

THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE PSM JOURNAL

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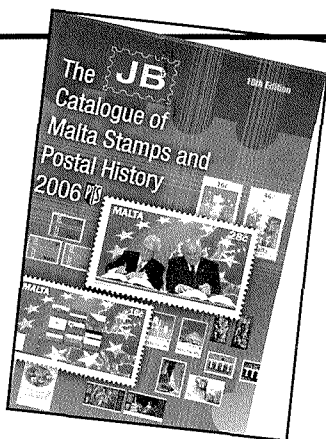
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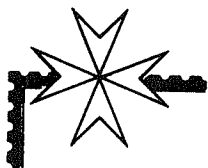
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THE PSM JOURNAL

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Editor: Chev. Dr A Bonnici, K.M., M.D
Members of the International Philatelic Federation



Vol. 35/3

December, 2006

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Mr. Anthony Fenech

Vice-President Malta Philatelic Society
Member of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Tributes to **Anthony (Tony) Fenech**

*Obituary appearing in the:
(Malta) Times, Monday, October 2, 2006.*

A. Bonnici
President,
Malta Philatelic Society

Tony, as we all fondly called him, passed peacefully away in London on September 23, comforted by the rites of Holy Church while attending Stampex 2006.

Tony was first of all very much of a family man, endowing his family with love and devotion, ensuring their well-being. He was indeed a beloved husband and father. He was an extremely intelligent, humble man, without any airs and graces, quiet, calm, serene, with a unique sense of humour, always having a good word for everybody.

A first-class educator, with a passion for meticulous detail, very much sought after as a mathematics teacher, his students obtaining the highest grades in O and A level mathematics, instrumental in reforming the mathematics curriculum in Malta, serving, as an indefatigable and scrupulous teacher at St Theresa Grammar School and the Junior Lyceum. He later became head of the Prof. Ġużè Galea Secondary School Qormi, standing no nonsense from any quarter, firm but humane in his approach to students and teachers under his jurisdiction, which, coupled with a smile and a twinkle in his eye, immediately disarmed the most hardened individual. He was loved and held in very high esteem by his students, teachers and the Ministry of Education.

I have known Tony since we were 12-14 years old, meeting at Santon's, the stamp dealer in Old Bakery Street, where from that early age he collected Great Britain stamps used in Malta. Over the years his knowledge of philately became profound, developing a special love for Maltese postal history. After the demise of John Mercieca, he replaced him on the Stamp Advisory Board, where his postal knowledge, constant advice and attention to detail was sought, greatly welcomed and appreciated.

He was one of the founder members of the Malta Philatelic Society which was inaugurated in April 1966, contributing regularly to our journal (Postal Diary) and other researched philatelic articles. He was nominated to represent us at the Federation Internationale de Philatelie, winning several large vermeil medals for his exhibits both in Malta and at FIP exhibitions abroad, becoming one of the pillars of our Philatelic Society.

The yearly philatelic exhibition, Maltex, started in 1959, was his idea and remained under his constant direction, always seeking new ideas, and ways how to improve on previous exhibitions. He was held in very high esteem in philatelic circles both in Malta and overseas and in 2002, was elected member of “The Royal Philatelic Society of London”.

Before leaving for London on the 21st, he had sent me the final draft of the Maltex 2006 programme, informing me that he had finalised all the negotiations with all parties concerned.

In spite of his demise, Maltex 2006 will be held this year in his honour, because he had given it birth, worked very hard for it, and had it very much at heart. The Malta Philatelic Society committee was convinced that he would want us to go ahead. On behalf of the Malta Philatelic Society, I would like to convey to his wife Gemma, to his children and their families our most profound condolences.

May God grant him eternal rest.

Dying in His Boots

Mr Joseph Abdilla
Mqabba

Letter in the:
(Malta) Sunday Times, October 1, 2006

I missed the obituary notices in The Sunday Times of September 24, but at 9 o'clock a telephone call alerted me to the disturbing news: Tony Fenech had passed away while in London!

I was speechless: I had talked to Tony a few days earlier when he was just back from a philately exhibition in Italy.

I came to know Tony at Gużè Galea Secondary School in Qormi: he was its first headteacher in the early 1990s. We worked very closely together and I still treasure the memories and the experience learned.

Malta has lost a very humane and humble maths teacher of long experience, an able administrator and a prudent and expert philatelist. May his legacy live on.

United in prayer, I salute his dear family and relatives.



In loving memory
of
Anthony Fenech
who passed away
on the 23rd September 2006
to meet the Risen Lord.

A beloved husband and father to;
Gemma,
Joe and his wife Vicky
and daughter Charmaine,
Eve,
Pierre,
other relatives and friends.

May he rest in peace
Amen



*Dear Tony,
Dear Dad,*

*Thank you for your endless help
Thank you for your advices
over the years.
Thank you for your kindness
and support.
Above all, Thank you for your
constant love and devotions
you gave us.
We always loved you and keep
on loving you.
Thank you Jesus, for giving him
to us.*

*Press Release details from Malta Post
Appreciation to Anthony Fenech
6/10/2006*

Joseph Gafà
Chief Executive Officer
Maltapost plc

The unexpected demise of philatelist Anthony Fenech some days ago leaves a gap in both local and international philatelic circles, which will not easily be filled.

Mr Fenech's death will be felt primarily by his family, to whom he was totally devoted, but it will also be felt by all his colleagues at Maltapost, particularly in the Philatelic Bureau, by his fellow members on the Stamp Design Advisory Board, and by his fellow committee members of the Philatelic Society.

I have absolutely no hesitation in describing Anthony Fenech as a point of reference in philatelic circles, both locally and abroad. His meticulous research, for which he was justifiably renowned, was always greatly appreciated in international fora. In what I can only describe as a distinguished philatelic career, Anthony Fenech was frequently called upon to contribute to local and international philatelic gatherings.

As far as Maltapost is concerned, I can state without hesitation that Anthony Fenech was always on hand to offer assistance and suggestions on our philatelic activities, and his advice helped in no small way for the Malta stamp to be sought after and appreciated both locally and in International philatelic circles. His detailed essay entitled **STAMPING OUR MARK ON THE WORLD**, meticulously researched and beautifully illustrated, for the Maltapost Accession Album, contains a wealth of philatelic and postal information about the Maltese Islands.

Also worthy of mention are his regular articles in **THE PSM JOURNAL**, the quarterly magazine of the Philatelic Society. Anthony Fenech was also one of the hard-working members of the Society who gave his best to ensure the success of the annual **MALTEX** philatelic exhibition.

Anthony Fenech passed away in London whilst attending **STAMPEX**, an annual appointment which he never missed.

Malta, Maltapost and the philatelic community mourn the demise of a philatelist, a colleague, and above all, a true gentleman. Not many can step into his shoes.

Anthony Fenech

JOSEPH GAFÀ

Chief Executive Officer

Maltapost pla

Apprezzament:

Fil-Mument – il-Hadd, 22 ta' Ottubru, 2006

Il-mewt għall-gharrieda tal-filatelista magħruf is-Sur Anthony Fenech f'it granet ilu se thalli vojt f'oqsma filatelici, kemm lokali kif ukoll internazzjonali, li mhux faċli jimtela malajr.

In-nuqqas tas-Sur Fenech se jinhass primarjament mill-familja tieghu, imma daqstant iehor se jinhass lokalment mill-hbieb kollha fil-Maltapost, partikolarment fil-*Bureau* Filateliku, mill-kollegi tieghu membri ta' l-*Stamp Design Advisory Board*, u mill-kollegi l-ohrajn membri tal-kumitat tas-Socjetà Filatelika ta' Malta.

Ma niddejjaqx niddekrivi lil Anthony Fenech bhala 'ggant' f'oqsma filatelici, kemm lokalment kif ukoll barra minn Malta. Ir-ricerka metikoluza li kien magħruf għaliha dejjem intlaqghet tajjeb f'fora internazzjonali u tul karriera distinta f'dan il-qasam, kemm-il darba kien mistieden biex jaghti kontribut tieghu f'diversi pajjiżi.

Fir-rigward tal-*Maltapost*, ngħid bla tlaqliq li dejjem sibna fih għajjnuna bla limitu u l-pariri siewja tieghu swew hafna biex il-bolla Maltija tkun fuq quddiem nett fost filatelisti sew Maltin u barranin. Anthony Fenech kien dejjem lest biex jghin, basta jara l-filatelija gejjja 'l quddiem. Ma ninsew qatt l-artiklu eċċezzjonali tieghu *Stamping Our Mark on the World* għall-*Maltapost Accession Album*, tagħrif dwar l-istorja filatelika u postali tal-Gżejjer Maltin li għadu jissemma sa llum.

U xi ngħidu għall-artikoli regolari tieghu fir-rivista *The PSM Journal*, li tohrog is-Socjetà Filatelika? Kien jirsisti wkoll biex ta' kull sena tittella' l-wirja annwali tas-Socjetà.

Anthony Fenech halliena waqt li kien qed jattendi għall-wirja filatelika *Stampex* f'Londra, appuntament li qatt ma kien jitlef.

Malta, il-*Maltapost* u d-dinja filatelika tilfu filatelist, kollega u, fuq kollox, bniedem gentlom. Ma tantx se nsibu bhalu.

More than a Headmaster

Ms M.D. Baldacchino

and all former colleagues,

Ġużè Galea Boys' Secondary School,
Qormi

Letter in the:

(Malta) Sunday Times, October 22

It took me some time to write because, even though I have lost special family members, the short text message on a quiet Saturday morning left me grief-stricken.

For Mr Anthony Fenech was more than a professional headmaster. As one of his teaching staff for six years, there was so much in him to be admired. All those who knew him when he was entrusted with running Ġużè Galea Boys Secondary School in Qormi (St George) appreciate the excellent job he carried out in transforming the school from a trade to a secondary for boys. It was sheer dedication! He was to be found on the premises as early as 7 a.m. and left much later than tea-time!

What struck me most about this wonderful man was his humane attitude towards all those around him, whether staff, students or parents. We used to go to him for advice like children go to their father - and he was always there for all, wise and kind.

So much can be said about Mr Fenech and memories will surely remain with us who still work at Qormi. His continuous advice of "*hobbuhom l-istudenti*" (love your students) and "*Żommu l-istaff magħqud*" (keep the staff united) is looked upon as a legacy he left to the school he loved and worked so dearly for.

Rest, dear headmaster and friend. We believe you are reaping the abundant fruit of a life which was very much based on His teachings. Our heartfelt condolences to the family he loved so much.

Anthony Fenech

Letter in the:

(Malta) The Sunday Times, October 1, 2006

MR RAY VELLA, headmaster of Maria Assunta Girls Secondary School, writes:

DEATH is a subject that ordinarily makes one introspective rather than be moved into writing, but I am obliged to publicly salute Anthony Fenech, a great stalwart in the teaching profession who has passed away suddenly while abroad, and to acknowledge his contributions to the education system.

