

Maltapost Postage Paid Envelopes

By

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On 16th September 2002, Maltapost issued its first series of Postage Paid envelopes. Although these envelopes at the time were publicised as being the first such envelopes issued in Malta, this was not exactly correct. Over a hundred years earlier, exactly on the 1st of May 1900, a series of different sized one penny postage paid envelopes had been issued. These envelopes, printed by Messrs. De La Rue, bore an embossed oval rose-coloured stamp which featured the then reigning Queen Victoria's head.

The Maltapost Postage Paid envelopes, printed locally by Intermarkets Stationeries Limited and issued over the past five years, provide the philatelist with a number of envelope types and varieties. Unfortunately, Maltapost does not usually consider such official postal stationery as possible future postal history items. For this reason there exist a number of different types of postage paid envelopes which were issued but which as yet have neither been recorded nor communicated to the philatelic community. Some of these are already very rare and hard to find as they were issued in very limited numbers.

One important point which should also be mentioned with regards to these envelopes is that the ink colour shade used throughout the printings is very inconsistent between one print and another. Unlike for adhesive postage stamps, it seems that for the local postal authorities this desirable feature of printing quality does not pose a security issue against possible forgery of the envelopes. Under these circumstances, collectors now find a large number of colour shades for both the printed stamp and envelope. For the sake of simple classification it is best to define these colour shades mainly into two, namely dark blue and light blue, although for the record it must be mentioned that there also exist blue shades with a greenish tinge.

In order to partially make up for this lack of information I have attempted to prepare a table, found below, which should guide one to form a collection of this type of postal stationery. Although this list is very comprehensive, one should not consider it as being a complete one since it is based only on material that I know of and have in my own collection which has been built over the years. It may be that in future other types issued during this period might come to light and be recorded by fellow collectors.

MALTAPOST POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPES

GROUPS	RATE AND ENVELOPE FORMAT	STAMP TYPE	STAMP COLOUR	LOGO TYPE	SIZE MM	SECURITY PRINTING ON INSIDE OF ENVELOPE	INSTRUCTIONS ON FLAP
TYPE 1							
1.1	LOCAL STANDARD	(1) LUZZU HULL VERSION 1	STEEL BLUE	1	230 X 110	STEEL BLUE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on WHITE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
1.2	LOCAL WINDOW	(1) LUZZU HULL VERSION 1	STEEL BLUE	1	230 X 110	STEEL BLUE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on WHITE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
1.3	FOREIGN STANDARD	(2) CENTRAL MED MAP	STEEL BLUE	1	230 X 110	STEEL BLUE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on WHITE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage to Zone A to a maximum weight of 20 grams"
1.4	FOREIGN WINDOW	(2) CENTRAL MED MAP	STEEL BLUE	1	230 X 110	STEEL BLUE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on WHITE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage to Zone A to a maximum weight of 20 grams"
TYPE 2							
2.1	LOCAL STANDARD	(1) LUZZU HULL VERSION 1	STEEL BLUE	2	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
2a.1	LOCAL STANDARD	(1) LUZZU HULL VERSION 1	LIGHT BLUE	2	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
2.2	LOCAL WINDOW	(1) LUZZU HULL VERSION 1	STEEL BLUE	2	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
2.2 CUSTOM SIZE	LOCAL WINDOW	(1) LUZZU HULL VERSION 1	STEEL BLUE	2	235 X 115	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
2a.2	LOCAL WINDOW	(1) LUZZU HULL VERSION 1	LIGHT BLUE	2	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
2a.2 CUSTOM SIZE	LOCAL WINDOW	(1) LUZZU HULL VERSION 1	LIGHT BLUE	2	235 X 115	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"

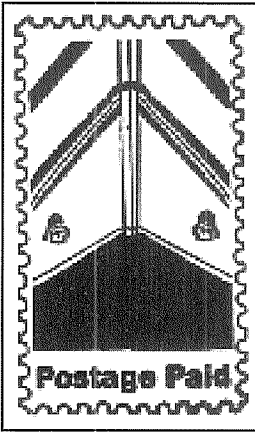
3.1	FOREIGN STANDARD	(2) CENTRAL MED MAP	BLUE	2	230 X 163	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on DARK BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage to Zone A to a maximum weight of 20 grams"
TYPE 3							
4.1	LOCAL STANDARD	(3) LUZZU HULL VERSION 2	STEEL BLUE	2	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
4a.1	LOCAL STANDARD	(3) LUZZU HULL VERSION 2	LIGHT BLUE	2	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
4.2	LOCAL WINDOW	(3) LUZZU HULL VERSION 2	STEEL BLUE	2	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
4a.2	LOCAL WINDOW	LUZZU HULL VERSION 2	LIGHT BLUE	2	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
5.1	LOCAL STANDARD	(3) LUZZU HULL VERSION 2	LIGHT BLUE	2	233 X 163	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
6.1	LOCAL STANDARD	(3) LUZZU HULL VERSION 2	LIGHT BLUE	2	230 X 323	NONE	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 150 grams"
TYPE 4							
7.1	LOCAL STANDARD (CODE P.P. 02)	(4) NEOLITHIC SPIRAL	BLUE	3	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	None
8.1	LOCAL STANDARD (NO CODE)	(4) NEOLITHIC SPIRAL	BLUE	3	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
8.2	LOCAL WINDOW (NO CODE)	(4) NEOLITHIC SPIRAL	BLUE	3	230 X 110	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"
9.1	LOCAL STANDARD (NO CODE)	(4) NEOLITHIC SPIRAL	BLUE	3	230 X 160	WHITE MALTAPOST lettering & logo on BLUE BACKGROUND	"Valid for postage within Malta and Gozo to a maximum weight of 50 grams"

Appendix

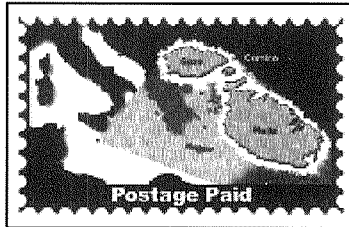
The main distinguishing features for classifying Maltapost Postage Paid envelopes to date are:

- a. Type of envelope (i.e. Standard or Window)
- b. Type of stamp (see below)
- c. Type and location of Maltapost Logo (see below)
- d. Envelope dimensions
- e. Colour shade of ink used for printing

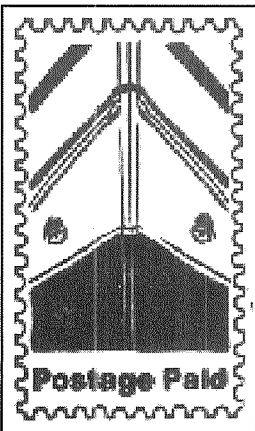
Type of Stamp:



Type 1: Solid colour Luzzu Hull with large Postage Paid Lettering (Version 1)



Type 2: Central Mediterranean Map



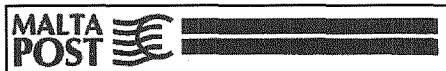
Type 3: Defined Luzzu Hull with small Postage Paid Lettering (Version 2)



Type 4: Neolithic Spiral Design

Type and Location of Maltapost Logo:

Type 1: Maltapost with two horizontal lines on the right hand side located at top left hand corner of envelope front – used for the first group.



Type 2: Maltapost located at bottom right hand side of envelope front – used for the second and third groups.



Type 3: Maltapost located at bottom right hand side of envelope front – used for the fourth group.



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