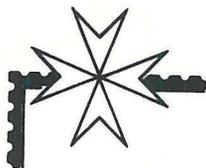




THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Malta)

# THE PSM JOURNAL



# THE PSM JOURNAL

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

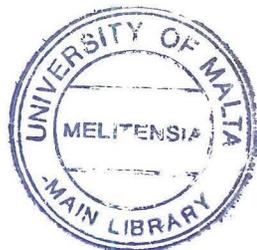


Vol. 32/1

April, 2003

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**Dr John Mercieca MOM, D.Sc (Honoris Causa) DDS**

Honorary President Malta Philatelic Society  
by Chev. Dr. A. Bonnici K.M., M.D., MRPSL



*Dr John Mercieca D.D.S., D. Sc. (Honoris Causa) MOM.*

It is with deep regret that we announce the demise of our beloved Hon. President Dr John Mercieca D.D.S., D.Sc (Honoris Causa) MOM, which occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2003.

Dr. John Mercieca was one of the founding members of the Malta Philatelic Society which was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1966, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1972 becoming President, occupying the post up to January 2002, when he felt that he could not carry on as President because of deterioration in his health. However he was unanimously elected as Honorary President of the Society at its Annual General Meeting of January 2002.

During all these years as President he was the main driving force of the Society, steadfast, calm and persevering. He kept us together.

On retiring, Dr and Mrs. A. Bonnici held a reception in his honour at their residence in Ta' Xbiex, where a silver salver was presented to him by the Society.

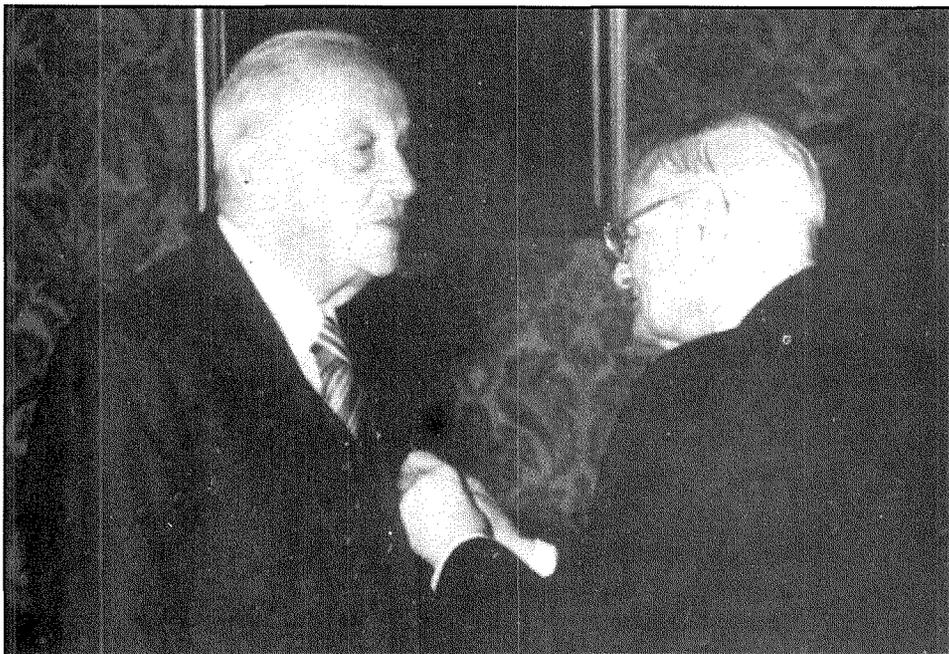
Born on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1912, in Floriana, Dr John H. Mercieca graduated in 1937, as one of the seven students who had completed the First Course of Dental Surgery, being placed first in order of merit.

Dr Mercieca set himself in private practice, but, in 1940, at the outbreak of hostilities in Malta, he volunteered to take charge of the Dental Clinic set up in the Attard-Lija-Balzan district, to care for the needs of the hundreds of refugees who had flocked to the centre of the island, from the Harbour and outlying districts, which post he held until June 1941, when he joined the Army Dental Corps as a Lieutenant. A year later he was promoted to the rank of Captain, and was attached to the 161 Field Ambulance R.A.M.C., serving up to 1946.

In 1938, Dr Mercieca was appointed Examiner in Oral Medicine and Surgery at The Royal University of Malta, serving up to 1978.

Between 1942 and 1945 he was elected as one of the two representatives in the interests of the Dental Profession, on the Faculty Board of Medicine and Surgery,





*13th December 1993, Investiture Ceremony, The President of Malta Dr C. Tabone bestowing the decoration of Member of the National Order of Merit.*

and in 1945 was elected a Member of the Special Board of Dental Surgery. In 1954, when the Faculty of Dental Surgery was created at the University, Dr Mercieca was elected a member and continued to be regularly elected up to 1978.

From 1944 to 1959, Dr Mercieca was yearly elected a Member of the Medical Board at the Department of Health, and when it was replaced in 1959, by the Medical Council, he continued serving on it for the next forty years.

Dr Mercieca is a Founder Member of the Dental Association of Malta, which was set up in 1944, having served as its Secretary for 13 years, between 1948 and 1961. In 1961, following the retirement of the late Prof. E. Lapira, he was elected President, to which Office he was regularly, re-elected biennially up to 1981, when the Council of the Dental Association of Malta elected him Honorary Life President to serve with full voting powers on the Council. Between 1951 and 1960 Dr Mercieca held the post of National Treasurer of the Federation Dentaire Internationale.

Dr Mercieca was a Founder Member of the Malta Federation of Professional Bodies, serving for a number of years as a Member of the Council, and as Vice-President during 1980-81.

In 1958, Dr Mercieca was appointed a Member of the Stamp Design Advisory

Board at the Department of Posts, on which he regularly served up to 1973. In 1987 he was again re-appointed and was still serving until 2003. In appreciation and in recognition of this all time record of continuous service on any board or council in Malta, the President of the Medical Council, Judge M. Caruana Curran LLD, on behalf of the Council, presented Dr Mercieca an appropriate parchment card signed by all the members of the Council, as well as a beautiful silver plate.

Dr Mercieca was highly interested in, and was a keen student of foreign languages and apart from his national tongue - Maltese, he spoke fluently English, Italian, French and German and had a good working knowledge of the Spanish and Russian languages, which he could also read and write. When in 1962 the German-Maltese Circle was founded he was one of its Founder Members, and between 1967 and 1970 its Vice-President.

On the occasion of the joint celebrations held by the University of Malta and the Dental Association of Malta, between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1987, to commemorate the Graduation of the seven students in the First Course of Dental Surgery 1937, the Council of the University of Malta approved the resolution passed by the Senate, recommending that the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa), be conferred on Dr John H. Mercieca, and ordered that this distinction be conferred on him, on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1987 during the Fiftieth Anniversary of the first graduates in the Course of Dental Surgery 1937.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1993 His Excellency Dr Censu Tabone MD. FRCS, President of the Republic of Malta, on behalf of the Maltese Government, invested him with the decoration of Member of the National Order of Merit (MOM), in recognition of his many and varied contributions to Malta.

We shall miss him dearly.

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**The following much appreciated note of condolence has been received from The (UK) Malta Study Circle.**

*27 March 2003*

Dear Dr. Bonnici,

At the Circle's Annual General Meeting complete support was given to my wish to write to you concerning the death of your Hon. President – Dr. Mercieca.

Over the years a number of our members met Dr. Mercieca on a variety of occasions and enjoyed his interesting conversation, courtesy and hospitality.

We have no doubt that the Society has suffered a serious loss with his passing. Our thoughts and good wishes are with you.

Yours sincerely,

J.G.C. Lander

(Hon. President)

CHICAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
Chicago, Illinois

# Certificate of Award

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

a Silver medal  
has been awarded  
to

Anthony Fenech, Author

for

"G. B. Used in Malta,  
A Study on Great Britain Stamps Used in the Maltese Islands",  
*The Philatelic Society (Malta) Journal*

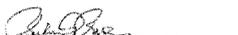
AT THE CHICAGOPEX 2002 EXHIBITION

Arlington Heights, Illinois

November 23, 2002



Jury Chairperson



President

CHICAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
Chicago, Illinois

# Certificate of Award

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

a Silver medal  
has been awarded  
to

Alfred Bonnici, Editor

for

"G. B. Used in Malta,  
A Study on Great Britain Stamps Used in the Maltese Islands",  
*The Philatelic Society (Malta) Journal*

AT THE CHICAGOPEX 2002 EXHIBITION

Arlington Heights, Illinois

November 23, 2002



Jury Chairperson



President

# Entires addressed to Sigri. B. Tagliaferro e figli, in Malta

*By Dr A Bonnici KM, MD, MRPSL*

Over the past twenty years, from time to time, several entires, addressed to Messrs Biagio Tagliaferro in Malta, have been appearing on the market, and are usually picked up by Postal History Collectors, especially those interested in Maritime Mail, and Postal Hand Stamps.

So, I have often been asked, especially by our overseas members, who was Biagio Tagliaferro ?

Biagio Tagliaferro was born in 1774 in Genoa. He had come to Malta around 1804 together with his brother Francesco, who had become the longest serving Russian Imperial Consul in Malta, from 1836 till his death in 1878.

In 1812, **Biagio Tagliaferro** (1777-1862) established a private bank in Malta called **B. Tagliaferro e Figli**.

This bank, which he fully owned, had its Offices, at 106 St. John Street, Valletta, on the left hand side of St. John's Cathedral.

In its early days, it dealt mainly in ship handling and grain financing.