To a lot of students now in adulthood, Mr Fenech will be remembered for his fine mathematical abilities and for imparting the subject with zest and dedication. He was an outstanding reference person at St Theresa Grammar School and later, Junior Lyceum. He was indefatigable and scrupulous in all he put his mind to.

I was privileged to work closely with him in administration, where I knew him to be strong in headship, a firm hand but with a great heart for the students at Ġużè Galea Boys Secondary in Qormi, where he was greatly respected and loved. I have seen the school move from strength to strength under his leadership.

He was a meticulous time-tabler and loved the challenge of planning the school schedule as a paper and pencil exercise to the detail. Today's computerised version was substantially created from his copious notations. When it was time to leave the service he found it difficult to leave all behind, knowing that he would miss it all.

Many would also know Anthony Fenech in the world of philately where he was an acknowledged international authority. I would leave this to someone else, more knowledgeable than I, who can elaborate on his contribution to postal history and stamp collecting.

One can only take heart from carrying the good example of a dear mentor and from plenty of fond memories in having set goals together and worked towards them as a team.

To his wife Gemma, to his children, my deepest condolences. He will be remembered fondly as an educator and a gentleman.

Tribute to Philately Expert

A. Pavia
Tarxien

Letter in the:
(Malta) Sunday Times, October 15

Mr Anthony Pavia on behalf of the Stamp Design Advisory Board.

Much has already been written about Anthony Fenech, who died so unexpectedly in London while attending the Stampex Exhibition, and the members of the Stamp Design Advisory Board also wish to pay tribute to their colleague.

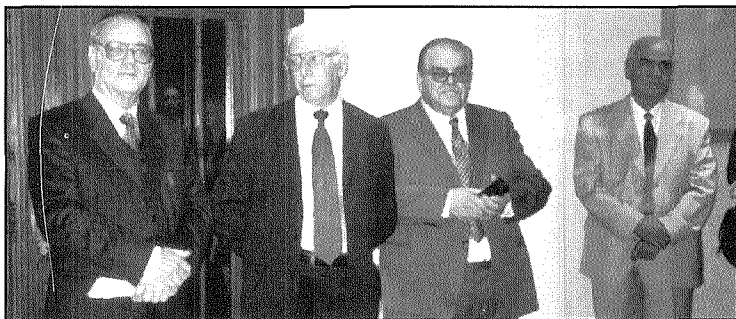
Tony was an authority on philately in general and on Maltese philately in particular, a veritable walking encyclopedia on all aspects of stamp design. His advice and comments during our deliberations were authoritative and treasured by us all. He was cheerful and a pleasure to know, always ready to share his experiences and to contribute to our discussions which, as a result, have helped to produce Malta sets of such high merit.

He was also well known overseas and a true ambassador of Malta among the international stamp dealers and collectors at the various exhibitions that he attended.

His unique collection of stamps covered a wide range of subjects and reflected his great dedication and his vast knowledge of postal history. This was amply shown by his contribution to the recently published Maltapost publication *The Malta Stamp Collection 1964 - 2004* and his erudite contribution "Stamping our mark on the world" which introduced this publication.

The board will miss his advice and his friendly personality and will honour his memory.

*Opening of Maltex
2005:
Dr. A. Bonnici;
Mr. A. Pavia,
Mr. T. Fenech
and Mr. H. Wood.*



Anthony Fenech

Letter in the:
Malta Independent, 11/10/2006

CARMEL BEZZINA
Balzan

The unexpected passing away of Anthony Fenech, better known as Tony among friends and colleagues, bereft us of a true friend and a gentleman. We worked closely together as members of the editorial board of the bi-monthly publication *Hal Balzan* since its inception in the 1970s. This village publication, so rich in historical information about our native village, was an initiative of the then Balzan Civic Committee, which had its seat at the St Gabriel Band Club. Tony contributed to this publication and was very appreciative of the efforts and good work of his close collaborators.

I admired Tony for his enthusiasm and the way he gave his best in all that he undertook. He was a teacher by profession and dedicated his lifetime to education. Numerous students succeeded in making it in their 11+ exam in maths through his efforts and hard work. But Tony was not simply a mathematics teacher; he was also a mathematician. His hard work and professionalism, however, can be seen at their best in the way he pursued his life-long passion: philately.

A member of two commissions within the International Federation of Philately and the Malta Study Circle of London and Germany, Tony's collection of the Malta postal history earned him international renown.

He was an elected member of The Royal Philatelic Society of London and contributed in the prestigious *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and *Stamp Magazine*. Tony was proud of his native Balzan and of all that pertained to the village.

I can vividly remember the way he was enthused when I approached him about my idea of having a special postmark on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the setting up of the Balzan parish last year. He made the necessary contacts with Maltapost to set up a temporary branch near the old parish church of the Annunciation in Three Churches Street on the morning of 14 August 2005, the anniversary of the parish foundation, for the sale of the commemorative envelope.

I can also remember his satisfaction at having succeeded in seeing the Emvin Cremona painting of the Annunciation in the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary featured in the 16c stamp of the Christmas set of last year.

With his typical unpretentiousness, Tony accepted my request to contribute a short appreciation of last year's anniversary from a philatelic perspective to be included in the commemorative booklet which I edited.

May you rest in peace, dear Tony, and heartfelt condolences to your dear wife, children and relatives.

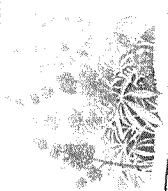
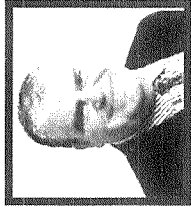
*Treasured and unfading memories
of*

Anthony Fenech

*a dear friend and colleague whose philatelic
knowledge and contribution will surely
be missed by the Philatelic Community
and by
the Management of the Philatelic Bureau
of Maltapost*

7c

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641/300

Issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Malta Post

In Memory of a Dear Friend

Anton V Said - President Gozo Philatelic Society

Newsletter

July/September 2006, Issue No. 25, 3/2006.

On Monday 25th September ran wide the sad news that Anthony Fenech, better known to us Gozitan philatelists as Tony had passed away quite unexpectedly while he was on one of his usual visits in England to visit the Stampex.

This bitter news threw everyone who knew him and who worked with him especially in the philatelic sector in a shocking state of distress.

As for myself I have known Tony since 1957 when we were colleagues as student teachers at St Michael's Training College and later as fellow heads of schools when we used to meet during conferences and meetings held for heads.

Tony was well-known amongst his fellow colleagues in the education department as a man of principle, hardworking, conscientious and a very reliable person.

In the philatelic sector he was a real expert in the matter. He was our society's consultant and advisor since the first day of its existence.

He contributed in no small way by his expert advice and encouraging support for our society to move forward and develop.

Tony was one of the pillars of the Malta Philatelic Society and occupied the prestigious post as design consultant and advisor for new stamp issues with the Maltapost. He had left behind a legacy to all philatelic enthusiasts which will never die.

Tony you will always remain in our hearts. Our sincere condolences in this hour of deep sorrow go to your family and all you relatives and friends.

*Card issued
in memory of
Mr. T. Fenech
by Mr. A. Attard.*

LIL
TONY FENECH
MINN HAL BALZAN
ESPERT TAL-FILATELLIA
LI HALI BEN A
FTT-23 TA' SETTE FENBRI, 2006.
MIBKI MINN NIESI, QARABU
I HBIEBU KOLLHA



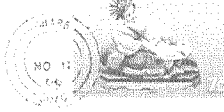
Missier, għaliem, gentiun, raġel minn tagħna,
qalbu fidejji u għelm il-fibberja,
ma tati jgħid le, bis-sabar kien jsmagħna
u jgħan bil-k it-tibissima ferreġja

Duqis hutu jew talledu kien jistmana,
pari saevja jagħti bla l-umja,
għaliġ l-għerf f-oqra għid u l-akbar għana
li ma' kulhadd kien jaqsmu bla stennja.

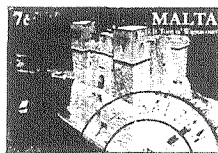
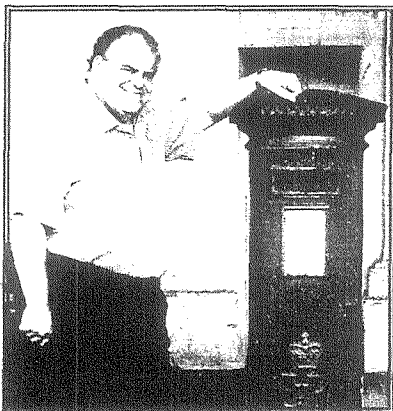
Haara hassajna meta l-baru smajna,
li Tony l-habib tagħna kien halliena,
għax telta kbira bhalla fit wisq rajna.

U tilef Għawdex, tilet l-art Malta
u rifu wkoll dawk kollha llum sogħbiena,
"ma tilet l-Eżjed ik... Filatela"

31/08/2006 ANTON V. SAID



Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
At Our Lady of Ta' Pina Shrine, Għarb, Gozo
For the repose of the Soul and in Memory of
ANTHONY FENECH
A Great Philatelist and a Sincere Friend.
Celebrant Rev. Fr. Gerard Buhagiar,
Chaplain of the Gozo Philatelic Society.
Saturday 11 November 2006



Anthony Fenech at Victoria, Gozo on 17-10-2003 with an Elizabethan pillar letterbox at St. Francis Square.

Anthony Fenech at Victoria, Gozo on 17/10/2003 with an Elizabethan pillar letterbox at St. Francis Square. Private card issued by Mr. George Vella.



STUDIO 4 GEORGE VELLA
56/53 REPUBLIC STR.,
VICTORIA VCT 103,
GOZO, MALTA.
TEL. [00356] 21552912

Anthony Fenech

STUDIO 4 CREATION cards would like to give tribute to a great Maltese Philatelist, who passed away in London on 23rd September 2006, wept by his dear family, friends and the Maltese, Gozitan and international circle of philatelists. Never forgotten for his services and sincere advice in philately, a great contributor to Maltese philately.

The funeral was held on Saturday 30th September 2006, at Ħa Balzan, Malta.

Photo, graphic & design by GEORGE VELLA

Lament

*Sorrowful news I got to know,
A dear friend I see no more,
A sole heart broken to the core,
That friendship now never to grow.*

*Pity me not for I am blank,
Herald out all my mournful rhyme,
That travel to the end of time,
The grief I bear departed friend.*

George Vella - dedicated to dear Tony

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Appreciation

Philatelic Exporter:

With deep regret we have to report the demise of our great friend Anthony Fenech better known as Tony, which happened in London during the last Autumn Stampex which is one of the various Exhibitions we used to attend together.

