

MALTA — A DIARY
JANUARY — APRIL 1978
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9-1-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Next Stamp Issue — Flemish Tapestries Set — 26th January 1978" was used at the Central Mail Room, as from the 9th January 1978

23-1-78 It might be of interest to present and future postal history collectors to put on record Notice No. 26 appearing in the Malta Govt. Gazette of the 20th January, 1978. Paragraph (e) of the said notice might be of special interest, because of any handstamp markings and endorsements which might be involved.

Notice No. 26

In terms of Sections 18 of the Post Office Act, 1975, the Postmaster General notifies that with effect from Monday, 23rd January, 1978, and until further notice, the following conditions for the local posting of postal articles to any address in Malta and Gozo will apply:

- (a) Only postcards and envelopes which contain solely correspondence and of which the dimensions, weight, appearance and other features indicate that they contain nothing else may be posted in street letter boxes.
- (b) Any postal articles which contain anything other than correspondence or the dimensions, size, weight or thickness of which are different from those of a normal letter shall be handed unsealed at the nearest Post Office.
- (c) The person presenting such postal articles shall be required:
 - (i) to prepare a list of the postal articles being presented for posting indicating the name and full address of each article. The list shall be signed by the person presenting the postal articles for posting and countersigned by the post office official receiving the articles; the relative forms are available from all Branch Post Offices.
 - (ii) to show his identity card to the post office official. The contents of the postal articles shall be examined in the presence of the person presenting such postal articles. The post office official shall then seal the articles in the presence of the person presenting the articles.
- (d) The sender's name shall invariably be written on the envelope or wrapping of the postal articles.
- (e) Articles posted not in accordance with the above conditions will be returned to sender or otherwise disposed of as the Postmaster General may direct.

The hours of business of the Central Mail Room and Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo are as follows:

Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta From 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays.

Luqa Airport Branch: From 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays.

From 2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Birkirkara, Cospicua, Gzira, Hamrun, Mosta, Paola, Rabat, Sliema, Valletta (Old Bakery Street), Zabbar, Zejtun and Zurrieq Branches in Malta as well as the Victoria and Mgarr Branches in Gozo: From 7.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.

From 7.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays.

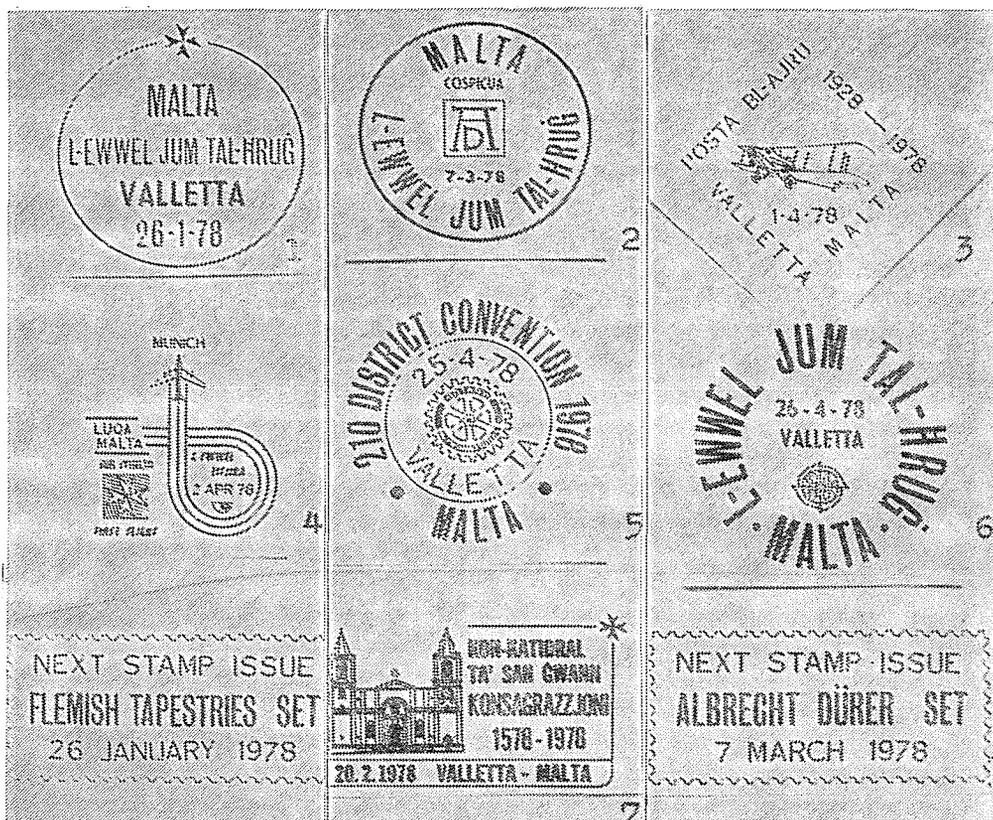
For the benefit of our overseas members, it will be of interest to let them know the reason of the issue of this notice. On the 28th December 1977, for the first time in Malta, we had a murder by means of a letter bomb. The unfortunate victim was a young girl of fifteen years, Karin Maria Grech, daughter of Professor Edwin Grech,

for whom the letter bomb was intended. An identical small letter parcel bomb was also sent, on the same day, to Labour member of Parliament, Dr. Paul Chetcuti Caruana of Mosta. Fortunately he did not open it completely and another murder was averted.