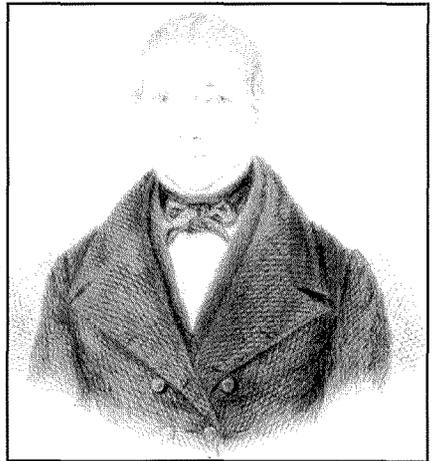
By 1816 he was master of the full rigged ship spelt in Maltese "Strangier" which means "Stranger", owned by John Stuart of Valletta. This ship was acquired by the Tagliaferro family in 1822. It was in this period that they established themselves as the leading grain merchants in the Russian Black Sea grain trade.

By 1822 the Tagliaferro establishment owned five ships that mainly operated between England, Malta, and the Black seaports of Odessa and Taganrog, as well as other Mediterranean ports. (1) J. C. Sammut from Scudo to Sterling.

In 1819 Tagliaferro became a naturalized British Subject and in 1842 he was elected President of the Banco di Malta, while in 1851 he became a member of the Currency Board.(2). Ibid, V. Tortell, Sunday Times Feature, 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2001.

Three years later, he was nominated to form a council to help the Government to run the commercial quays and the administration of lighthouses. (3) Wickman (5) 1983, and Consiglio (14) 1987; 277

By 1850 Tagliaferro became the leading grain merchant in the Mediterranean,



**Biagio Tagliaferro** (1777-1862)

and established Offices mainly in Odessa managed by his son Simeone, and appointed agents in nearly every Mediterranean port. In Malta he was assisted by his sons Girolomo and Giacomo. When Biagio died in 1862 Girolomo took over the management of the firm in Malta.

B. Tagliaferro and Sons was acquired by the National Bank of Malta on Jan I, 1969, and remained functioning, until in 1973, following a run on the National Bank, and its subsidiary the Tagliaferro Bank, Government intervened, and a three man council of administration was appointed, after Parliament passed the National and Tagliaferro Banks (Temporary Provision) Acts 1973.

On the 22nd March 1974 Prime Minister Dom Mintoff announced the setting up of the Bank of Valletta. The new bank which took over the assets and liabilities of the National Bank group started operations on March 25, 1974.

To day I am reviewing correspondence to the Tagliaferro firm, coming from “**CYPRUS - LARNACA. and SCIO, (CHIOS, KHIOS)**”, an island in the Aegean sea, close to Turkey, with special reference to;

## **Hand stamps of The Austrian Lloyd Agency**

### **LARNACA – CYPRUS.**

Entire written in Italian bearing the Julian/Gregorian calendar dates 26/14 June 1855, by Puerto G . Loiso from Cyprus, to Signori Biagio Tagliaferro & Figli, arriving in Malta on the 13th July, as noted by the Tagliaferros on the entire.

On the front it bears a clear **AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO**, in an oval circle, with **LARNACA** in the middle, in black, together with the sender's hand stamp of **PIERTO G. LOISO. / LIMASSOL DI CIPRO** in bluish green. The entire is crossed with a light red crayon sign meaning it was paid for, and there is a (3) in black ink as postage.

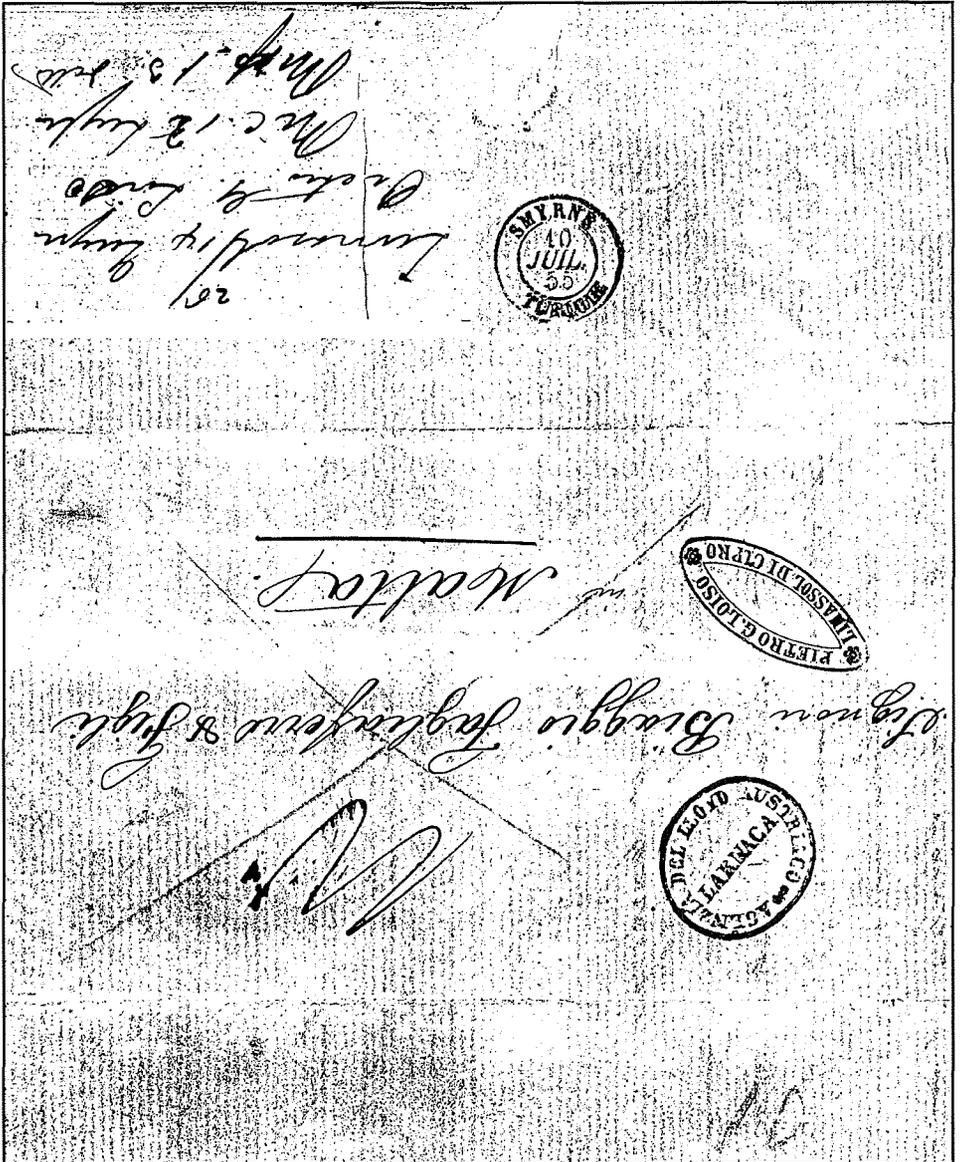
At the back, there is the 10th July, transit hand stamp, of **SMYRNA/ TURKEY.**, and a light red crayon (10), which is probably the final correct postage.

The above is the only entire that I have seen coming from “**LARNACA CYPRUS**” illustrated on Pg.9, and I would appreciate if collectors would let me know if they are aware of any others.

### **SCIO**

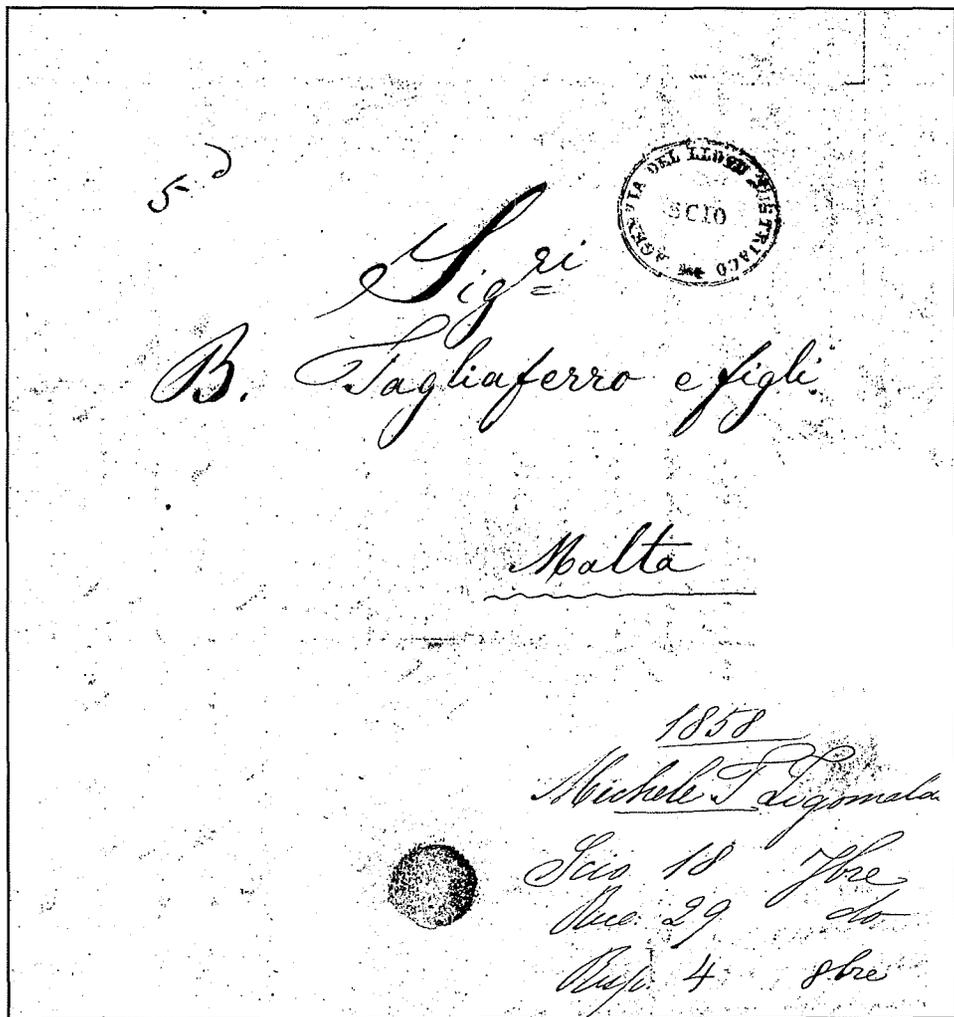
Owing to its favourable location about half way between Syra and Smyrna, the port of SCIO was selected by the Austrian Lloyd as a subsidiary coaling station when this Company inaugurated its Trieste-Constantinople line in 1837. A Shipping Agency of Lloyd was opened at SCIO in that year, and was later recognized by Vienna as an official Austrian Postal Agency.

