December 2007

Maltapost informed that the Attard Sub-Post Office, which was operated from Globe Stationery at 16A, Main Street, Attard, was no longer operational. Maltapost is in the process of opening a new Sub-Post Office in the same town.

26 December

By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no mail delivery was carried out, and all the Maltapost retail outlets did not open for business, on Wednesday, 26 December 2007. Normal service was resumed on Thursday, 27 December 2007. Maltapost also notified that an earlier collection than usual from all letter boxes took place on 24 December 2007 at 14.00 hrs.

28 December

Through Notice 1129 appearing in Government Gazette No 18,168 of 28 December 2007, it was notified that the Minister for Competitiveness and Communications had approved that the Stamp Design Advisory Board be constituted as follows:

Chairman – Mr Anthony P Pavia; Members – Mr Anthony Barbaro Sant, Dr Alfred Bonnici, Mr John Bonnici, Mr Domenic Cutajar, Dr Vincent Depasquale, Mr John A Mizzi and Mr Joseph Said; Secretary – Ms Jacqueline Pace Delicata. These appointments were to remain valid up to 31 December 2008.

29 December

Maltese and Gozitan personalities and local and international anniversaries were commemorated on a set of five stamps and a miniature sheet issued by Maltapost on Saturday, 29 December 2007. This set was designed by Harry Borg, and was printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps are 44mm x 31mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0mm (comb), and the miniature sheet is 123mm x 86mm in size, with a stamp size of 41.0 x 30.5mm, with a perforation of 13.5 x 13.5 (comb). The stamps feature the 25th anniversary of the Youth Football Association (Euro 0.01/Lm4 mils), the 100th anniversary of the Society of Christian Doctrine (Euro 0.21/Lm0.09), St. Joseph Institute founder Canon Monsignor Professor Francesco Bonnici (Euro 0.37/Lm0.16), Jesuit Father Manwel Magri (Euro 1/Lm0.43) and Carolina Cauchi, Gozitan foundress

of a Dominican monastery in Gozo (Euro 2.00/Lm0.86). The miniature sheet commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome (Euro 1.77/Lm0.76). Maltapost issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDCs No. 13 and 13a respectively). The handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST -



----- - MALTA” in the outer ring and “Anniversaries & Personalities/JUM IL-HRUĠ/29.12.07” in the inner ring. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No. 261.

31 December

Maltapost issued a miniature sheet to commemorate the last decimal coinage in use in the Maltese Islands, through a stamp issue on Monday, 31 December 2007. Designed by philatelic artist Frank X. Ancilleri, the miniature sheet is 100mm x 66mm in size. The stamp on the miniature sheet is 35mm x 35mm, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb), and has a face value of Euro 2.33/Lm1.00. The miniature sheet was printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamp on the miniature sheet depicts the two sides of the Lm1.00 coin, showing Malta’s national bird, the blue rock thrush (“il-merill”), and the Malta coat-of-arms, which is also reproduced in colour on the stamp. The surround on the miniature sheet shows a selection of decimal coins. Maltapost issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the miniature sheet on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 14). The handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA” in the outer ring and “MUNITI TA’ MALTA/JUM IL-HRUĠ/31.12.07” in the inner ring. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin (unnumbered but marked “xxx”).



1 January 2008

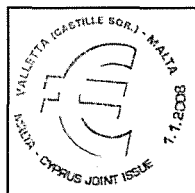
Maltapost issued a miniature sheet to commemorate the new Euro coinage through a stamp issue on Tuesday, 1 January 2008. Designed by philatelic artist Frank X. Ancilleri, the miniature sheet is 100mm x 66mm in size. The stamp on the miniature sheet is 35mm x 35mm, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb), and has a face value of 1 Euro (Lm0.43). The miniature sheet was printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The new Euro coinage stamp depicts the two sides of the 1 Euro coin, and also includes the Malta coat-of-arms in colour. The surround on the miniature sheet carries a selection of Euro coins. Maltapost issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the miniature

sheet on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 1). The handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA” in the outer ring and “MUNITI EWRO TA’ MALTA/JUM IL-HRUĠ/01.01.08” in the inner ring. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured this miniature sheet in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 263. The Maltapost retail outlets at Dar Annona, Valletta, and Victoria, Gozo, were open in the morning on 1 January to sell this miniature sheet and related philatelic items.



