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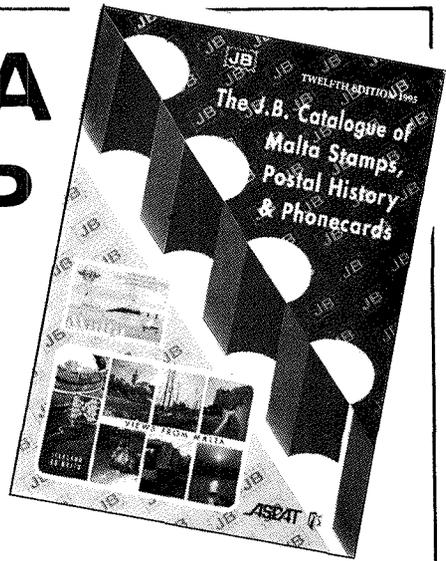
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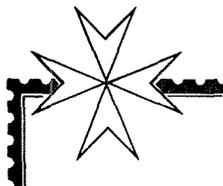
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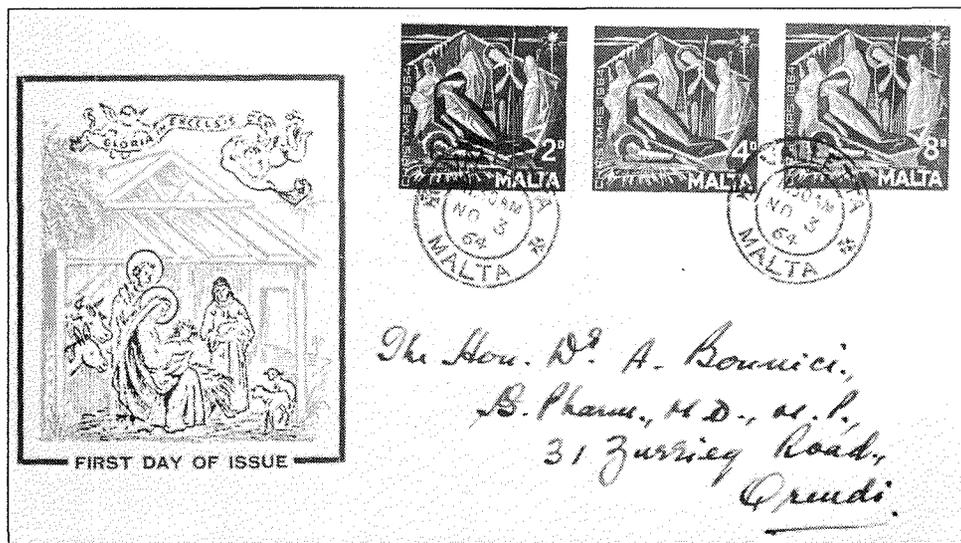
THE CHRISTMAS STAMP ISSUES OF MALTA

Dr John H. Mercieca, MOM, D.Sc. (Hon Causa), DDS

The annual Christmas set of stamps, which was issued by the Malta Postal Administration for the first time ever in 1964 and which was designed by the well-known artist Chev. Emvin Cremona, knows its origin to a letter from a Belgian catholic canon, who in 1963 wrote to the Postal Administration proposing the issue of an annual set of stamps to celebrate Christmas. It appears that this prelate had also communicated his idea of propagating philatelically the feast of the Nativity of Christ to other postal administrations as well.

This letter was referred to the Stamp Advisory Board of the Malta Post Office, who at one of its meetings earnestly discussed the submitted proposal and unanimously agreed to accept it and put it into effect by recommending the issue of this set to the then Minister of Posts.

At that period quite a number of postal administrations throughout the world had introduced the issue of a Christmas set of stamps in their respective stamp-issuing programme and we find that in those early years Christmas stamps became very popular and a widely-collected thematic section of philately.



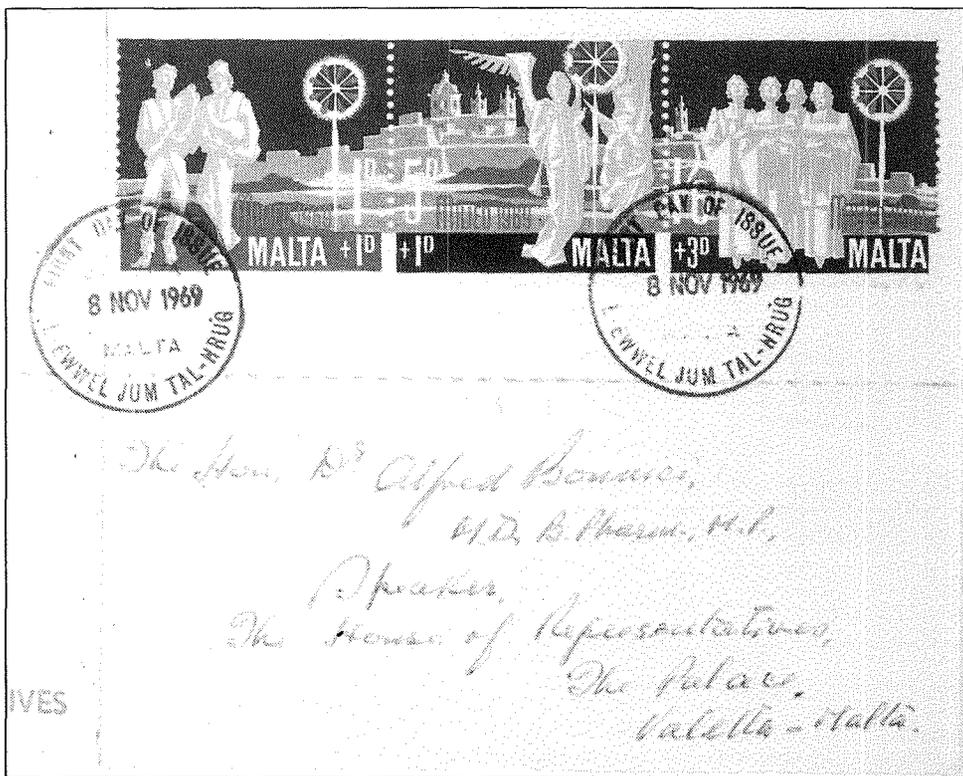
The Malta Postal Administration which has just issued its thirty-second consecutive Christmas set since 1964, is in fact one of the relatively few post offices which have kept alive the tradition of the issue of these stamps, as after

the passing of five or six years after they were first issued the original popularity dwindled considerably with collectors.

Notwithstanding the fact that the great majority of these sets, very appropriately depict the traditional Nativity scenes we find that in some of the 32 sets of Malta the different artists which from time to time have designed one or more of these sets have departed from the portrayal of the popular Nativity scene of the Holy Family and have depicted local folkloristic scenes manifestly related to the Christmas celebrations and period.

Thus we find that as the subject of his second Christmas set of 1965, Cremona chose the adoration of the Three Kings: Balthasar, Melchior and Caspar — presenting their gifts to the newly-born infant Jesus. Again in his 1968 original pentagon-shaped set of three stamps, he depicted the star of Bethlehem and Angel waking shepherds on the 1d stamp; Mary, Joseph and shepherd watching over a cradle on the 8d stamp; while on the highest denomination of the 1s 4d the artists portrayed the Three Wise Men who had come from the East to pay their homage to the infant Jesus and again the star of Bethlehem.

