

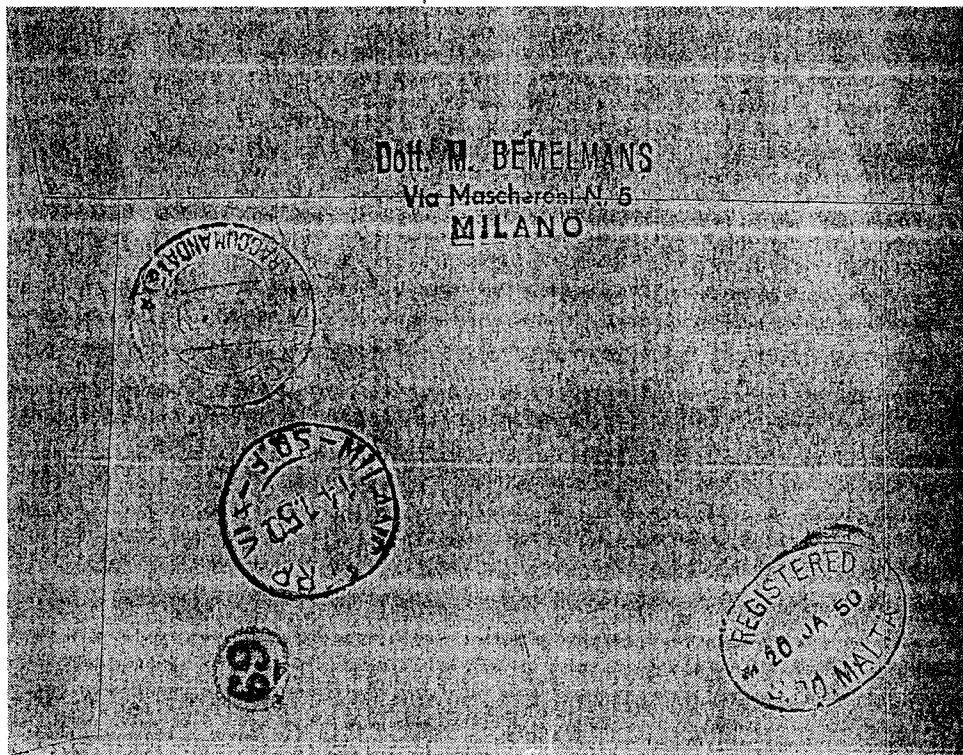
Last Recorded Date of Postmen's Personal Handstamps

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

I read with much interest the elaborate and informative article by Elizabeth and Paul Saliba in this year's April number of the PSM Magazine, for which I congratulate them.

In the fourth paragraph of the article in question the authors stated that the last recorded item on which a PPH had appeared is dated September 29, 1949. This same last recorded date had also appeared earlier in the appropriate section on PPH in the last published SAID Malta Stamp Catalogue.

For the sake of correct recording of these postal history items, of Malta, I would like to bring to the notice of those interested in this section of Maltese postal history that I have in my possession two registered covers, one posted to me from Milano, Italy on January 14, 1950 and backstamped at the GPO Malta on **January 20, 1950** to which the PPH N° 69 is tied; and a second, posted to me from Sussex, UK, on January 18, 1950 and backstamped at the GPO Malta on **January 21, 1950**, on which the same PPH — N° 69 — was used.



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| <p>is reserved</p> <p>R BRIGHTON 86</p> <p>No 1588</p> <p>Space on back of Sender.</p> | <p>REGISTERED LETTER.</p> <p>THIS LETTER MUST BE HANDED TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE AGAINST A RECEIPT.</p> | |
| <p>SERGEON CAPTAIN</p> <p>TO J. H. HERCIECA. D.D.S.</p> | | |
| <p>190. RUDOLPH STREET</p> <p>SWIEMA.</p> | <p>Registration</p> <p>Fee 4 d. paid</p> <p>(See note on back)</p> | <p>ITALIA.</p> |

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|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Name and Address of Sender</p> | | | <p>Compensation</p> |
| | <p>FROM</p> | | <p>Subject to the limitations and conditions notified in the Post Office Guide, the registration fee of 4d. covers compensation up to £5 for loss or damage of an Inland Registered Letter, and up to £2 for the entire loss of a Registered Letter sent to a place abroad. To cover higher amounts extra fees must be paid as indicated in the Guide. When a higher registration fee than 4d. is paid on an Inland Registered Letter the amount should be inserted in the space provided on the front of this envelope.</p> |

While for the time being these two covers seem to carry the latest known dates on which a PPH (N^o 69) was used, three months and twenty-two days later than the date given by Elizabeth and Paul Saliba in their exhaustive article, one cannot exclude the possibility that there may yet be in existence the odd one or two covers which could possibly be in someone else's possession, with a yet later date, which could come to light later one.

However, for the time being, these two covers in my possession, both addressed to myself and which I am illustrating with this article, are to be considered as the last recorded items of the use of a PPH unless others, with yet later dates, could possibly be unearthed later on.