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**THE PSM MAGAZINE**



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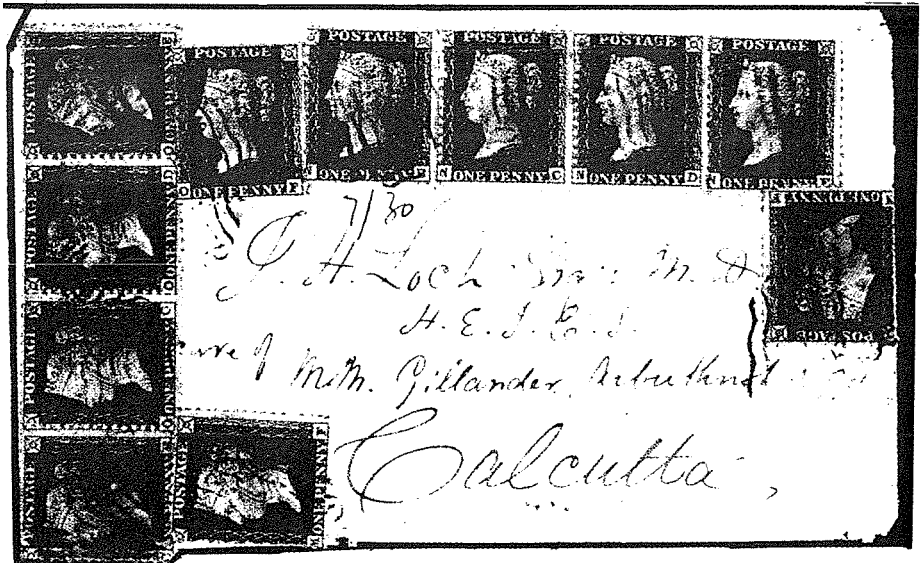
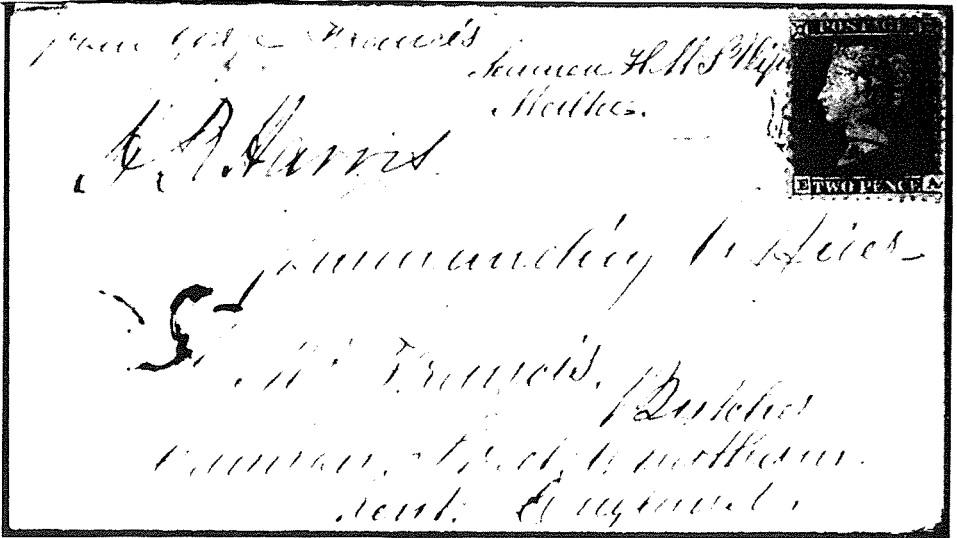
# THE PSM MAGAZINE



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Spring 1983



The "Wavy Line Grid".

## Committee 1983

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## Editorial

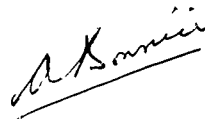
Beginning with this issue, I propose to publish an extensive study, of Disinfection in Malta from the end of the Middle Ages to the 19th Century.

A tremendous amount of publications, have appeared in various Magazines, Books, Pamphlets in bits and pieces, and the scope of this series is to publish new material, together with what has been published, in a single documented series.

This publication I would like to dedicate to the beloved memory of the late Chev. Profs. Guze Galea (1901 - 1978) an eminent Maltese Author, lover of Melitensia, Chief Government Medical Officer, my Professor and examiner in Forensic Medicine at our University, and the Author of the most extensive publication on the Maltese Lazaretto. From this column I salute the memory of this giant of a man.

I am starting a section of Great Britain used in Malta ably presented by my colleague Mr. Anthony Fenech, Vermeil winner in several International exhibitions, and a series by Father Galea S. J. on censor Mail.

As promised in Vol. 11 N° 3, I am reproducing two letters from Archpriest Cassar to Liberato Grech, Commander of the Maltese Troops in Caccia - Gozo, which together with the Marseille de Malthe letter, should make interesting reading.



# Annual General Meeting

## President's Address



Abridged version of the Presidential Address delivered by Dr. J. H. Mercieca at the Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Society of Malta on Monday 3rd January 1983.

Yet another year has passed since I addressed you at last year's Annual General Meeting, and once again, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this 17th Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Society in Malta, an Annual event of major importance in the Society's calendar.

Monthly meetings were held regularly throughout last year. Father Anthony Galea S.J. displayed and gave a running commentary on "Censored Mail of the First World War", other displays by various members, of interesting philatelic material were, a Display of Malta Air Mails by Dr. A. Bonnici, a display by Mr. Fitzgibbon of Australia on the penny overprint, and Mr. Doug Ward's Talk/Display on "Malta Airmails, pre-adhesive postage due markings". We also held an Auction which as usual was in the capable hands of Commander Bush.

During the year under review the Committee met eight times. The spirit of collaboration amongst members was high and it was a pleasure to work together in the best interests of the Society and of Philately in Malta, and for this I thank them all.

Last year when I told you that the unfortunate situation regarding our Magazine had been happily solved, I must now admit I was too optimistic, for during the first nine months of the year, in spite of my repeated and sustained efforts to stimulate the editor to bring back to normality the publication of the Society's Magazine these proved to be unsuccessful and this problem was for the second year running, the biggest thorn in the Society's side, to the great embarrassment of all concerned, and particularly to our overseas members who had their sole connection with us severed, for long months on end. However Dr. Bonnici has been appointed Editor, and has been able, in spite of difficulties, to help with the publication of the 1st Number, and has issued two others since. I am grateful to Dr. Bonnici, and I am sure you do join me in thanking him for the good work he has put in.

A bright page in the Society's achievements was the all-round success, obtained in the VII Annual "Vote a Stamp Referendum", organised by the Society. For the first time, ever since it was first launched, this year's participation was the biggest so far. In my opinion, apart from other considerations, a factor which contributed in no small way to this year's success was the beautifully, neatly illustrated and inviting voting brochure which was absolutely first-class, in all respects. In this connection I would certainly be failing in my duty, if I did not thank Mr. Godwin Said, and Mr. Vincent Mercieca for the excellent work they have put in, in the all-round organization of the competition.

All Committee members should be prepared to carry out willingly the duties assigned to each of them in his particular office, and not let the load of work weigh on the shoulders of two or three members, for obviously even a heavy load will be felt much lighter if and when borne by many shoulders.

It gives me much pleasure to state that recently I had an unofficial meeting with the Postmaster General and other high postal officials and I availed myself of the opportunity to point out to them and even produce specimens of some "sins" committed against Philately! Such as badly smudged and illegible postmarks and backstamping of letters, the frequent use of the Registration Cachet in lieu of the label on First Day Covers and the local defacing of stamps on foreign letters, and F.D.C. when passed through the cancellation machine for Back-Stamping. It gives me much pleasure to state that the P.M.G. as well as the other officials present, lent a very sympathetic ear to my expositions and promised to look into the matter so that such shortcomings would in future be remedied and prevented from happening.

Dr. Mercieca concluded his address by thanking the Director of the Catholic Institute for allowing us to make use of the premises and the Editor of the Times of Malta for helping us with free advertising.

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## The International "Vote a Stamp" Referendum

By:- Dr. J.H. Mercieca

The Winning  
Stamp for  
1981.



Hundreds of persons from several parts of the world, including the United Kingdom, U.S.A., France, Italy, Germany, Israel, Pakistan, Brazil, Hong Kong, Argentina in addition to Malta, participated in the VII International "Vote a Stamp" Referendum and Contest 1982, organised by the Philatelic Society in Malta, and voted for the stamp which in their opinion was the nicest issued by the Postal Administration of Malta, during the year 1981.