In the 1969 set, when for the first time the additional low surcharge of 5d, spread over the three stamps in aid of local charities was introduced, the designs chosen by Cremona were peasants playing tambourines and bagpipes on the

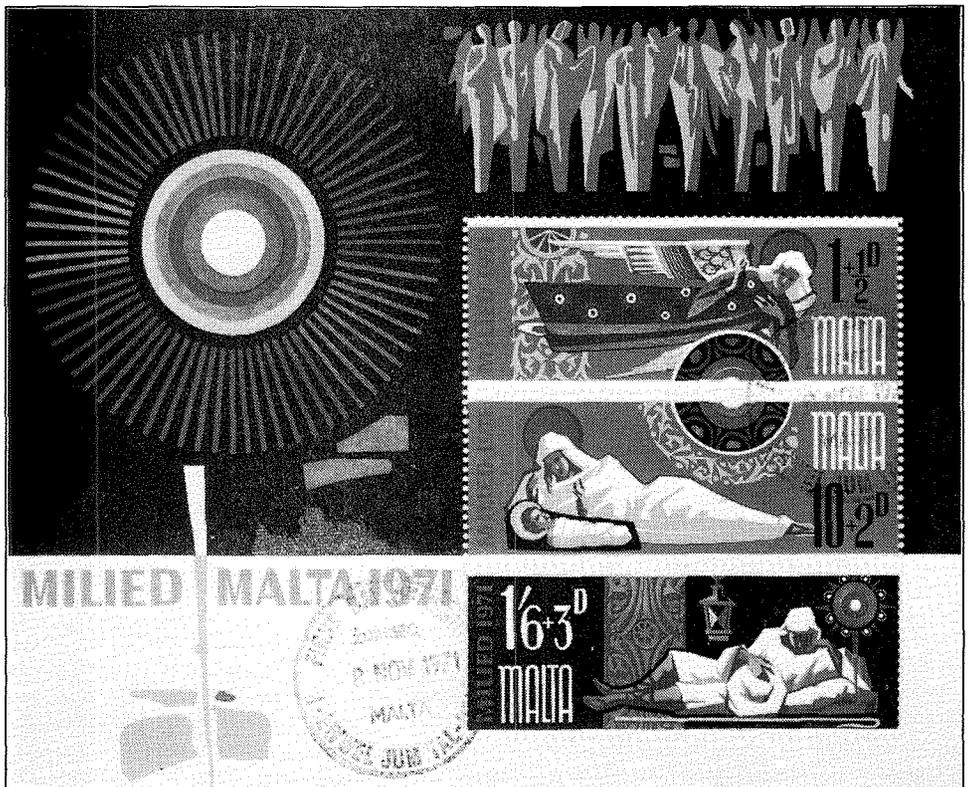


1d+1d stamp; angels playing trumpet and harp on the 5d+1d stamp; while on the top value of 1s6d+3d singing choir boys were depicted. A novelty in this issue was that in addition to the stamps being issued in sheets of 60, the three stamps were also issued se-tenant to form a triptych.

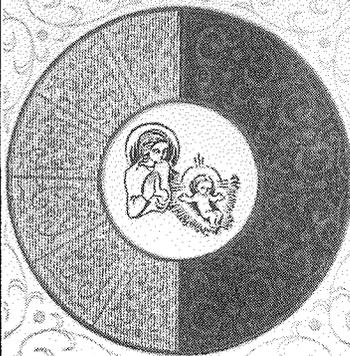
For the 1970 issue Cremona chose Carol Singers, a church and star for the lowest 1d+1d denomination; church, star and angel with infant for the middle 10d+2d stamp while for the highest denomination of 1s6d+3d a church, star and nativity scene was used.

Emvin Cremona, the artist who between 1964 and 1979 was responsible for the design of the first 16 consecutive Christmas sets of Malta, in 1971 chose the large quadrilateral format for the year's Christmas set of three stamps which he once again repeated in the 1972 and 1973. These three colourful attractive sets were also issued in a suitably designed souvenir sheet which also happened to be the first three consecutive souvenir sheets ever issued by the Malta Postal Administration.

The 1971 set and souvenir sheet were the last Christmas stamps to be issued in sterling currency while with the introduction of decimal currency in Malta in 1972 the Christmas set and Souvenir Sheet of that year were the first to be issued in decimal currency.



-EWWEL JUM TAL-HRUG — MILIED
 IRST DAY OF ISSUE — CHRISTMAS



PRIMO GIORNO D'EMISSIONE
 NATALE

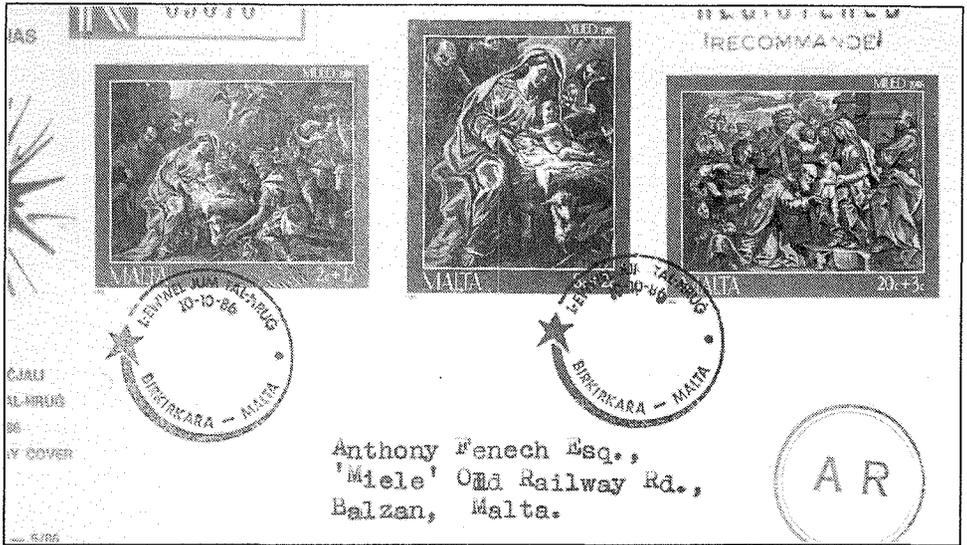


Once again shepherds and Magi with gifts and Nativity star were the subjects chosen by Cremona for the four small-sized 1974 Christmas set.

For the 1975 Christmas set which was again issued in singles and triptych format, forming a composite design of 'The Nativity' by Maestro Alberto, Cremona chose a yet smaller format for the lowest denomination of 8m+2m and 7c5+1c5 the highest while for the central value of 3c+1c a large 50x23mm format was used.

The 1976 series of four stamps portrayed portions of the 'Madonna and Saints' famous painting by Domenico di Michelino on the three lower values 1c+5m, St





John the Baptist and St Michael; 5c+1c Madonna and Child; 7c+1c5 St Christopher and St Nicholas while the complete painting was portrayed on the highest 32x27mm denomination stamp. This painting which is to be found at the Fine Arts Museum in Valletta was donated by the late Mrs Salvina Zahra of New York in memory of her late brother the Rev. Francis Agius the original owner and who happens to be my late wife's eldest brother and a parish priest in Brooklyn, USA.

The 1977 set depicted Shepherds, the Nativity and the Flight into Egypt from a famous crib to be found at the St Theresa Church of Cospicua. This set was issued in singles as well as in a vertical triptych format.

In the 1978 set Cremona, as the great artist he surely was, wanted in a way to emerge from the use of designs, formats and colours of his previous 14 sets, thus he designed three lower values of the denominations 1c+5m, 5c+1c and 7c+1c5 depicting angels, carol singers and folk musicians and a large-size 58x23mm 11c+3c stamp comprising the designs of the three lower values, all in his favourite mauve and ochre colours, in order to give this set a new look and quite in contrast with his earlier sets, while at the same time giving a concrete proof of the high artistic creativity with which he was endowed.

The large-sized 1979 quadrilateral 4 values set portrays Nativity scenes by the renowned artist Giuseppe Cali for the Tarxien Parish Church. This set is, in my opinion and that of many other connoisseurs, one of the nicest and most attractive of all the Christmas sets issued so far and also the last of the 16 successive sets designed by the famous Maltese artist Emvin Cremona, who died on January 29, 1987 aged 63 years.

The 1980 set, comprising 3 elongated lower values and two large 47x38mm 12c+3c value were designed by Raymond Pitre and portrayed the Annunciation,

the Conception and the Nativity on the lower 3 values and the 3 designs comprised in the topmost value. The original designs of these stamps were taken from paintings by A Inglott, a promising young artist who died at an early age.

The 1981 set of 3 stamps – 2c+1c, 8c+2c and 20c+3c was designed by Tony Bugeja and depicted children and Nativity scene, Christmas Eve procession and preaching midnight sermon respectively.

The artist Joseph Mallia designed the 1982 set of three, again depicting scenes from the Nativity.

The 1983 set of three stamps was designed by Norbert Attard and were, in a way, different from the ordinary Nativity scenes on other stamps in that they were taken from old choir books at the St John's Cathedral Museum.

The three large-size 1984 Christmas stamps designed by Luciano Micallef portrayed religious subjects from paintings by Pietro and Rafel Caruana and depicted the 'Visitation' on the 2c+1c stamp; the Epiphany on the 8c+2c stamp while on the highest value the 20c+3c 'Jesus among the Doctors' was reproduced. The paintings reproduced on these three stamps are to be found at the Dominican Parish Church dedicated to Our Lady of Porto Salvo in Valletta.

The 1985 set of 3 stamps in the unusual denominations, depicted vertical designs showing details of a terracotta relief by the well-known Mosta-born artist Ganni Bonnici which were adapted by himself for portrayal on the stamps.

