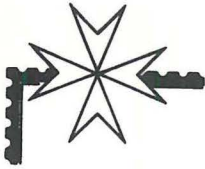


THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Malta)

THE PSM JOURNAL



THE PSM JOURNAL

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



Vol. 33/2

August, 2004

2004 COMMITTEE

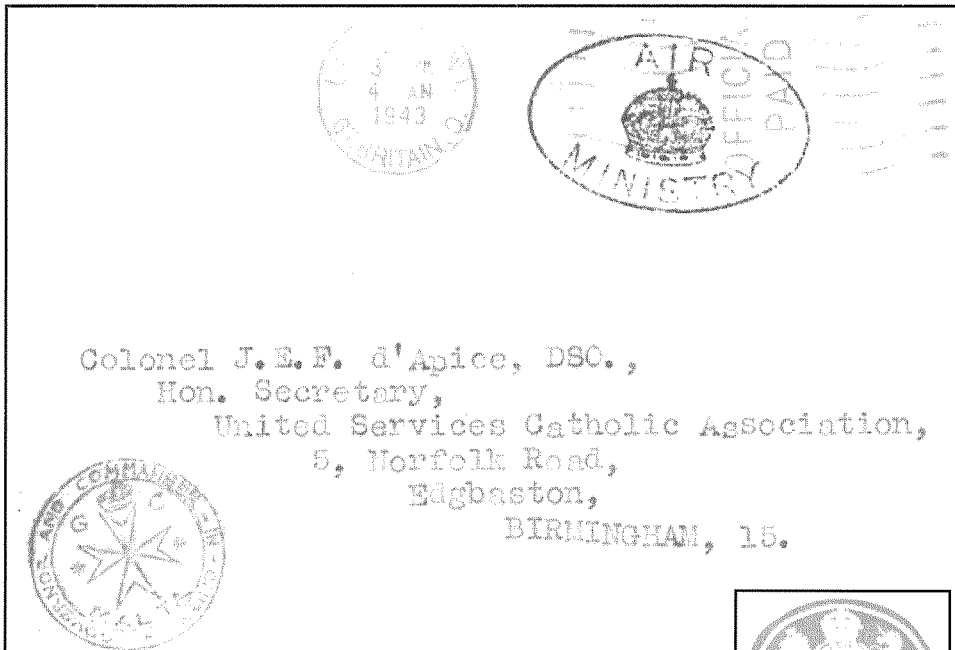
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CONTENTS

Lord Gort's AIR MAIL letter to the U.K. (1942) and the George Cross on Malta Stamps & Flag By Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici K.M., M.D. MRPSL	2
The use of the COSPICUA double-ring with killer block spacers (COS – 4) prior to 1940 by Mr. Anthony Fenech, MRPSL	15
Maltex V Philatelic Exhibition 8th, 9th and 10th October 2004 by Mr. Anthony Fenech, MRPSL	19
Gold Coast Registration Labels & Hand stamps Mail to Malta 1931-34 Part 3. By Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici K.M., M.D. MRPSL	21
POSTAL DIARY – 1 April 2004 – 31 July 2004 by Mr. Anthony Fenech, MRPSL	32

Lord Gort's AIR MAIL Letter to the U.K. (1942)
& the George Cross on Malta Stamps & Flag
By Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici. KM, MD, MRPSL.



This Official envelope dispatched from the Palace - Malta to Birmingham in Jan 1943, bears the Official Embossed Red Colonial coat of arms on the back, and the new Official Malta Governor's Office hand stamp in violet on the front as ***Governor and Commander in Chief.***

It travelled by Air to the Air Ministry in London, passing through H.M. Service Postal system, and endorsed by the machine obliterator OFFICIAL PAID.

This was the period when in Malta the postal system was totally disrupted, so official letters from the Governor, and the Services went via the Air Ministry, on special dispatches.

When this letter left Malta, the Malta Governor was Field Marshal Viscount Lord Gort, VC, GCB, CBE, DSO, MVO, MC., and because of the continuing threat of invasion, Churchill had appointed Gort to be "Supreme Commander of the Fighting Services" – hence the above mentioned hand stamp, as Governor and Commander in Chief, an appointment which displeased the Service Chiefs in Malta.



On the 15th of April 1942, K.G.VI., awarded the George Cross to Malta, the citation read:

*The Governor
Malta.*

To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history.

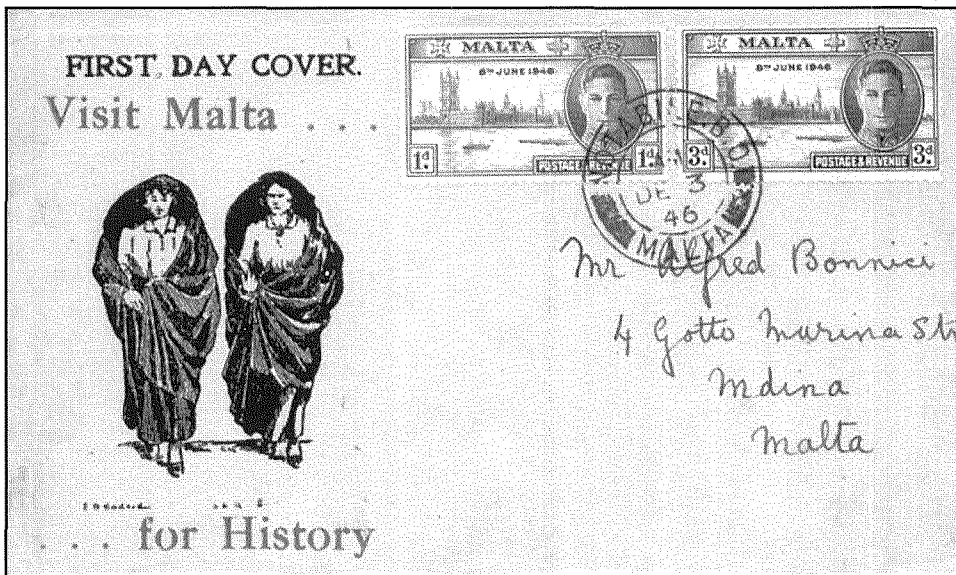
George R.I.

April 15th 1942.

Lord Gort

From this date onwards, we find the George Cross being reproduced on some Malta stamp issues and on the Malta Flag.

It first appeared on the 3rd December 1946, Omnibus Victory Commemoration issue, designed by De La Rue, using the photograph of King George VI by Dorothy Wilding. The George Cross on either side of Malta was the only difference from the other Colonial stamps of this issue.



This FDC has a sentimental value for me, as it was the first FDC I addressed to myself when I was twelve years old, when my family were living as refugees with my uncle Mgr. Prof. Carmelo Bonnici.

The George Cross Citation was fully reproduced on the Q.E. II Definitive issue, designed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co., on the 3d stamp, issued on the 23rd January 1956. The following Plate Nos. have been recorded. 1, 1a, 2 and 2a.

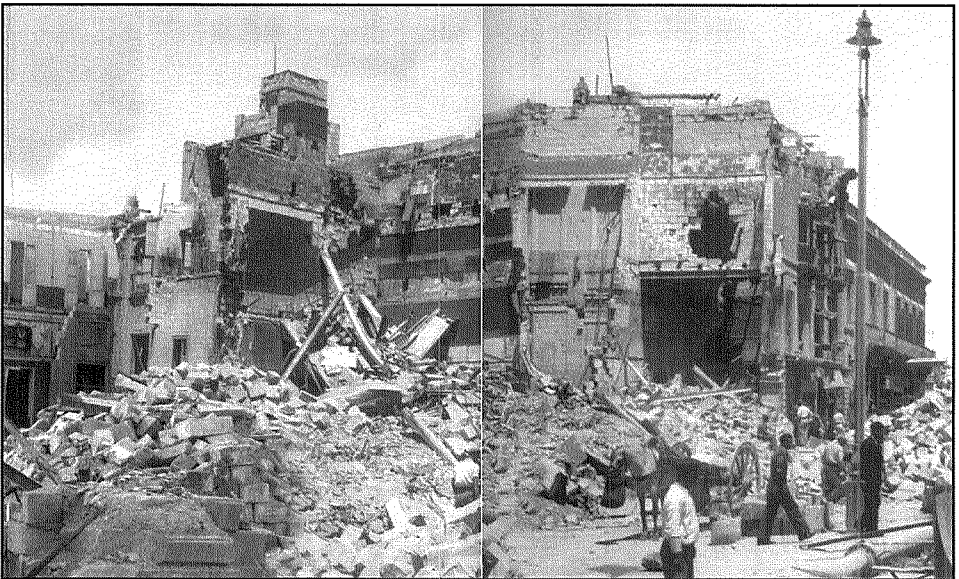


Air Mail Registered hand stamp in red, manuscript No.18, cover to Brussels with return to sender hand stamp franked with multiple 3d, Q.E. II, showing the George Cross citation.

This George Cross communication was sent on the 15th April 1942 to Lieutenant General Sir William Dobbie, KCB, CMG, DSO (later GCMG), who after two exhausting years, was relieved, on May 7, 1942.



