

MALTA — DIARY

(January - December 1998)

by Anthony Fenech

02.01 The Office of The Postmaster General notified that all postal services normally provided at Valletta Post Office Counters, The Parcel Post Office and Central Mail Room at Marsa, Malta International Airport and Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo, will not be provided on Friday 2nd January 1998. All postal services will return to normal on Saturday 3rd January 1998.

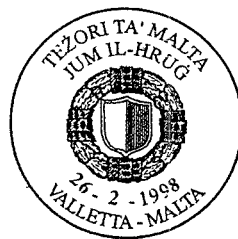
06.01 The public is advised that the Sub-Post Office at 77,3 G. Borg Olivier Street, Mellieha SPB 14 will be closed until Friday 16th January. The public is also advised to avail itself of the services offered by the Branch Post Office in Main Street, St.Paul's Bay.

20.01 The Office of The Postmaster General notified that the selection of the two designs of The EUROPA 1998 stamp issue will be made after a call for a public competition.

Theme: The 8th September National Regatta Festival

The successful artist would later on be required to prepare designs or layouts for a Postal Card, First Day Cover, hand datestamp, stamp bulletin and poster.

26.02 A new set of four stamps was issued to-day, featuring Maltese Costumes. Two of the stamps valued 6c, 16c feature costumes which were on display during an exhibition by The Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti between March and April 1998. The other two stamps (also valued 6c and 16c) depict paintings by Antoine de Favray (1706-1798). A souvenir sheet to commemorate The Choice of Valletta as European City of Culture was also issued to-day. The stamp perforated into the sheet is valued at 26c. The stamps and Miniature Sheet were both designed by Frank Ancilleri and printed by Printex Ltd. Two commemorative covers were issued by The Post Office but only one special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



04.03 The Office of The Postmaster General notified that a stamp design for the three stamps and a miniature sheet incorporating the three stamps on the occasion of the 1998 Football World Cup Competition Stamp Issue. Theme: France '98 F.I.F.A. Competition. The successful artist will later be required to prepare designs or layouts for a First Day

Cover, hand datestamp, stamp bulletin and poster.

14.03 The last day that the Post Office Counters have provided services at Auberge d'Italie. The move will be made to-day when Counter services will be provided only up to 1 p.m.

16.03 Valletta General Post Office counters have moved to Dar 1-Annona at Castille Square with effect from to-day. All services previously provided at the Auberge d'Italie will now be available at Dar 1-Annona.

16.03 The Sub-Post Office at Marsascala (Wied il-Ghajj S.P.O.) will be closed between Monday 16th and Monday 30th March. The public may avail itself of services at Zabbar Branch Post Office.

23.03 A Temporary Branch Post Office will be in operation at the Mediterranean Conference Centre for the duration of The World Telecommunications Development Conference, from today Monday 23rd March to Wednesday 1st April. Members of the public are not allowed entry so philatelists are asked to leave philatelic material at the Philatelic Bureau, for transmission. A special hand postmark was used worded as follows: "World Telecommunication Development Conference 98/Date/MAL-TACOM/Med. Conference Centre Valletta"



23.03 The public is advised that the Sub-Post Office at Bugibba (Bugibba S.P.O.) will be closed between Monday 23rd March and Saturday 4th April. The public may avail itself of services at St. Paul's Bay Branch Post Office.

28.03 The Historic Commemorations set was issued today. The set consists of two se-tenant pairs issued to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the departure of the Knights of St. John from Malta and the arrival of the French. Stamp values: a pair of 6c stamps and a pair of 16c stamps were designed by Joseph Mizzi and printed by Printex Ltd. on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of



issue. One of the set of special hand postmarks was prepared purposely for the T.P.O. operating at The Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta to cancel First Day Covers posted at the temporary post office.

17.04 The Acting Postmaster General notified that the selection of the five designs of the ANNIVERSARIES Stamp Issue would be made after a call for a public competition.

Themes: 50th Anniversary UN Declaration on Human Rights;
50th Anniversary General Retailers and Traders Union (GRTU);
150th Anniversary Foundation Chamber of Commerce;
50th Anniversary International Maritime Authority;
25th Anniversary Air Malta

not later than 1.00 pm on Tuesday 12th May 1998.

The successful artist will later be required to prepare designs of layouts for a First Day Cover, hand datestamp, stamp bulletin and poster.

20.04 The Post Office is using a stamp cancellation slogan "The Malta Chamber of Commerce — 150th Anniversary (1848-1998)" from today Monday till Thursday 30th April (excluding April 26th) at the Central Mail Room, Marsa. The slogan reads: "The Malta/Chamber/of Commerce/1848-1998/150th Anniversary" and incorporates the logo of the Malta Chamber of Commerce.

22.04 The "EUROPA '98" postage stamp set of two stamps was issued today.

The theme for the Europa stamps was 'National Festivals'. The 16c stamp designed by Frank Ancilleri and the 35c designed by Richard J. Caruana show the 8th September Regatta. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue. Date of withdrawal of this set of stamps will be 22nd April 1999.



