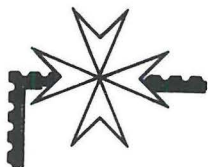


THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Malta)

THE PSM JOURNAL



THE PSM JOURNAL

Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84 & AUSIPEX '84
Silver-Bronze ISRAPHIL '85 & PHILTEMA '85
Silver STOCKHOLMIA '86
Silver CHICAGOPEX 2002 & 2004
Editor: Chev. Dr A Bonnici, K.M., M.D.



Vol. 34/1

April, 2005

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CONTENTS

Gold Coast Registration Labels & Hand stamps Mail to Malta 1931-34 Part 4. By Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici K.M., M.D.	2
Early Use of the Divided-Back Postcard by Mr. Hadrian Wood	12
Maltex VI Philatelic Exhibition 7th, 8th and 9th October 2005	14
Helicopteros Del Sureste SA First Flights Gozo-Malta-Gozo by Mr. Anthony Fenech	15
Postal Information from Guide Books by Mr. G. Dougall	18
Further Postal Information from Local Newspapers by Chev. Dr. A. Bonnici KM., MD.	20
Another "Loaf of Bread" Postal Marking by Mr. Anthony Fenech	31
POSTAL DIARY – 1 August 2004 – 31 December 2004 by Mr. Anthony Fenech	33

Gold Coast Registered Labels & Hand Stamps

Mail to Malta 1931-34

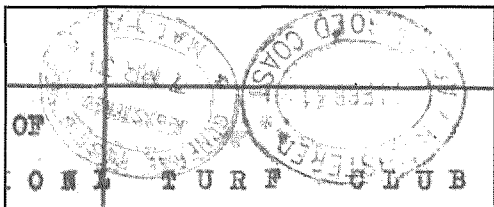
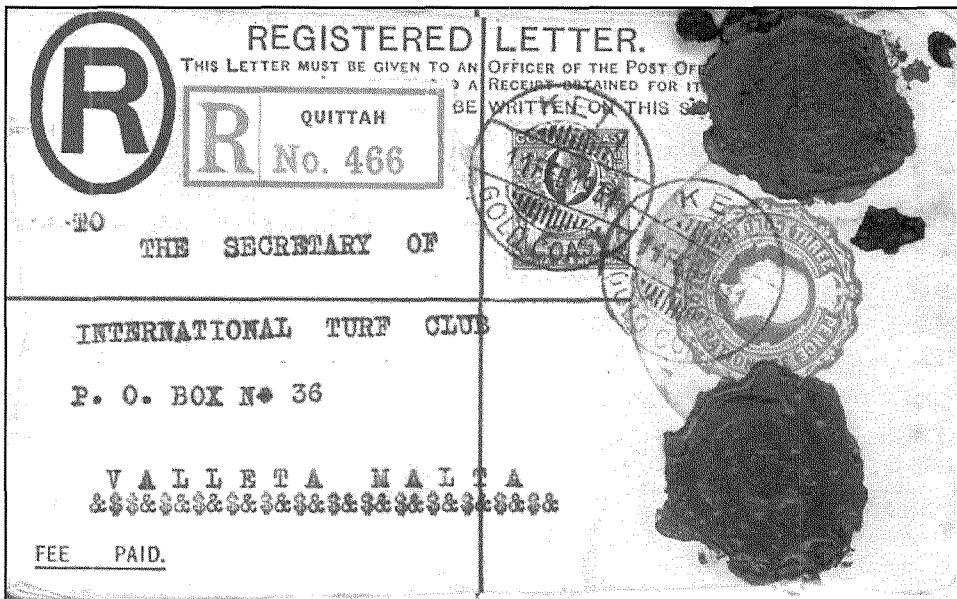
Part 4

by Chev. Dr. Alfred Bonnici KM., MD.



QUITTAH, KETA.
QUITTAH Registration label
with NUMBER not recorded by Proud.
He records the Number in manuscript only
QUITTAH Registration label and KETA
hand stamp on same letter packet.

D12 (9.2.27)-(27.2.54)



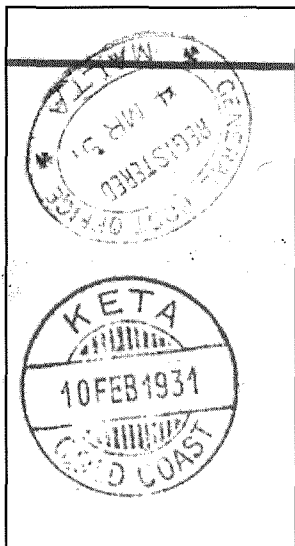
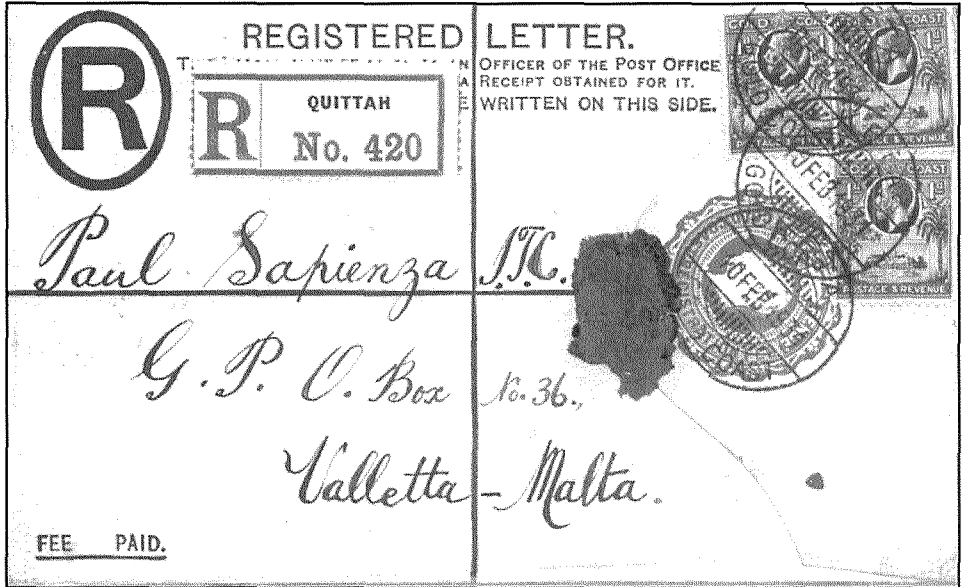
152 x 92mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V., Registered Letter, bearing perforated **LIGHT BLUE (40 x 15mm)**, Registered label, **R/ QUITTAH No.466.**, bearing 1d brown K.G.V. stamp cancelled by (Proud D 12) **KETA / 11 FEB 1931. / GOLD**

COAST., and endorsed on the back by (Proud R10), **REGISTERED / 14 FEB 31 / ACCRA / GOLD COAST & GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 7 MR 31 / MALTA**, arrival hand stamp.



QUITTAH
QUITTAH Registration label and KETA
hand stamps on same letter packet.

D12 (9.2.27)-(27.2.54)

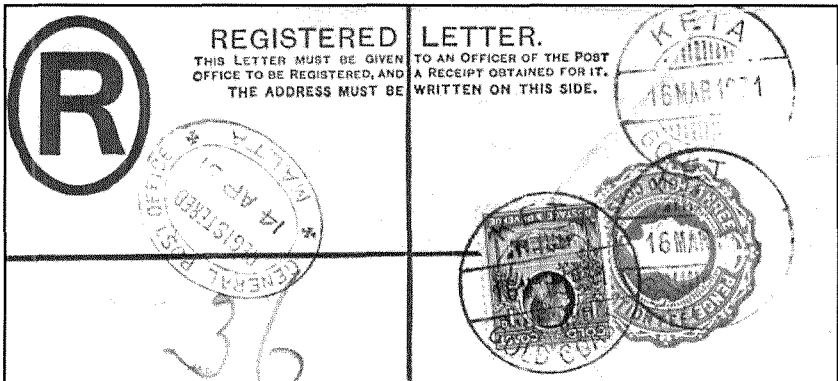
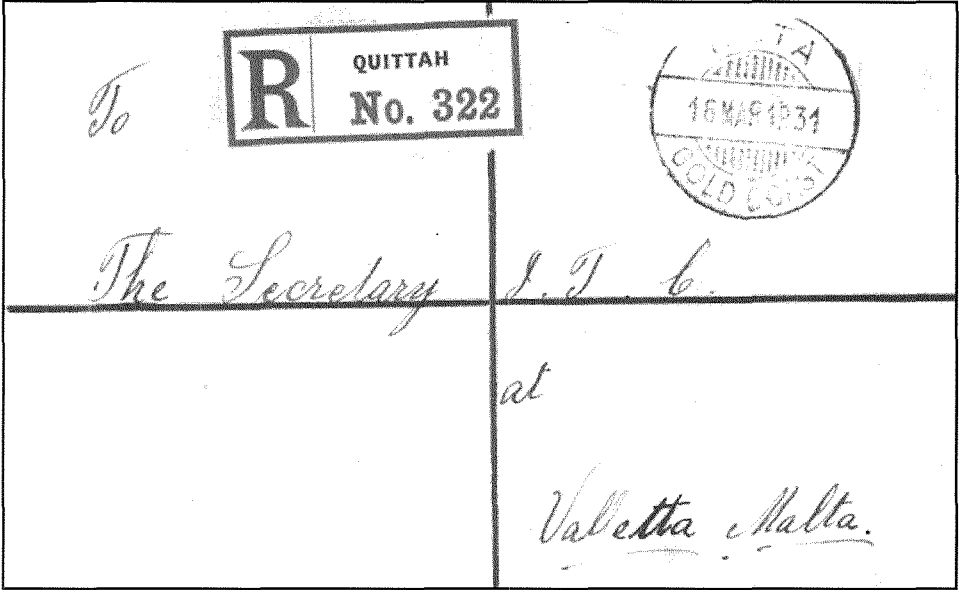


150 x 92mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V., Registered Letter Packet, bearing perforated **LIGHT BLUE (40 x 15mm)**, Registered Label, **R/QUITTAH No. 420.**, bearing three 1d brown K.G.V. stamps cancelled with (Proud D12) **KETA / 10 FEB 1931 / GOLD COAST.** and endorsed on the back with another **KETA** and **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 4 MR 31 / MALTA.**, arrival hand stamp.



