

# POSTAL DIARY

## 1 January 2006 – 30 June 2006

by Anthony Fenech

### 2 January

Maltapost plc advises that no mail delivery will be carried out, and postal retail outlets in Malta and Gozo will not open for business to-day. Normal services will resume as from tomorrow.

### 3 January

A Miniature Sheet comprising four ‘Stamp on Stamp’ adhesives, each with a different value has been issued by Maltapost today, to mark 50 years of European Philatelic Cooperation. The stamp values are 5c, 13c, 23c, and 24c. The Min. Sheet has been designed by Martin Bonavia and offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited.



A special handstamp inscribed “Jum il-Hrug – 03.01.2006/ 50 / -----, Malta”, has been released to cancel the new stamps on the First Day of Issue. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has issued the January 2006 ‘The Malta Stamp’ official Bulletin No 238 to review the Miniature Sheet and the four stamps that it features.

(It is relevant mentioning that for the first time ever, the First Day of Issue handstamp, at Dar Annona Counter Hall, Valletta, has been inscribed “Castille Square, Valletta” to distinguish it from the First Day of Issue handstamp being used at The Embassy Complex Maltapost retail outlet which is inscribed “Valletta (St Lucia Street) -- Malta.”)

### 9 January

Maltapost would like to advise the public that as a result of the bad weather in the Maltese Islands, no postal delivery will be effected today. However, all its retail outlets in Malta and Gozo will be open for business as usual.

### 11 January

A special handstamp is being used today at Dar Annona Counter Hall, Castille Place, Valletta, during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed “Palazzo Capua/ logo/ Valletta – Malta/ 11.01.2006.”



## 14 January

The worn out 'St.Julian's/Malta' counter metal datestamp will be withdrawn at the closing of business today.

## 16 January

As from today, a new metal datestamp will be used at St.Julian's retail outlet to replace the one that had been withdrawn on Saturday, 14 January. The new metal datestamp is inscribed "ST.JULIAN'S/MALTA."



## 16 January

Maltapost will be using a special commemorative handstamp at Dar Annona Counter Hall, Castille Place, Valletta, today, during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed "Ruzar Briffa, mitt sena minn twelidu/ 1906 – 16.01 – 2006/ Valletta/ Malta."



## 22 January

A special commemorative handstamp is being used today at a Temporary Branch of Maltapost set up at the entrance hall of the Museum of Archaeology in Victoria, Gozo, by the Cathedral Sacristy to commemorate the consecration of Mgr. Mario Grech as Bishop of Gozo. The T.P.O. is being kept open between 08.00 a.m. and noon.



The handstamp is inscribed "Konsagrazzjoni ta' Mons. Mario Grech/ Isqof ta' Ghawdex, Victoria, Gozo, Malta – 22.01.2006."

On this occasion the Chancery of the Bishop of Gozo, in collaboration with The Gozo Philatelic Society has issued a commemorative card in a limited edition of 1000 cards designed by Paul Camilleri Cauchi.

## 17 February

Maltapost 2005 Year Pack, the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of this collectable series, has been issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost today. The pack includes all the 2005 stamp issues in mint format.

The front and back covers include photographs of the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta which was the main venue for last year's Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government. The inside cover features technical details relating to the various issues.

## 25 February

A new set of stamps designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier and featuring "Ceramics

in Maltese Collections” will be issued by Maltapost today. The stamps have been printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper by Printex Ltd. and have face values of 7c, 16c, 28c, 37c and 60c.

Maltapost has issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue. The handstamp is inscribed “Jum il-Hrug – 25.02.2006/ Ceramics in Malta/ -----/ Malta.”

The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured the “Ceramics in Maltese Collections” stamps in its February 2006 ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No.239.



## 25 February

Today is the last day of use of the worn out St.Paul’s Bay metal counter datestamp due to be replaced by a new one on Monday.

## 27 February

As from today, a new metal datestamp will be used at the St.Paul’s Bay Post Office to replace the one that had been withdrawn on Saturday 25 February. The new metal datestamp is inscribed “ST. PAUL’S BAY/ MALTA.”



## 2 March

A special handstamp – Munich 2006 – will be in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta on Thursday 2 March and Friday 3 March 2006 during office hours.

An identical handstamp will be in use at the Maltapost plc Stand at the Munich Fair on these days and also on Saturday 4 March 2006.