Thirtyone stamps from the seven sets issued in 1981, i.e. Birds, Europa, XXV Anniversary of the International Malta Trade Fair, Year of the Handicaped, World Food Day, New definitives (16 stamps) and Christmas appeared on the Voting Brochure.

The main prize consisted of a week's holiday in Malta and the winner became entitled to travel by the National Airline AIRMALTA from every city served by this Airline. Accommodation, which includes half-board, is provided at the luxury class Malta Hilton at St. Julians. When the winner of the draw happens to be a resident of Malta, the prize would consist of an Air Malta ticket to any city served by the Airline.

Three consolation prizes, each consisting of a deluxe stock-book, kindly donated by Messrs. E. Said, Stamp Dealer, were also raffled amongst all the participants in this year's contest.

It has been universally acknowledged that this year's most attractive, neat and colourful Voting Brochure illustrating in their original colours, all the 31 stamps to be voted from, was, no doubt, very inviting and probably one of the main factors contributing to this year's unprecedented success of the Referendum, in which the number of participants was the biggest ever since the Society launched this annual popular activity seven years ago.

The opening of the letters containing the votes and the counting took place at the Monthly Meeting of December, i.e. on Monday 6th December and the hall where the counting took place looked a veritable beehive of activity. Soon after the votes started being opened and placed in the numbered compartments for each of the 31 stamps in the competition, it became evident that the winning stamp was going to be N°29 on the brochure, i.e. the 23 cents stamp of the Bird issue.

As a matter of fact, with 26% of the total number of votes, the 23 cents stamp of the Bird series, designed by Mr. Maurice Tanti Burlo was an easy first, followed by the 3 cents stamp of the International Year of the Handicaped pair, designed by Mr. Antoine Camilleri, which with 18% came second, while with 11% of the votes the 30 cents stamp of the Europa pair designed by Mr. Harry Borg secured the third placing.

The next nine placings with their respective voting percentages were:-

4th	Placing	with	7%	-	World Food Day, 23 cents stamp
5th	"	"	6%	-	Christmas, 2 cents - 1 cent stamp
6th	"	"	4%	-	Birds, 3 cents stamp
7th	"	"	3.6%	-	Christmas, 20 cents - 3 cents stamp
8th	"	"	3%	-	Int. Year of the Handicaped, 35 cents stamp Europa (Tigrija), 30 cents stamp
9th	"	"	2%	-	Christmas, 8 cents - 12 cents stamp
10th	"	"	1.9%	-	Birds, 2 cents stamp
11th	"	"	1.8%	-	World Food Day, 8 cents stamp
12th	"	"	1.5%	-	Current Definitives, 12 cents stamp

An air of expectancy and excitement reigned throughout the hall as preparations were being made to draw the name of the lucky winner of the big prize, who turned out to be the **Rev. Father Patrick Abela O.C.** with the number ninety-three.

The hundreds of votes received from all participants in the competition were then thrown and well mixed in a big box and each of the first three names drawn won one of the three deluxe stock books, which went to:

Mr. George Tipper of Jamesburg, New Jersey. U.S.A.

Mr. George Ciappara of St. Venera, Malta.

Madame Josephine Cousin of Lyons, France.

The President thanked the organizers of this event, and **Air Malta, Malta Hilton** and **Mr. Said** for donating the prizes.

## Membership Dues

Have you paid your 1982 membership dues?

If not, an immediate payment would be appreciated by the Treasurer, **Mr. J. Muscat Manduca.**

# Disinfection

Middle Ages to 1789

By:- Dr. A. Bonnici

## Part 1.

Malta being in the centre of the Mediterranean sea has from prehistoric days been a staging post, for mariners coming from the East and North Africa to Europe, or vice versa. Its excellent harbours afforded shelter and safe anchorage from the raging seas, and the tired crews relaxed among the hospitable people, who victualled their ships, and attended to the sick.

We do not know anything about any arrangements, if they existed at all for the reception of infections in our Island, in those distant times, when epidemiology had not yet developed as a special Medical science. Of course Plague, Cholera, Leprosy and Smallpox, forced the Authorities to take special measures, but even here the cause was still unknown.

At the end of the Middle Ages some sort of administrative machinery was established in the Island. The "Universita of Notabile", the local Government of the period took drastic measures against the spread of the disease. However the jurisdiction over the Island was, in those days shared with the "Castellano" who had his seat in Fort Saint Angelo in the Grand Harbour, who sometimes through an abuse of Authority gave pratique to vessels detained under quarantine or else impeded others from leaving port.

The Municipality protested with King Alfonso of Spain against these encroachments on its rights and the King by a diploma of the 22nd Feb. 1458 limited the jurisdiction of the "Castellano" to the precincts of the Fort and Confirmed the Municipality in its role of Sole Guardian of the public health. (1)

Ships suspected of harbouring infections were directed to Marsamxett Harbour which became known as the Quarantine Harbour. (2) During the period of purification the ships had to remain isolated and no one was supposed to approach them or go abroad, however it was known that in spite of these rules, many traders found ways and means of communicating with the ships, and traded cargoes and slaves, that were even landed stealthily and scattered over the Island thus risking the spread of infections.

So, in 1524 the Universita (Municipality) issued the 1st Sanitary regulation in Malta "Bando" or official enactment for the protection of the health of these Islands. (3) It contained the following:-

"Any person who boarded a ship undergoing purification at Marsamxett Harbour, or bought anything, or landed any cargo from such ship, was guilty of an offence punishable by a fine of fifty 'Ounces', also by the seizure of the merchandise acquired by him, and by the burning of his residence. It was also ordered that all ships arriving from suspected ports were to undergo purification, and those ships actually carrying infectious diseases were to be considered as infected and refused pratique". This enactment may be considered as the 1st Health Law in Malta. Thus Health guards were posted on three main positions, from where they could supervise the Marsamxetto (Quarantine) Harbour. One guard post was on the Hill of Guardamangia, which was the Major Guard (Guarda Maggiore), the other on the Hill at Ta' Xbiex point, which is still in existence, and the other one on top of the hill behind the Forestals show room in the strand at Gzira, which over looks Sliema Creek.



An infected ship in 1523 gave rise to an outburst of plague at Vittoriosa - Birgu, which was encircled by a quarantine barrier, and the ship itself and all the cargo was burned and destroyed. (4) These regulations remained in operation and for some time after the arrival of the Knights in 1530.

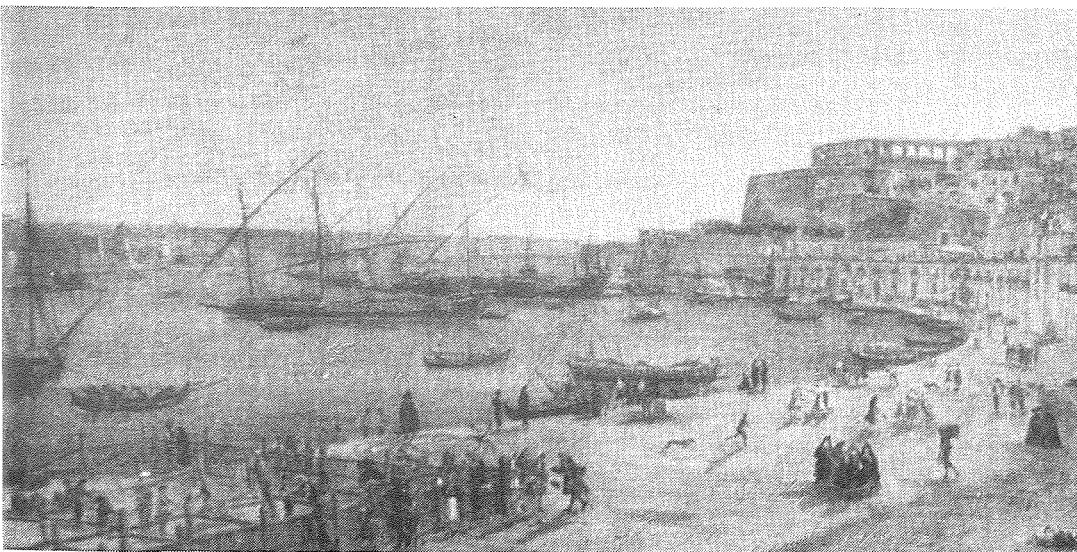
The next positive measure against the introduction of contagious disease was taken on the 10th Oct. 1534, when a Commission was set up consisting of two professed Knights and three Maltese Gentlemen who had the duty and the authority to regulate and control the practice of foreign ships. (5)

