

POSTAL DIARY

2 December 2003 – 31 March 2004

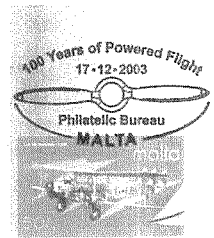
by Mr. Anthony Fenech, MRPSL

02 December

Maltapost reminded the public to post all their Christmas mail to overseas destinations by 5 December to ensure that their relatives and loved ones receive it in time for Christmas.

17 December

On the occasion of the first Centenary of Powered Flight, since the Wright Brothers had made their successful attempt on 17 December 1903, Maltapost plc has issued today an Occasion Card to mark the event. A limited number of cancelled Occasion Cards will be flown on a special Flypast organized for the occasion. These cards will be backstamped on arrival at Luqa, by the Luqa B.O. datestamp.



22 December

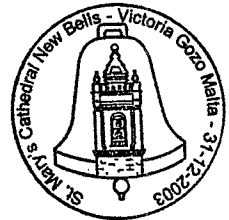
Maltapost plc would like to advise the public that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, mail will not be distributed and its Branches will not open for business on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 December.

In addition, on Christmas Eve, the Branch Post Office at Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta; the Malta International Airport Branch; The Marsa Head Office Branch and Parcel Office; and the Branch at Victoria, Gozo will close at 12.45 pm. All the other Branches will operate normally.

31 December

A special hand postmark inscribed 'St Mary's Cathedral New Bells – Victoria, Gozo – Malta – 31-12-2003' has been put in use to-day at the Victoria, Gozo Branch Post Office during office hours.

Commemorative postcards designed by George Vella and printed at 'Studio 4' Victoria, Gozo have been prepared for the occasion.



02 January 2004

Following an agreement with the Malta Communication Authority, Maltapost plc has advised the public that mail will not be distributed and that its Branches will not open for business today and tomorrow.

10 January

A machine stamp slogan reading 'New Airbus Fleet/For Air Malta/Inauguration/ 10 January 2004' is being used from today until the 16 January 2004, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

10 January

Maltapost plc has issued today two Occasion Cards cancelled by special commemorative handstamps marking the inauguration of Air Malta's new A319 and A320 addenda to its Fleet.



The Cards bearing imprinted stamps valued at 16c and 51c are obtainable from all Maltapost Branches at 19c and 60c respectively to include an 18% V.A.T. levied since 1 January 2004.



26 January

A machine stamp slogan reading, 10 snin/1993-2003/MASW/Ghajnuna professjonali/lil min jehtiega/Maltese Association/of Social Workers' will be used from the 26 to the 31 January 2004 at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

06 February

The Mgarr SPO closed temporarily from Friday 6 to Monday 9 February inclusive.

11 February

Transend Worldwide Ltd has agreed to relinquish the management of Maltapost Ltd by September 2004 within which time a new team of Executives will be appointed by Maltapost to run its operations. The present Management agreement which is due to expire on the 31 March 2004 has consequently been extended for a further year in order to enable a smooth hand-over between management teams.

25 February

A special hand postmark inscribed 'STAMPEX / 25—29.02.04 / Valletta— Malta' is being put in use today at the Counter Hall, Valletta, until Saturday 28 February during office hours.



An identical handstamp will be used at the Maltapost Stand at

Stampex 2004 (Spring Edition) which is being held at the Business Design Hall, Islington, North London, Sunday 29 February inclusive.

27 February

Maltapost plc has issued today its Year Pack 2003, a collection of all of last year's stamp issues. This year's cover shows the 22c value in the 'Sailing' Stamp Issue, designed by Francis X. Ancilleri and released on 30 September 2003. This year's Pack is the 16th in the Year Pack series. A complimentary postcard (Postcard No 27) is offered with the Year Pack.

27 February

Postcard No 27 showing the 22c stamp in the 2003 Maritime (Sailing) set, featuring the Middle Sea Race, may be bought separately from the 2003 Year Pack from the Branches counters. Cancelled postcards bear the date FE 27 / 04 as its First Day of Issue date.

11 March

A special hand postmark inscribed 'XIV Centenary of the Death of St Gregory The Great/Victoria, Gozo – Malta – 11.3.2004/ Kercem Festivities – 604- 2004' has been put in use today at the Counter Hall, Victoria, Gozo, during office hours.

Different commemorative postcards have been issued to mark the Kercem Festivities in honour of St Gregory.



11 March

Another special hand postmark is being used today at the Counter Hall at Dar Annona, Valletta during office hours. The special handstamp is inscribed 'Ghaqda Kulturali Spanjola-Maltija – 20 Sena ta' Hidma 1984' – 2004'.

A special commemorative cover designed by John Micallef has been prepared for the occasion by the Maltese-Spanish Philatelic and Numismatic Club. This cover is Cover No 17 in the series issued by the Maltese-Spanish Circle.



12 March

The 'Letter Boxes' stamp set, Maltapost first stamp set for 2004, is issued today. The five stamps in the set valued at 1c, 16c, 22c, 37c and 76c have been designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier and offset printed in sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The 'Malta Stamp' bulletin No 215 issued by the Maltapost



Philatelic Bureau previews the stamps and gives a brief but very detailed description of each type of Letter Box and of the sites where the Letter Boxes now stand. The special handstamp used to cancel the 'Letter Boxes' stamps on their first day of issue is inscribed 'Jum il-Hrug/ 12-03-04/ Letter Boxes/ — — / Malta'

12 March

Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has published the list of the remaining stamp issues for the year 2004:

March: Cats
April: Salesians (Min Sheet); Mammals & Reptiles
May: United Europe (A Joint Issue with the other acceding countries);
Europa 2004
June: Wayside Chapels
July: Trams
August: Olympic Games
September: Maltese Festivals
October: Works of Art
November: Christmas

26 March

Maltapost has issued today a set of five stamps depicting 'Cats'. The stamps (Values 7c, 27c, 28c, 50c, and 60c) are designed by Harry Borg and offset printed in sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. Maltapost has prepared a special First Day of Issue handstamp reading: 'Jum il-Hrug/ 26.03.04/ Cats/ — — / Malta' to cancel the stamps in this set used on First Day Covers. 'The Malta Stamp' Bulletin No 216 (March 2004) has been issued by Maltapost Philatelic Bureau to preview the 'Cats' stamps.



Maltapost has also issued a set of five maximum Cards featuring the Cats stamps. The cards (Numbered 28-32) are also designed by Harry Borg.

*Will buy Tagliaferro correspondence material
1820 - 1880 needed for research purposes.*

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