

# POSTAL DIARY (2003)

## 1 July - 1 December 2003

by Mr Anthony Fenech. MRPSL.

### 01 July

Issue of the Elton John Souvenir Sheet incorporating four images of the well known pop singer who was giving one of his concerts at the Granaries, Floriana that week and a Lm1.50 perforated stamp — Valletta by night – issued last year as a Postage stamp label. The 125 x 90mm sheet was designed by J.P. Advertising Ltd. and offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH.



A special First Day of Issue handstamp inscribed “eltonjohn - Malta/Jum il-hrug – 01.07.03/—/Malta” was provided by Maltapost plc to cancel the sheets used on First Day. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau issued its bulletin “The Malta Stamp” (No 210)— July 2003) on this occasion.

### 16 July

The Maltapost Branch Post Office in Zejtun has been transferred temporarily to the Pastoral Centre, at Dar Santa Katerina, behind the Parish Church.

### 17 July

Maltapost has issued Postage Paid Envelopes in different sizes showing different Firms logos and addresses on the top left corner.

### 18 July

Maltapost has today installed three new Frama Stamp Vending machines at its Branches in Sciortino Street, Zebbug, Victory Street, Qormi and in 9<sup>th</sup> April Street, Luqa. Maltapost also said that the machines in use at The Malta International Airport departure lounge, at Casa Annona Branch, Castille Place, Valletta, at St.Luke’s Hospital and at the entrance to Portomaso would be withdrawn for servicing on the 23 July and replaced by other machines bearing different numbers.

## 20 July

A special hand postmark—"Bazilika San Gorg \* Festi Centinarji \* Victoria – Gozo – 20-VII-2003" will be in use at St.George's Basilica, Victoria, Gozo, today Sunday, between 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.



## 21 July

Maltapost will be using a machine stamp cancelling slogan marking the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Technical and Military Assistance by The Italian Military Mission, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa, from today until August 2. The slogan reads "Missione Italiana/di Assistenza Tecnico Militare/ 1973/ 30 Anniversario/2003/ 01.08.03.



## 31 July

New Barcoded Registration labels introduced.

## 01 August

A special hand postmark—"Missione Italiana di Assistenza Tecnico Militare/30 Anniversario" will be in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta today, 1 August 2003, during office hours.

## 06 August

The delivery Branches of Zejtun, Zabbar, B'Bugia, Paola and Cospicua are relocated at the Southern Postal Delivery Hub at Zejtun.

## 08 August

Maltapost will be relocating all its P.O.Boxes housed at The Auberge D'Aragon, in West Street, Valletta to new and more convenient premises at The Valletta Market Complex, in Merchants Street. Mail service from Auberge d'Aragon will be suspended as from today.

## 13 August

The S.P.O. at Tarxien closed temporarily from Wednesday 13 to Saturday 23 August, both days inclusive.

## 16 August

The public is advised that by agreement with The Malta Communications Authority and The Union Haddiema Maghqudin, all Maltapost Branches in Malta and Gozo will be closed for business today and no mail will be delivered.

## 18 August

The SPO's at Dingli, Ghaxaq and Mgarr closed temporarily as shown here:

Dingli	(from Monday 18 to Saturday 23 August)
Mgarr	(from Monday 18 to Wednesday 27 August)
Ghaxaq	(from Monday 18 to Saturday 30 August)

## 20 August

A new postage stamp sheetlet of 16 stamps – Seashells – has been issued today. The sheetlet of 16 (7c) stamps designed by Andrew Micallef depicts Mediterranean seashells. The stamps are offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. A special handstamp depicting a seashell (Banded cockle) and inscribed – “Seashells/Jum il-hrug/20.08.03/ — —/Malta” has been provided to cancel all the philatelic mail franked with the seashells stamps used on the first day of issue. “The Malta Stamp” bulletin No 211 (August 2003), text by Charles Cachia, featuring the seashells stamps has been issued by The Malta Philatelic Bureau. Two different sizes of First Day envelopes were issued by Maltapost for this set.



## 20 August

Maltapost plc invites interested parties to submit their proposals for:

- printing of a stamp album
- design, lay out, photography, scanning of a high quality 600 page publication.

Sealed documents are to reach the Purchasing Manager at Maltapost plc, 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, by noon 25 August 2003.

## 23 August

Attard SPO also closed temporarily from Saturday 23 and Saturday 30 August inclusive.

## 30 September

The—"Sailing" stamp set designed by Francis X. Ancilleri issued today. The set consists of three stamps valued at 8c, 22c, and 35c offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH of Germany. The First Day special handstamp reads: "Sailing/— —/Malta/Jum il-hrug/30.09.03" and shows a yacht in the middle. This set has been previewed in "The Malta Stamp" bulletin No. 212 (September 2003).