Three paintings by Giuseppe d'Arena showing Nativity scenes and the Epiphany formed the subject of the 1986 large-size Christmas stamps, prepared by the artist Luciano Micallef.

Nativity scenes from old ecclesiastical choir books were adapted by Richard J. Caruana for the three 1987 Christmas set.

Three original designs depicting a shepherd tending to his flock, a nativity scene and the flight to Egypt were used by Ray Gauci for the 1988 Christmas set.

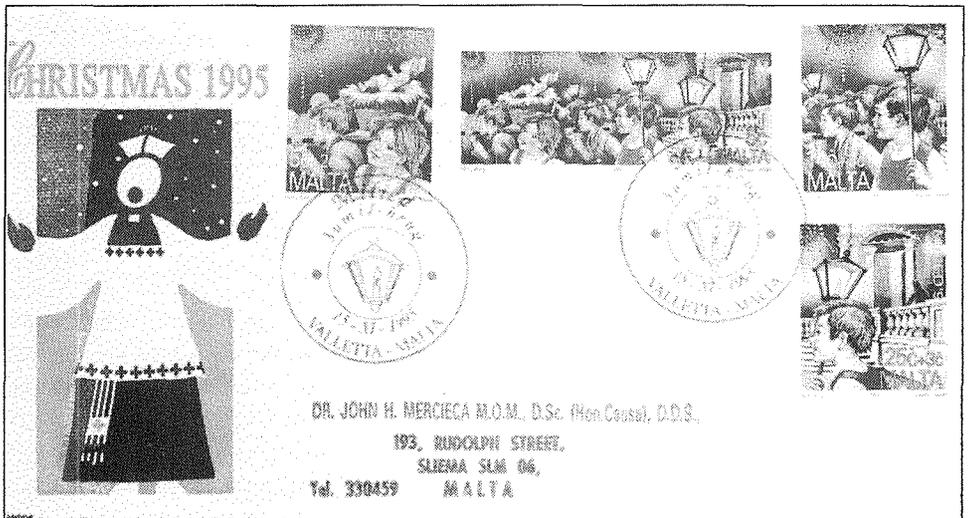
The 1989 set of three small-sized stamps by Joseph L. Mallia reproduced details of paintings at St John's Co-Cathedral while the 1990 set depicted scenes from a famous crib at Birkirkara and designed by the Ghaqda Hbieb il-Presepu.

While the 1992 set of three stamps was adapted by the Architect Lawrence Buttigieg from the paintings by Giuseppe Cali at the Mosta Parish Church, which was the subject of much controversy due to the unusual style of the design we find that the 1991, 1993 and 1994 and 1994 Christmas sets came from the hands of the artist Harry Borg. While all four sets by Harry Borg depicted original Christmas scenes, the idea of the traditional Maltese balcony decorated and illuminated was much liked and met with the approval of many philatelists and members of the general public alike.

And I conclude my article on the Christmas stamps of Malta with a positive note in that following repeated and persistent representations and submissions I have been making to the local Postal Administration since 1971 both inside and outside the Stamp Advisory Board to do away with the charity surcharge on the lowest denomination of the Christmas set in order that it be used on Christmas



mail, it was indeed a source of great satisfaction to me, that after all these years, my sound proposal was at long last accepted by the Minister of Transport, Communications and Technology and put into effect for the first time in 1994 when the charity surcharge was not chargeable on the 5c stamp (which represents the franking rate for local postage) of that year's four-stamp Christmas set.



The same policy has again been adopted for the 1995 Christmas set of four stamps, in which a 5c stamp without the charity surcharge has been issued. It is to be hoped that the postal authorities have finally seen the validity of my suggestion and that this now adopted policy will be a permanent one with regard to all future Christmas stamp issues.

REVENUE STAMPS USED POSTALLY

By Giovanni Bonello LL.D.

Postal authorities often made a formal distinction between adhesives used for mail, and those meant for the collection of revenues. Those labels could not, at times, be used interchangeably. Accounting systems required an easy identification of monies collected from the sale of postage-stamps, from those collected for other fiscal purposes.

Postage-stamps used fiscally appear to be quite common. They are usually seen on documents other than letters, such as permits, applications, advertising posters, receipts and court documents which required the payment of a levy. An ink cancellation, or, alternatively, a hand-stamp — police, customs, etc, as the case may be — annuls the postage adhesive used fiscally.

I am not here concerned with postage-stamps employed fiscally, but with revenue stamps used postally. These, I believe, constitute an exceptional rarity.

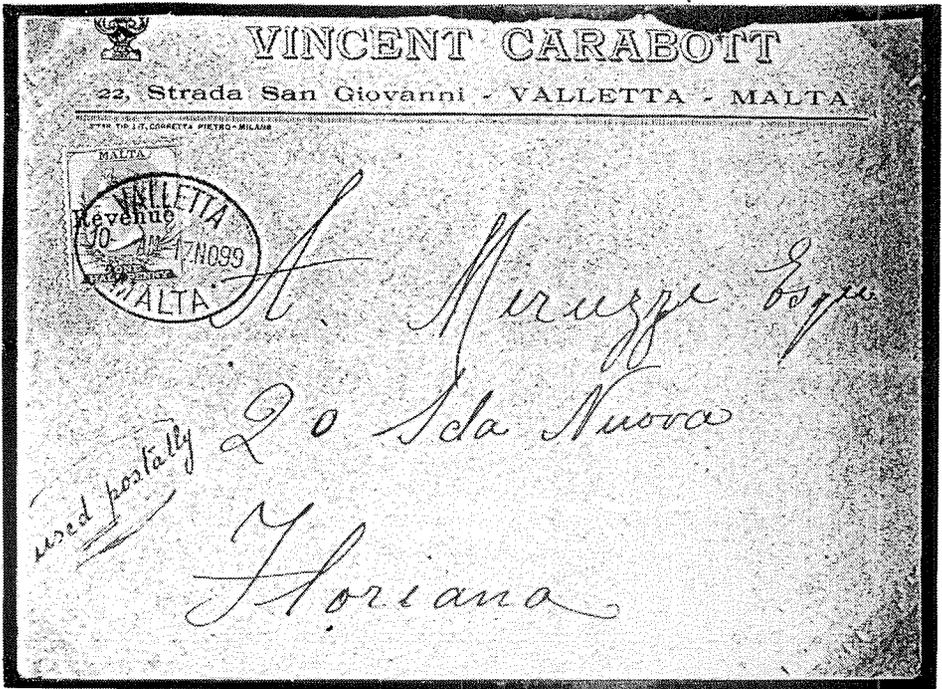


Fig. 1 A green QV1/2d overprinted 'Revenue' used locally as a postage stamp, cancelled November 17, 1899

In Malta the first revenue stamps destined exclusively for fiscal purposes were ordinary postage-stamps overprinted 'Revenue'. In August 1899, the postal authorities overprinted locally and in some haste the current Queen Victoria issue. Others, more professionally overprinted by De La Rue substituted them sometime in November 1899. These 'Revenue' overprints were, exceptionally, used for postal rather than fiscal, purposes.



Fig. 2 A QV overprinted 'Revenue' fourpence stamp, used locally and cancelled 1901. This is a philatelic item, as, on the reverse it is franked with current postage-stamps

In April 1926, the accounting system was overhauled and fiscal revenue became totally separate from postal revenue. The ordinary postage stamps 'postage and revenue' or those overprinted 'Revenue' became inadequate, and fiscal stamps, with distinctive art work, were produced. George V, George VI and Elizabeth II all released special revenue issues meant exclusively for fiscal collection, and severely banned for use as postal adhesives.



