

MALTA — A DIARY

By J. Farrugia

September - December, 1988

9-9-88

In today's Govt. Gazette a call for applications was issued for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Marsalforn, Gozo. Applications were to be received up to noon of Monday, 10th October, 1988.

14-9-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Challenge of Peace — Naples — Malta — 14-21 September, 1988" was used, on and off, during the period 14th to 21st September, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

17-9-88

The "XXIV Olympiad 1988" set issued today. A special hand postmark was used on its first day of issue. (Fig.1)

19-9-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "World Maritime — Day — 22 September 1988" was used, on and off, during the period 19th - 22nd September, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

19-9-88

E.M.S. Datapost — an expedited mail service — was introduced by the Maltese Post Office on the 19th September, 1988, for the transmission of postal articles between Malta and Germany.

The main features of the E.M.S. Datapost can be seen on the date "2-5-88" of this diary.

24-9-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "World Tourism Day 27 September 1988", was used, on and off, during the period 24th to 27th September, 1988, at the Central Mail Room. The logo of the World Tourism Day is also incorporated in the slogan.

27-9-88

The P.M.G. notified that a Branch Post Office was to be opened at 467A Main Street, St. Paul's Bay at 10.00am on Tuesday, 27th September, 1988. The hours of business and the business to be transacted at this Branch Post Office shall be those laid down in the VIth Schedule to the Inland Post Regulations, 1985. With effect from the 27th September, 1988, postal articles posted in street letter-boxes in the area served by the St. Paul's Bay, Branch Post Office were to be postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed: "St. Paul's Bay — Malta". (Fig 2.)

Post Office Private Delivery Boxes are available and may be rented on application. The telephone number at this Branch Post Office is 476244.

6-10-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "World Post Day — 9 October — The Post — Always and Everywhere" was used on the 6th, 7th and 8th October, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

7-10-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Inauguration of The — IMO International — Maritime Law Institute — Malta 8 October 1988" was used on the 7th and 8th October, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

12-10-88

The P.M.G. notified that the Sub-Post Offices at "Vinvic", By the Chruuch Street, Xaghra, Gozo, and 17, December 13th Street, Nadur, Gozo, were to close down with effect from Wednesday, 12th October, 1988.

13-10-88

The P.M.G. notified that Branch Post Offices were to be opened at Racecourse Street, Xaghra, Gozo and at North Street, Nadur Gozo, on Thursday, 13th October, 1988 at 9.00am and at

10.00am respectively. The hours of business and the business to be transacted at these Branch Post Offices shall be those laid down in the VIth Schedule to the Inland Post Regulations, 1985. With effect from the 13th October, 1988, postal articles posted in street letter-boxes in the areas served by the Xaghra and Nadur Branch Post Offices were to be postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed "Xaghra — Gozo" and "Nadur - Gozo" respectively (Fig. 3, 4).

Post Office Private Delivery Boxes are available and may be rented on application. The telephone numbers of the Xaghra and Nadur Branch Post Offices are 553915 and 552385 respectively.

17-10-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Spanish — Maltese — Philatelic Exhibition — 20- 22nd October, 1988" was used, on and off, during the period 17th - 22nd October, 1988, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan also incorporates the logo of the Spanish — Maltese Cultural Circle.

18-10-88

The P.M.G. notified that a commemorative postal card was to be issued on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office at the Holland Europa 88/Filacept International Philatelic Exhibition which was held at The Hague, Holland, from the 18th to the 23rd October 1988.

The card has imprinted thereon the two stamps of the Europa 1988 postage set and an appropriate motif. The price of the card was to be 45c and it was available for sale from the G.P.O. and from all Branch and Sub-Post Offices, from the 18th to the 22nd October, 1988, unless stocks were previously exhausted. The card could have been purchased in mint condition or with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-postmark inscribed: "Post Office Malta 18-23.x.88 — Filacept Holland Europa 88" (Fig. 5). This postmark was also used at the stand of the Malta Post Office, at the Holland Europa 88/Filacept International Philatelic Exhibition. The card cancelled with the special postmark, could have been sent through the post at no extra charge provided it was posted during the period 18-23 October, 1988. Cards cancelled with the "Filacept" hand-postmark posted after the 23rd October, 1988, must have additional stamps affixed thereon to cover the required postage. Such stamps would be cancelled with the normal metal hand-postmark.

