

MALTA — A DIARY

September-December 1978

compiled by

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- 4-9-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "NEXT STAMP ISSUE — 1978 AIRMAIL SET — 3 OCTOBER 1978" was used, on and off, during the period 4th September to 2nd October, 1978, at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.
- 8-9-78 The Malta Post Office participated in the official class of the International Stamp Exhibition "Praga 78" that was held in Prague from 8-17 September 1978. The theme of the exhibition was, "Stamps and Philately — A World of Knowledge and Peace". The exhibition was organised under the patronage of the F.I.P.
- 11-9-78 As a matter of interest, a special handstamp in the British Forces Postal Service Series, was used today on B.F.P.S. No. 1934. This concerned an event which happened in Malta, i.e. commemorating the "35 Anniversary of the Arrival of Surrendered Italian Fleet at Malta". Special cover envelopes were issued.
- 14-9-78 The Malta Post Office participated in the 39th annual philatelic exhibition — "ROYPOX 78" — which was held in Queen's Park, New Westminster, Canada on October 14 and 15.
- 18-9-78 The Postmaster General notifies that the hand metal date-stamp at present in use at the Sub-Post Office, St. Julians, will be withdrawn at the close of business on Monday, 18th September 1978. A new rubber hand date-stamp inscribed: "St. Julians S.P.O. — Malta" will be used as from Tuesday, 19th September, 1978.
- 22-9-78 The 10c stamp of the present Decimal Definitive Postage Set, has been reprinted by Printex Limited Malta. This is the first reprint or second printing of this value. Just as in the original printing, Panes "A", "B", "C" and "D" were issued for sale. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau.
- 25-9-78 The Sliema Branch Post Office which was temporarily housed in the Government School, Isouard Street, corner with Depiro Street, Sliema, was transferred back to the Prince of Wales Road premises with effect from Monday, 25th September 1978.
- 30-9-78 Another special handstamp in the British Forces Postal Service Series, used today on B.F.P.S. No. 1625, also concerns an event in Malta. A special cover envelope is commemorating the "Closure of R.A.F. Luqa".
- 3-10-78 "1978 Air Mail Set" issued today. This set replaces the Air Malta Inauguration Issue of the 30th March 1974, which was withdrawn at the close of business yesterday, the 2nd October 1978. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.
- 9-10-78 A special hand-postmark was used at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, on the 9th October, 1978, to mark Universal Postal Union Day. The hand-postmark incorporates the emblem of the Universal Postal Union and is inscribed: "UNI-

- VERSAL POSTAL UNION DAY — 9.10.1978 — VALLETTA — MALTA”.
- 13-10-78 The 4c stamp of the present Decimal Definitive Postage Set, has been reprinted by Printex Limited Malta. This is the first reprint or second printing of this value. Panes “A”, “B”, “C” and “D” were issued for sale from the Philatelic Bureau.
- 16-10-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: “NEXT STAMP ISSUE — CHRISTMAS '78 SET — 9 NOVEMBER 1978”, was used, on and off, during the period 16th October to 8th November, 1978, at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.
- 1-11-78 The Malta Postal Administration participated in the official class of the Second International Postage Stamp Fair held in Essen, West Germany from November 1-5. The fair, organised by the German Fair and Exhibition Company, was promoted by the Association of German Philatelists, the Association of German Postage Stamp Dealers and the International Federation of Stamp Dealers Association.
- 7-11-78 The Postmaster General notified that a Sub-Post Office shall be opened at San Gwann Stores, (S.G.S.), Misraħ Lewża, San Gwann, on Tuesday, 7th November 1978. A hand metal date-stamp, inscribed with the words, “SAN GWANN S.P.O. — MALTA” will be used at this Sub-Post Office.
- 9-11-78 “Christmas Set 1978” issued today. This set will remain on sale up to Friday, 19th January 1979, unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.
- 24-11-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: “GHINU T-TFAL FIL-BZONN — UŻAW IL-BOLLITAL-MILIED”(meaning “Help Children In Need — Use Christmas Stamps”, was used on and off, during the period 24th November 1978 to 19th January 1979, at the Central Mail Room.
- 28-11-78 In today's Government Gazette, with reference to the notice which appeared in the Government Gazette of the 26th May 1978, the Postmaster General notifies that 321 designs have been entered in the competition for the selection of the designs for the postage stamps to commemorate the International Year of the Child (1979). Details of the sixteen designs considered to be more suitable for reproduction on the proposed set of stamps than the other 305 are given. The three designs placed first, second and third have been selected for reproduction on the proposed set of stamps, which is to consist of three denominations and not two as previously notified. The competitors who submitted these designs will each be awarded a prize by way of a book token to the value of £M25.
- 28-11-78 The 2c stamp of the present Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited Malta. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau.
- 22-12-78 An interesting notice appeared in today's Government Gazette. The Postmaster General notified that the Postal Administration of Bangladesh has informed the U.P.U. that certain stamp dealers are offering for sale various overprints of Bangladesh postage stamps and miniature sheets devoted to the

Silver Jubilee and 25th Anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen.. The Administration of Bangladesh has stated that it has issued none of these overprints. They are therefore illegal and without value.

31-12-78 I would like to close this year's diary by congratulating the Malta Post Office for the "International Philatelic Press Club 1978 Award", won by the Malta Post Office. The award, given

annually by the International Philatelic Press Club, goes to that Government considered to provide journalists with outstanding information about its new postage stamps and mail services. Mr. Victor Gauci, Malta's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York, received the award on behalf of Mr. G.W. Borg, Postmaster General, from Mr. Ernest A. Kehr, Executive Chairman of the International Philatelic Press Club.

SMALL ADS

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WANTED in exchange or to buy, Malta covers, postcards, stationery with clear hand or machine cancellations.

Peter C. Hansen,
Suderstr. 66b, D-2391 HARRISLES,
West Germany.

Advanced collector seeks exchange partners on wants list basis, for used stamps from Malta Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Australia etc. Also offered Africa and Asia.

Hans Palstra, Distelsr. 9,
3222 XB Hellevoetsluis, Holland.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE: I'm always interested in any type of philatelic literature including old periodicals, especially if it refers to Malta. Nick A. Cutajar, 7 Wied il-Ghajj Road, Zejtun, Malta.