Fig.3 A QV 1/2d green, overprinted 'Revenue' addressed to Valletta, cancelled in Sliema July 21, 1901. The franking was invalidated by the 'O' mark and taxed 1d — double rate

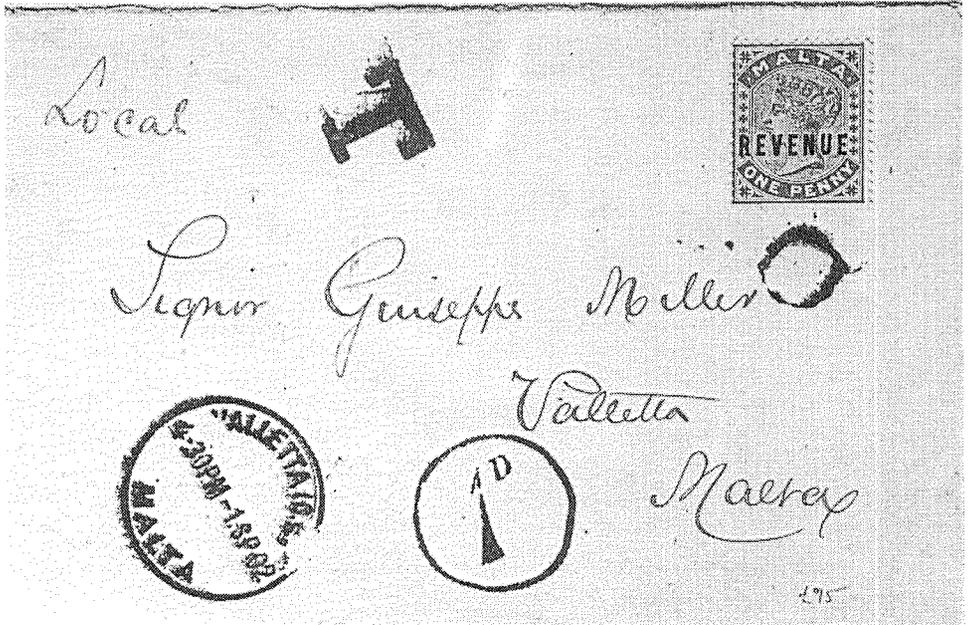


Fig.4 A QV 1d overprinted 'Revenue' on a locally addressed envelope dated September 1902. The stamp was not cancelled. The 'O' annulment was stamped alongside, together with tax markings.



Fig.5 Two QV 1/2d greens overprinted 'Revenue' sent to the UK on November 17, 1902. The post-office did not cancel them, but applied the usual 'O' annulment and the circular 'T'

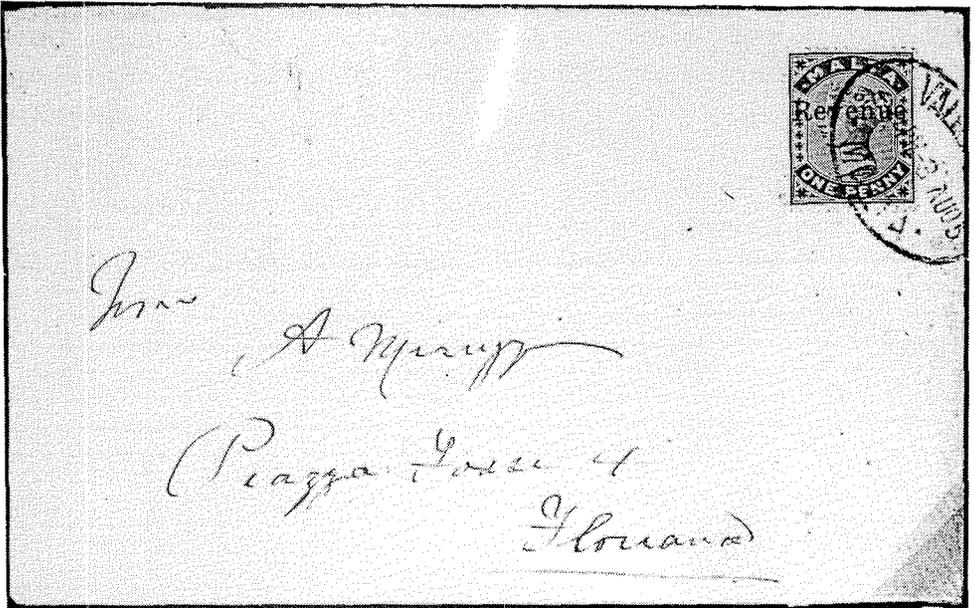


Fig.6 A QV 1d overprinted 'Revenue', locally addressed. This one seems to have got away. It was regularly cancelled on August 3, 1905



Fig.7 Two QV 1/2d greens, overprinted 'Revenue' and cancelled June 16, 1914. The fate of this letter is not clear as the 'T' applied to the offending letter seems to have been, in turn, obliterated

A few of these fiscal stamps used on envelopes escaped the postman's scrutiny. In some countries, fiscal stamps postally used constitute no great rarity. Revenue stamps would be legitimately employed when stocks of ordinary postage-stamps ran out, or for similar reasons. Malta, on the other hand, always applied the ban strictly. But, as with most rules, exceptions tend to creep in.

I suspect most examples of fiscal stamps seen postally used originated with the enterprising philatelist, playing on the voluntary or involuntary complicity of the postal authorities. Some probably got through the mail with the complacency of the clerk, others through his negligence in noticing the contravention. One way of trying to deceive the postman was to stick the fiscal stamp next to the legitimate postage-stamp, and hope for the best.



Fig.8 Eight QV 1/2d greens overprinted 'Revenue' and postally cancelled July 13, 1915. Off cover

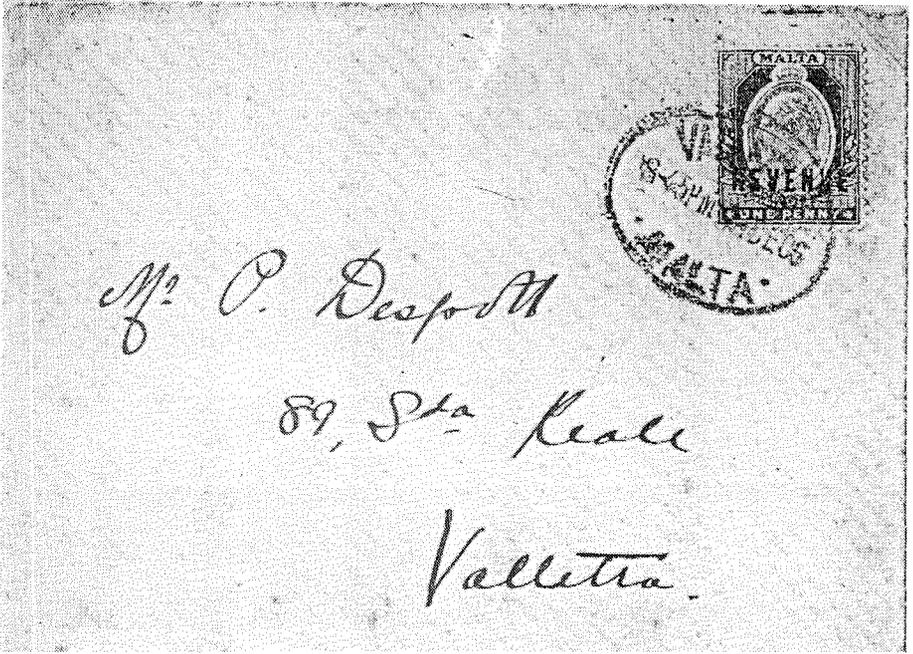


Fig.9 An EVII 1d overprinted 'Revenue' and stamped December 1906. Another one that seems to have eluded the postal authorities

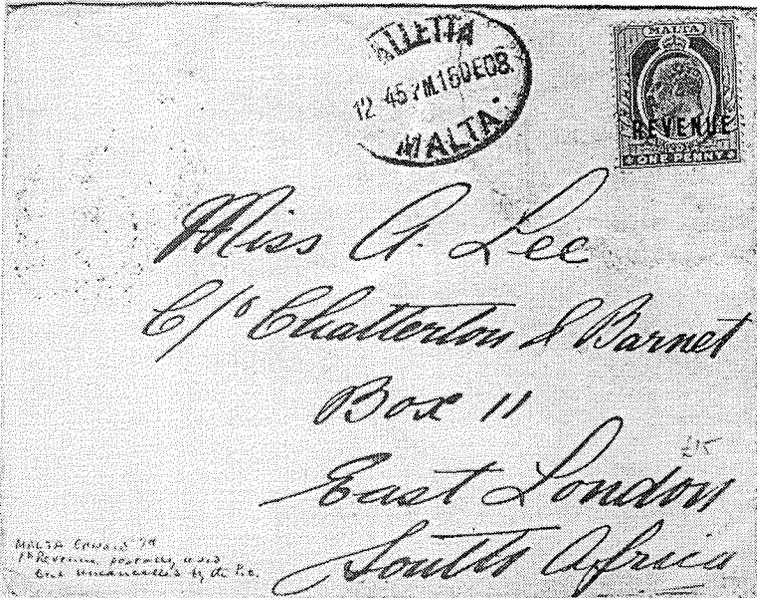


Fig.10 An EVII 1d overprinted 'Revenue' on envelope. The post office did not annul the stamp, nor, apparently, tax the letter. Handstamped December 15, 1908

Exceptionally — and I am illustrating a few — the use of fiscal stamps seems to be perfectly genuine, and the postal item betrays no philatelic manouevring at all.

