

POSTAL DIARY

1 April 2004 — 31 July 2004

by *Anthony Fenech MRPSL*

01 April

The Sub-Post Office at Rokku Buhagiar Street, Qrendi closed temporarily from Thursday 1st to Saturday 10th April inclusive.

04 April

Maltapost has issued its Philatelic Bureau Card marking the date: **04.04.04**. The Card, the fourth in the series, carries a datestamp bearing the same numerals for the day, month and year. This year's Philatelic Bureau Card, designed by Martin Bonavia of Maltapost includes the 12c stamp from the Queen's Coronation Jubilee Issue duly stamped with the date 04.04.04. The card could be sent through the post without any additional postage, provided it was posted by not later than Saturday April 10.



07 April

A Miniature Sheet with a 75c stamp on has been issued today by Maltapost to commemorate "The Salesians of Don Bosco in Malta". The Miniature Sheet designed by Paul Camilleri Cauchi has been offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. Philatelic mail bearing the 75c cut out stamp or the Salesians Miniature Sheet could be cancelled by a special First Day of Issue handstamp inscribed "Jum il-Hrug/07.04.04/ — — /Malta" showing an image of Don Bosco and St.Patrick's Building in Sliema in the background. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau previewed this stamp issue in 'The Malta Stamp' No.217 (April 2004).



12 April

The Bugibba Sub-Post Office at 'Just Jase' 19 Islet Promenade, Bugibba closed temporarily between Monday 12 and Saturday 24 April 2004 both days inclusive.

12 April

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading 'SPIC 159 — Servizzi Socjali/malajr u ahjar' will be used as from today until an indefinite period at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

20 April

The Minister for Competitiveness and Communications, the Hon. Censu Galea, this evening inaugurated a Stamp Exhibition entitled 'The Maltese Stamp as a Work of Art' at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta as part of the official activities being held to mark Malta's Accession to the European Union. The Exhibition features the original art designs submitted to Maltapost plc, by some of Malta's leading artists, which were eventually used for stamp issues.

21 April

A stamp Sheetlet consisting of sixteen 16c stamps, featuring 'Mammals and reptiles' designed by Andrew Micallef and offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH has been issued today. Maltapost has provided a special handstamp inscribed 'Jum il-Hrug - 21.04.04/a dolphin/ — — — /Malta' to cancel the newly issued stamps and First Day Covers. The FDC envelopes were sold on the counters in two different sizes, the larger to show the whole sheetlet. 'The Malta Stamp' No.218 (April 2004) previewed the stamps before they had been issued.



27 April

A Stamp Exhibition entitled 'Personalities on Malta Stamps' has been inaugurated at The Museum of Archaeology, Victoria, Gozo this morning. The exhibition focuses on Personalities who merited through their contribution to the Maltese heritage, to be commemorated on Malta stamps. It is a pity that several other personalities could not be included in this Show, as the Art work for the stamps on which they feature has been done on Computer.

28 April

Yet another Stamp Exhibition has been inaugurated this evening by the Hon. Censu Galea at the Archaeological Museum in Valletta. The Stamp Exhibition entitled 'Maltese History on Stamps' shows original drawings which were used for stamp design by Chev.Emvin Cremona. All the designs depict important milestones in the history of our Islands, including Independence, the Republic, Freedom Day, the granting of the George Cross and the Anniversary of The Great Siege.

30 April

Due to the E.U. Accession celebrations, particularly in and around Valletta and Floriana, this evening's collection from all letter boxes in Malta and Gozo will take place at 3.00 pm, and not at the usual time of 7.00 pm.

01 May

On the occasion of Malta's Accession to the European Union, Maltapost has issued a set of 2 stamps to commemorate this momentous event. The 16c stamp is a joint issue with the other acceding countries depicting their flags and the 28c stamp shows the former Prime Minister, the Hon. Eddie Fenech Adami and the former Foreign Minister, the Hon. Joe Borg signing the Accession Treaty in Athens. Bundesdruckerei GmbH offset printed the two stamps designed by Pierre Mizzi of JP Advertising Ltd. The stamps have been previewed in 'The Malta Stamp' No 219 (May 2004). The special handstamp prepared for this issue is inscribed 'Ewropa Maghquda/Jum il-Hrug - 01.05.04/— — —/Malta' and shows the Europa stars and the map of the Maltese Islands.



