



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE PSM MAGAZINE



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THE PSM MAGAZINE



Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84,
Silver-Bronze AUSIPEX '84.
Editor: Dr. A. Bonnici, Asst. Editor: V. Mercieca.

Vol. 14 No.1

April 1985



The 7d. Postage Due Handstamp

Dr. Giovanni Bonello

The circular Postage Due handstamp for Seven Pence (PD-72) is known to have been sent from London in 1896. Until recently, it was believed that it had never been used.

Here illustrated is a cover from Naples, Italy, which reached Malta on July 17, 1909. Only one other such cover, showing the elusive 7d. Postage Due, is known to be in existence.



Editorial

1986 will be the 20th Anniversary of our Philatelic Society, and it is my desire to commemorate this event, as has been done in the past, with another special edition of the PSM Magazine. Our local and overseas members should participate by contributing interesting material and articles.

Our Society (as indeed all Philatelic Societies) was set up to educate through philately, to help members in research of unpublished and unknown material, and to foster love for Malta philatelic material.

These were the main reasons why I accepted being your Editor, an assignment which is very demanding but stimulating.

- We are not a profit making Organisation.
- We do not sell the magazine, but distribute it free of charge to all our members who pay a nominal yearly subscription. The overseas rates are slightly more than the local, for the simple reason that the magazine is sent three times a year by Air Mail.
- We do not have or ever had the intention to compete, upstage, or in any manner outshine anybody or other existing Philatelic Organisations, which are also doing, and have done in the past, sterling work in Philately. Nobody can be an island, and cooperation and mutual help and trust are our objectives.
- We in Malta are always very happy to welcome, and extend our hospitality to overseas Philatelic Societies and their members, and this comraderie feeling has been generously extended to us by the Malta Study Circle, whose members have always extended to us their help and expertise when requested, and always welcomed us, when we

visited them in the U.K.

- I would like to see all our Maltese members becoming members of the Malta Study Circle set up in 1956, whose members were the pioneers of Maltese Philatelic research, their masterpiece being the Hand Book, which should be in the library of every serious Malta Collector. I try and encourage members in Philatelic research and I would like to congratulate Mr Henri Tristant for his publication 'FrancoMaltese Postal Relations from their Origins to 1870' and Mr. Godwin Said, who translated it into English and published it in Malta through Messrs Emanuel Said. This English version won a Silver-Bronze Medal in Espana 84 and Ausipex 84.

- The December 1984 issue Vol. 13 No. 3, was our Special Number to commemorate the Centenary of the Statutory Establishment of the Malta Post Office 1885 - 1985. It was my intention to acknowledge the source of the various items published at the end. However when we were in a very advanced stage of setting I realised that this could not be done. So I am printing this separately so that members can insert it in the December issue.

Contents	Page
The 7 P.D. Handstamp, Dr. G. Bonello	1
Editorial and Contents	2
A.G.M., A. Fenech	3
Vote a Stamp Comp., Dr. J. Mercieca	4
An Unrecorded P.P. Handstamp, Dr. G. Bonello	5
Disinfection Part 6, Dr. A. Bonnici	7
G.B. Stamp Used in Malta Part 5, A. Fenech	12
Echoes From 1976, Dr. A. Bonnici	16
Napoleonic Period, Dr. A. Bonnici	18
Malta-Diary, May-Dec 1984, J. Farrugia	25
Detailed Information, J. Farrugia	30
Q.V. 1d Bisect, Dr. A. Bonnici	33
Q.V. Revenue Stamp, Dr. A. Bonnici	35

Annual General Meeting

President's Address

By Anthony Fenech

The 19th Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Society was held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, on Monday 14th January 1985.

Dr. J. H. Mercieca, the Society's President welcomed the members present and delivered his address.

The President began by recalling with happiness two centennial events of much interest to the Society, which fell on the 1st January 1985, i.e. the Statutory establishment of the Malta Post Office and the issue of the first Malta definitive set of six stamps, on the 1st January 1885. He then extended his and the Society's felicitations to the Postmaster General and the staff of the Department of Posts on this truly auspicious and memorable occasion and also remembered with appreciation and gratitude the pioneers of this department and all those who during this centennial period followed them and gave their valid contribution in the progressive building up of this very important and essential public service.

Dr. Mercieca then reminded the meeting of another very important event to the Society, which will fall next year, i.e. the Foundation of the Philatelic Society, on the 6th March 1966 and emphasized his desirability that such an important landmark in the history of the Society, be appropriately celebrated, possibly with yet more activity than the tenth anniversary, which the Society aptly celebrated in 1976.

He then passed on to mention the Society's activities of 1984, outstanding amongst which were the monthly meetings of February, when Dr. Albert Ganado gave a very interesting talk and display on 'Maltese cartography' and of March, when one of the Society's youngest members, Miss Marcelle Bartolo, displayed her thematic collection of 'Beethoven on stamps' and gave a very informative and instructive talk on the subject. Dr. Mercieca also mentioned two other talks cum display given by Mr. Alan Bannister at the Marsa Club in May on 'Notabile Covers' and by Mr. George A. Coates in October on various items of Maltese Postal History.

Dr. Mercieca then expressed his and the Society's appreciation and thanks for the truly sterling work which Dr. Alfred Bonnici had put in as Editor of the Society's Magazine, which throughout 1984 was not only published dead on time, if not before the three set dates of publication, but also continued to register an all-round improvement, both in its elegant presentation as also for its highly interesting and informative articles, which definitely reached the peak with the December 1984 number, with its numerous illustrations and attractive colour-plates, which surely gave our publication a semblance of a 'magazine of class'. In fact, the President continued, no better proof of this could be forthcoming than the award, for the first time ever, of a silver-bronze medal to the P.S.M Magazine, at each of the two International Philatelic Exhibitions, Espana 84 and Ausipex 1984. This not only sheds credit on Dr. Bonnici's capable editorship but is yet another feather in the Society's cap.

Dr. Mercieca, then announced the awards received by members of the Society who had participated in the two International Exhibitions Espana 84 and Ausipex 84 and congratulated Dr. Bonnici who had been awarded a Gold Medal and Mr. Godwin Said for a Large Vermeil Medal in Espana 84 and Ausipex 84 for his Postal History Collection, and Silver Medal to Messrs

Emanuel Said for the publication 'Franco – Maltese Postal Relations from Their Origins to 1870' respectively and encouraged other members to participate in future international exhibitions in order that the Society may have new participants.

After thanking all Committee members for their valid contribution in their respective Offices, the President concluded his address by appealing to all members to continue supporting the Society so that it may keep growing from strength to strength and to appropriately celebrate the 20th Anniversary of its Foundation, in 1986.

After the Presidential address, Dr. A. Ganado, the Secretary, read out his report giving a detailed account of all the Society's activities during 1984.

This was followed by the financial report by the treasurer Mr. J. Porsella Flores, who gave a very meticulous account of the Society's monies.

This was followed by the financial report by the treasurer Mr. J. Porsella Flores, who gave a very meticulous account of the Society's monies. The accounts were audited by Mr. R. Rendle, C.P.A.

Finally Dr. Alfred Bonnici gave a report on the editing of the P.S.M. Magazine, his activities connected thereto as well as some difficulties encountered in its production.

The election of the Committee for the year 1985 then followed and the following gentlemen were elected:

President – Dr. J. H. Mercieca

Vice-President and Editor – Dr. A. Bonnici

Secretary – Dr. A. Ganado

Asst. Secretary – Lt. Col. W. J. Attard

Treasurer – Mr. J. Porsella-Flores

Asst. Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent – Mr. Anthony Fenech

Asst. Editor – Mr. Vincent Mercieca

Liason Officer between the P.S.M. and the Malta Study Circle – Mr. H. Wood

Members – Mr. Godwin Said; Mr. Joe Buttigieg

IX International Vote a Stamp Competition

by Dr. J. H. Mercieca

The Society has once again organised, for the ninth successive year, the 'Vote a Stamp Referendum' in which voters from twenty different countries, in addition to those from Malta, participated.

The counting of the votes took place at the Monthly Meeting of December.

As some of the members had forecast, the stamp which received the highest number of votes was the 27 cents stamp of the Railway Centenary set, designed by Mr. Richard J. Caruana, which polled 23.7% of the total number of votes received. Another stamp, designed by the same artist – the 30 cents stamp of the Europa CEPT pair – came in the second place, with 18% of the votes, while the third place was secured by the 8 cents stamp of the Commonwealth Day set, designed by Mr. Charles Cassar, with 13.9% of the votes.

After the announcement of the result of the voting by Dr. J. H. Mercieca, the Society's President, the draw for the big prize, consisting of a free air ticket, generously donated by the National Airline Air-Malta and a week's stay at the

Malta Hilton Hotel, kindly granted by the Management of the Malta Hilton, if it was won by an overseas participant, and for the three consolation prizes of a De-Luxe Stock-book, kindly donated by Messrs. Emmanuel Said of Valletta, took place. Miss Daisy Formosa, a very active founder member of the Society was asked to draw the lots, which went to the following lucky winners, all ladies:-

The Big Prize of the Air ticket went to Mrs. Mary Galea of Sliema, while the 3 De Luxe Stock Books went, one each, to Mrs. Margaret Saetta, of Sliema; Miss Nadia Scerri of Rabat, Malta and Mrs. Rosa Borg of Sliema.

Before bringing the Meeting to its close, Dr. Mercieca congratulated the lucky winners and thanked Air-Malta and the Malta Hilton for their kindness in donating the Big Prize, the firm Emmanuel Said for giving the three De Luxe Stock Books, the firms which had advertised on the Voting Brochure and last but, not by any means, least, Mr. Vincent Mercieca, Dr. Alfred Bonnici and Mr. Godwin Said, composing the Organising Committee, who were responsible for the organization and the holding of the competition.

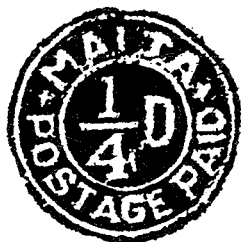
An unrecorded Postage Paid handstamp?

By Dr. Giovanni Bonello

Two 'negative' postage paid handstamps have already been recorded: the one farthing circle (PP $\frac{1}{4}$ – 1a) and the one farthing oval (PP $\frac{1}{4}$ – 1b). These are referred to as 'negative'; differently from other handstamps, white lettering appears on a black background. As the handstamps have no date, their period of use is difficult to establish: they are usually found on undated wrappers or covers. The Malta Study Circle handbook dates them 1924 – 1925, but they were still in use in 1928.

I am here recording a third one: a *halfpenny* Postage Paid in an oval upright. This has the same measurements as the farthing ones (3 cms diameter) and I do not exclude that it is the same as the farthing one with the central oval substituted. The ones I have seen are in red a date around 1951. I propose to list this handstamp as PP $\frac{1}{2}$ – 1c.

The illustration at page 367 of the Handbook shows dots between 'Malta' and 'Postage Paid'. The items I have seen show stars. This either means that there may have been two handstamps or, more probably, that the stars were misinterpreted as dots owing to the frequent smudginess of the impressions.