The Lloyd Agency accepted mail from the earliest years, and cancelled it with the oval marking in black, supplied by the Company. Material of this early period is rare, and mainly limited to the 1850s/60s (earliest date recorded by Mueller is 1853).



Agenzia del Lloyd Austriaco - LARNACA  
26/14 June 1855.

I am reproducing four entires from SCIO the only ones that I have come across, written in French, on the 18 Sept, 2 Oct, 30 Oct and 13 Nov, from Michele F Zigomala, to Sigri B. Tagliaferro e figli, arriving in Malta as recorded by them on the entire, on the 29 Sept, 13 Oct, 9 Nov and 23 Nov, respectively.



*Agenzia del Lloyd Austriaco - SCIO*

Written on the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, has a clear Lloyds Scio hand stamp, but the " S " of Scio rather faint.

5d in clear manuscript red ink, and no transit or arrival hand stamps, but arrival date indicated as being received on the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept.



Sigri  
B. Tagliaferro e figli

6

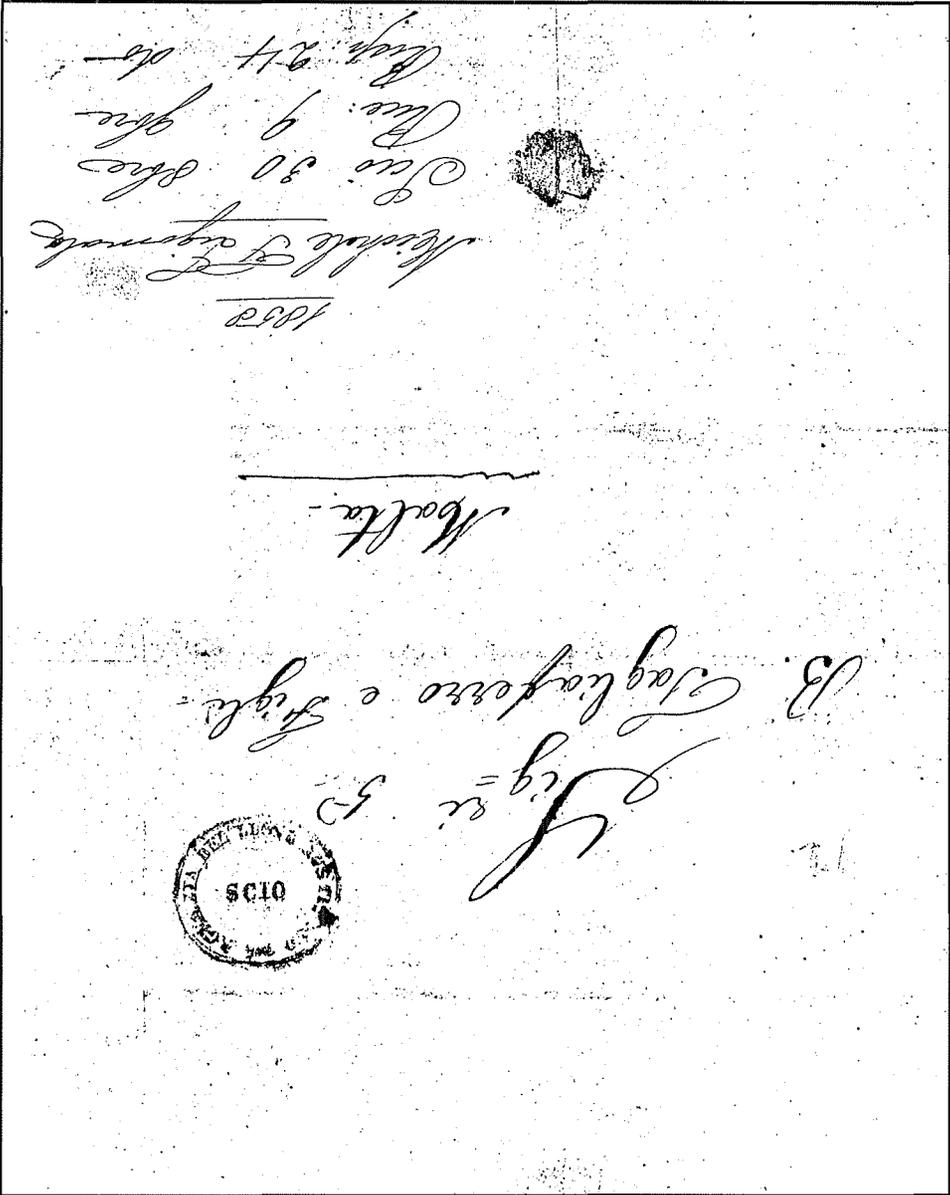
Malta

1858

No. 7 Sigri  
Pis 2 ore  
Puc 13 do  
Pusp 16 do

*Agenzia del Lloyd Austriaco - SCIO*

Written on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct arriving in Malta 13<sup>th</sup> Oct, with rather faint SCIO/Agenzia del Lloyd Austriaco, bearing a postage rate of 6d, whereas the other entires reproduced have a rate of 5d, written in clear manuscript red. I cannot understand the difference in rate, as the number of pages, and size, are all the same.



*Agenzia del Lloyd Austriaco - SCIO*

Written on the 30<sup>th</sup> Oct . It has the best Lloyds Scio hand stamp. It also has the clear 5d manuscript hand stamp in red. There are no transit or arrival hand stamps, but the arrival date is indicated in the letter as the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.



B. *Figli*  
*Tagliaferrò e Figli*

5d

Malta



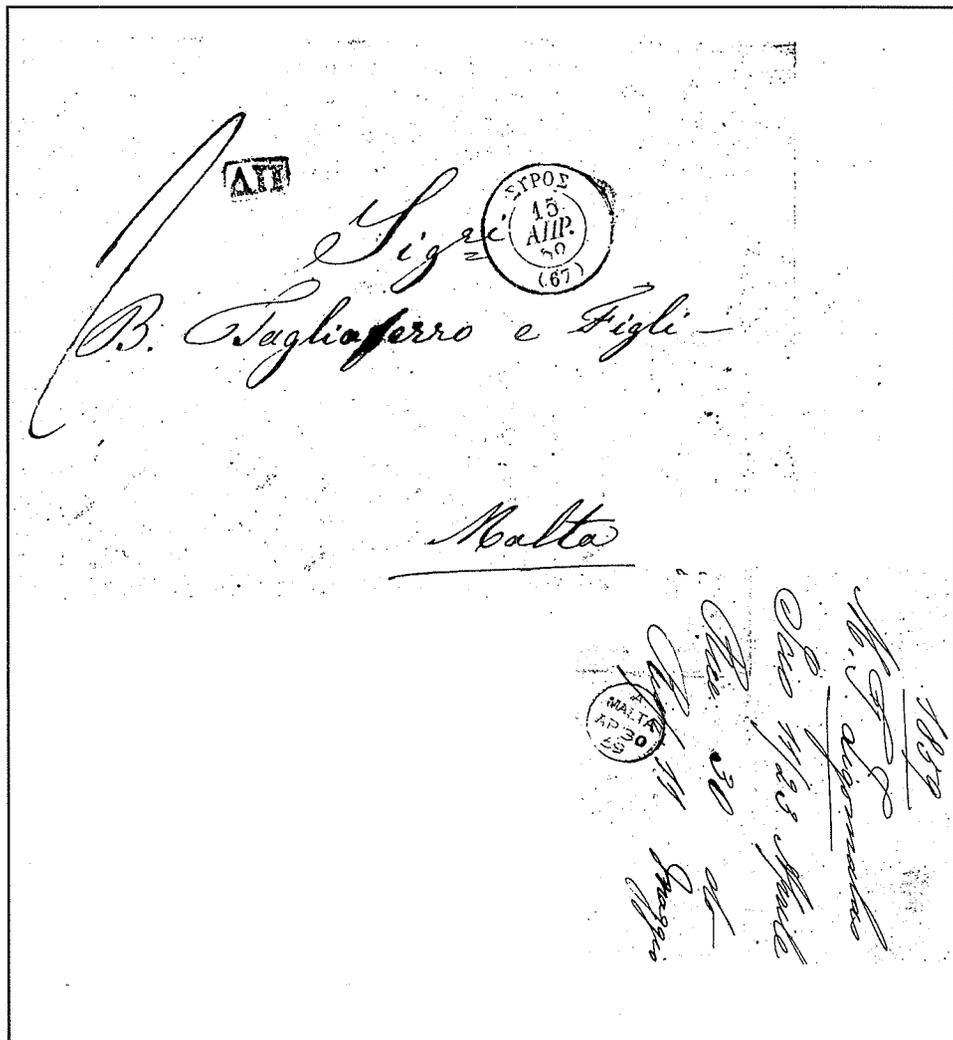
1850  
*Michele T. Sigonella*  
*Scio 13 gbre*  
*Rec. 23 do*  
*Dep. 24 do*

*Agenzia del Lloyd Austriaco - SCIO*

Written on the 13<sup>th</sup> Nov has Scio not visible due to use of the Lloyds hand stamp.

