

# POSTAL DIARY (2003)

## 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003

*by Anthony Fenech MRPSL*

### 02 January

Maltapost plc is closed down today for Staff holidays. Postal services will resume in Malta and Gozo tomorrow.

### 02 January

The S.P.O. at Sliema closed temporarily from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> January both days inclusive.

### 30 January

Six additional values in the 'Maltese Flowers' Definitive Set are being issued today. The 6 values are 7c, 22c, 28c, 37c, 45c and 76c. The stamps are printed in sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH (Germany). The design of these additional values has been entrusted to Maurice Tanti Burlo'. A First Day of Issue handstamp inscribed "Fjuri Maltin/Jum il-Hrug/30.01.03/— — — —/Malta" has been prepared by the



Maltapost Philatelic Bureau. The stamps are previewed in “The Malta Stamp” bulletin No.203 (January 2003).

## 17 February

Today Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has issued the 2002 Year Pack, this being the fifteenth in the series. This year’s cover shows the Gino Theuma prize-winning photograph of the two clowns, from which last year’s stamp, designed by Roberta Zahra was taken. This stamp was chosen as the Best EUROPA stamp design for 2002, out of a total of 44 designs, submitted to PostEurop by European Member Postal Administrations. The prize-winning 16c Malta Stamp is also featured on a Postcard included with the Pack or which could be bought separately over the Branches counters.

## 22 February

Temporary closure of Qrendi S.P.O., between today and 1 March 2003, both days inclusive.

## 26 February

The Vintage Cars thematic stamps set issued today. The stamps in the set valued at 2c, 7c, 10c, 26c and 35c are designed by Joe P. Smith and printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH in sheets of 10 stamps. The First Day handstamp reads: “Vintage Cars/Jum il-Hrug/26.02.2003/— — — —/Malta”. The stamps are previewed in the Philatelic Bureau”“The Malta Stamp” bulletin No.204 (February 2003).



To complement the set, Maltapost plc has issued a set of five postcards numbered 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

## 26 February

A special hand postmark inscribed “Spring 2003/Stampex/ 26.02 – 02.03/Valetta – Malta” will be in use at the Counter Hall, Valetta, between today and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March during office hours. An identical hand postmark will be used also at the Maltapost plc Stand at Stampex 2003 Stamp Show being held at the Business Design Hall, Islington, North London.



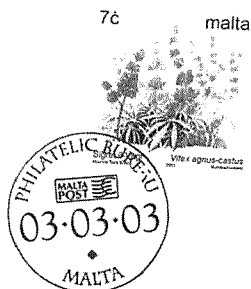
## 01 March

As of 1<sup>st</sup> March, all cancelling of mail, presently being done at the Branches, has to

show one standard time only – namely of 11.00 am. This eliminates the present system whereby different times are being recorded. Gozo only is to show 11.00 am and 7.00 pm.

### 03 March

03.03.03 Philatelic Bureau Card, the third in the series, has been issued today. This year's card includes a 7c stamp from the Definitive Additional Values Issue, showing the "Virgin Bush" (Sigret il-Virgi) and stamped with this date. This card can be sent through the post without any additional postage, provided it is posted by not later than Saturday, March 8, 2003. Cards similarly cancelled and posted after this date are to carry stamps affixed thereon to cover the required postage.



### 08 March

The Maltapost Branches of Balzan, Valletta (Old Bakery Street), Hamrun and Zebbug in Malta and Gharb, Ghajnsielem, Nadur and Xaghra in Gozo will be closed for business today because of their proximity to polling booths. All other Branches will be open for business.

### 15 March

Bugibba S.P.O. will be temporarily closed between 15 and 29 March both days inclusive.

### 21 March

The Military Architecture postage stamps set issued today. The values of the five stamps in the set are 1c, 4c, 11c, 16c, and 44c. Stephen C. Spiteri has designed the stamps which are printed in sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH in Germany. The First Day of Issue handstamp is inscribed "Military Architecture/Jum il-Hrug/21.03.2003/— — —/Malta". The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau has previewed this set in its bulletin "The Malta Stamp" No 205 (March 2003). The stamps will be withdrawn from the Maltapost plc counters on 20 March 2004.



## 28 March

Three new Occasion Cards featuring Malta's award winning stamp in last year's EUROPA series are being issued today. Besides the Malta "Clown" stamp in full colour, which is common to the three cards, the surrounding area of the cards features, in sepia monochrome, all the participating stamps from the 44 Member Countries of PostEurop, together with the title "Best Europa 2002 Circus Stamp". The cards may be sent through the post without any additional postage, up to Thursday 3 April.