Mr. Fenech's death will be felt primarily by his family to whom he was totally devoted, but will also be felt by all his friends in the philatelic world. I have no hesitations in describing Anthony as point of reference in philatelic circles, both locally and abroad. His meticulous research, for which he was renowned, was always greatly appreciated by all.

The philatelic world especially in Malta is surely going to miss various contributions to philately. He was one of the founder members of the Malta Philatelic Society, which was founded in 1966 in which he was Vice President, member of the Maltapost Stamp Design Advisory Board, the Philatelic Society of London, the Malta Study Circle in U.K. and Germany and other various Societies.

The Malta Stamp Exhibition – Maltex-, which started to be held in Malta in 1999, was his idea and he used to contribute a lot in the organization of this Exhibition. Unfortunately he had to miss the 2006 Exhibition by a few days.

His various contributions in compiling the JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History and to the Journal of the Malta Philatelic Society are surely going to be missed.

We would like to convey to his wife Gemma and her family our most profound condolences.

Joseph Buttigieg

John Curtin

*Mr. T. Fenech and
Mr. J. Buttigieg at
Stampex 2005*



Stampex and its Customised Stamps

John A. Cardona

The Business Design Centre in London, the venue where Stampex is held twice yearly in Spring and Autumn, must have been the last place to be visited by our erstwhile Vice President, the late Anthony (Tony) Fenech prior to his demise on 23rd September.

What is Stampex? The first British National Stamp Exhibition was held at the Central Hall, Westminster in January 1953. In 1956 the name was changed to Stampex which has been retained to the present day.

Stampex is organized by the Philatelic Traders' Society. It provides a variety of stands for stamp dealers, specially prepared halls for exhibitions and specifically designed rooms for meetings. In addition to the foregoing preparations, the U.K. Annual National Stamp Competitions are held normally during the Autumn session. The competitions cover a number of philatelic items such as Aerophilately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Revenue, Special Studies, Social Philately, Thematics, Traditional and Literature. A number of trophies and special awards are awarded including the famous Silver Mailcoach for the best exhibit.

The organizers introduced the issue of a Customised Sheetlet of 10 x 1st Class stamps in the Stampex of Spring 2003 and have continued to do so to date. This short write up covers the eight sheetlets issued since then.

Figure 1 – Spring Stampex 2003 (26 February – 2 March). The organizers printed the first Customised Sheetlet of 10 x 1st Class stamps to celebrate and complement the 50th Anniversary of the first National Stamp Exhibition. The stamp chosen was the 1st Class “Hello” depicting the word as an aeroplane contrail with the Stampex logo printed on the tab.

The main attractions in the exhibition section were displays by the British Aerophilatelic Federation and the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Figure 2 – Autumn Stampex 2003 (17 – 21 September). It being the 50th Anniversary year of Stampex, and following the interest generated at the Spring show, a second Customised Sheetlet of 10 x 1st Class stamps was produced in limited numbers. The stamp chosen was the “Teddy Bear” from the “Smilers” set of 10 x 1st Class stamps featuring smiling faces which was issued in 1991. The Stampex logo was printed on the tab.

The exhibition section included, as the main attractions, displays by the British Society of Russian Philately and the National Youth Stamp Committee.

Figure 3 – Spring Stampex 2004 (25 – 29 February). The third Customised Sheetlet of 10 x 1st Class stamps celebrated mainly a very special event the 300th

Anniversary of British Gibraltar. That was shown prominently in the vignette and at the bottom of the sheetlet. The stamp chosen was the 1st Class “*Love*” stamp from the set featuring “*Occasions*” issued in 2002.

The main displays in the exhibition section were mounted by the German & Colonies Philatelic Society, The American Stamp Club of Great Britain and the Guild of St. Gabriel.

Figure 4 – Autumn Stampex 2004 (15 – 19 September). The fourth Customised Sheetlet of 10 x 1st Class stamps featured the “*Rule Britannia*” stamp from the miniature sheet issued in 2001. The details of the different trophies awarded in the U.K. Annual National Competition are shown on the labels affixed to the stamps. The trophies are also shown at the bottom of the sheet.

The main displays in the exhibition section were those exhibited by the China Philatelic Society and the National Youth Stamp Committee.

Figure 5 – Spring Stampex 2005 (23 – 27 February). The fifth Customised Sheetlet of 10 x 1st Class stamps celebrated the Rotary International centenary. The chosen stamp was the “*Hello*” 1st Class stamp issued in 2002. At the bottom of the sheet are shown a number of social services which are sponsored by Rotary International. The tabs attached to the stamps show the Rotary International logo and, vertically on each side, are the inscriptions “*A Centenary of service*” and “*A new Century of Services*”.

As Rotary International was celebrating its centenary, an exhibit from the official Rotary collection was mounted very prominently in the exhibition section. Displays by the G.B. Philatelic Society and the Postal Stationery Society were also exhibited. In a separate part of the building the Middlesex Philatelic Federation put up its own displays on the Dawes Cup Competition.

Figure 6 – Autumn Stampex 2005 (14 – 18 September). The sixth Customised Sheetlet of 10 x 1st Class stamps featured the “*White Ensign*” from the miniature sheet issued in 2001. The tabs depicted Lord Nelson. The foregoing was to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and in remembrance of Nelson’s death on 21st October 1805.

Besides the variety of stands provided for stamp dealers, taking part were the Royal Mail, the National Philatelic Society and the Friends of the British Postal Museum and Archives. In addition the U.K. National Stamp Competitions were held for both the Senior and Junior entries.

Figure 7 – Spring Stampex 2006 (22 – 26 February). The seventh Customised Sheetlet contained 10 x 1st Class “*Cheers*” stamps from the 2001 “*Occasions*” issue. The labels featured different themes of thematic collecting. The background to the sheetlet featured Brunel the famous British civil engineer whose great legacy encompasses railways, bridges, stations and steamships. Without doubt Brunel’s pioneering engineering achievements influenced the shaping of the modern world.

In the exhibition section the main feature was a display organized by the British Thematic Association with participation of various thematic societies namely Alba Stamp Group, Bicycle Stamps Club, Bird Stamp Society, Concorde Study Circle, Glasgow Thematic Society, Guild of St. Gabriel, Philatelic Music Circle, Scout & Guide Stamp Club, Ship Stamp Society and West of England Thematic Society plus displays by individual members of the British Thematic Association.

Figure 8 – Autumn Stampex 2006 (20 – 24 September). The eighth Customised Sheetlet of 10 x 1st Class stamps featured the “Union Jack” from the miniature sheet issued in 2001. The adjoining tabs depicted a Victoria Cross medal which is a unique award for feats of heroism and consequently there is so much to write about. Since 1856 the Victoria Cross has been awarded 1,355 times for acts of valour. Each medal is cast from the bronze taken from Russian cannons captured at Sevastopol in 1856. The current year marks the 150th anniversary of the award being instituted.

The Crimean War (1854 – 1856) was the first conflict that was extensively reported on, and as a result public awareness of extreme bravery and heroism was very high. Queen Victoria endeavoured to recognize these valorous achievements and the Victoria Cross was the result – a medal open to all regardless of rank, awarded ‘For Valour’ as is inscribed on the medal itself. (British Philatelic Preview No. 153.)

According to the British Philatelic Bulletin this was the first exhibition without the competitive displays. However the British Postal Museum & Archives display included the VC medal won by Sergeant A. J. Knight the only Post Office Rifle to be awarded the VC for “most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty” on 20th September 1917 at the battle for Wurst Farm Ridge, Ypres. Another VC medal, won by Private William Mariner, killed in action, was also on display on another stand. This medal was to be auctioned estimated £70,000 – 80,000. William Mariner citation states that “with remarkable valour and during a thunderstorm crept from his trench at Cambrin (22/5/15) and through entanglements to a German machine gun which he bombed scaring the enemy off. This brave deed occupied one and a half hours”. (Cohen, Weenen & Co’s Cigarette Trade Card No. 89 refers).

The British Forces Post Office and Bletchley Park Post Office had stands offering for sale their colourful covers. Additionally there were many well known dealers, both British and foreign, offering the best of everything by way of classic stamps, new issues, postal history and philatelic accessories. Amongst the numerous dealers there was Sliema Stamp Shop manned by our colleagues Joe Buttigieg and the late Anthony Fenech.

Stampex adjourned to Spring 2007 and probably most of this year’s participants and visitors will be there again next year. But surely one gentleman will not be there because he has been recalled by his Creator.



