

# Postal Diary

## 16 July 2007 – 9 December 2007

by Joseph Fenech

### 20 July 2007

The 400th anniversary of Caravaggio's arrival in Malta was commemorated philatelically by Maltapost plc with a stamp issue on Friday, 20 July 2007. The set of stamps, designed in-house by Maltapost, consisted of two stamps and a miniature sheet. The stamps, which are available in sheets of ten, were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The 5¢/Euro 0.12 stamp depicts St. Jerome, and is 44.0mm x 31.0mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The second stamp, with a face value of 29¢/Euro 0.68, shows a detail from the Beheading of St. John, and is 48.0mm x 39.5mm in size, with a perforation of 14.0 x 14.0 (comb). The miniature sheet, with a face value of Lm2/Euro 4.66, which is 120mm x 86mm in size, shows the full painting of the Beheading of St. John, with an inset stamp 44.0mm x 31.0mm in size, and a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). Maltapost issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 7). The handstamp was inscribed "----- - MALTA/CARAVAGGIO/400 MITT SENA/JUM IL-HRUĠ 20.07.07". The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in 'The Malta Stamp' bulletin No. 255.

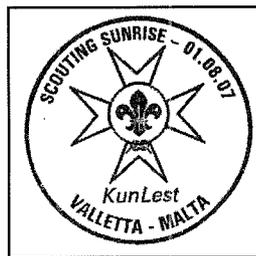


### 30 July

The Ministry for Investment, Industry and Information Technology announced that Government had decided to completely privatise Maltapost plc, which, up till then, had a Government shareholding of 65% and a Lombard Bank Malta plc shareholding of 35%. The privatisation was to take place in two stages. In the first stage, Government was to transfer another 25% of the shares to Lombard Bank, so that the Bank would become the majority shareholder with 60% of the shares. In the second stage, Government was to sell the remaining shares (40%) by offering them to the public on the Stock Exchange. The price agreed for the transfer of the shares to Lombard Bank was Lm1,217,585, which represented one and a half times the net asset value of the shares (according to the last audited accounts of September 2006).

## 1 August

Maltapost issued a special Occasion Card to commemorate the scouting activity known as the Scouting Sunrise, which was organised by the Scout Association of Malta at the Floriana Granaries on 31 July and 1 August 2007. This event was celebrated in all scouting countries and territories worldwide to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the world organization of the Scout Movement



(1907 – 2007). The Occasion Card, marked Occasion Card No. 15, depicts the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, in 1937, during the last of his several visits to Malta. The imprinted stamp has a face value of 51c/Euro 1.19, and is one of a set of four stamps originally designed by artist Luciano Micallef and issued on 21 July 1993. The stamp, with an original face value of 10c, shows a scout lighting a traditional bonfire. The Occasion Card was available from the Maltapost Mobile Unit on the Floriana Granaries on 31 July 2007 from 6.30 pm, and on the following day between 8.00 am and 10.00 am. The Card was also available from the Maltapost Retail Outlet in Dar Annona, Castille Square, Valletta, as from 1 August 2007. A special hand postmark, inscribed “SCOUTING SUNRISE – 01.08.07/Kun Lest/VALLETTA – MALTA”, was also used at the Maltapost Retail Outlet in Castille Square, Valletta, on Wednesday, 1 August 2007.

## 1 August

On 1 August 2007, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 125/2007 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the quarter April – June 2007. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic amounted to around 11.2 million items of which the absolute bulk represented letters and other printed items (down from 12.9 million items for the second quarter of 2006). The total number of parcels sent through the national post in the second quarter of 2007 was 12,917 (compared to 11,156 in the corresponding period of 2006).

## 8 August

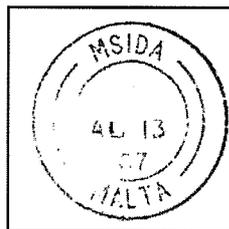
The Sub-Post Office at Louis Stationery, 49 Triq San Nikola, Siġġiewi was closed for business between Wednesday, 8 August and Saturday, 18 August 2007, both days included.

## 11 August

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġ. Borg Olivier, Mellieha, was closed for business between Saturday, 11 August and Saturday, 18 August 2007, both days included.

