

POSTAL DIARY

1 August 2004 — 31 December 2004

by Mr. Anthony Fenech

2 August

The new opening hours of The Maltapost Branch at The Malta International Airport as from today will be:

8.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Mondays to Fridays) and 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays.

13 August

Maltapost has today issued its 9th Commemorative Stamp Set for this year — Olympics 2004. The set consisting of 3 values, 11c, 16c, and 76c is designed by Maurice Tanti Burlo' and offset printed by Printex Ltd., Malta, on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. A special handstamp inscribed "XXVIII Olympiad Athens / Jum il-Hrug – 13-08-04/ — — / Malta" has been used on mail franked with the Olympics Set released today. The stamps in this set have been previewed on 'The Malta Stamp' No.223 issued by The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.



13 August

A commemorative Postal Card has been issued today on the occasion of Maltapost participation at the Olympilex 2004 Stamp Exhibition being held in Athens, Greece, between 13 and 22 August 2004. The card has imprinted thereon the Stamps of The Olympic Games 2004 postage set and an appropriate motif. The card will be available for sale from all Branch and Sub-Post Offices in Malta and Gozo between 13 and 22 August 2004.

The stamps on the Card are cancelled with a special hand postmark inscribed 'Olympilex – 13-22.08.04' and incorporating logos of Maltapost and the Exhibition. The Card cancelled with the special postmark may be sent through the post at no extra charge provided it is posted between the 13 and 22 August 2004. Cancelled cards with the 'Olympilex 2004' hand postmark, posted after 22 August 2004, must have additional stamps affixed thereon to cover the required postage.



13 August

A special postmark commemorating Olympilex 2004 Stamp

Exhibition being held in Athens will be available at the Valletta Counter Hall between 13 and 22 August 2004 during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed 'Olympihlex – 13-22.08.04' and incorporates the logos of Maltapost and the Exhibition.

13 August

The Sub-Post Office at 'Fleet Stationers', Testaferrata Street, Ta' Xbiex, will close temporarily between Friday 13 August and Monday 16 August 2004, both days inclusive.

18 August

Ghaxaq Sub-Post Office at Rose Bazaar, St.Mary Street, will close temporarily between Wednesday 18 and Saturday 28 August 2004, both dates inclusive.

23 August

The Sub-Post Office at Welcome Bazaar, Misrah Frenc Abela, Dingli, will be closed between Monday 23 and Saturday 28 August 2004, both inclusive.

27 August

Maltapost plc notifies that a special hand postmark — 'Riccione 2004' will be in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta, on Friday 27 August and Saturday 28 August 2004 during office hours.

A similar handstamp will be used at the Maltapost Stand, at Riccione Stamp Fair, on these two days and on Sunday 29 August as well.



31 August

Traders can now pay their business licences at one of Maltapost's thirty-one Branches. This follows an agreement between Maltapost and the Parliamentary Secretariat for Small Businesses and The Self Employed.

1 September

A new Branch Post Office has been opened today at Triq it-Turisti, Qawra. This Branch will offer the full range of postal, philatelic and ancillary services, normally available at Branch Post Offices, including Bill payments for Maltacom, Water and Electricity, Melita Cable, On-Vol and V.A.T.

A 26.5 mm metal double ring datestamp inscribed "QAWRA PO/ MALTA" is being used at the Branch Post Office.



15 September

Maltese Festivals commemorative set of postage stamps issued today. The five stamps in the set valued at 5c, 15c, 27c, 51c and Lm1, designed by Francis X. Ancilleri, are offset printed in sheets of ten stamps by Printex Ltd., Malta, on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. A special handstamp inscribed 'Maltese Festivals/ Jum il-Hrug 15.09.04/ — — Malta' has been provided to cancel mail franked with these stamps on the First Day of Issue. The stamps and commemorative postmark have been previewed in 'The Malta Stamp' Bulletin No.224 (September 2004) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.

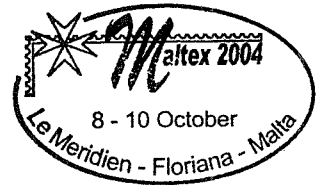


7 October

Maltex V Philatelic Exhibition has been inaugurated by the Hon. Censu Galea M.P., Minister for Competitiveness and Communications. On this occasion, Chev. Dr. Alfred Bonnici, President of The Malta Philatelic Society and Chairman of Maltex V Organising Committee delivered a welcoming Speech and invited the distinguished guests present to drinks.

8 October

A Temporary Branch Post Office is being set up at Le Meridien Phoenicia Ballroom where Maltex V Stamp Exhibition and Dealers' Bourse are venued.



A commemorative cover is being put on sale and a special hand postmark inscribed 'Maltex 2004/ 8 - 10 October/ Le Meridien Floriana - Malta' has been provided by Maltapost plc to cancel all mail posted at the T.P.O.

8 October

An Occasion Card (Card No 11) has been issued by Maltapost to commemorate the issue of King Edward VII 2 1/2d Definitive (maroon and blue) a century ago, exactly on 8 October 1904.



8 October

E.U. Accession First Day Covers prepared by Maltapost plc to be given complimentary with the Malta Stamp Collection (1964-2004) Album and struck in gold ink have been put on sale at the Temporary Branch Post Office as from today.

9 October

Today is the second day of Maltex V Philatelic Exhibition at Le Meridien Phoenicia Ballroom, Floriana.

Being World Post Day, a commemorative handstamp inscribed “World Post Day – Reaching everyone everywhere – Valletta – 9.10.2004 – Malta” and the logo of the U.P.U. is being used today at The Temporary Branch Post Office, at Maltex 2004 Show.