They made severe regulations, even inflicting the death penalty for those who disobeyed the health regulations. (6)

Fishermen were not allowed to enter Quarantine waters (7) while women who tried to get in touch with men on ships undergoing quarantine were banished from the cities of Valletta, Birgu, and Senglea for a period of five years; if the women were prostitutes they were exiled from the Island. (8)

Infected ships and ships coming from infected ports were fumigated and disinfected at Marsamxetto Harbour (Quarantine Harbour). The patients landed on Bishop's Island, later named Manoel Island, lodging in huts which were exposed to the bad weather. (9)

During epidemic outbreaks infectious patients were also admitted into the wards of the hospital at Birgu. During the plague epidemic of 1592 - 93, a temporary Lazaretto was set up on Bishop's Island by the Grand Master de Verdala, but a petition was submitted to the Commissioners of Health requesting the transfer of plague patients from Bishop's Islet of Marsamxetto Harbour to some other place, because of bad conditions. To relieve the patients the Commissioners thought fit to have them transferred into the old infirmary at Birgu. As they did not want to contaminate the new hospital in the city of Valletta, Dr. Parisi Pietro, who was sent personally by the Vice-Roy of Sicily pointed that the Birgu infirmary was a better place, because it was separated from habitation, as it was built on a bastion and had a tunnel opening into a gate by the seashore through which plague patients could be carried into the hospital wards. (11)



Barriera Wharf (Museum of Fine Arts)

*Reproduced by kind permission of the Ministry of Culture.*

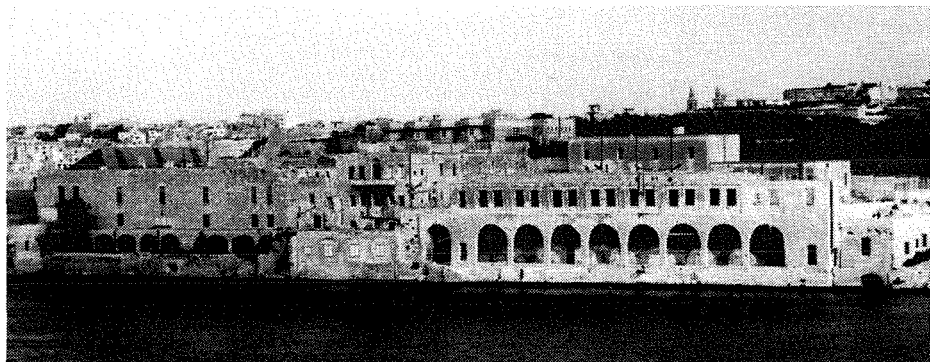
The first Lazareth in Malta was erected at Rinella in the Grand Harbour. (12) It was subsequently transferred to the foreshore beneath the Kordin heights in the Valletta Harbour, and afterwards during the time of Grand Master Ramon Perellos (1697 - 1720) to a large hall on that part of the Valletta wharf known as il-barriera. (13) This place was very convenient, as there was a row of stores and warehouses above which residential accommodation was erected for the passengers and crew kept under observation. A special loggia was also built for the benefit of distinguished passengers. Over the portal of the hall there is an inscription "Haec fecit populorum amor". A few yards away from the isolation quarters the wharf was bounded by a row of bollards forming a barrier to keep away unauthorised persons from entering the quarantine area. That barrier gave rise to the name by which the wharf is now known i.e. "Il-Barriera". (14)

This Barriera Station was not meant for passengers and crews actually suffering from infection, such patients were referred to the Lazzaretto or to the hospital at Birgu. The Barriera station was only used in emergency. The Lazzaretto in Marsamxett Harbour was primitive, but full use of it was made on various occasions when plague afflicted Malta in the first half of the 17th Century. In 1643 Grand Master Jean Paul Lascaris built a permanent Lazzaretto. (15) Persons of high rank were, however lodged while undergoing quarantine elsewhere. When his Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to Turkey came to Malta in April 1669, he was lodged in the Villa of Sarria at Floriana. (16) In 1686, another British Ambassador to Constantinople was also kept in the same residence where he died during his first few days of quarantine. (17)

However the Lazzaretto at Valletta was kept in use for quite a long time after the erection of the new building on Manoel Island. As late as 1779 - 88, allusion is made in the Treasury accounts of the Government to "The expense of the considerable repairs made at the quarantine at the Grand Port. (18)

The little island in the Middle of the harbour, known as Bishop's Island - Tal-Isqof, as it belonged to the Medina Cathedral, was ideal for the segregation of contaminated cargo, passengers and crew, which was developed subsequently by the Knights of St. John, as a Lazzaretto and Quarantine Station. The indiscriminate admission of plague patients into different isolations continued up to the middle of the 17th Century when Grand Master Lascaris took definite steps to develop the little island in the middle of Marsamxett Harbour, Quarantine Harbour, as a regular quarantine station. Grand Master De Paule had tried without success to secure the Bishop's Island "Tal-Isqof" in Marsamxett Harbour for that purpose, but it was left to Lascaris to negotiate an agreement with the Church Authorities, as the islet was the property of the Cathedral of Mdina.

Hence the name "Tal-Isqof", meaning belonging to the Bishop. By a deed entered into the acts of Notary Lawrence Grima, on the 18th July 1643, and with the approval of Pope Urbanus VII, on the 2nd Nov. of the same year, the Order acquired possession of the Islet in exchange for lands at Fiddien, a fertile valley west of Mdina, owned by the Order. (19) Following the great plague epidemic of 1675 - 76, the Marsamxetto Lazzaretto was improved by Grand Master Cottoner. (20) and afterwards in 1688, by Grand Master Gregorio Carafa and in 1728, Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena. Warehouses were built for the storage of merchandise, subject to the quarantine laws of the period. (21) Manoel de Vilhena also built a Fort on the eastern end of the Lazzaretto island, which was named Fort Manoel, and thereafter the whole was called Manoel Island.



The Lazzaretto.

The new Lazzaretto on Manoel Island was in accordance with the best concepts of Quarantine measures prevailing at the time. It occupied the block of buildings now called the "Old Palace" and provided accommodation.

The Grand Master, in order that the inmates could somehow participate in Religious functions, built a chapel on the opposite side of the harbour on the bastions dedicated to St. Roque, the protector against plague; Its front was wide so that the inmates of the Lazzaretto across the harbour, could follow Divine Service. (22) Unfortunately this chapel was bombed during the last war and not rebuilt. The swimming baths under the bastion, "Il-Banjijiet ta' Sant-Irrokku", derive their name from the name of this chapel which was on top of the bastion. Howard, in his account of the Principal Lazzarettos In Europe in 1785, states that the Lazzaretto consisted of sixteen rooms on two floors, the eight apartments on the first floor opening on to a balcony. There were also three courts, two for passengers and merchandise, and another one for the cattle imported from the Barbary coast, a burial ground and a place for the burning of Bodies of patients dying of the Plague.

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# Latest Comments on Censored Mail of World War 1.

Marks - Labels - Seals.

By A. Galea S.J.

Censored Mail of the Two World Wars is a branch of postal history that is interesting, still developing and within the means of the collector on a limited budget.

This part of Postal history is well documented in "Said" and in the "Malta Hand Book", and so, I am limiting my comments to the illustrations published using them to record and publish undocumented material.

The illustrations fall under these headings:

- A. Censorship Marks.
- B. Labels.
- C. Wax Seals.

## A. Censorship Marks

There are 3 single line "PASSED BY CENSOR" strikes (Said 1,2,3) plus a recently reported 50.5 mm x 6mm known to have been in use during the first days of censorship (introduced on 3rd August 1914, the day before Great Britain declared war) until mid-October 1914. (Latest recorded date 18th October).