5d in clear manuscript red ink, and no transit or arrival hand stamps, but arrival date is written inside letter as arriving on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.

The entire of the 30<sup>th</sup> October is the last one, that in this group, bears the Lloyd Scio hand stamp, as correspondence, examined originating from the same source, written in Greek from the 11<sup>th</sup> April 1859 onwards, does not have any more the Lloyds Scio hand stamp, but were sent by Courier to Syros, where they were posted and forwarded through the normal post office, each bearing the local hand stamp as follows;



1. Written on the 11/23 April in Scio, bearing Syros 15 Apr 1859, and Malta 30 Apr hand stamps. Greek Postage Due hand stamp – ΑΠ, (90) Lepta, Greek currency, in red on back, for a single sheet.

06

MALTA  
JUN 8 1859

ΔΠ

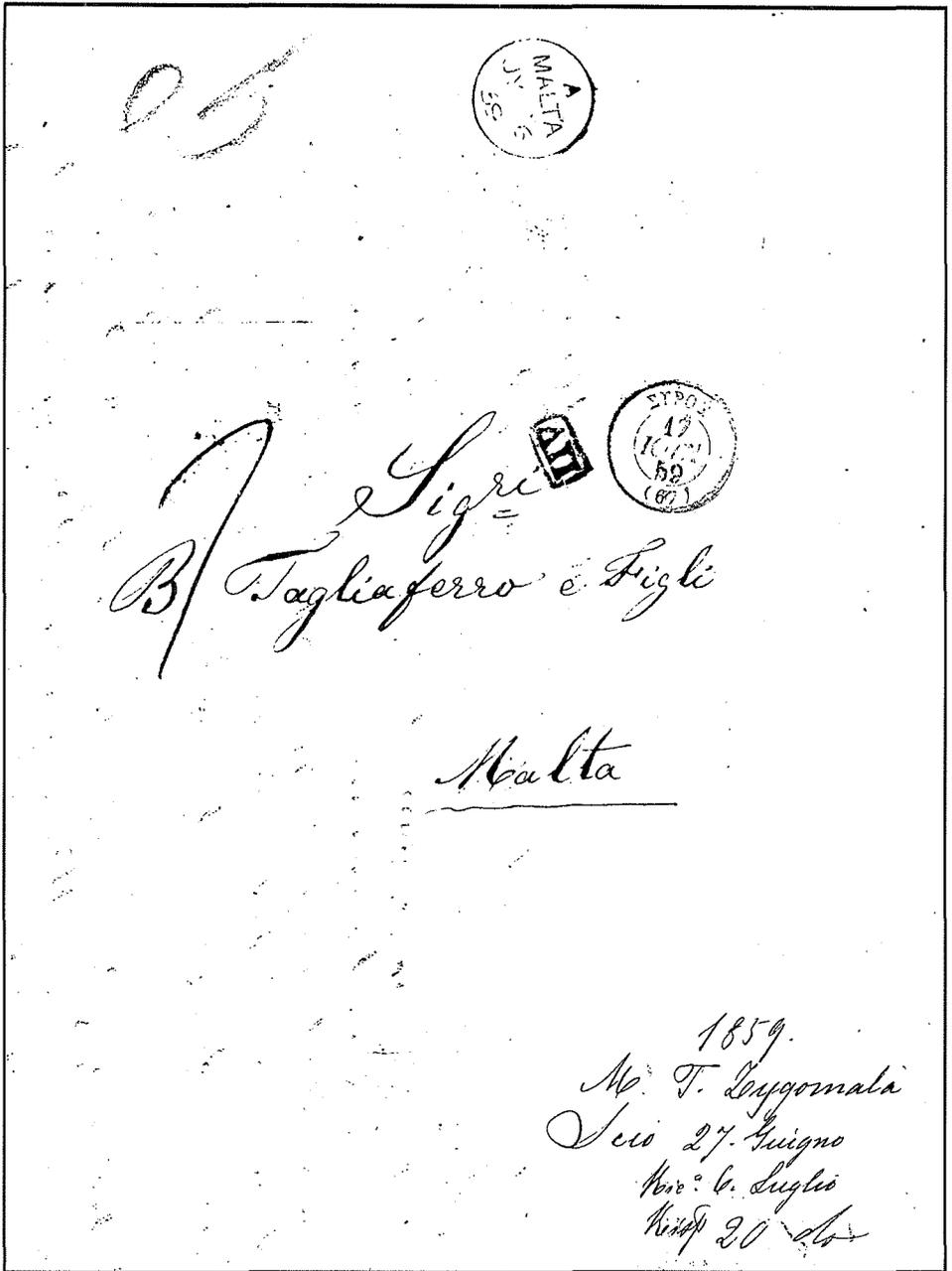
ΣΥΡΟΣ  
20  
MAY  
59

Signi  
B. Tagliaferro e Figli

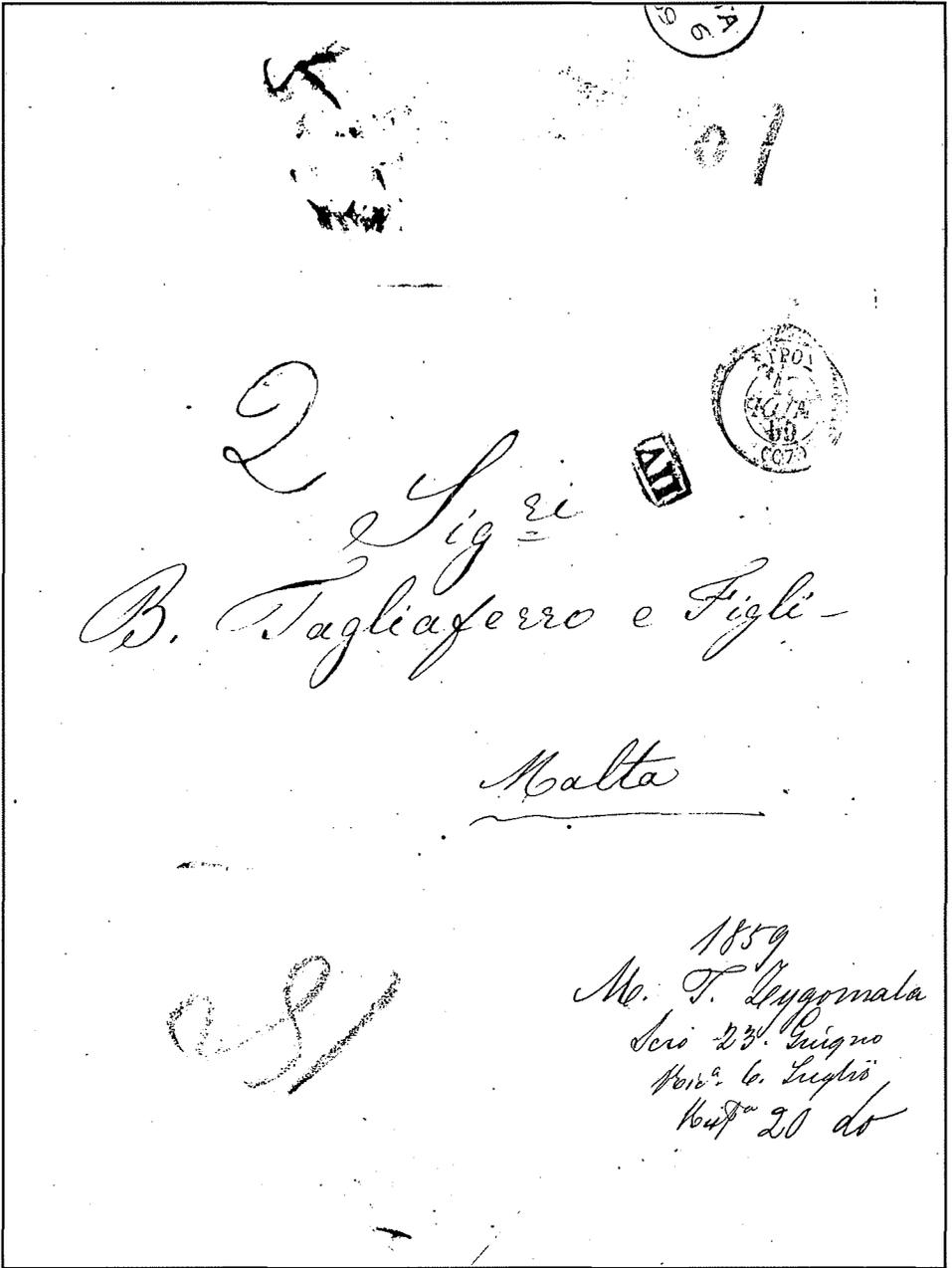
Malta

1859  
Mo. T. Kigornalax  
Scio 16/28 Maggio  