Many of the attempts to dodge the postal filter failed. The offending letter would then be taxed — double rate charged to the addressee! Practice on how to deal with a fiscal stamp on a postal envelope varied. Sometimes it was obliterated by a handstamp — and taxed. At other times the revenue adhesive was left untouched (for future re-use) but the letter was equally taxed. A special 'O' obliterator remained always handy at the post office to annul stamps irregularly used. When this handstamp was unavailable, an 'O' in manuscript was inked near the offending stamp.



Fig.11 A GV 1d revenue stamp, used along a regular 1/2d postage-stamp. This 'trick' was noticed by the Malta post-office which only cancelled (August 12, 1926) the valid postage-stamp, and wrote 'O' next to the irregular one. This deficiency was highlighted by the 'T' and the offending fiscal was cancelled in Bristol on arrival

Philatelists, coveting letters with fiscal stamps postally used, occasionally resorted to compromise solutions. One of the more common consisted in sticking the revenue stamp on the front of the envelope, and the proper franking on the back — thereby making both themselves and the postal authorities happy.

Revenue stamps postally cancelled are known off-cover. In these instances it is sometimes impossible to establish whether these stamps originated from a postal article or not. The cachet could be a useful indication, but not an infallible one as postal handstamps are occasionally found to cancel fiscal stamps, e.g. on some permits.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks to Mr John Birkett Allan, Mr Carmel G. Bonavia, Mr Tony Fenech and Mr Hadrian Wood who assisted me with the illustrations

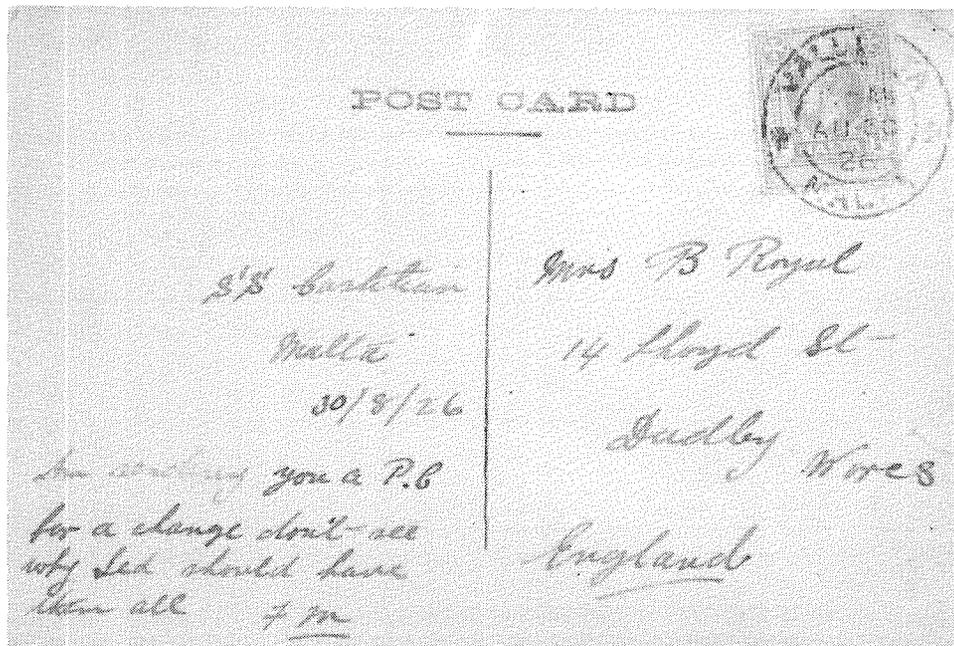


Fig.12 A GV 1d revenue stamp on a postcard addressed to England, and stamped August 30, 1926. Not philatelic, and allowed by the postal authorities.

FURTHER COMMENTS ON GIBRALTAR ERROR AND VARIETIES 1886-1985

by George Coates

The Gibraltar Study Circle Draft Study Paper N^o 12 headed "Errors and Varieties, 1886-1985" lists some 181 items. Many of these are minor printing errors, some watermark varieties, and the later printings mainly of the fly speck variety. These last named provide much enjoyment for the collector with a taste for such things at reasonable prices — although missing colours on the Harrison printed stamps of the 60s, 70s and 80s can be quite expensive.

The classic Gibraltar error is the 1889 10 centimos Queen Victoria stamp with the value omitted.

Only 60 of these stamps were discovered — the left hand pane of one sheet of 120 stamps. This error was noticed in 1895.

Collectors do not need to be told of changing values. In 1925 a mint block of 4 realised £225 at Auction in London. Gibbons now list the variety at £4,500 and in the mid-eighties it fetched even more at Auction!

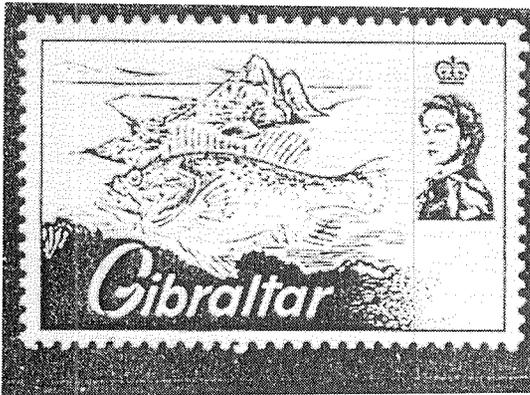
A Mr Chipolina was the Chief Clerk at the Post Office in 1895. A messenger was sent from a local firm to purchase some 10 centimos stamps, on his return he was told to go back to the Post Office and exchange the stamps which were worthless (!) as they had no value printed on them. Mr Chipolina readily exchanged the stamps. The alert Chief Clerk set aside the "no value" stamps just over half a pane remaining. He paid for the stamps at face value and then informed the Postmistress Miss Margaret Cresswell of his purchase. Soon afterwards, we are told, Mr Chipolina was selling each stamp for £1.

It is recorded that a wealthy Spanish collector purchased four to make a "block", a pair from a local pharmacist at a high price, one in Belgium and a fourth in South America.

In 1966 another major error surfaced. The Gibraltar Post Office issued the first set of commemorative stamps that did not form part of an omnibus Commonwealth issue. This was a set of three stamps, 4d., 7d., 1/-d. issued for the European Sea Angling Championships which were taking place in waters off the Rock.

Designed by A.G. (Freddie) Ryman, MBE, and printed by Harrison's placed on sale on August 27, 1966. The error — missing black printing on the 7d. was noticed on November 14, 1966. An employee of the Mediterranean Bank was sent to the





GPO to purchase thirty-six 7d. Sea Angling stamps. The Bank Manager, unlike the shopkeeper of 1895, did not return the "valueless stamps" but advised the Postmaster who checked the stock and found twenty faulty stamps unsold. A complete check of all the stock was then made and no further missing values were found. Four of the stamps had already been sold, the bank had thirty-six and the remaining twenty were withdrawn from sale.

A block of four was sent to Her Majesty the Queen for the Royal Collection, another block of four was placed in the Gibraltar Museum.

The remaining twelve stamps were duly incinerated under the eyes of Board of Destruction (what a splendid title!) on January 19, 1967.

The stamp is offered at Auction from time to time — incidentally from the original Bank stock. Gibbons list it at £650 unused. As far as is known none have been found used.



Acknowledgements

1. Gibraltar Study Circle Draft Study Paper N° 12, Oct. 1985
2. Looking Back. R. Garcia. Gibraltar Philatelic Society, 1985.

MALTA — A DIARY

January-July 1995

By J. Farrugia

10.1.95

In today's Govt Gazette a public competition was notified for the selection of the designs of the 'Anniversaries 1995' postage stamp set. This set will consist of three stamps featuring a different design. The design of each stamp should bear relation to the following subjects:

- (a) 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Organisation
- (b) 50th Anniversary end of the Second World War
- (c) 50th Anniversary Food & Agriculture Organisation. Theme – Food for All

The competition is open to Maltese citizens and designs are to be submitted not later than 1.00pm on Tuesday, February 7, 1995.

13.1.95

In today's Govt Gazette it was notified that with reference to the notice published in the Govt Gazette of November 18, 1994, the designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Qawsalla' by Mr Harry Borg was placed first. The set of designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Pax' by Mr Frank Ancilleri and the nom-de-plume 'Venus' by Mr T. Bugeja have been placed second and third respectively.

The two designs by Mr Harry Borg will be reproduced on the Europa 1995 postage stamp set.