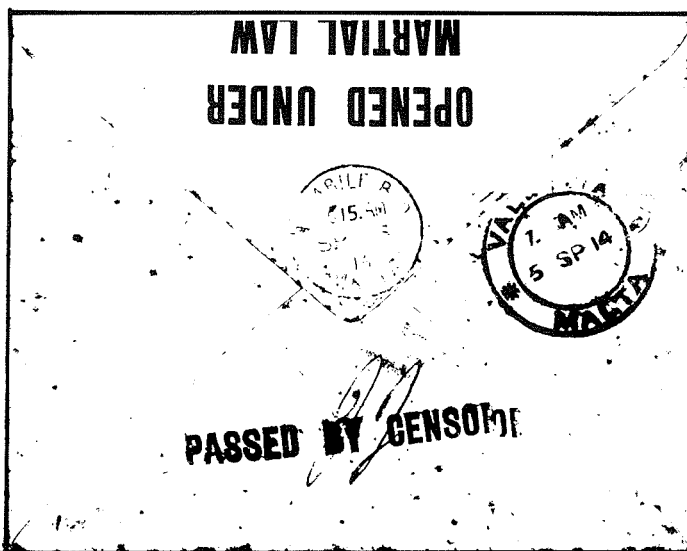


Figure 1

The envelope illustrated in fig. 1, shows one of these "Passed by Censor" single line (Said N°1) together with an "OPENED UNDER / MARTIAL LAW", re-sealing label (Said N°15). It was customary for the censor to initial his name in lead pencil or blue. This was omitted (one in twenty). On the front it bears a G.V. ½d green cancelled by the G.P.O. Cross and addressed to Notabile.

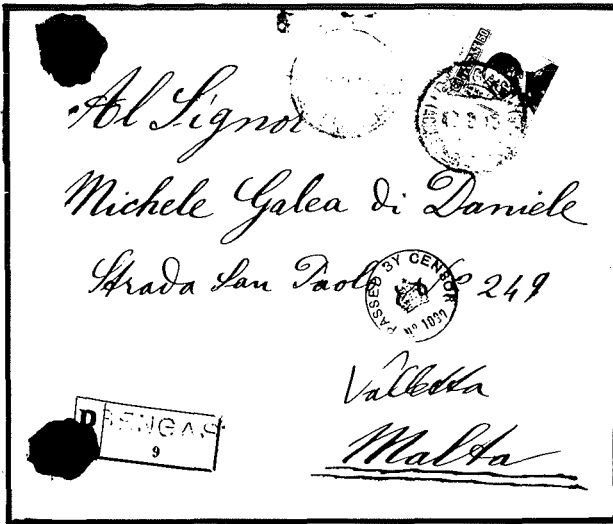


Figure 2

Fig. 2 shows a cover having a "CROWN and Number in a Circle", Passed by Censor strike. These censorship marks arrived in Malta in mid-October 1914, and definitely replaced the initial types. They were used until 31st May 1916. The numbers recorded by me run from :- 1074 to 1089 with the exception of 1088 which so far has not been seen. 1086 is known on incoming mail only. All the others are known on incoming mail and out-going mail. Occasionally the Censors initials are outside the Circle, or on the Crown.

The cover illustrated in fig.2 is registered and bears "mark N° 1080". Number 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, and 1080 have been reported on registered covers, which seems to suggest that the censorship of registered mail was the responsibility of certain censors only. 1074, 1077, and 1080, have not been recorded previously.

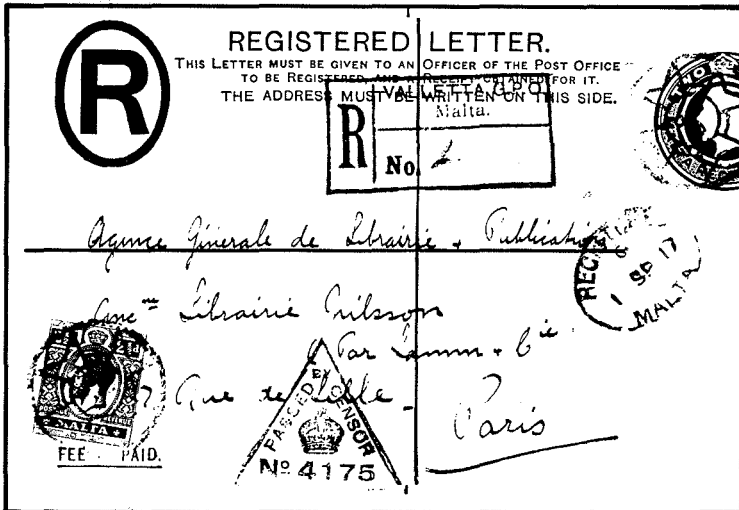


Figure 3

Fig. 3 illustrates a cover which is cancelled by a "CROWN and NUMBER in a TRIANGLE" in red. This series came into use in May 1915, (earliest recorded date is 31st, exactly one year before the last known use of the previous series).

Thirty eight numbers have been identified - five in the 3XXX range (3174, 3478, 3690. 3674, 3801) the rest in the 4XXX. 4159 to 4182 (42), form an unbroken series, and out of the series 4263 to 4273 only 4264 and 4265 have not yet been recorded. I would like to record Nos. 4163, 4270, which have not been recorded previously. 3174, 3478, have been seen in RED, 3690, in RED and BLUE, 3764, 3801, in BLACK, used between 1916 - 1917, on out-going mail. 4159 to 4182, have almost all been seen on both incoming and out-going mail. The exception being on 4163, (31 Au 17) in BLACK, which has only been seen on "out-going" mail. Triangular Strikes were applied with different coloured inks.

RED	1915 - 1917
VIOLET & MAROON	1917
GREY & OFF-BLACK	1917 - 1918
BLACK	1918 - 1919

GREEN has so far been unrecorded but I have seen it on a few namely 4165 (1918); 4182 (1918); and on 4159 and 4180, (date unverifiable). So far only 4175, 4176 and 4181 have been reported on registered covers, however 4174 has also been seen. Could it be that Censors in possession of 1074 / 1075 / 1076 etc., in a circle were given 4174 / 4175 / 4176 etc., in a triangle? Items bearing the 4263 - 4273 marks in Red, Purple/Red, Maroon, and Green, are dated 31 De 16 to Jy 1919, when censorship seems to have been stopped. The only reported item is after this date is on 21 De 19.

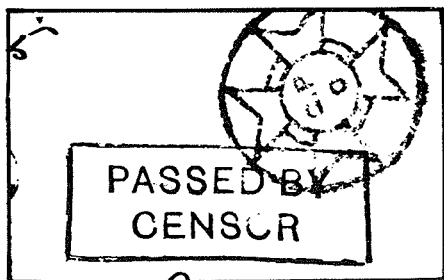
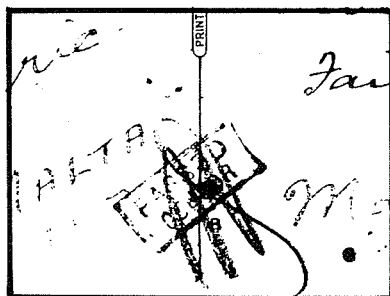


Figure 4

Figure 5



Figs 4 and 5 depict cards showing two different Boxed "PASSED BY / CENSOR" and "PASSED / CENSOR".

An unframed and two framed double-line "PASSED / CENSOR" and "PASSED BY / CENSOR" (Said 4 - 6) in use 1915 and later are considered as Malta censorship marks, but some doubt exists, as to if they were really applied in Malta. As can be seen from Fig. 5 the framed Passed / Censor appears on a card with a message from Malta, but bearing a G.B. ½d cancelled Manchester, 4.15 p.m. 14 De 17. Perhaps the card had been vetted by a non-G.P.O. censor, handed back to the sender, and posted in England by a friend.

## B. Labels

The resealing labels form the second item of interest in censored mail, printed in BLACK on WHITE, ORANGE, and GREY paper:- some of which had already been printed on the obverse side. The labels come in two basic sizes:- single line for long seals, and double line for short. Except for the double-line "OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW", 46.5 mm first line, 40 mm, second line, all labels are known with and without numbers. Five basic types are known.

Single line "Opened under martial law", lettering 80 mm long, and 7 mm upper, 5 mm lower type; Known with numbers 1 to 7; however I have seen one without number bearing the date 21 Oct 15.

Nos 1 and 7 are known on Orange paper; Nos 3, 5,, and 7 on Grey have been seen by me, which have not ben recorded so far. Single line "OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW" lettering measuring 93 × 7 mm. Without number, and with Nos 5 and 7 have been recorded. N°6 (Oc. and Dec. 16), grey pape have been seen by me.

Double line "OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW", lettering measuring first line 46.5 and second line 40.5 mm, 7mm high recorded for 5 Sep 14 and 3 De 14.

Double line "OPENED UNDER / MARTIAL LAW", lettering 4 mm high, first line 50-51 and second 46.5 mm to full stop, 50 mm to end of number, have been recorded with N°7, and without number, to which I would like to add the following:-

N°4	(Ju 18)
N°5	(25 Ju 18)
N°6	(Ap 19)
N°7	(Ju 18)

Same, but thinner lettering, 5 mm high, No number, and Numbers 2 to 5 have been reported.

