

# POSTAL DIARY (2002)

1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002

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## 01 July

Maltapost introduced “Postie Pick Up” personalized mail services. Through this new service mail is collected and delivered directly, at no extra charge, to the Central Mail Room for next delivery. Posties can also take orders for stamps and registered mail.

## 03 July

With reference to Notice 820 which was published in the Government Gazette of the 22 November 1991, the Definitive 1991 Postage Set with the theme “Natural and Artistic Heritage of The Maltese Islands”, designed by Frank Portelli, is being withdrawn from sale at the close of business today.

## 08 July

The New Chief Executive Officer, Maltapost, Mr Robert Lake, takes up his new post today.

## 24 July

Maltapost plc has informed the public that this summer, with effect from today, until further notice, mail will be delivered earlier. The first collection from letter boxes will be carried out at 6.00am instead of 7.00am.

## 01 August

Seven new mail roller daters have been put in use in the Sections/Branches shown hereunder with effect from today.

Quantity	Section/Branch	Impression
2	C.M.R.	Postage Paid/Malta
1	Luqa	Luqa B.P.O./Malta
1	Birżebbugia	B’Bugia B.P.O./Malta
1	Żebbuġ	Żebbuġ B.P.O./Malta
1	Mellieħa	Mellieħa B.P.O./Malta
1	Gżira	Gżira B.P.O./Malta



## 01 August

The public is advised that with effect from today, Thursday August 1, only postage stamps issued after January 1, 1998, remain valid for postal purposes. Stamps issued prior to this date will no longer be valid.

Members of the public who wish to exchange mint decimal stamps issued prior to the date in question, for stamps of similar face value after January 1, 1998, should do so at Maltapost Philatelic Bureau, prior to 30 September 2002.

## 10 August

The S.P.O. at Tarxien closed temporarily from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> to Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, both dates inclusive.

## 12 August

Kalkara and Ta' Xbiex S.P.O's also closed temporarily from 12 to 17 August inclusive.

## 13 August

Maltapost plc has announced the programme of stamps issues for the year 2003. There will be eleven sets planned to be issued as following:

January: Definitive (Additional Values)	June: Queen's Coronation Jubilee
February: Vintage Cars	August: Sea Shells
March: Military Architecture	September: Maritime
April: St. George Paintings	October: Windmills
May: Europa '03 (Poster Art)	November: Christmas 2003
May: Small Nations Games	

## 13 August

'Maltese Cuisine' stamp set designed by Joe P. Smith issued today. Values are 7c, 12c, 16c, 27c and a Miniature Sheet 75c. the stamps are printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH Germany. The First Day handstamp reads: "Maltese Cuisine/Jum il-Hruġ/



13.VIII.2002/— — — —/Malta”. The stamps are previewed in “The Malta Stamp” No 199 issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau.

## 13 August

Maltapost plc has increased the local postage rates as follows:

- local rate for letters (50g) has increased by 1c to 7c; each additional 50g up to 2kg is charged 4c;
- postcards rate has increased to 7c;
- the printed letter rate up to 50g is 7c; each additional 50g up to 2kg is 2c;
- other fees or charges go up by 1c thus:
  - Registration fee – 21c; Advice of Delivery (AR) – 17c;
  - Search fee – 17c; Certificate of Posting – 11c;
  - Enquiry fee – 17c.
- the weight limit for printed papers is 2kg, but packets of books or pamphlets weighing up to 5kg, may be sent as printed papers at the following rate:
- for every additional kg or fraction thereof, over 2kg – 30c;
- locally registered newspapers, for every copy not exceeding 100g – 5c;
- every additional 50g or fraction thereof, per copy – 2c;
- articles for the use of the blind (including parcels containing solely articles for the blind) – free.

## 19 August

These S.P.O.'s closed temporarily as shown here:

Mġarr S.P.O. – 19-26 August; Dingli S.P.O. – 19-28 August;  
Għaxaq S.P.O. – 19-31 August; (all the dates inclusive)

## 30 August

Maltapost issued a commemorative Postal Card to mark its participation in the International Philatelic Exhibition (Riccione 2002) from 30 August to 1 September. The Card has the Europa 2002 stamp printed on it which is being cancelled with the special handstamp inscribed “Riccione 30.VIII. – 1.IX.2002” and incorporating the logos of Maltapost and the exhibition. This postmark will be used at the exhibition, in Riccione and at the Valletta Counter Hall, at Dar Annona, on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 August.



## 02 September

Temporary closure of Attard S.P.O, between today, 2 September and Monday 9 September, both days inclusive.

## 09 September

Philatelists still holding pre-January 1998 stamps which are no longer valid for postal purposes and desiring to have these stamps cancelled for collection are requested to hand in these stamps to The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau at 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, for cancellation with a 31 July 2002 metal datestamp.

## 16 September

With effect from today, Maltapost has issued Postage-Paid envelopes for the added convenience of the public. The envelopes being launched will be:

- 230 x 110mm window and non-window format valid for local postage up to 50g in weight and selling at 10c each, including pre-paid postage; and
- 230 x 110mm window and non-window format valid for Zone A (Europe and the Mediterranean Basin) postage up to 20g in weight and selling at 20c each, including pre-paid postage.



## 18 September

The S.P.O. at Mgarr closed temporarily from 18 to 20 September (both days inclusive).