QUITTAH
QUITTAH Registration label
 stuck to back of letter packet.
 Not in keeping with U.P.U. Convention.

D12 (9.2.27)-(27.2.54)

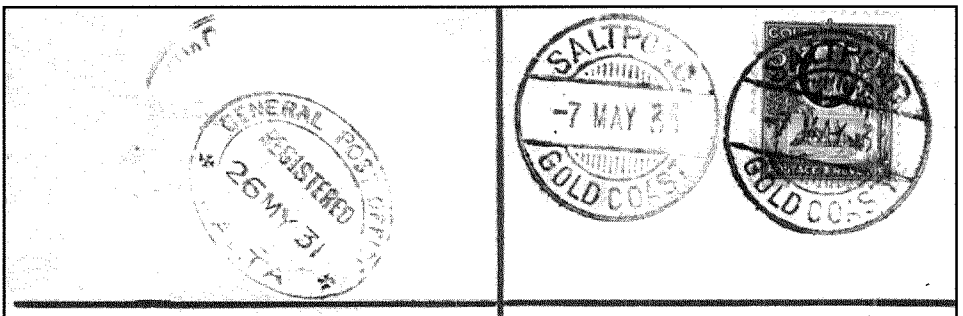
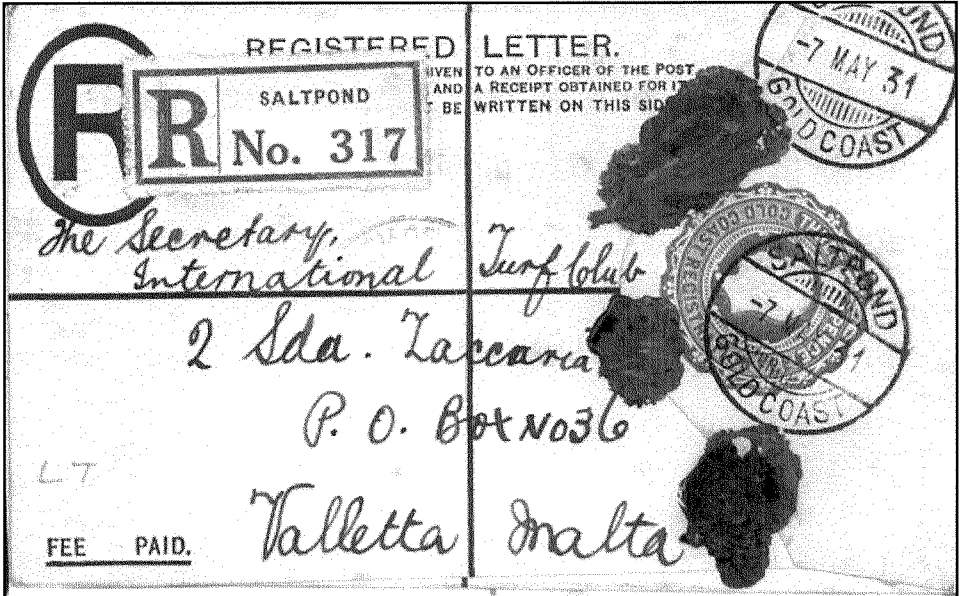


135 x 82mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V., Registered Letter Packet, bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40 x 15mm)** Registered Label, **R/QUITTAH No.322**, stuck on the back of the letter packet, bearing 1d brown K.G.V. stamp cancelled with (Proud D12), **KETA / 16 MAR 1931 / GOLD COAST.**, and endorsed on the back with another **KETA** hand stamp. Malta arrival hand stamp 14th Apr 31.



D15 (10.5.24)-(18.1.30)
(26.9.36)-S.U. 5.3.57

SALTPOND
SALTPOND Registration
label not recorded by Proud.



135 x 82mm, Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter, bearing perforated **LIGHT BLUE (40 x 15mm) Registered Label, R/SALTPOND No. 317.**, and on the back bearing 3d blue K.G.V. stamp, cancelled by (Proud D15) **SALTPOND /7 MAY 31 /GOLD COAST**, and **GENERAL POST OFFICE /REGISTERED /26MY 31 /MALTA**, arrival hand stamp.



SEKONDI.
SEKONDI Registration
label not recorded by Proud

R4 (31.5.25)-(8.7.49)

REGISTERED LETTER.
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

(R)

The Secretary,

J. T. C.

4. P. O. Box No 36

Valletta Malta.

POSTAGE THREE PENCE

R
SEKONDI
No. 612

FEE PAID.

GOLD COAST

1d

GOLD COAST

1d

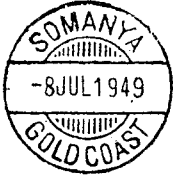
POSTAGE

1d

J. T. C.

4. P. O. Box No 36.

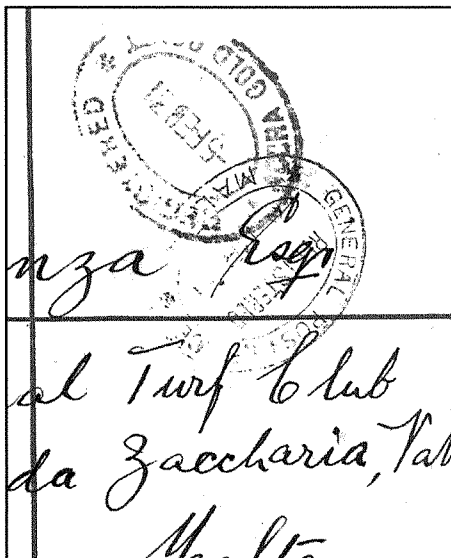
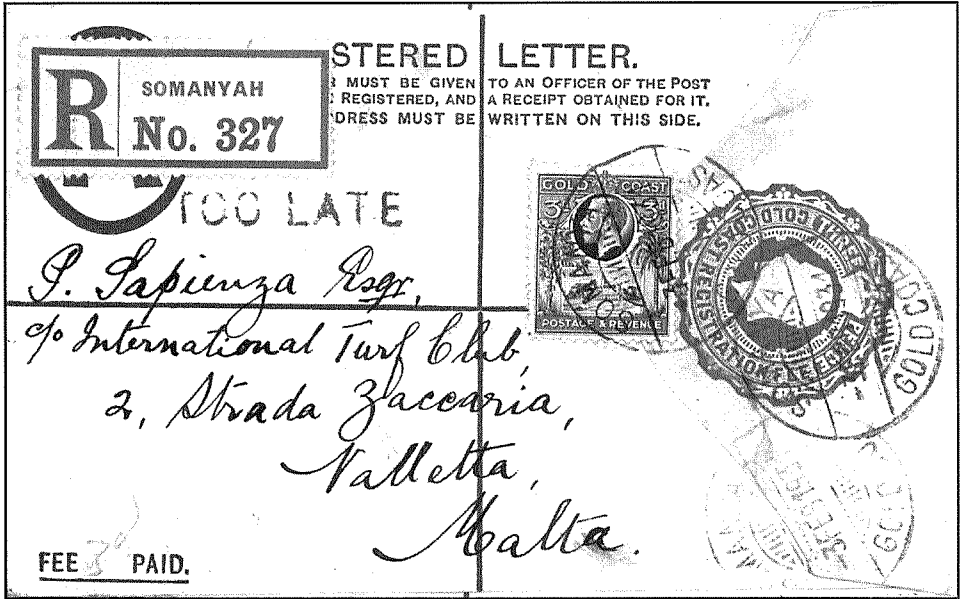
150 x 92mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter Packet, bearing perforated **LIGHT BLUE (40 x 15mm)** Registered Label, **R/SEKONDI No. 612.**, and on the back Two 1d brown K.G.V. stamps cancelled by (Proud R4), **REGISTERED / 7 MAY 31 / SEKONDI GOLD COAST.**, and **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 26 MY 31 / MALTA**, arrival hand stamp.



SOMANYAH & SOMANYA.
SOMANYAH Registration label and SOMANYA hand stamps on same letter packet
SOMANYAH Registration label not recorded by Proud.

