

1st July – 31st December 2001

POSTAL DIARY

by *Anthony Fenech*

02 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 6.00a.m. instead of 7.00a.m.

02 July – With effect from this evening a Maltapost Mibile Unit will be stationed at the Fair's principal square, close to the main entrance of the International Trade Fair Grounds, Naxxar. The following postal services will be available:

- sale of stamps and stationery;
- posting of letters and letter packets;
- Parcel Post service;
- Bulk posting;
- Registration of postal articles;
- Issuing and encashment of Money Orders and Postal Orders;
- Encashment of Post Cheques;
- Payment of Bills;
- Sale of Telecards;
- EMS Datapost Service.



All postal articles handled at the Mobile Unit will be postmarked by a handstamp inscribed "44th International Fair of Malta/Mobile Unit/Malta".

02 July – A new International Reply Coupon has been issued w.e.f. to-day. It is in the same format as the previous one, but the "42c" overprint charge replaced by "50c" also in red, but in larger type.

04 July – A machine slogan cancellation – a Maltese Cross amid 7 horizontal bars, followed by boxed "Valletta/Malta/Paid" has started to be used in red ink at the Logistics Section.



06 July – Another new machine slogan cancellation is being used at the Bulk Posting Section. The 21mm die used is inscribed "CMR – MARSARC spacers/MALTA" followed by 7 wavy



lines, and is applied in either red or black ink. The date appears in three lines or sometimes in two lines, in the middle of the die.

16 July – A special hand postmark inscribed “Sena Marjana (1251-2001/750 sena tal-Labtu tal-Karmnu/16-VII-2001/Valetta/Malta” has been used today, at the Counter Hall, Valletta, during office hours.



27 July – A special handstamp has been used today at the Victoria, Gozo Branch Post Office to commemorate the Siege of Gozo Citadel in 1551. The handstamp designed by George Vella is inscribed “Siege of Gozo Citadel/1551 - 27.VII - 2001/Victoria - Gozo - Malta”.



30 July – The newly-introduced Maltapost Mobile Unit which has started operating in different localities is using, with effect from today, a temporary 40mm double ring rubber handstamp with the wording “MOBILE UNIT/long arc spacers/MALTA”.



30 July – The Sub-Post Office at “Midas” Triq ix-Xatt, Marsascalea, will be closed between Monday 30th July and Saturday 11th August 2001, both dates inclusive. During this period, the public may avail itself of services at Żabbar Branch Post Office.

06 August – It has been notified that the following six Sub-Post Offices were to be closed temporarily as follows:

- Kalkara Sub-Post Office from Monday 6th to Saturday 18th August, both days inclusive.
Nearest Branch - Cospicua B.P.O.
- Ta' Xbiex Sub-Post Office from Monday 13th to Saturday 18th August, both days inclusive.
Nearest Branch - Msida B.P.O.
- Tarxien Sub-Post Office from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th August, including both days.
Nearest Branch - Paola B.P.O.
- Ghaxaq Sub-Post Office from Friday 17th to Thursday 30th August, both days inclusive.
Nearest Branch - Żejtun B.P.O.
- Dingli Sub-Post Office from Tuesday 21st to Thursday 23rd August, on

Thursday 30th and Friday 31st August and from Saturday 1st and Wednesday 5th September.

Nearest Branch - Rabat B.P.O.

- Attard Sub-Post Office

from Thursday 13th and Saturday 15th September, both days inclusive.

Nearest Branch - Balzan B.P.O.

13 August – As from today a stamp cancelling machine has been put in use at the Żabbar Branch Post Office. The impression consists of a 21mm single ring inscribed “Żabbar B.P.O./Malta”, followed by 7 evenly spaced wavy lines.



20 August – The Programme of Stamp Issues for 2002 has been drawn up by The Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost plc. in conjunction with The Stamp Design Advisory Board and with the cooperation of Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The Issues will be:

January - WWF - Seahorses;

February - Malta Film Facilities;

March - Antique Furniture in Malta;

May - Europa (Circus);

June - Moths and Butterflies;

August - Maltese Cuisine;

September - Cacti and Succulents;

October - Personalities;

November - Christmas.

22 August – Today, Maltapost plc. issued a set of 5 stamps “Old Maltese Musical Instruments” designed by Ġorġ Mallia. The stamps whose values are 1c, 3c, 14c, 20c and 25c have been previewed in the “Malta Stamp” No. 190. As from this issue, the Philatelic Bureau Bulletin includes an image on the front cover of a low denomination in the set on which philatelists may affix the corresponding stamp and submit it for cancelling by the special F.D.C. handstamp.



