

# More Scio Malta Correspondence

*By Dr A Bonnici KM, MD, MRPSL*

In 1856, besides the Lloyd-Triestino line, there were also the English and French ships carrying mail in the Mediterranean.

In 1856 an Anglo French Postal Convention was drawn up, and signed between the English and French postal authorities.

The convention regulated mainly postage rates which of course included rates to be charged for correspondence, posted in France or Algeria addressed to Malta or vice versa.

The principle of charging a higher rate for unpaid letters received, (8d per  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce), than for paid letters despatched, (4d per  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce), applied not only for letters between France and Malta, but also to letters conveyed by French packets between Malta and the other countries, where France maintained Post Offices, such as several places in Turkey, Syria, or Egypt. The British Post Office was entitled to be credited with a British rate both upon paid and unpaid letters sent to and from Malta, this is the reason why we find an English rate on these letters. (pg. 4,6,7).

However letters brought to Malta from the posts of Italy or Greece, no rate was to be accounted for to France by the British Post Office in Malta, as the French Post Office would have received payment of its postage from its despatching office.

As only the French rate, however, would have been received, France would not, therefore account to the British Post Office, for any postage on such letters, so a British rate of one penny per  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce was to be collected on the delivery of the letters in Malta, and the same British rate, in addition to the French Rate was to be collected on letters from Malta to the ports of Italy or Greece (pg. 4,6,7).

This type of mail was normally carried by the “Paquebots Poste Français” called “Messageries Imperiales” , which had several ships operating between 1852-1868.

Mail was cancelled on board. The strike of a double ring hand stamp, incorporated the ship's name between the upper two rings, day-month-year in the middle ring, and a star between the bottom two rings. (pg. 3)

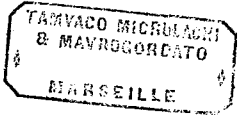
Sometimes between the two lower rings we find “BAT A VAP” (i.e. steamship).

Besides this hand stamp of the name of the ship, e.g. “PHASE”, later an additional dot and anchor hand stamp was used to cancel the stamp. (pg. 3). A fully illustrated and detailed article, will be featured in the future.



*Par P.P. des Messageries Impériales*

*Messrs*  
*B Tagliapiero & figli*



PD

*Malte*

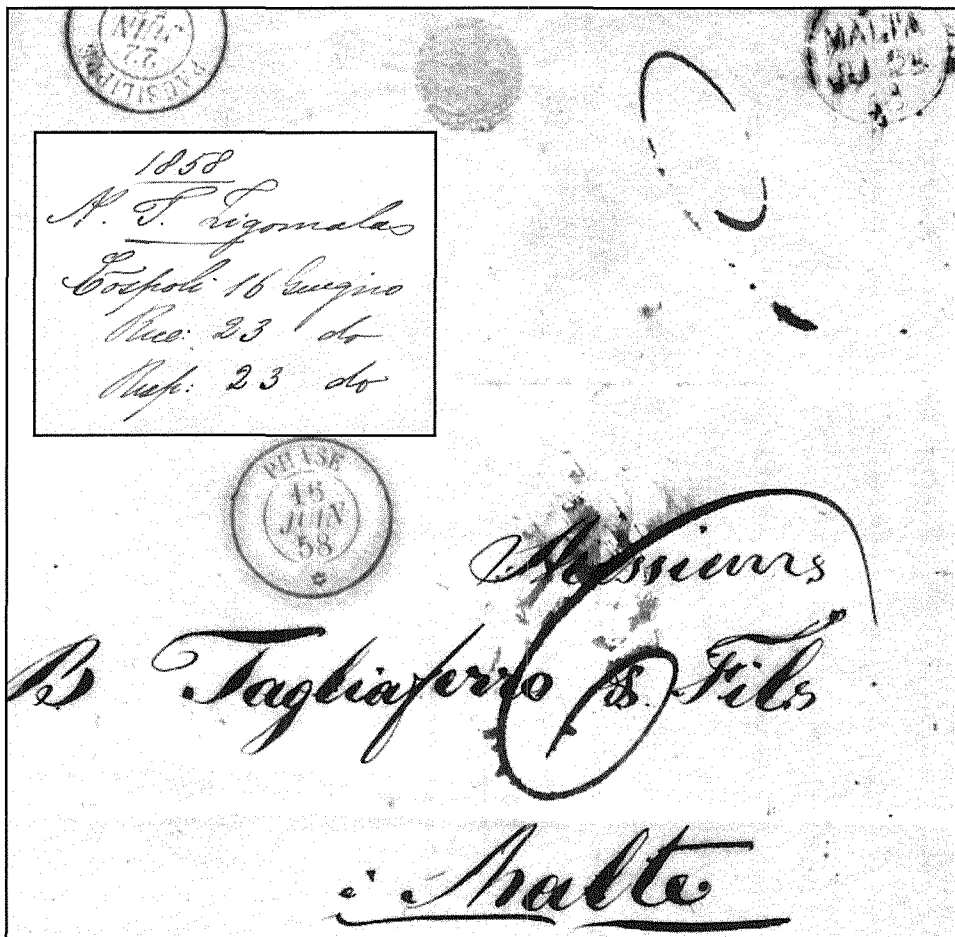
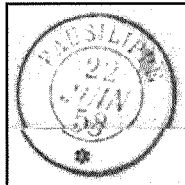
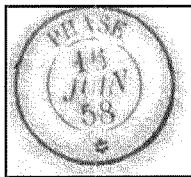


