

POSTAL DIARY

1st January 2005 – 31st December 2005

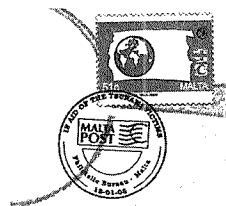
by Anthony Fenech

3 January

Maltapost plc notifies that mail will not be distributed today and that all its Branches will not open for business.

18 January

A special Occasion Card has been issued by Maltapost today to raise funds for the victims of the Asian Tsunami Disaster. The Card No 12 in the series shows a printed set of stamps originally issued in May 1988, one of which depicts the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. The stamp has been re-valued at 51c.



In aid of the
Tsunami Victims

19 January

Maltapost has today issued its first Commemorative set of stamps for this year — Old Maps of Malta. The set consists of 4 values 1c, 12c, 37c, and Lm1.02 and it has been designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier. The stamps are offset printed (Perf. 14 x 13.9 comb) on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper in sheets of ten stamps by Printex Ltd. Malta. A special handstamp inscribed “Old Maps of Malta/ — — — Malta/ Jum il-Hrug/ 19.01.05” has been used on mail franked with the “Old Maps of Malta” stamps released today. The stamps in this set have been previewed on “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No 227 issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.



26 January

The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has today issued the 2004 Year Pack, the 17th edition in a series. The Year Pack includes all the issues of the previous year in mint format.

The front cover carries the flags of the ten new EU Member States, surrounded by the European Union stars. The cover is in fact the image of the 16c stamp issued jointly with the other E.U. acceding countries in May of last year.

A complimentary Postcard is offered in a Mint format with the Year Pack.

26 January

The Year Pack Postcard No 8, showing the 1c stamp in the “Letterboxes 2004” stamp set is also being sold separately on the Branches counters. Cancelled Postcards bear the first day of issue date JA 26/ 05.

29 January

A special hand postmark commemorating the 100 years from the Consecration of the Fontana Parish Church will be used today at the Victoria B.P.O., Gozo. The oval shaped handstamp is inscribed “Consecration of Fontana Parish Church/ 1905-2005/ 29-01-2005 Victoria – Gozo – Malta”.



19 February

Forged Maltapost 16c stamps used for European destinations have been discovered sold illegally in booklets of six stamps.

22 February

Maltapost has launched a New Courier Service aptly titled “Maltapost Express International”. This new service offers delivery to key worldwide destinations in the shortest possible time.

23 February

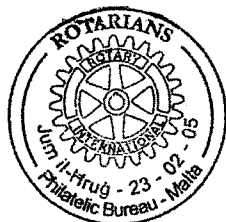
A special hand postmark “Spring Stampex 2005” will be in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta, between Wednesday 23 and Saturday 26 February during office hours. The handstamp will be inscribed “Stampex/ 23-26.02.05/ Valletta – Malta”.

An identical hand postmark will be used at the Maltapost plc Stand at Stampex 2005 Show at the Business Design Hall, Islington, North London on these days and also on Sunday 27 February.



23 February

The “Rotarians” commemorative set of 2 stamps issued today. The value of the stamps (Perf. 14 x 13.9 comb) are 27c and 76c. The stamps, offset printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper in sheets of ten by Printex Ltd, are designed by Martin Bonavia.



A special handstamp inscribed “Rotarians/ Jum il-Hrug – 23-

02-05/ — — — — Malta” has been provided to cancel mail franked with the “Rotarians” stamps on the First Day of Issue. The stamps and the commemorative postmark have been previewed in “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No 228 (February 2005) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.

3 March

A special handstamp inscribed “Int.Briefmarken Borse/ 2005/ Munchen/ M.O.C./3-5 March” will be used at the Counter Hall , Valletta between 3 and 5 March during office hours.

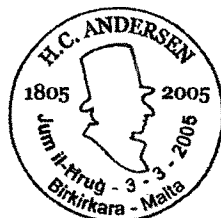
An identical hand postmark will be used on these days as well, at the Maltapost plc Stand at the Munich Stamp Fair.



3 March

Maltapost has today released Hans Christian Andersen Joint Issue with Denmark. The stamps are identical to those designed by the Danish stamp artists Mette & Eric Mourier del, and issued in Denmark today. Printex Ltd offset printed the stamps (perf. 13.6 x 14 comb) in Sheets of 10; the values being 7c, 22c, 60c and 75c.

