

MALTA "POSTAGE DUE HANDSTAMPS"

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The interest handstruck markings, known as "Delivery Charge Marks", indicating the amount charged by the Malta Post Office, for delivery of mail from overseas, were used in the early 19th century. The earliest recorded marking to date being a 4 Tari on the 29th. August 1816. These marks were originally struck in Maltese currency and consist of the month and day, followed by the amount.

Sept.: 25. T: 4

It appears that "delivery charges" were, 2 Tari for a single letter and 4 Tari for a double letter.

In 1820 an extra 10 Grani was added if the letter was disinfected.

Oct.: 14: T: 4:10. (10 grani extra charge)

Late in 1825 sterling replaced Maltese currency and new rates introduced.

15 Dec: S, d 25 Mar. Free

These strikes seem to have been used until the late 1840's, the latest so far recorded being a "1d on the 27th. Jan. 1848.

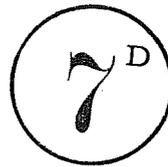
Between 1829 and 1836 a strike in an oval (horizontal) frame with the words "ONE PENNY FOR DELIVERY" is found on local mail.

This handstamp on mail originating Malta Lazzaretto, charge, seems to have only



been used from, or passing through, the and was obviously a disinfection.

The earliest "Postage Due" handstamps, indicating the amount due on unpaid or underpaid mail: were issued in September 1867. These consist of a value in a circular frame.



The first batch of their circular framed "postage due handstamps" were introduced on the 15th September 1867 and comprised the following values:— 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1s/- and 1s./4d. Additional values in the same series, consisting of the ½ 1d, 1½, 2½, 3d, 7d, 10d, and 1s 3d denominations were issued in 1896 and 1897.

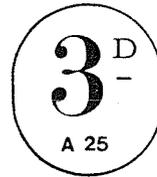
The first ½d handstamp, introduced in 1896 was replaced in 1897 by another type of ½d for the reason that the first ½d issued, could be

confused, or looked like a 1s 2d (**one shilling and twopence**), though there was no letter "s" for shilling above the "1" of ½d.

It is to be noted, that there is no record, so far, that the **10d and 1s 3d denominations have ever been used.**

Unframed values, similar to the type used in the U.K. also exist for the 2d and 6d values. The 6d was withdrawn with the introduction of the circular framed handstamps in 1867, which also included the 6d denominations. However, since no circular-framed handstamp was ever issued for the 2d, this handstamp was kept in use concurrently with the circular framed series.

An unusual type of handstamp for the 1d and 3d denomination only, in a vertical oval frame with an 'A 25' beneath the value tablet, appeared on underpaid mail during the latter part of the 19th century. The 1d appears to have been used on local underpaid mail and the 3d did the same service on mail coming in from overseas. Both these handstamps were withdrawn in 1896 with the introduction of the corresponding new values in the circular frame series.



According to Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia of British Europe stamps, these two oval handstamps were used "in red ink" as postage paid marks during a local shortage of the corresponding 1d and 3d Great Britain stamps, which at the time were in current use in Malta.

Handstamps in U.P.U. centimes

In 1896 a small circular frames handstamp for 5 centimes was received in Malta. Duplex tax marks in centimes are known for other values. These markings in international currency **were used exclusively on outgoing mail.**

The duplex has been found both with and



without the figure "2" above and in between the two circles.

Box-framed handstamps.