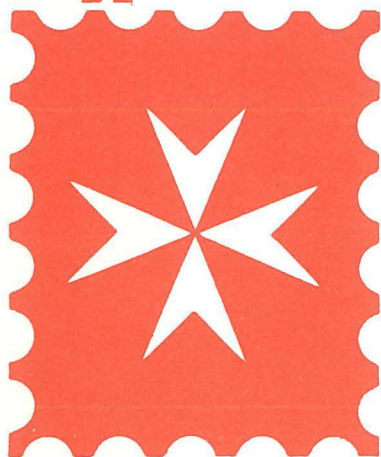




THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE PSM MAGAZINE



MALTA by PRIVATE TREATY

1861 - 1884 HALF PENNY YELLOWS

A small reference collection of this interesting classic formed by a collector, now deceased, to enable him identify the various printings. All unused or mint, the majority are in fine to superb condition.

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½d. lower left corner block of four with the double flagstaff variety officially erased.

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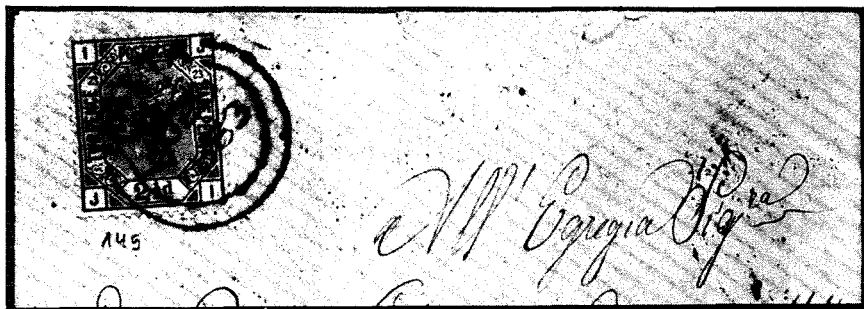
THE PSM MAGAZINE



Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIth Malta Philatelic-1977
Bronze Medals at PRAGA '78; PHILASERDICA '79
NORWEX '80, Diploma-MILANO '82
Editor: Dr. A. Bonnici, Ass. Editor: J. Farrugia
Photoset and Printed by ABC Press Ltd.

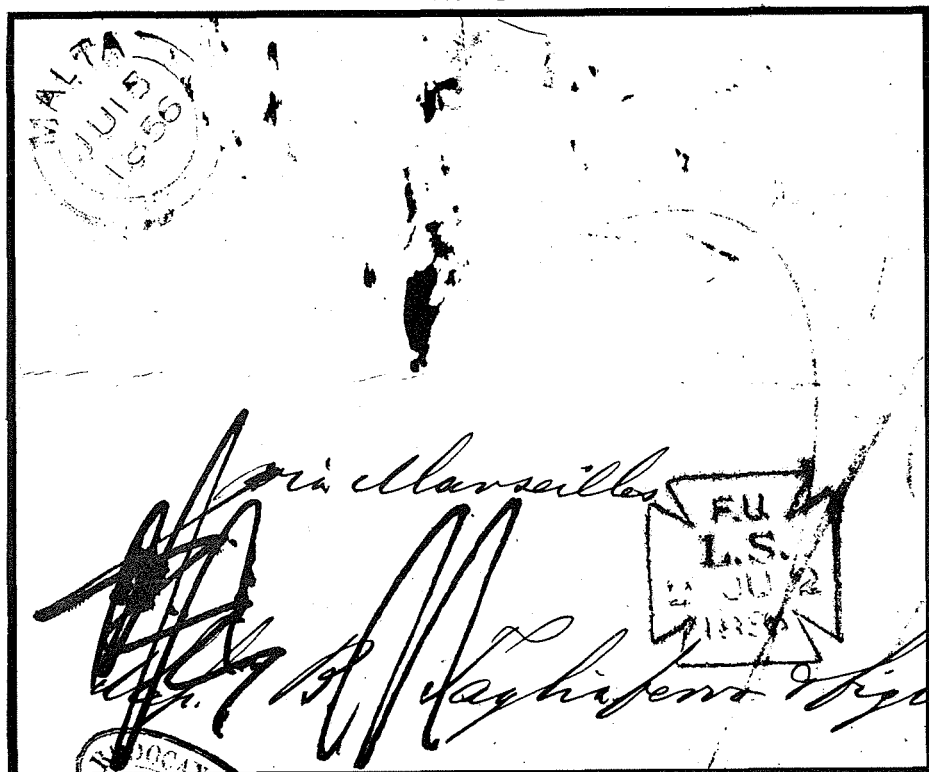
Vol. 12 N° 4

Autumn 1983



1883 (June 20) cover to Sicily with 2½d (23) most unusually canc MALTA double-ring cds

Item 1



Earliest Recorded Date

Item 2

Editorial

A year has passed since your Committee decided to entrust the fortunes of the P.S.M. Magazine in my hands. This was an entirely new challenge not having had any experience in printing. It was literally a question of "Fools venture in where Angels fear to tread". Be it as it may, I was determined that the Magazine would be published again on a regular basis to reach our readers by the end of April, October and December. This has been achieved, our overseas members even receiving it by Air-Mail.

During last summer our President Dr. Mercieca suffered the loss of his dear wife Mrs. Mercieca, and our sincere condolences go to Dr. Mercieca and his family.

Our Magazine is an important link with our Members, and I have tried to convey to our Members the message that there is more in Stamp Collecting, than just possessing a specimen of each stamp issued; I have tried to stimulate our Members in research, and serious study of our history through philately, and I am pleased to see that several have taken this up in earnest, which promises well for the future.

During October we were happy to welcome amongst us Mr. Eastgate, a prominent Malta Postal Historian, who entertained us with a display of his lavish Postal History collection, and Mr. Graham Smeed, who gave us an exciting display of old Malta postcards. For one and a half hours one went back to the time when the Railway was a feature of our transport system. This is what makes our hobby varied, stimulating, interesting, and educational.

In this issue I am pleased to present our Members with two very interesting discoveries. One, a new Malta Hand Stamp, discovered by Dr. G. Bonello, and my discovery of the 2.5cm hand stamp on an entire two months earlier than the U.K. G.P.O. impression book. Both these items should stimulate a

considerable amount of mental activity among our Members.

Was the Malta hand stamp, a personal one? But why should anybody use "Malta" instead of his own name? So this possibility is very remote.

Was it applied by the G.P.O. in Malta? No records exist, so research is needed in this direction.

Was it applied on arrival in Messina, as the Marseille de Malthe was in France?

The 2.5cm hand stamp on the entire published seems to be worn out, indicating that it had been in use for a considerable amount of time; however, the U.K. G.P.O. impression book, gives the date as, 1st Sept. 1856.

Readers should delve into their collections, as I am sure that although at the moment this is the earliest recorded date, 5 months earlier than that recorded in the Hand Book, I am sure that our members could find earlier dates - So Happy Hunting, - or are we looking at a second hand stamp?

By the time this magazine reaches you, Christmas will be fast approaching, so I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

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Great Britain Stamps Used in Malta

Continued Part 2

By Anthony Fenech

Since my publication on this subject in Vol. 12 No. 2, of the P.S.M. Magazine, (Item 1) has come to light. It is a cover sent to Sicily, franked with the 2½d blue (Plate 23) most UNUSUALLY cancelled with the sans serif Malta 25.5mm diameter (Said No. 23) double ring handstamp, confirming that a few G.B. stamps were eventually cancelled by the MALTA double-ring cancellers.

The G.P.O. Date Impression Book record the date of issue of this handstamp as 30. Aug. 1856. However Dr. Bonnici has drawn my attention to an entire (Item 2) written in London on the 2nd June 1856 addressed to Malta where it arrived on the 15 Ju 1856. Two and a half months earlier than what is written in the G.P.O. Date Impression Books. This indeed is the earliest recorded date, Five months earlier than what appears in the "Hand-Book".