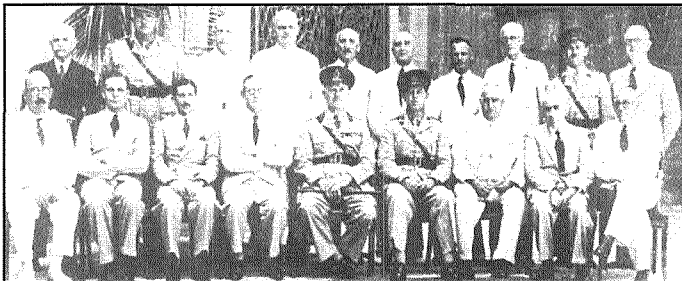
Because of this hand over, the George Cross was not actually handed to Dobbie, but to his successor Lord Gort, (the sender of the above mentioned letter), who on September 13, 1942, made the formal presentation of the George Cross to the people of Malta, on behalf of the King, at a special presentation ceremony, at the Palace Square Valletta, where he handed the George Cross to the Chief Justice, Sir George Borg.



1940-43 were terrible years for Malta, especially 41/43, where everybody in England thought that Malta, would surrender.

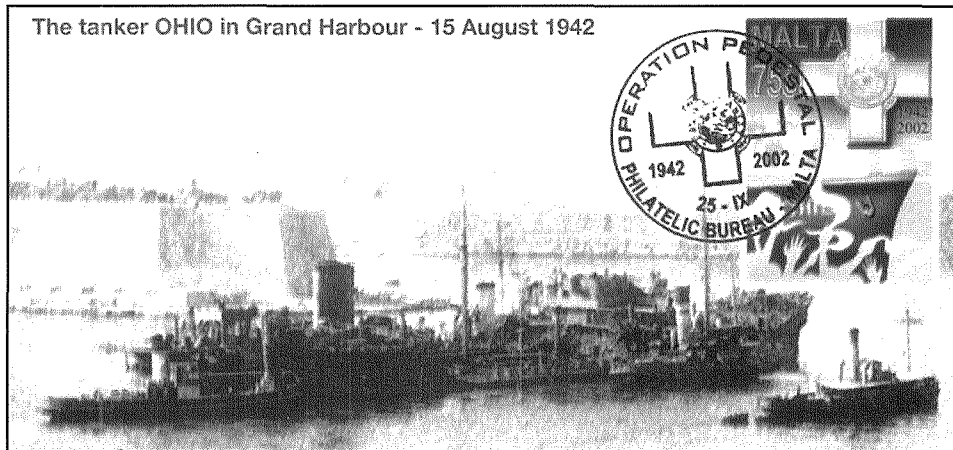
Gort had been told that in all probability Malta could not hold out for more than six weeks from his arrival. Up to May 1942, Malta endured 2,470 air raids, and 6,000 tons of high explosive rained down on the Island in one month.

But Malta resisted, ably led by Gort and a very courageous Council of Government.



Lord Gort with the Council of Government – the Palace, Valletta, August 5, 1944. FROM LEFT (Standing): The Hon. Cesareo (nominated member), the Hon. A.V. Bartoli (elected member), the Hon. R. Castillo (Secretary to Government); the Hon. E.L. Petrococchino (collector of Customs); Mr. P. P. De Cesare (Acting Clerk of the Council), the Hon. Professor A.V. Bernard (Chief Government Medical Officer), the Hon. W. Xuereb (Acting Treasurer), the Hon. Professor E.H. Ferro (nominated member), the Hon. Capt. J. Formosa (elected member), the Hon. J. Brennan (Director of Education). FROM LEFT (sitting): the Hon. Dr. L. Galea (Attorney General), the Hon. E.P. Bell (Legal Secretary), the Hon. Dr. G. Borg Olivier (elected member), His Honour D.C. Campbell (Lieutenant Governor), H.E. the Governor, the Hon. Major R. Strickland (elected member), the Hon. E.J. Valenzia (elected member), the Hon. Dr. P. Boffa (elected member), the Hon. A.P. Montano (elected member). (National Archives, Rabat).

In August 1942, the convoy Pedestal fondly called by the Maltese the “*Santa Marija*” convoy set out for the relief of Malta, and on the 15th August the feast of St. Mary, the tanker OHIO, Captain Dudley Mason, who later was also awarded the George Cross, limped into the Grand Harbour, bringing in very much needed supplies.



By early 1943 the scales began to change in favour of the allies, and with victories in North Africa, Gort began applying all his energies to prepare Malta as a base, a springboard, for the invasion of Sicily, and the liberation of Italy by the allies, King George Sixth visited Malta in June 1943, and presented The Field Marshal's baton to Gort.

On the 8th December, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the USA, visited Malta bringing with him an illuminated scroll from the people of America, containing the following citation, which he presented to the Governor of Malta, Lord Gort



4 ½d. Definitive Q.E.II, issue, President Roosevelt's citation to the people of Malta. Plate 1, and 1a.

IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I SALUTE THE ISLAND OF MALTA, ITS PEOPLE AND DEFENDERS, WHO, IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE AND DECENCY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAVE RENDERED VALOROUS SERVICE FAR ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY. UNDER REPEATED FIRE FROM THE SKIES, MALTA STOOD ALONE BUT UNAFRAID IN THE CENTRE OF THE SEA, ONE TINY BRIGHT FLAME IN DARKNESS, A BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE CLEARER DAYS WHICH HAVE COME. MALTA'S BRIGHT STORY OF HUMAN FORTITUDE AND COURAGE WILL BE READ BY POSTERITY WITH WONDER AND WITH GRATITUDE THROUGH ALL THE AGES. WHAT WAS DONE IN THE ISLAND MAINTAINS THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF GALLANT MEN AND WOMEN WHO FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME HAVE LIVED AND DIED TO PRESERVE CIVILISATION FOR ALL MANKIND.

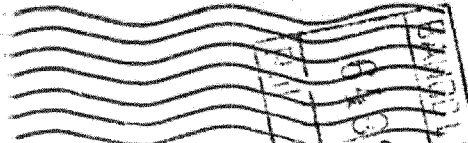
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

AIR MAIL

THE MANAGER,

BANCO DI ROMA,

ROMA. ITALIA.



Handwritten text on the left side of the envelope, including the number '610840 - 9.100.57-1' and 'BANCO DI ROMA ROMA'.



Handwritten text on the right side of the envelope, including the number '610841 - 9.100.57-1' and 'BANCO DI ROMA ROMA'.

4 1/2d Q.E. II, definitive Roosevelt Scroll Air Mail letter addressed to Banco di Roma in Italy from Barclays Bank-Malta, endorsed at the back by the Banco di Roma arrival hand stamp in Italy.

After the George Cross had been awarded to Malta in 1942, it began to appear also in our National Flag but edged in BLUE.

In 1963 when the Parliamentary Group of the Nationalist Party was drafting and discussing the 1964 Independence Constitution, the question whether to keep the George Cross in our National Flag or not arose. I was one of the Nationalist Members of Parliament, that was of the opinion, that the George Cross was to be kept in the Maltese Flag, as this was earned by the people of Malta at a heroic cost, in defence of Liberty – Freedom from Dictatorship and Fascism.

The Final version of the 1964 Independence Constitution, Chapter 1 Section 2, under National Flag, stated:

The National Flag of Malta consists of two equal vertical stripes white in the hoist and red in the fly. A representation of the George Cross awarded to Malta by His Majesty King George the Sixth on 15th April 1942 is carried, edged with red, in the canton of the white stripe.

The only difference from the pre 1964 flag was, that the former had the George Cross edged in BLUE (a colour which the Colonial Office had in the past on two major occasions tried to install in our Flag, as e.g. the Flag of Malta in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, and when the Colonial Office tried but did not succeed in imposing the “blue ensign” on the Malta flag for the celebrations of the Coronation of Q.E. II.)

When in 1963, the draft of this 1964 Independence Constitution was being discussed in Marlborough House in London, the Malta Labour Party, wanted to amend this clause, by deleting the second sentence of section 3.

However in the final draft Section 3 remained as originally proposed, by the Nationalist Government, becoming one of the entrenched clauses, and therefore needed a 2/3 vote of Members in the House of Representatives to be changed.

A referendum on the 1964 Independence Constitution as proposed by the Nationalist Government was held, and it was subsequently approved by Parliament.

When Malta moved on to a Republic Constitution in 1974, without the holding of a referendum, the words of section 3 remained the same, but the clause was divided into two sections.

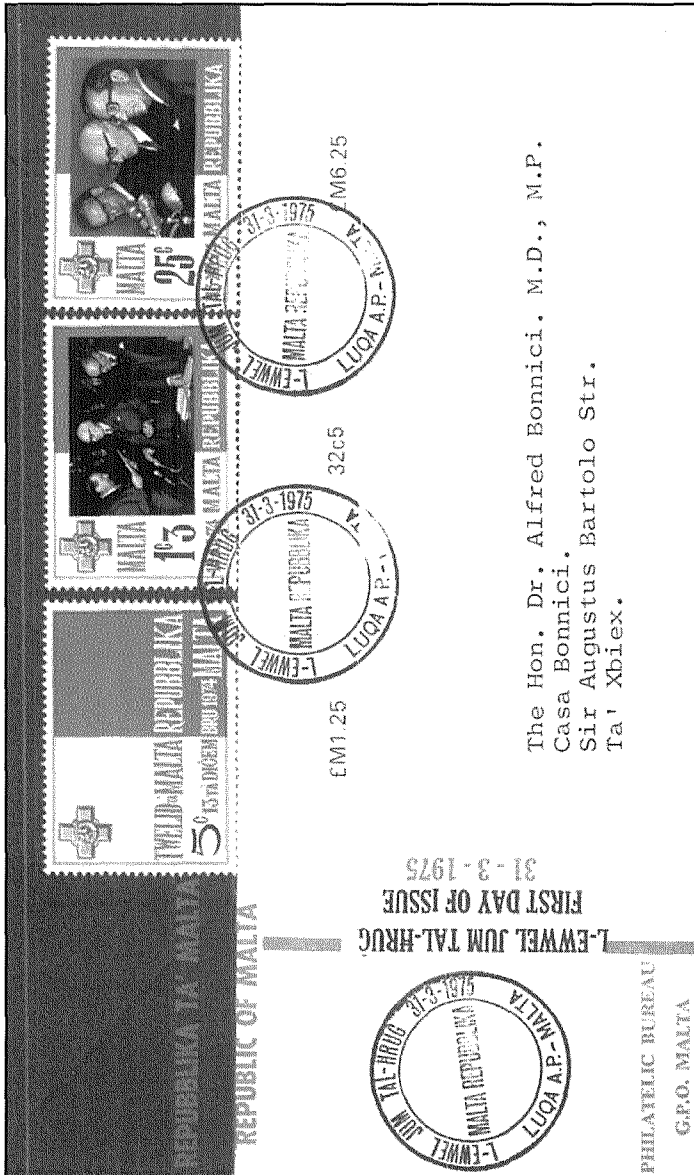
3 (1). The National Flag of Malta consists of two equal vertical stripes, white in the hoist and red in the fly.