PP $\frac{1}{4}$ – 1a



PP $\frac{1}{4}$ – 1b



PP $\frac{1}{2}$ – 1c

Disinfection

Part 6

By Dr. A. Bonnici

Achille Ferris, a noted Maltese Ecclesiastical Historian, in 1881 published his 'Memorie Dell'Inclito Ordine Gerosolimitano Esistenti nelle Isole Di Malta' and in his short description about the Lazzaretto he says that:-

*'In the office of this institute there exists the registers of the Order containing a list of all the ships and persons that had undergone quarantine. The oldest register goes back to 1654.'*¹

Another interesting fact which Ferris also describes in the same book is how 'Le Corse di Quadrupedi' had its origin as a result of the plague epidemic of 1592.²

Ferris describes how in 1592 during the reign of Grandmaster Verdala, four Tuscan galleys coming from the Levant, had captured two enemy ships loaded with merchandise. These ships had several sick crew members, who were transported to the Infirmary in Valletta. The Doctors did not diagnose their illness as being plague, and so they were allowed to contact others. However, one doctor whom Dr. Paul Cassar mentions by name – Dr. Raimondo Calamia³ insisted that their illness was plague. Eventually when the epidemic was rampant the authorities had to admit that this was plague, which had started in the beginning of June, 1592, and ended around September, 1593, after having caused the death of 3,000 persons including forty knights.

So when this catastrophe was over the Council of the Knights organised various thanks givings, and among the social events, in order to provide the population with honest recreation the 'Corse di Quadrupedi at Pietà' was set up.

Ferris says:-

*'Fatti solenni ringraziamenti per la cessazione della peste, furono stabilite le dette corse di quadrupedi. È sciocchezza però il dire, che queste corse si fanno in adempimento di un voto. Il Consiglio dell'Ordine, come voto a Dio, sotto l'invocazione del Santo, aveva stabilito altre opere di varia natura: le Corse le aveva stabilite e fondate come divertimento e onesta ricreazione del popolo, che tanto aveva sofferto, quando infieriva il terribile flagello. Questa corsa diede origine ad altre che si fanno nelle due isole anche in circostanze straordinarie, etc.'*⁴

An eye witness during this plague epidemic was Dr. Pietro Parisi of Trapani who was the first doctor to describe such an epidemic.⁵ An extensive description of this plague (1592 – 93) is given by Dr. Paul Cassar in his Medical History of Malta, as well as other plague epidemics. Going through this chapter, one notes that plague visited the Island in the following years:-

1270, 1348, 1427 – 28, 1453, 1501, 1519, 1523, 1575, 1592 – 93, 1623, 1655, 1675 – 76, 1813 – 14, 1917, 1936 – 37.⁶

The Knights of Malta under Grandmaster Hompesh capitulated in June, 1798 and Napoleon landed in Malta.

The French capitulated on the 5th September, 1800 and we passed under British rule.

As Malta was ideally situated as a port of call for shipping going from the East to the West of the Mediterranean or vice-versa, the British Administrators made sure that the Island was exposed as little as can be to contagion. The first order was issued by Major General Pigot on the 9th May, 1801⁷ whereby

captains and skippers of ships were instructed not to land passengers and discharge cargo except under the direction of the Port Authority.

That order was followed on the 5th August, 1801 by more specific instructions⁸ which were published by Mr. William Eaton who, as Superintendent of the Lazzaretto, wielded absolute power in matters of quarantine. The new instructions referred to the hoisting of the yellow flag, the proper place for anchorage, identification of quarantine water, means of communication with shore establishments as well as with other vessels and the functions of the Officers of Health. Infringement of these regulations was punished by the penalty of death 'without the benefit of the clergy'.⁹

These strict orders were to be observed even by the British Military Authorities themselves as is shown by the following reproduced letter from General W. A. Villetes himself who was 2nd in command to Nelson to the Officer of Public Health at Marsamxetto.

The landing of the Dillon Regiment from one of the transport vessels to Lascaris that started this morning at the Lazaretto, will instead occur at the place where the vessels take on water under Floriana at 9 in the morning. Therefore, the Commissioners of Health are requested to send one of their officers to be present for this operation.

The Palace, 1st April 1803.

Signed W. A. Villetes.

*General Commanding.*¹⁰

*Lo Stesso del Regimento
Dillon da uno dei Trasporti
per Lascaris, che era com:
mandato di farsi alle
9 questo sta mattina, si
fara, in case di questo,
al luogo ou gli Regi:
timenti fanno l'acqua
sotto la Floriana, alle*

ore 9. Di mattina —
di Commissionari
dunque della Società
sono esposti di
mandare uno dei
loro ufficiali per aper-
samente a questa ope-
razione. —

Palazzo W. A. Villotay
1. Aprile - 1903 —
Generale Comm. —
J

Per gli Signori
ufficiali della Società
Messa Marchetti.

W. A. Villotay

In spite of the above order, another notice was issued by Alessandro Macauley on the 23rd March, 1803, stating:-

A V V I S O

SUA Eccellenza il Regio Commissionario vedendo li abusi che vanno introducendosi dai Padroni, e Capitani de' Bastimenti provenienti dalla Barberia, e Levante con trascurar di munirsi delle Fedi di Sanità, ed altri documenti necessarj, e consueti dal Console, o Vice-Console di quel luogo: Ordina

Che qualunque Bastimento di qualsisia specie proveniente dalla Barberia, e Levante il di cui Capitano, o Padrone non sarà munito dal Console, o Vice Console del luogo, delle Fedi di Sanità, e delli documenti consueti, sarà soggetto ad empire una doppia contumacia.

Dato in Palazzo li 23. Marzo 1803.

Per Ordine di S. Eccellenza il Commissionario Regio.

Alessandro Macaulay Pub. Seg.^o del Regio Commiss.^o

His Excellency the Royal Commissioner, having seen the abuses that are being introduced by owners and captains of ships coming from Barbary and the East, by neglecting to provide themselves with Certificates of health and other necessary and usual documents from the Consul or vice-Consul of that country – Orders that any vessel of any kind coming from Barbary or from the East, whose captain or owner has not been furnished by the Consul or vice-Consul of that country with a certificate of health, and the usual documents, will be subject to undergo a double period of quarantine.

Given at the Palace, 23rd March, 1803

By order of His Excellency the Royal Commissioner.

Signed: Alexander Macaulay

Public Secretary of the Royal Commission¹¹

Professor Galea says that:-

'It appears that maritime trade was flourishing and that many casualties or sick members of the crew required treatment in the hospitals of Malta. For this reason some directors of English trading firms together with certain captains of the Mercantile Marine, on the 5th June, 1804, submitted a petition to the British Commissioner of Malta, Sir Alexander Ball, proposing that sick and wounded seamen in the merchant service be admitted into Maltese hospitals on payment of a fee of 3 tari of Malta (7½ pence), a day for seamen of British vessels, and 6 tari for those serving on board of privateers.'¹²

This state of affairs was the cause of several rumours, and as the authorities were afraid of panic, the following notice was issued on the 4th November, 1804 by Alessandro Macauley,¹³ in order to show the population that the authorities were not ignoring the situation, but on the other hand were not prepared to accept anything which might cause unrest.

SUA ECCELLENZA IL SIG. COMMISSIONARIO REGIO è stato informato di romori sparsi a proposito della Sanità pubblica in esagerazione de' pericoli a cui può esser la madesima esposta in queste Isole, ed in queste circostanze. Conosce lo spirito che alimenta tai romori non poter essere quello di un vero zelo pel ben essere degli Abitanti; ma osserva che la stessa semplice sollecitudine tra un Popolo su un oggetto di tanta importanza, per malfondata che sia, e per vano, e triste che sia stato l'autore del romore, che l'abbia prodotta, dev' essere, sempre e con ogni diligenza evitata; Quindi non ignorando S. E. lo stato attuale di malsanità di più Contrade del Mediterraneo, e volendo toglier di mezzo ogni cagion di disturbo, e contribuire tutto perchè gli Abitanti di queste Isole gustino senza alcun mescolgio d'inquietudine l'abbondanza, e la tranquillità, che nelle presenti circostanze vanno felicemente godendo; ha determinato di creare una deputazione composta di quattro de' Principali, e de' più informati personaggi, e di due Medici acciocchè unitamente cogli attuali Commissarj e Ministro di Sanità formo un Comitato di Salute pubblica incaricato d'invigilare all'esatta osservanza d'ogni riguardo, e di appigliarsi ad ogni miglior espediente per conservare, ed assicurare la Sanità in queste Isole.

Nomina S. E. a tale effetto il Marchese D. Mario Testaferrata, il Bñe Paolo Sciberras Bologna, il Medico Inglese Dr. Franklin isettore generale degli Ospedali uno de' Medici Principali degli Ospedali Malesi secondo che si troverà nel tempo di vacanza dalla visita, ed i due tegozianti Gregorio Mattei, ed Edmondo Noble.

Il Comitato di Salute Pubblica si unirà a proporzione che lo siegerà per il bisogno, o che ne faranno istanza gli attuali Commissarj, e Maestro di Sanità.

Chiunque avrà la minima difficoltà a questo proposito o sentirà qualche notizia in qualunque maniera interessante la Sanità sarà obbligato di esporla il più tosto possibile al Comitato di Salute Pubblica, e non inquietare col suo spargimento la popolazione, se non vorrà incorrere l'indegnazione del Governo, e soggiacere alle pene dalle leggi destinate per gl'Impostori, e pertubatori della quietà Pubblica.

Segreteria del Governo li 4 Novembre 1804.



Alessandro Macaulay Seg. Pub. del Com. Reg.

G.N. Zammit Pro Seg. Pub.

'His Excellency the Royal Commissioner has been informed about the rumours that are spreading regarding the exaggerated dangers to which public health can be subjected in these Islands.

Under these circumstances, he is aware that the spirit behind these rumours, cannot be a true zeal for the well being of the inhabitants, but observes that although there is great interest among the population on such a subject of great importance, no matter how ill-founded, and sinister, this anxiety might have been the cause of such rumours, which must always and with all diligence be avoided. On the other hand, H.E., not ignoring the actual state of bad health in various parts of the Mediterranean, and desiring to remove every reason for concern, and to show that every precaution is being taken, in order that the inhabitants of these Islands will continue to enjoy the present tranquility they are enjoying, without being subjected to anxieties, has decided to nominate a deputation composed of four prominent and best informed persons, and two medical doctors, in order that together with the present Commissioners and the Minister for Health, they will form a Public Health Committee which will be empowered to supervise the exact observance of every precaution and to make use of the best methods to preserve and ensure the Public Health in the Islands.

H.E. appoints for the purpose:-

Marquis D. Testaferrata; Baron Paolo Sciberras Bologna; Dr. Franklin, the English Physician, Hospital Inspector General; One of the Principal Physicians of the Maltese Hospitals; and the two merchants, Gregorio Mattei and Edmondo Nobile.

The Committee of Public Health will meet in accordance with the exigence of necessity or at the request of the Actual Commissioner and the Master of Public Health.

Whoever encounters the least difficulty in this regard, or hears any news which in any way concerns public health, is bound to make it known as early as possible to the Committee of Public Health, and not alarm the people by spreading it, unless he wants to incur the indignation of the Government and suffer the penalties of Law stipulated against impostors and those who cause unrest.

*Office of the Secretary to Government
4 November, 1804.*

Alexander Macaulay

REFERENCES:-

1. Achille Ferris – Memorie Dell' Inclito Ordine Gerosolimitano esistenti nelle Isole Di Malta. (Page 216, Chapter 25).
2. 4. Achille Ferris – (Page 257, Chapter 288).
3. 5. 6. Dr. Paul Cassar, 'Medical History of Malta' (Page 165 etc.)
7. 8. 9. 12. Prof. G. Galea, 'Lazzaretto' (Page 21). Dalla Segreteria di S. E. di 9 Maggio, 1801-Malta. Information to Commanders of vessels entering the port of Malta Health Office, Malta. 5 August, 1801.
- 10 11, 13. Published by kind permission of Dr. Giovanni Bonello.