01 May

Only the Maltapost Branches at Valletta (Castille), Birkirkara, Paola, Rabat and Victoria, Gozo have opened for philatelic business today, between 8.00 am and 11.30 am.

The same philatelic products, including FDC's and souvenir folders cancelled on the First Day of Issue could also be obtainable from the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau between the 3rd and 7th May. The Philatelic Bureau used a FDC handstamp similar to those used at the Branch Post Offices which had operated on May 1.

01 May

Maltapost will be running a Stand at Pinto Wharf during the Grand Harbour Celebrations on the evening of 30 April and early hours of 1 May. Philatelic products purchased from this Stand franked with the United Europe stamps will be cancelled with a handstamp similar to those used at the Philatelic Bureau and at the other Branches operating this morning. This special handstamp, however, included the time '00.01' and '**Grand Harbour**' as locality.



01 May

A 'Joint Issue' pack containing the special United Europe mint stamps common to all ten countries (Poland stamp incorporating a different design) will be available from the Maltapost Branches and Philatelic Bureau.

Also for this occasion another folder signed by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Lawrence Gonzi has been issued privately by the Nationalists' Dar Centrali,

Blata l-Bajda.

08 May

A special handpostmark commemorating the 100 years since the Qala Parish Church had been consecrated will be in use today at the Victoria B.P.O., Gozo. The rectangular datestamp is inscribed ‘100 sena/mill-Konsagrazzjoni/tal-Knisja Parrokkjali/Qala 1904-2004/8 – 5 -2004/Victoria- Gozo- Malta’ and shows the logo of the Parish Church of Qala, Gozo.



10 May

A machine stamp cancelling slogan will be used at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa between the 10 and 22 May 2004. The slogan is inscribed “International Police Association/Malta Section/40th Anniversary 1964 – 2004”.

19 May

Maltapost has issued today the Europa 2004 set of 2 stamps featuring ‘Vacations’. The values in the set are 16c and 51c; the designer being Joe P. Smith and the printers Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The special handstamp used to cancel the stamps on the First Day of Issue is inscribed: ‘Jum il-Hrug – 19.05.04/Europa 2004/— —/Malta’.The ‘Vacations’ stamps have been previewed in ‘The Malta Stamp’ No.220 (May).



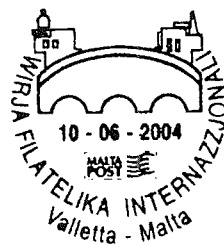
07 June

It has been noted that the month slug on the ‘CMR/MALTA’ franking machine die is sometimes showing ‘VI’ instead of the normal ‘JUN’ for the month of June.

10 June

A Philatelic Exhibition organized in collaboration with Heritage Malta on the occasion of Malta’s Accession to European Union with the theme ‘Building a Cultural Bridge through Philately’ is being held at the National Museum of Archaeology, Republic Street, Valletta, between the 10th and 25th June 2004.

Maltapost has issued a commemorative handstamp inscribed ‘Wirja Filatelika Internazzjonali/Valletta— Malta/10-06-2004’ to mark the event.



The organizers – Alliance Francaise de Malte; Circulo Cultural Hispano— Maltes; German—Maltese Circle; Istituto Italiano di Cultura and The Russian Centre for

Science and Culture issued a commemorative souvenir cover designed by John Micallef for this occasion.

10 June

A machine stamp cancelling slogan will be used at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa, between the 10 and the 15 June 2004 heralding the E.U. Elections on the 12 June. The slogan reads '2004/Europe/Counts/European Elections' and shows the European Parliament logo.

Note: The slogan appears inverted on 10 JUN 2004, when used with the 'Postage Paid/Malta' c.d.s.

11 June

The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has issued an Occasion Card – the tenth in the series, showing the floodlit facade of the European Parliament on the occasion of tomorrow's European Parliamentary Elections. The Card, with an imprinted 51c stamp cancelled with a special commemorative postmark is being sold from all Branch Post Offices and from the Maltapost mobile unit.



The 51c stamp is from the original set commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Malta's Independence, issued in 1989 and designed by Frank Portelli. A few changes in the stamp denomination and wording have been effected.