Nico 8. Giugno  
Nisip 22 do

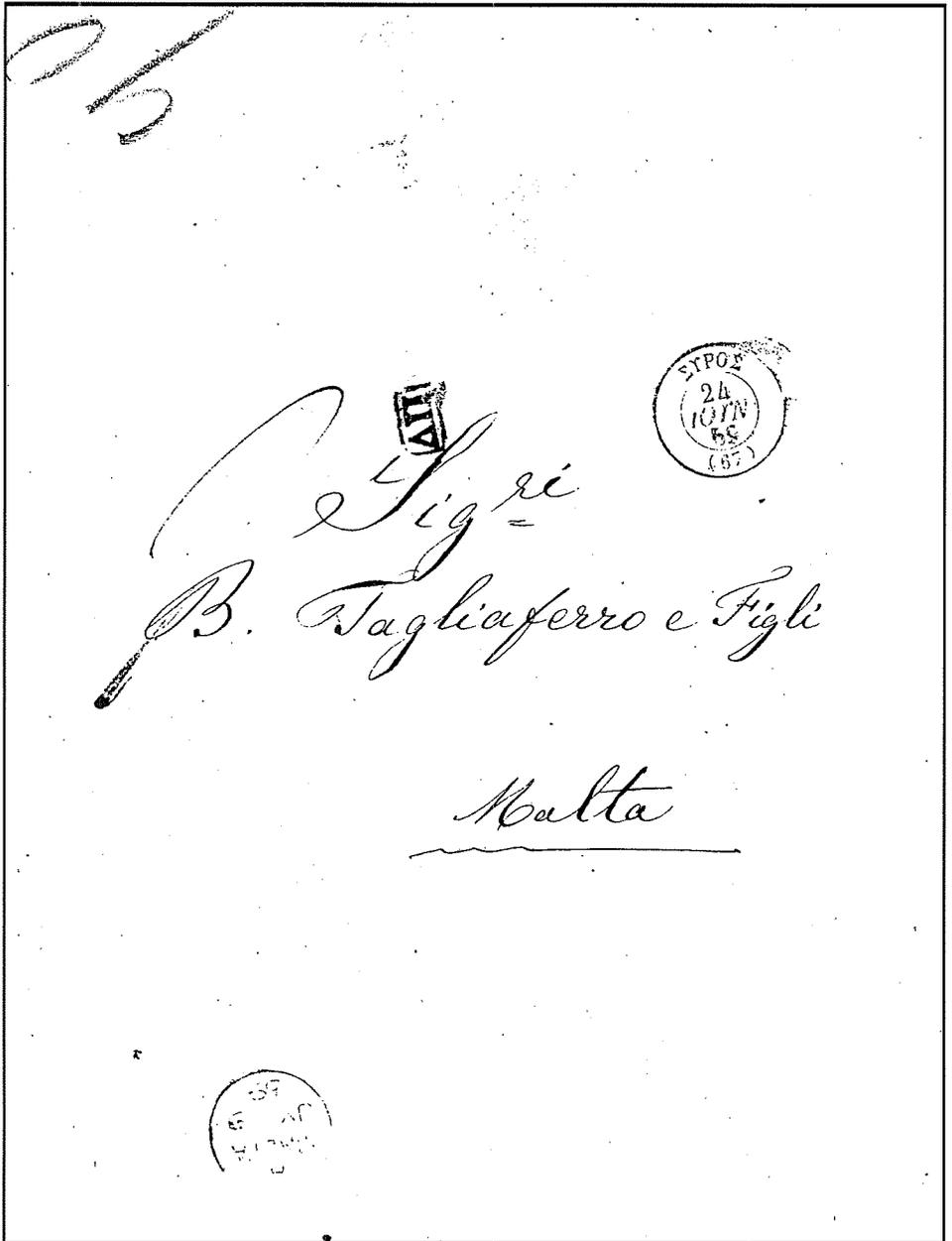
2. Written on the 16/28 May in Scio, bearing Syros 20 May 59, and Malta 8 June hand stamp, Greek Postage Due hand stamp ΔΠ, (90) Lepta in red crayon.



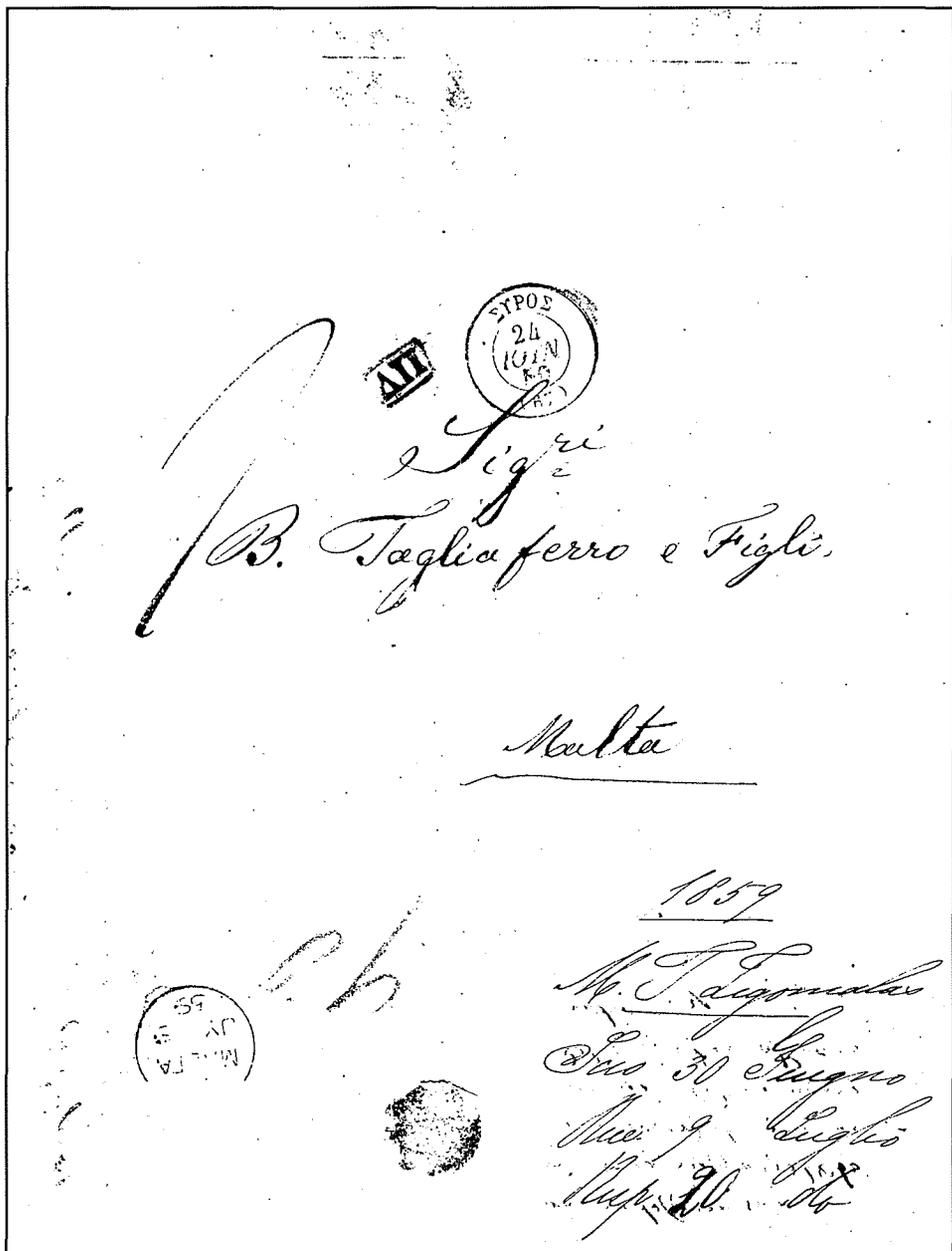
3. Written on the 27 June in Scio bearing Syros on 17 June 59, and Malta 6 July hand stamps, Greek Postage Due hand stamp ΑΙΙ, and (90) Lepta in red crayon, and manuscript (1) schilling in black ink.



4. Written on the 23 June in Scio, bearing Syros 17 June 59 and Malta 6 July hand stamp, with Greek postage due hand stamp ΔΙΙ, and clear manuscript "2" (180) lepta, and (10) in red crayon at back.



5. Written on the 18 June in Scio, bearing Syros 24 June 59 and Malta 9 July hand stamp, with Greek Postage Paid handstamp boxed ΔΙΙ, and (90) Lepta in red crayon.



6. Written on the 30 June in Scio, bearing Syros 24 June 59 and Malta 9 July hand stamps, with manuscript "1" in black ink, and (90) Lepta in red crayon, and Greek Postage Paid ΔΙΙ handstamp.