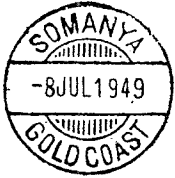
TOO LATE (Proud 12)

D6 (28.8.25)-S.U.5.3.57



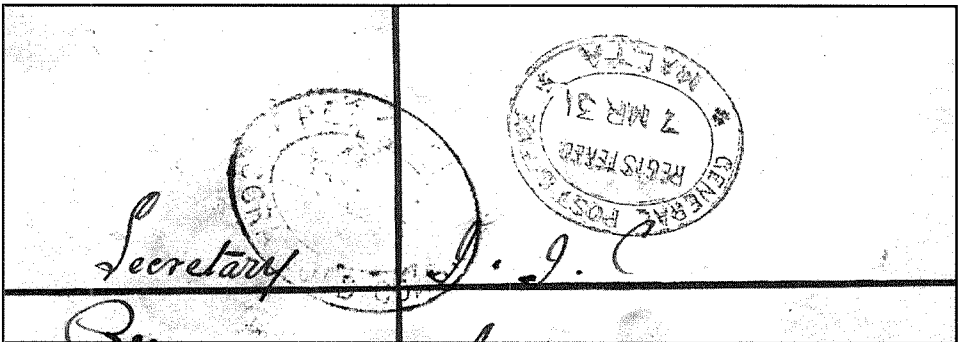
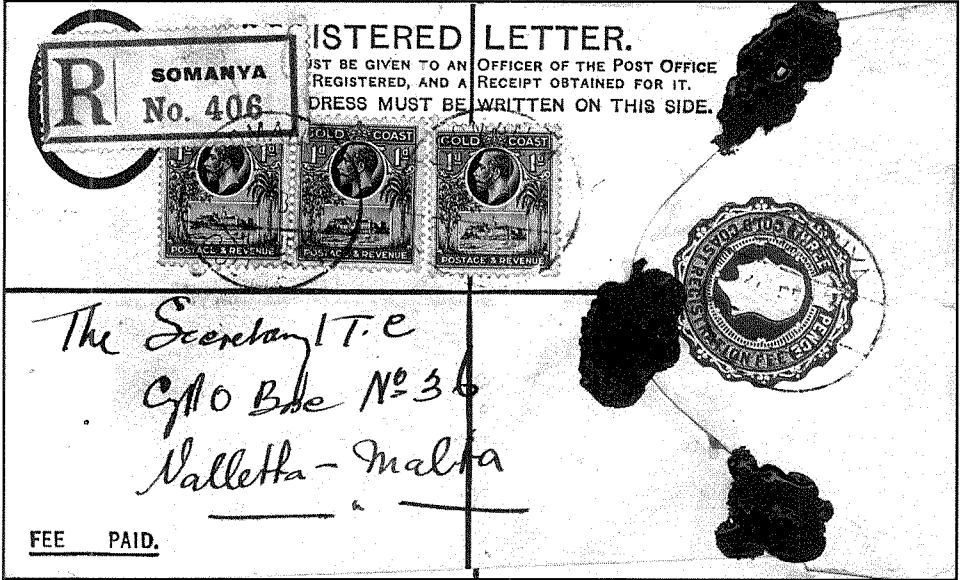
132 x 82mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter Packet, bearing perforated **LIGHT BLUE (40 x 15mm)** Registered Label, **R/SOMANYAH No. 327.**, and 3d blue K.G.V. stamp, cancelled by (Proud D6), **SOMANYA / -3FEB 1931 / GOLD COAST.**, together, with **TOO LATE (Proud 12):**

and endorsed on the back by (Proud R8), **REGISTERED / -5 FEB 31 / ACCRA GOLD COAST** and **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / MR 31 / MALTA** arrival hand stamp.



SOMANYA
SOMANYA with Number not recorded by Proud

D6 (28.8.25)-S.U.5.3.57

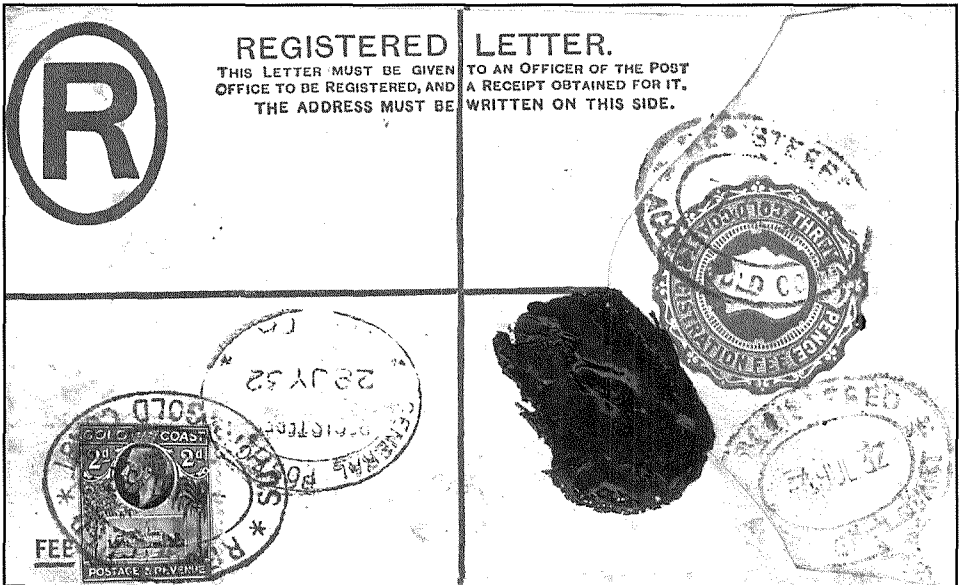
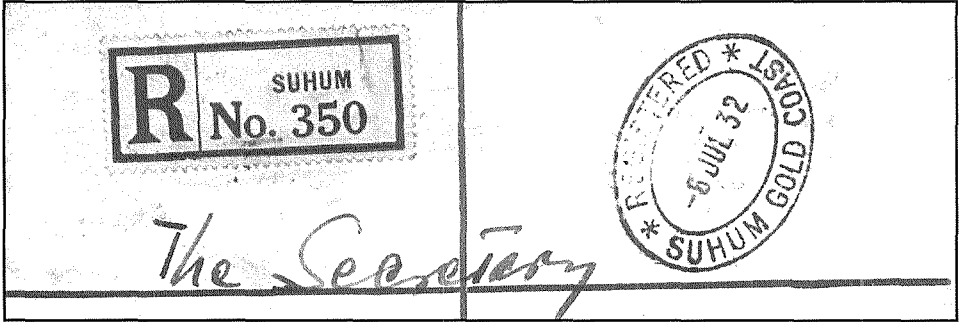


150 x 93mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter Packet, bearing perforated **LIGHT BLUE** Label, (40 x 15mm) but **SOMANYA DARK BLUE**., Registered Label, **R/SOMANYA No. 406**., and Three 1d red brown stamps, cancelled by (Proud D6), **SOMANYA / FEB / 1931**., and endorsed at the back by **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 7 MR 31 / MALTA** arrival hand stamp.



SUHUM
SUHUM Registration
Label not recorded by Proud

R2 (14.1.30)-S.U.5.3.57

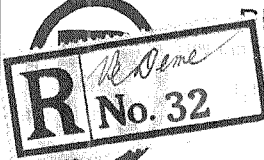

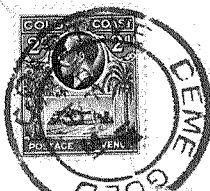


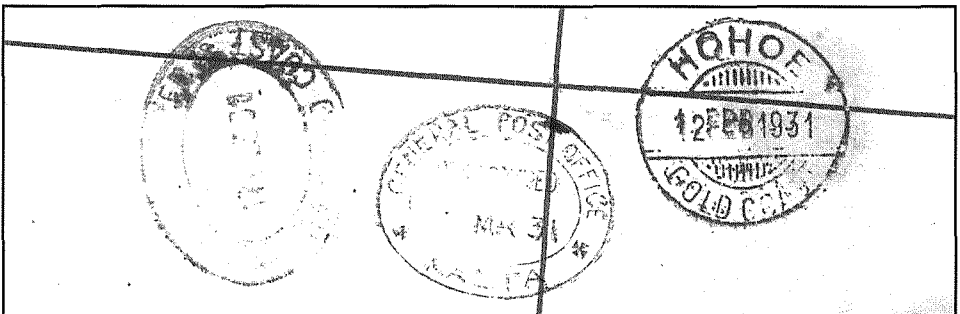
135 x 93mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter Packet, bearing perforated **DARK BLUE Label (40 x 15mm)**, Registered Label, **R/SUHUM No. 350**, (stuck on the back), and 2d slate K.G.V. stamp, cancelled by (Proud R2), ***REGISTERED* / -6 JUL 32 / SUHUM GOLD COAST. GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 28 JY 32 / MALTA** arrival hand stamp is also on front, but endorsed on the back by another **Registered SUHUM** hand stamp.



VE DEME.
 Postal Agency under HOHOE, Togoland.
 VE DEME Registration
 Label in manuscript not recorded by Proud.

