

The use of the COSPICUA double-ring with killer block spacers (COS – 4) prior to 1940

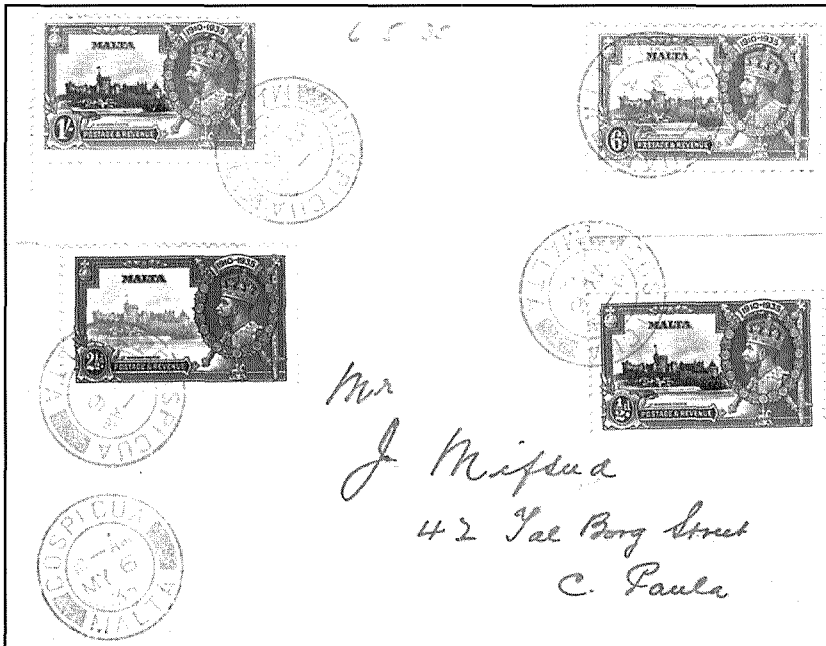
By Anthony Fenech MRPSL

(Reference to Dr. Anthony Abela Medici's article which has appeared in the PSM Journal – Vol 33/1 – April 2004)

I fully agree with Dr. Abela Medici that the **COSPICUA** double-ring with killer block spacers (**COS – 4**) was used prior to 1940, not “in favour” only, as some fellow MALTA specialists abroad often suggest. I admit that the use of this datestamp was randomly used before 1940 as the Cospicua Branch Post Office was “adequately served with two other cancellors” at that time. However its use prior to 1940 cannot be excluded.

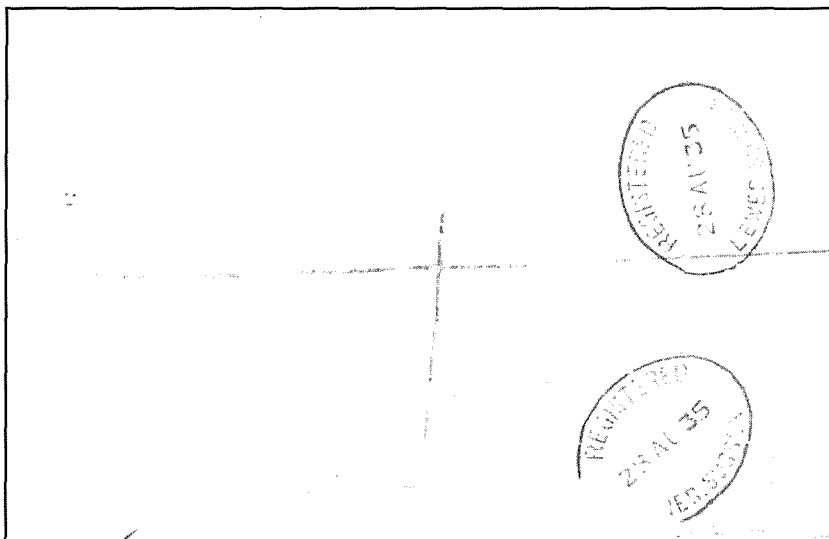
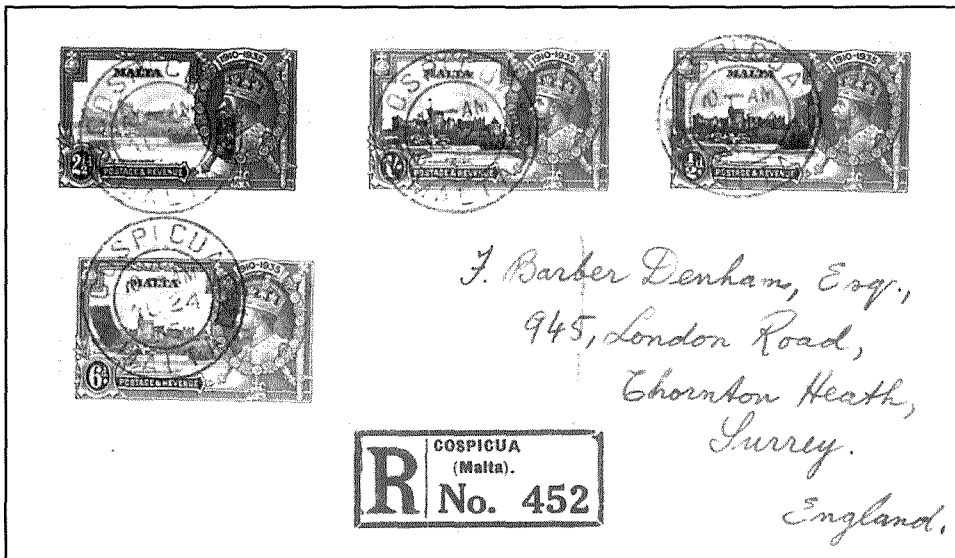
I would like to add a few other interesting examples to those submitted by Dr. Abela Medici supporting the existence of (**COS – 4**) strikes adequately applied to covers dispatched before 1940.