Mosoi' M'gior  
A'p'iar M'g'ou'p'ion -

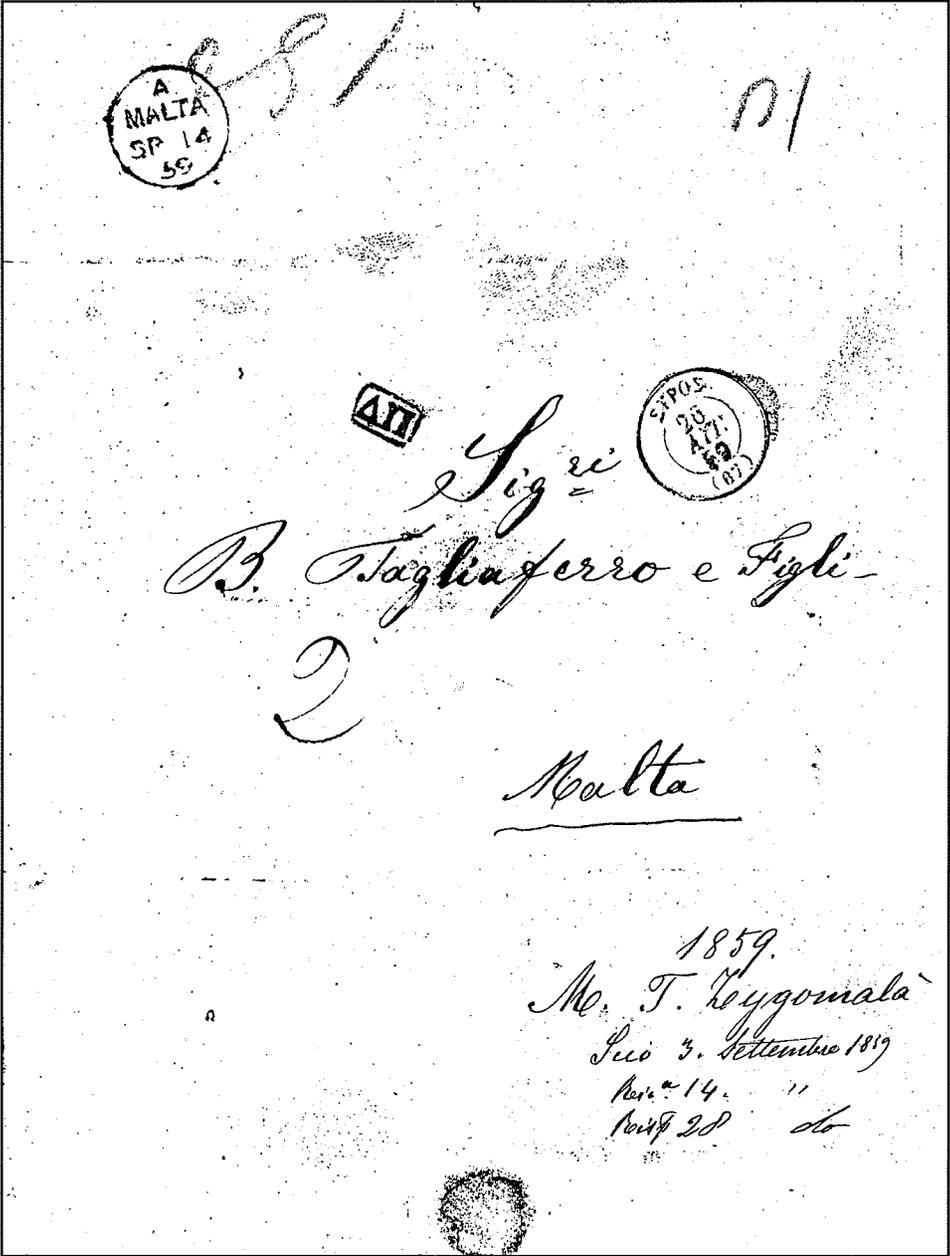
Re M'g'dar

1859

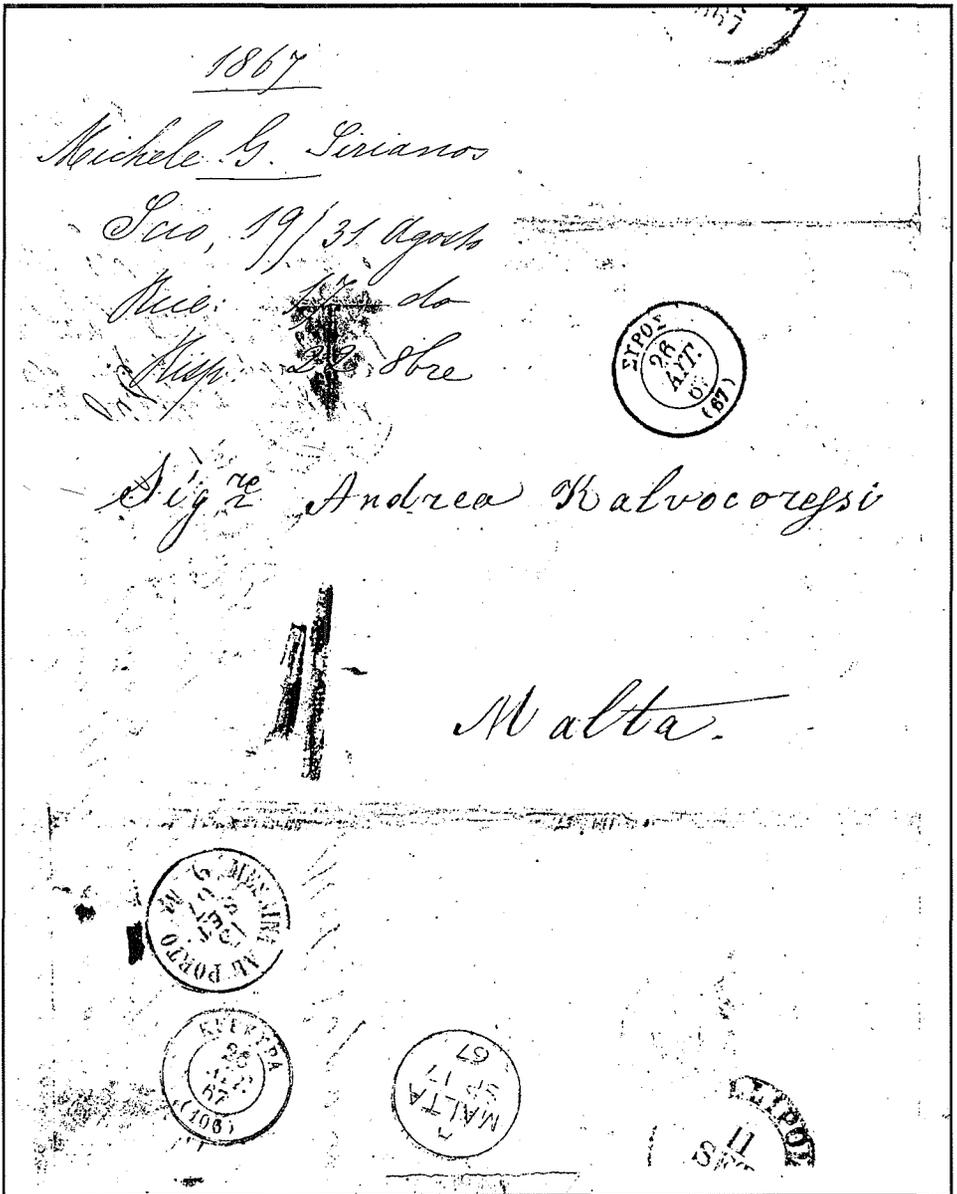
Mr. F. Sigonala

Scio 13/25 Agosto  
Pace. 26 The  
R'g'p. 28 to

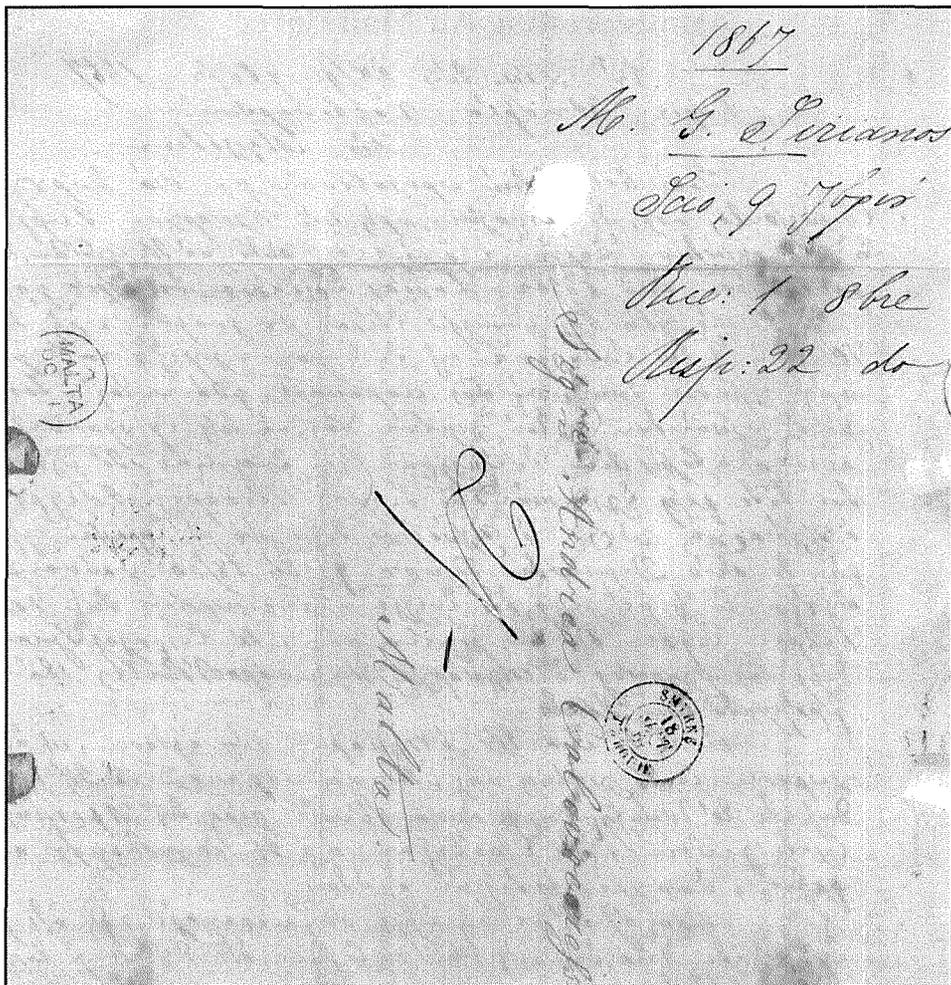
7. Entire written on the 13/25 August 59, arriving in Malta on the 26 September, with no postal hand stamps, but sent by private messenger.



8. Written on the 3 September in Scio, bearing Syros 26 August 59 and Malta 14 Sept hand stamps, Greek postage due hand stamp ΑΠΙ, excellent manuscript 2/- (schillings) in black ink, (180) lepta, and (10) in red crayon.