Fig. 2



Fig. 6

## C. Wax Seals

Fig. 2 and 6 illustrated show wax seals. These red wax seals, applied to secure re-sealing lables on censor covers (until 1915) form the final item of Philatelic interest in Censored Mail. Two seals are known to me:-

A 16 × 13 mm upright oval, enclosing a crown, "VR", and crowned lion in an horizontal oval. ( Fig. N°6. )

"CROWN - FROM MALTA - G.P.O.", circular seal, diameter 30 mm, originally dispatched to Malta on 22-7-1897. Only partial impressions of this seal are known on covers Fig. N°2.

It might be of interest to point out that Censoship was limited to incoming and out-going mail. Fig. 1 bears a GV ½d cancelled across, back stamped double ring Valletta 7 AM 5 SP 14, re-sealed with OPENED UNDER / MARTIAL LAW overstamped cds Notabile 10.50am. 5 SP 14, may appear, at first, glance to be an internal cover that was censored by mistake. Most probably, it was an envelope from a Maltese rating using a local adhesive and sending the letter through the military mail. Upon arrival at the GPO it was considered as an incoming rather than an internal item and handled accordingly.

# Great Britain Stamps Used in Malta

By:- Anthony Fenech

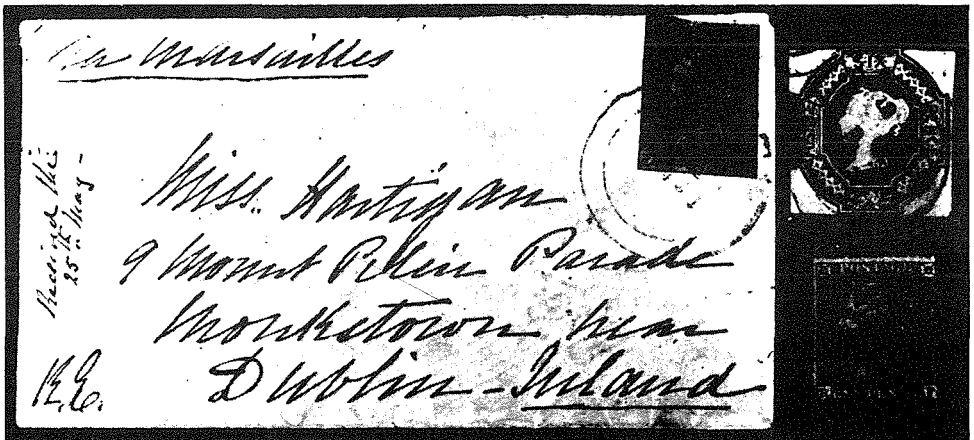
The study of Great Britain Stamps used with Postmarks of Malta has always been fascinating. Interesting articles on the subject have been written by eminent philatelists such as H. L'Estrange Ewen, Bertram Mc Gowan, Major Fred Orme, and André Bollen.

Some collectors, however, do not try to make a complete collection of Great Britain stamps used in Malta, not because of pecuniary considerations but because they found it preferable to restrict their efforts to obtain two or three examples at most, of such postmarks. I am of the opinion that G.B. used in Malta have now become accepted by philatelists forming a Malta Collection, as the evolution of the postmark concerned, make them an integral part of our philatelic history.

## Transit Postmarks:

A) The 30mm "Double Ring Malta".

B) The "Wavy Line Grid" Postmarks.



## A) THE 30mm DOUBLE RING — MALTA

A.

B.

British adhesive postage stamps were made available at the British Post Office which was established in Malta in September 1857. These were intended to frank letters posted in Malta for overseas destinations.

However, before 1857, a few Great Britain stamps may be found cancelled with the 30mm "Double Ring Malta" datestamp, perhaps without authorisation. According to John A. Trory, in his very informative Malta Stamp Catalogue, these letters bearing stamps of Great Britain originated "From seamen, or soldiers on board ship, who were carrying their own stamps", and it is probably for this reason, "That they were accepted as properly franked".

The Malta Handbook, compiled by the Malta Study Circle, states that these cancellations with the 30mm "Double Ring Malta" were applied to mail which had originated outside Malta.



It was erroneously stated by Lieut. Gatt of The Royal Malta Artillery, in "The Post Office Stamps of Malta" (G.S.W. Vol. 1X, Page 429) that this particular handstamp, that is, the 30mm "Double Ring Malta" was never struck on the stamp. However, Bertram Mc Gowan, in "The British Philatelist," Vol. XX111, N°2, dated April 1930, mentions his example, in black, on the 6d octagonal embossed stamp of 1854, and is dated 5th April, 1855. Also Major Fred Orme, at a Meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London, on March 14th, 1959, mentions a cover in his possession, franked by the 1d red-brown Die I (1854) Small Crown, Perf. 16, and the 2d blue (also 1854) Plate 4, Perf. 16, inscribed "From Capt. Franklin, R.N., Black Sea Fleet (Crimean War) and cancelled with the 30mm "Double Ring Malta" Dated MR 16 1855. Another G.B. stamp known obliterated by this hand-stamp is the 1841 1d red-brown imperforate.

## B) THE "WAVY LINE GRID"



At Plumridges's Auction on 1st November, 1917, there was for sale, an interesting cover addressed to England, endorsed "England pre-paid" and franked with two Great Britain stamps namely the 1/- octagonal of 1847, and a 1d red-brown Die II, small crown, perf. 16.

This is how the delighted successful bidder describes his purchase on acquisition- "The stamps are separately cancelled with a postmark in black, consisting of parallel curved lines joined at each end by two vertical curved, shorter lines; on the back of the envelope there is struck also in black, the 30mm "Double Ring Malta" dated JY 3, 1855. This, undoubtedly is nothing but a faithful description of the transit cancellation better known as the "Wavy Line Grid" applied in Malta to cancel the stamps or letters emanating from the Crimea, in transit to respective destinations, mainly in the United Kingdom, and those of seamen serving on H.M. Ships stationed in Malta, as shown by this cover.

(The G.P.O. Proof Books record a Wavy Line Cancellation on 31 March 1855 to cancel stamps of Great Britain during 1855-6, in Malta). It is relevant to point out that the "Wavy Line Grid" cancelling the Great Britain stamps on the front, necessitated the application of the 30mm "Double Ring Malta" on the back, in order to date the envelope, as was done with the M cancelling the G.B. Stamp and the circular date stamp at the back, in red or black.

It is generally believed that the "Wavy Line Grid" cancelled adhesives on letters posted by service personnel on their way to, or from the Crimea. The M.S.C. Handbook records its dates of use from April 1885 until 3rd September 1856, Besides the 1d red-brown Die II (small crown, perf. 16.) and the 1s green embossed (octagonal) mentioned earlier in the previous paragraph, the following stamps are known so cancelled:-

- 1d red-brown Die I (small crown, perf. 16)
- 1d red-brown Die II (large crown, perf. 14 Alph. 11)
- 1d red-brown Die II (large crown, perf. 16) and
- 2d blue (Plate 5) Wmk; Large Crown, perf. 14).

(to be continued.)

# Napoleonic Period

June 1798 - September 1800

By:- Dr. A. Bonnici

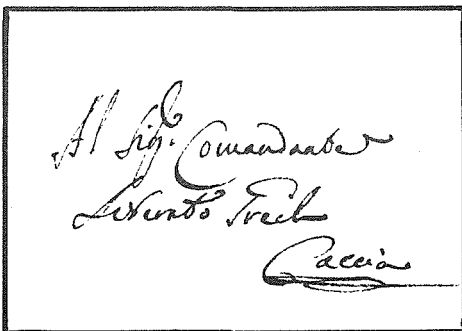
Napoleon arrived off Malta on the "Orient" on the 9th June 1798, entered the Grand Harbour on the 13th at 4.30 p.m., disembarked where the Customs house is today, and after refusing the Grandmaster's personal "Kales" carriage, walked triumphantly through the Harbour Gate up Strada Levante, to St. Christopher Street and Merchants Street to the "Banca Giuratale". The next day 14th he moved to the Palace owned by Baron Pawlu Parisio, in Merchants Street next to the Auberge De Castille, which was up till some time ago The General Post Office. Here he remained up to the 18th when he left for Egypt, after stationing in Malta 3053 soldiers from 5 regiments. Gozo was occupied by General Reynier on the 13th, and on the 14th Napoleon, ordered his Chief of Staff to reinforce Gozo with 200 French soldiers.