D2 (21.10.29)-(1.12.32)

	<p>REGISTERED LETTER. LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.</p> <p><i>To The Secretary</i></p>
<p><i>International Turf Club</i> <i>2 Strada Zaccaria Valletta</i> <i>Malta.</i></p>	 
<p>FEE PAID.</p>	



150 x 93mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter Packet, bearing perforated DARK BLUE Label (40 x 15mm) but VE DEME not printed but in manuscript, R/ VE DEME No. 32., and 2d slate K.G.V. stamp, cancelled by (Proud D2), VE DEME/ FEB 12 / 1931., and endorsed on the back by (Proud D3), HOHOE / 12 FEB 1931 / GOLD COAST, partially undecipherable REGISTERED/ ????? / 17 FEB 31 / ??? GOLD COAST., and GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 1 MR 31 / MALTA , arrival hand stamp.



WINNEBA
WINNEBA Manuscript Registration Label
not recorded by Proud.

R4 (19.11.24)-(30.1.50)

	<p>REGISTERED LETTER.</p> <p>AN OFFICER OF THE POST RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT, WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.</p> <p>R WINNEBA No.121</p>	
<p>THE SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL TURF CLUB,</p>		
<p>2, Strada Zaccaria, Valletta,</p>		
<p><u>FEE PAID.</u></p>		

<p>INTERNATIONAL TURF CLUB,</p>	
<p>2, Strada Zaccaria, Valletta,</p>	<p>MALTA.</p>

135 x 82mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V., Registered Letter Packet, bearing perforated **DARK BLUE Label (40 x 15mm)**, but **WINNEBA** not printed but in **MANUSCRIPT, R/WINNEBA No.121.**, and 3d blue K.G.V. stamp cancelled by (Proud R4), **REGISTERED / 11 MAY 31 / WINNEBA GOLD COAST.**, and endorsed on the back by **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 30 MAY 31 / MALTA**, arrival hand stamp.

Early Use of the Divided-Back Postcard

by Mr. Hadrian Wood

An article on the subject of the Malta Post Office's acceptance of the *divided-back* postcard on 2nd March 1906, by Dr. Giovanni Bonello, appeared in the PSM Journal of December 2003 (Vol.32 No.3). This meant that as from that date written messages were to be allowed on the back of a picture postcard, along with the address. Dr. Bonello then goes on to mention the early use of one such card as a *divided-back* some ten months prior to the official consent.

The card referred to by Dr. Bonello comes from a series of divided-back postcards, published by photographer S.L. Cassar, well in advance of their acceptance by the local Postal Authorities. Several of these cards are found postally used prior to 1906, (my earliest being 8th January 1905) (*Fig. 1*). But as Dr. Bonello rightly points out, they were used as *undivided-back* cards, since messages are found on the picture-side, and only the address appears on the back of the card.

The locally used card mentioned and illustrated by Dr. Bonello, which also carried a message on the back besides the address, was an exception which went against the then current postal regulations. It was the only card known to Dr. Bonello to have been used in this way at the time of his article. Another similar example has surfaced since (*Fig. 2*). This one though is addressed overseas to England. It was cancelled at the Sliema Post Office on 7JU 05 and shows a Valletta transit mark of the same date.

This card has been kindly forwarded by Mr. Robert (Bob) Kitchen and comes from his fine collection of early Maltese postcards.

(Mr. Kitchen is well known to local members for his generous contributions of stamps, first-day-covers, postal history, etc. to our Society over the past few years.)

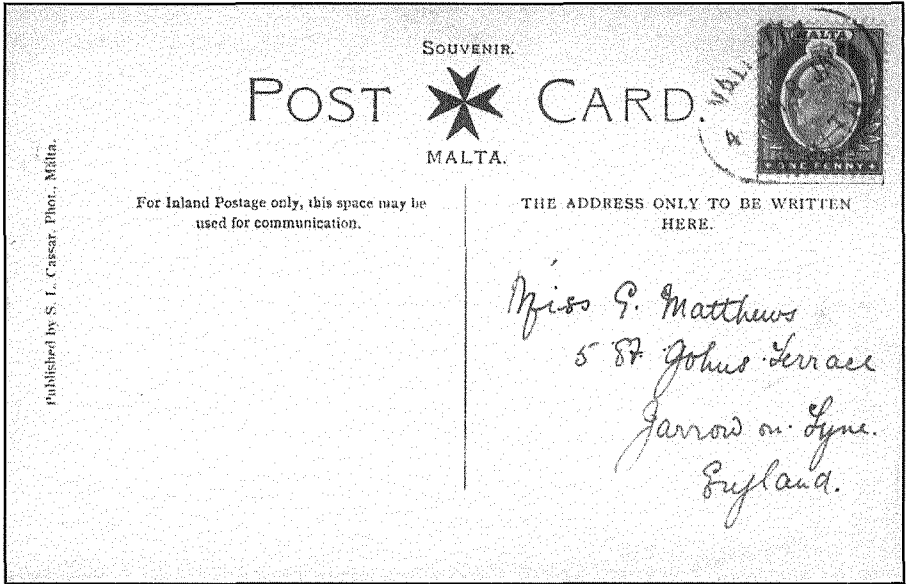


Fig. 1 Divided back postcard used as an undivided-back on 8 January 1905. This meant that only the address would be written on the back of the card.

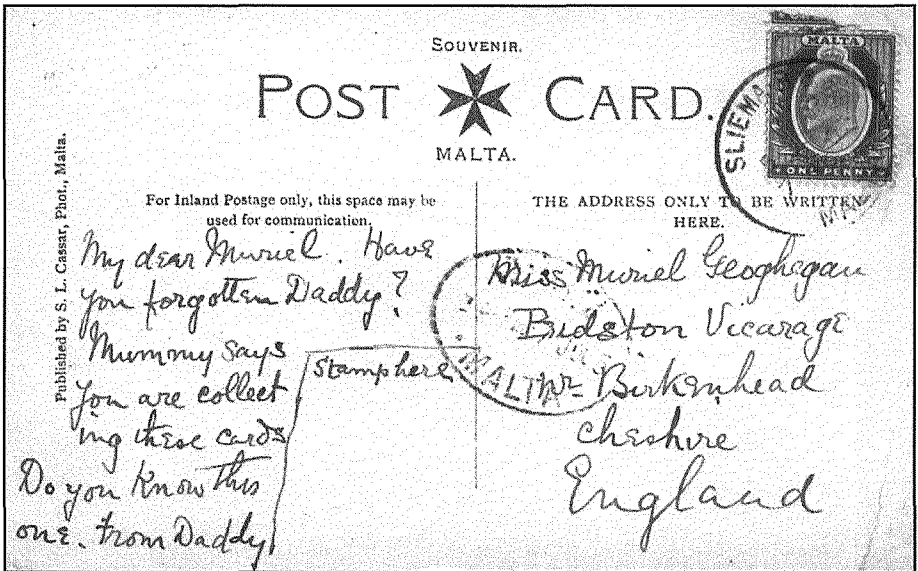
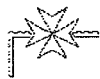


Fig. 2 Divided-back postcard used on 8 June 1905 with a message alongside the address. The message on the back was against Post Office regulations.



c/o 91,
Manwel Dimech Street,
Sliema SLM14,
MALTA.
e-mail: secretary@maltaphilately.org

The Members of the Exhibitions Committee 2005 of
the Malta Philatelic Society are:

Chev. Dr. Alfred Bonnici MD, KM (Chairman)
Messrs. Joseph Buttigieg, Anthony Fenech (Organizers)
Messrs. Tony Camilleri, John Cardona, Josie Lanfranco,
Charles Meilak, John Micallef, Walter Rizzo FCCA, FIA, CPA
and Hadrian Wood (Members)

Maltex VI Philatelic Exhibition: Dates & Opening Hours

The sixth Maltex Philatelic Exhibition is being organised by the Malta Philatelic Society at the Phoenicia, Le Meridian Ballroom, Floriana.

An official inauguration ceremony will be held at 18.00hrs on Thursday 6th October, 2005 and the Philatelic Exhibition will be open to the general public on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 7th, 8th and 9th of October as hereunder:

Opening Hours:	Friday, 7th October	9.00 - 18.00hrs
	Saturday, 8th October	9.00 - 18.00hrs
	Sunday, 9th October	9.00 - 13.00hrs

The Hon. Ċensu Galea, Minister for Competitiveness and Communications, is to act as Patron of the Exhibition.

Maltex VI Philatelic Exhibition: Regulations;

1. Participation in the Exhibition is open to all Members of the Malta Philatelic Society. The Youth Class is open to any juvenile who has not attained the age of sixteen (16) on 31st October.
2. The Exhibition will be classified into the following show sections:
 - a) MALTA *Traditional/Postal History*
 - b) FOREIGN *Traditional/Postal History*
 - c) THEMATIC *Collections*
 - d) YOUTH SECTION *Under 16 years*
3. All Exhibitors will be presented with a Diploma of Participation. A Complimentary Stock Book kindly donated by Messrs. Sliema Stamp Shop, will be presented to all youths exhibiting.
4. Application forms, duly completed, are to reach the Exhibitions Committee by not later than 1st September, 2005.