Note: On the back of the Card, 'Occasion Card No 10' has been mistakenly referred to as 'Postcard No 10'.

12 June

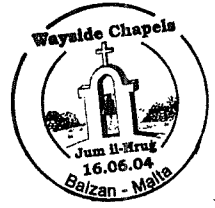
A number of Branch Post Offices will not be open to the public, today, Voting Day, because of their proximity to polling booths or because voting will be held in the same building. Mail deliveries in these locations will not be affected and will still be carried out. The localities are:

In Malta – Balzan, Birzebbuga, Hamrun, Mellieha, and Zebbug.

In Gozo — Ghajnsielem, Gharb, Nadur and Xaghra.

16 June

The Wayside Chapels commemorative set of postage stamps issued today. The five values of the stamps are 3c, 7c, 39c, 48c, and 66c. The stamps are designed by Rene Sacco and offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The special First Day of Issue handstamp is inscribed 'Wayside Chapels/Jum il-Hrug/16.06.04/— — —/Malta'. The stamps have been previewed in 'The Malta Stamp' No.221 (June 2004) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.



17 June

No postmen were on the streets today and the postal hubs around Malta and Gozo remained closed for the day. The postal distribution was halted today after an 'invasion' of fleas disrupted work at the Central Mail Room, in Marsa during the night.

21 June

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading '50 years/St.Patrick's Past Pupils/ Association/Salesians of Don Bosco/Sliema' will be used as from today until the 28 June 2004 at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

24 June

The Church of St.Peter and St.Paul in Nadur, Gozo is holding activities to mark the bicentenary of its blessing. For this occasion Maltapost is using a special hand postmark today, inscribed 'Blessing of Nadur Parish Church/1904 – 24 June – 2004/Nadur, Gozo' at the Counter Hall, Nadur, Gozo during office hours.



30 June

The Sub-Post Office at Globe Stationery, Main Street, Attard closed temporarily between Wednesday 30 June and Friday 02 July 2004, both dates inclusive.

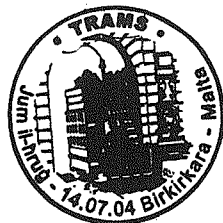
03 July

A special hand postmark inscribed '3—7—2004/Wistin Camilleri/25th Anniversary of His Death/Victoria, Gozo – Malta' is being used at the Counter Hall, Victoria, Gozo, today, during office hours.



14 July

Maltapost has today released its 8th stamp issue for this year. The four stamps in the set designed by Debbie Caruana Dingli and offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH feature “TRAMS”. The 19c and 75c values measure 35 x 35mm whilst the 37c and the 50c values measure 43 x 25.5mm.



The stamps have been previewed in “The Malta Stamp’ No 222 (July 2004). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau provided a special handstamp inscribed ‘TRAMS/Jum il-Hrug – 14.07.04/— — — —Malta’ to cancel the new stamps on the First Day of Issue.

It is worth mentioning that the ‘19c’ and ‘75c’ values were released mistakenly by Bundesdruckerei GmbH through their Agents in Italy and The Crown Agents on 19 March 2004. However, their distribution was detected soon after and stopped immediately. It is estimated that about 1500 pairs of stamps had been distributed. None are known used prior to the date of issue.

20 July

The XVII Centenary of The Martyrdom of St.Margaret, patron saint of Sannat, Gozo, is being commemorated today by a special handstamp used at the Victoria B.P.O., Gozo. The rectangular handstamp being used is inscribed ‘XVII Century of the Martyrdom/ of St. Margaret/ Victoria B.P.O., Gozo, Malta/20 – 7 – 2004’.



23 July

Maltapost has appointed Mr Stephen Sultana, ex C.E.O. of METCO as its new Chief Executive with effect from October 1. This appointment comes as a result of the agreement between shareholders that the future management of The Company would henceforth be based on a more permanent management structure rather than on an external management agreement.

Mr Teddy Cilia, formerly Senior Manager, Human Resources, has been appointed as a General Manager of Postal Services.

28 July

The Mgarr S.P.O. closed temporarily from Wednesday 28 July to Wednesday 4 August 2004, both dates inclusive.

30 July

The Tarxien S.P.O. will be closed temporarily between Friday 30 July and Wednesday 11 August 2004, both dates inclusive.