24.2.95

In today's Govt Gazette it was notified that with reference to the notice published in the Govt Gazette of January 10, 1995, the designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Hamsinjiet' by Mr F. Ancilleri was placed first. The designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Shades' by Mr Harry Borg and the nome-de-plume 'Meteor' by Mr T. Bugeja have been placed second and third respectively.

The three designs by Mr F. Ancilleri will be reproduced on the 'Anniversaries 1995' postage stamp set.

27.2.95

The 'Commemorations 1995' postage stamp set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



6.3.95

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "General Fisheries Council – Of The — Mediterranean — Meeting Of Fisheries Experts — 6-8 March 1995 — Malta" was used at the Central Mail Room, from March 6 to 8, 1995. The slogan also incorporates the logos of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and European

Community.

14.3.95

The Postmaster General notified that the Sub-Post Office at Wied il-Ghajn was going to be closed from Tuesday, March 14 to Wednesday, March 22, 1995. This Sub-Post Office will be open again for normal business on Thursday, March 23, 1995.

27.3.95

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Patrimonju — Silver of Malta — Exhibition — April 1995 — The Palace — Valletta" was used, on and off, from March 27 to April 18, 1995, at the Central Mail Room.

27.3.95

A special hand-postmark was used on the occasion of the XXXIVth C.I.E.S.M. Congress. The postmark is inscribed as follows: "XXXIVth C.I.E.S.M. Congress — 27 March 1995 — Valletta — Malta".

The postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room, from 8.00am to 12.45pm and from 8.00am to 6.00pm respectively on March 27, 1995.



29.3.95

The 'Europa 1995' postage stamp set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



7.4.95

In today's Govt Gazette, the Postmaster General notified that to celebrate the European Nature Conservation Year, a postage stamp set was to be issued this year. This set was to consist of three stamps featuring a different

design. The selection of the three designs was to be made after a public competition by Maltese citizens. The design on each stamp should bear relation to the following subjects: Environment, Flora, Fauna.

21.4.95

The 'Anniversaries 1995' postage stamp set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



28.4.95

A commemorative postal card was issued on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office in the Munich '95 International Stamp Fair which was held in Munich, Germany, from April 28 to 30, 1995. The card has imprinted thereon the two stamps of the Europa 1995, postage stamp set and an appropriate motif.

The card could have been purchased in mint condition or with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-postmark inscribed: 'Malta Post Office — 28-30.IV.1995 — Munich '95'.

The postmark was used on April 28 and 29, 1995, at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO from 8.00am to 12.45pm. An identical postmark was used at the Malta Post Office Stand at Munich '95.



2.5.95

A Sub-Post Office was opened at "The Old Inkshop", Ta' l-Ibrag Road, Ta' l-Ibrag, limits of Swieqi, on Tuesday, May 2, 1995.

A metal hand date-stamp with the words: 'Swieqi S.P.O. — Malta' will be used at this Sub-Post Office. The telephone number at this Sub-Post Office is 374571.



6.5.95

A special hand-postmark was used to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of Martino Garges as Grand Master of the Order of St John. The postmark is inscribed as follows: 'Gran Mastru Martin Garges — 6.V.1995 — 1595-1995 — Valletta — Malta'.

The postmark, which incorporates an appropriate motif, was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room, from 8.00am to 12.45pm and from 8.00am to 6.00pm respectively, on May 6, 1995.



8.5.95

A special hand-postmark was used to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Victory Day in Europe. The postmark is inscribed as follows: "V.E. Day — Malta — 1945-95 — 8.V.1995 — Valletta — Malta'.

The postmark, which also incorporates the Victory Day in Europe logo, was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room, from 8.00am to

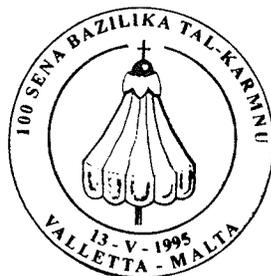


12.45pm and from 8.00am to 6.00pm respectively on May 8, 1995.

13.5.95

A special hand-postmark was used to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Carmelite Basilica at Valletta. The postmark is inscribed: '100 Sena Bazilika Tal-Karmnu — 13.V.1895-1995 — Valletta — Malta'.

The postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room from 8.00am to 12.45pm and from 8.00am to 6.00pm respectively, on May 13, 1995.



15.5.95

A special hand postmark was used to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the National Association of Pensioners. The postmark is inscribed: 'Ghaqda Nazzjonali — Tal-Pensjonanti — 15.V.1995 — 25 Anniversarju — Valletta-Malta'.

The postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room from 8.00am to 12.45pm and from 8.00am to 6.00pm respectively, on May 15, 1995.



19.5.95

A notice in the Govt Gazette having today's date stated that with reference to the notice published in the Govt Gazette of April 7, 1995, the PMG notifies that the designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Monochrome' by Mr M Tanti Burlo was placed first. The set of designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Ambjent' by Mr Harry Borg and 'Piermara' by Mr A Micallef were placed second and third respectively.

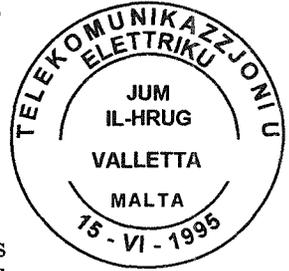
2.6.95

In today's Govt Gazette, the PMG notified that a set of postage stamps on the theme Treasures of Malta will be issued this year. This set will consist of four stamps featuring a different design. The selection of the four designs will be made after a public competition open to Maltese citizens.

The design of the four stamps should bear relation to any four of the following recommended subjects: Gilded Wall Clocks (Tal-Lira), Maltese Sun Dials, Tower Clocks (e.g. Pinto Clock at the Palace), Maltese Church Clocks, Long Case and Grandfather clocks, and Mechanism and Tools connected with Maltese timepiece movement (e.g. Works by M.A. Sapiano).

15.6.95

The 'History of Telecommunications and Electricity' postage stamp set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



22.6.95

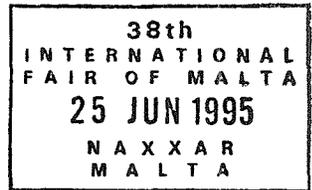
A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Korporazzjoni—Telemalta—20 Sena Ta' Servizz" was used from June 22 to 24 and on June 26, 1995, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan means: "Corporation — Telemalta — 20 Years of Service".

25.6.95

A Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from Sunday, June 25 to Sunday, July 9, 1995 from 6.00pm to 9.30pm for the transaction of the following business:

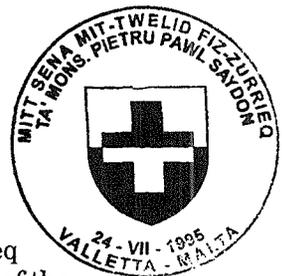
- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery
- (b) registration of postal articles local and foreign
- (c) sales and encashment of Postal Orders and Money Orders
- (d) encashment of Postcheques
- (e) EMS Datapost Service



Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed as follows: '38th International Fair of Malta — Naxxar — Malta".

24.7.95

A special hand-postmark was used to commemorate the centenary from the birth of Mgr Pietru Pawl Saydon. The postmark is inscribed: 'Mitt Sena Mit-Twelid Fiz-Zurrieq — Ta' Mons. Pietru Pawl Saydon — 24.VII.1995 — Valletta-Malta'.



The postmark, which also incorporates the Zurrieq Local Council Logo, was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room, from 8.00am to 12.45pm and from 8.00am to 6.00pm respectively, on July 24, 1995.

The slogan means: "100 Years From the Birth At Zurrieq — Of Mg. Pietru Pawl Saydon — 24-VII-1995 — Valletta-Malta".

26.7.95

The 'European Nature Conservation Year' postage set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



28.7.95

In today's Govt. Gazette, the PMG notified that with reference to the notice in the Govt. Gazette of June 2, 1995, the designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Tikk Tokk' by Mr F. Ancilleri was placed first. The set of designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Hour Glass' by Mr J.P. Smith and the nom-de-plume 'Mahler' by Mr J.A. Caruana were placed second and third respectively.

XMAS 1993 ISSUE —X

50th ANNIVERSARY DENTAL ASSOCIATION OF MALTA —Y

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	5.11.93	12.2.94
Values	3c+1c, 10c+2c, 25c+3c	5c, 44c
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm	31mm x 44mm
Designer	Harry Borg	Frank Ancilleri
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	14x13.9	14x13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

Issues X and Y were printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets of each value, in issues X and Y were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta and Yellow.