C) THE 'M' CANCELLATION

A British Post Office was established in Malta in September 1857.

Sup. S. Lloyd of
I am directed by the
Postmaster General to acquaint
you that the Lords of Her
Majesty's Privy Council have authorized
British postage stamps to be
used in payment of the
postage of letters posted
at Malta, and I am to request
that you will cause this
regulation to be made
known throughout the
island.

Circular.

Agents.

Post 48

No - 9

11/12

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

31st July, 1857

SIR,

I am directed by the Postmaster General to acquaint you, that the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury have authorized British Postage Stamps to be used in payment of the postage of Letters posted at Malta.

Letters, therefore, despatched from Malta, bearing British Postage Stamps of an amount equal to the postage with which such Letters are chargeable, should henceforth be treated in the same manner as if the postage had been prepaid in money.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

ROWLAND HILL,

Secretary.

A supply of current British Stamps was sent to Malta in August, but was not made available to the public prior to the first few days of September 1857. Previously, foreign correspondence was prepaid in money, or postage collected on delivery. (1) Although adhesive postage stamps were introduced at that time, it was not until the 1st March 1858, that the prepayment of postage on letters was made compulsory, as notified in The Post Office Notice, dated 1st February, 1858 by Order of the Postmaster-General John S. Coxon, H.M. Packet Agent.

THE 'M' CANCELLATIONS

Sept 1852

Vol 8(2) p 134



1st Type

2nd Type

3rd Type

' 9 wit postage stamps affixed to letters posted at your Office must be carefully obliterated by means of the official stamp with the black composition supplied for the purpose. The stock of this composition must never be allowed to become low, and the composition must be limited to this sole use

The first type of the three 'M' handstamps known to exist, was sent out to Malta from London in September 1857. The earliest recorded use of Great Britain adhesives cancelled with the 'M' Cancellation is September 12th, 1857. Two entires, one to Naples and the other to Genoa, both franked with 1d red-brown (plate 44), perf. 14, strip of three, cancelled 'M' and dated SP 12 1857, with the Malta cds 30-mm double-ring on the reverse, were sold by Messrs Köhler, in the André Bollen Gold Medal Collection early this year. Ewen, in the 5th Edition of his "Standard Priced Catalogue of the Stamps and Postmarks of the United Kingdom", page 143, records that Malta cds on the back of covers dated 18th September 1857 had the figures "57" reversed, reading as "75". It seems that the error remained uncorrected for a few days, as is known on the MSC Handbook, page 67, featuring the "M" Cancellation on a wrapper from Malta to Genoa, dated the 20th September 1857, but with the figures "57" reversed. (2) The "M" canceller consists of the letter 'M' which on the first type is 6.5mm wide and 9.7mm high, surrounded by twelve horizontal lines, all broken except the two above and the two below the dominant letter 'M' for Malta. (fig. a)

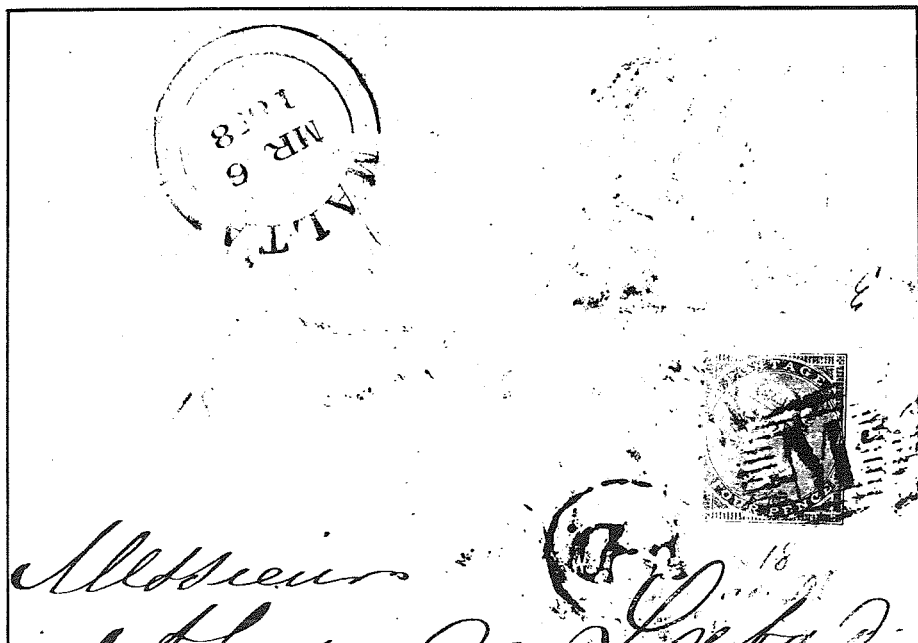
The letter 'M' of the second type of the 'M' handstamp measures 7.0mm in width and 9.2mm in height (fig. b) with all the other features of Type one. This second type of the "M" canceller did not come into use till April 1858, after which both types were used concurrently. (3)

The third type of the 'M' canceller can be detected even with the naked eye, as the surround size of the 'M' is about 1.5mm wider than in the other cancellers. The size of "M" is about 7.5mm in width and 9.2mm in height. (fig. c) Otherwise, the canceller has the same features as the other two types.

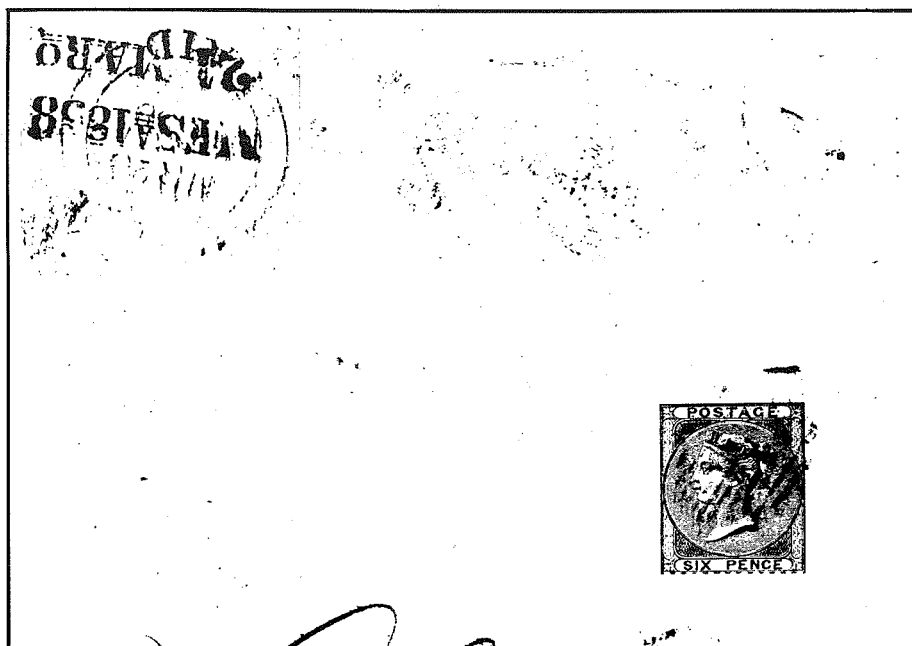
The above G.P.O. Proof Book entry (Vol. 8 (2), page 134) is undated, but these marks, illustrated in this article, are amongst other entries which are dated September 1852. From these marks, it is evident that there were in fact THREE 'M' cancellers sent to Malta from London.