Fig. 1

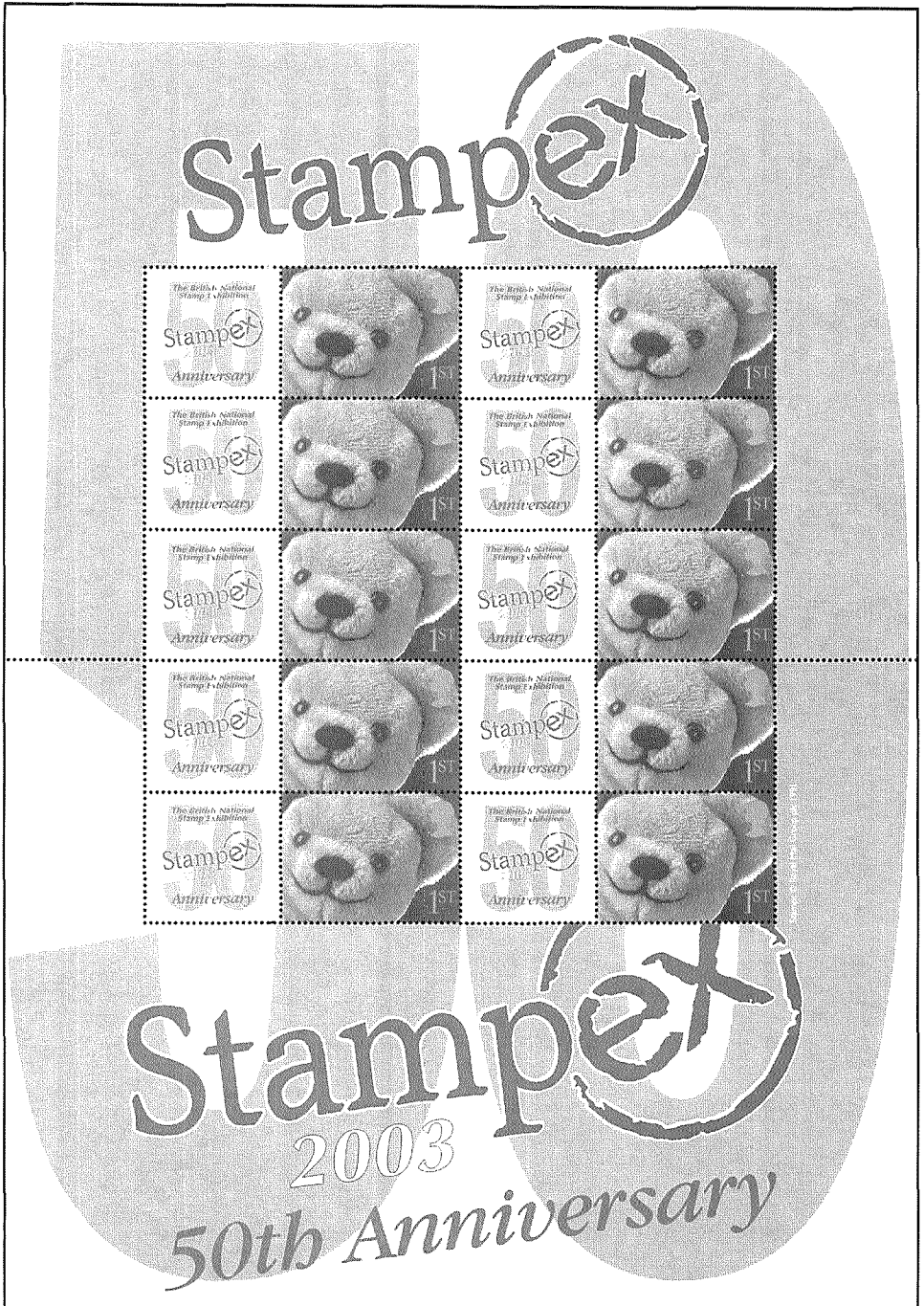
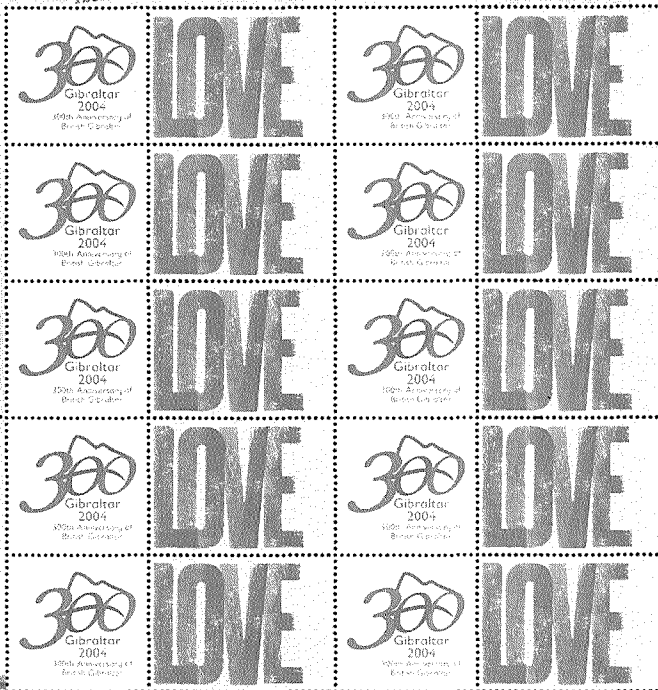


Fig. 2

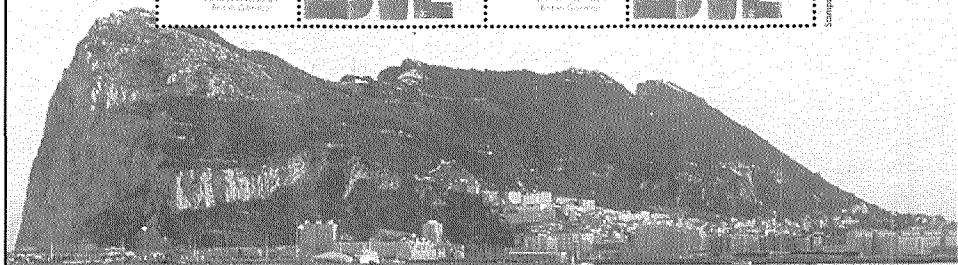
SPRING 2004

Stampet

The British National Stamp Exhibition



Stamps © Royal Mail Group plc, 2002.



Celebrating the 300th
Anniversary of British Gibraltar



Fig. 3

AUTUMN 2004 Stampex

The British National Stamp Exhibition



THE SILVER MAILCOACH NATIONAL (Prix d'Inauguration)		HARMERS DIAMOND JUBILEE TROPHY INTERNATIONAL (Prix d'Honneur)	
N.P.S. TROPHY NATIONAL (First Time Fair)		R.A.G. LEE TROPHY INTERNATIONAL (Outstanding Exhibit)	
ARGVILL SILVER NATIONAL (Postal History)		GRAEME K. HARRISON AWARD INTERNATIONAL (Thematic)	
ROYAL MAIL TROPHY NATIONAL (Great Britain)		P.T.S. TROPHY NATIONAL (Commonwealth)	
H.L. KATCHER HELVETIA AWARD ALL CLASSES (Switzerland)		LINK HOUSE TROPHY NATIONAL (Thematic)	

Stampex 2004 © Royal Mail Group plc 2004

Celebrating the British Philatelic Competitions



Fig. 4

SPRING 2005
Stampet
The British National Stamp Exhibition

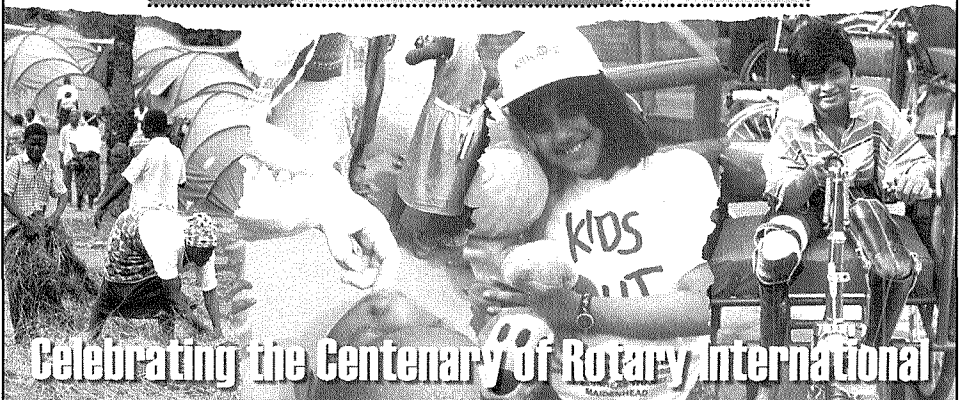


Fig. 5

Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson 1758 - 1805

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and in remembrance of Nelson's death - 21st October 1805. Nelson defeated the combined French and Spanish fleets and gave his life for his country.



National Museums Liverpool (the Walker)

Nelson's Prayer on the eve of the Trafalgar Battle

† May the great God whom I worship grant to my country and to the benefit of Europe in general, a great and glorious victory, and may we unconquered in any one, cherish it, and may humanity offer victory to the predominant virtue of the British fleet. For myself, indeed, I cannot say to God, who made me and man. His blessing light upon my endeavours for serving my country faithfully. To Him I resign myself, and the most cause which is entrusted to me to defend. Amen Amen Amen



Image © Royal Mail (Stamp) 2001

AUTUMN 2005
Stampex
The British National Stamp Exhibition

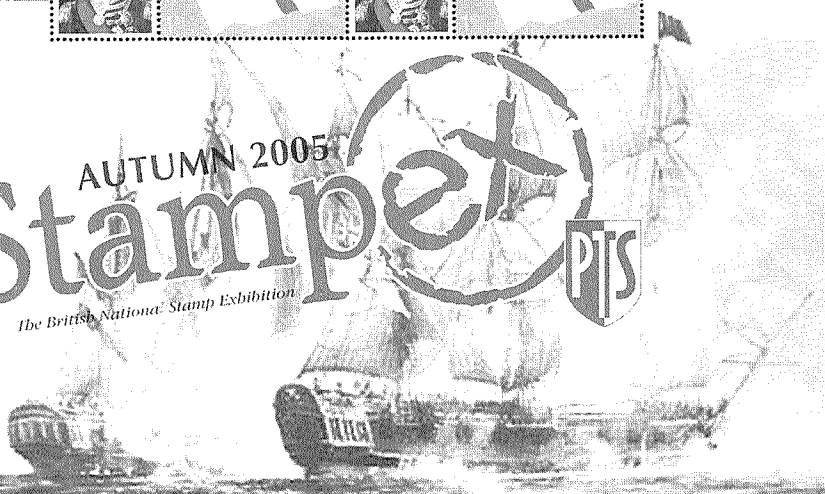


Fig. 6

Collecting by theme

SPRING 2006

Stampnet

The Great British Stamp Collection

PTIS

Isambard Kingdom Brunel 1806 - 1859

The list of Brunel's achievements - from the SS Great Britain, through the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Rotherhithe Tunnel, to great steam trains and railway advances - is legendary. Brunel is a truly great British engineering hero.

Fig. 7

AUTUMN 2006

Stampex

The British National Stamp Exhibition



Stamps designed by Royal Mail Group plc 2006. All Rights Reserved.

Stamps © Royal Mail Group plc 2001

"FOR VALOUR"

2006 is the 150th anniversary of the Victoria Cross, which is the highest recognition for valour in the British Honours system.

Initiated by Queen Victoria, it was first issued on 29 January 1856, recognising acts of conspicuous valour during the Crimean War of 1854-1855.

A total of 1,355 awards of the Victoria Cross have been bestowed, the last in 2005 during the Iraq conflict.



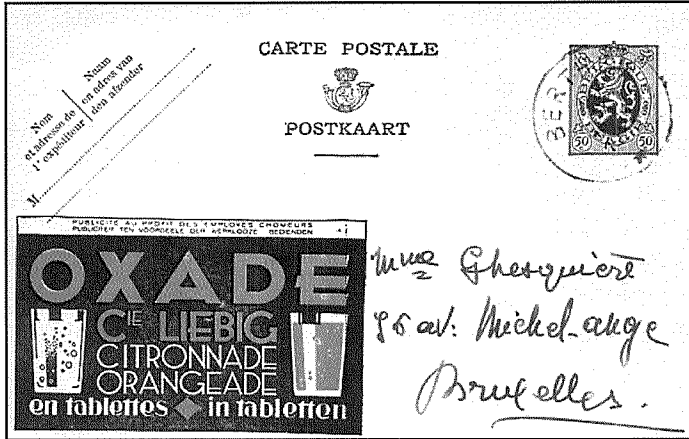
© VC Society

Fig. 8

Advertising and the Belgian Post Office

Part 2

Mr. Chris Howe



OXADE, issued in 1933, was the first of the internal “Publibel” series of Belgian postcards to be printed by L’Agence Belge de Publicité Postale with the objective of raising funds for various charities. The design of the card includes an advertisement in the bottom left hand corner adjacent to the space for the delivery address and below the space for the sender’s address. The advertisement, which could be sponsored by government or commercial enterprises, appears in single language, French or Flemish variants and in bilingual variants depending on the area in which the sponsor required the cards to be distributed. Early cards define the objective of the advertisement, namely to raise funds for the unemployed, in French, “PUBLICITÉ AU PROFIT DES EMPLOYÉS CHOMEURS” and in Flemish “PUBLICITEIT TEN VOORDEELE DER WERKLOOZE BEDIENDEN”. The space for the sender’s address was applied obliquely and there were no lines for the address. The post card rate was 50 cents from 9 November 1931 to 1 February 1935 with all the postal markings including the “lion héraldique” imprint stamp printed in blue on cream card.