Great Britain Stamps Used in Malta

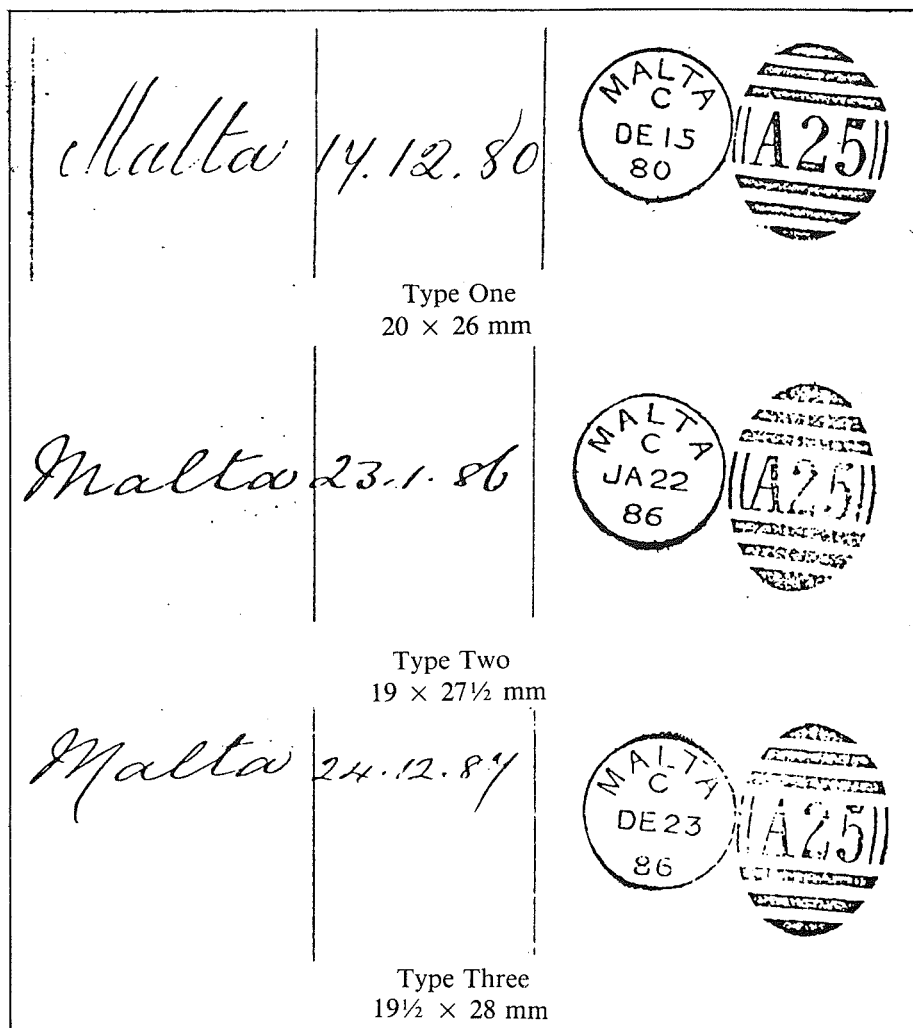
Continued Part 5

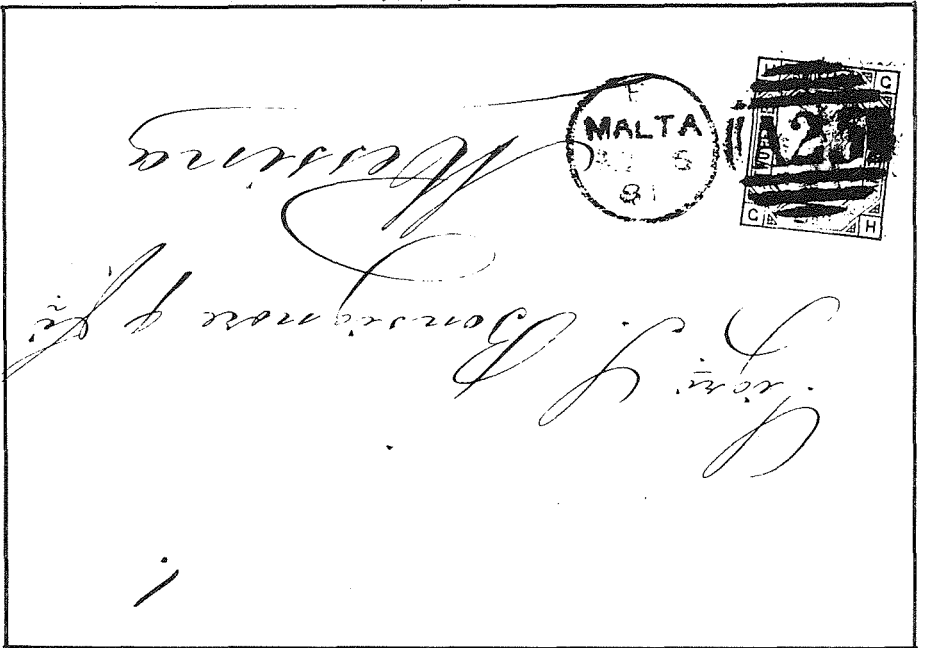
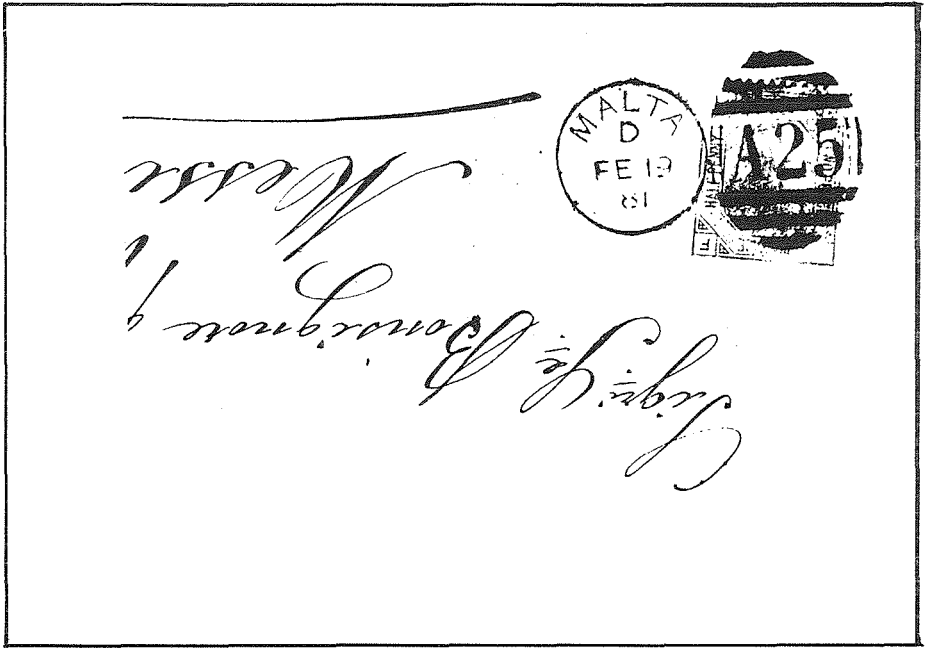
By Anthony Fenech

The A 25 Duplex Vertical oval Handstamps

The first of this type of cancellers was dispatched from London on the 17th December 1880. It consisted of a combined date-stamp and obliterator 'A 25'. The date mark shows 'MALTA' round the rim, instead of across, as in the circular duplex types. Code letters 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'E' are known used. Code letter 'E' on Great Britain stamps is very scarce and only very few examples are known.

The date stamp is 20 mm in diameter and the obliterator is 20 × 26 mm. The 'A 25' has three bars above and below the numbers and two curved lines on either side.



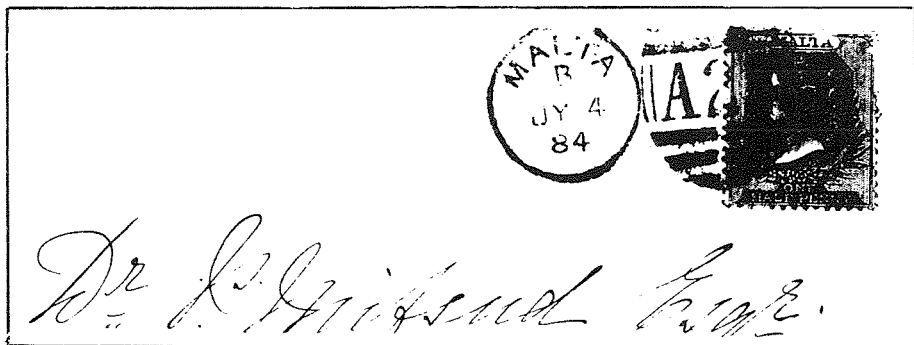


The earliest date recorded of Type One duplex handstamp (page 12) is January 1st, 1881, on the 1880 2½d blue (Wmk Orb) Plate 20 (S.G. Z23 – Said No. 53), the code letter on the postmark being a ‘C’. (See fig. below).

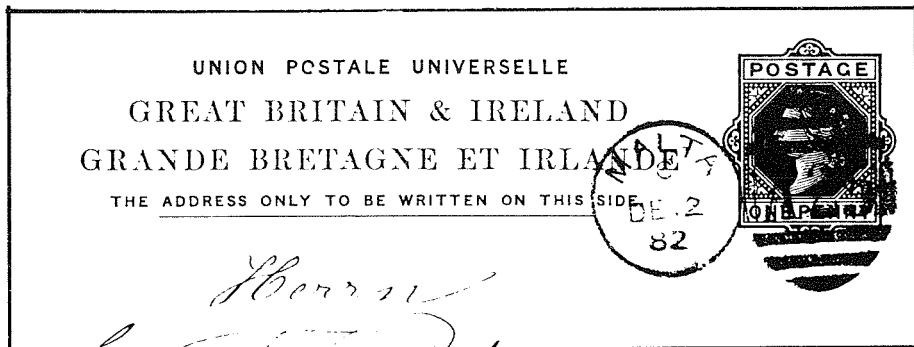


Earliest date recorded (1.1.81)
presumably the first day the canceller was used.¹

However, the ‘A 25’ Circular duplex cancellers continued to be used concurrently with this Oval type until the 29th September 1881². Besides Great Britain stamps, the Malta Half-Penny Yellows, since the 23rd printing, are known obliterated by this duplex handstamp³.