The special handpostmark for this issue was inscribed “Strumenti Muzikali Maltin/ Jum il-Hruġ/22-VIII-2001/Malta”. The set will be withdrawn from the Maltapost plc Counters on the 21st August 2002.

31 August – A special hand-postmark marking Maltapost plc. participation in the Riccione Fair was in use at The Counter Hall, Dar l-Annona, Castille Palace, Valletta on Friday 31st August and Saturday 1st September 2001 during office hours. The handstamp inscribed “Riccione 2001/Palazzo del Turismo/31.08 - 02.09/ Valletta/Malta” was also available on the Maltapost plc. Stand at



Riccione on these days and on Sunday 2nd September. For the occasion, the Sliema Stamp Shop issued a commemorative card (Exhibition Card No. 3 - Riccione 2001) and the stamps franking it were cancelled by the commemorative handstamp issued by Maltapost plc.

01 September – With effect from today, the registration fee on all items of mail with an overseas destination have been increased from 30c to 60c. Registration charges for local mail remain unchanged.

05 September – The public is advised that enquiries relating to problems of a postal nature are to be directed to Maltapost Customer Care, 305, Qormi Road, Marsa GPO 01. Enquiries can also be made on Freephone 0800772244 or through telephone numbers 25961427 or 25961303 or via e-mail on info@maltapost.com.

10 September – A new franking machine was installed at Rabat Branch Post Office. A 28mm double ring canceller inscribed “Rabat B.P.O. /arc spacers/MALTA” followed by five evenly spaced wavy lines started to be used on this machine with effect from today. The day, month and year appear in the middle of the datestamp.



12 September – Maltapost plc. said that due to circumstances beyond its control, as a result of carriage conditions imposed by certain Air Lines, mail to U.S.A. Canada, Mexico, Belgium, Israel and Yugoslavia might be delayed until further notice. Maltapost apologises for any inconvenience.

14 September – The public is advised that, except in instances where an official notice indicates that a mail item is to be collected from a Branch Post Office, under no circumstances can mail be collected by the public from any branch post office.

17 September – Maltapost plc. has issued its schedule for the latest posting dates for Christmas Mail:

Country of Destination	Air Letters	Parcels
Africa - Northern States	3 Dec	19 Nov
Africa - Central & Southern States	3 Dec	19 Nov
Asia - Middle & Far East including Japan	3 Dec	15 Nov
Europe & The United Kingdom	3 Dec	22 Nov
Australia, New Zealand & Pacific Ocean Is.	3 Dec	22 Nov
Canada, United States & Alaska	3 Dec	22 Nov
Central America & West Indies	3 Dec	22 Nov
South America	3 Dec	22 Nov

Parcels (S.A.L.) to Tanzania, India, Phillipines,
U.K., Australia, Canada, U.S.A., Alaska and Brazil

14 Nov

19 September – Part Three of the new Definitive Set (Maltese Flora) has been issued today. The values in this series are 5c, 11c, 19c, 27c, 50c and Lm1. The stamps are designed by Maurice Tanti Burlò. All the philatelic mail franked with any of these stamps has been cancelled by a special First Day of Issue handstamp. The stamps in this issue have been previewed in “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No. 191 issued by the Malta Philatelic Bureau.



24 September – Maltapost plc. advises the public that as a result of heightened Security procedures following the recent terrorist activity in The United States, mail despatches to and from The United States, including EMS may be subject to delays.

19 October – The Hon. Ċensu Galea, Minister for Transport and Communications inaugurates “Maltex 2001” Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Malta Philatelic Society at Le Meridien, Phoenicia. The Exhibition will be open for the public on the 20th October, between 9.00a.m. and 7.00p.m. and on the 21st October between 9.00a.m. and 5.00p.m.

20 October – A postage stamp set of four stamps (6c, 16c, 19c and 35c) depicting Dogs has been issued today. The stamps are designed by Ludwig Flask and printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. A special handstamp inscribed “Dogs/Jum il-Hrug/20.X.2001/Le Meridien - Floriana - Malta” has been used to cancel all philatelic mail bearing the “Dogs” stamps. Besides, a set of 4 Postcards have been issued to-day, showing the Dogs’ designs. The Malta Philatelic Bureau issued its Bulletin No. 192 to preview the stamps. The “Dogs” set will be withdrawn on the 19th October 2002.