*1863.*

*Tauvaco Microlachi*  
*& Mavrogordato*  
*Marsiglia 25. aprile*  
*Paris 29. 8*  
*Scop 1. Maggio*

Entire leaving Marsiglia on 29 April 1863 by means of the Messageries Imperiales "PHASE", having also the dot and anchor obliterator.

**Unusual rare double ship franking by two different ships: Phase - Pausilippe, on same entire.**



This entire from Constantinople was written on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1858. It did not have a pre-paid rate, so the double rate applied which was 6 pence collected in Malta.

It left on board the Messageries Imperiales "Phase".

During this period there was a two weekly service between Marseille and Malta, calling at Genoa / Livorno / Città Vecchia / Naples / Messina – Malta and vice versa.

And a two weekly service between Marseille and the east, calling at Malta / Syria / Smyrna / Metelin / Dardanelles / Gallipoli / Constantinopole and vice versa.

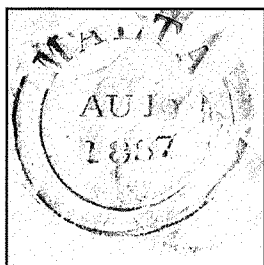
In addition there was a supplementary service between Marseille and Constantinopole calling at Messina / Pireo / Constantinopole, and vice versa.

So this entire must have been picked up by this supplementary service at Constantinopole by the Phase which brought it to Messina, and transferred it on to the Pausilippe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June arriving in Malta the next day 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Pausilippe was coming down from Marseille.

The Phase hand stamp of 16 June 1858 makes this hand stamp, the earliest recorded so far, beating the present recorded one, by five years (1863).

### Different arrival Malta hand stamps on entires from Scio

19 AU 1857

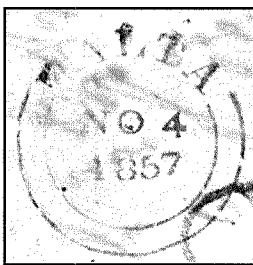


MLC-Ic (30mm)

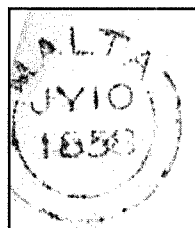
Earliest recorded date 1 AU 1848

Latest Recorded date 18 DE 1857

4 NO 1857



10 JY 1858

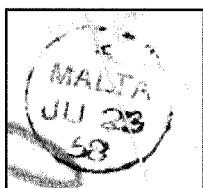


MLC-Id (24 1/2 mm)

Earliest recorded date

15 JU 1856

23 JU 1858

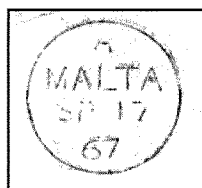


Small MAL - 11 (18mm)