1 January

On 1 January 2008, Maltapost also released a joint stamp issue with Cyprus to commemorate the adoption of the Euro. The miniature sheet is 100mm x 62mm in size, and the two stamps in this sheet are 35mm x 35mm in size, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb). The miniature sheet was printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The Malta stamp depicts the Sleeping Lady from the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum. The Cyprus stamp represents the bust of Aphrodite. Each stamp has a face value of Euro 1/Lm0.43. Maltapost issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the miniature sheet on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 2). The handstamp was inscribed “----- - MALTA/MALTA-CYPRUS JOINT ISSUE/1.1.08” on the border, and carried the Euro sign at the centre. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured this miniature sheet in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 263 (the same one giving details of the Malta Euro coinage miniature sheet which was issued on the same day). As indicated above, the Maltapost retail outlets at Dar Annona, Valletta, and Victoria, Gozo, were open in the morning on 1 January to also sell this miniature sheet and related philatelic items.



1 January

Maltapost plc and Lombard Bank issued a limited edition set of Malta Euro coins 2008 and Miniature Sheets. This presentation pack measures 60cm x 15cm when unfolded, and contains one set of Euro coins issued in 2008 and protected in a blister pack, one numbered Malta decimal coinage philatelic Miniature Sheet issued and franked on 31 December 2007, and one numbered Malta Euro coinage philatelic Miniature Sheet issued and franked on 1 January 2008. Each Miniature Sheet carries an individual number matching that on the slip case of every set. This issue is limited to 30,000 sets, and is sold at Euro 25/Lm10.73, VAT included.

2 January

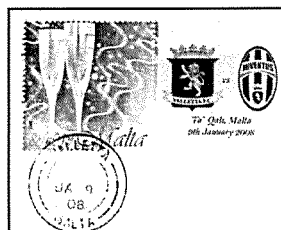
By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no mail delivery was carried out, and all the Maltapost retail outlets did not open for business, on Wednesday, 2 January 2008. Normal service was resumed on Thursday, 3 January 2008. Maltapost also notified that an earlier collection than usual from all letter boxes took place on 31 December 2007 at 14.00 hrs., and that the retail outlets at Dar Annona, Valletta, Victoria, Gozo and Head Office, Marsa, closed at 14.00 hrs.

8 January

The Malta Government announced that it was selling the remaining 40% stake it had in Maltapost plc, leading to the company's full privatisation. The 11.2 million shares of a nominal value of Euro 0.25 per share were to be offered by the Government and Malta Government Investments Ltd at Euro 0.50 per share. A pre-placement of 5.04 million shares (45% of the issue) was to be offered on 14 January 2008 and the share offer was to open to the public on 15 January. The Government shares in Maltapost were snapped up with the demand exceeding the supply by far. In fact the sale of the pre-placement shares, which were made available to stockbrokers, was over-subscribed thirteen-and-a-half times. The remaining shares, which were offered to the public, were over-subscribed by seven times. In accordance with Malta Stock Exchange Council Notice No. 425, Maltapost shares were to start being traded on the Stock Exchange on Friday, 25 January under symbol code MTP, and Maltapost, with a market capitalization of Euro 14 million, was to adopt a dividend policy of distributing up to 50% of yearly available profits. At the time of its full privatization, Maltapost declared it had 5 delivery hubs, 33 post offices, 27 sub-post offices and 431 stamp vendors. It also employed 581 people.