(2). A representation of the George Cross awarded to Malta by His Majesty King George the Sixth on the 15th April, 1942 is carried, edged with red, in the canton of the white stripe.

Section 1, remained entrenched, whilst section 2 was not, and so can be amended

by a simple majority.

This was one, of the many other reasons, why I and five other MP's, including the Leader of the Nationalist Party The Hon Dr G Borg Olivier. LLD, in opposition, had voted against the adoption of the proposed Republic Constitution in 1974, which was adopted by Parliament without the holding of a referendum, in sharp contrast with the 1964 Independence Constitution when a referendum was held.



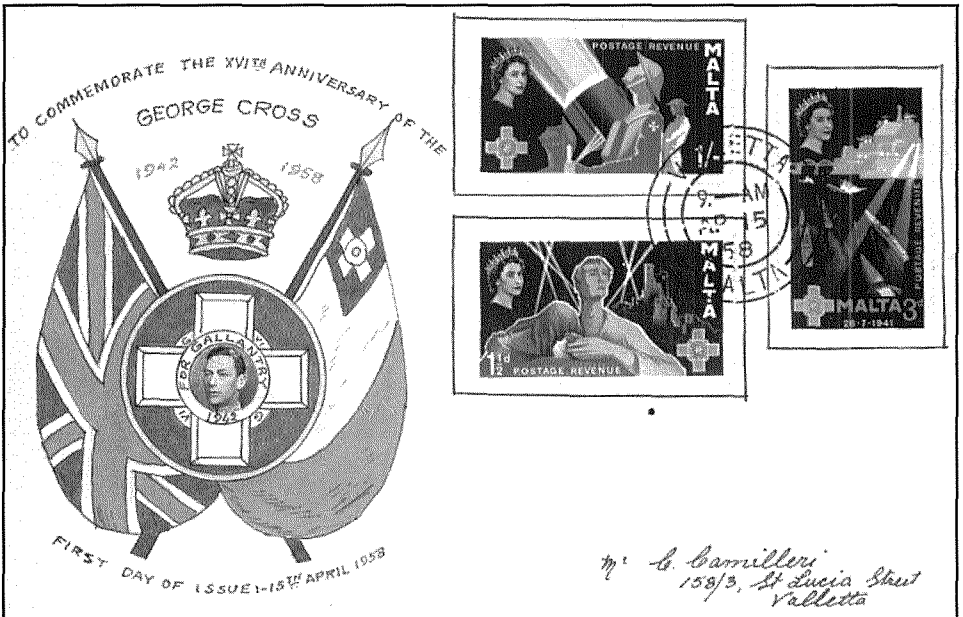
The Hon. Dr. Alfred Bonnici. M.D., M.P.
 Casa Bonnici.
 Sir Augustus Bartolo Str.
 Ta' Xbiex.

*Malta became a Republic on the 13th December 1974.
 However this set of stamps marking this historical events was issued later on the 31st March 1975.*

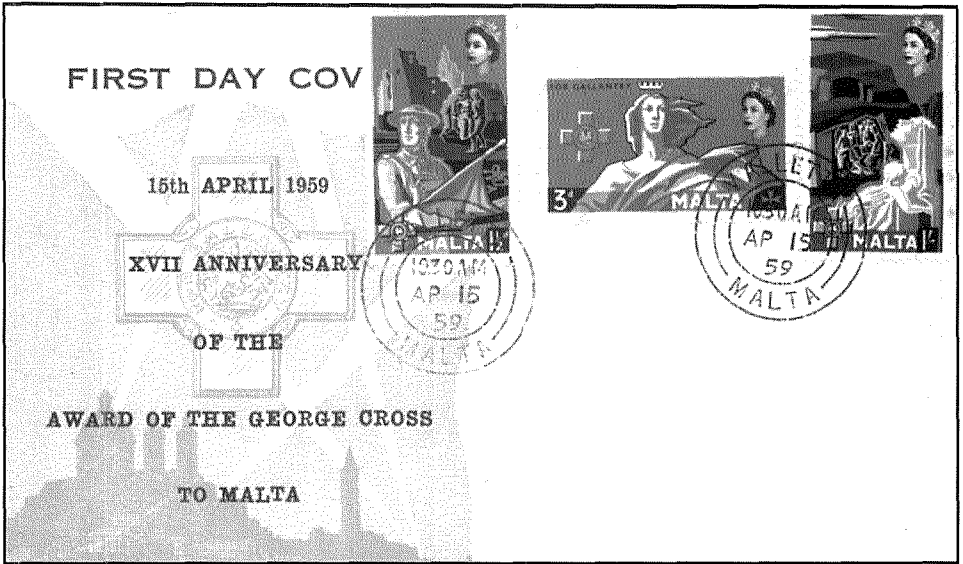
Other Malta George Cross Commemorative issues are:



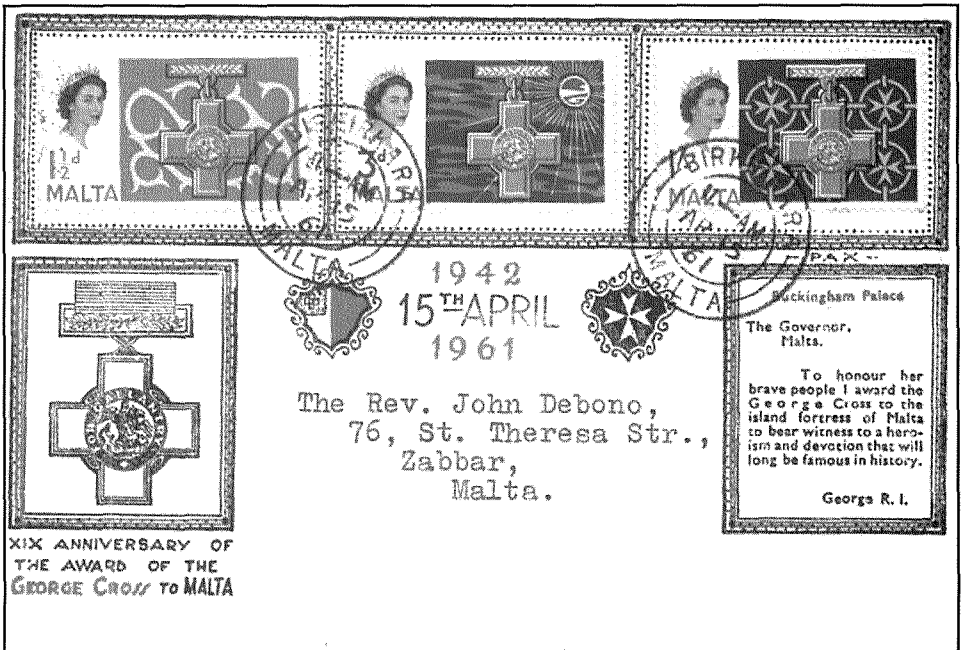
15th April 1957, XV Anniversary of the George Cross award, designer Chev. E.V. Cremona.
 FDC water coloured and hand inscribed by Mr. C. Camilleri.



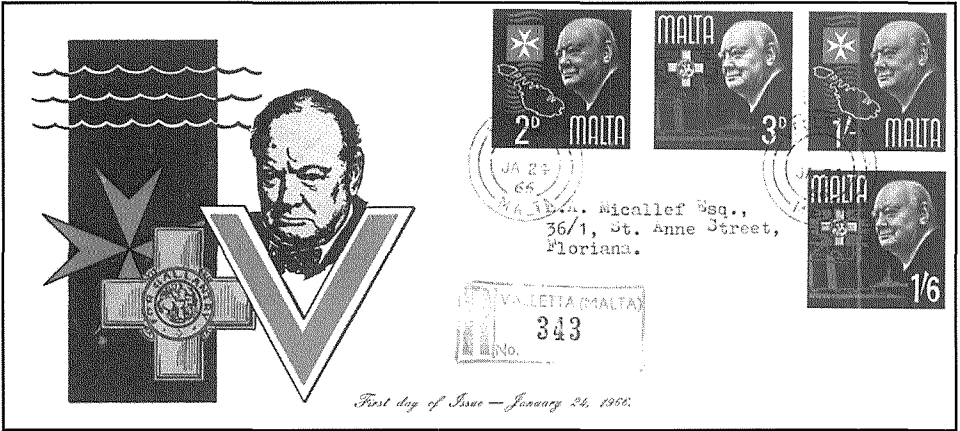
15th April 1958, XVI Anniversary of the George Cross Award, designer Chev. E.V. Cremona.
 FDC water coloured and hand inscribed with the George Cross having a BLUE background.