The Insurrection against the French Occupation started on the 2nd September when precious Church sacred objects were to be sold by Auction at Rabat and Mdina.

The rebellion spread also to Gozo and during the Congress held in Gozo on the 18th September, Dun Saver Cassar, the Archpriest of the Cathedral Chapter, was elected as the head of the Temporary Gozitan Government and General Superintendent of the Gozitan forces. The French capitulated on the 4th September 1800, and Malta passed under British Rule.

The following letter was written by Archpriest Cassar is one of five existing letters to the Commander of the Gozitan forces in Caccia - Liberato Grech.

Because of the Blockade the 3253 French soldiers stationed in Malta and Gozo could not send letters to France, and this is the reason why letters from Malta during this period are so hard to come by.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, enclosed in a rectangular border. The text reads: "Al sig. Comandante", "Liberato Grech", and "Caccia" with a flourish underneath.

Archpriest Cassar,  
Head of Gozitan Government  
and General Superintendent of the  
Gozitan forces.



Sento dalla Vostra Lettera ciò tutto, che: ac-  
caddo jeri a notte. Io vi ringrazio dell'attenzione,  
e protezione nelle mie incumbenze. Questo mattina  
li due Canonici si persuasero di andare carienti  
nella città di Cambro, e sono già spediti, e  
pertanto il Corpo di gente più non mi nequit-  
per l'esecuzione della Cattura, e giacchè qđi  
due sono al sicuro, e non possono praticare  
gente non potranno catturarla.

Lei dispiace di ciò, che si fece al nob. Pae;  
Io già scrissi alli Madurini di lasciarlo in vi-  
uoto; mentre il mio sospetto fondato è contro  
li suoi figli; L'ant. Luigi, e Daniele, che  
avrà il piacere di arrestare.

Sento con mia sorpresa, che la Figlia Petta  
del nob. Pae è stata in qualche Caccia  
condotta, e poi rimandata ignuda; apien-  
tasi, che questa cosa vada all'occhio  
non solamente alli Sacconi, ma anche  
alli Fossieri, e sono cose, che se anche  
le fanno li Furchi, o altri Eretici; avuta  
al Popolo, che non faccia simili eccessi, per  
sarsi abbandonati da Dio, e dalla protezione

in grta indulgenza se diparti da vero cristiano,  
e non lascioni memoria di qualche barbaria  
come fecero i Francesi, che hanno conciliato  
l'odio di tutto il mondo.

Voi altri fatevi bene di conoscere per  
soccorrere il ~~Re~~ al Duomo, che ha  
fatto di speso, una grazia al cielo non  
a-~~pi~~ vinate: Sinf.

Li 13. Ottobre 1798.

aff. suo te.  
Arcip. Cassar

Now read on:-

Commander Liberato Grech

I learn from your letter everything that happened yesterday night. I thank you for your prompt attention to my task. This morning the two Canons were persuaded to be imprisoned in Chambray City, and they have already been sent, and consequently I no longer need the men to effect the arrest, and as these two are in a secure place and cannot communicate with people they will not be able to win them over.

I regret what has been done to Notary Pace; I have already written to the men in Nadur to leave him in peace, whilst my well-founded suspicion is against his sons, advocate Luigi and Daniele, whom it would give me pleasure to arrest.

I am surprised to hear that the unmarried daughter of Notary Pace has been taken to Casal Caccia and then sent back naked; rest assured that such a thing offends the eyes not only of the local people but of foreigners as well, and these are things that are done not even by Turks or other heretics; warn the people not to do such excesses, because they will be abandoned by God and they will also lose the protection of the Powers. Let us ensure that in this Revolution the People behave like true christians and will not leave a record of any barbarity like the French who have attracted the hate of all the world.

You did well to rush to the aid of Rabat at the noise of shots, but thank Heaven nothing happened. I am.....

13 October 1798

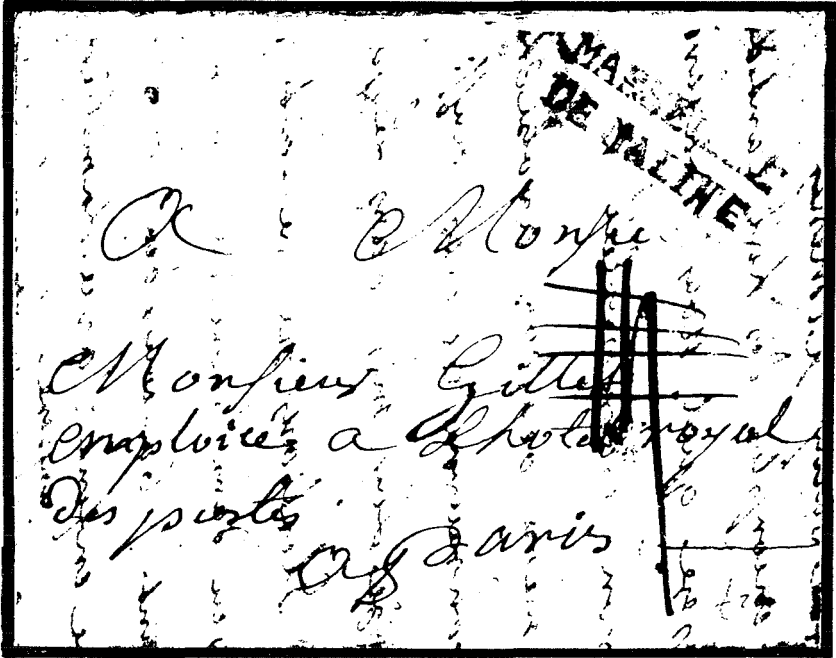
Your affectionate servant

Archpriest S. Cassar

To The Commander  
Liberato Grech  
Caccia

# Marseille de Malthe

By:- Dr. A. Bonnici



This letter formed part of the collection of our late President Mr. Louis Frank.

It is an interesting Historical letter written in French signed "Savoja" written to his friend Mr. Gilbert an employee at the Royal Post Office in Paris.

The letter bears the personal seal of Mr. Savoja, and the MARSEILLE / DE MALTHE hand-stamp which was applied at Marseille. It has a manuscript N°11 and crossed, which presumably is the fee for the letter.

The author started writing the letter on the 21st January 1773 and the first part deals with personal matters, however later on he gives us important historical information:-

*Le grand maître a reçu tout ces sacrements  
de puis 2 jours. Il est a l'agonie. Les  
pretendants au magistère ont plus de  
besoyn que je ne puis vous dire*

"The Grand Master "Pinto" has received the last Sacraments these last two days. He is in his last minute of life. The pretenders to the Grandmastership are doing a lot of lobbying".

ce 25.

Le grand maître est mort hier a 4 heures apres  
midy. en mon particulier je le regrette beaucoup.  
prie Dieu pour lui. Son anome pour regner  
est le Bailli afflite.

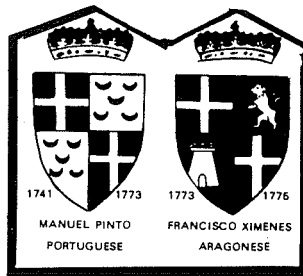
On the 25th he wrote:-

"The Grand Master (Pinto) died yesterday, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Personally I regret this a lot. Pray God for him. They have nominated as Regent the Bailli Aflite".

Le 28. amidy l'on a élu pour  
grand maître le Bailli Ximenes a la satisfaction  
de tout l'ordre. est encompas des habitants de la  
Campagne. Je pense qu'il nous sera favorable  
et qu'il nous aura pour protecteur.

On the 28th he wrote:-

"At mid-day they elected as Grand Master Bailli Ximenes, to the satisfaction of all the order and even more of the inhabitants of the country. I think that he will be favourable to us, and be our protector".



Therefore, apart from an interesting description of what happened, this letter bridges two reigns of Grand Master Pinto - Grand Master Ximenes.

# Detailed Information about:-

Christmas Issue 1982

By:- J. Farrugia

Date of Issue.....	8th October, 1982
Values .....	2c + 1c, 8c + 2c, 20c + 3c
Stamp Size.....	2c + 1c 8c + 2c = 47.15 × 20.5mm 20c + 3c = 48 × 39.5mm
Designer .....	Joseph L. Mallia
Printers.....	Printex Limited
Process.....	Lithography
Perforation.....	2c + 1c and 8c + 2c = 13.4 × 13.4 20c + 3c = 14 × 14
Watermark.....	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways
Paper.....	Chalk Surfaced
Gum.....	P.V.A.