9 January

A personalised stamp commemorating the BetFair Cup contested between Valletta F.C. and Juventus F.C., was issued by the Valletta Supporters' Club, in conjunction with Maltapost plc and Valletta F.C., on Wednesday, 9 January 2008, the day of the match. This personalised stamp, carrying a denomination of 8Ð/Euro 0.19, was available on a souvenir envelope issued by Maltapost as MaltaPost – Personalised Stamp/Cover No 1, where it was franked by a Valletta circular date-stamp. The souvenir envelope was put on sale at a retail price of Euro 6 (Lm2.58). (Fig. 5)

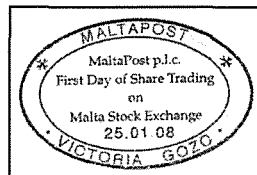


12 January

The Sub-Post Office at Pen House, Pjazza l-Eroj, Triq Ġanni Vella, Swatar, Birkirkara BKR 4252 was closed for business between Saturday, 12 and Saturday, 19 January 2008, both days included.

25 January

A special hand postmark – MaltaPost p.l.c. First Day of Share Trading on Malta Stock Exchange 25.01.08 – was used at the Maltapost Retail Outlets at Dar Annona, Valletta and the Victoria Retail Outlet, Victoria, Gozo, on Friday, 25 January 2008.



31 January

In a company announcement issued by Maltapost plc pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rule 8.16., it was announced that the Board of Directors of Maltapost had appointed Mr Graham A. Fairclough of 14, Villa Laila, Triq l-Istwiel, Attard as Company Secretary of Maltapost plc with immediate effect. Mr Fairclough is also a Director and Company Secretary of Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c.

1 February

Due to Carnival activities on Friday 1st, Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th February 2008, articles posted in three letterboxes in Nadur and four in Victoria, Gozo, were collected at 6 pm instead of the customary 7 pm clearance. Maltapost affixed notices on each of these letterboxes denoting the new collection time cut-off and the nearest 7 pm collection letterbox. The letterboxes involved were:

LB 547 in Nadur Square, Nadur; LB 544 at Nadur Retail Counter, Nadur; LB 546 in 13th December Street, Nadur; LB 501 at Victoria Branch Office, Victoria; LB 503 in St Francis Square, Victoria; LB 506 in Republic Street, Victoria; and LB 507 in Fortunato Mizzi Street, Victoria.

9 February

The Sub-Post Office at 12, Wesghat il-Ġublew, Mgarr MGR 1040, was closed for business between Saturday, 9 and Tuesday, 12 February 2008, both days included.

11 February

The Year Pack, covering all fifteen issues for 2007, was issued by Maltapost on Monday, 11 February 2008. This Year Pack, the twentieth in the series, is presented in an attractive folder, with a photograph of Caravaggio's masterpiece, The Beheading of St John, on the outside cover. Another Caravaggio masterpiece, the St Jerome, is shown on the inside cover. The inside cover of the Year Pack also carries technical details relating to the various issues. The Year Pack was sold at a retail price of Euro 59/Lm25.33 including VAT.

18 February

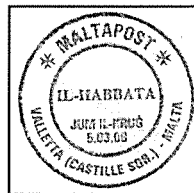
With effect from Monday, 18 February 2008, the Maltapost Naxxar branch started to encash cheques issued by the Department of Social Security. Based on the response at this branch, Maltapost will then be looking to extend the service to other localities.

27 February

Maltapost reminded the general public, political parties and independent contestants that in line with the provisions of the General Elections Act 1991, mail containing any political content could not be delivered to destination on Friday, 7 March and Saturday, 8 March 2008. It therefore urged that all political material be posted in time to reach destination by Thursday, 6 March 2008.

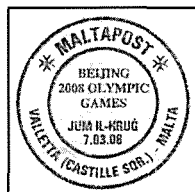
5 March

The "Habbata" (door knocker) was chosen to feature on a set of four stamps which was issued by Maltapost on Wednesday, 5 March 2008. The stamps, with face values of Euro 0.26/Lm0.11, Euro 0.51/Lm0.22, Euro 0.63/Lm0.27 and Euro 1.77/Lm0.76, are 44mm x 31mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.00mm (comb). The stamps, designed by Frank X. Ancilleri, were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and are available in sheets of ten. The four examples of "Habbata" shown on the stamps are to be found on the doors of the Ministry of Finance in South Street, Valletta (Euro 0.26), the Museum of Fine Arts, also in South Street, Valletta (Euro 0.51), the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations in Melita Street, Valletta (Euro 0.63) and the Museum of Archaeology in Republic Street, Valletta (Euro 1.77). Maltapost issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 3). The handstamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA" in the outer ring and "IL-HABBATA/JUM IL-HRUĠ/5.03.08" in the inner ring. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in 'The Malta Stamp' bulletin No. 264.