## 02 October

Maltapost will be using as from today until the 8th instant, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "GWU 60 sena ta' hidma/1943 – 2003" at its Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

## 03 October

A special hand postmark inscribed "GWU – 60 Anniversary" will be in use at the Counter Hall at Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, on Friday 3 October 2003, during office hours.

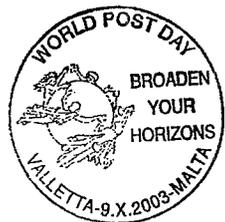


## 08 October

The delivery Branches at Mellieha, St.Paul's Bay, Mosta, Naxxar, Balzan and Birkirkara are relocated at the Northern Postal Delivery Hub at Lija.

## 09 October

Another special hand postmark "World Post Day" in use today (9 October) at Dar Annona Counter Hall, Castille Place, Valletta, during office hours.



## 10 – 12 October

Maltex 2003 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 2003/10-12 October/St.Publius Hall – Floriana – Malta” is being used to cancel postal items.



## 11 October

A machine slogan is being used as from today until the 25 October at the Central Mail Room, Marsa. It reads: ‘Gazzetta “Il-Furjana”/1953 Ottubru 2003’.

## 22 October

Two Stamp Booklets containing 23 x 23mm self-adhesive stamps, produced in a convenient size to fit in one’s wallet, have been issued today. One booklet contains 12 x 7c stamps for local postage and the other 6 x 16c stamps for postage to Europe and the Mediterranean Basin.



An official commemorative envelope has been provided and a special first day postmark has been used to cancel mail franked with the Booklets adhesive stamps on the first day of issue. The special commemorative postmark read: “Self-Adhesive/stamp booklet/Jum il-hrug/22-10-2003/— —/Malta”.

## 29 October

A new stamp issue depicting Maltese Windmills issued today. The stamps (values 11c, 27c, and 45c) are designed by Mark.A.Vella and offset printed in sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. Maltapos: has prepared a special First Day of Issue handstamp reading: “Windmills/— —/Malta/Jum il-hrug/29.10.03.” “The Malta Stamp” bulletin No. 213 (October 2003) has been issued by the Maltapost Philatelic Bureau to preview the stamps.



### 03 November

The Delivery Branches of Sliema, Gzira, Msida, St.Julian's and San Gwann are relocated at the Sliema Postal Delivery Hub at Gzira.

### 04 November

Maltapost has today issued the schedule of the latest posting dates for Christmas mail going overseas. The latest posting dates for Christmas mail sent to any destination by air is December 5.

Parcels by air have to be mailed according to country of destination as follows:

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| To all countries in Asia and Japan  | — Latest date - November 15 |
| To Northern, Central and southern States in Africa  | — Latest date - November 19 |
| To Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Ocean Islands, Canada, U.S.A. and Alaska, Central America, West Indies and South America | — Latest date - November 22 |

By not later than November 14, letters and parcels can also be mailed by surface air-lifted service to the following countries only: Tanzania, India, Phillipines, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, United States and Alaska, and Brazil.

### 10 November

The S.P.O. at Attard closed temporarily from Monday 10 to Friday 14 November (both days inclusive).

### 12 November

The 2003 Christmas postage stamp set issued today. None of the 4 values (7c, 16c, 22c, and 50c) bears the usual surcharge. This year, as last 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 Harry Borg and offset printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The stamps are previewed in "The Malta Stamp bulletin No214 (December 2003) issued by The Philatelic Bureau. The First Day of Issue handstamp reads:



“Milied/Jum il-Hrug/12.11.2003/— —/Malta”. Maltapost has used the design of the 22c value for its official Christmas Cards.

## 12 November

A machine stamp slogan reading “Mro Giuseppe Camilleri/Mitt Sena/mit-twelid tieghu/1903-2003” will be used from the 12 to the 18 November 2003, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

## 12 November

Maltapost plc has announced the issue of the first two sets in the 2004 Stamp Programme namely:

- Letter Boxes — January
- Cats — February

## 13 November

A special hand postmark will be in use at the Dar Annona Counter Hall, Castille Place, Valletta, today, during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed: –“100 Years Service to the Young – Salesians of Don Bosco, Sliema/13.11.2003/ Valletta, Malta”.



## 17 November

Between today and the 22 November, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: “Centinarju/tat-Twaqqif ta’/ulied il-Qalb ta’ Gesu’/minn/M.Maria Teresa Nuzzo/ 21-11-1903” will be used at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

## 01 December

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: “FIFTH/Maltese Medical School/ Conference/4-6 December 2003” will be used from the 1 to the 6 December, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.