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 18th 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.

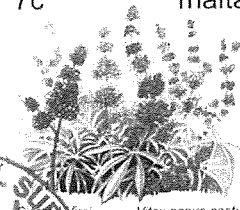
The inaugural flights were reserved for reporters, cameramen as well as personnel from the Ministry of Competitiveness and Communications, and from the Ministry for Gozo, including the Hon. Ministers Censu Galea and Giovanna Debono.

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 / 1st 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



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

No. 18

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

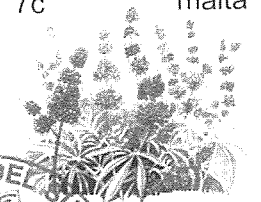


Gozo - Malta, endorsed on arrival in Malta -
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT / MR.21.05 / LUQA - MALTA
on the back.

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

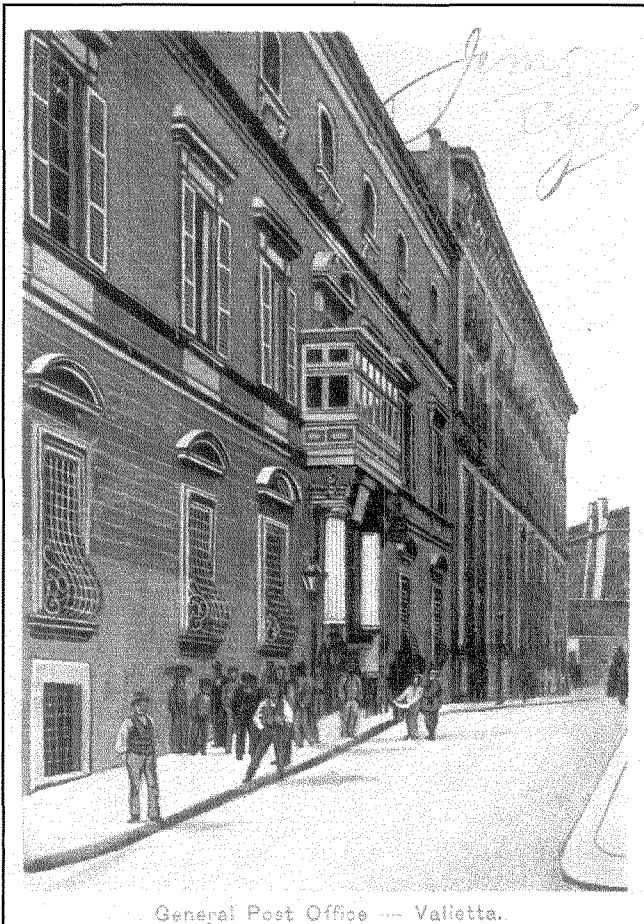


Return flight Malta - Gozo, endorsed on arrival in Gozo -
VICTORIA / MR.21.05 / GOZO
on the back.

Postal Information from Guide Books

by Mr. G. Dougall

During the late 19th century most guide books or handbooks for visitors to Malta carried little or no postal information. But in the year 1900 *A Guide to Malta and Gozo* appeared, written by G.H. Evans and published by W. Watson & Co. of Valletta. It carried a whole chapter on Postal Information, with details of the time of opening of the GPO, the rates of having a Private Box and of postage on foreign and inland mail; departures and arrivals, Money Orders, Postal Orders, and Parcel Post.



General Post Office — Valletta.

GPO at 4 Strada Mercanti – Valletta

The General Post Office at 4, Strada Mercanti opened from 7.00am till 7.00pm on weekdays and on Sundays from 7.00am to 11.00am and from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. *All Correspondence etc. must be prepaid by means of Malta postage stamps.* Any person could have a Private Box on payment of a guinea fee yearly in advance. This gave him the privilege of getting his letters at the GPO and some time before the general delivery by postmen.

Rates of Foreign Postage were 1d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz for letters except those for Australia, New Zealand and a few small places. Newspapers, books and printed matter; $\frac{1}{2}$ d per 2oz up to 4 lbs. Postcards were sold at 1d single, Reply 2d each. Registration fee was 2d in addition to the normal postage and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d if an acknowledgement of delivery of a registered article at the time of posting was requested. Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence attracted a delivery surcharge of double the deficient postage.

Although Postal Orders were sold and cashed at the GPO, and the Branch PO's at Cottonera, Sliema and Notabile, no postal Order could be issued to be cashed in Malta.

We are told that Mail for United Kingdom, and Continental States of Europe including Sicily, Greece and Turkey, North and South America, Cape of Good Hope, West Coast of Africa, Australia and New Zealand left by three routes: by Packet subsidized by the government of Malta via Syracuse – made up daily at 7.00pm; by Transatlantic Company's Packet via Tunis and Marseilles on Monday at 3.30pm, and by Italian Packet via Syracuse on Tuesdays at 8.30am. There was a late fee of 2d on ordinary letters and 4d on registered letters if posted within 15 minutes of closing time.

Inland Post

Letters and letter packets were forwarded from any part of the Islands to another at the following rates: $\frac{1}{2}$ d for a letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz and 1d for those up to 1oz with an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz over 1oz. Newspapers were delivered free. Letters and newspapers were delivered at their addresses in Valletta, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Cospicua, Pietà, Misida, Sliema and St. Julians, if the street and number of the house were clearly written on the letters, or if the addressee was known. In the country districts, letters were also delivered at the house, if it was within the official delivery.

Further Postal Information from Local Newspapers

by Chev. Dr. A. Bonnici KM., MD.

A century ago

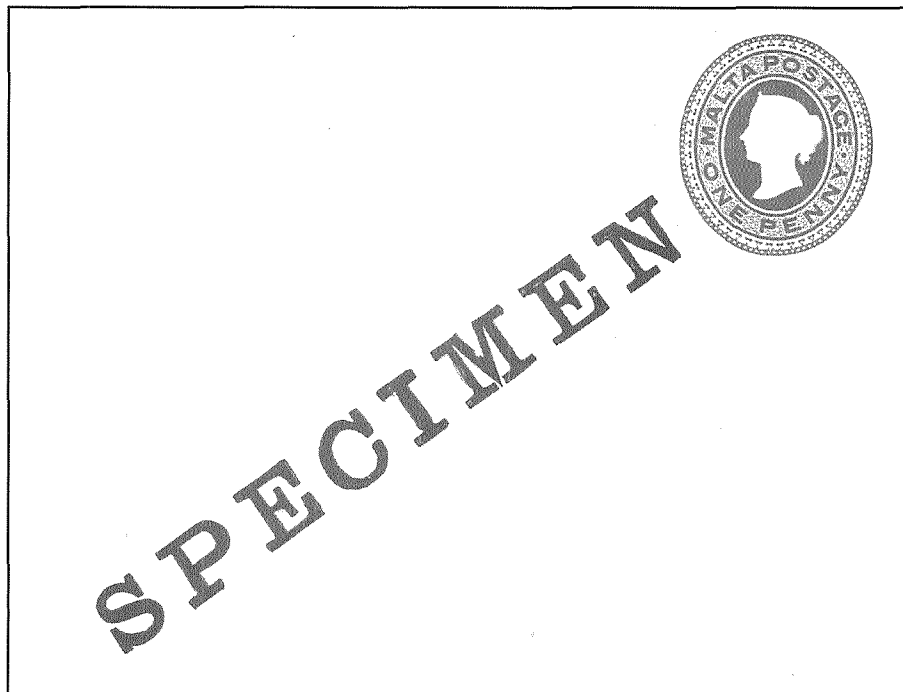
Daily Malta Chronicle

May 1, 1900

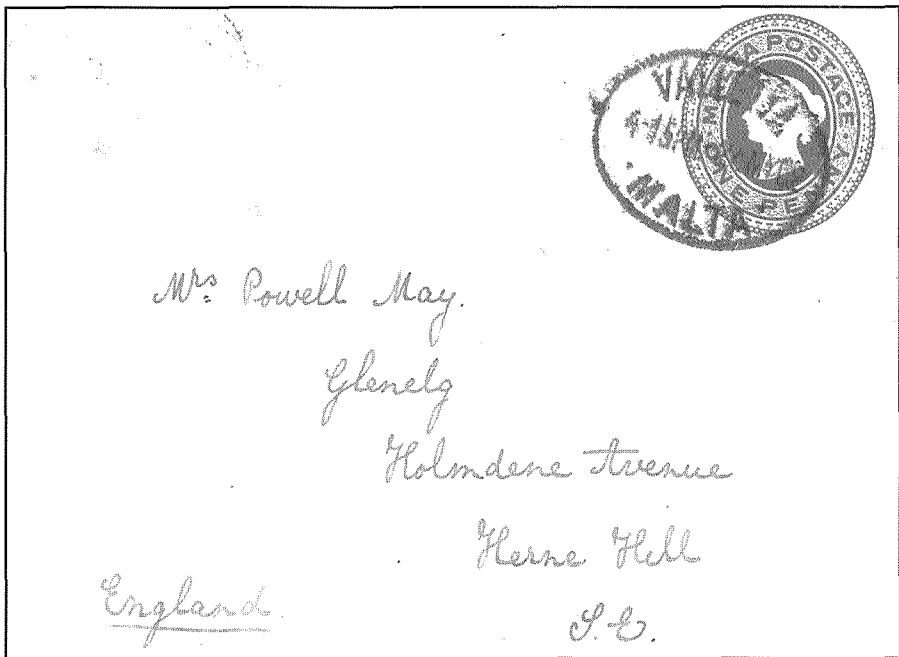
FROM THE GOVERNMENT NOTICES: POSTAGE ENVELOPES

His Excellency the Governor is hereby pleased to direct it to be notified that, on and from 1st May, 1900, postage envelopes bearing a penny embossed stamp, will be brought into use, and may be obtained at any post office in these Islands...

