

# MALTA — A DIARY

## May-August 1980

- 1-5-80** The Postmaster General notified for general information that an agreement had been signed between the British and the Maltese Postal Administrations for the encashment of British Post cheques in Malta. The new service which came into effect on the 1st May 1980, entitles account holders of the National Giro Bank of Great Britain to withdraw from the local Post Offices any amount in Maltese Currency up to a maximum of £M30 on each card presented.
- 6-5-80** On the occasion of the participation by the Malta Post Office in the London '80 International Philatelic Exhibition, which was held at Earl's Court from the 6th to the 14th May, 1980, the Department issued for sale a commemorative Postal Card. Each card is numbered.
- The first Malta stamp, which was issued in 1860, is reproduced on the obverse of the card. The Europa '80 postage set was affixed on the card and cancelled with a special hand-stamp inscribed "Post Office Malta — 6.14.V.80 — London 1980" and incorporating the Emblem of Malta and the Postal Horn. The Postal Card was available for sale at 50 cents from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. from the 6th May to the 14th May 1980, unless stocks were previously exhausted. A special souvenir leaflet, also numbered, featuring the Flemish Tapestries miniature sheet, in an enlarged form, was given free with each Postal Card.
- The Postal Card could have been sent through the post, provided that the proper postage was affixed on the reverse of the card. The stamp or stamps were cancelled with the normal metal hand-postmark.
- 12-5-80** The Postmaster General notified that four metal "postage paid" hand-stamps inscribed "General Post Office — Malta — Paid" and one metal "postage paid" hand-stamp inscribed "Victoria Post Office — Gozo — Paid" were to be used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta, and at the Branch Post Office, Victoria, Gozo, respectively, as from Monday, 12th May 1980. Each of these five "postage paid" hand-stamps was being used for the 1c5, 2c5, 3c5, 8c and 12c values.
- The rubber "postage paid" hand-stamps for the 1c5 and 2c5 values which were in use at the Central Mail Room and the rubber "postage paid" hand-stamp for the 2c5 value which was used at the Branch Post Office in Victoria, Gozo, were withdrawn at the close of business on Saturday, 10th May, 1980.
- 22-5-80** A Sub Post Office was opened at "Vinvic", By the Church Street, Xaghra, Gozo, on Thursday, 22nd May 1980.
- A hand metal date-stamp, inscribed with the words, "Xaghra S.P.O. — Gozo", was used at the Sub Post Office.
- 26-5-80** Applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Sliema were issued again in the Government Gazette of the 22nd April, 1980. Applications were to be received by 5.00 p.m. of Monday, 26th May 1980. This notice has appeared three times, the first being in March 1979.
- 27-5-80** In today's Government Gazette it was notified that the VIII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1980 will be held from the 9th to the 16th December, 1980, at the Auberge

- d'Italie, Valletta. Rules for participation and awards to be given were also included.
- 30-5-80 In today's Government Gazette the rules for a postage stamp design competition were issued. The designs are for a set of postage stamps to commemorate the Chess Olympiad which is due to be held in Malta between the 20th November and the 8th December, 1980, at the Mediterranean Conference Centre. It is intended to issue this set, later this year.
- 2-6-80 A machine stamp-cancelling slogan, marking World Environment Day, was used from the 2nd to the 5th June 1980, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan reads as follows:- "Hidma Nazzjonali — Għal Pajjiż Nadif — Jum Dinji ta' l-Ambjent '80", meaning "National Participation — For a Clean Country — World Environment Day '80".
- 5-6-80 Four new metal hand date-stamps were put in use, two at the Branch Post Office, Żurrieq, one at the Sub-Post Office, St. Paul's Bay and one at the Sub-Post Office, Birżebbuġa, on Thursday, 5th June, 1980. Besides the word "Malta", the date-stamps have inscribed thereon, "Żurrieq", "St. Paul's Bay S.P.O." and "Birżebbuġa S.P.O." respectively.
- The date-stamps which were being replaced, were withdrawn from use at the Branch Post Office and Sub-Post Offices mentioned above at the close of business on Wednesday, 4th June, 1980.
- 13-6-80 The 5m, 50c and £M2 stamps of the present 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.
- 19-6-80 A SubPost Office was opened at 32, Main Street, Nadur, Gozo, on Thursday, 19th June, 1980.
- A hand metal date-stamp, inscribed with the words "Nadur S.P.O. — Gozo" was used at the Sub-Post Office.
- 23-6-80 A machine stamp-cancelling slogan inscribed, "Dr. Them. Zammit — Discovered — Undulant Fever Germ — In Goat's Blood — 25.6.1905", was used on the 23rd, 24th and 25th June, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.
- 1-7-80 A temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from the 1st July, 1980, to the 15th July, 1980. The hours of business of the temporary Branch Post Office were from 6.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. from Tuesday, 1st July to Tuesday, 15th July, 1980, for the transaction of the following business:
- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery;
  - (b) registration of letters;
  - (c) issue and payment of Money and Postal Orders;
  - (d) posting of parcels and other postal articles.
- Postal articles posted at this temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed with the following words: "XXIV International Fair of Malta, Naxxar".
- 11-7-80 The 1c, 1c3 and 4c stamps of the Present 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.
- 14-7-80 A "postage paid" machine stamp inscribed "2c5 Paid — Valletta — Malta" was used at the Central Mail Room as from Monday, 14th July, 1980.
- 25-7-80 A special hand-postmark was used at the G.P.O. Valletta, on Friday, 25th July, 1980, to mark the 14th International Conference of the International League of Teachers

of Esperanto. The postmark is inscribed:

“XIV Konferenza Internazzjonali — Ghalliema ta’ l-Esperanto — 25.7.80 — Valletta — Malta”, meaning “XIV International Conference — Teachers of Esperanto — etc.” The postmark also includes a line drawing of a star, representing the emblem of the Esperanto Movement.

21-8-80 A new hand date-stamp was put in use at the Brank Post Office, Żabbar, on Thursday, 21st August, 1980.

The new hand date-stamp is inscribed “Żabbar — Malta”. The old hand date-stamp, which was replaced, was withdrawn from use at the close of business on Wednesday, 20th August, 1980.

25-8-80 To mark the centenary of the birth of Robert Stolz, a machine stamp-cancelling slogan with the inscription, “Robert Stolz — 1880-1980” was used on the 25th August, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan also incorporates the introductory theme notes of the Philatelic Waltz.