9. Entire written in Greek 19/31 August 1867 from G. Lirianos in Scio to Andrea Kalovocoressi an agent of the Tagliaferros in Malta, arriving 26 August in Syros, **Gallipoli in Italy** on the 11 September, Messina 15 September, and Malta 17 September.  
It bears 1/- (schilling), in thick black manuscript as postage to be paid.



10. Entire written in Greek on the 9 September by G. Lirianos to Andrea Kalovocoressi, via Smyrna Turkey 18 September, arriving in Malta 1 October, bearing 2/- (schillings) in manuscript as postage to be paid.

The Postal History Journal of America, of February 1999, Number 112, has an article on Austrian Lloyd Agency Hand stamps in the Ionian Islands by Dimitri P Zaphiriou, in which he points out that hand stamps of Ithaca, Paxos, St. Maura and Zante, shown to the national and international philatelic and postal history communities were unanimously pronounced fake. He also describes the saga of Dr Nicolas's St. Maura, and the reasons he firmly believes that it is genuine. Those that are interested in the Lloyds hand stamp should read this article.

# An Interesting Air Mail Cover

by Anthony Fenech MRPSL



*Cover No.68 from the Catania Stamp Show sent to the late Peter Buttigieg a leading Maltese Philatelist at that time.*

Between December 23, 1947 and January 2, 1948, a Philatelic Exhibition of Air Mail stamps and covers was held in Catania, the show being organized by “The Aetne Exchange Club” of Catania and “The Associazione Filatelica della Sicilia Orientale”.

A special transportation service of air correspondence from Catania to Milan and from thence to any place in the world was effected on December 27. A limited number of special envelopes were prepared and dispatched on this service.

Maltese philatelists who wished to procure such a cover had to contact Dr Cirino Antonio Capra in Catania to whom they had to send Malta current mint stamps to the value of 2s 6d for each cover.

This Exhibition Cover is franked with three Italian Air Stamps cancelled by the double ring “Mostra Aerofilatelica 23-12-1947 — 2-1-1948” special canceller dated 27-12-47. It also bears the ‘courier’ pictorial label tied to the cover by the 42mm rubber stamp, applied in red ink and inscribed “Mostra Aerofilatelica”– Catania/ 27-12-1947 / Corriere Aereo Speciale / Catania— Palermo— Reggio – Napoli – Roma – Firenze— Milano” and is endorsed “VIA MILANO”, the hub from where all the covers were dispatched to their destination. The cover was delivered in Cospicua on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1948.

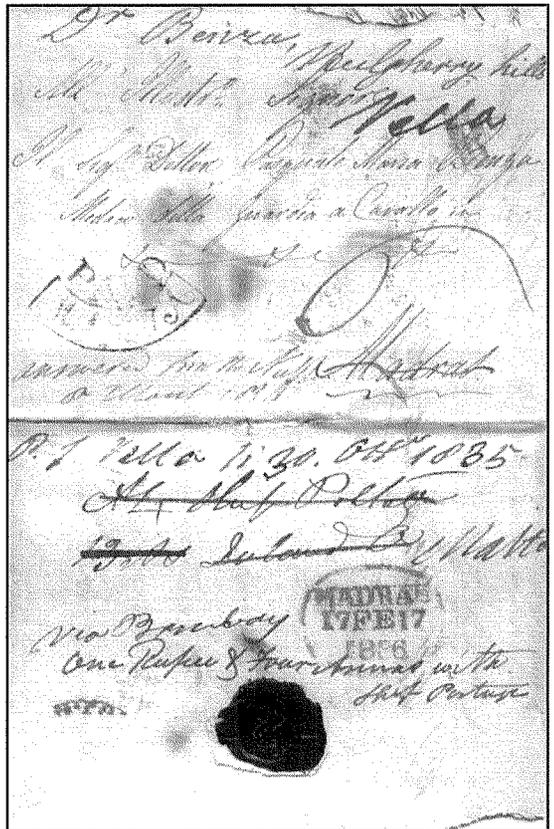
# An interesting letter from Malta to India, 1835

by L. De Zanche

Dated 30 October 1835 and addressed to Dr Pasquale Maria Benza, this letter was sent from Malta to Madras and from there forwarded to Neilgherry (now Nilgiris) Hills. The sender paid the postage (6d) as far as Alexandria (black impression of the marking PAID MALTA type MSP – 1c).

In his recent book ‘Admiralty Mediterranean Steam Packets’, C. Tabcart writes that “*despite a careful search of the known records, no British postage rate has been found for mails carried by British packets between places within the Mediterranean until the Act of 1 Victoria c34*”, dated 1 August 1837. He quotes also the Act 1 and 2 Victoria c97 (14 August 1838), which reads: “... *for every single letter (not having been first brought or conveyed from the United Kingdom, or not being intended to be conveyed to the United Kingdom) transmitted between any of the Ports or Islands or Places aforesaid [among them those situated upon the Mediterranean Sea, therefore also Malta] and any port or Place in the East Indies by way of the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf, in addition to any other rates of postage, which may be payable in respect of such last mentioned Letters, the sum of Sixpence*”. The fact that my 1835 letter was charged 6d suggests that the provisions were merely a re-statement of what was already in existence.

C. Tabcart has kindly commented my letter in this way: “*Your letter left Malta on the Constance, arriving Alexandria 26 October. The letter probably took 3 or 4 days to get to Suez, but there it waited many weeks. The East India Company Steamers were extremely poor at keeping any sort of timetable.*”



*The next one of their ships to leave Suez that I know of was the Hugh Lindsay: she left Suez on 4 January 1836, arriving Bombay after an incredibly slow journey on 10 February. This would seem to fit quite well with your Madras date of 17 February”.*

The remaining postage, to be paid by the addressee, appears on the back of the letter: A[nnas] 4 Ship Postage [+] 13 A[nnas] Inland; via Bombay One rupee & four Annas with Ship Postage.

The letter shows some discoloration and signs of scorching: in 1835 cholera had reached Italy, but not Malta. Two are the possible places where the letter was submitted to disinfection by exposure to heat: Alexandria or, more probably, the locality of arrival in India. I am inclined to believe that the sanitary treatment was privately performed by the addressee.

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### ***Postal Markings on the Tuck’s Oilette postcards illustrated in Vol. 31, Nos. 1 and 2 of The PSM Journal***

by Joseph Geraci

Mr Geraci thinks that the above mentioned cards were prepared by someone who perhaps had some unused Malta cards in his possession and wanted to dress them up.

His reasons are as follows:

1. As you point out in your article in Vol. 31, No. 1, there were at least three different applications of the “postmark” – the word “Malta”, the circle frame and finally the date. There may have been another application necessary as well, as there seems to be a horizontal line below the date in most of the strikes, which extends quite far to the right. At first I thought it might be associated with the date, but there is no line below the date struck in the lower left corner of the card illustrated in Vol. 31, No. 1. It may either be associated with the word “Malta”, or an entirely separate application. This all means that each application of this “postmark” was rather labour intensive, taking a lot of time to apply each facet. In addition, each card illustrated has three strikes of the “postmark”! Even if each application was struck three times in a row, before the next application, it still took more time than normal to apply these markings. Each facet is applied quite neatly and carefully, and not as though the individual was in a hurry to complete his task, as would be the case with a busy purser aboard a vessel. Would a purser aboard a vessel have that much free time to apply his markings so carefully?
2. I am unable to find a record of a vessel “Malta” operating in the Mediterranean Sea in 1906. Reg. Kirk, in his *British Maritime Postal History, Vol. 2, The P.*

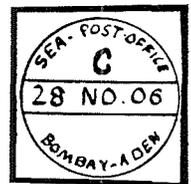
& *O. Lines to the Far East*, page 149, records the inward and outward bound vessels on the Colombo-London run during 1906. None of the vessels are named “Malta”. However, there is a record of a vessel “Malta”, which ran between Colombo and Shanghai, but not in the Mediterranean. I cannot trace where this “Malta” was on 2 October 1906, the date on the cards, but on 21 October, this “Malta” was at Colombo.

Could the cards have been posted aboard this vessel in Far Eastern waters? It is possible, but I do not see any transit or arrival markings on either of these cards, as would normally be the case at this date. One would think the French postal administration would have postmarked the cards upon receipt, or at least upon return, when they entered the post again. But then, where would the cards be returned to? There is no return address on either card. In that case, normally, they would have gone to the Dead Letter Office, and surely a postmark, or some notation, would be applied there.

3. The use of Indian official stamps for postage is highly unusual. These overprinted stamps were for use exclusively by Indian Government agencies. It was illegal for them to be used for other than public purposes, and especially by private individuals.
4. Jal Cooper’s book, *Indian Used Abroad*, Bombay, 1950, page 100, illustrated several different types of maritime markings normally associated with Indian mail. The earlier type, (Type 3c), is merely inscribed “Sea Post Office” with the date. (A review of *T.P.O.*, the Magazine of the T.P.O. & Seapost Society (Vol. 3, No. 5, page 101), reveals Type 3c was employed from 1905 through November 1907.) A later type, (Type 4), dated November 1906, is inscribed “Sea Post Office/C/ (date)/Bombay-Aden.” Neither type mentions the name of the vessel on which it was used.



Type 3c.