15th April 1959, XVII Anniversary of the George Cross award FDC, designer Chev. E.V. Cremona.

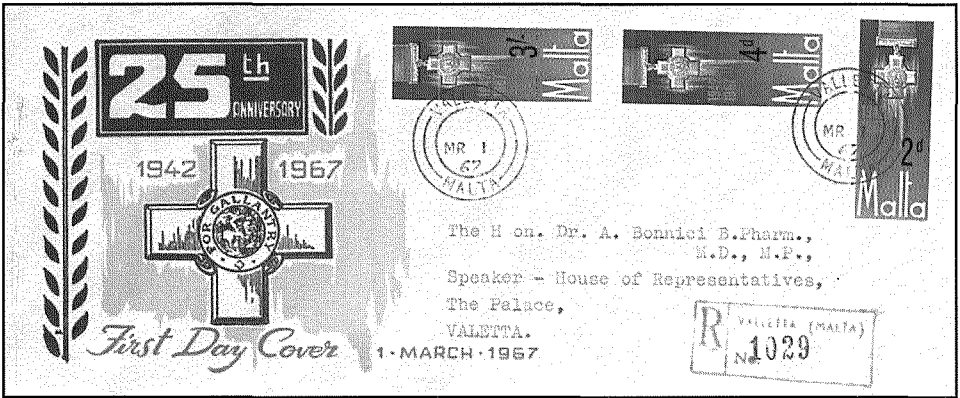


15th April 1961, XIX Anniversary of the George Cross award FDC, designer Chev. E.V. Cremona. FDC water coloured and hand inscribed by Mr. C. Camilleri. The FDC shows the citation of the George Cross.



First day of Issue - January 24, 1966.

24th January 1966, Sir Winston Churchill issue, designer Chev. E.V. Cremona.



First Day Cover

1st March 1967, XXV Anniversary of the George Cross Award, designer Chev. E.V. Cremona.



FIRST DAY COVER - 13, NOVEMBER 1967

13th Nov. 1967 Royal Visit. During the period 21st Sept. 1964 - 13th Dec. 1974, Queen Elizabeth II was also the Queen of Malta.

During this visit as Speaker of the House of Representatives I had the honour and privilege of welcoming the Queen for the official opening of a new session of Parliament.

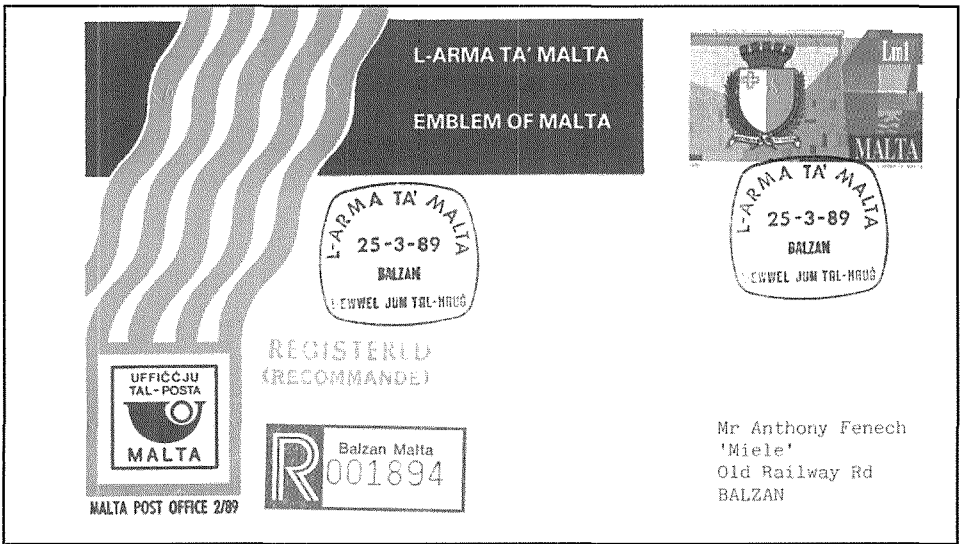
31st March 1973, Lm2.00 Decimal Definitive issue. The Malta Independence Coat of Arms on the Lm2.00 depicting Malta's historical heritage.



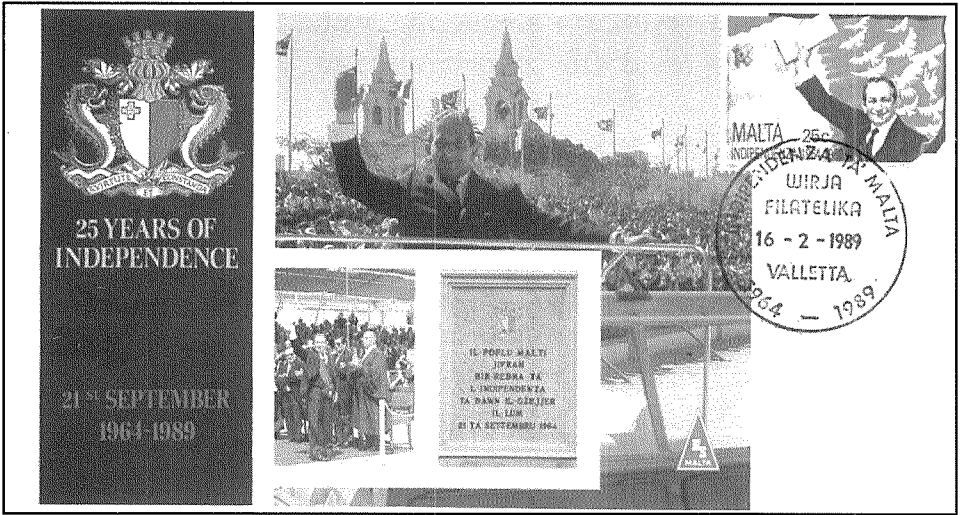
This Coat of Arms was changed when Malta became a Republic on the 13th December 1974, under a Labour Government.



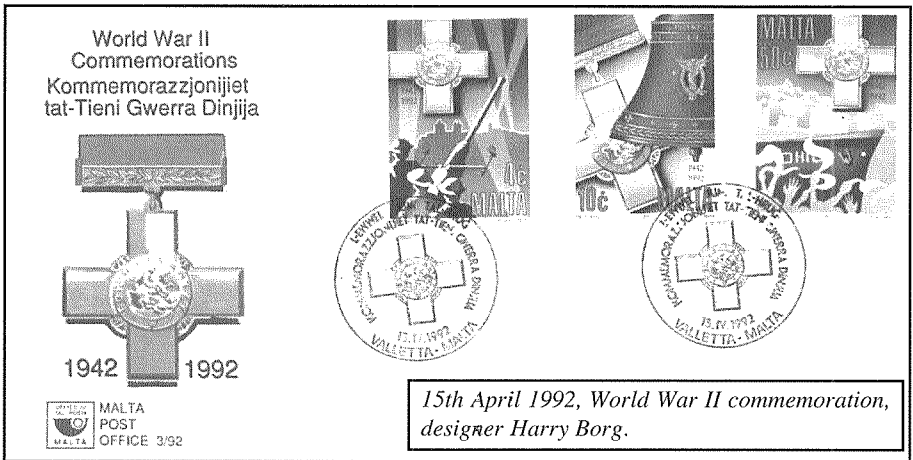
With the return of a Nationalist Government in 1987 a compromise was reached with the Labour Party on a new Coat of Arms.



25th March 1989, New emblem of Malta, designer Frank Portelli.



28th January 1989, 25th Anniversary of Independence designer Frank Portelli. The George Cross appearing on the 4c, 10c and on 25c stamps. The above cover bears the handstamp of the 25th Anniversary of Independence – Philatelic Exhibition, which was held on the 16th February 1989.



15th April 1992, World War II commemoration, designer Harry Borg.

Other Maltese stamps which bear the George Cross, usually on the National Flag, or Coat of Arms are:
 26th July 1969, 2d Commemorations.

20th September 1969, 3d and 1s6d of the V Anniversary of Independence.

16th May 1972, 1c of the 1st Decimal Coinage set.

12th December 1975, 25c of the 1st Anniversary of the Republic.

31st March 1979, 5c and 17c, End of Facilities Agreement.

17th October 1989, 4c Commemorations.

8th February 1992, 10c Malta International Airport.

20th July 1994, 14c First man on the Moon.

5th June 1996, 14c, Commemorations.

10th December 1999, 25th Anniversary Republic of Malta, on all values.