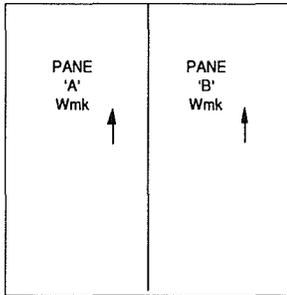
Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row in all Panes of all values, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

Printed Sheets

The Printed Sheets of each value, in issues X and Y consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. All values, in issues X and Y, are of the vertical format.

Perforation of Margins



The left hand margin of Panes A, of all values of issue X, and the 44c value of issue Y, is imperforate. The other three margins of Panes A and the four margins of Panes B are all perforated. In the case of the 5c value of issue Y, the right hand margin of Panes B is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of Pane B and the four margins of Panes A are all perforated. Other printing marks could have been seen at the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes B, in all values, of issues X and Y.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

Issue X	3c+1c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	10c+2c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	25c+3c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
Issue Y	5c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	44c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values, of issues X and Y, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in the figure. Looking at the printed sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in all values, of issues X and Y is upright. Perforator ran from left to right in all values of issue X and the 44c value of issue Y, but from right to left in the 5c value of issue Y.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. Letters are 1 mm high and printed in black. An imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. Special hand postmarks, incorporating motifs, were used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

Issue X remained on sale up to March 10, 1994 and issue Y up to February 15, 1995, unless stocks were previously exhausted. Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm21,600 (issue X) and Lm21,259 (Issue Y).

LOCAL COUNCILS ISSUE

Date of Issue	November 20, 1993
Values	5c
Stamp Size	48mm x 39.5mm
Designer	Joseph Mizzi
Printers	Printex Ltd
Process	Lithography
Perforation	14 x 14
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

This souvenir sheet was printed in the four-colour process using the standard process colours: magenta, cyan, yellow and black in that order.

The Department of Posts issued this souvenir sheet made up of a block of four stamps, each with a denomination of 5c, to commemorate the setting up of Local Councils.

Having said that, there is little else to be said. The margins of each souvenir sheet are very narrow and except for the top margin which is imperforate, the other three margins are perforated. No colour checks, values, Printers' Imprint or Pane numbers are seen on any of the margins.

The only other technical thing I can say about this souvenir sheet is, that the Printed Sheet contained twelve souvenir sheets made up of three rows of four.

Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm13,600. This souvenir sheet was to remain on sale up to October 6, 1994, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

EUROPA 1994 ISSUE

Date of Issue	March 29, 1994
Values	14c, 30c
Stamp Size	31 mm x 44mm
Designer	Harry Borg
Printers	Printex Ltd
Process	Lithography
Perforation	14 x 13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

This set was printed in the four-colour process. Progressive sheets of each value were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow.

Designs

The 14c stamp commemorates Sir Themistocles (Temi) Zammit, a much honoured scientist, professor of Chemistry and a man of letters.

The 30c stamp features a marble candelabrum, dating to the 2nd century BC preserved in the National Museum of Archaeology.

Both stamps are of the vertical format. A Pane of ten stamps, of each value, is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. In the first space of the top row, in each value, can be seen 'Europa 1994'. In the second space of the top row, can be seen an enlargement of part of the stamp in each value. The value of the whole Pane of stamps is seen in the middle of the top margin of each Pane, of both values, printed in black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs, 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin of each Pane, of both values, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in all Panes of both values.

The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of six Pnes of ten stamps, A to F.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp, of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values.

14c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4

30c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4

Perforation of Margins

PANE A Wmk	PANE B Wmk
PANE C Wmk	PANE D Wmk
PANE E Wmk	PANE F Wmk

The left hand margins of Panes A, C and E of both values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, and the four margins of Panes B, D and F, of both values, are perforated. No other printing marks were seen.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in the figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in both values is upright.

Perforator ran from left to right.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom

row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special handstamp, incorporating a motif, was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

This set was to remain on sale up to March 29, 1995.

First day sales by 12.45pm amounted to Lm73,751

COMMEMORATIONS 1994 ISSUE – X FIFA WORLD CUP 1994 ISSUE – Y

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	10.5.94	9.6.94
Values	5c, 9c, 14c, 20c, 25c	5c, 14c, 30c
Stamp Size	25c=27mmx33mm other values=33mmx27mm	33mmx27mm
Designer	Frank Ancilleri	Frank Ancilleri
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	25c=14x13.75 other values=13.75x14	14x13.75
Watermark	25c=Maltese Crosses Sideways other values=Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

Issues X and Y were printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets of each value, in issues X and Y were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta and Yellow.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the bottom row in each Pane of the 25c value of issue X. Similar colour checks are seen in the right hand margin next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in each pane, of the 5c, 9c, 14c and 20c values of issue X as well as in each Pane, of all values, of issue Y. In both cases, the colours from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

Printed Sheets

The Printed Sheet of the 5c, 9c, 14c and 20c values of issue X and of all three values of issue Y, consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All values are of the horizontal format. The Printed Sheet of the 25c value of issue X, also consisted of three Panes A, B and C. Each

Pane also has fifty stamps but made up of ten rows of five stamps. The 25c stamp is of the vertical format.

Perforation of Margins

In the 5c, 9c, 14c and 20c values of issue X and in all values of issue Y, the left hand margins of Panes A, B and C are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. Other printing marks may have been seen at each end of the top margin of Panes A and at each end of the bottom margin of Panes C. In the 25c value of issue X, the top margins of Panes A, B and C are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. Other printing marks in this value may have been seen, at each end of the left hand margin of Panes A and at each end of the right hand margin of Panes C.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

Issue X	5c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4, 1Cx4
	9c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4, 1Cx4
	14c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4, 1Cx4
	20c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4, 1Cx4
	25c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4, 1Cx4
Issue Y	5c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4, 1Cx4
	14c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4, 1Cx4
	30c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4, 1Cx4

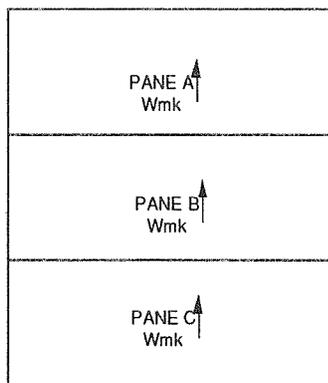


Fig. (a)

From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheet of each value before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure (a) for the 5c, 9c, 14c and 20c values of issue X and

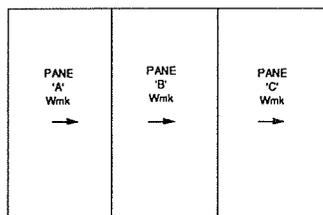


Fig. (b)

for all values of issue Y. The Printed Sheet of the 25c value of issue X would look as shown in figure (b). Looking at the printed sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in the 25c value of issue X is sideways and upright in all other values of issue X as well as in all values of issue Y. Peforator ran from left to right in fig (a) and from top to bottom in fig (b).

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. Letters are 1 mm high and printed in black. An imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in all values of X and Y except in the 25c value of issue X. Special hand postmarks, incorporat-

ing motifs, were used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

Issue X remained on sale up to May 10, 1995 and issue Y up to June 14, 1995, unless stocks were previously exhausted. Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm33,546 (issue X) and Lm40,407 (Issue Y).

With Issue Y, a Souvenir Sheet, measuring 122mm x 88mm was also issued. The three values are printed in this souvenir sheet. The colours used and the order of printing of the progressive sheets are the same as those used for the normal Panes. The watermark is Maltese Crosses sideways instead of Maltese Crosses upright as in the normal Panes. Thus individual stamps of any value can be checked whether they formed part of a Souvenir Sheet or a normal Pane, by means of the direction of the watermark. The Printed Sheet of the Souvenir Sheets, consisted of sixteen Souvenir Sheets, made up of four rows of four Souvenir Sheets.

AVIATION ISSUE — X FIRST MAN ON THE MOON — Y

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	2.7.94	20.7.94
Values	5c, 14c, 20c, 25c	14c
Stamp Size	44mm x 31mm	31mm x 44mm
Designer	Richard J. Caruana	Richard J. Caruana
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	14x13.9	14x13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

Issues X and Y were printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets of each value, in issue X were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta and Yellow. The order in issue Y is: Magenta, Cyan, Black, Yellow

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row in all Panes of all values, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

Printed Sheets

The Printed Sheet of each value in issues X and Y, consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps in issue X, but made up of ten rows of five stamps in issue Y. All values of issue X are of the

horizontal format and the value of issue Y is of the vertical format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X—The top margin of Panes A, of all values, is imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes and the four margins of Panes B are all perforated. Other printing marks could only have been seen at each end of the bottom margin of Panes B.