Earliest Recorded date JU 1858

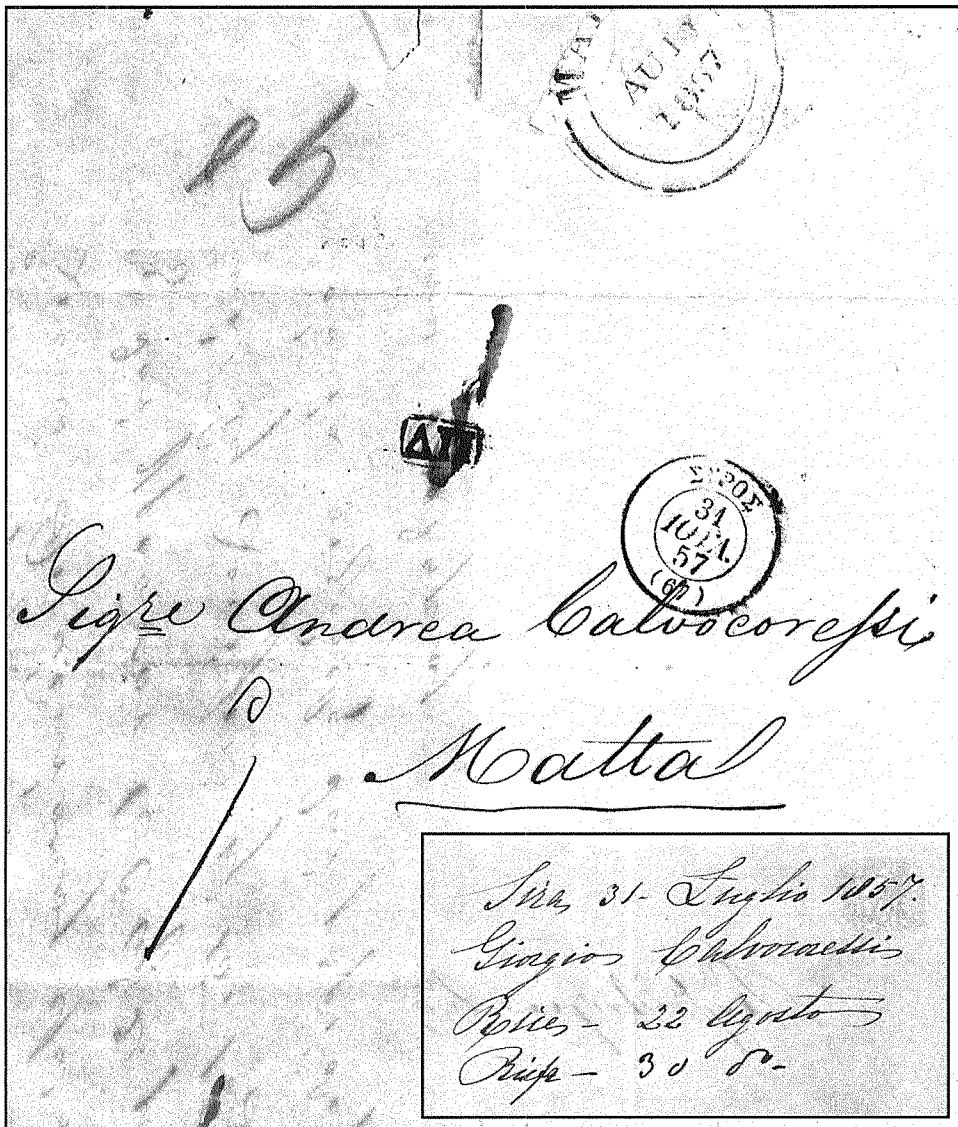
Latest Recorded date 1866


17 SP 1867



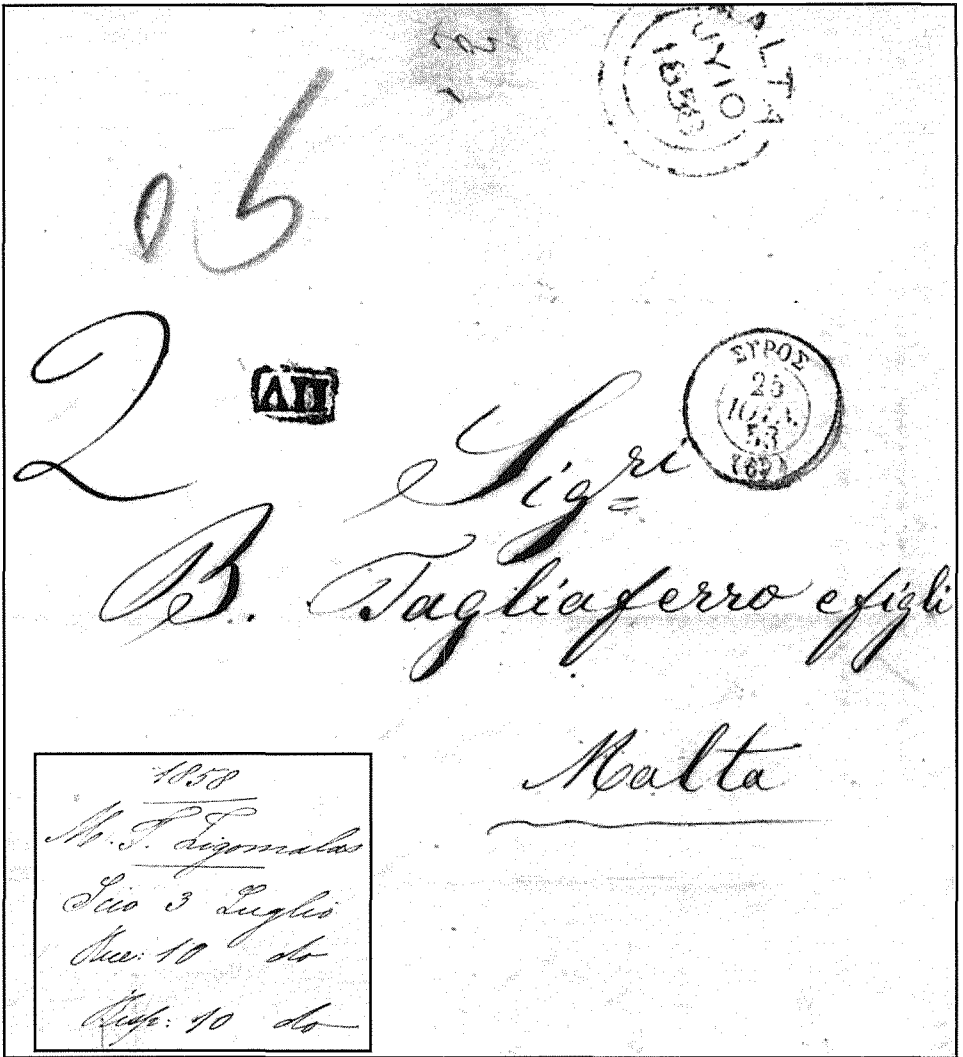
Large MAL - 11 (20mm)

Earliest Recorded date 17 SP 1867



This entire written in Greek bearing Scio 31st July 1857, / Greek postage due  / 90 Lepta in red crayon, Greek currency on back / 1d per ¼ ounce manuscript, as per 1856 Anglo French Postal Convention, which was to be collected in Malta and paid to the British Post Office, / and Malta 19th August 1857, double ring MLC-Ic (30mm) in black.

I could only trace two such Malta arrival hand stamps in this correspondence the other bearing the arrival hand stamp of 4th November 1857.



This entire written in Greek, leaving Scio on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1858 (25<sup>th</sup> June) arriving in Malta on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1858.

It is the only recorded entire in this correspondence bearing the Malta JY 10, 1858 hand stamp. (MLC-Id (24 $\frac{1}{2}$  mm)

It bears the usual Greek postage due hand stamp ΑΠ, beautiful manuscript 2 (pence) in black ink, in accordance with the new British rate to be collected on arrival in Malta and passed on to the British Post Office, and 90 lepta Greek currency, in red crayon.



We also find 3 in blue crayon, and the accounting rates  $4.75 \times 3 = 14.25$  which also appear as  $14\frac{1}{4}$ , probably what was due to the French Post Office.

However the entire went first to Syra, where the forwarding agent Georges Calvacoressi applied his hand stamp - cachet, and crossed the "Pir/Mes".

This entire arrived as per hand stamp at KEPRYPA on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1867. - Gallipoli in Italy on 11 Dec. Messina al Porto on the 13 Dec., and arriving in Malta on the 17 Dec. 1867, where a charge of  $1/6$  was to be collected.

