

# MISSENT MAIL

by Hadrian Wood

A letter I received from the UK recently took ten days to reach me. It was backstamped at Lisbon so obviously had been missent to Portugal, which explains the reason for the delay.

The fact that the letter took so long didn't bother me. It wasn't urgent, so the time factor did not matter. My only regret was that the Portuguese Postal Authorities failed to apply a MISSENT TO PORTUGAL handstamp (be it in English, Portuguese or bi-lingual) as is done in some countries. Had it been cancelled in this way the cover would have found a place in my collection.



My interest in "missent" handstamps on mail to Malta was stimulated by two letters, received within a few days over eight years ago, which showed MISSENT TO BANGKOK and MISSENT TO MALAYSIA. Though a few more letters have most definitely gone astray prior to reaching me since, none of these received another MISSENT TO ... cancellation.

It was only with the help of friends, both philatelic and non-philatelic, who pass on their "missent" mail to me, that I have been able to build a reasonable collection of these interesting instructional markings.

The most common appears to be MISSENT TO MANILA. But my collection also includes such unlikely places as BANGKOK, BERMUDA,

BELIZE, BRUNEI, JAKARTA and even as far away as ADELAIDE in South Australia.

By air mail  
Par avion

*Missa*



MISSSENT TO MANILA

MISS'ENT TO MANILA

The *Imu* Lady Musketeers,

Apt 1.

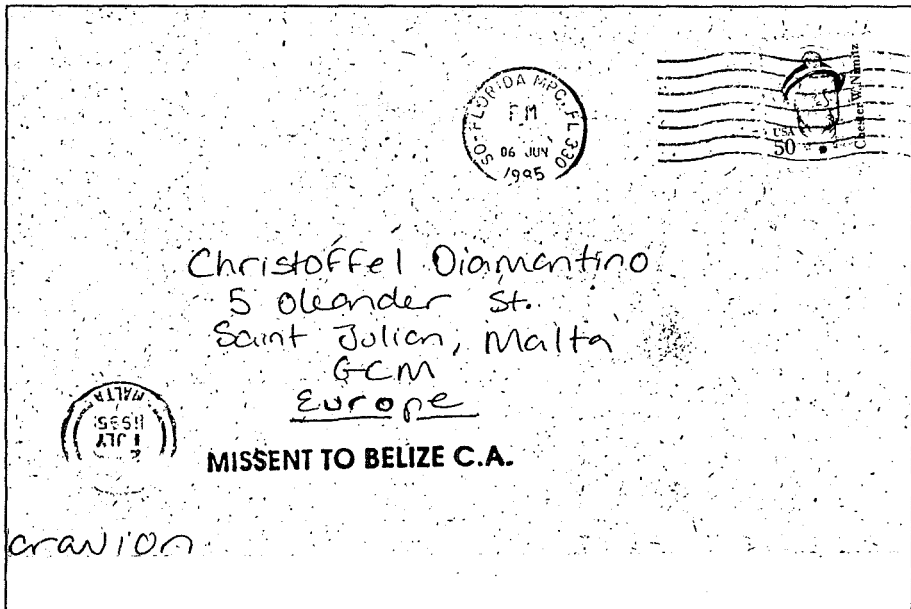
Casa Galea Nandi,

St. Vincent Street,

Stemma

Malta G.C.

*Frederick*



Christoffel Diamantino  
5 Oleander St.  
Saint Julian, Malta  
GCM  
Europe



MISSSENT TO BELIZE C.A.

*cravion*

II CONGRESO  
CONFEDERACION  
EUROPEA  
INMOBILIARIA  
MADRID 12-11-1921

MADRID  
12-11-1921  
28

PRIMER CONGRESO  
CONFEDERACION  
EUROPEA  
INMOBILIARIA  
MADRID 12-11-1921

PRIMER CONGRESO  
CONFEDERACION  
EUROPEA  
INMOBILIARIA  
MADRID 12-11-1921

MADRID  
12-11-1921  
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CONGRESO  
CONFEDERACION  
EUROPEA  
INMOBILIARIA  
MADRID 12-11-1921

RESOLUCION  
CONFEDERACION  
EUROPEA  
INMOBILIARIA  
MADRID 12-11-1921

85  
MADRID 12-11-1921

P. S. M. MAGAZINE  
IMA VASSALI STREET  
LA VALLETTA  
MALTA

MISSENTTO  
JAKARTA SOEKARNO HATTA

Besides former British colonies, countries in Asia appear to be the most conscientious with regard to applying this handstamp. Not so, it seems, in most other countries. With the exception of the United Kingdom, Malta, Cyprus and Gibraltar, I am not aware of any countries in Europe that currently make use of such markings.

It is difficult to determine the real cause for the delay of a letter when no explanatory marking is applied. Occasionally, as in the case of the above letter via Portugal, the reason can be detected by the country's receiving mark. But more often than not, no transit marks are applied prior to redirecting missent mail to the proper place of destination. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for the local post office to be unjustly blamed for the delay when this happens.