Initially there were some complaints about the space taken up by the advertisement, which led to larger, 148 x 104 mm, cards being made available in addition to the normal postcard size of 140 x 90 mm.

The series reflects the changes in internal postcard rates seen in ordinary postcards, but is unique in employing only definitive stamps with the lion design current at the time of issue. The stamp imprints follow the four main series of

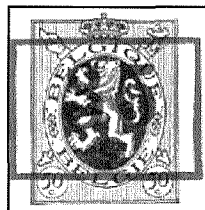
adhesive stamps namely the short-lived “lion héraldique” (1929-32), the “petit sceau de l’Etat” also known as the “lion écusson” (1935-51), the “chiffre sur lion” (1951-77) and finally the “chiffre sur lion avec banderole”. There are stamp values within the publibel cards that are not reflected in the adhesive postage stamp series and some of the colours are different where values correspond. There are approximately 3000 different cards issued in print runs of between 500 and 2 million. The first 200 or so cards are not numbered but, with a few exceptions, cards after this include a number at the bottom of the left edge or in the left, bottom edge.

Surcharges in a variety of forms were employed when postage rates changed; such usage increasing during periods of rapid inflation to the extent that some cards exist with different stamp values whilst others are virtually unknown used without surcharges. Only a small number of cards were included in the “-10%” surcharges of 20 May 1946.

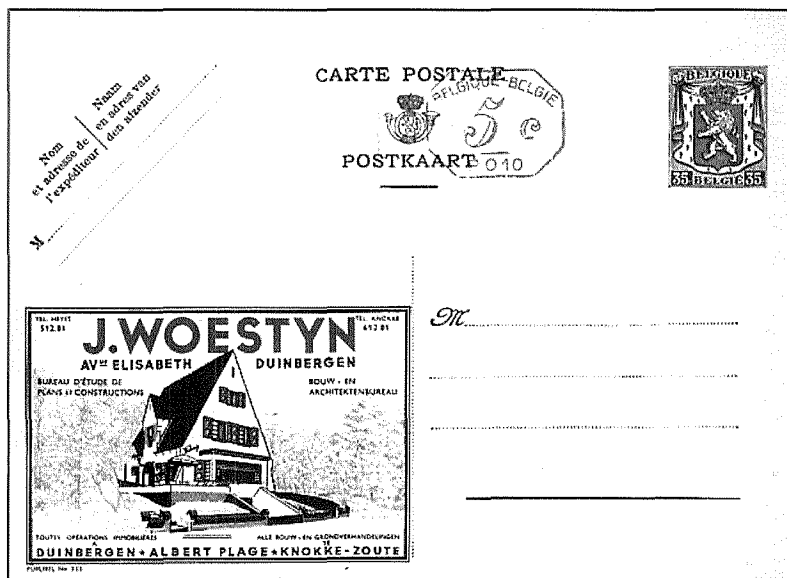
The first rate change was accomplished by overprinting existing stocks. Two different overprinting techniques were used that are not easily distinguished.



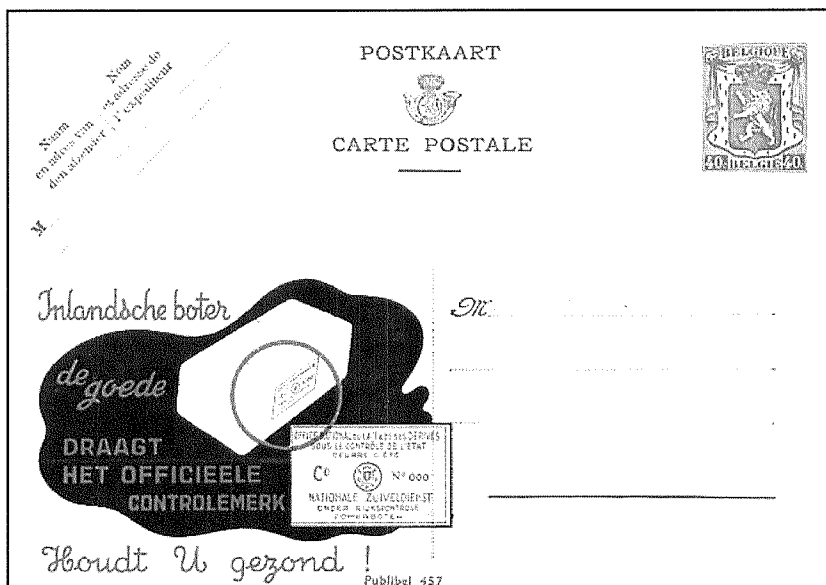
“à la timbreuse électrique”



“à la pédale”



The 35c rate from 1 February 1935 to 1 November 1938 has the postal markings in green and the “lion écusson” imprint stamp. The number of the card “PUBLIBEL No. 323” is visible below the advertisement. This card has been surcharged following the rate rise to 40c and 4 lines for the address have been introduced. This type method of surcharge was subsequently widely employed and is very similar to “meter” marks. All the 35c cards exist with the 5c surcharge in one of two types either P010 or P003. Only 13 of the 35c cards have the 4 address lines and all of these are in the large format. The 35c rate also saw the introduction of “sets” of cards all with identical advertisements and numbers but printed in up to 6 different colours.



The postal markings for the 40c rate from 1 November 1938 to 1 August 1941 were printed in lilac. For the first time Flemish language dominant postal markings were used, but on just 3 cards in the large format.

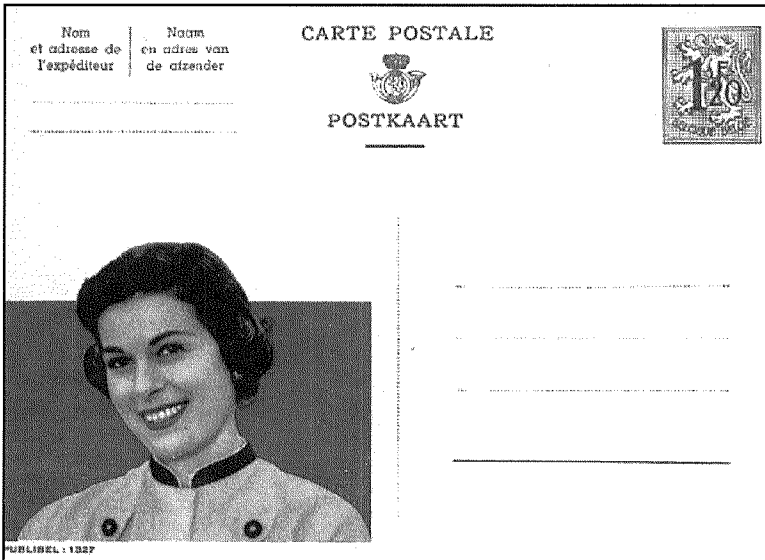
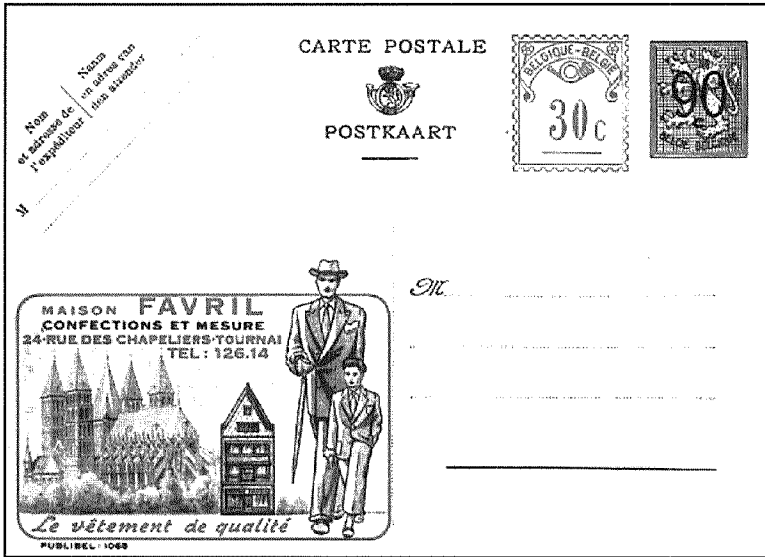
The postal markings for the 50c rate from 1 August 1941 to 15 September 1945 were in blue with the wartime cards being characterised by thin, poor quality card. Some of the earlier 50c Publibels were printed in the large format but the majority exist in the small format presumably a wartime economy. The card stock used is often thinner, variable in colour and of poorer quality than the pre-war issues. The use of language orientated postal markings becomes routine. One might have expected the introduction of German language variants, however, the German speaking cantons; Eupen and Malmedy were reunited with Germany once Belgium

was occupied. When, on 15 September 1945 the rate increased to 75c, surcharges were not applied to make up the new rate, which was instead met by the addition of a 25c adhesive. This increase caused the interruption of several print runs, as 19 of the 31 cards produced at the new rate exist with both mauve 75c and blue 50c imprint stamps. An across the board reduction in postal rates was introduced on 20th May 1946 at very short notice and this was generally achieved by overprinting all existing stocks of both stamps and postal stationery with “-10%”. To achieve this, local post offices were authorised to produce their own hand stamp and as a result over 400 different overprints exist. The overprints are listed in the “Entiers” catalogue. Numbers 622 and 623, both advertising “Phosphatine Falières” are the most frequently encountered Publibel cards of value 75c reduced by 10% much of which were probably “by favour”.