## Colours

The colours of this set were produced by the four colour process.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row in the 20c + 3c value, but next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows in the 2c + 1c and 8c + 2c values. Colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for the Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes of all three values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of the 20c + 3c value, consisted of two Panes A and B. Each has 40 stamps made of eight rows of five stamps. The Printed Sheet of the 2c + 1c and 8c + 2c values consisted of three Panes A, B and C. Each has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. The three stamps are of the horizontal format.

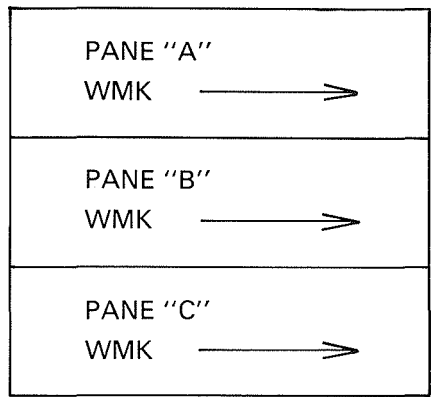
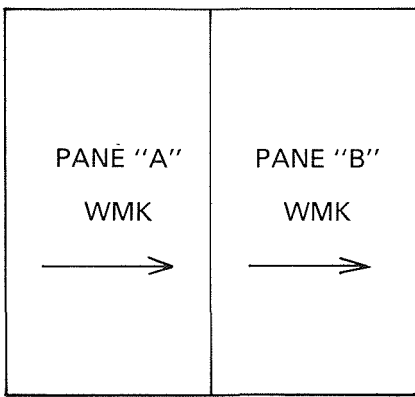
## Plate/Pane Numbers:

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

$$\begin{aligned}2c + 1c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4 \\8c + 2c &\times 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4 \\20c + 3c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4\end{aligned}$$

## Perforations of margins:

In the 20c + 3c value, the top margins of Panes A + B are imperforate, whilst the left hand, right hand and bottom margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. In the 2c + 1c and 8c + 2c values, the top margin of Pane A is imperforate, whilst the left hand, right hand and bottom margins of this same Pane are fully perforated. The top, bottom, left hand and right hand margins of Panes B and C of these two values are also fully perforated.



From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheet of the 20c + 3c value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown above on the left, whilst that of the 2c + 1c and 8c + 2c values would look as shown above on the right, with perforator running from top to bottom in both cases. In each case, looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, all stamps would be seen the right way up, hence that is why watermark in individual stamps of all three values, is sideways.

**Imprint Blocks:**

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all three values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

**OBITUARY**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Saviour Psaila, Post Master General. Mr. Psaila was born on 21st December 1922 and joined Government service as a Postal Clerk 2nd class with the Department of Posts on the 16th May 1946.

In 1956 he was appointed Postal Clerk Special Class, and this appointment was followed with that of Superintendent Postal Service on 10-12-73. Post of Superintendent Postal Services assimilated Administrative Officer in 1974, Assistant Post Master General in 1978, and appointed Post Master General on 1-1-81.

Our Society always found him very willing to hear our views and Dr. Mercieca our President had a very cordial meeting with him last December. One of the very last administrative directives he gave, was the go ahead for the Post Office to continue supporting our Magazine for 1983, by authorizing the full page advert.

He was educated at the Lyceum and married Miss Sarah neè Spiteri. They had three children, Charles, Mario, Josephine, to whom go our sincere condolences.

Editor.



# MALTA - A DIARY

January - August 1982

By:- J. Farrugia

1-9-82 The Malta Post Office participated in the "Centenario del Primo Intero Postale" which was held at the Palazzo Dei Congressi, San Marino, from the 1st to the 5th September 1982.

To Commemorate the occasion, a special handstamp inscribed:- "Centenary of The First Postal Stationery Issue - San Marino" was used at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O. from the 1st to the 5th September 1982.



During the same period, a special cover was on sale for the occasion at the price of 5c. An identical handstamp was used during the same period at the Malta Post Office Stand, San Marino.

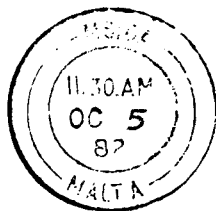
6-9-82 A Machine Stamp cancelling slogan worded:- "St. John Ambulance - Association - Malta Centenary - 1882 - 1982" was used on and off at the Central Mail Room during the period from 6th to 11th September, 1982.

22-9-82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded:- "World Maritime Day - 23rd September 1982", was used on the 22nd and 23rd September, 1982, at the Central Mail Room.

23-9-82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- "World Tourism Day - 25th September 1982" was used during the period 23rd to 25th September 1982, at the Central Mail Room. The Logo of the World Tourism Organisation is also incorporated in the slogan.

5-10-82 The Postmaster General directed that a Branch Post Office be opened at Guardamangia Hill at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 5th October 1982. With effect from 5th October 1982 postal articles posted in the area served by the Msida Branch Post Office will be postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed "Msida-Malta".

Postage Paid/Msida Malta Hand Stamps in red of 1c, 2c, 3c, will also be used.



Post Office Delivery Boxes are available and may be rented on application.

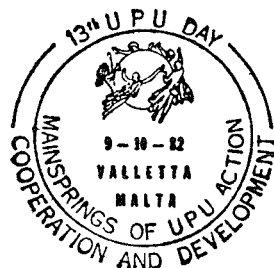
The telephone number of the Msida B.P.O. is 603825.

5-10-82 In to-day's Government Gazette, the P.M.G. notified that with immediate effect, the Postal Administration of Great Britain will not accept irregularly shaped postcards for local delivery or for transmission by post overseas. Only postcards which are rectangular in shape, with corners that are either square or round to a maximum radius of 10mm will be admissible. Cards of any other shape must be enclosed in an envelope.

8-10-82 "Xmas Set" issued today. A special Handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



9-10-82 A special hand-postmark was used at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room on the 9th October 1982, to mark the 13th Universal Postal Union Day. The hand-postmark incorporates the emblem of the U.P.U. and is inscribed:- "13th U.P.U. Day - Mainsprings of U.P.U. Action Cooperation and Development - 9 - 10 - 82 Valletta - Malta".



18-10-82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "International Year Mobilization For - Sanctions Against - South Africa", was used, on and off, from Monday, 18th October to Saturday, 23rd October, 1982, at the Central Mail Room.

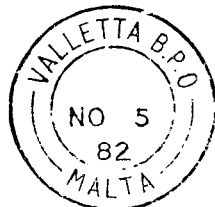
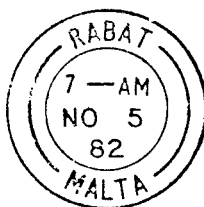
5-11-82 The Postmaster General notified that on Friday, 5th November, 1982 four metal hand date-stamps were to be put in use as follows, the old ones being withdrawn from use at the close of business on Thursday 4th November.

Branch Post Office

Number of Hand date-stamps

Gzira  
Rabat  
Valletta

2  
1  
1



13-11-82

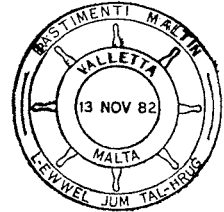
The Malta Post Office participated in "Philatelia '82" International Stamp Exhibition which was held in Hannover, West Germany from the 13th to 17th Nov 1982. For the occasion a special hand stamp inscribed:- "Philatelia '82 - Hannover Malta Postal Administration", and incorporating the "Philatelia '82" logo, was used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. Valletta, from the 13th to 17th November 1982, as follows.



Saturday 13th November 1982 from 8.00 a.m. to noon and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Sunday 14th November 1982 from 8a.m. to noon.

Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th November 1982 from 8.00 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.



13-11-82

"Maltese Ships Set" issued today. A special hand-postmark incorporating a line drawing of a ship's helm was used on the first day of issue.

27-12-82

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- "1 Jan '83 - Jum - Il-Paci - Peace Lab Malta" was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille from the 27th to the 31st December 1982. The slogan also incorporates a line drawing symbolizing peace and friendship.

**PRINTEX**

**SECURITY PRINTERS**

Printex Ltd. Mill Street, Qormi, Malta Tel: 491535

LIST OF AWARDS - MALTA: for Exhibitions held during 1982.

