

# Helicopteros Del Sureste

## SA First Flights Gozo—Malta—Gozo

by Mr. Anthony Fenech



On the 21 March 2005, the Maltese-Spanish Philatelic and Numismatic Club issued its 18<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Cover to mark the Bell 412 EP helicopter First Flights Gozo—Malta and return by the Helicopteros Del Sureste SA. As usual, it has been on the initiative of the Maltese-Spanish Circle hard-working President, Mr John Micallef, that this Cover has been released.

The Bell 412 EP helicopter left the Gozo heliport of Xewkija under clear skies for a 10-minute flight marking the resumption of the Gozo—Malta—Gozo air link. At the controls of the helicopter were chief pilot Luis Navarrate and Captain Salvador Garrazoni. The return flight from Malta International Airport bound to Xewkija helipad also lasted ten minutes.

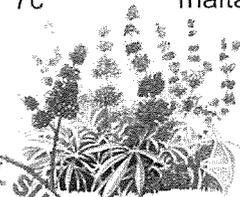
The inaugural flights were reserved for reporters, cameramen as well as personnel from the Ministry of Competitiveness and Communications, and from the Ministry for Gozo, including the Hon. Ministers Censu Galea and Giovanna Debono.

To mark the occasion, Maltapost plc prepared a very attractive handstamp, dispensed at the Counter Hall of Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, reading 'Helicopteros del Sureste / 1<sup>st</sup> Flight 21—03—05 / Gozo—Malta—Gozo / Valletta Malta'. Besides of the commemorative handstamp, the flown covers also bear the Victoria/ Gozo Branch Post Office and the International Airport / Luqa Malta Branch Post Office metal datestamps. On the outward flight from Xewkija heliport, the Victoria B.O. despatch datestamp appears on the front of the cover while the Malta International Airport B.O. arrival datestamp appears on the back. The strikes of the datestamps on the return flight covers from the Luqa International Airport to the Xewkija, Gozo helipad are reversed.

The Helicopter First Flight covers show the Bell 412 EP helicopter leaving the Xewkija heliport for Malta. The 7c Definitive stamp franking the cover is tied by the Maltapost commemorative handstamp.

First Flight  
Helicopteros Del Sureste  
Gozo - Malta - Gozo  
21st March 2005

7c malta



*Vitex agnus-castus*  
Bouchara



**Poste Restante,  
Malta International Airport P.O.,  
Luqa**

No. 18

MALTESE-SPANISH PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC CLUB  
CLUB FILATELICO Y NUMISMATICO HISPANO-MALTES

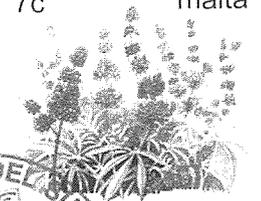


Gozo - Malta, endorsed on arrival in Malta -  
**INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT / MR.21.05 / LUQA - MALTA**  
on the back.

First Flight  
Helicopteros Del Sureste  
Gozo - Malta - Gozo  
21st March 2005



7c malta



*Vitex agnus-castus*  
MONTAUDO 1982



**Poste Restante,  
Victoria B.O.,  
Gozo**

MALTESE-SPANISH PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC CLUB  
CLUB FILATELICO Y NUMISMATICO HISPANO-MALTES



No. 18



Return flight Malta - Gozo, endorsed on arrival in Gozo -  
**VICTORIA / MR.21.05 / GOZO**  
on the back.