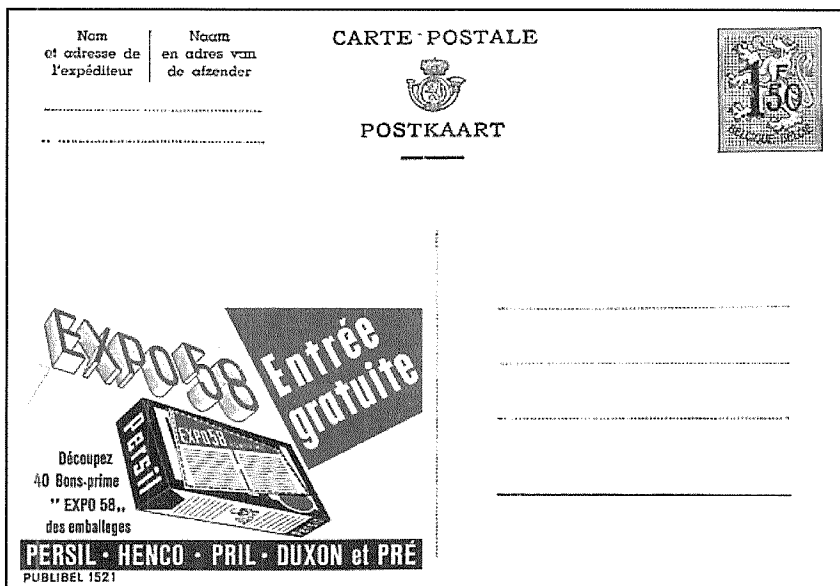
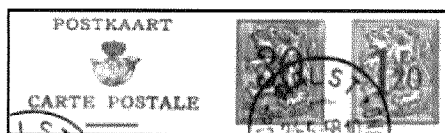
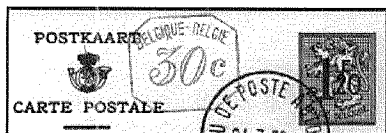


The introduction of the mauve 65c Lion écusson, in both small and large formats also saw the limited return of “sets” in three different colours perhaps signalling the end of wartime austerity? The increase to 90c on 15 December 1948 was met by a 25c meter type surcharge and then by the introduction of large format cards with the Lion écusson in brown. 1951 saw the introduction of the 90c “Lion Chiffre” in blue at which point 976 designs had been issued. The increase in rate to 1,20fr. on 15 December 1952 was met by a printed 30c surcharge in red very much like the meter marks of the time.

The printers were caught on the hop as numbers 1122, 1123, 1124, 1126, 1127 & 1129 exist in three types, 90c Lion chiffre in blue, 90c Lion chiffre in blue plus printed 30c in red and 1.20fr. Lion chiffre in olive whilst No. 1226 also exists surcharged with 30c P010 in red.



From card No 1252 a further change introduced a format with the sender's address changed from an oblique angle across the corner to a horizontal position. Publibel number 1327 is unique in having no commercial linkage and the black haired lady is popularly known as "Miss Publibel", 34,000 such cards were printed. The rate increased to 1.50fr. on 1st October 1957 initially achieved by either a 30c surcharge cachet in red or a 30c chiffre sur lion in green on the 1.20fr. card.




The 1.50fr. rate was subsequently achieved by the use of “chiffre sur lion” in grey green which occurs in three formats. In the 1st type the first line of the address is 26 mm from the “stamp”. In the 2nd type the first line of the address is 22 mm from the “stamp” also the vertical line is 55 mm long. In the third type of this value the first line of the address is 22 mm from the “stamp” and the vertical line is 41.5 mm long. Publibel No. 1521 and its Flemish equivalent No 1522 are of the first type but, uniquely, they also afforded free admission to the World Exposition of 1958. The usual “meter” type surcharge of 50c heralded the 2fr. rate (1 November 1959 to 15 November 1969) possibly the golden age of the publibel with numbers increasing from 1672 to 2378. The introduction of the “stick” font at No. 2194 to replace the previous “antique” style coincided with the introduction of five language variants namely French, Flemish, French/Flemish, Flemish/French and German/French.


The new language variants led in turn to the inclusion of a language indicator in the Publibel numbering system. Post Publibel 2226, “F” was used to indicate French, “V” (Vlaams) and later “N” (Néerlandais) to indicate Flemish giving

Name und Adresse des Absenders
Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur

POSTKARTE



CARTE POSTALE




Grösster
Ausstellungsraum
von Möbeln zu
sensationellen Preisen

La salle d'exposition
la plus vaste
des prix
sensationnels

Thimstrasse 27-29
LA CALAMINE
Tél. 087/59.359

**ADLER
MÖBEL**




PUBLIBEL 2201

seven possibilities of which F, V, FV, N and FN were employed.


Publibel 2201 advertising “Adler” is the ONLY German/French variant. The postage markings are in dark red and the lettering is of the “stick” sans serif form. In 1968, starting with Publibel No 2292 a phosphor band was introduced to left of the “stamp”.

Naam en adres van de afzender
Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur


BRIEFKAART



CARTE POSTALE



REIZIGERS
* AUTO'S
* GOEDEREN



INL. ZEEVEZEN, BELLIAARSTR. 30
1040 BRUSSEL TEL. 12.51.85

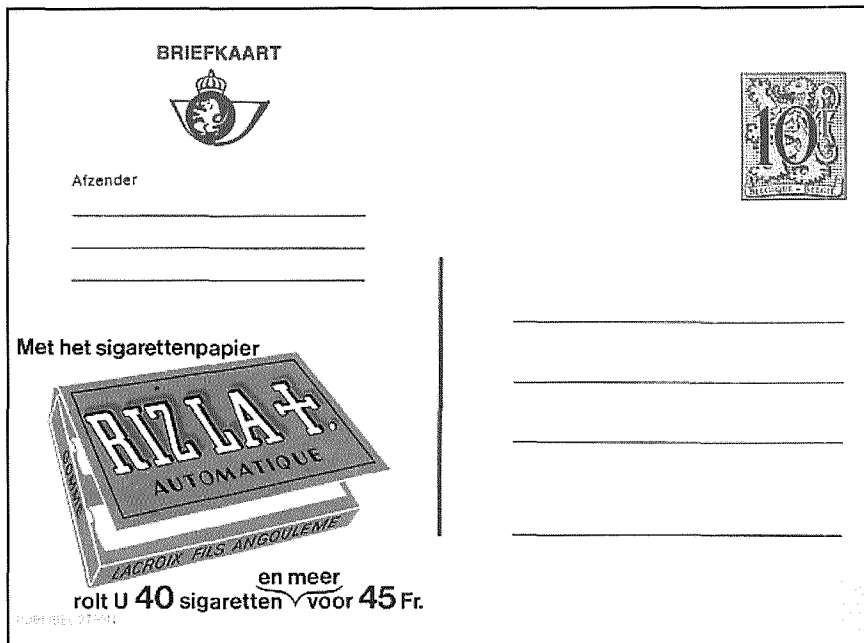
PUBLIBEL 2438NF

On 15 November 1969 the 2,50fr. rate was initially accomplished with the usual octagonal, “meter” type, 50c surcharge in red. There are 5 types of surcharge, P011 (Anvers), P2095 (Hoboken), P2134 (Knokke) and P2080 (Houdeng) the names in brackets being the towns where the cards were surcharged. These “town” surcharges became an increasing complication of postal stationery philately with up to 15 such surcharges on some values in the future and then as inflation took off multiple surcharges became necessary with cards being surcharged and then surcharged again to keep up. A new format was adopted for the 2.50 fr. “Lion Chiffre” in green with a new design of “cor postal” in the centre. Subsequent rapid rate changes to 3,50fr. (1 June 1972), to 4,00fr. (1 November 1973) and to 5,00fr. (15 December 1974) were all accomplished with the “Lion Chiffre” printed in red violet. From Publibel 2619 (4,00fr.) the width of the fluorescent band was reduced from 5.5 mm to 2.5 mm.

The 6,00fr. introduced on 1 December 1977 heralded a new design of stamp the “Lion avec banderole” in brown.



On 1 February 1980 the rate increased again to 6,50fr. printed in green and the example illustrates has double surcharges to make the 8,00fr. rate introduced on 15 April 1983 with the short lived, 15 April 1982 to 15 April 1983, 7,50fr. rate being printed in red violet. The 8,00fr. rate, light blue, consisted of only 6 designs and the 10,00fr. rate on 1 February 1984 in red brown saw only two cards of this value both advertising cigarette papers.



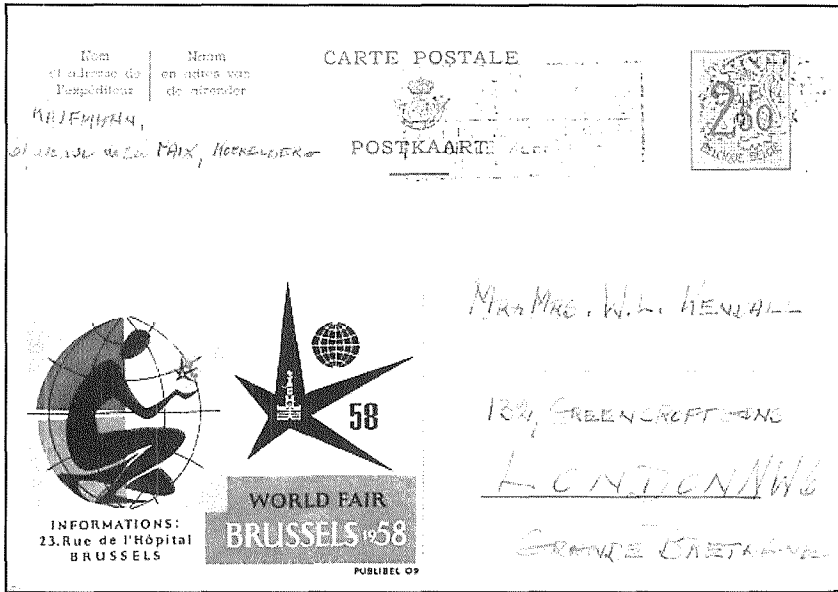
Although primarily intended for internal use, there were two short tourist series issued in 1949 and 1957 for destinations abroad. Both were on the blue card usual for “cartes pour l’etranger” and employed the 2,50fr. agricultural definitive in carmine or the 2,50fr. chiffre sur lion definitive in red.

Many internal publbelts were sent to destinations abroad with suitable additional adhesives added.

The idea of “Publbelts” arose during the economic problems of the 1930s and the postcards issued for the “League for protection against tuberculosis” and in favour of the “Red Cross” were used as examples. Ministerial approval for the scheme was gained on 12 March 1933 and a public tender was raised to organise it. The organisation responsible for the “Pubs”, addressed in Part 1 of this article, was chosen. The cards were printed in two stages using card provided by the post office printers at Mechelen. The advertisement was printed on the sheets of card and these were returned to the post office printers where the postal markings were printed and the sheets cut to size. Early sheets produced either 50 or 72 cards depending on the size and in later years 25 or 36 cards. More than one advert could be printed on the sheet enabling different quantities of card to be produced. Some sheets with just the advert were cut up so that the client could evaluate the impact. On some such cards the word “ANNULE” is perforated.