<u>Participant</u>	<u>ENTRY</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
<b>Philexfrance 82</b> - from 11 - 21 June 1982:		
Godwin Said	Specialised Collection of Malta Postal History	Vermeil
Messrs Emmanuel Said	SAID - Malta Stamp Catalogue	Silver Bronze
<b>Belgica 82</b> - from 11 - 19 December 1982		
Dr. Alfred Bonnici	Malta Airmail Collection	Silver Bronze
Godwin Said	Specialised Collection of Malta Postal History	Vermeil
Messrs Emmanuel Said	SAID - Malta Stamp Catalogue	Silver
	SAID - SMOM Stamp & Coin Catalogue	Certificate
<b>Philatema 82</b> - from 1 - 3 October 1982		
Messrs Emmanuel Said	SAID - Malta Stamp Catalogue	
	SAID - SMOM Stamp & Coin Catalogue	Not yet known
	SAID - Banfnote, Coin & Medal Catalogue	
<b>Milano 82</b> - 3 - 9 November 1982		
Messrs Emmanuel Said	SAID - Malta Stamp Catalogue	Silver
	SAID - SMOM Stamp & Coin Catalogue	Certificate
Philatelic Society (Malta)	Philatelic Society Magazine	Certificate
<b>Canada 82</b> - from 20 - 24 May 1982 (Exhibition for Juniors)		
Joseph Fenech	EUROPA: 1971 - 1981	Certificate
George Said	SMOM - Collection	Certificate

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The following Exhibitions are being held during 1983:-

TEMBAL 83 to be held in Basle, Switzerland  
from 21 - 29 May 1983

BRASILIANA 83 to be held in Rio, Brazil  
from 29 July - 7 August 1983

BANGKOK 1983 to be held in Bangkok  
from 4 - 13 August 1983

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Appointment for National Commissioner for Malta for Exhibitions held during 1982, namely:

MR. GODWIN SAID:

PHILEXFRANCE 1982-----BELGICA 82-----CANADA 82

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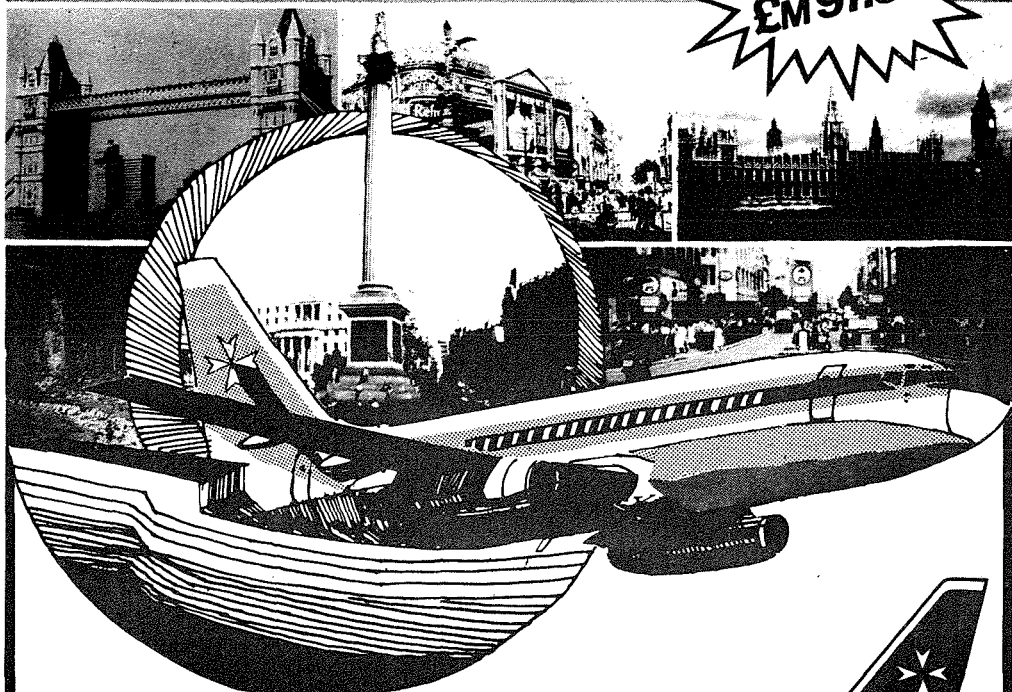
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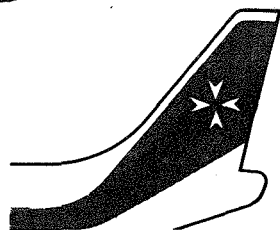


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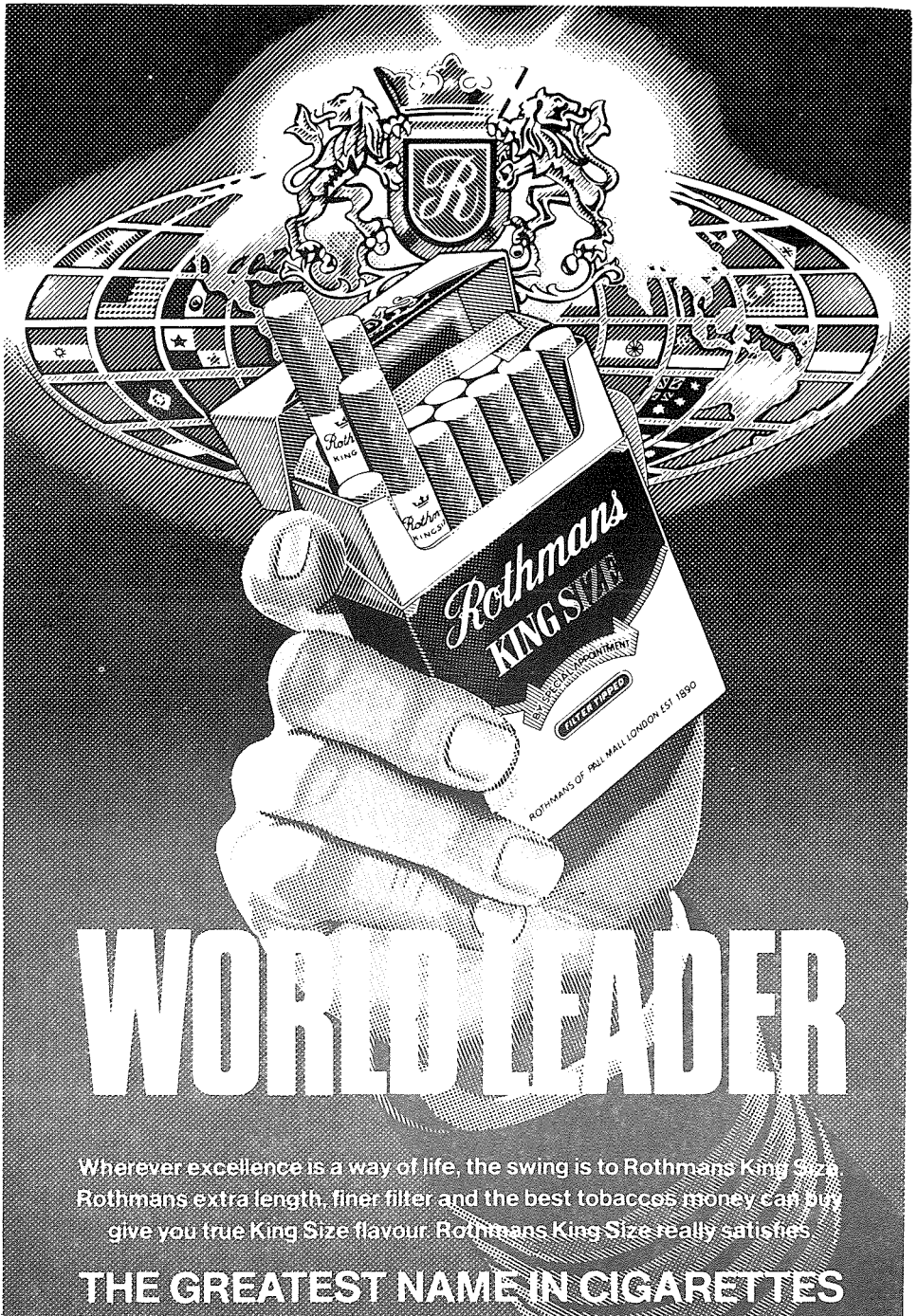
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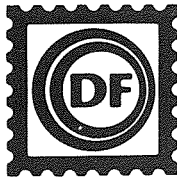
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July