A commemorative handstamp inscribed “H.C.Andersen/ 1805-2005/ Jum il-Hrug — 3-3-2005/ — — — — Malta” has been prepared to cancel mail franked with these stamps on First Day of Issue. The stamps and postmark have been previewed in “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No 229 (March 2005) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.



21 March

A commemorative handstamp has been used at Dar Annona Counter Hall, Valletta, in connection with the Helicopter First Flight from Xewkija Helipad to Luqa and back, on the 21 March 2005. The handstamp is inscribed: “Helicopteros del Sureste/ 1st Flight-03-05/ Gozo – Malta – Gozo/ Valletta – Malta”.



21 March

The Maltese-Spanish Philatelic and Numismatic Club has issued two elusive covers to mark the Bell 412 EP Helicopter First Flights Gozo-Malta and return by the Helicopteros Del Sureste S.A. on the 21 March 2005 GOZO – MALTA Flight endorsed on the back on arrival in Malta: “INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/ MR 21 05/ LUQA – MALTA”

MALTA —GOZO Flight endorsed on the back on arrival in Gozo: “VICTORIA/ MR 21 05/ GOZO”.

24 March

All Maltapost Branches in Malta and Gozo will be closed on Holy Saturday, when there will be no mail deliveries. The last day for postal deliveries and services before the Easter week-end will be today, Thursday. Normal service will be resumed on Monday.

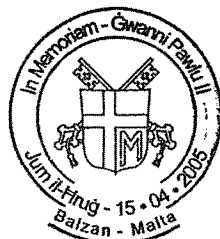
11 April

The Sub-Post Office in Borg Olivier Street, Mellieha is closed as from today; it will reopen for business on April 18.

15 April

A single stamp designed by the Maltapost Graphic Design Section, with a face value of 51c, is being issued today by the Philatelic Bureau in commemoration of the Death of Pope John Paul II. The stamp offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Cross watermarked paper is issued in sheets of ten stamps.

A special handstamp inscribed “In Memoriam—Gwanni Pawlu II/ Jum il-Hrug/ 15.04.2005/ — — — — Malta” has been prepared to cancel mail franked with this stamp and First Day Covers. The Pope’s stamp and the commemorative handstamp are previewed in “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No 229a (April 2005) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.

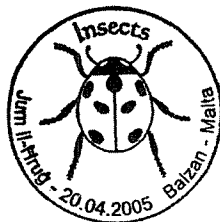


Note: Two Branch Post Offices handstamps, those to be used at Naxxar B.P.O. and at Paola B.P.O. had an error in the Issue Date reading “00.04.2005”. The handstamps were withdrawn and replaced by others, as soon as the date error had been detected.

20 April

A Sheetlet of sixteen stamps featuring “Insects” is being issued today. The stamps all valued at 16c show different species found on the Maltese Islands. The stamp Sheetlet is designed by Andrew Micallef and offset printed by Printex Ltd.

A special handstamp inscribed “Insects/ Jum il-Hrug — 20.04.2005/ — — — — Malta” has been provided to cancel the “Insects” stamps franking the mail posted on the First Day of Issue. The stamps and handstamp have been previewed in “The Malta Stamp” official Bulletin No 230 (April 2005) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.



21 April

A special handstamp commemorating the International Stamp Show “Pacific Explorer” in Sydney Australia is being used at Dar Annona Counter Hall, Valletta from Thursday 21 to Saturday 24 April, during office hours.

The handstamp is inscribed “Pacific Explorer 2005/ 21-24.04.05/ Valletta – Malta”.



A similar handstamp is being used on the International Exhibition Stand run by the Crown Agents, Maltapost's representatives at The Pacific Explorer Show in Sydney.

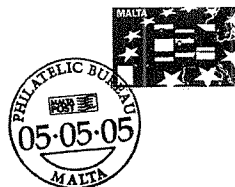
2 May

To commemorate the first anniversary of Malta's May 1st Accession to the European Union in 2004 and also to commemorate the Malta Collection's First Anniversary, the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost has released a beautiful packaged top-up pack which contains all the stamps issued between May 2004 and May 2005.

5 May

Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has issued today its 05-05-05 Card, the fifth in the series. This year's Card carries a 16c stamp from the United Europe Issue, stamped with the 05.05.05 datestamp.