### 13 August

Maltapost informed that from Monday, 13 August 2007, a new metal postmark was to be used at the Msida Retail Outlet. Saturday, 11 August 2007 was to be the last day of use of the previous postmark.



### 14 August

A special hand postmark – ĠUŻÈ BONNICI – KITTIEB, MITT SENA MINN TWELIDU – was used at the Maltapost Retail Outlet, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, on Tuesday, 14 August 2007 between 8.15 am and 3.45 pm. (Fig. 4)



### 16 August

By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no mail delivery was carried out, and the Maltapost retail outlets did not open for business, on Thursday, 16 August 2007. Normal service was resumed on Friday, 17 August 2007.

### 16 August

The Sub-Post Office at 6, St. Bees, Wesghat il-Ġublew, Mgarr, was closed for business between Thursday, 16 August and Thursday, 23 August 2007, both days included.

### 18 August

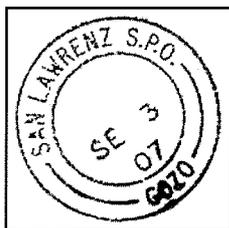
The Sub-Post Office at Rose Bazaar, 113, Triq Santa Marija, Ghaxaq, was closed for business between Saturday, 18 August and Friday, 31 August 2007, both days included.

### 20 August

The Sub-Post Office at Welcome Bazaar, Misraħ Frenċ Abela, Dingli, was closed for business between Monday, 20 August and Monday, 27 August 2007, both days included.

### 3 September

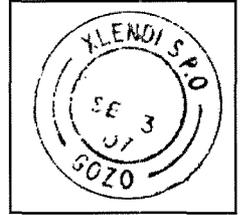
Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 3 September 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at San Lawrenz Local Council, 22A, Triq id-Duluri, San Lawrenz, Gozo (Tel. 2155 3719). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words



‘SAN LAWRENZ S.P.O. – GOZO’ started to be used at this Sub-Post Office. The San Lawrenz Local Council became the first Local Council in the Maltese Islands to be given a contract to operate as a Sub-Post Office on behalf of Maltapost.

### 3 September

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 3 September 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Hotel Serena Beach Club, Triq il-Puniċi, Xlendi, Munxar, Gozo (Tel. 2156 3556). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words ‘XLENDI S.P.O. – GOZO’ started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.

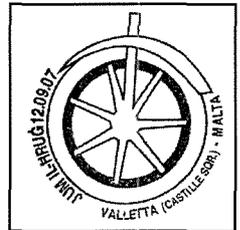


### 3 September

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Maltese Government approved the transfer of the 25% shareholding in Maltapost plc from the Government to Lombard Bank plc. Cabinet also approved that Maltapost plc be completely privatised with the sale of the Government’s remaining 40% shareholding through an offer to the public on the Malta Stock Exchange.

### 12 September

A set of four stamps featuring motor-cycle models of yesteryear was issued by Maltapost on 12 September 2007. The stamps were designed by Joe P. Smith, and were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps, which were issued in sheets of ten, are 44mm x 31mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.1 (comb). The 1¢/Euro 0.02 stamp features a Royal Enfield motor-cycle, which is a single-seater 1954 model which had been used by the General Post Office in Malta. The 16¢/Euro 0.37 stamp features a Matchless 1941 G3/L model which, in its time, was very popular with despatch riders. The 27¢/Euro 0.63 stamp features a 1903 Minerva model, which is reputed to be the oldest motor-cycle in Malta. The 50¢/Euro 1.16 stamp features a Triumph Speed Twin police motor-cycle, which was launched in 1965. A special commemorative handstamp inscribed “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ 12.09.07/----- - MALTA”, was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 8). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No. 256.



### 12 September

Maltapost informed the public that the Postal Administration of Israel had advised

that, due to the High Holidays in Israel (Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot), there were to be no postal services during the dates of 12-15, 21-22, 26-28 September and 4-6 October 2007. The public was informed that no postal items, including EMS, were to be processed or delivered by the Postal Administration of Israel on these dates.

## 22 September

Postal Retail Outlets, with the exception of the Retail Outlets in Castille Place, Valletta, Malta International Airport, Qawra, St. Julians and Victoria, Gozo, did not open for business on Saturday, 22 September 2007. All Sub-Post Offices and licensed stamp vendors offered postal services as usual. However, collection and delivery of mail were still carried out by Maltapost. All postal services resumed on Monday, 24 September 2007.