At the end of the 80s the company and advertising on post cards came to an

end, fortunately for philatelists the remaining stock came into the hands of the dealer André Delfosse of Brussels, stock reported to include un-issued postcard booklets.



The Agence Belge de Publicité Postale became responsible for publicity on postcards, publicity panels in the mail offices, postage stamps booklets and postcard booklets, display windows in the head mail office and in the head office of the service of postal cheques”. Some of these aspects will be addressed in the final part of this article.

Until 1990 the Societe Belge de l'entier Postal published a comprehensive catalogue of Belgian postal stationery that included a complete listing of the 2790 Publibel cards. This catalogue, generally known as “Entiers”, provides much of the information included in this article, information verified from items in my collection.

A popular methodology for collecting Publibel cards is the thematic approach. As the following pictures demonstrate the opportunities are very wide.

COLLÈGE SAINT-JULIEN à ATH
Humanités anciennes et modernes - Section préparatoire
Interнат - Externat.

REZIGERS
AUTO'S
GOEDEREN

INL. ZEEWEZEN, BELLIARDSTR. 30
1040 BRUSSEL TEL. 12.51.66

PUBLIFOL 2458 NF

Inlandsche boter

de goede

**DRAAGT
HET OFFICIEELE
CONTROLEMERK**

Houdt U gezond!

Publifel 437

BAYER

DOOR: COËCEDAMPHAS

RHUMATISME GRIPPE
ET REFROIDISSEMENTS

ASPIRINE

PUBLIFOL 2459 NF

charbons

THEUNIS F & C^o
BUREAU ET CHANTIER
63-65 RUE THIEFFRY
SCHAERSEEK

TEL. 70.96.54

PUBLIFOL 438

Moulinex

LIBERE LA FEMME
BEVRIJDT DE VROUW

FRANCIMEX S.A.
6200 GOSSELIES
TEL. (071) 35.88.85

PUBLIFOL 2457 NF

Le monde entier de musique

Radio

TELEFUNKEN

LA LAMPE ÉLECTRIQUE

Service-station TELEFUNKEN

44, Boulevard d'Anvers, Bruxelles - Te. 17.71.36

Publifel 234

OSTENDE *Koningin der Badsteden*

Reino des Plages

PUBLIFOL 2456 NF

FOYER AU GAZ DE PETROLE

Well straler

*** TELLEMENT MEILLEUR !!!

Well straler

99 - RUE DE LA STATION - WELLE - TEL. 66465

PUBLIBEL 1614

PUBLICITE AU PROFIT DES EMPLOYES CHOMES
PUBLICITEIT TEN VOORDEEL VAN WERKLOZE BEDIENEN

TABAC SEMOIS

des meilleurs crus

MARTIAL DENIS SECRETAIRE COMMUNAL
PLANTEUR

POUPEHAN S/SEMOIS COMP. CH. POST. 51390

ENVOI DEPUIS 1 K^o FRANCO 1^{ere} COMMANDE

1^{ere} QUALITE 1^{er} CHOIX ECOTE TRIE

22 Frs. le K^o 25 Frs. le K^o 28 Frs. le K^o 35 Frs. le K^o

Saison nouvelle ...

PILULES ROUGES

L DUPUIS

Fraicheur. sante

PUBLIBEL 464

Le Grand

FRUIT LIQUIDE

pur jus de fruits!

PUBLIBEL 2187

LE RECHAUD BREVETE

MAGIC

TRIPLE LA PRESSION DU GAZ

PUBLIBEL 445

DE NATIONALE LOTERIJ

betaalt haar loten

zonder enige afhouding!

500000
100000
25000
5000
200000
50000

PUBLIBEL 2181

du 11 au 28/2/69 **GRAND CONCOURS**

1^{er} ET 2^e PRIX : au choix UN VOYAGE AU JAPON pour un couple OU LE REMBOURSEMENT de la voiture achetee pendant le concours

TOUS RENSEIGNEMENTS A **DATSUN BELGIUM**, 2, rue de la Loi, 28 Bruxelles 4 Tel. 719166

1968 DATSUN 1600 CC
4000 CC
1969 DATSUN

PUBLIBEL 2187

Vins de Pays Vins de France

Optimise de la sante

Societe des Vins de France

2000 ANTIWEIJEREN

PUBLIBEL 2187

Postal Diary

1 July 2006 - 22 November 2006

by Joseph Fenech

10 July

The Re-Direction of Mail service offered by Maltapost was expanded to offer a wider choice of options. The original service offered meant that clients could choose to re-direct their mail, for specified periods or permanently, in instances when they moved house or transferred to summer residences, or for other reasons. Through the expanded service, clients may opt to direct specific categories of mail as a matter of convenience. Categories available for re-direction with immediate effect are: all mail (excluding parcel, courier and EMS items), registered mail, parcel and courier mail, letter packets. In addition, addressees can also ask for any or all of their mail to be re-directed to any of the 32 Maltapost retail counters in Malta or Gozo.

13 July

Maltapost advised the public that as a result of the current situation at Beirut International Airport, the mail service to Lebanon was suspended until further notice.

15 July

A special hand postmark - Madonna tal-Karmnu, Valletta – was used at the Maltapost retail outlet, Castille Place, Valletta, during office hours. On this occasion, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the first coronation in the Maltese Islands of the Holy Image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in the Carmelite Basilica in Valletta (15th July 1881-2006), the Carmelite Fathers issued a commemorative card and a special personalised stamp.



21 July

Maltapost advised that its Mobile Unit service to various localities was being suspended temporarily until further notice, due to routine maintenance and internal refurbishment works to the Unit. Residents of Marsa, Marsaxlokk, Fgura, Vittoriosa, Qrendi, Marsascala, Pembroke, St Venera, Attard, Sliema, Gharghur and Bugibba were requested to avail themselves of postal services provided by the nearest Maltapost retail outlets or sub-post offices.

3 August

Maltapost advised that it had introduced a new added service aimed at giving the public a wider choice with regard to mail delivery enquiries. This Proof of Delivery Service is aimed at providing clients with written proof of delivery/receipt of a registered item, for a minimal extra charge. Through this service, clients requesting proof of delivery and not having availed themselves of the Advice of Receipt (AR) Card service at point of posting, can now request confirmation by filling in the relevant details on a form obtainable from all Maltapost retail outlets and sub-post offices, and forwarding it to Maltapost Customer Care together with a copy of the registration receipt. Official confirmation of delivery will then be forwarded to the client in due course.

8 August

Maltapost advised that it had just introduced a new parcel labelling system at its postal retail counters, eliminating the need to affix stamps to parcels. The service is available for airmail parcels to foreign destinations. Even though this new system does away with the use of stamps for mailing of parcels, clients wishing to post parcels with stamps in their possession may continue to do so until their stock lasts. In the initial phase, the A6-size label will carry details of the country of destination, zone, weight, barcode, date and postal costs. The barcode and parcel details are also printed on the client's receipt, thus allowing for any necessary certification at a later stage. The labels are designed according to Universal Postal Union standards, and are in line with similar labels used by the majority of postal administrations.

11 August

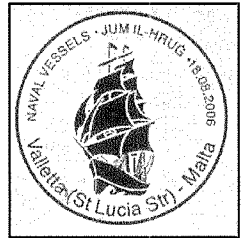
The Malta Government announced that Lombard Bank Malta had taken over the equity in Maltapost previously owned by Transend Worldwide of New Zealand. Since 2002 Transend's experience had contributed to the implementation of the operational restructuring project at Maltapost entailing a reform of both the processing and delivery functions, including a realignment of work practices and working times, as well as investment in modern equipment and technology aimed at enhancing productivity.

14 August

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. All sub-post offices and licensed stamp vendors offered postal services as usual. However, collection and delivery of mail was still carried out by Maltapost. All postal services resumed on Wednesday, 16 August.

18 August

A new set of five stamps depicting various periods in Malta's colourful maritime history over a 450-year span, from sail to steam, and from bronze guns to guided missiles, was issued by Maltapost. The stamps, which were designed by Francis X. Ancilleri and offset printed by Printex Ltd on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper, have face values of 8c (Gran Caracca di Rodi), 29c (Guillaume Tell), 51c (USS Constitution), 76c (HMS Dreadnought) and Lm1.00 (Slava and USS Belknap). The stamps come in a size of 44.0 mm x 31.0 mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14 (comb), and are available in sheets of ten. Maltapost issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue. The handstamp was inscribed "Naval Vessels – Jum il-Hrug – 18.08.2006/-----/Malta". The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in 'The Malta Stamp' bulletin No 244.



18 August

Maltapost issued a thematic album entitled "The Maltese Countryside". The album, the first in a series, and offered for sale at Lm4.00, takes a look at the Maltese countryside through a number of stamp sets issued since the year 2000. The album includes 8 issues with cancelled stamps, together with a number of 16-stamp sheetlets. Besides a general essay, the text also includes full annotations of all the stamps in the album.

25 August

Through Notice 741 appearing in Government Gazette No 17,960, it was announced that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 36(2) of the Postal Services Act, the Minister for Competitiveness and Communications directed that the Self Adhesive Booklet (printing date 2003) containing postage stamps of denomination value of 7c and 16c shall no longer be valid for prepayment of postage from and after Monday, 28th August 2006. Any postal articles 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 was allowed two months after the date stated above to surrender these stamps to Maltapost plc which would in turn exchange them for other valid postage stamps on an equal value.

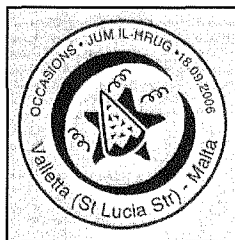
9 September

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. All sub-post offices and licensed stamp vendors offered postal services as usual. However, collection and delivery of mail was still carried out by Maltapost. All postal services resumed on Monday, 11th September.

18 September

A new set of four stamps entitled “Occasions” was issued. These stamps are primarily intended to make certain occasions more special, by being more specific in their message. The four stamps in this set were designed by Jean Pierre Mizzi, and were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. The stamps, which are 35 mm x 35 mm in size, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb), are available in sheets of ten. The stamps have face values of 8c (Happy Birthday), 16c (Happy Anniversary), 27c (Congratulations) and 37c (Best Wishes). Unlike other stamp issues, these “Occasions” stamps will have an extended sales period. Maltapost issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue. The handstamp was inscribed “Occasions/Jum il-Hrug – 18.09.2006/-----/Malta”. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 245.



19 September

Following a decision by the Malta Communications Authority, with effect from Tuesday, 19th September, the local postage rate for letters/postcards up to 50g in weight was increased by one cent, going up from 7c to 8c. The same one cent rate increase is applicable on printed papers up to 50g in weight. All other rates from 50g upwards remained unchanged.