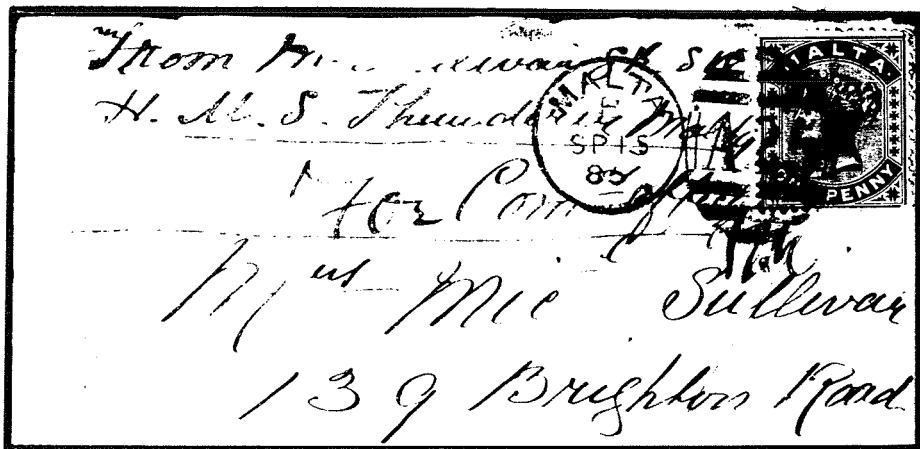
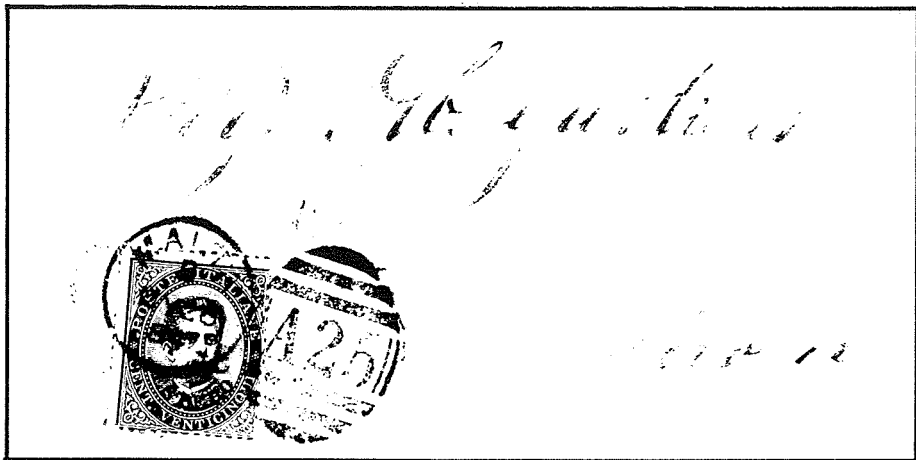


From 1882 to 1885 different types of official printed Great Britain postcards can be found obliterated by the ‘A 25’ Oval type canceller. GBS3 (1d – 1879), GBS4 (1d – 1883) and GBS5 (2d – 1883), all Brown Post Cards with the superscription – UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE/GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND/GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE – are known cancelled with this type of canceller.⁴



1d Postcard (GBS) Malta -
A 25 Duplex ‘C’ code

The other entries of this type of 'A 25' canceller are recorded in the General Post Office Proof Book, both in Volume 22; the first on Page 128, and dated 23.1.86, and the other on Page 130, and dated 24.12.87.⁵ The latter two cancellers vary in size from the one sent to Malta in December 1880, the dimensions being 19 × 27½ mm and 19½ × 28 mm respectively. (Types Two and Three p. 12). Obviously these were used on Malta stamps, until 1905, as well as on foreign stamps which franked letters and postcards, posted on High Seas and endorsed with the PAQUEBOT cachets. On these cancellers, Code letters A – Q (except L) have been employed.



References:

1. From Commander Bush's Collection.
2. The Malta Study Circle, Malta – The Stamps and Postal History 1576-1960 Handbook compiled by The Malta Study Circle, Edited by R. E. Martin p. 33 (The 'A 25' Handstamps – AD 2 canceller).
3. The Philatelic Society, Malta – The P.S.M. Magazine – Vol. 7 No. 2, Chapter 6, p. 7 – The Queen Victoria Halfpenny Yellow Stamp (23rd printing) by Dr. Alfred Bonnici.
4. The Malta Study Circle – Study Paper 35 – 1983 – 'G.B. Used in Malta' pp. 10, 11.
5. Arthur Moyles, London – Malta Postal History Notes and Documents.

Notes on the ½d Green Table

All information and numbers as quoted in the ½d Green Table in the PSM Magazine Dec. Issue, page 38 are to be found in the Invoices reproduced on pages 39 to 42 which I, with my wife, copied from the (volumes) 83 Day Books of Messrs. De La Rue, in the archives of the London Post Office, on two different occasions.

As the P.S.M Magazine is printed by means of a photo-set process, in order not to re-type and re-set the various columns, use was made of some of the columns as they appear in the table of the ½d Green as published by Clive Smith in his publication 'The Victoria Half-Penny'. The table published in the P.S.M. Magazine is not a faithful *in toto* reproduction of what appears in Smith's publication, as the one published in the P.S.M. Magazine contains the important information about supply No. 30, which was in yellow, not included in Mr. Smith's table of page 72.

(Most probably this was done on purpose as he was examining in this table of page 72, the ½d Green supplies, and passed on from Supply No. 29 to 31, mentioning nothing about Supply 30 in yellow. On the other hand in the table examining the ½d yellow supplies page 43, he does mention that the 29th supply was in green).

I attribute great importance to the inclusion of this 30th printing in yellow as in the past it was missed by John Eastman in his De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage stamps (1885 – 1901) on behalf of the Royal Philatelic Society.

In my introduction when writing the series about 'The Evolution of the One Half Penny Queen Victoria Yellow Stamp' in 1976, for the P.S.M. Magazine Vol. 6, page 13. I said:

In 1958 John Eastman published 'The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps 1885 – 1901' on behalf of the Royal Philatelic Society, and devoted two full pages page 250 and 360 to the Queen Victoria ½d yellow. Eastman missed the 30th printing. There were actually twenty nine yellow printings, and one green printing and not twenty eight yellow printings as claimed by Eastman, and between the 28th and 30th there was a ½d Green printing, which De La Rue delivered on the 20th June etc.

On the 1st December, 1960, Major Fred Orme, T.D., published his paper 'Malta Half-Penny Centenary'. My reproduction of the Invoices and correspondence from the Archives of the British Postal Museum, hoped to establish once and for all the number of printings, and to allay the fears of those who doubt Major Orme's classification.

In order to achieve this I wanted to find concrete proof, and record it. With nothing less than such detail will, the ever doubting minds of philatelists be once and for all satisfied.

The above was very important as prior to 1976, when the article on the ½d yellows was written, there were all kinds of opinions being put forward as to the actual number of printings.

The proof vindicating Ormes's classification, (which was published by Major Fred Orme T.D. on the 1st December, 1960 as a supplement to The Philatelist and Postal Historian) and that the 30th printing in yellow was wedged in between the 29th and 31st printing in green, in other words the 1st

and 2nd supply of the ½d green, was achieved by recording and publishing for the 1st time:

- a) The De La Rue **DAY BOOK** Lettering (Volume);
- b) The **PAGE** Number, where each separate invoice was to be found from the 1st supply onwards in chronological order; and
- c) The narration of the sequence of events backed up by the official correspondence quoted from the records.

This work was published in serial form in the P.S.M. Magazine 1976, Vol. 6 onwards.

This De la Rue **DAY BOOK** Lettering and **PAGE** where each separate invoice was to be found in chronological order was published again as a heading to each separate invoice in chapter 9 of the Malta Study Hand Book, which chapter was written by me, with the exception of the varieties section written by the late Mrs. Turnbull of Australia.

The sequence of the events leading to the order of all the invoices backed up by the Official Correspondence, was published in the P.S.M. Magazine, Vol. 7, No. 3, of Autumn, 1977, chapter 8, and later published again in chapter 9, pages, 96, 97, 98, of the Malta Study Circle Hand Book, as follows;

The 27th printing was issued in Malta in 1883. The earliest recorded copy is 4th August 1883 and the latest one is 23rd September 1884.

In 1883 it was decided that the time had come for the Malta Post Office to be controlled internally. (The original date proposed for the transfer was July 1884.)

On 4th September 1883, Roger Duke, the Post Master General in Malta, wrote to the Hon. Walter Hely Hutchinson, C.M.G. requesting "approximate quantities of the several denominations of stamps which will have to be provided for use after Transfer," adding "I have just been informed that it has been decided to have certain stamps of uniform colour throughout the Postal Union, i.e., the ½d in green," etc.

On 8th September 1883 the Chief Secretary, Walter Hely Hutchinson, wrote to the Crown Agents in London informing them of the request of the Maltese Post Master General. On 26th September 1883 De La Rue returned the above-mentioned correspondence, giving the necessary information. From this letter it follows that the printing plate used for the ½d green was the same as that for the ½d yellows as among other details we find "A printing plate is in existence here for the ½d stamps, so that it becomes necessary to provide only for producing five denominations (1d, 2d, 2½d, 4d and 1/-)."

On 27th November 1883 the Chief Secretary of Malta requested the Crown Agents to supply Malta with 200 sheets of halfpenny postage stamps and enclosed a requisition. This was received by the Crown Agents on 5th December 1883 and written in the margin is the following note: "Instruct Messrs. De La Rue that having regard to the correspondence respecting the new stamps, generally we may assume that the Malta Government approves of the ½d stamps being printed in green as recommended." From the correspondence it is clear that the Crown Agents did not realise that this requisition was a separate and distinct one from the correspondence that had just passed between Malta and London for the issue of stamps after "the date the Post Office was to pass to internal control", and they assumed quite wrongly that this requisition was to be in green. This information was passed to the printers. Consequently, on 10th December 1883 the Crown Agents transmitted this requisition, stating "We herewith beg to return the requisition covered by your letter of yesterday for 200 sheets of ½d Malta Postage Stamps, which you inform us are to be printed in green, etc."

On 13th December the Crown Agents informed the Chief Secretary in Malta that the printing was going to be in green, which must have upset Roger Duke, the Post Master in Malta, considerably, as the Chief Secretary, on 31st December 1883, replied to the Crown Agents as follows: "The Post Master reports much inconvenience will result if green half-penny stamps be introduced before the transfer of the Post Office to Colonial control, and I am therefore to request that you will be so good as to give the necessary instructions for a supply of yellow stamps, the green ones which you have already ordered being kept for future use."

On 11th January 1884 the Crown Agents placed a new requisition for a supply of yellow stamps. On 14th January 1884 Messrs. De La Rue informed the Crown Agents that the original order of the 10th requesting a green printing had not yet been executed, and so the colour of this printing would be yellow. On 16th January 1884 the Crown Agents approved this letter.

28th Invoice 29th January, 1884.
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies
 Malta Postage Stamps
 200 sheets of 240 duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 48,000
 Case lined tin

3	4	0
	4	6
		3 8 6

This printing was issued in Malta in 1884. The earliest recorded copy is 19th March 1884 and the latest one is 26th August 1884. Reversal of date slugs 14th May and 16th May have been recorded.

On 29th May 1884 the Chief Secretary wrote to the Crown Agents requesting various quantities of postage stamps and postal stationery stating "*The Post Office is to be handed over in July, etc.*" On 3rd June the Crown Agents requested De La Rue to print the quantities (which included the halfpenny green) mentioned and De La Rue replied on 4th June stating "*That a good supply should reach Malta by the end of this month. The requisition to complete will take from six to eight weeks from now.*"

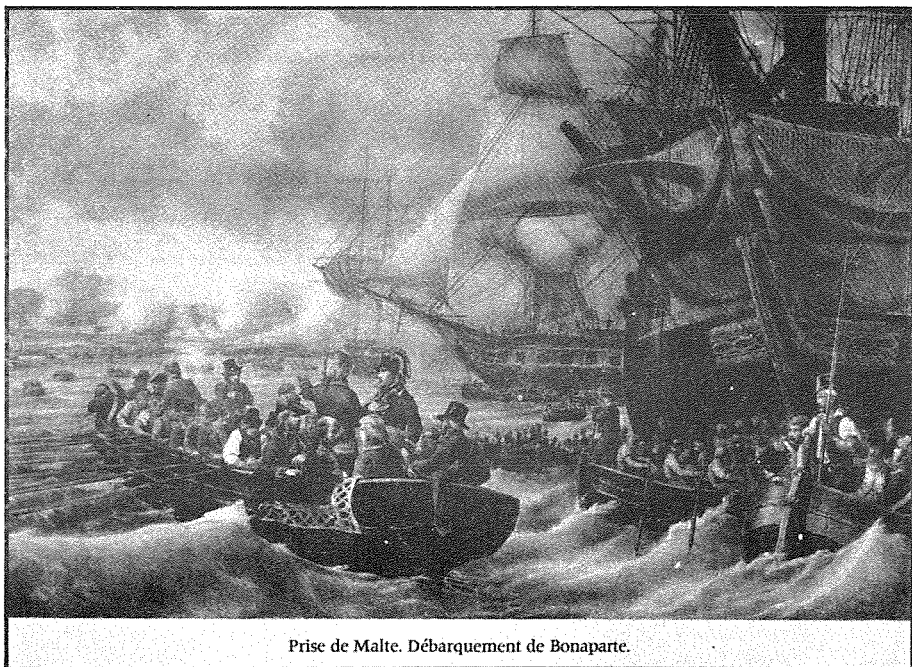
The invoice covering this 29th printing (which is in green) is in the De La Rue Day Book M on page 72, 23rd June 1884, 688 sheets of 240 duty $\frac{1}{2}$ = 165,120 stamps plus 100 specimens.