7 March

A three-stamp set commemorating the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games was issued by Maltapost on Friday, 7 March 2008. The stamps, designed by Darren Duncan, have face values of Euro 0.05/Lm0.02, Euro 0.12/Lm0.05 and Euro 1.57/Lm0.67 respectively. The stamps are 44mm x 31mm 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 stamps. The stamps depict different sports, with shooting being shown on the Euro 0.05 stamp, swimming appearing on the Euro 0.12 stamp and athletics being shown on the Euro 1.57 stamp. Maltapost issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 4). The handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA” in the outer ring and “BEIJING 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES/JUM IL-HRUG/7.03.08” in the inner ring. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No. 265.



8 March

Maltapost informed the general public that the postal branches in Hamrun, Mellieha, Żebbuġ (Malta), Gharb, Ghajnsielem, Nadur and Xaghra, were not to open for business on Saturday, 8 March 2008, due to the General Elections, as per the General Elections Act 1991. However, collection and delivery of mail was still to be carried out by Maltapost in these localities.

26 Aug 1929 Los Angeles USA to Malta connecting with

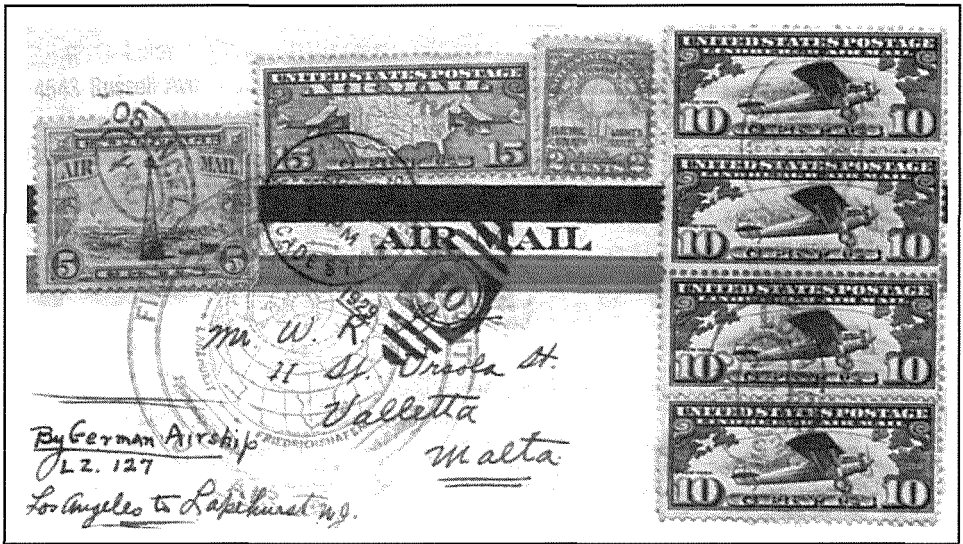
1929 (15th August – 4th September) – First Round – The – World Flight
by A. Camilleri

Unrecorded 1929 (26th August) cover from LOS ANGELES (U.S.A.) addressed to VALLETTA (MALTA) having the U.S. stamps cancelled with the double oval Los Angeles cancellation.

Taken by ordinary mail to Lakehurst, New Jersey and placed on board the airship L.Z. 127 ‘Graf Zeppelin’ for the return flight to Germany receiving in the process the special FIRST ROUND–THE–WORLD FLIGHT /U.S. AIR MAIL violet ‘globe’ cachet. Arrived FRIEDRICHSHAFEN* (BODENSEE) / 4 9 29 8-9 and from there for onward transmission to MALTA arriving VALLETTA* MALTA/SP 10 20.

Malta postman personal hand stamp No. 4 applied on the back.





Published hereunder are the audited accounts for the year which ended on 31st December, 2007 and which were approved and adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd January, 2008. It will be noted that reference is made to a number of pages on the Balance Sheet and a series of notes on the Income & Expenditure Account. These are not enclosed to save space. However, if any member would wish to receive these documents please contact us and we will be delighted to furnish a copy.