As has been referred to in the previous article on this subject, the "M" canceller was always used to obliterate the stamp or stamps, in conjunction with a circular date stamp on the reverse of the wrapper or cover. Three types of dater handstamps are known to have been used together with the "M" cancellation, naturally on the back of the entire. I have seen:-

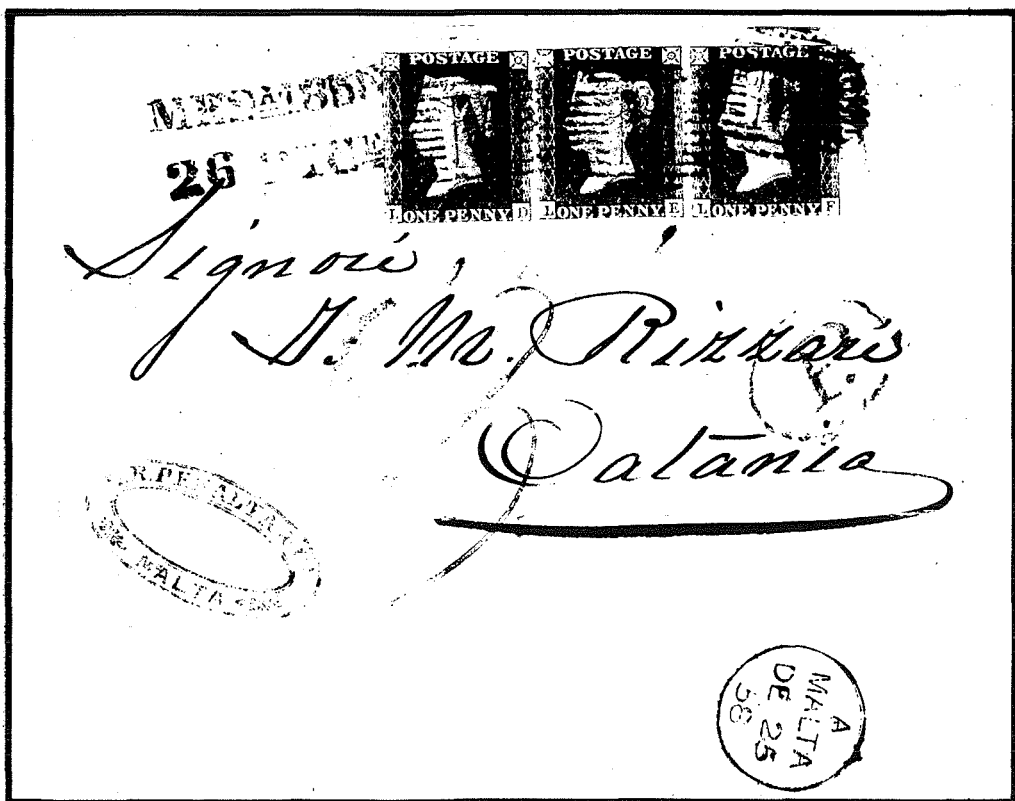
- (a) the 30mm Double Ring MALTA in black and red, with the date in two lines within; the red being extremely rare. The latest dates recorded of this type on the reverse of a cover in conjunction with the "M" cancellation are in "RED" April 3, 1858; and "BLACK" 13th March 1858.
- (b) the 30mm Double circle broken with MALTA/PAID in serif letters in red. It was used for a short time, possibly from 20th March to 10th April 1858. (4)
- (c) the 19mm circular date stamp, always in red, with a "A"/MALTA in a straight line, and the date in two lines. This was superseded, in February 1859, by the dated Malta and "A 25" duplex canceller, as it was felt that the obliterator and dater should be incorporated into one handstamp. Thus the idea of using the obliterator on the front and the dater on the reverse of the entire, was temporarily abandoned.



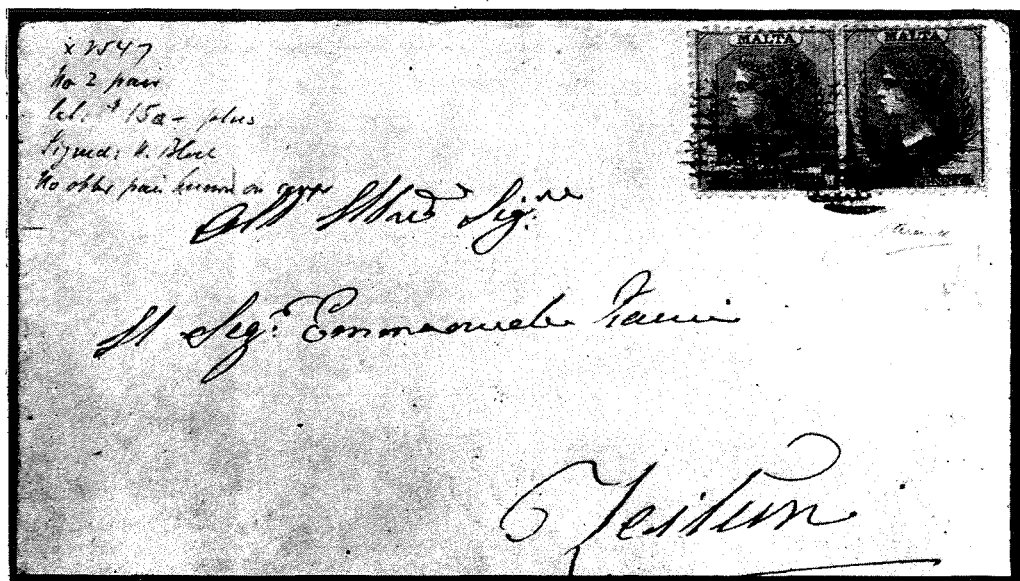
(a) (in Black)



(b) (in Red)



(c)



(d)

The official use of the “M” cancellation came to an end on the 17th February, 1859. However, “emergency duty” of this canceller necessitated its re-use. (5) As a matter of fact the “M” canceller was used again. Examples of the “M” strike on the first Malta ½d yellows, issued on 1st December, 1860, are known to exist. Remarkable is the cover (d) bearing the horizontal pair of half penny buff, well tied to the envelope, to Zeitun, old spelling of Zejtun, with “M” type (Type Three) cancellations, highlighting Harmers’ Cann outstanding Collection, put to auction on Monday and Tuesday, June 15th and 16th, 1970, and again re-auctioned by Messrs Feldman International in Zurich, on Friday, May 21st, 1982. The M.S.C. Handbook records the use of this type of “M” Cancellation on 2d stamps, plates 8 and 9, of Great Britain, some time in 1861, and on the 6d, plate 9, also of Great Britain, on the 3rd May, 1870.

The following Great Britain stamps are known to exist with the “M” cancellation.

- 1d 1841 Red-brown (Imperforate)
- 1d 1854 (Feb.) Red-brown Die I, Small Crown, Perf. 16
- 1d 1855 (Feb.) Red-brown Die II, Small Crown, Perf. 14 - plate 7
- 1d 1855 (Mar.) Red-brown Die II, Small Crown. Perf. 16
- 1d 1855-57 Red-brown Die II, Large Crown, Perf. 14:
 - (i) Alph.II on blued paper - plates 15 and 16
 - (ii) Alph.III on blued paper - Plates 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37
- 1d 1856 (Dec.) - 1862 (Jan.) Rose-red Die II, Large Crown, Perf. 14 - Plates 27 (also the ‘Gothic K’ variety), 34, 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60.
- 2d 1841 Blue (Imperforate)
- 2d 1854 Blue Small Crown, Perf. 16 - plate 4
- 2d 1855-57 Blue Large Crown, Perf. 14 - plates 5 and 6
- 2d 1858 (Feb.) Large Crown, Perf. 16 - plate 6
- 2d 1858-61 Blue Large Crown, Perf. 16 - plates 7, 8 and 9
- 4d 1857 Rose Large Garter
- 4d 1857 Rose Large Garter (on thick glazed paper) also with Wmk Inv
- 6d 1854 Violet (embossed)
- 6d 1856 Lilac Wmk.Emblems
- 6d 1856 Lilac (on thick paper) - also with watermark inverted
- 6d 1856 Lilac Wmk. Emblems (on blued paper)
- 6d 1870 Mauve Wmk. Spray of Rose - plate 9
- 1/- 1854 Pale Green (Embossed)
- 1/- 1856 Green Wmk. Emblems
- 1/- 1856 Green Wmk. Emblems (on azure paper)
- 1/- 1856 - Green Wmk. Emblems (on thick paper).