The card can be sent through the Post to any destination without additional postage provided it is posted by not later than May 7.



9 May

Malta Europa 2005 Postage stamp set of 2 stamps valued 16c and 51c has been issued today. The set is designed by Joe P. Smith and offset printed in sheets of ten stamps on Maltese Cross watermarked paper by Printex Ltd. A special handstamp inscribed “Europa 2005/ Jum il-Hrug – 09.05.2005/ — — — — Malta” has been provided to cancel mail bearing the Europa stamps posted on the First Day of Issue.

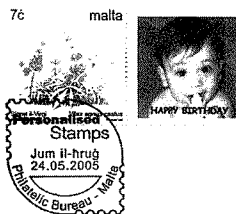
The stamps have been previewed in “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No 231 (May 2005) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.



24 May

Maltapost has issued a First Day Cover, today, to launch the new personalized stamps service. It carries two stamps, the 7c stamp for local postage and the 16c stamp for postage to European mainland.

The 7c stamp has a se-tenant personalized stamp with a photograph of a birthday boy and the 16c stamp carry the Maltapost logo adjoined to it.



The Personalised stamps F.D.C. has been issued pre-cancelled and the cancellation handstamp will not be available for use on any other stamp or personalized stamp.

27 May

A machine stamp cancelling slogan is being used today at the Central Mail Room on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of The Falzon Group of Companies. Some commemorative covers prepared specially by the Firm also bear a personalized stamp.

The slogan reads: “Falzon/ group of Companies/ 2005” and shows the Company’s Logo.

6 June

Maltapost Branches will be closed today, Monday, but postal delivery will be carried out as usual.

The Branches will be closed also tomorrow, Tuesday, a public holiday, and will open for business again on Wednesday.

8 June

St.Catherine in Art stamp set is issued today. The set of four values (28c x 2; 45c x 2) is designed by Francis X. Ancilleri and offset printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper by Printex Ltd of Qormi. The stamps are printed in sheets of ten.

A special handstamp inscribed “Santa Katarina/ Jum il-Hrug/ 08.06.05/ — — — — Malta” is being used to cancel all the mail bearing the new stamps including First Day Covers.

The set has been previewed in “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No 232 (June 2005) issued by the Philatelic Bureau.

Besides, Maltapost has issued a set of 4 Maximum Cards featuring the four paintings shown on the stamps being issued today..

The Zejtun and Zurrieq Festivities Committee have issued a commemorative Folder to house the First Day Cover and the Cards.



15 June

To celebrate Father's Day on Sunday 19 June, Maltapost plc have teamed up with Messrs P.Cutajar Ltd and the Gift Voucher Shop Ltd to organise a Father's Day competition with a difference, via Father's Day Cards marked for this occasion.

19 June

On the Feast of St. Catherine at Zejtun, a special commemorative handstamp inscribed "S.Katarina 305-2005/ 19-06-05/ Zejtun – Malta" is being used at a temporary Branch set up at Zejtun (beside the Parish Church). Only the sale of stamps and the cancelling of mail are being effected at this Office which is open from 8.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m.



13 July

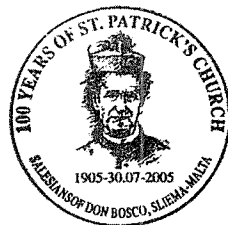
Maltapost has today issued the "Maltese Personalities" postage stamp set consisting of 5 stamps valued at 3c, 19c, 20c, 46c, and 76c. The stamps designed by M.Tanti Burlo' are offset printed in sheets of 10, by Printex Ltd. on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The special handstamp used to cancel mail bearing the Personalities stamps on the first day of issue is inscribed: "Personalities/ Jum il-Hrug - 13.07..05/ — — — Malta".

The Maltese Personalities stamps have been previewed in the Philatelic Bureau Bulletin "The Malta Stamp" No 233 (July 2005).



30 July

A commemorative handstamp is being used today at the Sliema B.P.O. during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed "100 Years of St.Patrick's Church/ 1905 - 30.07 - 2005/ Salesians of Don Bosco/ Sliema – Malta".



30 July

The Sub-Post Office at Welcome Bazaar, Misrah Frenc Abela, Dingli will be closed temporarily, until further notice.