The Post Office was not, however, transferred in July as had originally been planned, and so the Malta Government, although they had now an ample supply of $\frac{1}{2}$ d green, once again ran short of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellows, and on 8th August 1884 the Chief Secretary requested the Crown Agents to supply the "*Usual 200 sheets of Malta local Postage Stamps*". On 18th August the Crown Agents placed the order with De La Rue for 200 sheets of $\frac{1}{2}$ d adding "*I have to add that the colour of the stamps is to be in Yellow*". This letter was acknowledged by De La Rue on 19th August and their Private Day Book M, page 92, shows that this last printing of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow stamps was dispatched to Malta on 27th August 1884.

Napoleonic Period

June 1798 - September 1800

By Dr. A. Bonnici



Prise de Malte. Débarquement de Bonaparte.

Our member Tony Eastgate, a well known Postal Historian has very kindly sent me this historical letter written on the 9th March 1799 by Sir William Hamilton, the British Ambassador at Palermo to Capt. Ball on the Alexander off Malta.

Palermo 9th of March 1799
My Dear Sir

I am truly sensible of your kind attention in giving me so full a detail of your operations at Malta which do you the greatest honor, and now that Lord Nelson and I have succeeded beyond our Expectation with this Government in sending back the Companies well satisfied all will go on smooth - I can well comprehend the total confidence the Matter had in the protection of His Sicilian Majesty whilst His Majesty's own affairs were taking so bad a turn - Now as matters are settled and the British Colours are to fly at Malta with those of the People there they will be satisfied, God knows the only true protection they have hitherto experienced has been

mass of Great Britain & without which
the Island of Malta would have been
lost long ago - and I agree with you
entirely that it is of such consequence
to Great Britain that Lord Nelson
and I

as the King's Minister might take
upon our selves to answer for a
small Sum of money rather than
run any hazard of losing Malta.
However you will see this Govern-
ment has advanced a little ^{money} just
to keep things going and they are
perfectly happy that you should
have the direction of every thing
according to Lord Nelson's plan.

The letter continues on a personal note.

Pleasure - Adieu My Dear Sir
may every Success attend you
it is the Wish of your most
Obedient & much obliged humble
Servant.

Edw. Ball
of the Alexander
at Malta

J. M. Hamilton

In order to understand properly this Historical letter, and the Political Intrigue that was going on during these turbulent times in the Mediterranean, one must go back in history and recall certain significant events.

In 1416 Malta was in the hands of King Alfonso, of Castille, the local Government being known as *Universitá* or *Commune*.¹

In 1420 ignoring all the privileges granted by his predecessors, the King sold our Islands to Don Antonio Cardona, Viceroy of Sicily for 30,000 florins. In 1425 Don Cardona resold the Islands to Don Gonsalvo Monroy who unlike his predecessor, was greedy and selfish; this led the Maltese to revolt against him and overthrow His regime. After this event the Maltese Leaders went to Sicily to explain to the King the reason for this revolt. They insisted on the re-incorporation of the Island with the Crown and offered to refund to Monroy the 30,000 florins which he had paid to Cardona.

Finding the claims of the Maltese very just King Alfonso on the 3rd January 1427, gave them a Diploma, commonly known as the Maltese 'Magna Charta', signed by the two Viceroys in which he solemnly confirmed all the privileges of the Commune, granted to the Maltese by his predecessors, and authorised them to resist 'EVEN BY FORCE OF ARMS' any further infringement of their liberties.² This Diploma can be seen at the Public Library, Valletta. Charles V of Spain handed Malta to the Order on the 24th October 1530 with an undertaking that should the Order relinquish Malta, Malta was to go back to Spain.

In 1759 the King of Spain abdicated Naples and Sicily in favour of his son King Ferdinand IV, who became known as the King of the two Sicilies.

The Order in June 1798 capitulated to Napoleon, and on the 2nd Sept. 1798 the Maltese, fully conscious of the Magna Charta, and the above, considered that they had a moral and political right to resist the French by force of arms, and the uprising took place on the 5th September 1798.

That same day Canon Caruana, Manuel Vitale, Count Saverio Manduca, Ferdinando Theuma Castelletti, and Marquis Vincenzo De Piro, met in Mdina and on behalf of the Maltese community signed a letter to the King of Sicily informing him of their rebellion against the French and their success in gaining control of the whole countryside within the first seventeen hours. They requested to buy wheat from Sicily on credit; His protection, and that they now considered him as their King.³ The King of Sicily acknowledged this request on the 15th November 1798, and declared war on France on the 24th November 1798 after making sure of Austrian Assistance. (His wife Maria Carolina was the sister of Emperor Leopold of Austria.)

Russia had also set her eyes on Malta during this period. On the 12th November Major Fredrick d'Otee, the Russian Consul General in Sicily wrote to Canon Caruana, the General in charge of the Maltese troops congratulating him on his courage and informing him that the Russian Czar had taken a personal interest in the revolution of the Maltese against the French, and that the Russian fleet had passed through the Bosphorus to fight the French in the Mediterranean.

In the meantime the Maltese wrote to Nelson, the British Admiral, informing him also about their resistance, and that they had acknowledged the King of Sicily as their King, but requested him to blockade the harbour of Valletta, so that the French could not get help and supplies and, what was more important, the French Naval force in Valletta could not go out of the harbour and harass the assistance promised to the Maltese coming from Sicily.

As Nelson had just defeated Napoleons Fleet at Aboukir Bay on the 1st August 1798 (two months after Napoleon left Malta in the hands of his General Vaubois), he was busy mopping up what remained of the French Fleet, and so when this letter reached him on the 13th September on the Vanguard he immediately instructed Don Dominic Saverjo Marquis of Nizza, the Commander in Chief of the Portuguese Naval Force in the Area, who had been ordered to help Nelson fight the French Mediterranean Naval Force.

Nelson instructed him to go and blockade the Valletta harbour in the following letter:

'being informed by Captain Hood of H.M.S. Zealrus, of your return from Alexandria, I beg to represent to Your Excellency the great benefit it would be to the common cause should you proceed to Malta and to attempt to intercept a French ship-of-the-line and two frigates ('Le Guillaume Tell' of 80 guns, and 'La Diane' and 'La Justice'), frigates that made their escape from Alexandria . . . , cruising there for a short time, it might be the means of driving the French from the Island as well as protecting the 'Colossus' (Captain George Murray) and some victuallers and store-ships sent by the Earl St. Vincent for the use of my squadron under my command and ordered to rendezvous between Sicily and Malta and which I much want to have at Naples⁴

The material help promised by the King of Sicily never materialised as the King who had declared war on France conquered Rome on the 24th November 1798, a few days later the French General Championet not only pushed back the Neapolitan forces but conquered Naples itself, and the King and his court were forced to go to Palermo in Sicily.

So by now it dawned upon the Maltese Leaders that the King could not effectively help them, as he had enough problems of his own.

In the mean time the Maltese had received military assistance by way of gunpowder, rifles etc. from the British Fleet, who had captured them off a French Frigate in Aboukir. However there was an acute shortage of food, especially grain.

Capt. Ball who had been instructed by Nelson to patrol the Malta waters on board the Alexander together with Audacious, Goliath, Emerald, Stromboli, Incendiary, Alfonso and Benjamin, wrote to Nelson on the 14th February 1799. *'The other week the Maltese did not have even for a single day any more wheat, but by a stroke of good luck I was able to intercept near St Pauls Bay an Austrian ship full of wheat, and ordered it into St Pauls Bay to sell the wheat to the Maltese. I have a suspicion that it was proceeding to Valletta. On the 1st of this month I captured a ship going to Valletta laden with 350 barrels of beef, 50 barrels of pork and 53 casks of wine.'*

Ball had already informed Nelson that he had received an urgent letter from Canon Caruana the Maltese leader, requesting wheat.

The Maltese themselves had repeatedly asked Nelson to persuade the King to send them the necessary wheat, as they were on the point of total starvation. In fact on the 2nd February 1799, Nelson approached the King, and wrote the following letters to Sir John Acton.

'Sir,

If 6,000 salms of corn are not sent directly to Malta, the inhabitants are in that state of want, that the worst consequences for the interests of His Sicilian Majesty may justly be apprehended. All these poor people want is that the King should give them six months credit, when they could make their payments in money or cotton. The case is important and demands instant compliance. Your

*Excellency will excuse this plain truth for being told, perhaps, too abruptly and believe me etc The inhabitants have not seven days 'bread'. Nelson.*⁵

By 'The worst consequences for the interest of His Sicilian Majesty', Nelson means that if the Maltese do not have wheat for bread, they would because of starvation have to make peace with the French, and it was not in the interest of the Sicilian King to have Malta in the hands of His enemies the French again. The French would have been too close for comfort for him, as he had already lost Naples to them.

On the 15th of February Canon Caruana wrote to Nelson, giving him a full picture of the desperate situation.

Bearing all the above in mind we can understand and analyse the significance of the published letter written by Sir William Hamilton to Capt. Ball on the Alexander, on the 9th March 1799 which sheds conclusive evidence of the political intrigue that was going on.

'My Dear Sir

9th March 1799

I am truly sensitive of your kind attention in giving me so full a detail of your operations at Malta which do you the Greatest Honour.

It is obvious by this, that Ball was keeping his Ambassador in Palermo fully informed about the situation in Malta, and his direct help to the Maltese, and the establishment of friendly relations with the Maltese Leaders.

'and now that Lord Nelson and I have succeeded beyond our expectations with the Government in sending back the Commissaries well satisfied.'

He is referring to the Maltese Delegation consisting of Baron Gejtano Fournier, Judge Wigi Agius, and Mr Wigi Savoia, who on the 19th February 1799, presented the King with a petition signed by 44 Maltese requesting permission from the King to ask formally for British Protection, and requesting material and financial help from the King. The asking of this permission was very important, as we have already seen how on the 5th September 1798, the Maltese had acknowledged the King of Sicily as their King.

Lord Nelson, Sir William Hamilton and Lady Emma Hamilton who had great influence at the Court of Sicily, exerted tremendous influence, to persuade the King and his wife Caroline, who was really the power behind the throne, that the request of the Maltese Delegation was a wise one, and it would be safer for them to have a friendly power in Malta, rather than their enemies the French. Moreover they had persuaded the King to appoint as his Ambassador in Malta, Capt. Ball with the rank of Governor. By now Nelson had fully realised the great advantages that the Malta Harbour had to offer the British Fleet, for British Naval Supremacy in the Mediterranean, and so he wanted Ball as the Governor there, as obviously Ball had only one loyalty – that to Nelson and the British Crown.