Malta Philatelic Society

Balance Sheet

31 December 2007					
2006			2007		
Lm	FIXED ASSETS		Page	Lm	€
1,640	At cost	1,848			
208	Additions	<u>0</u>			
1,848		1,848			
(1,350)	Less: Depreciation	<u>(1,577)</u>			
498			(7)	271	631
CURRENT ASSETS					
12	Interest accrued on Fixed Deposit Account		12	28	
0	Subscriptions in Arrears		0	0	
700	Fixed Deposit Account		(8)	700	1,631
939	Current Account		(9)	<u>1,260</u>	<u>2,935</u>
2,149				2,243	5,225
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
(275)	Subscriptions in Advance		(191)	(445)	
1,874	TOTAL NET ASSETS		2,052	4,780	
<u>1,874</u>	ACCUMULATED FUND		<u>2,052</u>	<u>4,780</u>	

John A. Cardona
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer

Prof. G. Camilleri
Auditor
Rev. Fr. A. Galea
Auditor

Malta Philatelic Society

Income & Expenditure Account

31 December 2007

31.12.06	INCOME	Notes	Lm	Lm	€
744	Subscriptions receivable	(1)	834		1,943
28	Interest received	(2)	31		72
19	Donations	(3)	44		102
22	Other Income		0		0
(72)	Maltex VIII Philatelic Exhibition	(4)	34		79
<u>741</u>				943	<u>2,196</u>
	EXPENDITURE				
263	Journal distribution costs	(5)	228		531
130	Circulars/Newsletters costs	(6)	177		412
119	Sundry administrative expenses	(7)	141		328
177	Affiliation fee (F.I.P)	(8)	66		154
66	St. Publius Hall – rental	(9)	56		130
53	Christmas “get together”	(10)	51		119
61	Subscriptions written off	(11)	41		95
4	Bank Charges	(12)	5		12
<u>873</u>				765	<u>1,781</u>
(132)	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			178	415
2,006	FUND OPENING BALANCE			1,874	4,365
<u>1,871</u>	FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END			<u>2,052</u>	<u>4,780</u>

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and I'll Fly if I want to

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Flyaway
Tours

A further **Lm10** Air Malta travel gift voucher If you book your accommodation through **Flyaway Tours**



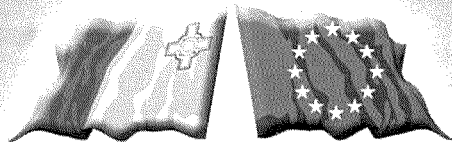
A **15%** discount at any **Hilton Malta** restaurant, namely The Blue Elephant, The Oceana, The Bottega Del Vino, and The Gazebo in Summer.

terms & conditions apply

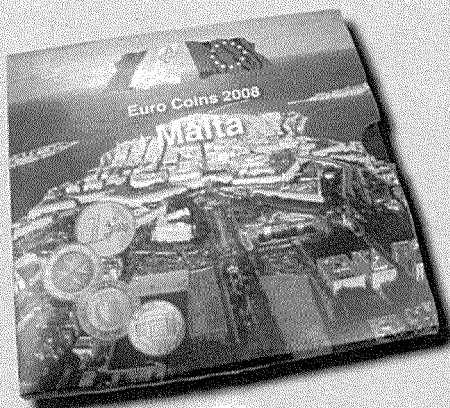
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AIR MALTA