- 1) Five strikes of (**COS – 4**) on a Malta Silver Jubilee First Day Cover bearing the complete set (illustrated below);



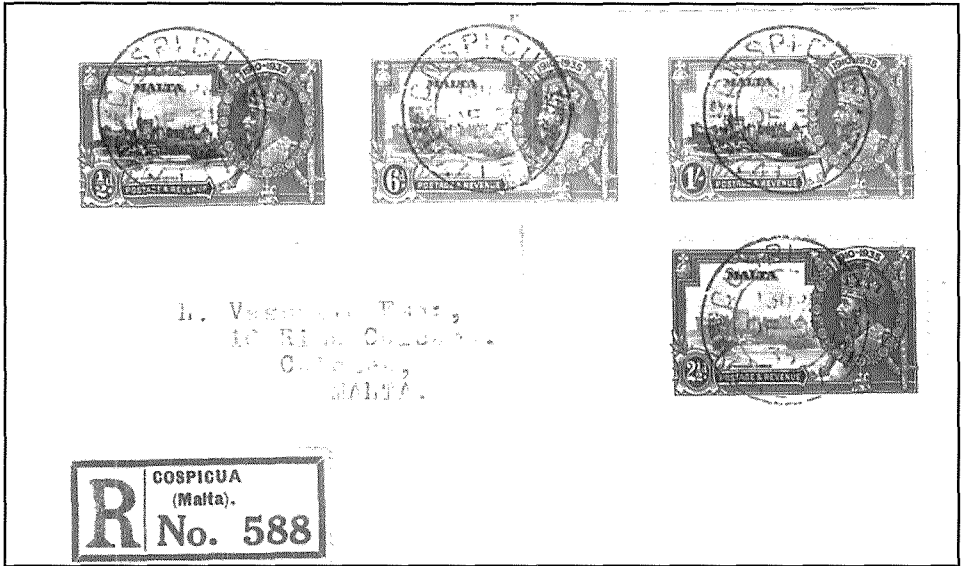
COS 4 Cancellor used at Cospicua BPO on MY6, 35 to cancel KGV Silver Jubilee stamps on the first day of issue. (Cospicua Branch Post Office was bombed five weeks later on 13th June 1940, and was temporarily transferred to the Paola Sub-Post Office)

- 2) Four strikes of (COS - 4) on a complete set of the Silver Jubilee Issue on a registered cover addressed to F. Barber Denham Esq., of Thornton Heath, Surrey, England dated '10-AM/AU 24/35' and bearing a Sheet Registration label No.452. The cover is backstamped "Registered/Lewes, Sussex" and dated '28 AU 35' twice.



Back stamping - two strikes of the oval " REGISTERED - LEWES. SUSSEX" dated 28 AU 35.

- 3) Four strikes of (COS – 4) on a complete set of the Silver Jubilee issue on registered cover addressed to Caicara dated '4.30 PM/ DE 31/ 35'. No backstamp was necessary on this cover, as Caicara was in the same postal region of Cospicua.



- 4) Four strikes of (COS – 4) on a registered First Day Cover of the 1937 Coronation set dated '10-AM/MY 12/37' addressed to Oratory Street, Cospicua and backstamped with the Postman's Personal Handstamp No.15.