No wonder he says 'beyond our expectations'. The Commissaries were indeed 'well satisfied'. In fact when they returned to Malta on the 15th March, the next day they informed Congress about their successful trip to Palermo, as the King had:-

1. Wavered the normal tax charged on wheat exports to Malta, retroactively as from the 2nd September 1798 when the Maltese insurrection against the French started. This meant that the Maltese were able to get back the money they had paid by way of tax.

2. Accepted Maltese Gold and Silver coins as payment for wheat bought from Sicily.

3. The King had donated a considerable amount of gun powder etc.

4. The King had appointed Capt. Ball as his representative in the Maltese

Islands with the title of Governor.⁶

'all will go on smooth, I can well comprehend the little confidence the Maltese had in the protection of His Sicilian Majesty whilst His Majesty's own affairs were taking so bad a turn.'

He had already lost Naples to the French, and by now he had reached a stage when he was entirely dependent himself on British Protection.

'Now as matters are settled and the British Colours are to fly at Malta with those of Naples. Indicating Sovereignty:-

'I hope they will be satisfied.'

This letter was written on the 9th March, when the Maltese delegation was making preparations to come back to Malta, arriving on the 15th. 'They were well satisfied' because on the 16th they informed Congress of their success in Palermo. When their report was read to Congress they received enormous applause. The Congressmen went up to Ball and heartily congratulated him on his New Post of Governor. Ball accepted their good wishes and announced that he had just received from the King of Sicily 7,000 measures of Sicilian Gold, to be given to those Maltese who had given their help in fighting the French. Nelson had written to Ball on the 8th March a day before this letter was written. *You will receive 7,000 ounces or 21,000 ducats which the King confides in you to dispose to the best advantage'*

'God knows the only true protection they have hitherto experienced has been that of Great Britain, without which the Island of Malta would have been lost long ago.'

He is of course referring to the British Blockade, and the frequent supply of corn which Ball was able to supply together with war material, without which the Maltese would have been unable to prolong the siege, and France would have gained control of Malta again.

'and I agree with you entirely that it is of such consequence to Great Britain that Lord Nelson and I as the King's minister might take upon ourselves to answer for a small sum of money, rather than run any hazard of losing Malta.'

From this it is obvious that Nelson, Ball and Hamilton realised the great potential Malta had to offer, and what an asset it would be to Great Britain.

So much so that Nelson and Hamilton had shouldered responsibility to supply the necessary money 'for a small sum of money' rather than to wait and the Maltese had to give up their resistance, and so lose Malta to the French again or the Russians, whose Czar by now had his eyes on Malta also.

'However you will see this Government has advanced a little money first to keep things going and they are perfectly happy that you should have the discretion of everything according to Lord Nelson's plan.'

This clearly shows that Ball was given absolute authority, but what is more important 'according to Lord Nelson's plan' which means that Nelson did have definite precise ideas about Malta, and that Ball's job was to implement these plans.

The letter goes on about the personal Problems and ambitions of Sir William Hamilton, and ends by wishing him success in his new venture.

'Emma (his wife) desires to be most kindly remembered to you, and we both beg our best respects to your brave companions.'

Sir William Hamilton

REFERENCES:-

1,2. Laspina, Maltese History, p. 51.

3,4,5,6,7. Testa. Maz-zewg nahat tas-swar.

MALTA – A DIARY

May – December 1984

By J. Farrugia

- 2- 5-84 The Postmaster General notified that a Sub-Post Office was to be opened at 'May' Hompesch Road, Fgura, on Wednesday, 2nd. May, 1984. A hand metal date-stamp, inscribed with the words 'Fgura S.P.O. – Malta' is being used at this Sub-Post Office (**fig. 1**). The telephone number at this Sub-Post Office is 680976.
- 14- 5-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: 'Council Of Europe – 4th. Sport Ministerial Conference – Malta – 15 – 16 May, 1984' was used at the Central Mail Room, on the 14th, 15th and 16th May, 1984.
- 15- 5-84 The P.M.G. notified that a temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, on the 15th and 16th May, 1984, on the occasion of the holding of the Council Of Europe 4th Sport Ministerial Conference. The Temporary Branch Post Office was opened from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
The following business was transacted:-
(a) Sale of stamps and postal stationery.
(b) Registration of letters.
(c) Issue and encashment of Money and Postal Orders.
(d) Encashment of post cheques.
Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked with a date-stamp inscribed:- 'Council Of Europe – 4th. Sport Ministerial – Conference – 15 – 16 May 1984 – Valletta-Malta'.
The emblem of the Council of Europe is also incorporated in the date-stamp. (**Fig. 2**)
- 15- 5-84 In to-day's Govt. Gazette a call for applications was issued for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Zebbug. Applications were to be received by the Postmaster General up to 5.00 p.m. of Friday, 15th June, 1984. A similar call for applications for this place was made on the 31st January, 1984.
- 15- 5-84 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, the notice for the opening of the Sub-Post Office at Sliema appeared again. Including to-day, this notice has now appeared eight times, the first being in March 1979.
- 17- 5-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- 'World Telecommunication Day – Telecommunications; Expanding – Horizons', was used on Thursday, 17th May, 1984, at the Central Mail Room.
- 21- 5-84 The Postmaster General notified that a Sub-Post Office was to be opened at 17, December 13th Street, Nadur, Gozo, on Monday, 21st May, 1984.
A hand metal date-stamp inscribed:- 'Nadur S.P.O. – Gozo' was to be used at this Sub-Post Office. (**Fig. 3**)
- 26- 5-84 The P.M.G. notified that a special hand-postmark was used on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office in the 5th International Stamp Fair which was held in Essen, West Germany, from the 26th to the 31st May, 1984.

The postmark is inscribed:- 'Malta Post Office – 5th International Stamp Fair – 26–31 May 1984 – Essen'.

The postmark, which also incorporates the emblem of the above-mentioned exhibition, was used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, as follows:-

26th May, 1984 8.00 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.

27th May, 1984 8.00 a.m. – 12 noon (Philatelic Counter only)

28th to 31st May, 1984 8.00 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.

An identical postmark was used on the same dates at the Malta Post Office Stand at the 5th International Stamp Fair, Essen. (Fig. 4)

1- 6-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan, marking Consumer's Day, was used at the Central Mail Room on Friday, 1st June, 1984. The slogan reads:- '1 Ta' Gunju 1984 – Jum Il-Konsumatur' meaning '1st June 1984 – Consumer's Day'.

1- 6-84 The P.M.G. notified that aerogrammes were available for sale at one cent (1c) each, from the General Post Office, Valletta, and from all Branch and Sub-Post Offices, as from Friday, 1st June, 1984.

1- 6-84 The P.M.G. notified that as from Friday, 1st June, 1984, the staff of the Department of Posts was going to wear a new type of Summer uniform which consists of a light blue shirt and greyish blue terylene trousers.

In Winter the postal staff will wear a greyish blue single breasted tunic and trousers of worsted material, a light-blue shirt and a blue tie. A label with the word 'Posta' in red will be worn on the breast pocket of the tunic or the shirt.

2- 6-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan, marking World Environment Day, was used on the 2nd, 4th and 5th June, 1984, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan reads:- 'Jum Dinji Ta' L-Ambjent – 5 Ta' Gunju' meaning 'World Environment Day – 5th June'.

14- 6-84 The set commemorating the 170th anniversary of the Malta Police Force issued to-day. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 5)

1- 7-84 The P.M.G. notified that a Temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from Sunday, 1st July to Sunday, 15th July, 1984, from 6.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. for the transaction of the following business:-

(a) sale of stamps and postal stationery.

(b) registration of letters.

(c) issue and encashment of Money and Postal Orders.

(d) posting of parcels and other postal articles.

Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed as follows:-

'XXVII International Fair Of Malta – Naxxar'. (Fig. 6)

19- 7-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:-

'Gozo – The Island Where Time Stood Still', was used at the Central Mail Room as from Thursday, 19th July, 1984. This slogan was going to be used, on and off during the year.

26- 7-84 'XXIII Olympiad 1984' set, issued to-day. A special hand-postmark incorporating a motif symbolizing the emblem of the international Olympic Committee, was used for cancellation on the first day of

issue. (Fig. 7)

Maximum Card No. 5, reproducing the Gymnast shown on the 12c stamp of this set, was also issued to-day.

20- 9-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- 'World Tourism Day – 27th September 1984', was used, on and off, during the period from 20th to 27th September, 1984, at the Central Mail Room. The logo of the World Tourism Organisation is also incorporated in the slogan.

24- 9-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- 'World Maritime Day – 27th September 1984 – Maritime – Telecommunications' was used, on and off, during the period from 24th to 27th September, 1984, at the Central Mail Room.

5-10-84 'Xmas. 1984' set issued to-day. A special hand-postmark incorporating a motif symbolizing the Xmas. Season was used for cancellation on the first day of issue (Fig. 8)

9-10-84 A special hand-postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. from 8.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and at the Central Mail Room, from 8.00 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th October, 1984, to mark the World Post Day.

The hand-postmark, which incorporates the emblem of the Universal Postal Union is inscribed:- 'World Post Day – Nothing Can Replace The Post – 9-10-84 – Valetta-Malta'. (Fig. 9)

10-10-84 Notice No. 832 in the Govt. Gazette of the 5th October, 1984, stated that:-

In terms of Section 18 of Post Office Act, 1975, the Postmaster General notifies that with effect from Wednesday, 10th October, 1984, and until further notice, the following conditions for the local posting of postal articles to any address in Malta and Gozo will apply:

(a) Only postcards and envelopes which contain solely correspondence and of which the dimensions, weight, appearance and other features indicate that they contain nothing else may be posted in street letter boxes.

(b) Any postal article which contain anything other than correspondence or the dimensions, size, weight or thickness of which are different from those of a normal letter shall be handed unsealed at the nearest Post Office.

(c) The person presenting such postal articles shall be required

(i) to prepare a list of the postal articles being presented for posting, indicating the name and full address of each article. The list shall be signed by the person presenting the postal articles for posting and countersigned by the Post Office official receiving the articles. The relative forms are available from the Central Mail Room, Valetta, General Post Office Counters and all Branch Post Offices.

(ii) to show his identity card to the Post Office Official. The contents of the Postal articles shall be examined in the presence of the person presenting such postal articles. The Post Office shall then seal the articles in the presence of the person presenting such articles.

(d) The sender's name shall invariably be written on the envelope or

wrapping of the postal articles.

- (e) Articles posted not in accordance with the above conditions will be returned to sender or otherwise disposed of as the Postmaster General may direct.

Bulky postal articles referred to above will be accepted for posting during the hours indicated hereunder at the following Post Offices:-

Malta

Central Mail Room, Valletta, from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. – Mondays to Saturdays.

General Post Office Counters, Merchants Street, Valletta, from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. – Mondays to Saturdays.

Luqa Airport Branch Post Office, from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. – Mondays to Saturdays.

Birkirkara, Cospicua, Gzira, Hamrun, Mosta, Paola, Rabat, Msida, Sliema, Valletta (Old Bakery Street), Zabbar, Zejtun, Qormi, and Zurrieq Branch Post Offices from 7.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon – Mondays to Saturdays.