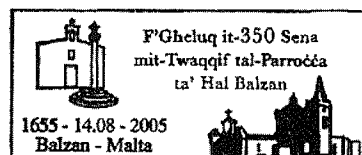
9 August

A commemorative handstamp is being used today at the Victoria Gozo Branch Post Office during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed "L-ewwel Poetessa Maltija – Mary Mejlak — 100 sena minn twelidha/ 1905 – 09.08 – 2005/ Victoria – Gozo – Malta".



14 August

A special commemorative cover bearing a personalised stamp is being issued today by the Balzan Festivities Committee. The personalized stamp is being tied to the cover by a special Sunday commemorative handstamp issued by Maltapost to be used today between 08.30 hrs and 11.30 hrs on the parvis of the old chapel dedicated to the Annunciation of Our Lady. The handstamp is inscribed “F’gheluq it-350 Sena/ mit-Twaqqif tal-Parroċċa ta’ Hal Balzan/ 1655 – 14.08. — 2005/ Balzan – Malta”.



15 August

A special commemorative handstamp is being used today at Villa Rundle, Victoria, Gozo, inscribed “100 years, Gozo Agricultural & Industrial Show/ 1855 — 15.08 – 2005/ Victoria – Gozo – Malta” from 08.00 hrs to noon.



18 August

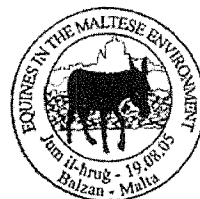
Ghaxaq Sub-Post Office will close temporarily between Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 31 August 2005, both dates inclusive.

19 August

The ‘Equines in the Maltese Environment’ postage stamp set is being issued by Maltapost today. The set consisting of 4 stamps valued at 11c, 15c, 62c and 66c is designed by Damian Borg Nicolas and offset printed by Printex Ltd., Malta, on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper in sheets of ten stamps.

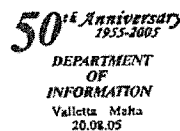
The stamps on First Day Covers are being cancelled by a special handstamp inscribed “Equines in the Maltese Environment/ Jum il-Hrug – 19.08.05/ — — — —/ Malta’.

The stamps in this set have been previewed on the Philatelic Bureau ‘The Malta Stamp’ Bulletin No 234 (August 2005).



20 August

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Information, a special hand postmark inscribed ‘50th Anniversary 1955 – 2005/ Department/ of Information/ Valetta – Malta/ 20.08.05’ is being used at the Valetta Counter Hall (Dar Annona) today during office hours.



26 August

A special handstamp inscribed ‘26 – 28.08.05/ Riccione 2005’ and showing the

Maltapost logo, as well as the logo of the Riccione 'Europa' Stamp Show , is being used at the Valletta Counter Hall, Castille Place, on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August 2005 during office hours.

An identical handstamp will be used at the Maltapost Stand at the Riccione Show on these days, as well as on Sunday 28 August.



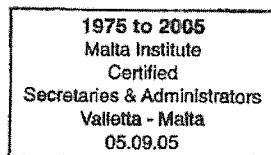
4 September

Today, Sunday, between 7.00 a.m. and noon, Maltapost Mobile Unit will be by the parvis of Zurrieq Parish Church canceling mail with a special commemorative handstamp inscribed "Santa Katarina V.M./ Iz-Zurrieq – Festi Centinarji/ AD 305 – 2005/ 04.09.05/ Zurrieq/ Malta/ L-Imhabba ta' Kristu Tmexxina".



5 September

A special commemorative handstamp inscribed '1975 to 2005/Malta Institute/Certified/ Secretaries & Administrators/ Valletta – Malta/ 05.09.05' is being used at the Valletta Counter Hall, today, during office hours.



7 September

At the Counter Hall, Valletta, Maltapost will be using a special handstamp inscribed '07.09.05/ EMCR (Euromed Congress for Radiographers)/ Valletta/ Malta' today, during office hours.



12 September

A special handstamp inscribed 'Dar tal-Providenza/Siggiewi/ 40 sena ta' Servizz/ 12.IX.05 – Valletta – Malta' is being used today at Dar Annona Counter Hall, Valletta, during office hours.



13 September

Attard Sub-Post Office will close temporarily between the 14 and 23 September, both days inclusive.

14 September

A special hand postmark “Stampex 2005” will be in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta between Wednesday 14 and Saturday 17 September, 2005, during office hours.