1. H. L'Estrange Ewen, Standard Priced Catalogue of the Stamps and Postcards of The United Kingdom - No. 6 Edition - 1898 p.175.
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 Chap.7 pp.66-88.
3. Mc Gowan Bertram, The British Philatelist No. 2 - Vol. XXIII, April 1930 “Malta Postmarks on British Stamps” p.11-14.
4. *ibid.*
5. John A. Trory, The John A. Trory Specialised Catalogue of Malta 1979, 4th Edition p.2.

Disinfection

Part 3

By Dr. A. Bonnici



PER PARTE, ET COMANDAMENTO
Delli Illustriſſimi, & Eccellentiffimi Signori li Signori An-
tiani, & Gonfaloniero di Giuſtitia, & Signori Conſer-
uatori di Sanità dell'Eccellentiffima Republica
di Lucca, ſi fa Bandire, e pubblicamente
notificare,



Valmente detti Eccellentiffimi Signori, & Si-
gnori Conſeruatori, hanno aggiunto alli Ban-
di già publicati della ſoſpentione dal commer-
cio di altri luoghi la Città, & Iſola di Malta,
à loro beneplacito, ſotto quelle pene, & proi-
bitioni appoſte nell'altri Bandi publicati in queſte ma-
terie. Si che, &c.

Dat. ex Palatio die 19. Nouemb. 1655.

Geremimo Lippi Coad.

Publicato da me Carlo Puccini Publico Banditore il dì ſopradetto .

In LVCCA, Per Incanto Paci, &c. M.DC.LV.

There have been several references to the Lazaretto by travellers passing through Malta, and the earliest description is to be found in the diary of an Englishman - George Sandys, who in 1610, on his way back to England passed through Malta and was informed by the Port Sanitary Authorities that his quarantine period was forty days, before he had the freedom to visit towns in Malta, or to contact friends. (Quaranta = forty).

However a French Captain intervened on his behalf with the Grand Master "soliciting the Grand Master on my behalf, as he sat in Council who with the assent of the Great Crosses granted me Pratick". (1) and so Sandys the next morning was free. This was indeed an exceptional case, and Sandys was a very lucky man to escape quarantine in this manner, as the Government of the Order knowing through experience, the heavy death rate, the disruption to trade, with consequent enormous harm to the economy, and a threat to starvation, whenever there was plague in Malta, came to pin its faith more and more on the isolation of travellers entering the island.

Notwithstanding this precaution, plague continued to visit the Island. An outbreak of plague originated in Kalkara Creek in 1655, but fortunately starvation was averted.

The worst outbreak occurred in 1676. Ten thousand inhabitants perished including several knights. As a consequence all trade and connections with Sicily were again suspended and the island was isolated for several months. Several Italian - City States published Official Notes similar to the ones reproduced in the magazine, issued in Bologna on the 24th April 1676 suspending trade with Malta and in Lucca in 1655.

No wonder that heavy penalties were contemplated against infringement of the quarantine regulations, which included fines, imprisonment, corporal punishment, penal servitude on the galleons of the Order, and even death by hanging or by other means. "Perdere la vita irremissibilmente in una forca o sia punito colla pena dell' ultimo supplicio". (3)

In Medical History of Malta by Dr. Paul Cassar we find: "No regard was paid to personal liberty, property or international commerce once there was the possibility that disease, especially plague, could be introduced into the Island. In October 1744 plague was raging in Messina and, in order to prevent anyone from descending in Malta from that port, strong guards were posted round the shores of the Island. All sailors on the ships already in harbour were ordered to remain on board as an additional precaution. One English sailor, however, insisted on going ashore in defiance of this order and he was shot dead by the sentinel on guard. (4) Passengers absconding from the quarantine establishment were not unknown. The escapees, in their endeavour to avoid capture by the police took refuge inside the Church where the civil authorities had no jurisdiction, as the churches then enjoyed the privilege of sanctuary. To discourage these escapees from the Lazaretto the privilege of sanctuary for persons trying to evade quarantine was abolished in 1749. (5)

In November 1748 seven corpses were found on the coast of Gozo following the shipwreck of a foreign vessel on the shores. Gozo was put in quarantine by the Maltese Sanitary Authorities and letters from Gozo to Malta were submitted to disinfection "as if they came from the levant or from some

SOSPENSIONE

Di Commercio con la Città, & Isola di Malta.

Publicato in Bologna li 24. Aprile 1676.



Nuigilando l' Eminentiss. e Reuerendiss. Sig. Cardinal Buonaccorsi Legato di Bologna alla Conservatione della publica salute di questa Città, e Legatione: Et hauendo l'Eminenza Sua sicuri rincontri, che il Contagio si faccia sentire nella Città, & Isola di Malta. Perciò l'Eminenza Sua col consenso, e participatione de gl' Illustrissimi Signori Consaloniero di Giustitia, & Assonti del Reggimento sopra la Sanità, e coll'esempio d'altri Magistrati di Sanità corrispondenti; sospende il Commercio, e pratica con la Città, & Isola tutta di Malta: proibendo espressamente l'ingresso in questa Città, e Legatione delle Persone, Mercanzie, e Robbe, che venissero dalla sudetta Città, & Isola, sotto pena della perdita di dette Mercanzie, e Robbe, & alle persone, che di là venissero, o altre, che introducessero tali Mercanzie, e Robbe, anche della Vita, secondo la qualità de' casi ad arbitrio di Sua Eminenza. Auuertendo, che contro li Trasgressori si procederà con ogni rigore.

Datum Bononiz die 24. Aprilis 1676.

B. Card. Buonaccorsi Legato.

Marius Casalis Vex. Iust.

other place suspected of pestilence". (6) Thus no risks were taken even when the possibility of "contagion" was only remote.

Dr. Cassar gives a delightful description of how a plague-infected Venetian ship was dealt with, and the political consequences of such an action.

"In spring of 1781 a plague-infected Venetian ship entered Marsamxetto Harbour, but when it was hailed by the guard on St. Elmo point, and subsequently approached by the boat of the Health Office none of the crew was to be seen.

The ship was boarded by a health guardian of the lazaretto. He found only

one member of the crew on board. This sailor, who was very gravely ill, told the guardian that the rest of the crew had perished of plague and that their corpses had been thrown into the sea. An urgent meeting of the Health Council was summoned by Grandmaster to deliberate on the measures to be taken to safeguard the public health and save the life of the plague-stricken sailor. The Council decided to send two doctors on board the ship one of whom had to be well versed in medicine and surgery. The choice fell on Dr. Stefano Borg. He was granted a liberal remuneration for his work but he was warned that he had to be prepared to sacrifice his own life in the execution of his duty, in which eventuality his family was to be adequately compensated. He was entrusted with the removal of his patient to the lazaretto when he himself had to remain until the man died or recovered: in either case he was to stay in the lazaretto until he had served a quarantine of eighty days. Borg had the patient plunged, quite naked, into the sea for three consecutive times, and then had him wrapped in a sheet and conveyed to the lazaretto. There the sick man was given sugared wine and allowed to sleep for three hours after which his hands were incised. We are in the dark as to whether the patient recovered or not but we know that Borg came out of this episode safe and sound and was still alive in 1801.

The fate of the ship did not have such a smooth ending. Three suggestions were put forward by the Council of State with regard to her disposal:

- a) to sink the ship in one of the bays round the coast and to leave it submerged for a certain period of time, until it was purified of its 'contagious miasma' and afterwards to refloat it and return it to her owners.
- b) To disinfect the vessel by opening all apertures to allow a free circulation of air, the whole operation to be carried out by forty or fifty slaves or convicts or
- c) to tow the ship to the open sea and set it on fire under the supervision of a guard of fifty men under the command of a knight to ensure that no one approached the ship or tried to possess himself of any of her cargo that escaped destruction.