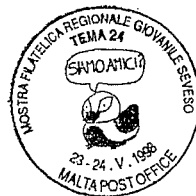
06.05 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "International Nurses Day/12th May" will be used from today May 6th until May 12th excluding Sunday May 10th, at the Central Mail Room, Marsa.

09.05 One of the Birkirkara B.P.O. Counter metal datestamps was replaced by a new one with effect from to-day, Saturday 9th May. Yesterday was the last day that the old metal

datestamp was put into use on the Counter.

13.05 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Institute of/Health Care/a decade of excellence" was used from May 13th to May 19th (excluding May 17th) at the Central Mail Room, Marsa.

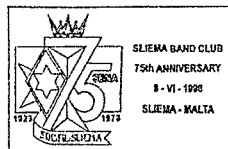
20.05 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Nestle/75 years/in MALTA" was used from May 20th to May 26th 1998 at the Central Mail Room, Marsa.



23.05 Maltapost plc notifies that a special hand postmark "TEMA 24" will be in use at the Counter Hall Valletta on the 23rd May 1998. The handstamp will also be in use by a representative of MALTAPOST plc at the "TEMA 24" philatelic exhibition being held at Sevezo, Italy between the 23rd and 24th May 1998.



27.05 New Postage Stamp set "International Year of the Oceans" was issued today. The stamps 2c, 6c, 16c, 27c were designed by Isabelle Borg and printed on watermarked paper (Maltese Crosses) by Printex Ltd. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.

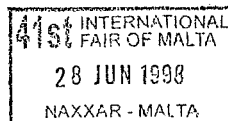


08.06 A special hand postmark was used at the Sliema Branch Post Office commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Sliema Band Club. The handstamp was inscribed as follows: logo of the club /Sliema Band Club/75th Anniversary/8-VI-1998/Sliema-Malta".



10.06 World Cup '98 set of stamps was issued today. The stamp values 6c, 16c, 22c and the Miniature Sheet incorporating the three stamps were designed by Richard J. Caruana. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.

26.06 Maltapost plc launched its new colours — yellow and blue instead of red.



28.06 A Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the 41st

International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from Sunday, June 28th to Sunday July 12th. The counter services available were those normally available at all Branch Post Offices and included also Parcel Post Service. Postal articles posted at this T.P.O. were postmarked by a special datestamp inscribed as follows: "41st International/Fair of Malta/date/Naxxar - Malta".

06.07 A counter service was introduced at the Central Mail Room Marsa as from to-day. The metal handstamp CENTRAL MAIL ROOM - MALTA - used is identical to those in use at the CMR presently.

27.07 Mgarr S.P.O. is closed temporarily as from to-day, until August 5th. Clients may use the Post Office Branch at Mosta.

30.07 The Ministry of Communication of The Republic of Korea has launched a competition for the design of two stamps to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union and the 108th Session of the International Olympic Committee. The competition is open to both Korean and overseas participants. Designs must be submitted to The Ministry of Korea by September 30th. Further information available from The Philatelic Executive, Maltapost plc, Marsa.



01.08 A special hand postmark was used at the Counter Hall (Dar Annona), Valletta, to-day, to mark the 25th Anniversary of The Italian Military Mission 1973-1998/logo/Valletta - 1.VIII.1998 - Malta".

10.08 It was notified that the following three Sub-Post Offices were to be closed temporarily as follows:

Tarxien Sub-Post Office between August 10 and 22. The public is advised to use instead, the Paola Branch Post Office at The Civic Centre in Paola Square;

The Ta' Xbiex S.P.O. between August 10 and 14. The public have been advised to use the Msida Branch Post Office during this period;

The Sub-Post Office in Kalkara between August 10 and 20. The public have been advised to use the Cospicua Branch Post Office during this period.

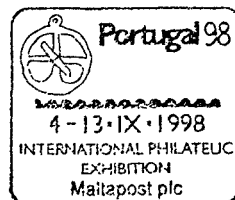


24.08 The Dingli Sub-Post Office will be closed between August 24

and 29. The public is advised to use the Rabat Branch Post Office during this period.

28.08 Maltapost plc used a special hand postmark inscribed “Riccione/ 28-29-30.VIII.1998/Maltapost plc” at the Counter Hall, Valletta on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th August 1998 during office hours. An identical handstamp was also available at the Sliema Stamp Shop Stand at Riccione, Italy, between August 28-30. Mr. Joe Buttigieg was appointed to represent Maltapost plc for the occasion.

02.09 Maltapost plc issued the latest posting dates for Christmas mail.

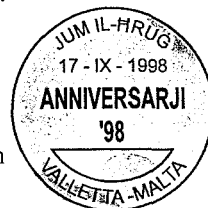


04.09 A special hand postmark “Portugal 1998” was used at the Counter Hall, Valletta from Friday 4th to Saturday 12th September 1998 (except on Sunday 6th and on Tuesday 8th) during office use. The handstamp was also in use at Portugal ‘98 International Philatelic Exhibition held at Lisbon, Portugal between Friday 4th and Sunday 13th September by the Agent for Maltapost plc at the Exhibition. The handstamp was inscribed: “Portugal 98/4-13.IX.1998/International Philatelic/Exhibition/Maltapost plc.”