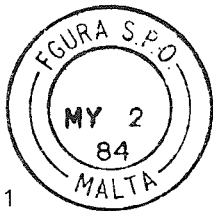
Parcel Post Office, Victory Square, Valletta from 8.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. – Mondays to Fridays.

Gozo

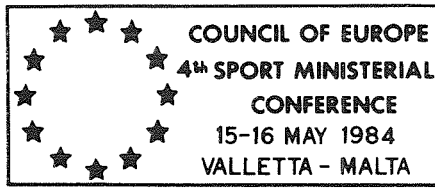
Victoria and Mgarr Branch Post Offices from 7.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon – Mondays to Saturdays.

The posting of local bulky articles by ordinary or registered post and locally addressed parcels in all Sub-Post Offices will not be accepted.

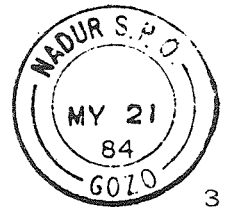
- 10-10-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- ‘Jum Dinji Ta’ L-Ikel – 16 Ta’ Ottubru 1984 – Il-Mara Fil-Biedja’, meaning ‘World Food Day – 16 October 1984 – Woman In Farming’, was used from the 10th to 16th October, 1984, at the Central Mail Room.
- 17-10-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- ‘Ghinu T-Tfal Fil-Bzonn – Uzaw Il-Bolli – Tal-Milied’, meaning ‘Help Children – In Need – Use Xmas. Stamps’, was used on and off as from the 17th October to the 31st December, 1984, at the Central Mail Room.
- 12-12-84 ‘10th Anniversary of the Republic of Malta’ set, issued to-day. A special hand postmark incorporating a motif symbolizing peace was used on the first day of issue. (Fig. 10)
- 17-12-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- ‘Centenary – Malta Post Office – Stamp Issue – 2 January 1985’, was used, on and off, during the period from 17th December 1984 to 2nd January, 1985, at the Central Mail Room.
- 26-12-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- ‘1 Jan ’85 – Jum Il-Paci – Peace Lab Malta’, was used, on and off, from the 26th to the 31st December, 1984, at the Central Mail Room. A motif symbolizing friendship and peace is also incorporated in the slogan.



1



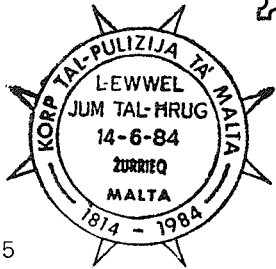
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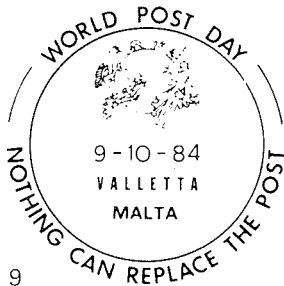
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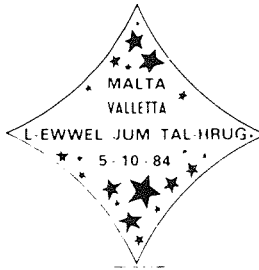
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10

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Detailed Information about:-

EUROPA 1984 Issue

By J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	27th April 1984.
Values	8c and 30c
Stamp Size	35 mm × 26.5 mm
Art Designer	Lino Borg after an original design by J. Larriviere.
Printers	Printex Limited.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 × 13.5
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:-

8c - Dark Green, Gold, and Black.
30c - Deep Red, Gold and Black.

Designs:

This is the fourteenth set in the series of Europa issues. This year being the 25th. Anniversary of CEPT, the design is common to all participating CEPT administrations. This design featuring a bridge symbolizing the links of European countries through posts and telecommunications, was prepared by J. Larriviere and was entered by Monaco in a competition held amongst CEPT member countries. The designs submitted by twenty countries were judged in Vienna during the 1982 CEPT Assembly.

As usual this set is printed in small Panes of ten stamps. Both values are of the horizontal format, and each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. In the first space of the top row, in both values, the CEPT emblem and the two dates 1959 – 1984 can be seen printed in gold. In the first space of the second row, a faint outline of a bridge, similar to the one on both stamps, can also be seen.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the top margin, above the middle stamp, printed in black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3 mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin of each Pane, next to the third stamp of the bottom row. The colours from top to bottom in the 8c value are gold, black and green, whilst the corresponding colours used for Pane numbers from left to right are gold, green and black. In the 30c value, they follow the same pattern. Colours checks from top to bottom are gold, black, red, and the Pane numbers from left to right are gold, red, black.

The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of twelve Panes of ten stamps, A to L.

Plate/Pane Numbers:-

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

8c = 1A × 3 up to and including IL × 3.
30c = 1A × 3 up to and including IL × 3.

Perforation of Margins:-

The right hand margins of Panes A, B, C and D, of both values, are imperforate, whilst the right hand margins of Panes E, F, G, H, I, J, K and L are fully perforated. The top, bottom and left hand margins of all Panes A to L, in both values are also fully perforated.

PANE 'I' WMK ↑	PANE 'E' WMK ↑	PANE 'A' WMK ↑	From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left, the perforator running from right to left. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is also upright.
PANE 'J' WMK ↑	PANE 'F' WMK ↑	PANE 'B' WMK ↑	
PANE 'K' WMK ↑	PANE 'G' WMK ↑	PANE 'C' WMK ↑	
PANE 'L' WMK ↑	PANE 'H' WMK ↑	PANE 'D' WMK ↑	

Imprint Blocks:-

The Imprint 'Printex Limited Malta' is seen under the third stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1 mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. A line drawing of a bridge is also incorporated in the postmark. The set remained on sale up to Thursday, 15th November, 1984.

A Postal Card was also issued on the occasion of Malta's participation in the 'Espana '84' World Stamp Exhibition which was held in Madrid. The Postal Card having the Europa 1984 stamps printed on it, was available for sale from the 27th April to 6th May, 1984. It could have been bought in mint condition or with the imprinted stamps cancelled with the 'Espana '84' special postmark. The stamps could also have been cancelled with the first day of issue postmark of the Europa '84 postage set.

170th Anniversary of the Malta Police Force Issue ----- X

XXIII Olympiad 1984 Issue ----- Y

10th Anniversary of the Republic Issue ----- Z

Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of Issue	14-6-84	26-7-84	12-12-84
Values	3c, 8c, 11c, 25c	7c, 12c, 23c	3c, 8c, 30c
Stamp Size	21.5 mm × 43 mm	29 mm × 47 mm	29 mm × 47 mm
Designer	Tony Bugeja	Luciano Micallef	same
Printers	Printex Ltd.	same	same
Process	Lithography	same	same
Perforation	13.7 × 13.4	13.7 × 13.9	13.6 × 13.8
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Sideways	same
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same	same
Gum	P.V.A	same	same

Colours:-

Issue X - printed in multicolour using five different colours for values 3c, 8c, and 11c, but six colours for the 25c value.

Issue Y - printed by using the four colour process.

Issue Z - printed in multicolour using four different colours for the 3c value, eight for the 8c value and five for the 30c value.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3 mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of each value, of issues X, Y and Z.

Colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left, on all Panes, of all values in issue X, but from left to right in issues Y and Z.

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

Printed Sheets:-

Each value of issues X, Y and Z consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps made up of ten rows of four stamps in issue X and eight rows of five stamps in issues Y and Z. All values of the three issues are of the vertical format.

It is of interest to put on record that Pane B, of the 11c value, of issue X, was not released for sale.

Registration Marks:-

Issue X - were seen at top and bottom of right hand margin, of Panes C, of all values.

Issue Y - were seen at top left hand margin in Panes A, and top right hand margin in Panes C, of all values. A short vertical line was also seen in the middle of the top margin in Panes B, of the 12c and 23c values.

Plate/Pane Numbers:-

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

Issue X - 3c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.
 8c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.
 11c = 1A × 5, 1C × 5.
 25c = 1A × 6, 1B × 6, 1C × 6.

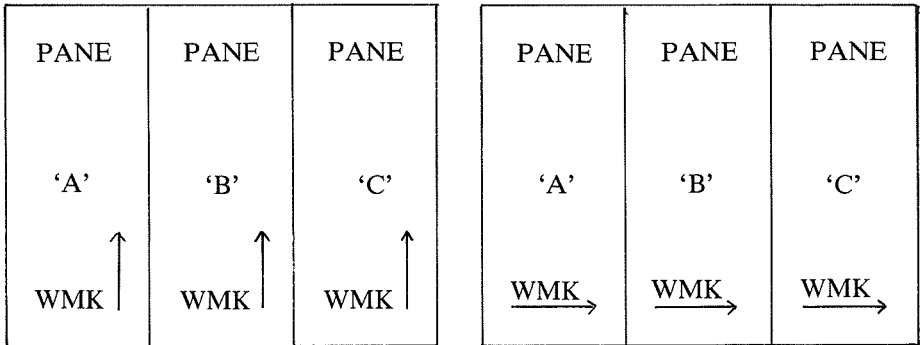
Issue Y - 7c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
 12c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
 23c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.

Issue Z - 3c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
 8c = 1A × 8, 1B × 8, 1C × 8.
 30c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.

Perforation of Margins:-

Issue X - Right hand margin of Pane C, of all values is imperforate, whilst the right hand margins of Panes A and B are perforated. The top, bottom and left hand margins of Panes A, B and C are also perforated.

Issues The top margins of Panes A, B and C of all values are imperforate.
 Y and Z The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of these same Panes are all perforated.



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown above left for issue X and above right for issues Y and Z. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values, of the three issues, would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps of issue X is upright and in issues Y and Z is sideways. In issue X perforator ran from right to left and in issues Y and Z, from top to bottom.

Imprint Blocks:-

Printex Limited Malta' is seen under the last two stamps of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issue X, but under the last stamp only in issues Y and Z. Letters are 1 mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will include the colour checks, in all values of the three issues. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of each issue.

By 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue sales amounted to LM33,090 for issue X, LM33,219 for issue Y and LM30,364 for issue Z.

Stamps remained on sale up to 26-11-84 for issue X, 5-12-84 for issue Y and 11-4-85 for issue Z.

Maximum Card No. 5, was also released with issue Y. It reproduces the Gymnast shown on the 12c stamp. The size of the Maximum Card is 105 mm × 146 mm.

Queen Victoria 1d Bisect

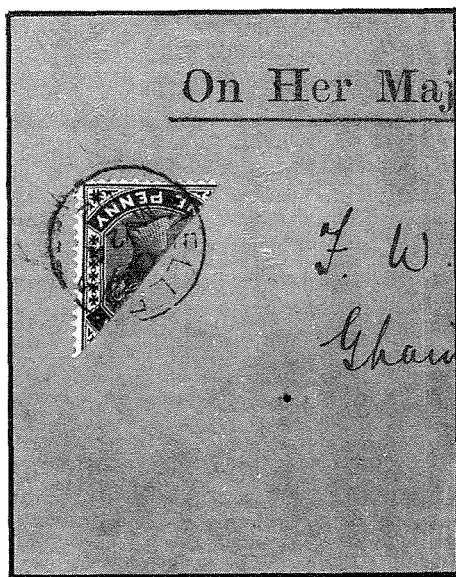
By Dr. A. Bonnici

The Malta Study Hand Book (page 105) says: 'It would appear that copies of this stamp were bisected and used as ½d ones by favour and were cancelled at the Mellieha Branch Office. On the covers, there are no date stamps other than the Mellieha circular date stamp of 24 May 02.'

In examing this item, two questions come to one's mind:

- (a) Was this done Officially?
- (b) Done by favour as expressed in the Malta Study Hand Book?
- (c) Or not necessarily done by favour, but done privately, passing through the post normally?