This last proposal was approved by the Council and carried into effect with the consent of the Venetian Government. The owners of the merchandise, who were subjects of the Bay of Tunis, claimed compensation for their cargo; but the Order declined to indemnify the merchants on the ground that in destroying the ship with her cargo the Order had only acted "in general interests of humanity". The Bay then turned to Venice but as the Republic also refused to pay compensation he declared war on Venice and in the space of less than a month he had captured fourteen Venetian ships and sold their crews into slavery. The combined fleets of Venice and of Malta were sent to attack Tunis but they were met by such murderous fire from the shore batteries that they were forced to retreat and return to Malta. Eventually, seeing the impossibility of subduing the Bey, Venice consented to pay him the compensation asked for and peace was re-established. (8)

In June 1784 a Maltese vessel suspected of being infected was destroyed by fire with all the goods on board after her crew and passengers were ordered to strip naked and wash themselves in sea water before they were taken ashore to the lazaretto. (9)

There regulations remained operative throughout the rule of the Knights over Malta.

On the 23rd December, 1782, Grand Mastrer De Rohan appointed a Commission to revive the laws of Malta, and a code of laws for municipal affairs was published in 1784 (10) in which the existing regulations were tightened, others amended and brought up to date, and new ones were introduced to enforce preventive measures. A case in point, was the fouling of harbour waters, or the discharge therein of any material, even with the intention of lifting it again after some time, was made an offence punishable by a heavy fine, and in cases of relapse by seizure of the vessel itself. One third of the fine, or of the sale of the vessel, was to be paid to the informer, if there happened to be one. The Guardians of Health were to be selected and approved by the Grand Master from a list submitted by the Commissioners of Health who first considered the merits of all applicants.

The new Code empowered judges to inflict severe penalties not only for the perpetration of, but also any attempt to commit, quarantine offences, in conformity with the principle “*Sola facti veritate inspecta mare militari*”. (11)

When in 1785 John Howard of the Royal Society of London, the hospital reformer, was making a survey of the Lazzalettos of Europe, he came to Malta and described the quarantine measures prevailing at the time (12) by stating:-

MALTA
QUARANTINE.

At MALTA there are two kinds of *quarantine* performed: one by ships with clean bills of health, and the other by ships with foul bills. The first, called the petty quarantine, lasts eighteen days, and the ships which perform it lie at the entrance of the port near the health-office. In order to enable the passengers and crews, without producing danger, to buy provisions and converse with their friends, there are enclosures separated by stone posts, with rails and palisades; and two soldiers stationed to prevent any improper communication.

Here, some of the ships from the Morea, and other places, unload their grain. At a little distance there is a church, situated on high ground, and intended for the accommodation of the persons who perform this quarantine. A letter brought by a ship just arrived from Turkey, was, I saw, received with a pair of iron tongs, dipped in vinegar, and then put into a case, and laid for about a quarter of an hour on wire grates, under which straw and perfumes had been burnt: after which the case was opened, and the letter taken out by one of the directors of the office. And this is the usual method of receiving letters here.

LAZARETTO.

The other, called the great quarantine, is performed at a *lazaretto* which is situated on a peninsula near the city. On the most elevated part of this peninsula is Fort Manuel: the lazaretto, being on the shore, is less airy. Additions have been made to it at different times. The old part is inconvenient, and too close to admit of a proper ventilation of cottons and other merchandise. It has sixteen rooms on two floors. On the higher floor there are eight, which open into a balcony, and have opposite windows: but all were very dirty.

In the other part of this building there are two courts, with rooms and sheds much more convenient for passengers, and airy for merchandise. Both these courts are one hundred and one feet by sixty-three. Two other buildings and a chapel were just begun; and these erections, when finished, will make the lazaretto capable of allowing a proper separation of the cargoes of six or seven ships on quarantine together.

At the end of the lazaretto there is a large court, with stone troughs for beasts, which often come from the Barbary coast. At the upper part of this court, on a pleasuring ground, there are several large and good sheds, with stone mangers, and two or three rooms over them.

There is here a burying ground, where there seemed to have been some recent burials; and also a place for burning the bodies of such as die of the plague.

The greatest care is taken to destroy infection should there be any. Ships with foul bills are required to perform quarantine eighty days: but at the end of forty days they may change their station, and the captains are allowed to come on shore. The different kinds of goods are separated, and placed in proper order under cover. The cottons are taken out of the bags containing them, and placed in rows of piles, upon boards laid on stone pillars about eighteen inches from the floors; and in repacking they are flung over a man who gets into the bags, in order to tread down the cotton; the consequence of which must be exposing him to great danger should any infection remain. This, though the surest way of expelling infection from cotton, is not the most agreeable to merchants, not only because more expensive, but also for the following reason. The bales of cotton, in conveying them on camels to the sea-ports, are often taken off on the roads, and laid in wet and dirty places where their outides are injured. In consequence of being taken to pieces and repacked in the lazaretto in the manner now described, the injured parts get among the inner parts, and the cotton acquires the appearance of being wholly damaged; and, therefore, is rendered less marketable.—These are observations which three large English ships performing quarantine while I was here gave me an opportunity of making. MALTA.

The other part of the building referred to by Howard is the last block of building towards the East. It consists of a row of warehouses built round two centred courtyards on ground floor. On the first floor there are apartments and wards with a portico facing the sea and open spaces for the recreation of contacts and travellers. (13) the old part is that building now called “*Il-Palazz*” which stands round a very large central courtyard from which an imposing stairway leads to the first floor, which is still used as a hospital for infectious diseases, whilst the ground floor serves as a laundry and house other ancillary services. On the front of the building there was fixed a marble tablet bearing the characteristic and significant warning “*Chi Ardisce di Marcare o Guastare le Mura in Lazzaretto Farà Quarantena Doppia*”.

1. Sandys G. Sandys Travels; London 1673. p.178. Dr. Paul Cassar Medical History of Malta p.299
2. Pratique Vol. VI No. 4. p.87, 88.
3. Leggi e Costituzioni Prammaticali, Malta 1724.
4. Rebone G., Giornale di successi delle isole di Malta e Gozo. Malta 1939 p.65. Dr. P. Cassar, Medical History of Malta p.287.
5. Manuscripts 429. Bandi 1744-56 fol.97. Royal Malta Library. Dr. P. Cassar, Medical History of Malta, p.287.
6. Rebone G. op. cit. p.106.
7. Dr. Paul Cassar, Medical History of Malta, p.289. Manuscript 183, University fol.32. R.M.L.
8. Doublet P., Memoires historiques sur l'invasion et l'occupation de Malte, Paris 1883. p.73
9. Archives 274. fol. 20, R.M.L.
10. 11. Del Diritto Municipale di Malta, Malta 1784.
12. J. Howard. An account of the Principal Lazarettos in Europe, London 1789.
13. Bussolin G., Delle Istituzioni di Sanità Marittima nel Bacino del Mediterraneo, Trieste 1881.

Perfins - Perforated Initials

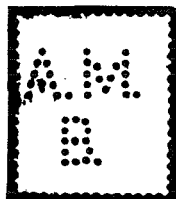
By:- Graham Smeed

In 1858 a Mr. Joseph Sloper patented his Safety System for perforating postage stamps with firms' names and initials to reduce "stealing, purloining and misappropriation". Soon after that he circularised likely users of large quantities of stamps with a sales prospectus that included a sample of his wares, the current Great Britain Queen Victoria 1d. red perfined TB & Co.

Some ten years later, the P.M.G. of the day recognised its virtue, encouraged and authorised its use by commercial firms so the wide spread use of perfins in Great Britain dates from 1869, but, were any used in Malta from this period?

Numerous examples of the Malta 1885 definitive issue, King Edward VII and King George V issues, including 1935 Silver Jubilee are recorded with perfins but so far none are known for King George VI or more recent issues, despite the fact that many of the old established companies are still functioning. Are people more honest now, or are most companies using meter franking machines?

Examples of perforated initials recorded:



A.M.
B.

ANGLO-MALTESE
Bank

E.T.
A.

E.T.Agius



C.G.
M.