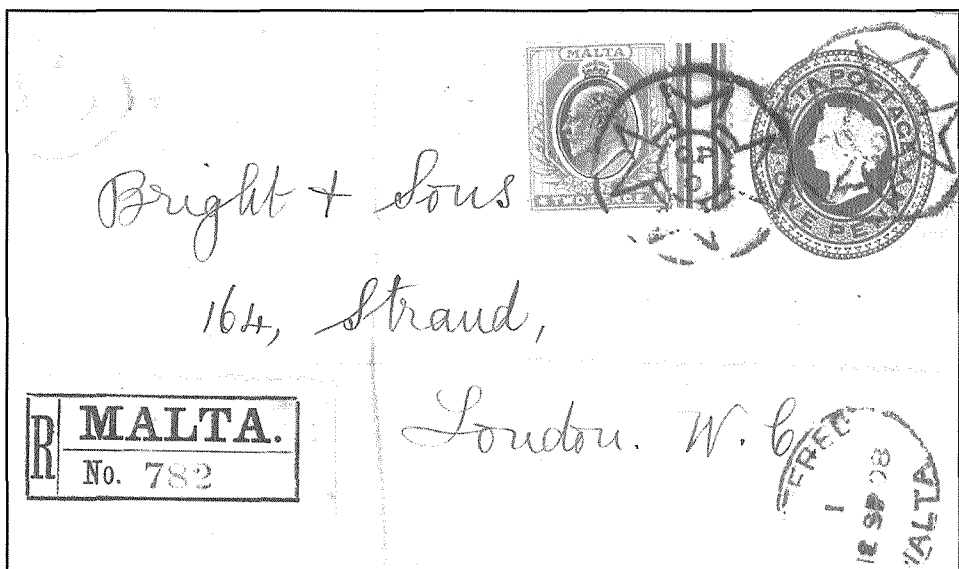
In fact the following three envelopes with different sizes were printed.



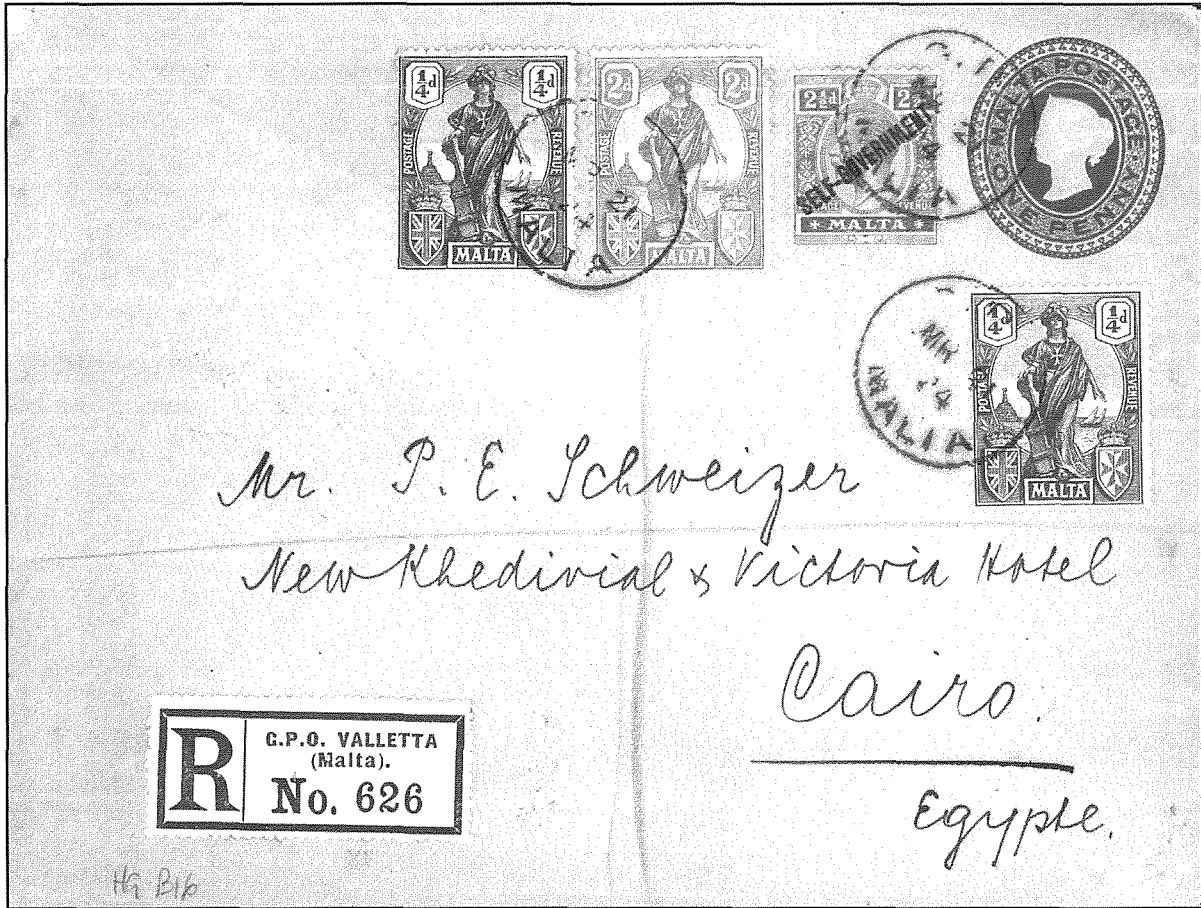
Specimen of the 12 x 9.5cms envelope



Queen Victoria Embossed Penny Red 12 x 9.5cms envelope addressed to UK.



Queen Victoria Embossed Penny Red 14 x 9cms envelope, addressed to UK, with additional 2d registration fee.



Queen Victoria Embossed Penny Red 16 x 12.3cms envelope, addressed to Egypt, with additional upgrade of - 1/4d. x 2, 2 d & 2 1/2 self-govt.

A century ago

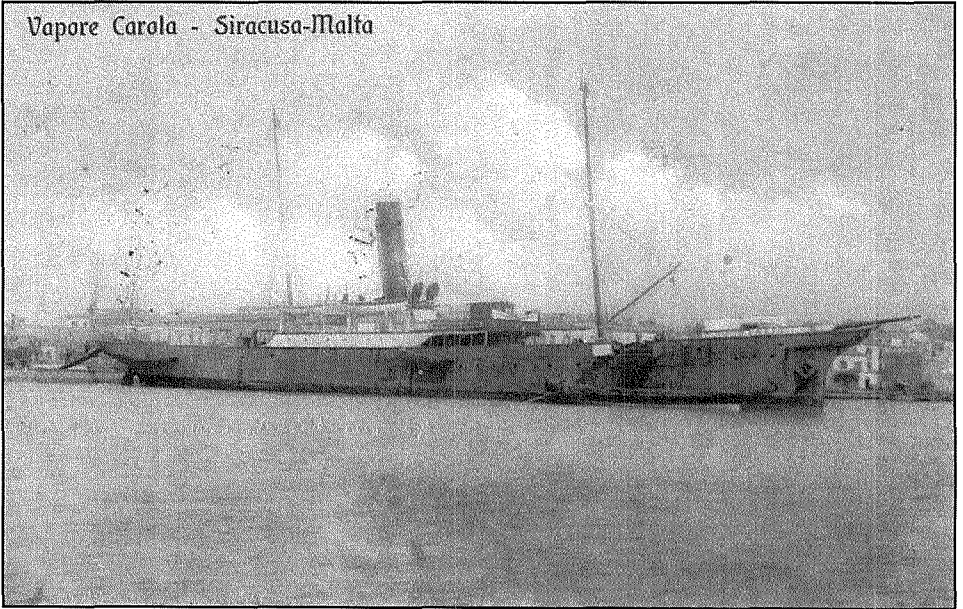
Daily Malta Chronicle

Thursday, March 10, 1904

THE MAIL

It frequently happens – too frequently it happens – that we have no continental mails. The state of the sea, the breakdown of a railway line, and other accidents are assigned as the cause. The disappointment of those who do not receive their expected despatches is in all cases the same. But half the annoyance felt by the perverse working of our mail system would be spared if one had timely warning that his letters were for one reason or another delayed on the continent, or at our nearest continental post. Ships wait in our harbour for the correspondence directed to them, postmen come from the ships in considerable number to get their letter bags, orderlies from far off Barracks, merchants, look impotently for the regular delivery of letters. All feel the disappointment of learning only at post time that there is not post. The *Carola* leaves Sicily in the early afternoon under ordinary circumstances. Out of consideration for ships in the harbour, out of regard for our many naval and military postmen, out of goodwill for us all, the Captain of the *Carola* should be got to give due notice of his inability to bring our letters and to keep us from besetting the Post Office to no purpose.

