

MALTA — A DIARY

September-December 1980

5-9-80

The 4m stamp of the present First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

12-9-80

The results of the 1980 Chess Olympiads Stamp Design Competition were announced in today's Government Gazette. The set of designs submitted by Mr. Harry Borg, under the nom-de-plume "ALBA" has been placed first. The two sets submitted by Mr. Charles Azzopardi and Mr. Marco Cali, under the nom-de-plume "ALEKHINE" and "DOOLING" have been placed second and third respectively. The twenty-six sets entered in the competition were exhibited at the G.P.O. from 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on the 15th, 16th and 17th September 1980.

24-9-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "World Maritime Day — 26 September 1980 — Maritime Training — For Safer Shipping — And Clearer Oceans", was used on the 24th, 25th and 26th September 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

26-9-80

The 1c, 3c and 4c stamps of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set have been reprinted by Printex Limited. These three stamps were available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

27-9-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "World Tourism Day — 27 September 1980" was used on the 27th September, 1980 at the Central Mail Room.

The logo of the World Tourism Organisation is also incorporated in the slogan.

29-9-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed "Next Stamp Issue — Christmas '80 Set — 7 October 1980", was used during the period 29th September to 6th October, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

1-10-80

The Postmaster General notified that the sale of Airport Passenger Service

Charge Stamps from the Post Office shall cease with effect from Wednesday, 1st October, 1980.

7-10-80

Christmas Set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of Philatelic Mail at the G.P.O. and at all B.P.O.'s and Sub-Post Offices.

9-10-80

A special hand-postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room on the 9th October, 1980, to mark the 11th Universal Postal Union Day.

The hand-postmark incorporates the emblem of the Universal Postal Union and is inscribed: "The Universal Postal Union Day — 9.10.1980 — Valletta — Malta".

14-10-80

The 2c stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been re-printed by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

31-10-80

At the sorting room of the Central Mail Room at Castille Place, five new hand-stamps (endorsements) were used as from today. These were:

- (a) Found Posted Unaddressed (52mm x 5 mm and 54mm x 5mm).
- (b) Found Posted In This Condition (57mm x 5mm and 58mm x 5mm).
- (c) Damaged By Stamping Machine (44mm x 4mm and 61mm x 5mm).
- (d) Received In This Condition (50mm x 5mm and 58mm x 4.5mm).
- (e) Received By Wrapper Torn (54mm x 5mm and 56mm x 5mm).

31-10-80

The 5c stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been re-printed by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

3-11-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Next Stamp Issue — 1980 Chess Olympiads Set — 20 November 1980" was used, on and off, during the period 3rd November to 19th November 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

3-11-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Għinu t-Tfal fil-Bżonn —

Użaw il-Bolli tal-Milied", was used, on and off, during the period 3rd November to 24th December, 1980, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan means: "Help Needy Children — Use Christmas Set Stamps".

7-11-80

The 10c stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been re-printed by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

12-11-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "L-Elettriku — Hu Bżonnjuż — Użah bil-Għaqal", was used, on and off, during the period 17th November to 12th December, 1980 at the Central Mail Room. The slogan means: "Electricity — Is Essential — Use It with Care".

12-11-80

The Postmaster General notified that a special hand-postmark, to mark the XIX Edition of the Golden Knight International Amateur Film Festival, was to be used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room, Castille, on the 12th November, 1980.

The postmark is inscribed: "XIX Golden Knight International Amateur Film Festival — Malta — 12.XI.80".

14-11-80

In today's Government Gazette the Postmaster General notified that a stamp design competition was to be held in connection with the Europa 1981 stamp issue. The theme of this issue will be Maltese Folklore. The set will consist of two stamps featuring different designs corresponding to any of the following three local events:

- (i) inauguration of "Lampuki" fishing season at Marsaxlokk;
- (ii) greasy pole, (ġostrā);
- (iii) traditional horse races held on the occasion of local feasts.