20-10-88

A special hand-postmark was used on the occasion of the Spanish-Maltese Philatelic Exhibition which was held from the 20th to the 22nd October, 1988. The postmark is inscribed as follows: "Ghaqda Kulturali — Spanjola — Maltija — Wirja Filatelika — Valletta - Malta — 20-22.x.88". The wording means: "Cultural Circle — Spanish - Maltese — Philatelic Exhibition — Valletta - Malta — 20-22.x.88" (Fig. 6).

The postmark which also incorporates the logo of the Spanish - Maltese Cultural Circle, was used on the 20th, 21st and 22nd October, 1988, at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. from 8.00am to 12.45pm and at the Central Mail Room from 8.00am to 6.00pm.

1-11-88

To mark the European Cultural Heritage Day, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jum Il-Wirt Kulturali — Ewropew — 3 Ta' Novembru 1988" was used on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd November, 1988, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan means: "Cultural Heritage Day — European — 3rd November 1988".

4-11-88

It was notified in to-day's Govt. Gazette that the current Registration Envelopes, in three different sizes, with the new emblem of the Republic of Malta affixed on the old emblem were available from the G.P.O., B.P.O.s and Sub-Post Offices.

5-11-88

The "Christmas 1988" set, issued today. A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue. (Fig. 7).

11-11-88

In to-day's Govt. Gazette the P.M.G. invites applications for the appointment of a sole agent for the promotion of sale of Malta stamps in Australia New Zealand. Applications were to be submitted by not later than 10.00am of Friday, 30th December, 1988.

14-11-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "60 Sena Mit-Twaqqif — Tax-Xirka Ta' — L-Isem Imqaddes ta' Alla — 1928-1988" was used from the 14th to the 19th November, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan means: "60th Anniversary — Of the Society of — The Holy Name of God".

21-11-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jum Dinji Ta' Ghoti — Tad-Demm — Aghti D-Demm — Aghti l-Hajja" was used from the 21st to the 25th November, 1988 at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan means: "World Day of Donation — Of Blood — Give Blood — Give Life".

21-11-88

The PMG notified that a temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the Mediterranean Conference Centre Valletta from Monday 21st November to Saturday 26th November 1988, from 8.30am to 1.30pm for the transaction of the following business:

a. Sale of stamps and postal stationery; b. Registration of Postal Articles; c. Issue and encashment of Postal Orders and Money Orders; d. Encashment of Post Cheques; e. Posting of letters and Printed Matter.

Postal articles posted at this temporary branch post office was to be postmarked by a datestamp inscribed "FIAPA – Malta '88 - Valletta" (Fig. 8)

28-11-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "World Aids Day — 1 December 1988 — Join The — World Wide Effort" was used from the 28th November to the 1st December, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

1-12-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Ghinu T-Tfal Fil-Bzonn — Uzaw il-Bolli Tal-Milied" was used, on and off, during the period 1st December to 24th December, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan means: "Help Children in Need — Use Christmas Issue Stamps". A line drawing of a Christmas motif is also incorporated in the slogan.

1-12-88

The PMG notified that E.M.S. Datapost started operating to and from Italy and Ireland with effect from 1st December, 1988.

5-12-88

The P.M.G. notified that registration envelopes in three different sizes – 'G' (small), 'H' (medium) and 'K' (large) bearing the new emblem of the Republic of Malta and with the old emblem obliterated were available for sale at the G.P.O., B.P.O.s and Sub-Post Offices as from Monday, 5th December, 1988.

15-12-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "35th London International Boat Show 5-15.1.89" was used, on and off, during the period 15th December, 1988 to 15th January, 1989, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan also incorporates a motif relating to the central theme at the 35th London International Boat Show.

16-12-88

In to-day's Govt. Gazette a call for applications was issued for Sub-Postmasters at Siggiewi and Mgarr, Malta. Applications were to be received by noon of Monday, 16th January, 1989.

26-12-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "1 Jan '89 — Jum Il-Paci — Peace Lab Malta" was used, on and off, from the 26th to the 31st December, 1983, at the Central Mail Room.



Fig. 1

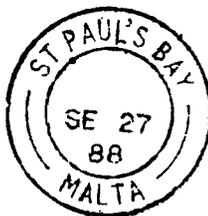


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

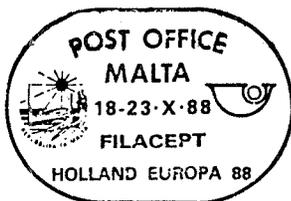


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8