Because Malta is such a small place, the precautions in the above Notice are quite practical and may well prevent another murder by the same means.

Reference paragraph (e), the handstamp similar to one shown has been noticed.

NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH POSTING REGULATIONS



26-1-78 The second "Tapestries" set, issued to-day. These stamp will remain on sale up to Friday, 16th June, 1978., unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation, on the first day of issue. (Fig. 1.)

10-2-78 The 5 cents stamp of the Airmail Definitive Postage set was reprinted by Printex Limited, Malta. This is the first reprint of this value, and also the only value so far from the Airmail Definitive set that has been reprinted. Again the Printed Sheet consisted of three Panes as the original i.e. 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau as from this date.

- 13-2-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Next Stamp Issue — Albrecht Durer Set — 7 March 1978" was used, on and off, during 13th February — 6 March 1978, at the Central Mail Room.
- 17-2-78 The 4 mils and 1c3 value stamps from the present Definitive set were reprinted by Printex Ltd. Malta. This is the third reprint of the 4 mils value and the first reprint of the 1c3 value. It has come to my knowledge that although the Printed Sheets of these two values, consisted of four Panes, only three Panes were issued for sale, i.e. Panes "A", "B", and "D". Pane "C" of both these values was not issued for sale. "A", "B", and "D". Pane "C" of both these values was not issued for sale.
- 20-2-78 A special hand-postmark inscribed: "Kon-Katidral Ta' San Gwann — Konsagrazzjoni 1578-1978 — Valletta-Malta — 20.2.78" and incorporating an outline of the facade of the Co-Cathedral of St. John was used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, on Monday, 20th February, 1978. (Fig. 7.)
- 24-2-78 The Postmaster General notified that registration envelopes in size "G" (small) with the "Six Pence" registration fee stamp obliterated and bearing a new registration fee stamp, incorporating the Emblem of Malta, with the words: "Sitt Centezmi — Registrazzjoni — Malta" were on sale at the G.P.O., Branch Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices. The selling price of these registration envelopes is 7 cents.
- 7-3-78 The Albrecht Durer set issued to-day. These stamps will remain on sale up to Friday, 29th December, 1978, unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 2.)
- 27-3-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Next Stamp Issue — Europa 78 Set — 26th April 1978" was used on and off at the Central Mail Room, during the period 27th March — 25th April, 1978.
- 1-4-78 A special hand-postmark was used at the Central Mail Room, on the 1st April, 1978 to mark the 50th anniversary of the first Malta official airmails. The hand-postmark is inscribed: "Posta Bl-Ajru — 1928-1978 — Valletta-Malta — 1.4.78" and also incorporates an outline of the DeHavilland 66 Hercules mail plane. (Fig.3.)
- 2-4-78 On the occasion of the first Air Malta Flight, Malta/Munich on the 2nd April 1978, the Malta Post Office used a special hand postmark indicating the date of the first flight and place of destination. The postmark was used at the Philatelic Bureau, (Fig. 4)
- 7-4-78 In the Govt Gazette of the 7th April, the Postmaster General notified that on the occasion of the first flights Malta/Kuwait/Dubai by Air Malta on the 3rd May 1978, the Malta Post Office was going to use, at the Philatelic Bureau, two special hand-postmarks indicating the date of the respective first flight and place of destination. In the Govt. Gazette of the 14th April, another notice for general information notified that the two above special hand postmarks were not going to be used as the first flights Malta/Kuwait/Dubai by Air Malta were postponed.
- 11-4-78 Notice No. 153 in the Govt. Gazette of the 11th April stated: Further to Govt. Notice No. 26 of the 20th January, 1978, (see diary 23-1-78), the Postmaster General notified that local postal articles which contain anything other than correspondence or the dimensions, size, weight or thickness of which are different from those of a normal letter shall, as from Wednesday, 12th April 1978, be handed unsealed at the Central Mail Room from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. at any Branch Post Office in Malta and Gozo from 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on all working days.
- 14-4-78 The 1 cent stamp of the present Definitive set has been reprinted by Printex Limited, Malta. This is the third reprint of this 1 cent value. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau as from to-day.

- 22-4-78 On the occasion of the 210th Rotary District Convention which was held in Malta, a special hand-postmark was used at the Central Mail Room, on the 22nd, 24th and 25th April, 1978. The hand-postmark is inscribed "210 District Convention 1978 — Valletta-Malta" together with the respective date. The Rotary emblem is also incorporated in the postmark. (Fig.5.)
- 26-4-78 The Europa 1978 set issued to-day. These stamps will remain on sale up to Friday, 13th October, 1978, unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 6.)