Carmelo Griscti Malta

used on Q.V.
1d. stationery
postal card

G.B.
&C

Galea Bros & Co.

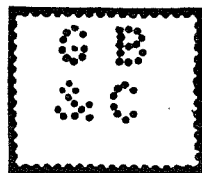


F.E.
F.

user not known

J.W.

user not known



Details of any other perfins would be appreciated.

Acknowledgements: Details about Mr. Sloper taken from advertisement by Tim Clutterbuck & Co, Ltd., in Stamp Collecting, identities or initials mostly derived from documents to which examples were affixed, illustrations from my own collection.

B A N D O

I Soldati del Reggimento FROBERG accusati d'aver ecceduto in in una rissa ultimamente accesa tra loro ed alcuni Abitanti sono stati giudicati da una Corte Marziale e puniti severamente. La punizione di costoro, si spera, che servirà di freno a tutti gli altri loro compagni d'armi a non rendersi colpevoli di simili mancanze. Ma si sa che alcuni degli Abitanti sono mal prevenuti contro i Soldati del Reggimento suddetto, e riconoscendoli a qualche distintivo qualche volta gli attaccano con parole o atti insultanti e li provocano a sdegno, e nascono quindi le risse, e poi i ferimenti, e gli sconcerti.

Non conviene che i Soldati, o chiunque altro che ha dritto di crederci sotto la protezione della legge sia insultato, o che insulti egli medesimo altri che hanno eguale dritto alla stessa protezione, ed esser mal prevenuto: non si deve contro veruno per la sola ragione che sia Straniero, e differente nelle sue maniere; quindi S. E. il Sig. Comissionario Regio ha ordinato ed ordina che niuno ardisca non provocato attaccare con insulti di parole, o di fatti i Soldati suddetti, o alcun altro, e provocato, in vece di venir alle prese, che ricorra alle autorità legittime per la conveniente riparazione del torto, sotto pena in caso di qualunque controvenzione di pagare un'ammenda, o esser punito corporalmente ad arbitrio del Giudice, avuto riguardo a tutte le circostanze del caso.

Segreteria del Governo li 3. Giugno 1806.

E. F. Chapman Segr. Pub.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS GO TO MR. J. BUTTIGIEG FOR
THE ISSUE OF HIS FIRST MALTA CATALOGUE.

Detailed Information about:-

Malta Railway Issue

By J. Farrugia

Date of Issue.....	21st. January, 1983
Values.....	3c, 13c and 27c.
Stamp Size.....	47mm x 29mm
Art Designer.....	Richard J. Caruana.
Printers.....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process.....	Lithography
Perforation.....	13.9 x 13.6
Watermark.....	Maltese Crosses pointing upright.
Paper.....	Chalk Surfaced
Gum.....	P.V.A.

Colours:-

- 3c - Yellow, Olive-green, Light-brown, Red and Black.
- 13c - Magenta, Yellow, Olive-green, Red and Black.
- 27c - Sepia, Yellow, Olive-green, Red and Black.

Designs:-

This set marks the centenary of the inauguration of the Malta Railway. Congratulations to Richard J. Caruana for a very attractive set. The Malta Railway was inaugurated on the 28th February, 1883, with a twenty-five minute journey from Valletta to Rabat. The Malta Railway Company began the service with three locomotives, all O-6-OT built by Manning Wardle of Leeds. Later, another locomotive, built by Black Hawthorn of Gateshead, was bought. By the turn of the century, the number of engines was increased to ten. The railway line was seven miles long and the journey started from an underground station in Valletta and passed through Floriana, Hamrun, Msida, Santa Venera, Birkirkara, Balzan, Attard and ended at Rabat.

The railway service prospered until the introduction of the tramway in 1905 and later from more competition by the buses. The Malta Railway closed down on 31st. March, 1931.

The 3c stamp shows a Manning Wardle O-6-OT engine used in 1883, and has Valletta's Main Gate in the background.

The 13c stamp depicts a Black Hawthorn O-6-OT engine of 1884 against a background of Portes des Bombes.

The 27c stamp reproduces a Beyer Peacock 2-6-4T locomotive of 1895 with Rabat as background.

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

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

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of five rows of eight stamps. All three values are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:-

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

$$\begin{aligned} 3c &= 1A \times 5, 1B \times 5, 1C \times 5. \\ 13c &= 1A \times 5, 1B \times 5, 1C \times 5. \\ 27c &= 1A \times 5, 1B \times 5, 1C \times 5. \end{aligned}$$



Perforation of Margins:-

The left hand margin of Panes A, B and C, of all three values, is imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

PANE "A"	↑
WMK	↑
PANE "B"	↑
WMK	↑
PANE "C"	↑
WMK	↑

From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes would look as shown on left. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is also upright. Perforator ran from left to right.

Imprint Blocks:-

"Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special hand-postmark inscribed: "Il-Vapur Ta' L-Art F'Malta - L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hrug 21.1.83 - Malta" and the name of the respective locality, was used on the first day of issue. The inscription means: "The Railway In Malta - First Day of Issue 21.1 83 - Malta". The postmark also incorporates a line drawing of a train.

Up to 12.50p.m. on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm38,554. This set will remain on sale up to Thursday, 2nd. June, 1983, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Date of Issue.....	14th March, 1983
Values.....	8c, 12c, 15c and 23c.
Stamp Size	8c and 12c = 47mm x 29mm
.....	15c and 23c = 29mm x 47mm
Art Designer	Charles Cassar
Printers	Printex Limited Malta
Process.....	Lithography.
Perforation.....	8c and 12c = 13.9 x 13.6
.....	15c and 23c = 13.6 x 13.9
Watermark.....	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
.....	in 8c and 12c values, sideways
.....	in 15c and 23c values.
Paper.....	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

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

Designs:

The Malta Postal Administration issued this set of four stamps, to mark Commonwealth Day on the 14th. March, 1983. Forty-five other member countries and ten associated and dependent territories also issued their own stamps.

The aim of this issue, is to foster wider awareness of the Commonwealth among its people and to serve as a contribution towards the financial stability of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Each country will donate a number of sets, profits from the sale of which will go to the operational reserve of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

This Maltese set designed by Mr. Charles Cassar, represents Malta's special status based on neutrality, culture, tourism and industry, each aspect being depicted in the 8c, 12c, 15c and 23c stamps respectively.

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. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of the four values.

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

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes A, B, C. Each Pane has forty stamps. In the 8c and 12c values, each Pane is made up of five rows of eight stamps, whilst in the 15c and 23c values each Pane is made up of eight rows of five stamps. The 8c and 12c stamps are of the horizontal format and the 15c and 23c stamps are of the vertical format.

Plate/Pane numbers:

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

$$\begin{aligned}8c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4. \\12c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4. \\15c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4. \\23c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4.\end{aligned}$$

Perforations of Margins:

In the 8c and 12c values, the left hand margins of Panes A, B, C are all imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

In the 15c and 23c values, the top margins of Panes A, B and C are all imperforate, whilst the left hand, right hand and bottom margins are all fully perforated.

From all the Panes examined, I noticed a small registration line only in Panes B of the 8c and 12c values. This was in the left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the middle row.

PANE "A" WMK	↑
PANE "B" WMK	↑
PANE "C" WMK	↑

PANE "C" WMK →	PANE "B" WMK →	PANE "A" WMK →
-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheet of the 8c and 12c values would look as shown at top on the left, whilst that of the 15c and 23c values would look as shown at top on the right. In each case looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in the 8c and 12c values is upright, whilst in the 15c and 23c values it is sideways.

As shown, perforator ran from left to right in the 8c and 12c values and from top to bottom in the 15c and 23c values.

Imprint Blocks:

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

A special hand-postmark inscribed: "Jum Il-Commonwealth - 14 Mar 83 - L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hrug - Malta" and the name of the respective locality, was used on the first day of issue. The inscription means: "Commonwealth Day - 14 Mar 83 - First Day Of Issue - Malta". The postmark also incorporates the Commonwealth symbol.