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

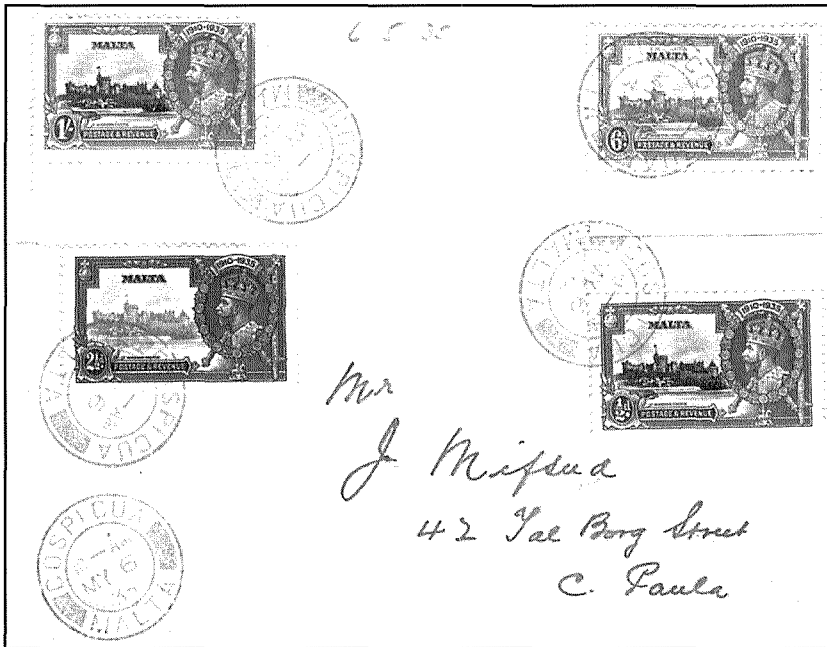
By Anthony Fenech MRPSL

(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.

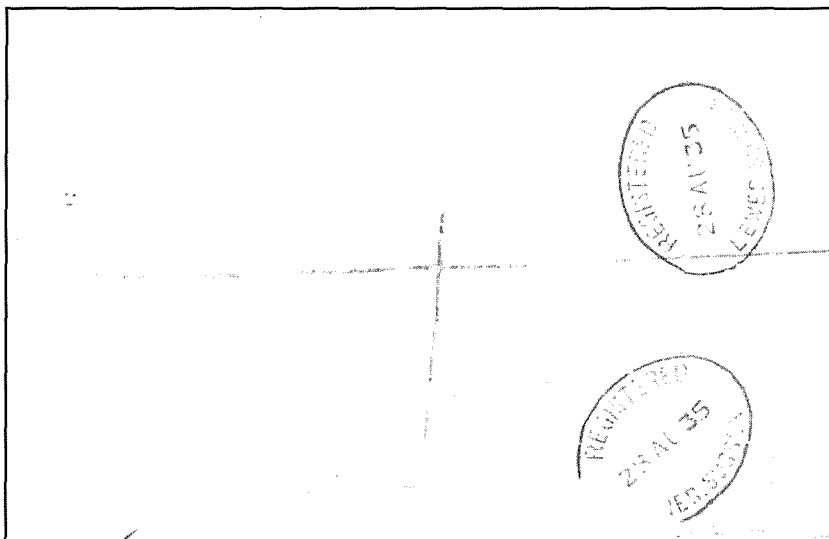
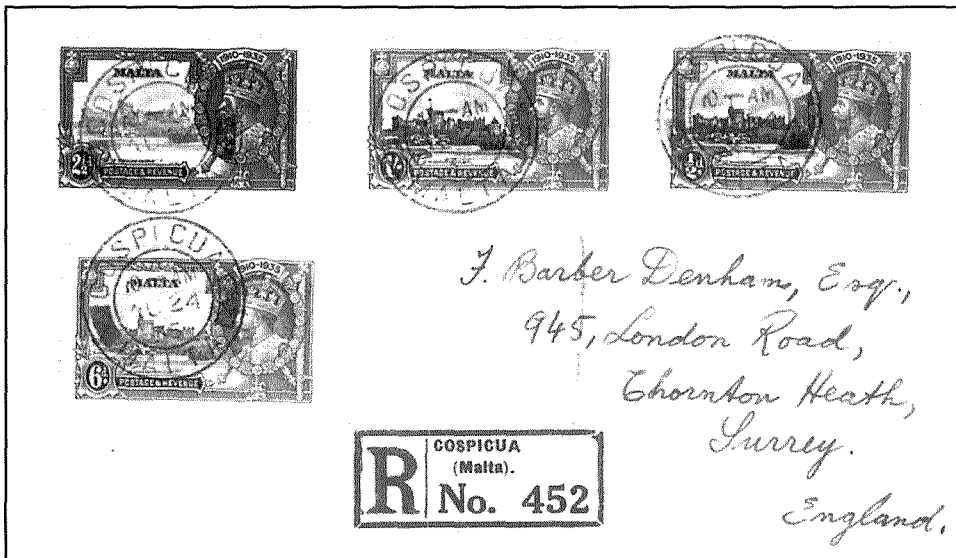
I would like to add a few other interesting examples to those submitted by Dr. Abela Medici supporting the existence of (**COS – 4**) strikes adequately applied to covers dispatched before 1940.

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



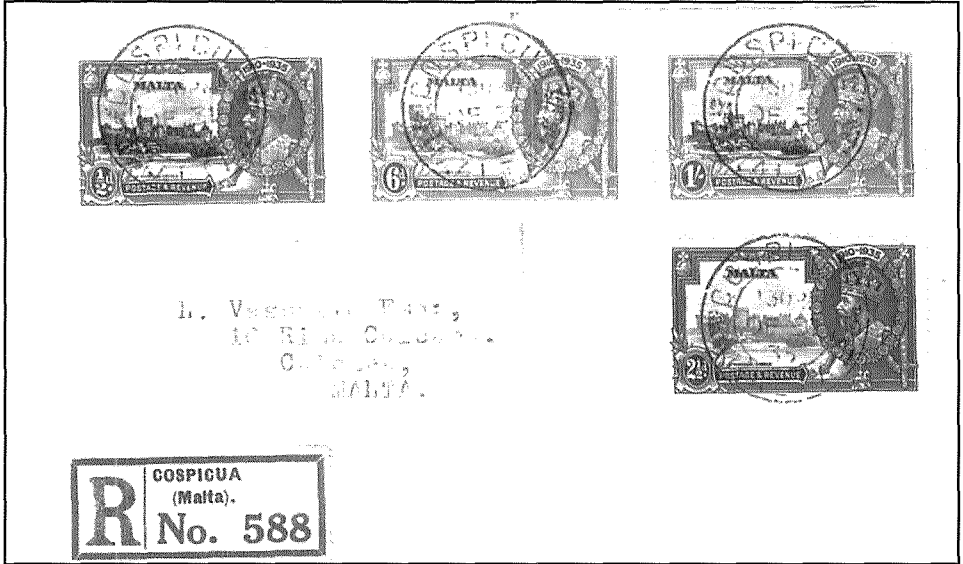
COS 4 Cancellor used at Cospicua BPO on MY6, 35 to cancel KGV Silver Jubilee stamps on the first day of issue. (Cospicua Branch Post Office was bombed five weeks later on 13th June 1940, and was temporarily transferred to the Paola Sub-Post Office)

- 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.

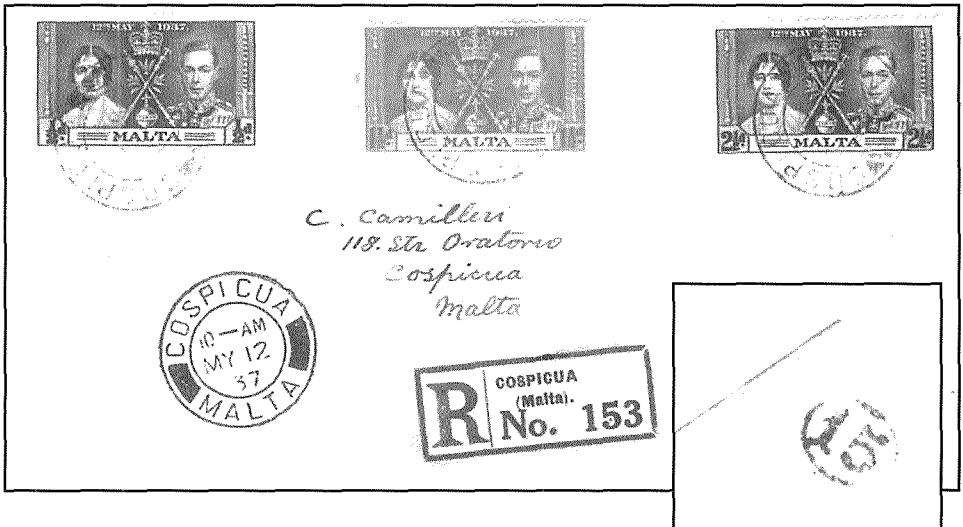


Back stamping - two strikes of the oval " REGISTERED - LEWES. SUSSEX" dated 28 AU 35.

- 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.





**THE MALTA
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

**MALTEX V
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
8TH, 9TH AND 10TH OCTOBER 2004**

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

The Members of the Exhibitions Committee 2004 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)

EXHIBITOR'S APPLICATION FORM

I, the undersigned, wish to participate in the Fifth **Maltex Philatelic Exhibition** in the Section indicated hereunder:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) MALTA | <i>Traditional/Postal History</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) FOREIGN | <i>Traditional/Postal History</i> | |
| c) THEMATIC | <i>Collections</i> | |
| d) YOUTH SECTION | <i>Under 16 years</i> | |

Kindly tick [✓] which of the above is applicable.

Description of the Exhibit:

Number of pages in the Exhibit

I have read the Regulations of the Exhibition and agree to abide by them.

Signature: _____

Name & Surname (Block letters): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

This Application Form duly signed and complete in all respects should reach the Exhibitions Committee of the Malta Philatelic Society at c/o 91, Manwel Dimech Street, Sliema, Malta, by not later than 15th September 2004.