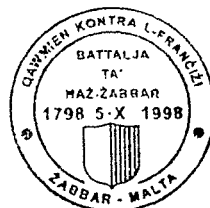
05.09 The Sliema Sub-Post Office (Tigne Sub-Post Office) in Tigne, Sliema, will be closed between September 5 and 7. The public are advised to use the Sliema Branch Post Office in the meantime.

17.09 The “Anniversaries 1998” postage stamp set was issued to-day. The stamps commemorated the following anniversaries:

- 1c - 50th Anniversary International Maritime Authority
- 6c - 50th Anniversary UN Declaration on Human Rights
- 11c - 50th Anniversary General Retailers and Traders Union (GRTU)
- 19c - 150th Anniversary Foundation Chamber of Commerce
- 26c - 25th Anniversary of Air Malta.



The stamps were designed, after a competition, by Harry Borg. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



01.10 A new metal datestamp was used at Zabbar and at San Gwann

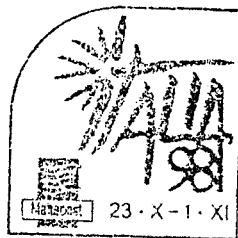
Branch Post Offices to-day. Consequently, Wednesday 30th September was the last day of use of the old worn out datestamps which were replaced by the new ones.

05.10 Maltapost plc notified that a special postmark to commemorate the Battle of Haz-Zabbar (1798-1998) was to be used at Zabbar Branch Post Office today, during the normal Branch opening hours. The postmark read as follows "Qawmien Kontra l-Francizi/Battalja ta' Haz-Zabbar/1798 5-X 1998/Zabbar-Malta."



09.10 A special hand postmark was used at the Counter Hall of The Post Office (Dar Annona) in Valletta, to-day, to mark U.P.U. Day. The handstamp was inscribed as follows: "World Post Day/U.P.U. Logo/One World - One Postal Network/Valletta - 9.X.1998 - Malta."

19.10 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: Middle Sea Race/Royal Yacht Club/R.O.R.C.-F.I.V./24th October '98" was used at the Central Mail Room, Marsa between Monday 19 and Saturday 31 October (excepting Sunday 25).



23.10 Postal Card (No.19) was issued on the occasion of the participation of Maltapost plc at the Italia '98 International Philatelic Exhibition which was held in Milan, Italy between 23 October and 1 November 1998. The Card has imprinted thereon the two stamps of the Europa '98 postage stamp set and the logo of the exhibition. Both mint and cancelled Postal cards were put on sale at the price of 51c each. The special postmark was used at the philatelic counter of the G.P.O. as well as at the Malta Post Office Stand at Italia '98 in Milan. The special hand postmark was inscribed as follows: "Italia '98/Maltapost/ 23.X - 1.XI."

23.10 Maltapost plc notified that a special postmark to commemorate Juan Bautista Azopardo, a Maltese from Senglea who reached the rank of Admiral in the Argentinian Navy, was used at the Counter Hall, Valletta. The handstamp was worded as follows: "Juan Bautista Azopardo/Valletta-Malta/1848 - 23.10-1998". Commemorative Cover No 12 designed by John Micallef was prepared by the Spanish/Maltese Circle to commemorate Juan Bautista Azopardo on this occasion.



28.10 A special postmark to commemorate the 200th Anniversary from the capitulation of The French Forces in Gozo was used at Victoria, Gozo Branch; Post Office on Wednesday 28th October 1998. The special hand postmark was inscribed as follows: "200 Sena mi l-Kapitulazzjoni/tal-Francizi f'Ghawdex/Victoria-Gozo - 28.X.1998 - Malta."



19.11 The "Christmas 1998" postage stamp set of four stamps was issued to-day. The stamps feature paintings by Mattia Preti (1613-1699). Three of the stamps included a small surcharge to be distributed to Child Welfare institutions and philanthropic organisations. The stamps valued 6c, 6c+2c, 16c+3c, and 26c+3c were designed by the graphic Section of Maltapost plc. A special hand postmark was used for the cancelling of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



05.12 A Temporary Branch Post Office was in operation at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta from Saturday 5th to Sunday 6th December 1998 during the 9th Centenary celebrations of The Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Since the public would not be allowed entry, philatelists were asked to leave philatelic material at the Philatelic Bureau, Marsa, for onward transmission to be postmarked by a special datestamp inscribed as follows: "S.M.O.M. 9th Centenary Celebrations/Malta Mediterranean/Conference Centre/Valletta/-5DEC 1998 or -6DEC 1998".



12.12 Maltapost plc informed the public that the latest posting date for local pre-Christmas delivery was Saturday 19th December. The public was urged to purchase Christmas stamps with surcharge as this would be used to help children in need. Maltapost recommended the use of the postcode on all letters for the safest and swiftest delivery.

Have you paid your membership fee for 1999 and 2000

Please send immediatly your subscription to:

Mr. J. Buttigieg
Treasurer

"Miriam House" Zerafa Street, Marsa HMR 14
Malta