## 14 March

Maltapost has today issued a Sheetlet of 16 stamps offset printed on Maltese cross watermarked paper by Printex Limited. The stamps designed by Andrew Micallef, feature domestic pets. 8 stamps bear a value of 7c whilst the other 8 stamps have a value of 22c.

A special commemorative handstamp inscribed “Jum il-Hrug – 14.03.2006/ Domestic Pets/ -----/ Malta” has been prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue.

The Stamp Sheetlet has been previewed on ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 240 (March 2006) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.



## 1 April

Maltapost postal retail outlets with the exception of the retail outlet in Castille

Place, Valletta and the retail outlet in Victoria, Gozo, will not open for business today. However, normal collection and delivery of mail will be carried out. All postal services will resume on Monday 3 April.

## 12 April

Good Friday traditional celebrations in the Maltese Islands feature on a five stamp set being issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost plc today, midway through the Easter week. The set designed by photographer Joseph P. Smith is offset printed by Printex Limited of Qormi on Maltese crosses watermarked paper.

The stamps may be cancelled on the first day by the special commemorative handstamp prepared by Maltapost and inscribed “Jum il-H-ug – 12.04.2006/ Passion symbols/ -----/Malta.”

The Philatelic Bureau ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 241 has previewed the five stamps in the set valued at 7c, 15c, 22c, 27c and 82c.



## 15 April

All Maltapost plc postal retail outlets in Malta and Gozo, with the exception of the retail outlet in Castille Place, Valletta and that in Victoria, Gozo will be kept closed for business today, Saturday 15 April, 2006. All sub post offices and licenced stamp vendors will offer postal services as usual.

However, collection and delivery of mail will still be carried out by Maltapost.

All postal services will resume on Monday 17 April.

## 29 April

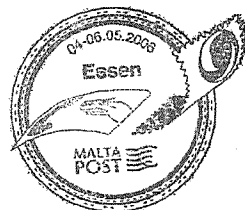
A special handstamp inscribed “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St.Mary’s Statue at the Cathedral/ 1956 – 29,04 – 2006/ Victoria – Gozo – Malta” will be in use today at the Maltapost Retail Outlet , Victoria, Gozo, during office hours.



## 4 May

A special handstamp inscribed “04 -06.05.2006/ Essen/ Maltapost” will be in use at the Maltapost retail outlet, Castille Place, Valletta between Thursday 4 and Saturday 6 May 2006 during office hours.

An identical handstamp will also be used on the Maltapost Stand at Essen Show during these three days.

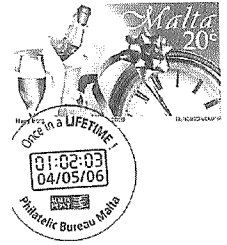


## 4 May

At precisely 2 minutes and 3 seconds past 1.00 a.m. today, digital clocks and

calendars have shown 01.02.03/ 04/ 05/ 06.

The Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost is commemorating this singular event by issuing a special commemorative cover depicting this unique figure and including a 20c stamp from the 2000 Greetings issue. The issue comes in different formats handstamped in black ink, in silver ink and in gold ink.



## 5 May

Maltapost presented 2 copies of ‘The Malta Stamp Collection’ to the National Library in Valletta. One of the albums will be used by patrons of The National Library and the second album is earmarked for The Gozo Public Library.

## 9 May

Maltapost has today released its “Europa 2006” set of two stamps, valued at 16c and 51c designed by Astrid Zammit, a student at the School of Art, Valletta. This year’s Europa theme is ‘Integration’.



The stamps are offset printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper by Printex Ltd in sheets of 10 stamps. Besides, the 16c stamp has also been issued in booklet format, each booklet, containing a strip of 5 stamps.

A special commemorative handstamp inscribed “Jum il-Hrug – 09.05.2006/ Europa 2006/ -----/ Malta” has been issued for canceling the stamps on the first day of issue. The stamps have been previewed on ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 242 dated May 2006.

## 19 May

A Commemorative Postal Card has been issued by Maltapost today on the occasion of its participation at the 106<sup>th</sup> Veronafil International Fair being held at Verona between the 19 and 21 May 2006 inclusive. The card has imprinted thereon the two Europa stamps designed by Astrid Zammit. The card will be available from all Maltapost retail outlets in Malta and Gozo and from the Maltapost Stand at Veronafil.



## 19 May

A special handstamp is being used today at the counter hall, Castille Place, Valletta and at the Maltapost Stand at the Veronafil Show. The handstamp is the one that has been used to cancel the Europa 2006 imprinted stamps on the Veronafil Postal Cards.