An identical handstamp is being used on the Maltapost plc Stand at Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London on these days and on Sunday 18 September as well.



14 September

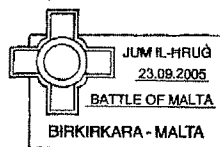
A commemorative Postal Card has been issued today on the occasion of Maltapost participation at 2005 Autumn Stampex Show in London, between 14 and 18 September 2005. The Card has imprinted thereon the two 2005 Europa stamps designed by Joe P. Smith. The card will be available for sale from all Maltapost Retail Outlets and at Stampex in London.

The stamps on the card are cancelled with the Stampex 2005 special postmark dated 14 – 18.09.05 and incorporating the logos of Maltapost and Stampex Exhibition. The card cancelled with the special postmark may be sent through the post at no extra charge provided it is posted between 14 and 18 September 2005. Postal Cards cancelled with the Stampex hand postmark, posted after 18 August 2005 must have additional stamps affixed thereon to cover the required postage.

23 September

Maltapost has issued today a set of five stamps to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the End of The Second World War (1939 – 1945). The stamps with a perforation 13.9 x 14 (comb) have been designed by Richard J. Caruana and offset printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper in sheets of ten by Printex Ltd. Of Qormi. The face value of the stamps are 2c, 5c, 25c, 51c and Lm1.

The Philatelic Bureau has also issued a set of three Maximum Cards featuring images on the 5c, 25c and 51c stamps. The special handstamp used on First Day Covers is inscribed “Jum il-Hrug/ 23.09.2005/ Battle of Malta/ — — — /Malta.”



The stamps and Maximum Cards are previewed in ‘The Malta Stamp’ Bulletin No 235 (September 2005).

1 October

A special handstamp inscribed ‘01.10.2005/ 1980-2005/ Tug Malta Limited/ Maltapost/ Valletta – Malta’ is being used at the Counter Hall, Valletta, during office hours.



6 October

Maltex VI Philatelic Exhibition has been inaugurated by Mr Anthony Pavia, who very kindly substituted the Hon. Censu Galea M.P. , Minister for Competitiveness and Communication who at the moment was away from the Island.

7 October

A Maltapost Temporary Branch Post Office has been set up at Le Meridien, Floriana on the occasion of Maltex VI Philatelic Exhibition . Commemorative covers have been printed and stamps affixed on these covers can be cancelled by the Maltex special handstamp inscribed ‘Maltex 2005/ 7—9 October/ Le Meridien – Floriana – Malta.’

A Postage Label Vending Machine (No 9) has been installed at the T.P.O.

Besides paying a visit to the Exhibition, visitors can call at the Dealers’ Tables set up at Le Meridien Ballroom.

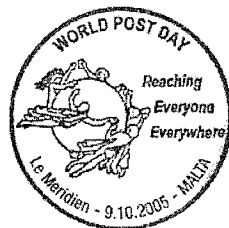
A Personalised stamp featuring the 1905 K.E. VII farthing stamp depicting the Grand Harbour has been put on sale at the T.P.O.

Stamp designers who have designed Maltapost stamp issues for 2005 have been invited to the Show to autograph First Day Covers of the sets issued during this year.



9 October

A special handstamp inscribed ‘World Post Day—Reaching Everyone Everywhere / Le Meridien – 9.10..2005 – Malta’ is being used at Maltapost Temporary Branch Post Office at Maltex VI Philatelic Exhibition today to mark World Post Day.



12 October

This year’s Christmas set is being issued by Maltapost today. The set consists of four stamps whose face values are 7c, 16c, 22c and 50c. The set has been designed by Paul Camilleri Cauchi and features Chev.Emvin Cremona’s mosaics housed at Ta’ Pinu Sanctuary in Gozo. The stamps are printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper and are available in sheets of 10 stamps.

The special handstamp used by Maltapost to cancel First Day of Issue covers has also been designed by Paul Camilleri Cauchi.. It is inscribed ‘Jum il-Hrug – 12.10.2005/ — — — — Malta/ MILIED.’

The stamps have been previewed in the 'Malta Stamp' Bulletin No 236 (October 2005).

(Note: The 7c value showing 'The Nativity' and the 16c value depicting 'The Annunciation' have also been issued se-tenant with a label as personalised stamps.)