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

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Charles Meilak, John Micallef, Walter Rizzo FCCA, FIA, CPA
and Hadrian Wood (Members)

Maltex V Philatelic Exhibition: Dates & Opening Hours

The fifth 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 7th October, 2004 and the Philatelic Exhibition will be open to the general public on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 8th, 9th and 10th of October as hereunder:

Opening Hours:	Friday, 8th October	9.00 - 18.00hrs
	Saturday, 9th October	9.00 - 18.00hrs
	Sunday, 10th October	9.00 - 13.00hrs

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

Maltex V 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 15th September, 2004.

Gold Coast Registration Labels & Hand Stamps

Mail to Malta 1931-34



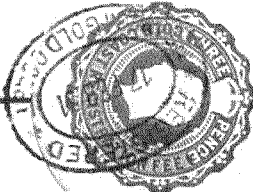

Part 3.

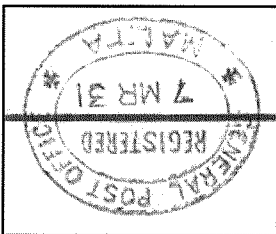
By Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici KM., MD., MRPSL.



NSAWAM

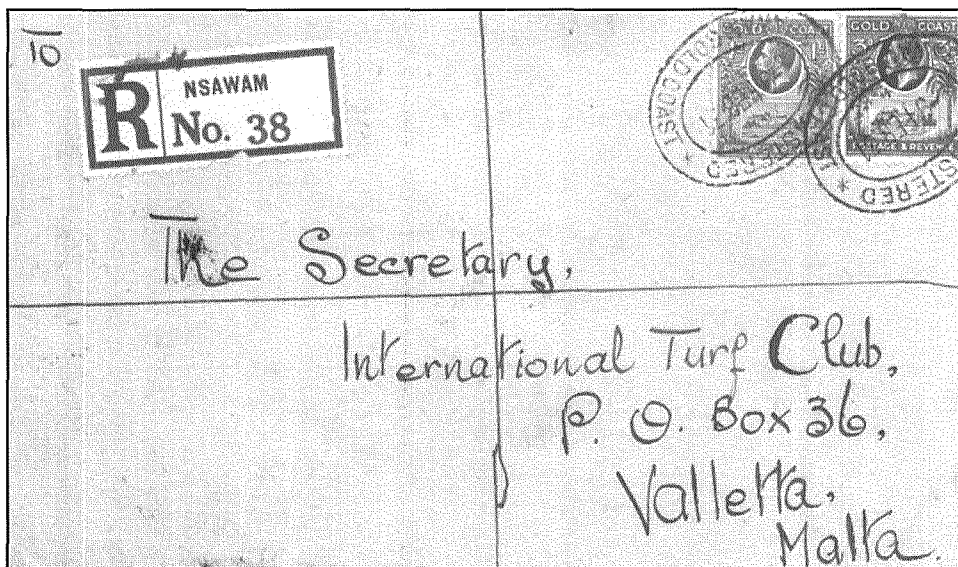
R3 (11.12.22)-S.U. 5.3.57

	<p>REGISTERED LETTER.</p> <p>THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.</p> <p>THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>R NSAWAM No.266</p> </div> (2)	<p>The Secretary I.I.C.</p> <p>G.P.O. Box No. 36;</p> <p><u>Valletta - Malta</u></p>	
<p>FEE PAID.</p>	 	



152 x 93mm. K.G.V., Brown Three Pence Registered letter bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40x15mm)** Registered label – **R / NSAWAM No.266.**, bearing 1d brown, K.G.V., stamp, cancelled by (Proud R3).., ***REGISTERED* 17 FEB 31 / NSAWAM GOLD COAST.**, and Malta oval **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 7 MR 31 / MALTA** arrival post mark on back.

NSAWAM



150 x 90mm light blue, Registered envelope bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40x15mm)**, Registered label – **R / NSAWAM No.38**, bearing one 1d brown and 3d blue K.G.V. stamps, cancelled by (Proud R3)., ***REGISTERED* / 9 FEB 31 / NSAWAM GOLD COAST.**, and Malta oval arrival **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 4 MAR 31 / MALTA.**

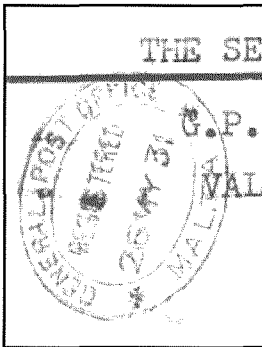
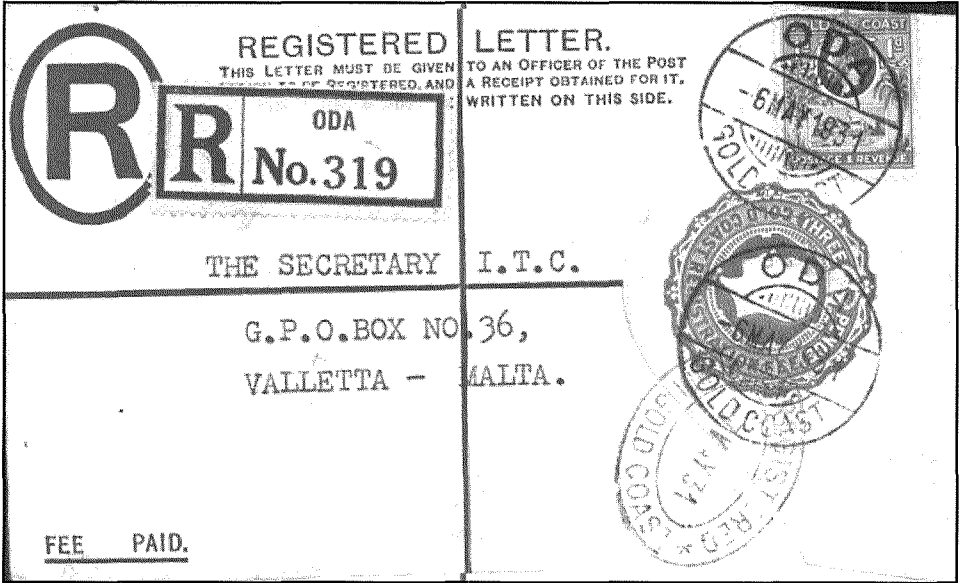


D6 (15.12.27)-S.U. 5.3.57

ODA.

ODA Registration label
not recorded by Proud.

Oval 32x24mm ODA Registration
hand stamp not recorded by Proud.



152 x 93mm K.G.V., Brown Three Pence Registered letter bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40x15mm)** Registered label - **R / ODA. No. 319**, bearing 1d brown K.G.V. stamp cancelled by (Proud D6) **28mm ring ODA / 6 MAY 1931 / GOLD COAST.** and *unrecorded by Proud* oval 32x24mm, ***REGISTERED* / 6 MY 31 / ODA GOLD COAST,** and on the back **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 26 MY 31 / MALTA.**


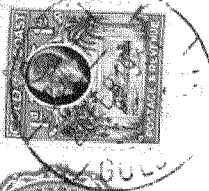

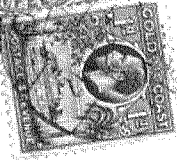
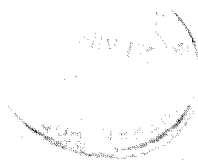



ODA



D6 (15.12.27)-S.U. 5.3.57

R4 (31.5.25)-(8.7.49)

 <p>REGISTERED</p> <p>TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.</p> <p>ODA No. 242</p> <p>The Secretary</p>	
<p>International Turf Club G.P.O. Box No. 36. Valletta, Malta</p> <p>FEE PAID.</p>	 
	

152 x 93mm KGV Brown Three Pence Registered letter bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40x15mm)** Registered label, **R / ODA. No. 242.**, bearing one dark brown and one red brown 1d, K.G.V. stamps, cancelled by (Proud D6) **28mm ring, ODA / 20 FEB 1931 / GOLD COAST**, and endorsed at the back not by an *ODA registered hand stamp* but by **SEKONDI REGISTERED** oval hand stamp (Proud R4) ***REGISTERED* / 27 FEB 31 / SEKONDI GOLD COAST**, and faint **GENERAL POST OFFICE / Malta** arrival registered hand stamp.