Type 4

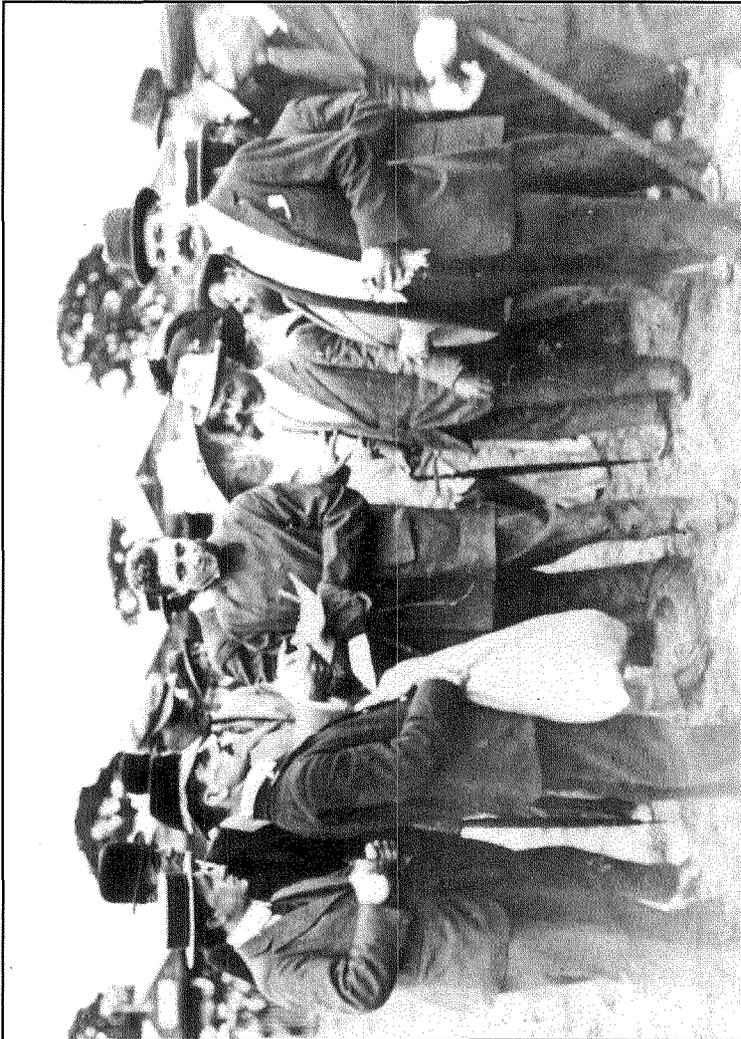
5. The rate for a postcard from India to France at this time was 1 anna, so the denomination of the stamp is correct.

For these various reasons, I suspect that the two cards are privately prepared fantasies. That the perpetrator got the postal rate correct is a bit of luck!

## More about the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1911 – U.K. Coronation Aerial Post

by Dr A. Bonnici K.M., M.D., MRPSL

Since my article “Philately and Pioneer Aviation in Malta etc.”, December 2002 Vol.31/3 issue, Stampex 2003 has been held, and Mr Anthony Fenech has kindly forwarded me the photograph of Pilot Gustav Hamel who flew the first regular airmail on 9 September 1911 from Hendon to Windsor for the Coronation Aerial Post, and the commemorative post card issued in a limited edition of 7,500 at the Spring Stampex 2003.



*Pilot Gustav Hamel*



# POSTAL DIARY (2002)

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

by Anthony Fenech MRPSL

## 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.

MALTA  
POST  
IIIIII



## 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.

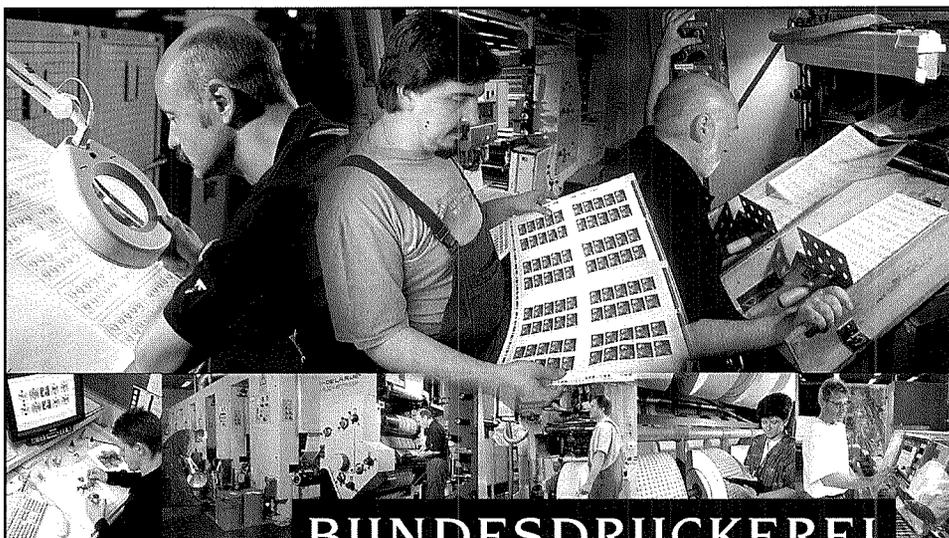
## 19 December

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.



## BUNDESDRUCKEREI

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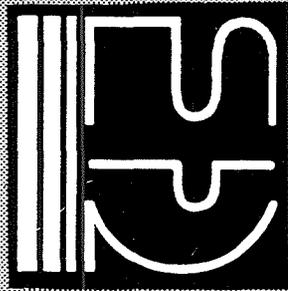
For many years, Bundesdruckerei has enjoyed close contacts with numerous postal administrations around the world, who draw on our expertise in key areas, from design through to the production and finishing of definitive and commemorative stamps.

Thanks to Bundesdruckerei's support, several post offices have issued attractive national collections over the years, which have been included in the diverse motif collections of countless discerning philatelists.

Examples include the post offices of Malta, Moldova,

Bosnia and Hercegovina and the Palestinian postal administration, for whom Bundesdruckerei regularly designs and produces postage stamps.





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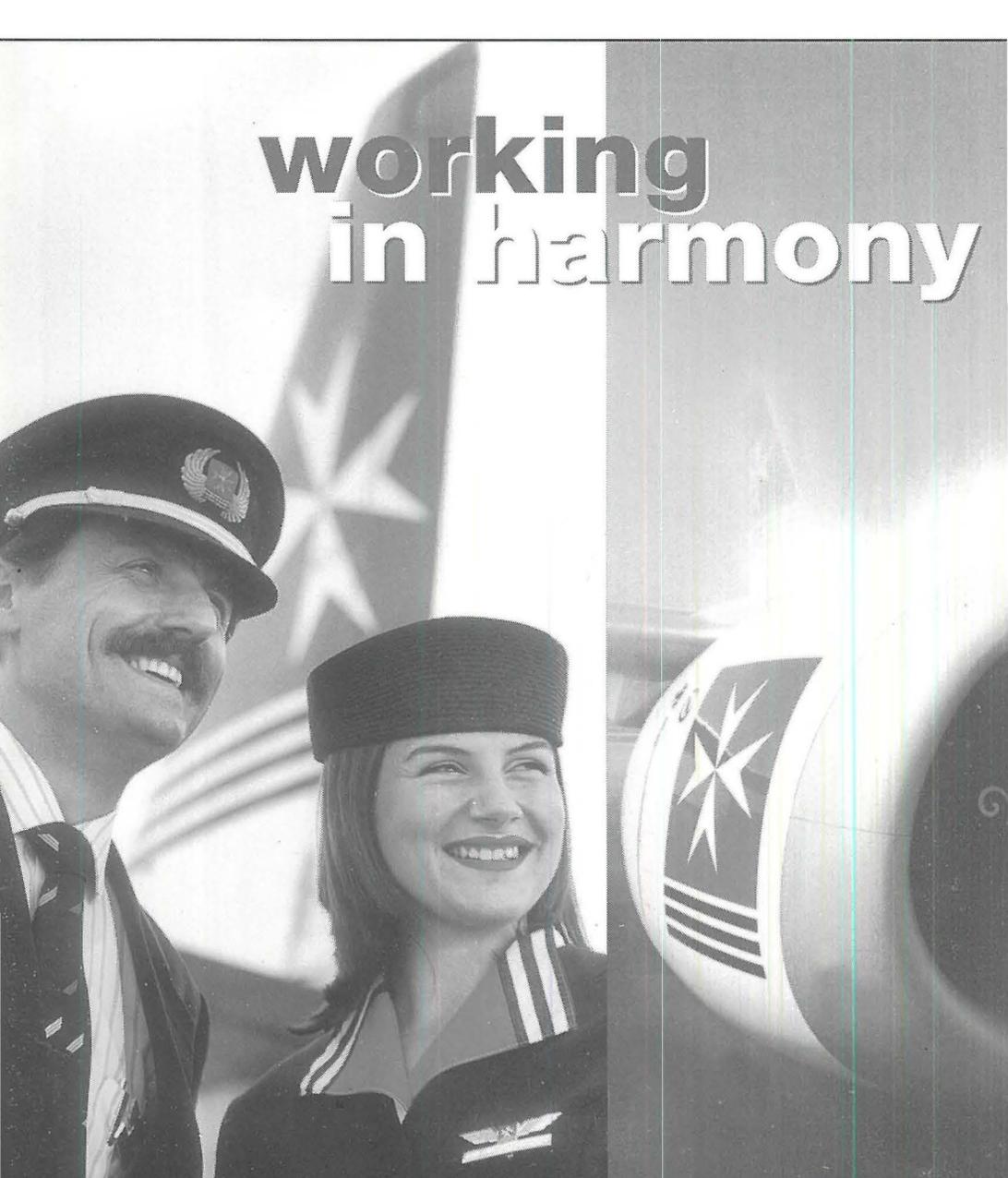
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# St George Paintings



**Date of Issue:**

23 . IV . 2003

**Design:**

Joseph Mizzi

**Date of Withdrawal:**

22 . IV . 2004

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Address



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