Issue Y—The left hand margin of Panes A, of this value, is imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, and the four margins of Panes B are all perforated. Other printing marks could have been seen at each end of the left hand margin of Panes A and at each end of the right hand margin of Panes B.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

Issue X	5c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	14c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	20c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	25c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
Issue Y	14c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4

From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in fig (a) for all values of issue X and as shown in fig (b) for the value of issue Y. Looking at the printed sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in issue X and upright in issue Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom in fig (a) and from left to right in fig (b).

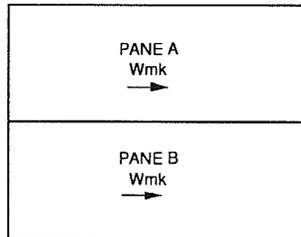


Fig. (a)

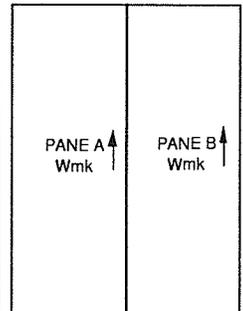


Fig. (b)

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint “Printex Limited Malta” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. Letters are 1 mm high and printed in black. An imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. Special hand postmarks, incorporating motifs, were used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

Issue X remained on sale up to July 20, 1995 and issue Y up to July 20, 1995 unless stocks were previously exhausted. Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm29,104 (issue X) and Lm10,843 (Issue Y).

It is of interest to note here that the misprint of the word ‘Anniversarju’ on the 20c value stamp, of issue X, was mentioned in local newspapers. Issue X was marking the 50th anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organisation and after printing, the 20c value stamp was found to have the word ‘Anniversarju’ wrongly spelt ‘Anniverarju’. The mistake was discovered before the day of issue, but after the stamps had already been distributed to Branch Post Offices. All 20c stamps were withdrawn and a new printing successfully finished before the day of issue. The misprinted sheets were all destroyed. The printing mistake can be seen on the 20c stamp in the Malta Stamp Bulletin N° 134.

DISINFECTION

By Dr. A. Bonnici, MD
DIARY OF THE PLAGUE EPIDEMIC OF 1813
(Part 23)



NOTICE

ACCORDING to the Reports made by the Medical Gentlemen to the Council of Health, the Public is informed that the Deaths occasioned by Plague within the last twenty-four hours have been 47, viz.

VALLETTA

Distretto	Strada	No.	Nome.
4	S Ursula	174	Antonia Borg
5	Piazza Bianco	21	Antonio Labone
—	Manderaggio	165	Giovanni Bonello
7	S. Carlo	28	Maria Debono
Nell' Osped di Peste			Giovanni Galea
—	—	—	Giusep, e Parigini
—	—	—	Pietro Bussich
—	—	—	Giuseppe Persico
—	—	—	Antonio Bonnici
—	—	—	Maria Bonnici
—	—	—	Giovanni Acuti
—	—	—	Francesco Di Giovanni
—	—	—	Antonio Colpito

NOTIFICAZIONE

ATenore dei Rapporti fatti dalli Signori Medici al Consiglio di Sanità, il Pubblico viene informato che nelle scorse ventiquatt'ore morirono di Peste le seguenti 47 Persone.

FLORIANA

Ospedale di Peste	Nome.
—	Giuseppe Vella
—	Anna Borg
—	Maria Formoso
—	Giovanni Vella
—	Michele Zahra
—	Nicola Stellini
—	Gio. Batta. Vella
—	Il Sig. Franc. Castellana
—	Chirurgo
—	Salvatore Zammit
—	Maria Farrugia
—	Giovanni Micallef
VITTORIOSA	
Strada S. Antonio	No. 10 Rosa Falzon

————— Pietro Vicas
 ————— Teresa Grech
 ————— Angelo Debono
 ————— Michele Gai
 ————— Vincenza Bonnici
FORTE MANUEL
 Baracche de' fortem. sospetti Maria Debono
 Vincenza Aquilina
 Vincenza Mizzi

FLORIANA
 Strada Fosse 38 Antonio Vella
 Mercato 13 Luigi Micallef
 S. Anna 63 Michele Chetcuti
 ————— 78 Clara Pace
 Baracche de' fortem. sospetti Maria Carabot
 Vincenza Spiteri

¶ And that 22 Persons have fallen sick under suspicious symptoms; viz —

VALLETTA

Distretto	Strada	No.	Nome
1.	Strada Mercanti	N. 112	Pietro Said
6.	Piazza Fianco	21	Salvadore Tabone
7.	Strada S. Domenico	100	Steffano Rossi
8.	———— Fontana	4	Maria Pullicino
————	————	————	Vincenza Pullicino
————	————	41	Salvadore Attard

FLORIANA
 Strada S. Francesco 8 Agostino Micallef
 S. Tommaso 50 Grazia Valletta
 Del Giardino 10 Il Sig. Chierico Giovanni Debono
 S. Anna 63 Teresa Chetcuti
 Baracche de' fortemente sospetti Angela Chetcuti

Palace, 5 August, 1813.
 By Order of the Council,
 J. C. MILLER, Secretary,

PIETA'
 Angela Aquilina
CASAL BIRCHIRARA
 Paolo Ciantar
CASAL CURMI
 Maria Vassallo
 Giuseppe Ciantar
CASAL ZEBBUG
 La Sig. Anna Palma
 Teresa Camilleri
CASAL MUSTA
 Maria Abela
 Andrea Mifsud

Si rileva parimenti esser cadute ammalate, con sintomi sospetti 22 Persone.

CASAL ZEBBUG
 Salvatore Ellul
 Rosa Gambin
 Giuseppe Aquilina
 Caterina Aquilina
 Barbara Aquilina
 Giuseppe Mallia
 Filippo Formosa
CASAL MUSTA
 Giovanni Galea
 Pietro Galea
 Maria Galea
 Angela Busuttil

Palazzo 5 Agosto 1813.
 D' Ordine del Consiglio
 J. CASE. MILLER Secretary,



NOTICE

ACCORDING to the Reports made by the Medical Gentlemen to the Council of Health, the Public is informed that the Deaths occasioned by Plague within the last twenty-four hours have been 43, viz.

VALLETTA

<i>Disette</i>	<i>Sirada</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Nome.</i>
1	Saluto	No. 47	Andrea Cassar
	St. Paolo	312	Nicola Abdilla
	Mercanti	213	Pietro Vaid
	Torre	20	Giovanna Busuttii
	Brittanica	2	Agostino Bartolo
3	Vescovo	23	Angelo Mangion
7	St. Domenicò	98	Antonia Psaila
8	St. Giuseppe	126	Paolò Borg
	Fontana	11	Caterina Attard
		4	Margarita Pullicino
			Domenico Paresini
			Gaetano Calamatta
			Felice Darmanin
			Angelo Sultana
			Francesco Camiller
			Saverio Caruana
			Salvadore Attard
			Stanislao Radonich

Ospedale Peste

NOTIFICAZIONE

A tenore dei Rapporti fatti dalli Signori Medici al Consiglio di Sanità, il Pubblico viene informato che nelle scorse ventiquattr'ore morirono di Peste le seguenti 43 Persone.

FLORIANA

Neil'Ospedale de Peste

Antonio Masta
Pietro Vella
Maria Vella
Giuseppe Spiteri
Francesco Zammit
Il Sig. Tommaso Cortese
(Chirurgo)

RABBATO DELLA NOTABILE

Modesta Micallef

CASAL CURMI

Maria Ciantar
Giorgio Mangion

CASAL PAULA

Luigi Farrugia

BIRCHRCARA

Francesco Zammit

CASAL ZEBBUG

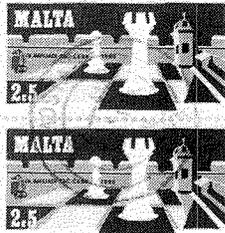
Giuseppe Grech
Giuseppe Muscat

ANOTHER TWO BARS FROM THE SYMPHONY IN STAMPS

By Chev. Peter Paul Vassallo, SMOSJJ

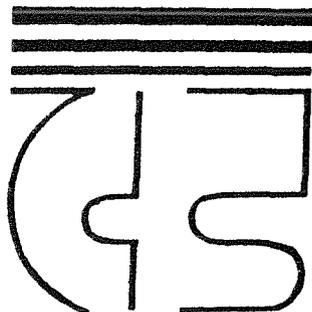


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Treasures of Malta

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5th October 1995

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2nd October 1996

Designer
Frank Ancilleri

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