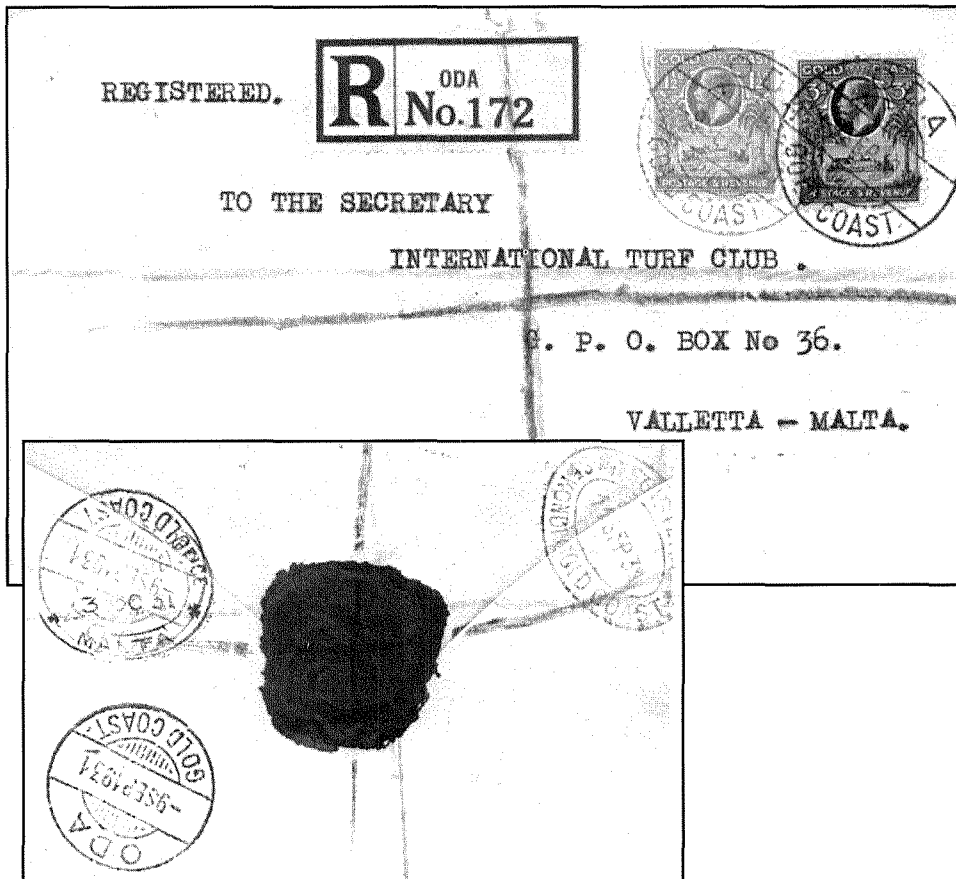


ODA



D6 (15.12.27)-S.U. 5.3.57

R4 (31.5.25)-(8.7.49)



145 x 80 white envelope, bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40x15mm)** Registered label, **R / ODA No.172.**, bearing 1.1/2d scarlet, and 3d blue K.G.V. stamps, cancelled by (Proud D6) **28mm ring, ODA / 9 SEP 1931**, and endorsed on the back not by an *ODA registered hand stamp*, but by **SEKONDI REGISTERED oval hand stamp** (Proud R4) ***REGISTERED* / 11 SEP 31 / SEKONDI GOLD COAST.**, and (Proud D6), **ODA / 9 SEP 1931 / GOLD COAST**, together with a faint **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 3 OC 31 / MALTA**, on top of another **ODA** (Proud D6).

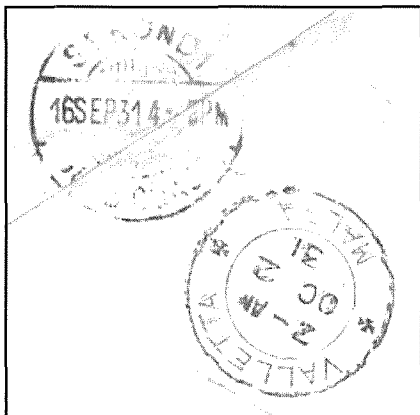
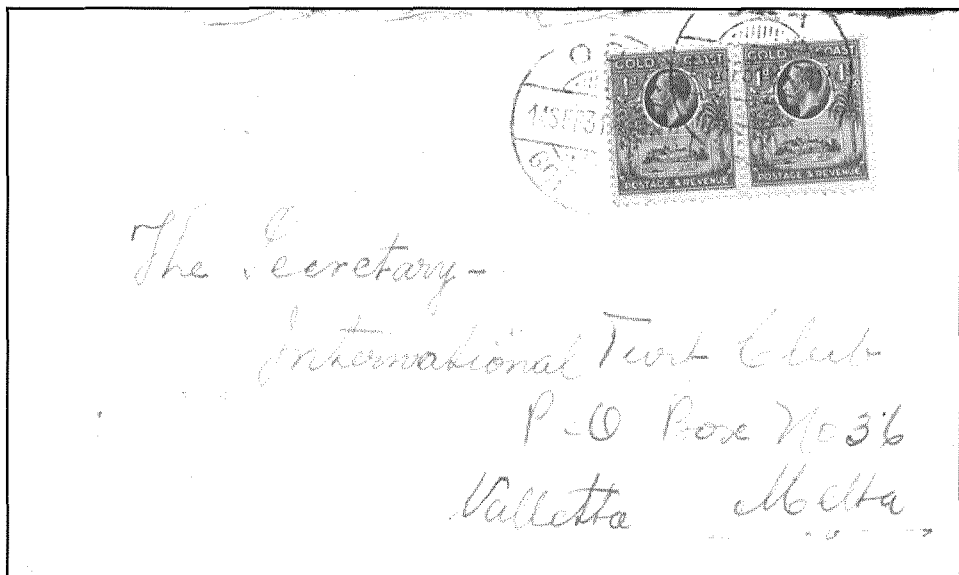


D6 (15.12.27)-S.U. 5.3.57

ODA



D18 (28.9.29)-(1.1.51)

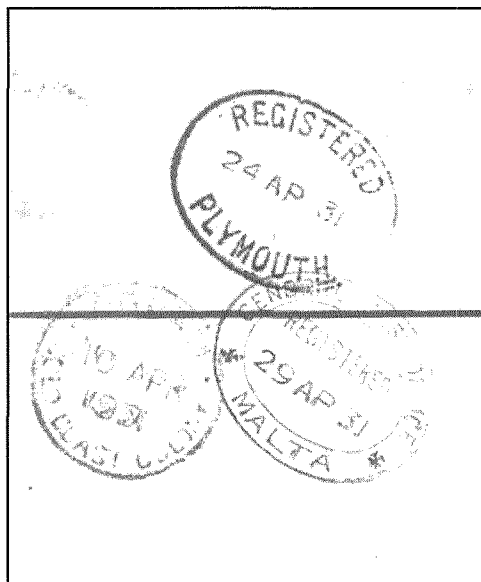
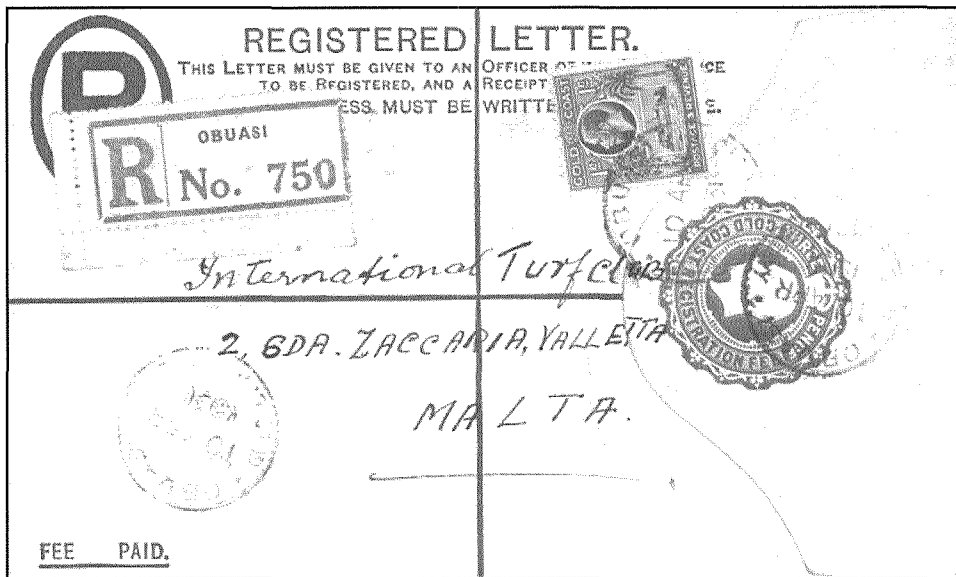


150 X 92mm, plain white envelope bearing Two 1d brown K.G.V., stamps cancelled by (Proud D6), 28mm ring, ODA / 14 SEP 1934 / GOLD COAST, and endorsed on the back by (Proud D18) SEKONDI / 16 SEP 314 - PM. and VALLETTA / 2-AM / OC 2 / 31 / MALTA circular double ring arrival postmark.



OBUASI
OBUASI Registered label
not recorded by Proud

D7 (17.4.20)-(14.1.35)


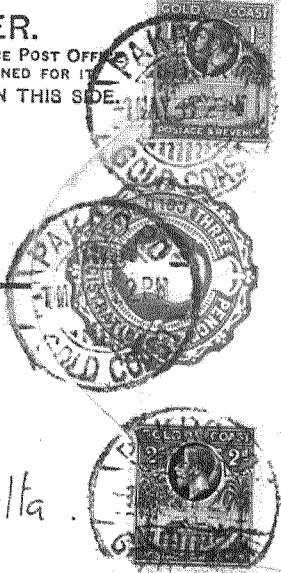


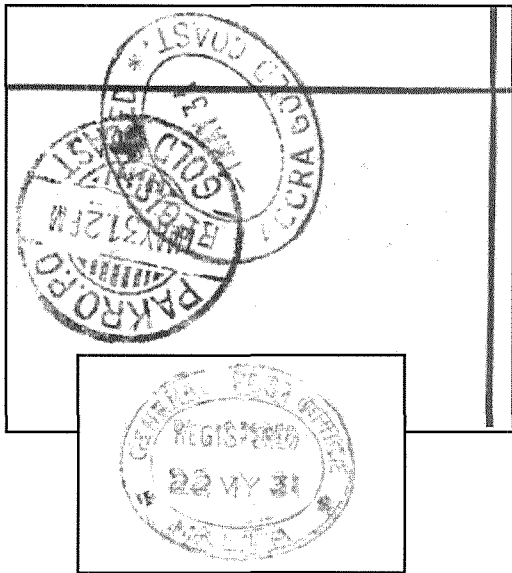
152 x 92 mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter, bearing perforated **LIGHT BLUE (40 x 15mm)**, Registered label, **R/OBUASI No. 750.**, bearing 1d brown K.G.V stamp, cancelled by (Proud D7), 26mm single ring, ***OBUASI* / 10 APR / 1931 / GOLD COAST COLONY**, and endorsed on the back by another **OBUASI, REGISTERED / 24 AP 31 / PLYMOUTH**, and **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 29 AP 31 / MALTA**, arrival hand stamp.