## 28 September

The Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost issued an Occasion Card and a Postal Card during the Maltex 2007 Philatelic Exhibition held at Le Meridien Phoenicia Hotel, Floriana, between Friday, 28 and Sunday, 30 September 2007. The Occasion Card, number 18 in the series, commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the use of adhesives in the postal service in Malta (1857 – 2007). The card shows the Queen Victoria perforated penny red-brown stamp postmarked with the “M” obliterator, as well as the statue of the same Queen erected in Valletta at a later date. The faintly printed adhesives comprise perforated stamps, registration labels, a self-adhesive booklet stamp, a Frama label stamp and three Cinderellas. The imprinted stamp is the 51c/Euro 1.19 value showing the 17<sup>th</sup> century baroque balcony on the Hostel de Verdelin in Valletta, from the miniature sheet issued with the 2007 Maltese Balconies set designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier, who also designed this Occasion Card. The Postal Card, number 28 in the series, commemorated the participation of Maltapost plc in the VIII Maltex Stamp Exhibition. The two stamps imprinted on the Postal Card are the 16c/Euro 0.37 and 51c/Euro 1.19 stamps issued earlier in 2007 to commemorate the worldwide Scout Movement and one of the visits to Malta of the founder of the Movement, Lord Baden-Powell. A special cancellation for the Maltex 2007 Exhibition was used on the days of the exhibition, both at Le Meridien and at the Dar Annona Postal Retail Outlet, Castille Square, Valletta. The special commemorative handstamp was inscribed with the words “Maltex 2007/28-30 September/Le Meridien – Floriana – Malta”. The Malta Philatelic Society also issued a special cover to commemorate the 150 years of the use of adhesives in



the Postal Service in Malta. Stamp designers who had designed Maltapost stamp issues in 2006/2007 were invited to the Maltex stamp show on 30 September 2007 to sign First Day Covers of the sets they had designed.

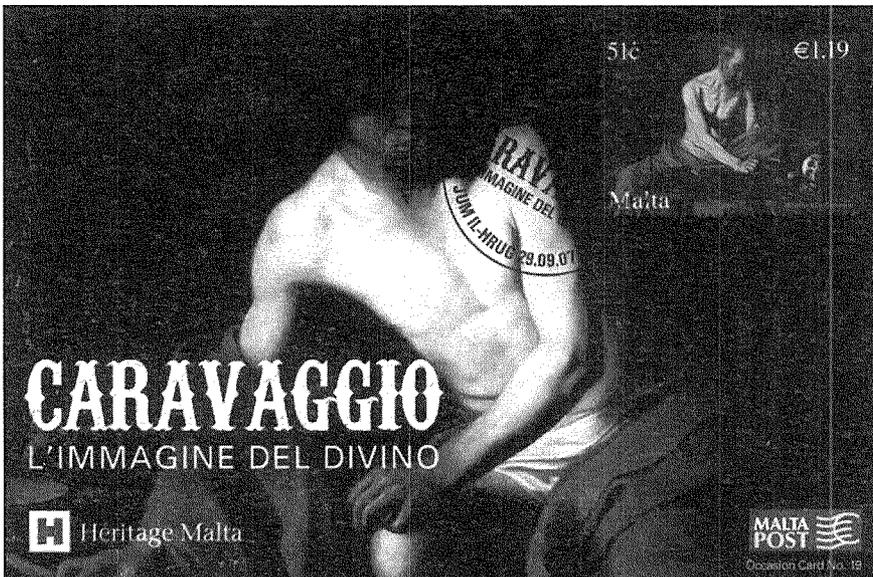
## 28 September

On 28 September 2007, Maltapost issued a set of six stamps entitled Occasions. These six stamps were designed by Harry Borg, and were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps, which are 35mm x 35mm in size, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb), are available in sheets of ten. All the six stamps are denominated with 8¢/Euro 0.19. Unlike other stamp issues, these Occasions stamps will have an extended sales period. A special commemorative hands:amp inscribed “JUM IL-HRUĠ 28.09.07/----- - MALTA”, was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 9). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No. 257.