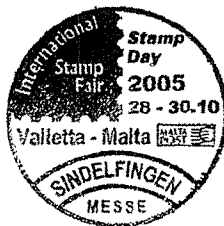


18 October

A consignment of Surface Air Lifted (SAL) mail dispatched from Frankfurt and transmitted through Rome has been received damaged and in a wet condition.

28 October

A special handstamp 'Sindelfingen 2005' will be in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 October, during office hours and on the Maltapost plc Stand at Sindelfingen Messe, Germany, on these days and also on Sunday 30th October. The handstamp is inscribed: 'International Stamp Fair/ Sindelfingen Messe/ Stamp Day 2005/ 28-30.10/Valletta, Malta.'



1 November

Mr Joseph Gafà is appointed as Maltapost Chief Executive Officer with effect from today, Tuesday, 1st November 2005.

7 November

With effect from today, a new metal handstamp will be put into use at the Cospicua Post Office. The new metal handstamp is inscribed 'COSPICUA/ MALTA' with arc spacers.



Consequently Saturday 5 November has been the last day of use of the handstamp that is being withdrawn.

16 November

Maltapost appeals to the public to mail early for Christmas and to avoid last minute mailing.

In order to ensure delivery of Christmas mail in time for the festive season the following close off dates are to apply:

Parcels to all countries: By not later than the last week in November (21-26 Nov.);

Air Mail to all countries: By not later than the first week in December(28 Nov-3 Dec);

Cards, Letters (**locally**): By not later than the second week in December (5-10 Dec).

16 November

The Parcel Post Office and the Customs Office have now moved temporarily to Triq l-Iskultur in Qormi, on the opposite side of the road to the Maltapost Head Office.

23 November

A set of four stamps in Miniature Sheet format has been issued today. The stamps with face values of 14c, 28c, 37c and 75c have been designed by Harry Borg and offset printed by Printex Ltd., Malta. (Watermark: Maltese Crosses; Perforation: 13.9 x 14 comb)

The special First Day of Issue handstamp reads: 'Jum il-Hrug – 23.11.2005/ Chogm logo/ — — —, Malta.'

The stamps have been previewed in the "Malta Stamp" Bulletin No 237 (November 2005)

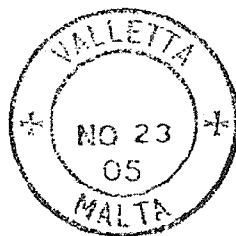


23 November

A new Maltapost Postal Retail Outlet has been opened for business at the Embassy Complex in St.Lucia Street, Valletta, with effect from today.

A circular metal handstamp is being used with the words 'VALLETTA/ Maltese Crosses/ MALTA' and the date within.

(The St.Lucy Street, Valletta Branch Post Office was officially inaugurated by the Hon. Censu Galea, Minister for Competitiveness and Communication on Wednesday 7 December, 2005)



24 November

A Temporary Branch Post Office is being set up at the Westin Dragonara Hotel, in St.Julian's from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 November 2005. The T.P.O. will offer sale of stamps and postal stationery , other postal services and full posting facilities including Parcel Post Service.

In view of security arrangements relating to the Commonwealth Heads of

Government Meeting, the public will not be allowed to make use of this temporary Branch. However, philatelists may call at the Philatelic Bureau for any services provided at the T.P.O.



16 December

A special handstamp commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Death of Archpriest Saverio Cassar is being used at the Counter Hall, Victoria, Gozo today, during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed: 'Saverio Cassar, 200 Anniversary from his Death, 1805 – 16.12 – 2005/ Victoria – Gozo – Malta'.

The Circolo Gozitano has prepared commemorative cards and a personalised stamp showing Archpriest Saverio Cassar, in honour of which a Monument has been set up at it-Tokk, Victoria, Gozo.



19 December

The 7c stamp in this year's Christmas set, designed by Paul Camilleri Cauchi has been re-printed today by Printex Ltd of Qormi.

23 December

A special handstamp inscribed 'Alf. Mizzi & Sons Ltd. (Est: 1915) – Celebrating 90 years of business – 23.12.2005, Valletta, Malta' is in use at the Counter Hall,, Valletta, today, during office hours.



MALTEX

2006

will be held on

6,7,8 October 2006

Start preparing from now

*(Information can be obtained from Mr. John Cardona,
56 St. Mary Street, Tarxien PLA 11, Malta G.C. Europe.)*