Vapore Carola - Siracusa-Malta





Malta / Sicily: SS CAROLA Handstamp in violet.



Italy / Malta: CAROLA Handstamp in violet.

A century ago

Daily Malta Chronicle

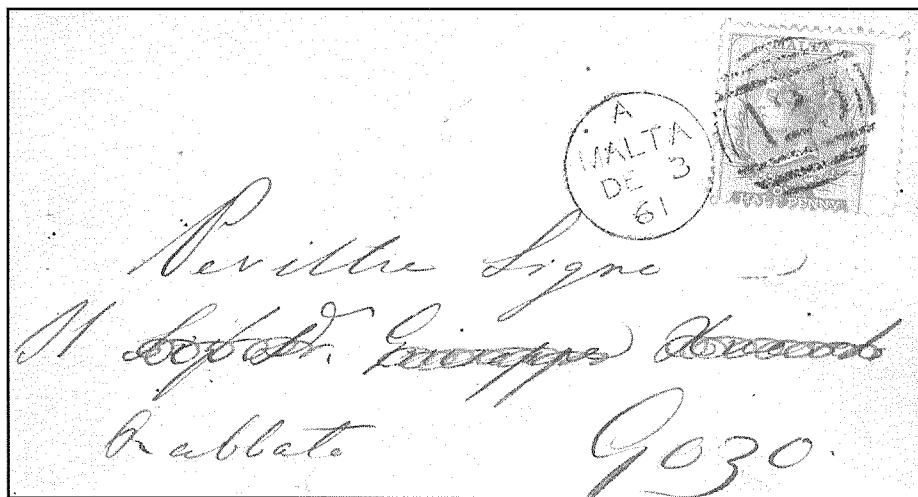
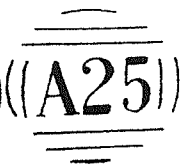
Saturday, March 11, 1905

POSTAGE STAMPS

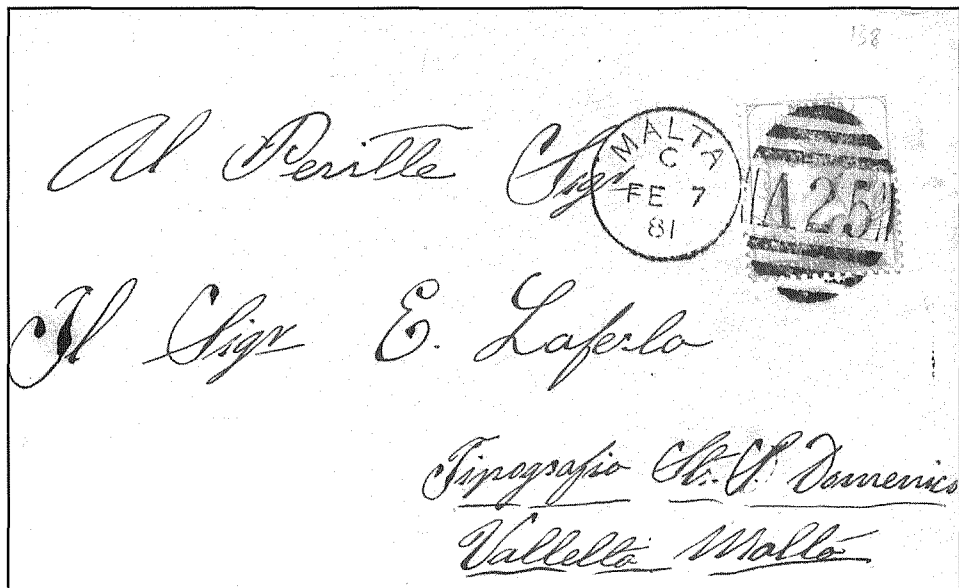
An improvement in the way of obliterating postage-stamps on registered letters has been laterly introduced at our Post Office on the recommendation of the Postmaster General, the Honourable T. Vella, to whom much credit is due. Since 1860 most of the stamps were cancelled by the untidy "A 25" postmark, which has spoiled so many valuable stamps. The new postmark consists of two concentric circles showing a Maltese Cross between them. The inner circle contains the letters "G.P.O.". Parts of a third circle are seen under the Cross. This improvement is hailed with pleasure both by the public in general and by stamp collectors in particular.

"Since 1860 most of the stamps were cancelled by the untidy "A 25" postmark, which has spoiled so many valuable stamps."

There were three oval "A 25" duplex handstamps. For more detailed information see G.B. used in Malta (PSM Journal Vol. 30 /3 by A. Fenech).



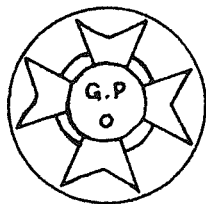
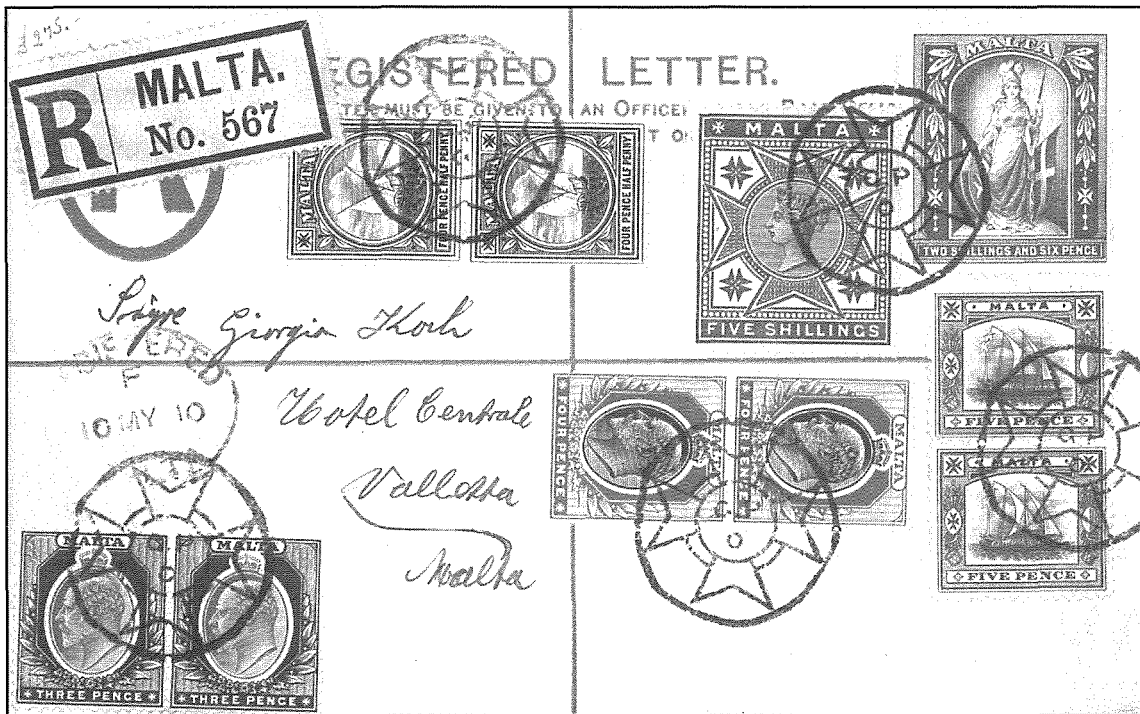
S.G. 1, 1/2d Q.V. buff on blue paper, no watermark, issued on 1 December 1860. Cancelled by the circular A 25 - duplex, bearing very late 3 December 1861, date stamp to Gozo.



S.G. 16, Bright orange yellow 23rd printing, bearing the date 7 September 1881.



A 25 without small circular day stamp used on block of six Queen Victoria, 5/- stamp, having inverted watermark.



“The new postmark consists of two concentric circles showing a Maltese Cross between them. The inner circle contains the letters “G.P.O.”. Parts of a third circle are seen under the Cross. This improvement is hailed with pleasure both by the public in general and by stamp collectors in particular.”

(Daily Malta Chronicle 11 March 1905.)

Half a century ago

TIMES OF MALTA

Tuesday, November 23, 1954

'GRANDPA' OF THE GPO RETIRES

Mr Carmelo Coppini, Chief Clerk and "grnadpa" of the General Post Office terminated his long and outstanding association with the General Post Office. Mr Coppini retired on his 60th birthday after a span of service lasting 39 years. The clerical staff and postmen gave the chief clerk a rousing send-off. The occasion was honoured by the presence of the Hon Dr C. Caruana, Minister for Posts and Agriculture, Mr C. Thake, Official Secretary to the Prime Minister and Mr A. C. Crockford, Post Master General. The entire clerical staff was there while postmen hastened to join the occasion after their second delivery of the morning. Speeches were delivered by Dr Caruana and Mr Crockford. Mr Coppini's long career during which he served under 11 Post Masters General and in all sections of the Post Office, were alluded to. A birthday cake with 60 small candles were placed in the centre of the long table where also rested a pair of silver candelabra later presented by the Minister for Posts and Agriculture on behalf of the staff of the General Post Office.