D3 State 1 (1.3.18)-(28.1.38)

PAKRO
PAKRO Registration label
not recorded by Proud

 <p>REGISTERED LETTER.</p> <p>THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. IT MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> PAKRO R No. 325 </div> <p>The Secretary,</p>	
<p>International Turf Club G. P. O. Box 36 Valletta Malta.</p> <p><u>FEE PAID.</u></p>	

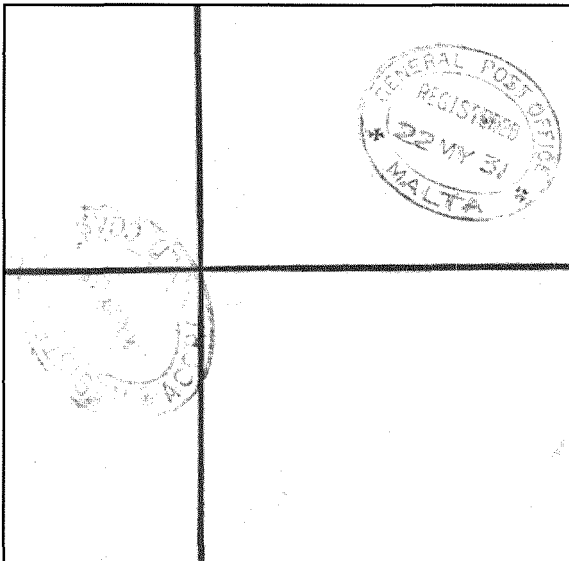
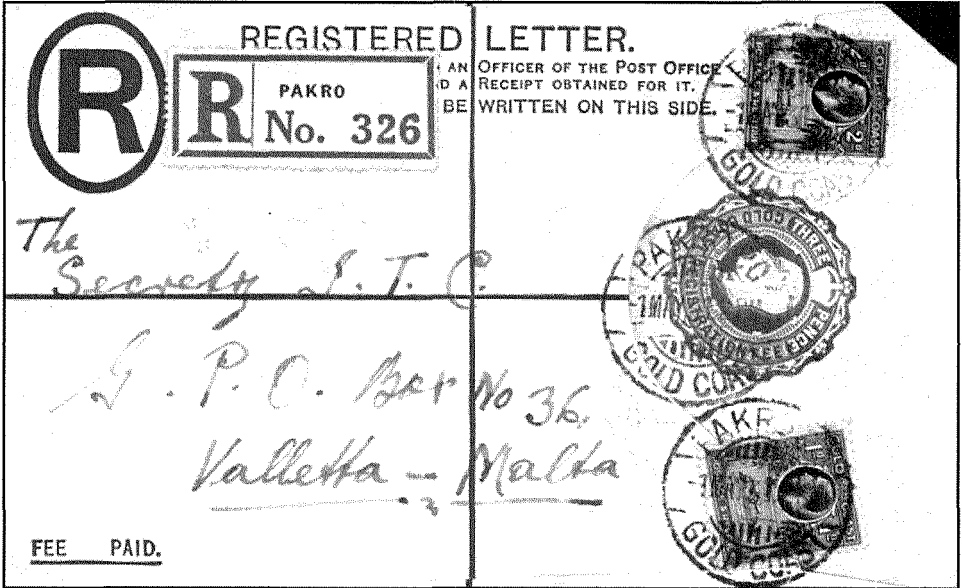


152 x 92mm, Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter, bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40 x 15mm)**, Registered label, **R/PAKRO. No 325.**, bearing 1d brown & 2d slate K.G.V. stamps, cancelled by (Proud D3 State 1), **PAKRO. P.O./ 1MAY 31. 2PM / GOLD COAST**, and on the back endorsed by another **PAKRO, REGISTERED / 1 MAY 31 / ACCRA GOLD COAST**, and **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 22MY 31 / MALTA**, arrival post mark.



PAKRO
PAKRO Registration label
not recorded by Proud

D3 State 1 (1.3.18)-(28.1.38)



152 x 92mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter, bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40 x 15mm)**, Registered label, **R/PAKRO, No 326.**, bearing 1d brown & 2d slate K.G.V. stamps cancelled by (Proud D3 State 1), **PAKRO. P.O. / 1 MAY 31.2PM / GOLD COAST.** and on the back endorsed by **REGISTERED 1 MAY 31 / ACCRA GOLD COAST** and **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 22 MY 31 / MALTA**, arrival hand stamp.



D4 (29.8.30)-S.U. 5.3.57

PEKI
PEKI Registered label
not recorded by Proud

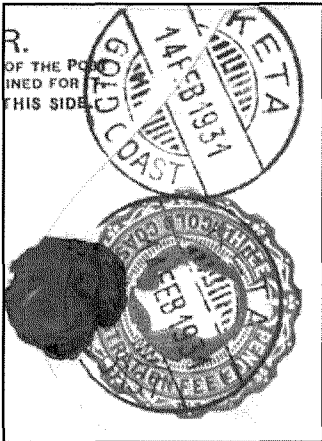
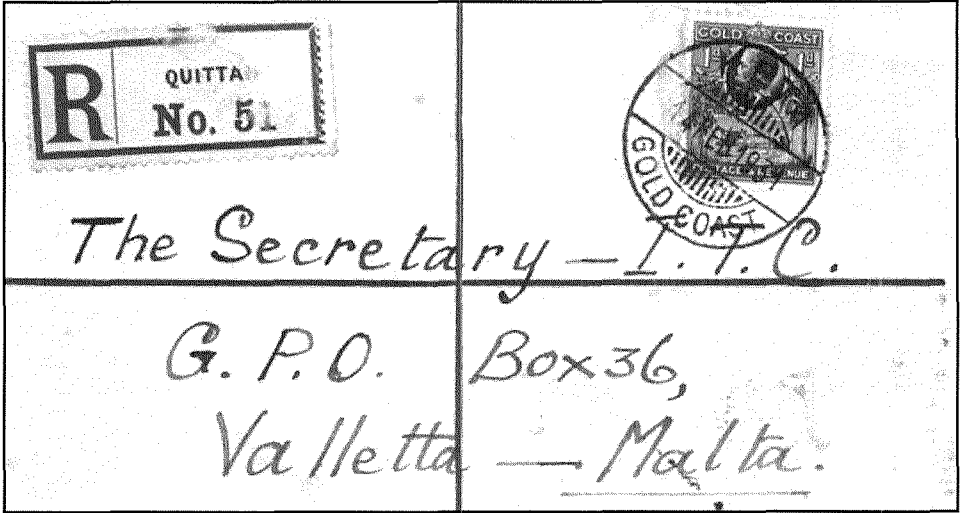


14 x 9cm plain brown envelope, bearing perforated **Dark Blue (40 x 15mm)**. Registered label, **R / PEKI. No, 430.**, bearing 6d dull & bright purple K.G.V stamp cancelled by (Proud D 4) **PEKI / 7 JUL 1932 / GOLD COAST.**, and endorsed on the back by another **PEKI**, together with **REGISTERED / 22 JY 32 / PLYMOUTH**, and **GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 28 JY 32 / MALTA** , arrival hand stamp.



D12 (9.2.27)-(27.2.54)

QUITTAH, KETA.
QUITTAH Registration label
with NUMBER, not recorded by Proud
QUITTAH Registration label and
KETA hand stamp on same letter.



135 x 82mm Three Pence Brown K.G.V. Registered Letter, bearing perforated **DARK BLUE (40 x 15mm)**, Registered label, **R/QUITTAH, No 51**, bearing 1d brown K.G.V. stamp cancelled by (Proud D 12), **KETA / 14 FEB 1931 / GOLD COAST**, and endorsed on back by another **KETA** hand stamp only.

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

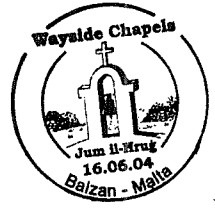
A number of Branch Post Offices will not be open to the public, today, Voting Day, because of their proximity to polling booths or because voting will be held in the same building. Mail deliveries in these locations will not be affected and will still be carried out. The localities are:

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.

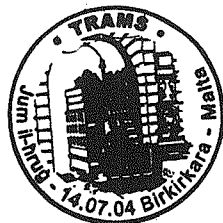
03 July

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.

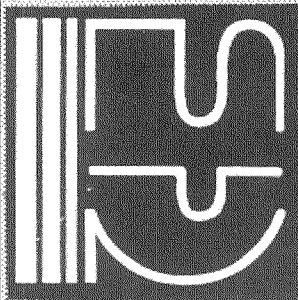
Mr Teddy Cilia, formerly Senior Manager, Human Resources, has been appointed as a General Manager of Postal Services.

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.



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