## 29 September

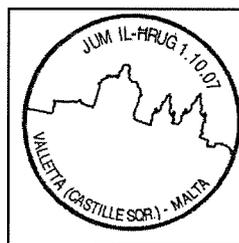
The Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost issued an Occasion Card on 29 September 2007, during the major exhibition of paintings by Caravaggio (‘Caravaggio – L’Immagine del Divino. Esperjenza ta’ Darba – A Unique Experience’) organised by Heritage Malta at the National Museum of Archaeology and the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta from 30 September to 30 November 2007. The Occasion Card,



number 19 in the series, commemorates the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the brief but eventful stay of Caravaggio in Malta. The card carries an imprinted stamp of 51¢/Euro 1.19 value depicting the St. Jerome, from the stamp issue commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Caravaggio's arrival in Malta. The imprinted stamp is cancelled with a special commemorative handstamp inscribed "PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA/CARAVAGGIO/L'IMMAGINE DEL DIVINO/JUM IL-HRUĠ 29.09.07".

## 1 October

A set of five stamps depicting beautiful scenic aspects of Malta and Gozo was issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost on 1 October 2007. The stamps, the work of watercolour artist John Martin Borg, were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps, available in sheets of ten, are 44.0mm x 31.0mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The five stamps show the Mdina skyline as seen from Mtarfa (11¢/Euro 0.26 stamp), a Qrendi scene with a windmill near a farmhouse and a church in the misty background (16¢/Euro 0.37 stamp), the Vittoriosa waterfront, where the old blends with the new (37¢/Euro 0.86 stamp), Gozo's Mġarr Harbour, with the Gozo ferry leaving harbour and the famous church landmark (46¢/Euro 1.07 stamp), and idyllic Xlendi Bay in Gozo (76¢/Euro 1.77 stamp). A special commemorative handstamp inscribed "JUM IL-HRUĠ 1.10.07/----- - MALTA", was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 10). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in 'The Malta Stamp' bulletin Nc. 258.



The 16¢/Euro 0.37 Qrendi stamp from this set also formed part of a joint stamp issue in the new SEPAC collection (Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation) released on 1 October 2007. SEPAC issues are aimed at highlighting the joint cooperation of SEPAC members to promote philately, and to make the public aware of the history, nature, scenery and culture of the countries forming part of SEPAC. The member postal administrations in SEPAC are Aland Post, Faroes Post, Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau, Post Greenland, Guernsey Post, Iceland Post, Isle of Man Post, Jersey Post, Liechtenstein Post Corporation, Maltapost, Monaco Post and San Marino Post. A special SEPAC Joint Stamp Issue folder, entitled Beautiful Corners of Europe, was issued on 1 October 2007, and includes one SEPAC logo stamp from each of the eleven participating Post Offices. San Marino Post did not participate in this first joint issue. The SEPAC folder was printed by Prinz Verlag GmbH, Germany, and had a circulation of 15,000 copies. Locally, it was sold by Maltapost at a retail price of Lm6.75 per folder.

## 18 October

A Commemorative Miniature Sheet was issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost on Thursday, 18 October 2007, to assist in the 34U campaign, which was aimed at having a nation-wide tree planting programme with the full participation of the public. The sheet was designed by 26<sup>th</sup> Frame, and was offset printed by Printex Ltd. The stamp on this Commemorative Sheet shows the Maltese olive (*Olea europaea*), and had originally formed part of the Maltese Fruits 16-stamp sheetlet designed by Andrew Micallef which was issued earlier in 2007. The stamp on the Sheet has a face value of 75¢/Euro 1.75. The stamp is 35.0mm x 35.0mm in size, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb). The Commemorative Sheet is 100mm x 62mm in size. A special commemorative handstamp inscribed “JUM IL-HRUĠ 18.10.07/-----  
- MALTA”, was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the Commemorative Sheet on the first day of issue (on Commemorative Cover 2). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured this Sheet in an unnumbered edition of ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin. Part of the proceeds from the sale of this Commemorative Sheet are being donated by Maltapost plc to the 34U campaign.