Locally, this handstamp will be used on 19 and 20 May; whilst at Veronafil, besides being used on these days, it will also be used on Sunday 21 May as well.

## 20 May

A new version, the second one of the Postage Paid envelopes, has been issued by Maltapost today. The design on this latest envelope has already been used on the 1993 Postage Due set.



This version is primarily aimed at allowing companies to personalize Postage Paid envelopes with their Company logos. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the new version of Postage Paid envelopes on the First Day of Issue. The Government Social Security Department has ordered a quantity of personalized Postage Paid envelopes endorsed “50 sena ta’ Sigurta Socjali/ 1956 – 2006” when sending out pensions.

## 27 May

A special handstamp inscribed “Wirja Carol Vs Rex Imperator/ Spanja-Malta/ Biblijoteka – Valletta/ Wirja ta’ Manuskritti/ 27.05.2006” and showing the effigy of King Charles V will be in use today at the Maltapost retail outlet, Castille Place, Valletta, during office hours. This is yet another cover issued by The Spanish-Maltese Philatelic and Numismatic Circle designed as usual by John Micallef, a Committee Member of our Society.



## 2 June

A set of four stamps and a Miniature Sheet commemorating FIFA World Cup is being issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau today. The stamps and Sheet have been designed by Maurice Tanti Burlo’ and come in face values of 7c, 16c, 27c and 76c. The World Cup stamps have been offset printed by Printex Ltd of Qormi on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper.



A special handstamp showing the FIFA World Cup and inscribed “Jum il-Hrug/ 02.06.2006/-----/ Malta” is being used at the Maltapost mail rooms and postal outlets to cancel the stamps and Miniature Sheet on the first day of issue.

The stamps and Miniature Sheet have been previewed on ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 243 (June 2006).

## 5 June

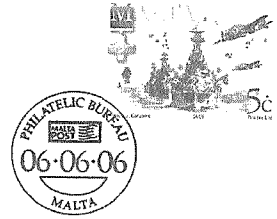
To commemorate the ‘Sting’ concert in Malta, the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost has issued today a commemorative Miniature Sheet, printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Ltd. of Qormi, which incorporates a re-issue of a stamp designed by young Bettina Paris as part of a four stamp Children’s Designs set on 18 October 2000. The stamp carries a face value of Lm1.50.



A special commemorative cover, leaflet, folder and handstamp have been issued by Maltapost for the occasion. The special commemorative handstamp issued in a guitar format is inscribed “Jum il-Hrug – 05.06.06/ ----- -- Malta”.

### 6 June.

The **06.06.06** card, the sixth in the series, is being issued today by the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost plc and will be available from all the retail outlets in Malta and Gozo and from the Maltapost Mobile Unit. This year’s card carries a 5c stamp from ‘The Battle of Malta’ issue stamped with the 06.06.06 datestamp.



This card can be sent through the post to any destination without additional postage provided it is posted by not later than June 10. Cards similarly cancelled posted after this date are to carry stamps to cover the required postage.

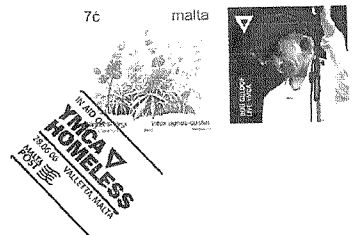
### 10 June

A special handstamp will be in use today, at the Maltapost retail outlet, Victoria, Gozo, during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed “Qniepen Godda/ Knisja Rotunda/ Xewkija/ Ghawdex/ Victoria – Gozo – Malta – 10.06.2006.” The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a commemorative card (in a limited edition of 600 cards) ably designed by Anthony Grech.



### 28 June

To commemorate the Live YMCA Music Festival in Malta, the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost plc has today issued a commemorative cover designed by Derek Fenech and incorporates a Bob Geldof personalized stamp which has been printed on Maltese crosses watermarked paper. The 7c definitive stamp on the cover is obliterated by a commemorative handstamp issued also by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau and inscribed “In Aid of/ YMCA Δ HOMELESS/ 28.06.06/ Valletta – Malta.” This commemorative cover is available from YMCA, Valletta and during the live YMCA Festival. The General Public can also order the commemorative cover from all Maltapost retail outlets.



### 30 June

The Sub Post Office at Globe Stationery, 16A Main Street, Attard, will be closed for business between today June 30 and July 4, both inclusive.