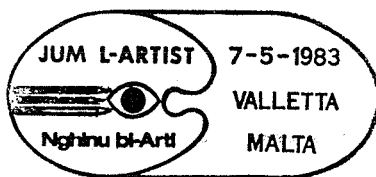
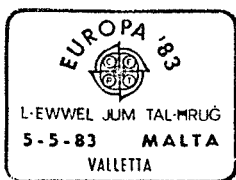
By 12.45p.m. on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm48,054. This set will remain on sale up to Wednesday, 14th September, 1983, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

MALTA – A DIARY

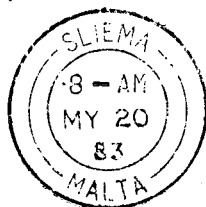
May - August 1983

By J. Farrugia

- 5-5-83 “Europa” set issued to-day. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.

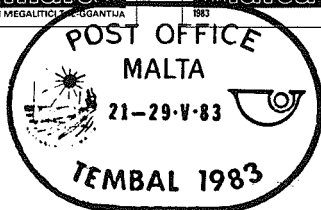
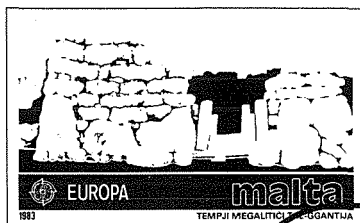


- 7-5-83 A special hand-postmark to mark “Jum L-Artist” was used on the 7th. May, 1983, from 8.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O and at the Central Mail Room. The postmark is inscribed “Jum L-Artist - Nghinu Bl-Arti - 7.5.1983 - Valletta - Malta”, meaning “Artist’s Day - Helping Through Art - 7.5.1983 - Valletta - Malta”. The logo of the Art Club is also incorporated in the postmark.
- 17-5-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: “World - Telecommunication Day - One World - One Network” was used on Tuesday, 17th. May, 1983, at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.
- 20-5-83 The Acting Postmaster General notified that a new metal hand date-stamp was put in use at Sliema Branch Post Office as from Friday 20th May, 1983.
The date-stamp is inscribed “Sliema -Malta”.



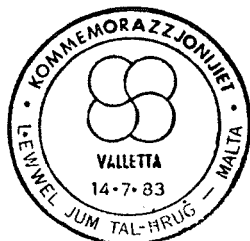
- 21-5-83 A commemorative postal card was issued on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office in the “Tembal 1983” International Exhibition of Thematic Philately, which was held from the 21st to the 29th May 1983, in Basle, Switzerland. The Europa 1983 stamps and an appropriate motif were printed in multicolour on the postal card. The postal card was available for sale at 38 cents from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O., Valletta, from the 21st to the 29th May, 1983, unless stocks were previously exhausted.
The postal card was available for sale with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-postmark inscribed:- “Post Office Malta - 21-29.V.83 - Tembal 1983” and incorporating the Emblem of Malta and the Postal Horn. The postal card was also available for sale in mint condition. In the case where the stamps on the postal card were cancelled with the special hand-postmark, it could have been sent through the post at no extra charge provided it was posted during the period 21st to 29th May, 1983.
Postal cards, cancelled with the “Tembal 1983” special hand-postmark posted after the 29th May, 1983, should have additional stamps for the proper postage affixed thereon. The stamps covering the postage were to be cancelled with the normal metal hand-postmark.

POSTAL
CARD



MALTA

- 1-6-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed:-
"1 Ta' Gunju 1983 - Jum Il-Konsumatur" meaning "1st June 1983 - Consumer's Day", was used on the 1st June, 1983, at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.
- 3-6-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan marking World Environment Day was used on Friday and Saturday, 3rd and 4th June, 1983, at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.
The slogan reads:- "Jum Dinji Ta' L-Ambjent - 5 Ta' Gunju" meaning "World Environment Day - 5th. June".
- 6-6-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:-
"The Best Of Two Worlds - The Water's Edge - Let's Keep It That Way", was used from the 6th to the 11th June, 1983, at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.
The logo of the European Information Centre for Nature Conservation of the Council of Europe is also incorporated in the slogan.
- 7-6-83 The acting P.M.G. notified that the 2c stamp of the current Definitive Postage Set has been reprinted by Printex Ltd. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. Valletta.
- 14-7-83 "World Communication Year" set issued to-day. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



An Unrecorded Malta Handstamp of 1792 by Dr. G. Bonello

Sett^e 1792

A letter dated 30th August, 1792 from Marnisi (an aristocratic summer residence near Marsaxlokk) to Messina bears a highly interesting handstamp "Malta" and another stamp with the date "Sett^e 1792".

This "Malta" handstamp has never been recorded and could well be the first postal handstamp applied in Malta. The "DE Malthe", first known in 1755, was almost certainly struck in France.

The handstamp measures 2.4 by 1cm, and is struck in light grey ink. It is not known if it was applied in Malta or in Sicily.

The letter, in perfect Italian, is by a father to his son (F.C. = Figlio Carissimo) and contains family news and information about the expected arrival of Abbot Biginiani: "Here there is a bad opinion of him. When he came to cure himself of his blindness he behaved in a most childish manner (mille ragazzate He put his Order to over a thousand ounces expenses to cure himself from blindness and, as soon as he was cured, left it to join the Order of St. John".

ESPANA - 1984

A world stamp exhibition, ESPANA 84, under the patronage of the "Federation Internationale de Philatelie" will be staged in Madrid from 27th April to 6th May 1984.

The exhibition will be installed in the "Palacio de Cristal" in the Fair Area of the Casa de Campo, situated in one of the most beautiful parks of Madrid, just a few minutes away from the Plaza de Espana. The total display will comprise 4000 frames.

The Malta Commissioner for ESPANA 84 is Mr. Godwin Said of "Scorpio", 114 Tower Road, Sliema from whom provisional entry forms can be obtained.

Committee 1983

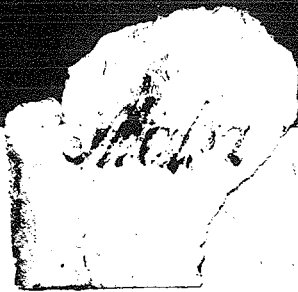
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Meyna

Verfasser

M. J. Manthey der Jüngere

A. J. B. Bollen

1792

F. C. Malta 30 Agosto 1892 -

Viamo alli marzari, come vi avvertisco con la madre, e perciò bisogna, che io sia breve per recapitare.

Non vi maravigliate se l'U. Trucchi vi abbia scritto; la sua famiglia due giorni addietro non lo, se ancora aveva avuto una lettera, e le notizie sue si mescolano le ebbe da noi. Qui non si sa ancora quale sarà l'esito dell'affare di G. Galanti. Io dependo bene, perché non ho motivo di lagnarmi di lui. Non a' ancora compaio l'att. Biggiani. Io li ripeto congo benissimo di soggetto. Egli è cugino dell'att. Cognas, cui compare dalle sue prove che fece il suo gran zio, che io pure congo, ed era un benissimo sogl. della stampa antica; la sua famiglia e delle più coppiate non solo della Sicilia, ma di tutta Italia; Questo att. però credo, che non somiglia al suo gran zio; e qui vi è cattiva opinione di lui. Quando venne a trovarsi per la cecità ha fatto mille vagabondate; l'att. Savone ha molto speso di lui in nostra casa; lo aveva impegnato di riceverlo in casa; e Savone perciò offese più commodi, ed dopo l'ha piantato con mala maniera. Prendio la sua religione in mille più onze per guarire dalla cecità, e dopo guarito la piantò, e si fu per l'olimitano. Devo perciò aver un cattivo soggetto. Io del resto gli userò tutte quelle attenzioni, che potrò gli motivi, che adducete.

Io non sono più in stato di accettare impieghi, mentre sono diventato un ospedale ambulante; e per tale motivo.