10 October

Maltex V Philatelic Exhibition is open at Le Meridien Phoenicia Ballroom between 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

Visitors to the T.P.O. at the Exhibition may get the Sunday postmark as well as the commemorative handstamp on mail they post at the T.P.O. Letter Box.

11 October

Mr David Stellini has been appointed as Maltapost plc Chairman with effect from today following Mr Joseph Grioli’s resignation from this post.

13 October

Maltapost plc has today released its 11th Stamp Issue for this year. This issue consists of four stamps valued at 2c, 20c, 57c, and 62c and a Miniature Sheet valued at 72c. The stamps and Miniature Sheet are designed by Joseph Casha and offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Ltd., Malta. The ‘Works of Art’ set has been previewed on “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No.225 issued by The Philatelic Bureau. A special First Day of Issue handstamp has been provided and reads “Works of Art/ Jum il-Hrug/ 13.10.04’ — —/ Malta.”



15 October

The Gozo Philatelic Society is holding its fifth Philatelic Exhibition at St.Francis Hall, The Ministry, Gozo, until Sunday 24 October. For the occasion a commemorative Postcard has been prepared. It bears the Victoria, Gozo double ring datestamp with arc spacers showing OC 15/ 04.

30 October

The metal date handstamp at The Malta International Airport Post Office will be used for the last day, today, as a new datestamp will be starting to be used next Monday, 1st November 2004.

30 October

Maltapost plc advises that its Valletta Branch at Dar Annona, on Castille Place, will not be open for business today, Saturday 30 October, due to refurbishment. However, the full range of postal services will be available to the public from the Maltapost Mobile Unit stationed near the Branch.

1 November

As from today, 1st November 2004, a new metal handstamp will be used at The Malta International Airport Post Office. The metal handstamp is inscribed 'International Airport/ Luqa.Malta/ NO 1/ 04'.



1 November

With effect from today, all Money Orders (Local and Foreign) issued by all the Maltapost plc Branches, will be effected through its computerized network.

However, Money Orders issued by the Mobile Unit and its Sub-Post Offices will for the time being be operated manually.

3 November

Maltapost has been advised by the relevant authorities in the U.K. of a significant backlog of mail destined for Malta at London Heathrow Airport. The backlog not only includes mail from the U.K., but also mail from Australia that is destined for Malta and which passes through Heathrow. Maltapost has been given assurance that the handling Agents at Heathrow have put additional resources onto their night shift in order to clear the backlog.

4 November

Maltapost has urged the public to send their Christmas Cards and other postal articles locally and abroad well in advance of Christmas:

Letters and Cards

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Locally | — | by the first week in December; |
| to E.U. Countries | — | by the first week in December also; |
| to Non-E.U. Destinations | — | by the last week in November. |

Parcels

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| to E.U. Countries | — | by the last week in November; |
| to Non-E.U. Destinations | — | by the third week in November. |

10 November

Maltapost has today issued the Christmas 2004 postage stamp set of four stamps (7c, 16c, 22c, and 50c values). The stamps are designed by Richard J. Caruana and offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Ltd., Malta. A special handstamp inscribed “MILIED/ Jum il-Hrug – 10.11.2004/ — — - Malta” has been provided for canceling the Christmas stamps on the First Day of Issue. The stamps as well as the postmark have been previewed in the Malta Stamp Bulletin No.226 issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.



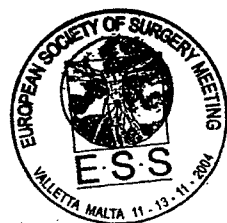
10 November

Maltapost plc Philatelic Bureau has detailed the list of the forthcoming stamp sets to be released in 2005, namely:

January	19	- Old Maps of Malta;
February	23	- Rotarians;
March	3	- Hans Christian Andersen (Joint Issue with Denmark);
April	20	- Insects (Sheetlet of 16 stamps);
May	9	- Europa 2005;
June	15	- St.Catherine in Art;
July	13	- Maltese Personalities;
August	19	- Equines in the Maltese Environment;
September	23	- Battle of Malta;
October	12	- Christmas 2005;
November	23	- Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

11 November

A special hand postmark inscribed “ European Society of Surgery Meeting” is being used today at the Counter Hall (Dar Annona), Valletta, during office hours.



7 December

A special hand postmark inscribed “ 150 Years of the Dogma of the/ Immaculate Conception/ Victoria – Gozo – Malta/ 7 – 12 – 2004” is being used at the Victoria Gozo Branch Post Office, today, during office hours.



9 December

Maltapost said that stamps issued prior to January 1998 were

no longer valid for postage, as per Legal Notice 689 of August 2, 2002. The Notice laid down that “any postal article stamped with postage stamps so invalidated, shall be deemed not duly stamped for the purpose of the Post Office Act.”

Mail items carrying such stamps will either be returned to senders with an endorsement indicating “insufficient postage” or duly delivered against payment of the relevant tax.

10 December

The Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost is participating together with six other Postal Administrations, those of the Faroe Islands, Jersey, Greenland, Gibraltar, Aland and Iceland in a joint Booklet campaign aimed at attracting a large number of Standing Order clients, thus helping to further promote Malta’s philatelic products.

12 December

A Maltapost Victoria Branch Counter datestamp will be used on mail posted at the Parish Hall premises, Munxar Square, Munxar, Gozo, today (Sunday) from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

The datestamp will be used on ordinary and registered mail. Other postal services, normally effected at the Victoria Branch Office Counters will not be available.

23 December

At the Annual Staff Meeting, Maltapost Chairman, David Stellini reported that Maltapost has achieved a record high of 97.5% for next day delivery of mail in the past weeks.

27 December

Mail will not be distributed and Maltapost Branches will not open for business today, Monday 27 December.