Examining these suppositions, what is the evidence?



(a) I have been unable to trace any official documentation authorising the Mellieha Post Master to bisect the 1d Queen Victoria. I have written to the Post Master to see if the Malta G.P.O. can help in this direction.

If one accepts the supposition that this was authorised, then one surely expects to find more covers, and on different envelopes, whereas the two that I have seen are both similar in size, colour (blue) and on Her Majesty's Service stationery.

We have only unfounded rumours so far. One of the most popular stories put forward, was that on the 24th May 1902, the Mellieha Post Office ran short of the ½d Queen Victoria stamp, so the 1d was bisected and used as a ½d.

No other Post Office in Malta used this system. If the bisecting was authorised Officially, I am inclined to assume that we should have found this method adopted in other villages.

(b) The bisect I have seen are 'On Her Majesty's Service' BLUE envelope measuring 7.5×12 cm having the (2 cm) circular MELLIEHA MY 24, 02 Post mark. Code lettering C, and B. This type of stationery was found in either H.M. Service or Government Departments. Government Departments in Mellieha in 1902 were only TWO; The Government Primary School, and the Post Office.

There was however a Military Service camp in Ghadira, the bay beneath Mellieha. The bisect on piece (Half the envelope) shown above, show part of the name and address of the individual it was sent to. F.W. (initials) and Ghain. The Ghain could be half of Ghain/Tuffieha where there was another Service Military Camp or Ghain/Sielem in Gozo with no Service or Military Establishment.

The one published by the Malta Study Circle in the Hand Book (page 104), and reproduced in the front page of Study Paper 1, circulated lately, is addressed to W. R. Gatt – Valletta, Malta, who was a Lieutenant in H.M. Service, and had a keen interest in philately. I have been unable however to establish that during this period he was at the Mellieha–Ghadira Military Camp.

Revenue stamps from a more acceptable angle. According to what one finds in the official records of the correspondence between the Malta Government, De La Rue & Co, and Crown Agents, the Malta Government had the idea of having stamps overprinted officially with REVENUE as far back as 1883. In fact Messrs. De La Rue & Co. quoted a cost of £12 for making a printing plate with the word REVENUE to the Crown Agents.

For some unknown reason this matter was not taken up, until the 20th June 1899. On the 28th July, 1899, the Malta Government suddenly requested urgently a supply of the ½d, 1d, 4d, 1/-, because Government Notice No. 218, dated 7th August, 1899, stipulated the use of these revenue stamps as from the 9th August onwards.

'The Honourable the Deputy Governor, availing himself of the powers vested in him by clause 21 of the 'Malta Revenue Order in Council 1899' is hereby pleased to direct that the stamps to be used in pursuance of the said Order in Council shall be, until further orders, Malta Postage Stamps, bearing the word Revenue, that Revenue stamps of the value of ½d, 1d, 4d, 1/-, 5/-, may be obtained on and after Wednesday the 9th instant, etc.'

It is rather difficult to understand how the Honourable the Deputy Governor thought that this supply could really be available in Malta 9 days after ordering them in London through the Crown Agents. Naturally, Messrs. De La Rue were unable to meet this date line, and so the Malta Government had to have a temporary overprint done at the Government Printing Office in Valletta.

This emergency local overprint was in black using serif lettering with the initial capital only of Revenue and is referred to by both Graham Smeed's Study Paper 28 (revised 1977) and the Malta Study Hand Book (1980) as Type 1a (½d, 1d, 4d, 1/-) and Type 1b (5/-), whereas the ones printed by De La Rue were also done in black but using sans-serif capitals REVENUE throughout the word, which the Malta Study Hand Book lists as Type 11a.

Because the Malta Government had its own supply, there was no longer an urgency for the supply from London, and so the first entry in the De La Rue Day Books regarding revenue stamps is dated 3rd October, 1899. Reg. No. 66/99, when the following numbers were supplied: 10,160 sheets of the 1d; 10,230 sheets of the 2d. These sheets were of 240 stamps each, and 2,518 sheets of the 4d and 1,006 sheets of the 1/-. These sheets were of 120 stamps each.

It is interesting to note that although in Government Notice 218 of the 7th August, 1899, the 5/- stamp is also included, it was not ordered from London with the other values, but was overprinted in Malta. We come across the 5/- being ordered from London for the first time when a further order was sent in November, 1901 to Messrs. De La Rue for the following additional value revenue stamps, which were the 2d, 3d, 6d, 9d, 2/-, 2/6, 5/- and 10/-. The suggestion to have the £1 as well was dropped because Messrs. De La Rue thought that this could tempt people to forge it.

Further details and information on Revenue stamps can be obtained from Chapter 28 of the Malta Study Hand Book (1980) and Mr. Graham Smeed's Study paper 28 (Revised 1977) on the subject.

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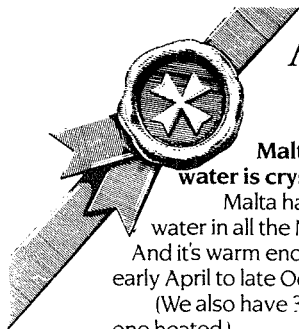
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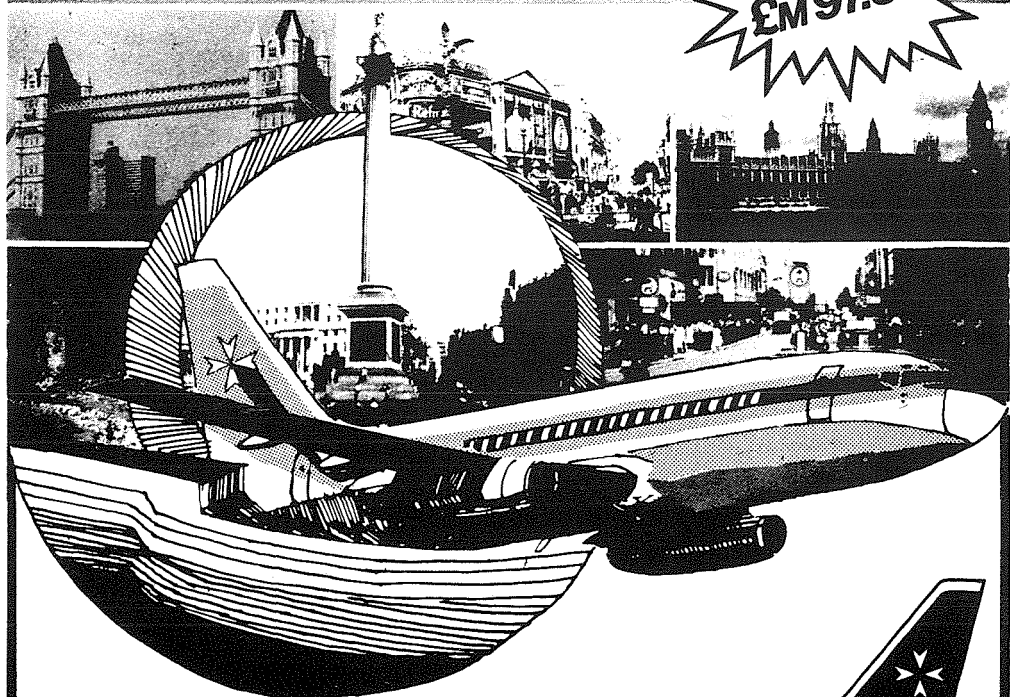
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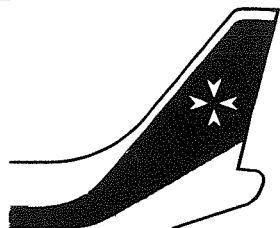


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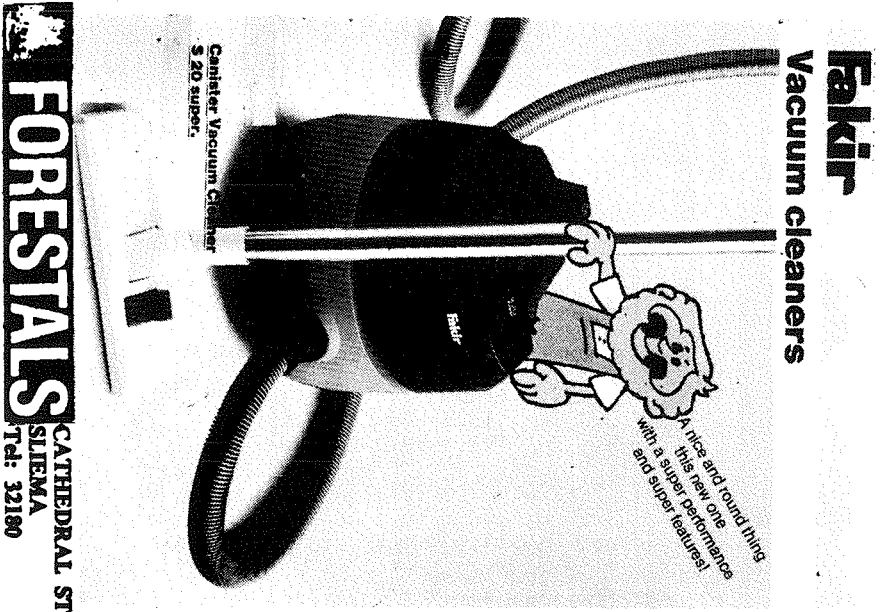
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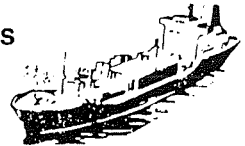
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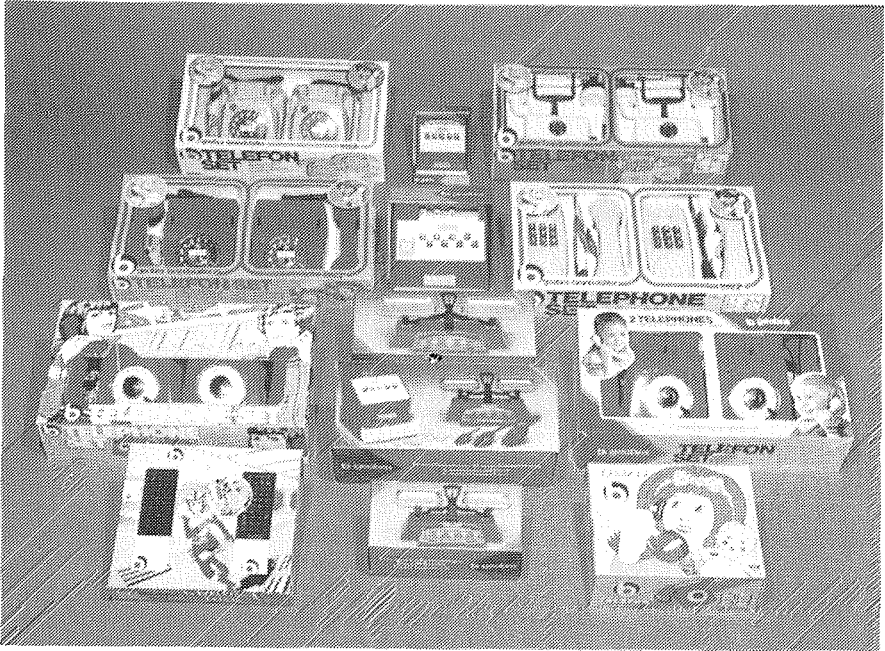
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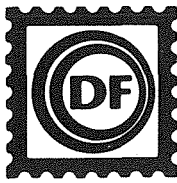
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