The following information & photo have been supplied by Mr. Coppini's son – Mr. Henry Coppini.

"Carmelo Coppini joined the Department Staff of the General Post Office as 1st Class Clerk in 1921. The idea behind having such staff in those days was to retain specialist experience within the Department as such staff was not transferable to other Government Departments.

His first posting was Postmaster, Gozo where he stayed until 1925. (In fact the first child of the union – he was married in 1923 – was born and baptized there.)

On his return to Malta in 1925 he was appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Mail Office at Head Office. He was responsible for the safe and timely collection of mail from branches as well as that arriving from abroad, its sorting, its distribution to branches and its delivery to addressees. Postmen, Branch officials and "Bahrin" all formed part of his division. ("Bahrin" in Maltese means sailors, but at the Post Office this word was used for employees collecting or delivering mail to ships.)

Overseas mail was brought to Malta by ship through contracted agents, collected by the GPO "bahrin" and transported to the Mail Room by contractors under the surveillance of the GPO Inspectors. Separately sacked *articles of value* and *security items* were accorded special treatment and moved directly from the ship to the secure *safe* within the Mail Section under joint GPO/Police control.

At the time he resided in St. Paul's Street, a stone's throw from the GPO. This made it relatively easy to go to the office – on any day and at any time of the day –

to organize and receive the overseas incoming mail and the shipment of the outgoing. One help was that the Mail Boat on arrival at the Breakwater signalled its arrival there by way of a double *hoot*, in time for the staff to mobilize at the landing point (and for him to arrive at the office).

About 1935 he was appointed Chief Cashier responsible, inter alia, for all revenues from the sale of stamps, postal orders, etc. by Head Office and all branches, for stocks at each location and for monthly reconciliation of sales and stocks in each of them. As the postal services were the main, if not sole, means of communications, volumes were substantial, yet all accounting had necessarily to be done *by hand*.

On a weekly basis each branch had to submit:

- a statement of sales of stamps by denomination;
- a cash remittance covering the value of the sales;
- a stock sheet showing balances on hand;
- a requisition for replenishment requirements.

All these were checked against Head Office documentation and occasional random on-the-spot checks were carried out to verify the correctness of the branch returns.

As Chief Clerk, he was the departmental General Manager at the GPO. This was because the post of General Post Master was *reserved* for the general staff Civil Servants who moved around Government Departments so that the most senior permanent GPO Officer was to all intents and purposes the manager since the transient PMG could not accumulate the background, experience and years of office required for the particular exigencies of the GPO.”



The Hon. Min. for Posts Dr. C. Caruana. presenting a pair of silver candelabra to Mr. C. Coppini.

Another “Loaf of Bread” Postal Marking

by Mr. Anthony Fenech

Since the capture of the Maltese Islands by the French on 9 June 1798 until their surrender on 5 September 1800, only one type of postal marking has been recorded. The letters emanating from French occupied Malta have been very few indeed.

One has to bear in mind that the Maltese uprising against the French occupying forces occurred in September 1798. Mdina surrendered to the Maltese within the first 24 hours of the insurrection. The French locked themselves up in Valletta and the Cottonera, the siege lasted up to the 5th September 1800.

During this period the British fleet patrolled the sea lane between Malta and the continent, preventing any French ships from leaving Malta.

Consequently very little mail left Malta during the French presence, from June 1798 to September 1800.

The only postal marking recorded during the span of these twenty-seven months is “the Loaf of Bread” applied on a few soldiers’ letters.¹ In a letter dated 24 June 1798 bearing “the Loaf of Bread” postal marking, Antoine Chariez, a French soldier in Napoleon’s invading army, writes to his Father, Mother and Sister about his ‘state of health’, about ‘the severe heat in Malta which is flattening us to the shape of our hats’ and about ‘capturing the Island of Malta with a loss of not even 30 men’.²

Another copy of a letter bearing the rare MALTA “Loaf of Bread” postal marking has recently been auctioned by BOULE of Monaco. The letter sent on the 8 July 1798 is addressed to Anselme Desinant Douairiere.³

¹ MALTA — The Stamps and Postal History (1576—1960) Handbook compiled by The Malta Study Circle and edited by R.E.Martin.

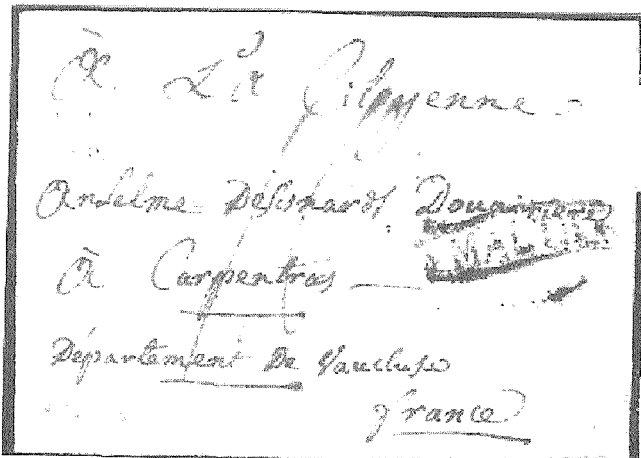
² Heritage No 13 (pp 246—248) The History of the Postal Service in the Maltese Islands — N.A.Cutajar and Malta Study Circle Paper No.37 — MALTA (1530 – 1806)

³ “Philately and Postal History of the World” — BOULE, Monaco Public Auction (December 4 to 8, 2004)

MALTE



The French soldier's letter showing the "Loaf of Bread" 'MALTE' handstamp dated 24 June 1798



A letter dated 8 July 1798 also showing the rare "Loaf of Bread" postal marking dispatched from Malta during the French Occupation.

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 Olympihlex 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 'Olympihlex – 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 'Olympihlex 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 Olympihlex 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 'Olympophilex – 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.

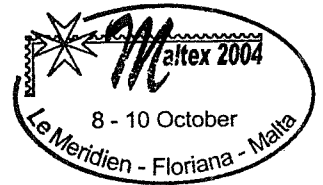


7 October

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

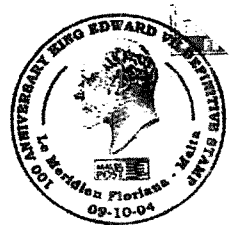
A Temporary Branch Post Office is being set up at Le Meridien Phoenicia Ballroom where Maltex V Stamp Exhibition and Dealers' Bourse are venued.



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.

The Brandstätter Group - Malta has been producing Playmobil locally for over two decades. The global success of this product has resulted in significant growth and diversification of the Group, which now consists of seven companies. With each specialising in its own field and producing a comprehensive range of diverse products from steel moulds to system software. Of course the same high levels of quality and service that has come to be expected of Playmobil are offered by all of the companies that form the Brandstätter Group - Malta.

For further information contact:

**BRANDSTÄTTER
GROUP - MALTA**

HF 80 Industrial Estate, Hal Far BGG 06

Tel: 2224 0000 Fax: 2165 8258



BRANDSTÄTTER GROUP - MALTA

Proudly representing Malta
AROUND THE WORLD

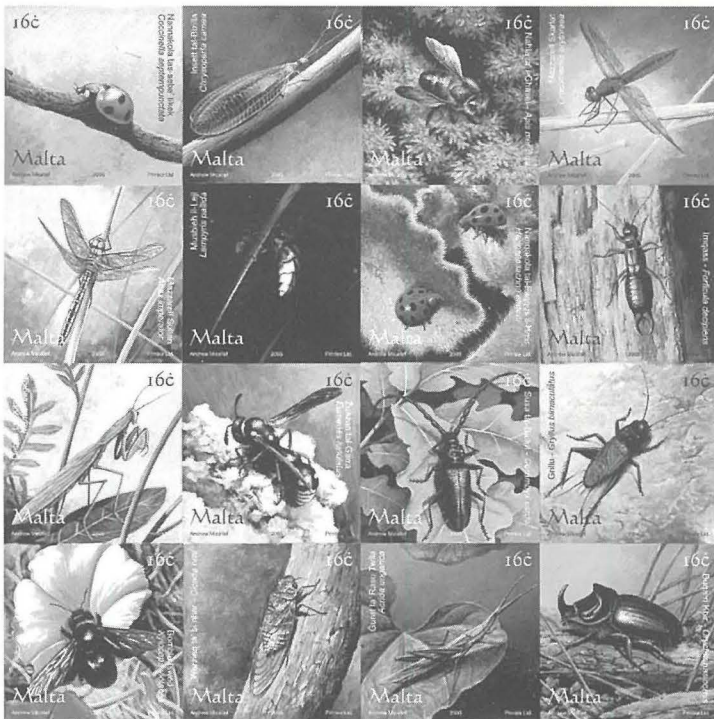




PERINTEK

Over 30 Years'
Experience in
Postage Stamp
Printing

Insects



Date of Issue:

20 . IV . 2005

Design:

Andrew Micallef

Date of Withdrawal:

19 . IV . 2006

Please send me details of your Philatelic Services

Name

Address



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