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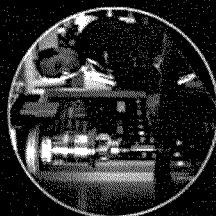
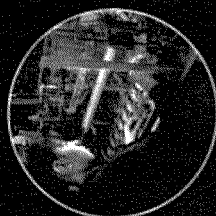
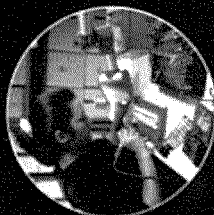
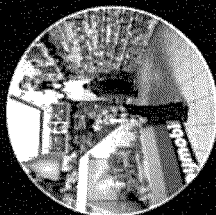
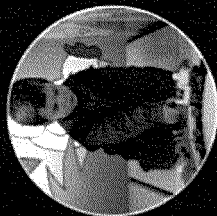
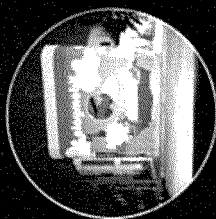
The Brandstätter Group - Malta has been producing Playmobil locally for over two decades. The global success of this product has resulted in significant growth and diversification of the Group; which now consists of seven companies. With each specialising in its own field and producing a comprehensive range of diverse products from steel moulds to system software. Of course the same high levels of quality and service that has come to be expected of Playmobil are offered by all of the companies that form the Brandstätter Group - Malta.

For further information contact:

**BRANDSTÄTTER
GROUP - MALTA**

HF 80 Industrial Estate, Hal Far BBG 06

Tel: 2224 0000 Fax: 2165 8258



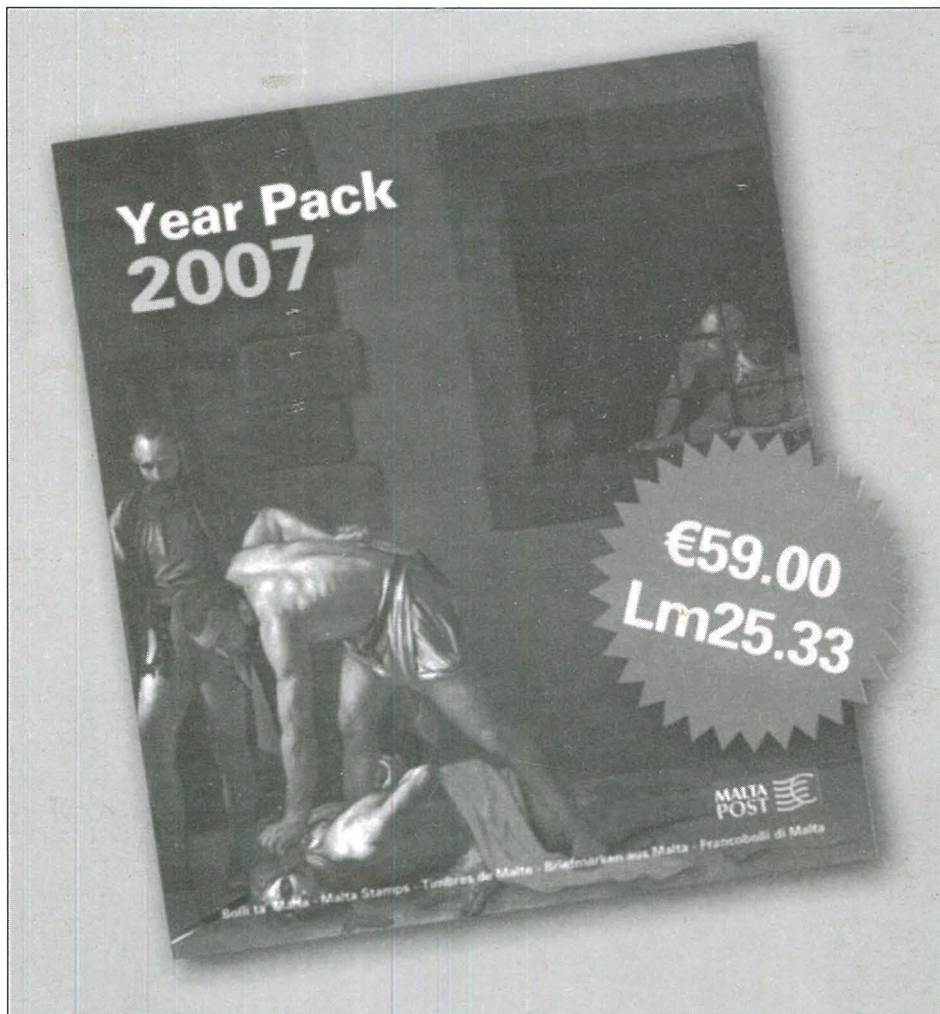
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