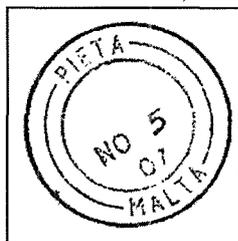


## 23 October

It was announced that Lombard Bank Malta plc Chief Executive Officer and Director Joseph Said was appointed Chairman of Maltapost plc, succeeding David Stellini, who has retained as place on the Board. This change followed the acquisition by Redbox Limited, a subsidiary of Lombard Bank, of an additional 25% shareholding in Maltapost, raising Lombard’s total shareholding in Maltapost to 60%. The Board of Maltapost plc is now made up of Joseph Azzopardi, Ian Pellicano, Joseph Said, David Stellini, Philip Tabone, and newly appointed director Aurelio Theuma, who is the Chief Financial Officer of Lombard Bank Malta plc.

## 5 November

Maltapost plc advised that from Monday, 5 November 2007, a new metal postmark was to be used at the Pietà Retail Outlet. This outlet, previously known as Msida Retail Outlet, changed its name due to new boundaries between Msida and Pietà. Consequently, Saturday, 3 November 2007 was the last day of use of the previous postmark.



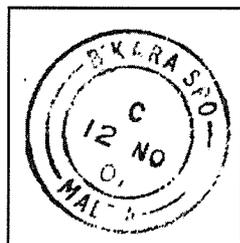
## 8 November

Maltapost plc informed that service from a number of Maltapost letterboxes in Malta and Gozo had been suspended temporarily. The letterbox in Merchants Street,

Valletta, opposite the former General Post Office, was inaccessible as a result of road works, and service was expected to resume in late November. The letterbox at Lascaris Wharf, Valletta, near Customs House, was not operational because of repair works to the letterbox. The letterbox at Bajada Street, corner with Labour Road, Zabbar, was not operational due to repair work to the damaged lock. The letterbox in Simar Street, Qala, Gozo, was not operational because of dangerous access to the letterbox as a result of demolition works.

### 12 November

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 12 November 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Oreana, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR 4532 (Tel. 2144 9191). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'B'KARA SPO C – MALTA' started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



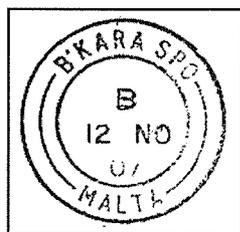
### 12 November

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 12 November 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Landau, Triq Mannarino, Birkirkara BKR 9085 (Tel. 2144 0047). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'BIRKIRKARA D – MALTA' started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



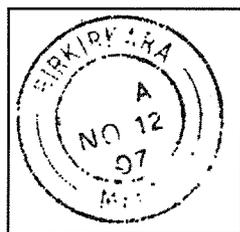
### 12 November

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 12 November 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Pen House, Pjazza l-Eroj, Birkirkara BKR 4252 (Tel. 2701 9828). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'B'KARA SPO B – MALTA' started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



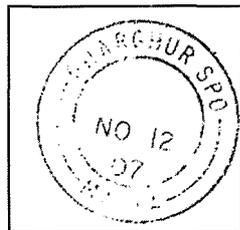
### 12 November

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 12 November 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Exotica, Regent Place Shop A2, Triq Tumas Fenech, Birkirkara BKR 2551 (Tel. 2149 2638). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'BIRKIRKARA A – MALTA' started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



## 12 November

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 12 November 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Aquavel, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014 (Tel. 2143 4465). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'GHARGHUR SPO – MALTA' started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



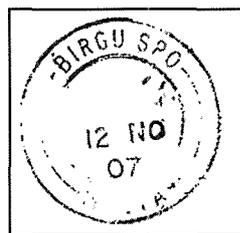
## 12 November

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 12 November 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at Happy Kids, Triq San Tumas, Fgura FGR 1608 (Tel. 2780 5766). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'FGURA SPO – MALTA' started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



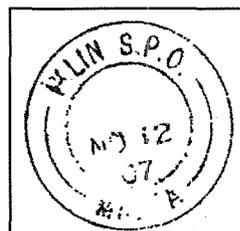
## 12 November

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 12 November 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at 'Step-In', Triq il-Vitorja, Birgu BRG 1300 (Tel. 2180 1207). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'BIRGU SPO – MALTA' started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



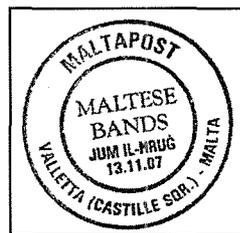
## 12 November

Maltapost advised that a Sub-Post Office was opened with effect from Monday, 12 November 2007, to provide all postal services as well as bill payment services, at 'Mimics', Triq Giovanni Curmi, Iklin IKL 1070 (Tel. 7906 8080). A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words 'IKLIN S.P.O. – MALTA' started to be used at this Sub-Post Office.