Vi scriverò molto non più spesso; nella futura posta gli invierò. Vostro zio spero, che vi risponderà sul resto.

Ricordatevi di pascere M. Doretti vostra sorella sempre con qualche letterina; Ma sta in pace colla zia, ma questi giorni stava molto malinconica, se lo il perché. Per suo riguardo tutto.

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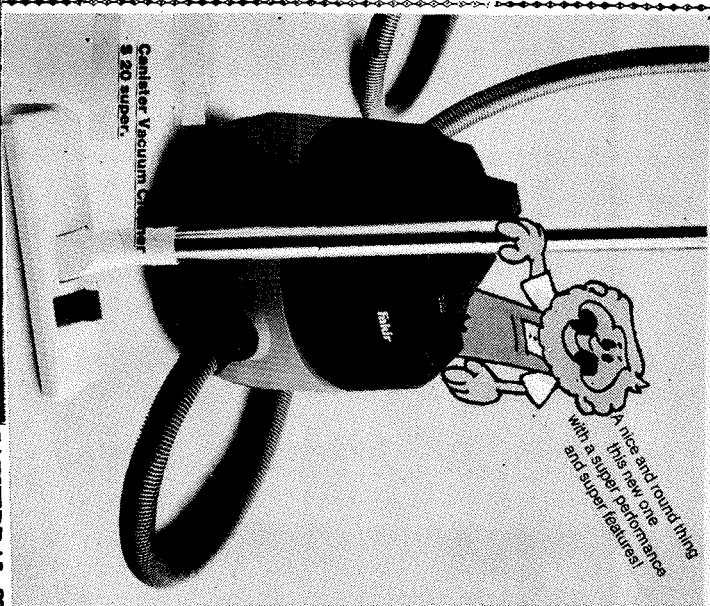
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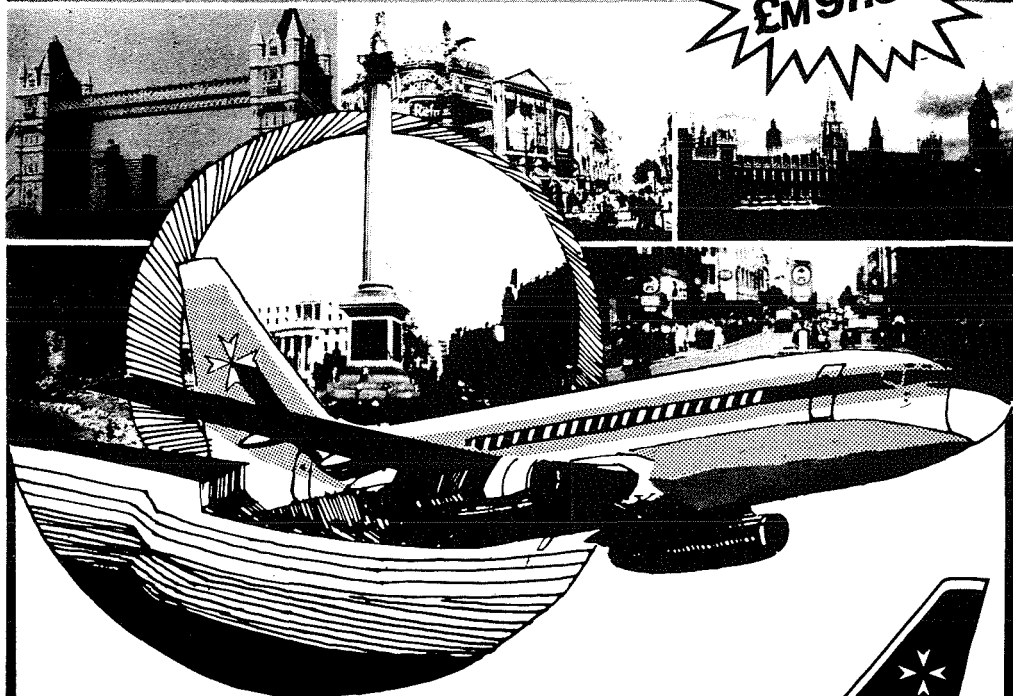
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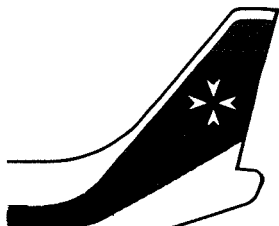


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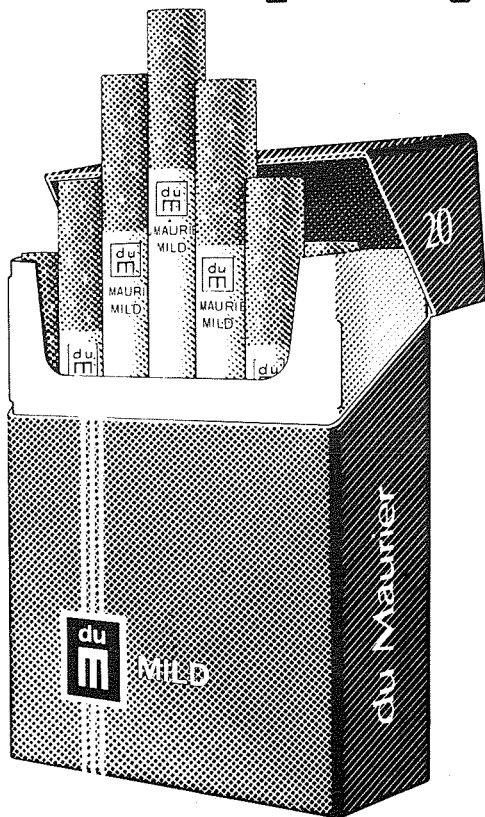
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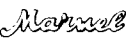
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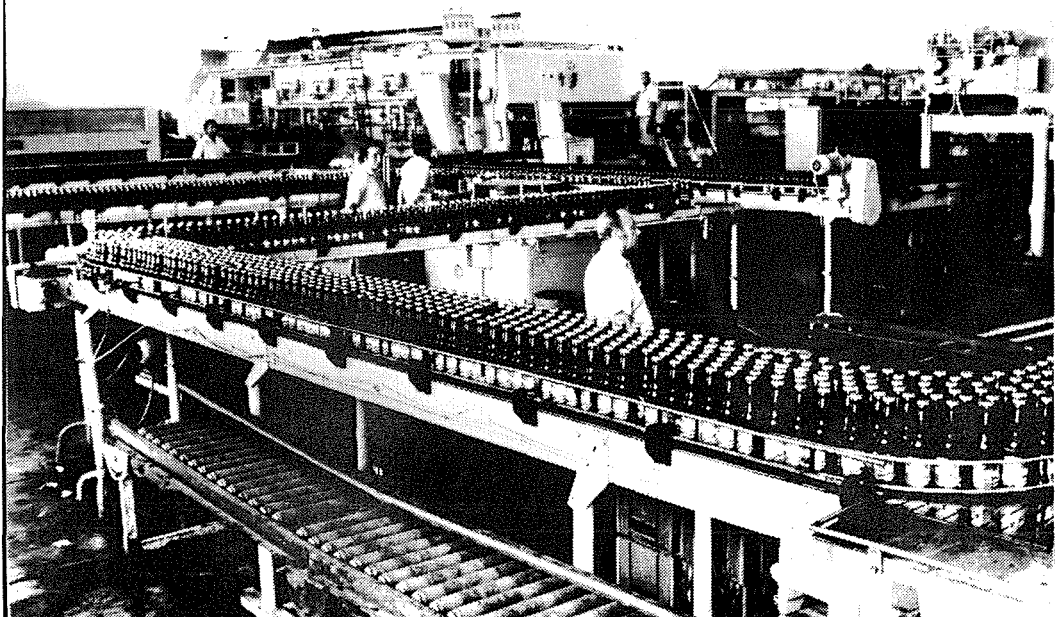
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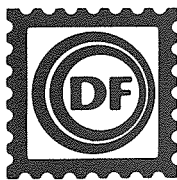
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