20-11-80

"Chess Olympiad" set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail. The postmark is inscribed: "L-Ewwel Jum tal-Ħruġ — Malta — 20 Nov. 1980", the name of the respective locality and also incorporates the 1980 Chess Olympiad emblem.

20-11-80

The Postmaster General notified that on the occasion of the holding of the 1980 Congress of the International Federation of Chess (F.I.D.E.) and World

Chess Olympiads, a Temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the "Mediterranean Conference Centre", Valletta. This Branch Post Office was to be open from Thursday, 20th November to Saturday, 6th December, 1980, excluding Sundays, as follows:

20th November 1980 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

21st November to 6th December 1980 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The following postal business was to be transacted

- (a) Sale of Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery.
- (b) Registration of letters.
- (c) Issue and payment of Money and Postal Orders.
- (d) Posting of Parcels.

Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were post-marked with a special hand date-stamp inscribed with the following words:

"F.I.D.E. Congress and World Chess Olympiads — 1980 — Valletta — Malta".

Persons wishing to avail themselves of the services of the Philatelic Bureau in obtaining First Day Covers of the 1980 F.I.D.E. Congress and Chess Olympiads commemorative stamps, or an impression of the special postmark that was to be used at this Temporary Branch Post Office, were to submit their requirements in writing to the Officer-in-Charge Philatelic Bureau, not later than the 18th November, 1980.

27-11-80

To mark the completion of the work by UNESCO as well as the 20th anniversary of the international campaign to save the monuments of Nubia, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "UNESCO 1960-1980 — Victory in Nubia" was used at the Central Mail Room on the 27th, 28th and 29th November 1980.

The slogan also incorporates an image of the Pavilion of Trajan submerged under the water of the Nile.

2-12-80

The 5m and 1c3 stamps of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set have been reprinted by Printex Limited.

These two stamps were available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

3-12-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "VIII Malta — Philatelic Exhibition — G.P.O. 9-16 Dec. 1980" was used, on and off, during the period 3rd to 15th December, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

9-12-80

The Postmaster General notified that on the occasion of the holding of the VIII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1980, a Temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the Auberge d'Italie, Valletta, at the place where the Exhibition was to be held. This Branch Post Office was to be opened from the 9th December to the 16th December, 1980.

The hours of business of this Temporary Branch Post Office were:

Tuesday 9th December 1980 — 1 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday 10th December to Tuesday, 16th December, 1980, (except Saturday, 13th and Sunday, 14th December), — 8.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December, 1980 — 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

The following postal business was transacted

- (a) Sale of Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery.
- (b) Registration of letters.
- (c) Issue and payment of Money and Postal Orders.
- (d) Sale of commemorative medals.

Letters posted at the VIII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1980, Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked with a date-stamp inscribed with the following words "It-VIII Wirja Filatelika, Valletta" meaning, "The VIII Philatelic Exhibition 1980, Valletta". To mark the occasion of the VIII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1980, the Department of Posts issued a commemorative medal and a specially designed cover.

The bronze gold-plated medals are serially numbered and issued with a certificate indicating the respective number of the medal and the total number of medals cast. The medal reproduces on the obverse the 6c stamp of the Restoration of Monuments issue depicting the Vilhena Palace, Mdina and on the reverse the Ta' Qali National Stadium.

Cased medals at £M4.50 each and special covers at 5c each may have been obtained from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. and from the Temporary Branch Post Office from the 9th to the 16th December, 1980. A limited number of medals of the 1971, 1974, 1975 and 1977 Malta Exhibitions were also available for sale at the price of £M4.75 each.

26-12-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jum il-Paċi — 1 ta' Jannar — Peace Lab. — Malta" was used at the Central Mail Room on working days during the period 26th-31st December, 1980. The slogan also incorporates a line drawing of the Peace Laboratory, Malta, and a dove symbolizing peace. The slogan means: "Day of Peace — 1 January — Peace Lab. — Malta".