20/21 October – The “Maltex 2001” Philatelic Exhibition opens for the public. A commemorative handstamp inscribed “Maltex 2001/20-21 October/Le Meridien - Floriana - Malta” has been used at The Maltapost Temporary Post Office set up at the Exhibition. On Saturday 20th, philatelists could also avail themselves of the First Day of Issue facilities provided at the T.P.O. A “Jum il-Hrug” commemorative handstamp



showing the locality as “Le Meridien - Floriana - Malta” has been used to cancel philatelic mail franked with the “Dogs” stamps posted at the Exhibition Branch. Most of the services offered at the Maltapost Branches including Registration could be offered on both days of the Exhibition.

22 October – Six letters feared to contain Anthrax powder were intercepted by Maltapost employees in three Branch Post Offices. The Civil Protection instructed Maltapost plc. to keep the Valletta, Balzan and Paola Branch Post Offices closed until further notice. This step has been taken purely as a precautionary measure pending investigations.

23 October – The Rabat and St. Paul’s Bay Branch Post Offices will be kept closed until further notice, following the discovery in these Branches of a few mail items containing unidentified powder. This followed after instructions from the Civil Protection Department.

25 October – Maltapost Branch Post Offices at Balzan, Valletta and Paola, which have been kept closed for some days on orders from the Department of Civil Protection following discovery of suspect mail items, have now been cleared and will re-open for business as from tomorrow, Friday. The St. Paul’s Bay and Rabat Branches are still closed pending tests on other suspect mail items.

29 October – Maltapost announces that following the negative results of tests on suspect mail at the Rabat and St. Paul’s Bay Branch Post Offices, these Branches will now re-open for business with effect from tomorrow Tuesday.

05 November – A new metal postmark is being used at the Mobile Unit as from today. Consequently, Saturday 3rd November was the last day of use of the previous temporary rubber datestamp.



05 November – A machine stamp cancelling slogan is being used as from today 5th November until the 10th instant, at the Central Mail Room in Marsa. The slogan reads: “International Conference/Judaism, Christianity, Islam/ three Religions for Peace/in the Mediterranean/Catania 29-30/11, 1/12/2001.”

28 November – A new stamping machine has been installed at Żurrieq B.P.O. today. The datestamp used on this machine is a 29mm single ring inscribed “ŻURRIEQ B.P.O./arc spacers/MALTA” with the day, month, year and time appearing in a straight line in the middle. The die is followed by 5 wide wavy lines measuring 52mm.



29 November – The “Christmas 2001” postage stamp set of four stamps was issued today. The stamps with values of 6c + 2c, 15c + 2c, 16c + 2c, 19c + 3c were designed by Aldo Gatt (Gattaldo) and printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The 6c + 2c has attached to it a tab reading “L-Isbah Xewqat”.



A special handstamp inscribed “Milied 2001/Jum il-Hruġ 29.XI.2001/Birkirkara/Malta” was used for the cancelling of Philatelic mail on the first day of issue. The Malta Philatelic Bureau issued Bulletin No. 193 to preview the set. Withdrawal Date of this Set of Stamps – 27th April 2002.

10 December – The public has been informed that the latest posting date for local pre-Christmas delivery is Wednesday 19th December. The public is urged to purchase Christmas stamps with surcharges. Profits from this surcharge are used to help children in need.

12 December – A new stamping machine has been installed at St. Julian’s Branch Post Office, with effect from today. A 28mm double ring postmark inscribed “St. JULIAN’S B.P.O./arc spacers/MALTA” followed by five evenly spaced wavy lines has been used on this stamping machine as from today. The date appears in a single line in the middle of the postmark.



21 December – Maltapost announces that next Monday 24th and the following Monday 31st December 2001, the following Branch Post Offices will be opening as follows:

Valletta – Dar Annona, from 8.15a.m. to 2.15p.m.;

Luqa – Malta International Airport Branch Post Office, from 7.00a.m. to 1.00p.m.;

Victoria – Gozo Branch Post Office in Republic Street from 7.30a.m. to 12.45p.m.

G.B. used in Malta by Anthony Fenech published in the PSM Journal Vol. 30/3 (December 2001)

1st Update: Addenda & Corrigenda

Update 2001 (page 35): to include also a recent Harmer’s Auction Lot described as:

1856 6d Lilac with a fine strike of the “M” Cancellation in red (BPA Certificate - 1985) John Birkett Allan refers.

“M” Cancellation and “A 25” Duplex Abnormalities (Pages 35/36)

(a) (Page 35) should read thus:

In 1857, for a few days in September, the year on the dater mark on the back of the entire struck in conjunction with “M” canceller, had the figure “57” reversed to read as “75”.

(f) (Page 36) Varieties with inverted watermarks 4d vermilion (Plate 8).

Besides Plate 8, Graham Pound, a PSM member, has also Plate 9, 12 and 14 with inverted watermarks in his collection