## 12 April

Due to General Elections and also to tie in with the Easter weekend, all Maltapost Branches in Malta and in Gozo will be kept closed and there will be no delivery of mail on Saturday 12, Monday 14 and Saturday 19 April.

## 16 April

Maltapost has launched a Postcard Booklet consisting of five detachable postcards with different views of the Maltese Islands and six 16c stamps – 16c being the rate to all countries in Zone A and the Mediterranean Basin.

## 23 April

A new postage stamp set "St George Paintings" designed by Joseph Mizzi and printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH is being issued today. The stamps valued at 3c, 7c, 14c, 19c and 27c are offset printed in sheets of 10 stamps. The set will be withdrawn from the Maltapost counters on 22 April 2004. "The Malta Stamp" bulletin (No 206 – April 2003) issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau features the stamps in the set. A First Day special handstamp inscribed "St George Paintings/Jum il-Hrug" is shown in the image.



– 23.04.03/— — —/Malta” is being used to cancel the new stamps issued today. Two postcards, one featuring St George at the Victoria, Gozo Basilica (14c value) and the other, the Martyrdom of St. George at the Qormi Parish Church (19c value) have also been issued today.

## 27 April

The Maltapost Mobile Unit will be stationed at St. George’s Square in Victoria, Gozo, on Sunday 27 April between 8.00 am and 12.30 pm for philatelic sales relating to the recent stamp issue “St. George Paintings”.

## 07 May

A machine stamp canceling slogan reading “Richmond Foundation/for Community/mental health/10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/1993-2003” will be used from the 7 May to the 6 June 2003 at The Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

## 09 May

The 2003 Europa set of 2 postage stamps valued 16c and 46c is being issued today. The stamps designed by Debbie Caruana Dingli feature two Poster stamps “Cisk Beer” and “Carnival 1939”. Bundesdruckerei offset printed the stamps in sheets of 10 stamps. The withdrawal date of this set is 8 May 2004. Maltapost has provided a special handstamp inscribed “Jum il-Hrug 9-5-03/Europa 2003/— — — —/Malta” for its First Day of Issue cancellations. The Malta Philatelic Bureau features the Europa stamps in its “Malta Stamp” bulletin No 207 (May 2003).



## 09 May

A Postal Card on the occasion of Maltapost’s participation in this year’s edition of Spring Veronafil is being issued by Maltapost Philatelic Bureau today. The card carries an imprint of this year’s Europa issue dedicated to Poster Art and shows also the Veronafil logo in colour. This card is being cancelled with the special handstamp inscribed “100a Veronafil/Maltapost/09 – 11.05.2003”. This postmark will be applied at the Veronafil Exhibition as well as at the Valletta Counter Hall, at Dar Annona, on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 November 2003.



## 12 May

Maltapost has recently set up an international mail hub in Malta for mail transiting to a number of regional Mediterranean countries. The hub is situated at the Malta International Airport.

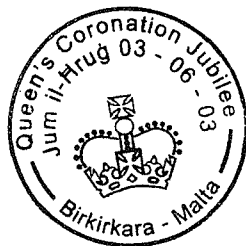
## 26 May

The “Games of the Small States of Europe – 2003” stamp set issued today. This set has been designed by Richard J. Caruana in a similar style and format to that used in the 1993 set, designed by the same artist for the Games of that year, also held in Malta. The values of the stamps in the set are 25c, 50c, 75c and Lm3, all offset printed in sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The withdrawal date of the stamps is the 25 May 2004. A special First Day of Issue handstamp inscribed “GSSE/Jum il-Hrug/26.05.03/ — — — /Malta” has been provided for the canceling of mail franked with the new stamps. The Malta Philatelic Bureau has previewed this set in its bulletin “The Malta Stamp” No 208 (May 2003).



## 03 June

A new postage stamp set and Miniature Sheet marking Queen Elizabeth’s Coronation Golden Jubilee have been issued today. The stamp values in the set are 12c, 15c, 22c and 60c and that on the stamp in the Miniature Sheet Lm1. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau issued its “The Malta Stamp” bulletin No. 209 (June 2003) to preview the new stamps in this set. The stamps are offset printed in sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. A First Day of Issue commemorative handstamp has been prepared by the Philatelic Bureau; it reads “Queen’s Coronation Jubilee/Jum il-Hrug 03-06-03/ — — — /Malta”



Maltapost has also issued today an Occasion Card featuring the Queen’s Coronation Lm1 Souvenir Sheet.

## 23 June

As from today, until further notice, the Branches or Hub involved in the distribution process will start an hour earlier; in other words the starting time for Postal Operators will be 06:30 hours.