## 13 November

A set of five stamps depicting Maltese Bands was issued by Maltapost on Tuesday, 13 November 2007. The set was designed by Joe Mark Micallef, and portrays different aspects of the history of Maltese Bands. The stamps, which come in a size of 35mm x 35mm with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb), were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked



paper. The face values of the stamps are 4ċ/Euro 0.09, 15ċ/Euro 0.35, 21ċ/Euro 0.49, 22ċ/Euro 0.51 and Lm1/Euro 2.33. Maltapost issued a special commemorative double-ringed handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 11). The handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA” in the outer ring and “MALTESE/BANDS/JUM IL-HRUĠ/13.11.07” in the inner ring. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No. 259.

### **13 November**

On 13 November 2007, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 179/2007 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the quarter July – September 2007. 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 12.5 million items for the third quarter of 2006). The total number of parcels sent through the national post in the third quarter of 2007 was 11,649 (compared to 11,496 in the corresponding period of 2006).

### **14 November**

Maltapost plc informed that the letterbox in Bajada Street corner with Labour Road, Zabbar, which had been temporarily out of service due to a damaged lock, was back in service.

### **16 November**

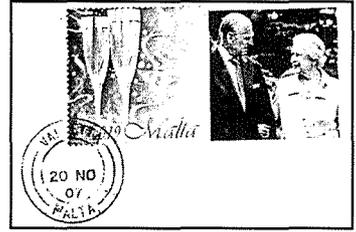
Through Notice 1000 appearing in Government Gazette No 18,150 of 16 November 2007, it was announced that in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 36(2) of the Postal Services Act (Cap. 254), the Minister for Competitiveness and Communications directs that in the light of the Euro changeover process, Lm only denominated postage stamps issued from 1 January 1998 onwards shall no longer be valid for prepayment of postage as from 1 February 2008. Any postal article stamped with postage stamps so invalidated shall be deemed not duly stamped for the purpose of the Postal Services Act. Any person having in his possession any postage stamps hereby invalidated, may from 1 February 2008 to 31 March 2008 surrender the same to Maltapost plc who shall exchange them for other valid postage stamps on an equal value. This notice does not apply in respect of stamps printed or sold subject to the condition that they will be used only for purposes of philately.

### **20 November**

The 2007 set of Christmas stamps was issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost on Tuesday, 20 November 2007. The set features details from a painting by Giuseppe

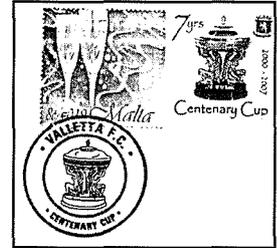


of payment of postage with Maltapost plc; and (ii) a postal scheme whereby each postal article delivered by Maltapost plc has a name, logo, stamp, postmark or design that is affixed to, impressed or printed on each postal article delivered by Maltapost plc and which clearly indicates the date which Maltapost acknowledged receiving each postal article for processing and any other relevant information, and identifies Maltapost plc as the postal service operator responsible for the delivery of that postal article.



### 1 December

A personalised stamp featuring the Air Malta Centenary Cup was issued by the Valletta Supporters' Club, in conjunction with Maltapost plc, on Saturday, 1 December 2007. The personalised stamp commemorates the seventh anniversary of the Centenary Cup, which was played during the year 2000 as part of the 100th anniversary of the Malta Football Association, and was won by Valletta F.C. The stamp carries a denomination of 8¢/Euro 0.19. The personalised stamp was made available in a souvenir folder (issued in a limited number of 300) and carries a special hand postmark prepared by Maltapost plc which, however, does not include any date or reference to Maltapost plc.



### 3 December

Maltapost plc informed that the letterbox at Lascaris Wharf, Valletta, near Customs House, which had been temporarily out of service due to repair works to the letterbox, was back in service.

### 5 December

Maltapost plc informed that the letterbox at Merchants Street, Valletta, near the Auberge d'Italie, which had been temporarily inaccessible due to road works, was back in service.

*Visit our lately upgraded website.*

[www.sliemastampshop.com.mt/MaltaPhilatelicSociety](http://www.sliemastampshop.com.mt/MaltaPhilatelicSociety)