## 25 September

The “Cacti and Succulents” thematic set issued today. The values in the set are 1c, 7c, 28c, 37c and 76c. the stamps (Size: 23.02mm x 27.32mm) are designed by Andrew Micallef and printed in sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH in Germany. The First Day handstamp reads “Kaktus u Sukkulenti/Jum il-Hrug 25.IX.2002/ — —/Malta”. The 37c stamp in the set is dedicated to Eco-tourism, as can be evinced by the Eco-Tourism logo inset displayed on it. Maltapost has also issued a set of five postcards showing identical designs as those on the stamps in the Cacti and Succulents set. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has previewed this set in its bulletin “The Malta Stamp” No. 200 (September 2002).



## 16 October

The Malta Europa 2002 Circus stamp, designed by Roberta Zahra, issued by Maltapost on the 9 May 2002, has been voted as the best Europa 2002 stamp by POSTEUROP, during its Annual Plenary Assembly which this year convened at Heronissos, on the Greek Island of Crete.

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## 18 October

A new issue depicting Maltese Personalities issued today. The stamps are designed by Harry Borg with the usual printing arrangements (in sheets of 10; by Bundesdruckerei GmbH in Germany) and consisting of the values 3c, 7c, 15c, 35c and 50c. The special First Day Issue handstamp reads: "Jum il-Hruġ/18.X.2002/Personalities/— —/Malta". The Malta Philatelic Bureau has issued its usual bulletin "The Malta Stamp" No.201 (October 2002) to preview the stamps. 40% of the 15c stamps (Kircher) and of the 35c stamps (Saverio Cassar) bear a constant printing flaw, this being the omission of the dot on the 'c' in the value tablet of the stamps.



## 25 October

A special handstamp inscribed "International Stamp Fair/Stamp Day 2002/25-27.X/Maltapost/Valetta-Malta/Sindelfingen Messe" will be in use at the Counter Hall, Valetta on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 October. A similar handstamp will be in use at the Sindelfingen Show on these days and also on Sunday. Maltapost plc will be represented at Sindelfingen Messe by Lorenzo Mantegna.



## 31 October

Maltapost plc urged its customers to post early for Christmas to ensure that overseas letters and parcels reach their destination in time for Christmas. The schedule of latest posting dates for Christmas mail going overseas issued by Maltapost today is as follows:

### Parcels

- |   |   |                    |
|---|---|--------------------|
| Africa  | - | before November 10 |
| Asia  | - | before November 18 |
| Other destinations (including Australia, Canada, Europe, North America, U.K.) | - | before November 23 |

## Letters and Cards

The Christmas close-off date for all destinations around the world is December 2.

Customers will be able to buy boxes and packaging at all Maltapost Post Offices as from November 8.

## 08-10 November

Maltex 2002 Stamp Exhibition open to the public. A temporary branch post office has been set up at St. Publius Hall, Floriana where a commemorative handstamp reading “Maltex 2002/8 – 10 November/St. Publius Hall – Floriana – Malta” is being used to cancel postal items.



Also available at the T.P.O. a commemorative cover bearing the 16c Europa Circus stamp cancelled by a special commemorative handstamp inscribed “Post Europ/Best Europa 2002/Circus stamp/Maltex 8-10 Nov 2002.”



## 20 November

The 2002 Christmas postage stamp set issued today. None of the five values (7c, 16c, 22c, 37c and 75c) bears the usual surcharge. This year Maltapost has placed collection boxes at its branches instead of putting a surcharge on its Christmas stamps. Money collected from the boxes would go towards helping voluntary organizations and charitable institutions.



This year’s Christmas stamps are designed by Debbie Caruana Dingli and offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH in Germany. The stamps are previewed in “The Malta Stamp” No.202 (November 2002) issued by the Philatelic Bureau. The first Day of Issue handstamp reads “Christmas 02/Jum il-Hruġ/20-XI-2002/— —/Malta”. The design on the 22c stamp is featured on specially prepared postcards which Maltapost distributed complimentary, with the normal Christmas mail to most of the households in Malta and Gozo.

## 20 November

The Gozo hub for delivery personnel has been opened at Xewkija. By the end of the year all the Gozo delivery personnel will be operating under one roof, thus maximizing their utility in the process. Although the operations staff will be relocated to the new Xewkija hub, the Gozo branches will still be offering sales and counter services.

## 02 December

As from this day a new machine cancelling datestamp is being used at the C.M.R. The new 27mm die is a single ring, inscribed “C.M.R./Malta”, bearing the date in full in the middle, and followed by seven wavy lines.

## 09 December

A machine slogan is being used as from today until the 21 December at the Central Mail Room, Marsa. It reads: “L-ghożża tat-tfal fi hdan l-Orsolini/ulied Mons. Isidor Formosa/1902- Sliema – 2002”.



## 18 December

Postal workers collecting mail from letter boxes are being issued with protective gear after industrial action was taken by two unions yesterday. Only the early mail collections from letter boxes have been affected.

## 19 December

Lm 3000 were distributed by the Transport Minister Ċensu Galea to 21 voluntary organizations and charitable institutions. The money was raised by Maltapost from the surcharge on Christmas stamps in 2001.

## 19 December

Maltapost said that a number of street letter boxes are being lowered to facilitate use by people with disabilities, including those on wheelchairs.

However, a number of letter boxes could not be changed because of their structure and the conservation order placed on them by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA). (*The Malta Philatelic Society strongly supports this CONSERVATION ORDER.*) *Editor*

## 24 December

Retail outlets in Valletta, Head Office, Victoria Gozo and Malta International Airport will open for business until 2.00pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. All other Counters are open as usual.