26 September

Maltapost advised the public that the mail service to Lebanon had resumed, after it had been suspended as a result of the situation at Beirut International Airport.

29 September

A set of five stamps featuring castles and towers in the Maltese Islands, was issued on 29th September. The stamps, whose design and photography was handled by Anouschka Grech, were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps are 31.0 mm x 44.0 mm in size, with a perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 (comb), and are available in sheets of ten. The stamps have face values of 7c (Wignacourt Tower), 16c (Verdala Castle), 27c



(San Luċjan), 37c (Kemmuna Tower) and Lm1.00 (Selmun Castle). Maltapost issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue. The handstamp is inscribed “Jum il-Hruġ – 29.09.06/-----/Malta”. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 246.

29 September

Maltapost notified the public that the sub-post office at Siġġiewi was closed with immediate effect. The public was informed that it could avail itself of postal services through the Maltapost Mobile Unit, which visited Siġġiewi (near the Siġġiewi Parish Church) every Thursday (between 7.45 am and 10.00 am) and every Friday (between 7.45 am and 9.15 am), or from the Maltapost retail outlets in Żebbuġ or Qormi. In addition, stamps were sold from various commercial outlets in Siġġiewi. Maltapost notified that it had started the process to open another sub-post office in Siġġiewi.

30 September

Pre-2002 International Reply Coupons will no longer be exchangeable for postage stamps representing the minimum postage pre-payable for an unregistered priority letter post item or an unregistered airmail letter sent abroad after the close of business on Saturday, 30th September. The Beijing Model 1 International Reply Coupons will cease to be valid for the exchange of postage stamps representing the minimum postage pre-payable for an unregistered priority letter post item or an unregistered airmail letter sent abroad, after close of business of Saturday, 30th December.

6 October

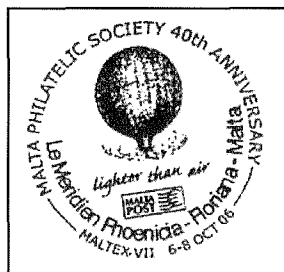
A Temporary Branch Post Office was set up at the Ballroom of Le Meridien Phoenicia, Floriana between Friday, 6th and Sunday, 8th October, during the opening hours of the MALTEX Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Malta Philatelic Society. The Temporary Branch was open between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm on Friday and Saturday, and between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm on Sunday. All the mail posted at this Branch was cancelled with the MALTEX special cancellation, inscribed “MALTEX 2006, 6-8 October, Le Meridien, Floriana, Malta”, which also carried the logo of the exhibition.



6 October

The Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost issued two Occasion Cards on the occasion of

the 40th Anniversary of the Malta Philatelic Society, which was commemorated during this year's MALTEX Philatelic Exhibition held at Le Meridien Phoenicia between the 6th and the 8th October. The Occasion Cards, both denominated 51c, which is the Air Express rate for Europe, reproduce a pen drawing by Alfred Caruana Ruggier after an old French print showing the first attempt at producing a lighter-than-air device designed for flying by the Montgolfier brothers at Annonay on 4th June 1783. The imprinted stamps are revalued stamps from the 1974 Centenary of the Universal Postal Union set designed by Sandra and George Ellul Sullivan, and from the Air Transport set designed by Richard J. Caruana. A special handstamp was also used with these Occasion Cards. The same handstamp was also used to cancel a special personalised stamp commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Philatelic Society and also for the Commemorative Cover which was issued for this occasion. The cover and personalised stamp were only available during the MALTEX Exhibition. Stamp designers who had designed Maltapost stamp issues in 2005/2006 were invited to the MALTEX stamp show to sign First Day Covers of the sets they had designed.

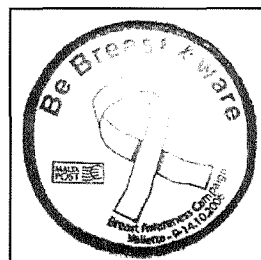


9 October

The sub-post office at 51, G. Borg Olivier Street, Mellieha, was closed for business between Monday, 9th October and Saturday, 14th October, both days included.

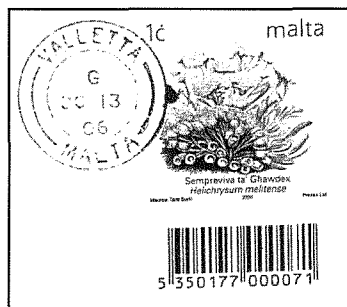
9 October

A special hand postmark - Be Breast Aware, Valletta - was used at the Maltapost retail outlet, Castille Place, Valletta, from Monday, 9th October to Friday, 13th October, between 8.15 am and 4.30 pm, and on Saturday, 14th October, between 8.15 am and 12.30 pm.



13 October

Maltapost issued a reprint of the 1c definitive stamp originally issued in the year 2000. This stamp had been designed by Maurice Tanti Burlo' and printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The new re-print is slightly different from the original issue, as it has been printed by Printex Ltd. The re-issue is printed in vertical format on Maltese Cross watermarked paper, whereas the 2000 issue had been printed in horizontal format on non-watermarked paper.



This re-issue in sheets of ten also carries a barcode on the surround.

19 October

All Maltapost services returned back to normal with immediate effect following the strike action ordered the previous day by the Unior Haddiema Maghqudin. Bulky items not delivered on the 18th October were delivered on the 19th.

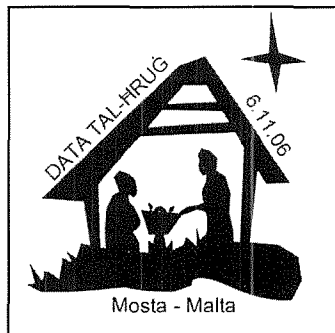
28 October

A special hand postmark – 1906 – Ċentinarju – 2006, Knisja Sant'Antnin ta' Padova – was used at the Maltapost retail outlet in Ghajnsielem, Gozo on Saturday, 28th October, between 7.30 am and 1.45 pm.



6 November

A Christmas set of four stamps and a miniature sheet was issued by Maltapost. The stamps carry images of four Maltese composers whose respective anniversaries fall in 2006, while the miniature sheet commemorates the 250th anniversary from the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. All the stamps also carry a motif of Christmas music. The stamps, designed by Gozitan artist George Vella, were offset printed by Printex Ltd on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps come in a size of 44 mm x 31 mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14 (comb), with the miniature sheet perforation being 13.5 x 13.5 (comb). The stamps have face values of 8c (Paolino Vassallo), 16c (Carmelo Pace), 22c (Paul Nani) and 27c (Carlo Diacono), while the miniature sheet has a face value of 50c. A special commemorative handstamp inscribed “Data tal-Hruġ – 6.11.06/-----/Malta” was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No 247.



*We wish all our members
and their families
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



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www.maltaphilately.org

The Malta Philatelic Society is a non-profit organisation set up on 7th March 1966 and aims to encourage the study of postage stamps and the educational hobby of stamp collecting.

Being Malta's national society supporting the study and collecting of stamps, a major part of the Society's effort is in fact concentrated upon the education of collectors and the general public.

The Society specifically promotes the specialised study of Malta, its stamps, postal history and related areas. Within its own limitations, the Society attempts to preserve this part of our heritage, particularly (but not exclusively) by publishing and circulating its own prestigious award-winning Journal, at least twice a year.

The Society organises:

- Annual Maltex Exhibitions
- Illustrated talks given by guest speakers
- Informal "members' evenings"
- Bring & Buy stamp auctions
- Visits from other philatelic societies

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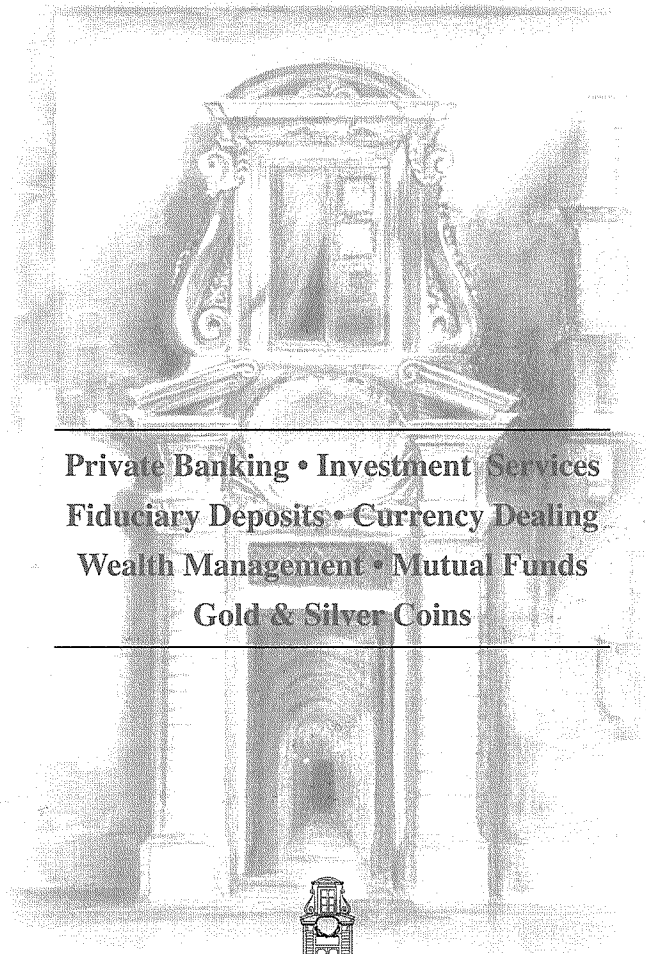
Send application together with payment enclosed in envelope to:*

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 The Malta Philatelic Society,
 c/o 91, Triq Manwel Dimech,
 Sliema SLM14,
 Malta G.C.– Europe.

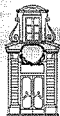
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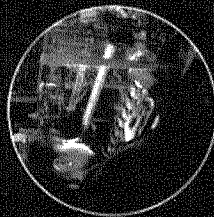
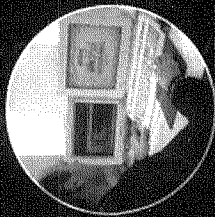
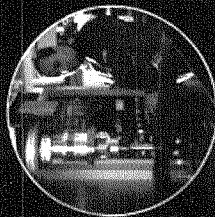
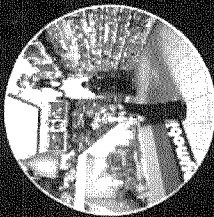
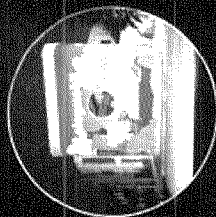
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