



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

# THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

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- Monthly meetings from October to June.
- An Exchange Branch, using specially prepared society booklets through which every member is invited to buy or sell.
- An Expert Committee for the examination of stamps.

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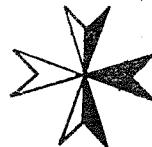
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# THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA MAGAZINE



Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIth Malta  
Philatelic Exhibition — 1977

Editor: Nick A. Cutajar Ass. Editor: Joseph Farrugia

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## FOREWORD

Elsewhere in this edition of the P.S.M. Magazine we are publishing a complete cross-reference of the various printings of the Q.V. ½d Yellow. This brings to an end the research of Dr. Alfred Bonnici on the subject and it is hoped that the tabulation form will help in the debatable question of the printings of Malta's first stamp. Also in this edition, we are publishing a letter received from a member in New Jersey, U.S.A., who argues over some of the printings. It is expected that this will form the basis for a forum for debate through which Maltese philately will be richer. Members are therefore invited to make their opinions which should be based on study and facts, known through the medium of this Magazine.

Canada this year is celebrating the centenary of its membership in the Universal Postal Union, with an International Philatelic Exhibition, held in Toronto, between June 9 - 11. The Philatelic Society of Malta is the National Commissioner, and we felt it is our duty to dedicate a special feature to one of Canada's most respected stamps.

da's most respected stamp.

Coming to an end also in this issue is Mr. Anthony Fenech's study of the code letters in Maltese postmarks, arguing that these correspond to definite times of the day. We are sure that such studies provide food for thought and discussion and once more we shall welcome your comments. But most of all we welcome your own articles and the results of your research. Our Magazine has reached a level that we are determined to maintain and we seek your assistance. Your turn now.

\* \* \*

As we look in retrospect, we see the highs and lows of the hobby, fluctuations that have characterised stamp-collecting over many years, but particularly during the last couple of decades.

On the home ground, we have the highs in values of particular stamps and the lows in designs of some others. In the international scene, 1977 and 1978 are bound to tax heavily the budgets of most new-issue collectors — two omnibus issues, several commemoratives to mark aviation history, Peter Paul Rubens, the World Cup and a host of other anniversaries of minor importance. Couple to these the ever growing number of side issues, such as Miniature and Souvenir sheets, sheetlets, gutterstamps, all of which have very little, if any, postal status and are therefore primarily produced and released for philatelic consumption.

It is no wonder that new-issue collectors are rightly and seriously evaluating the position and taking the right decisions at the right time. The sudden interest in the by-ways of philately, such as Cindarella material, revenues and fiscals, postal stationery and maximaphila, may only be a consequence of the aggressiveness of the stamp-issuing policy of several postal administrations.

*Continued on page 12*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*A warm welcome is extended to the following members:*

284	Mr. Cecil Busuttil	The Lure, Garden Crescent, The Gardens, St. Julians.
285	Mr. Paul Montanaro	62, Elm Bridge Road, Gloucester, GL2 OPB, U.K.
286	Mr. Carmelo Gauci	"Josie House", P.P. Mifsud Street, Hamrun.
287	Major Alfred P. Briffa	"Dar Iz-Zghira", St. Mark Street, St. Julians.
290	Rev. Patrick G. Abelo O.C.	Carmelite Priory, Mdina.
291	Mr. John B. Cassar	19, Museum Road, Rabat, Malta.
292	Mr. F. Farrugia	"Philip", Flat 2, Valletta Road, Paola.
293	Mr. Luigi Cosignani	Via della Pace, 6, 63010 Marina Palmense (AP), Italy.
294	Mr. W.E. Clarke	67, St. Anthony Street, Marsaskala.
295	Master Joseph Fenech	"Miele", Old Railway Road, Balzan (Junior)
296	Mr. Alfred Attard	1, Nadette Mansions, New Street, Off Qormi Road, Santa Venera.
297	Mr. Emmanuel Muscat	161, Eucharistic Congress Road, Mosta.
298	Mr. Ralph McKenna	7, Puritan Avenue, Dorchester, Ma. 02121, U.S.A.
299	Mr. A. Bannister	71, Thonton Avenue, West Drayton, Middlesex, U.K.
300	Mr. Herbert Schumacker, Dip. Theol.	Petersbergstr., 17, D-5090 Leverkusen 1, West Germany.
301	Mr. John Grech	71, St. Catherine Street, B'bugia.
302	Mr. W.J. Gimble	103, Berkely Hse., Wellington Way, Bow E3, London 4NQ.
303	Mr. Ebbie T. Lance	579, Church Street, Marietta, Georgia 30060, U.S.A.
304	Mr. David Lantry	5, Lancaster Quay, Western Road, Cork, Ireland.
305	Mr. A.E. Rutter	5, Cutsdean Close, Northfield, Birmingham 31 IHP, England.
306	Mr. B. Tiefenbacker	Postfach 124, CH-8102 Oberengstringer, Switzerland
307	Mrs. E.F. Matlin	187, Laindon Link, Basildon SS15 5UP, Essex, England.

# Canada

## THE TWELVE-PENNY BLACK

On 6 April, 1851 Great Britain transferred the responsibility for the operation of the Post Office to the Province of Canada. Canada's first postage stamp was issued shortly thereafter, on 23 April, 1851. It was a red three-penny stamp designed by Sir Sandford Fleming of Toronto for the Postmaster General, the Hon. James Morris, and depicted a beaver in its natural environment. The second denomination, a six-penny stamp printed in slate-violet, was distributed to post offices sometime between 2 and 17 May, 1851. This stamp depicts a vignette of Albert, the Prince Consort, from an engraving by W.H. Eglington after a portrait drawn by W. Drummond. The highest denomination in this series was a Twelve-Penny stamp issued on 14 June, 1851.

All stamps were engraved by Alfred Jones (1819-1900), an accomplished British portrait engraver. All sources agree that of the total printing of 51,000 stamps, 1,510 were distributed to postmasters throughout the Province of Canada and of these, sixty were returned by the postmaster at Ingersoll, Ontario. The stamp was printed in sheets of 200, arranged in two panes, each having 10 rows of 10 subjects. From Post Office records it is known that the Twelve-Penny stamp was available for use until 4 December, 1854 when it was withdrawn from sale. On 1 May, 1857 the remaining stocks of this stamp were destroyed in accordance with Post Office procedure.

In 1851 Canadian Post Office authorities believed there were firms in Canada capable of producing the high quality engraving which was required for postage stamps. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson of New York City, had gained a reputation as security printers of high quality banknotes and postage stamps. This firm, together with several others, formed the American Bank Note Company in 1858. Prior to being awarded the contract to print Canada's first stamps, Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson had established an agency in Canada and had undertaken work for a number of private banks. No doubt this factor was taken into consideration when the Hon. James Morris (Postmaster General 1851-1853) awarded the contract to the New York firm.

In the matter of choosing the designs for Canada's first stamps, the postal administration for the Province of Canada sought to demonstrate a measure of independence from Great Britain. It appears certain that, for a short time, consideration was given to use only the beaver design prepared by Sandford Fleming. The existence of a one shilling essay containing Fleming's design would appear to substantiate this theory. Post Office authorities, however, eventually adopted the policy that all letters addressed to foreign destinations should bear the effigy of the sovereign. As the Twenty-Penny stamp was expected to primarily

serve this purpose, it was decided that the most suitable likeness of Her Majesty Queen Victoria would be used. The beaver design was retained for the three-penny stamps, which was the rate for internal mail.

The vignette for the Twelve-Penny stamp was taken from the portrait of Queen Victoria in her Robes of State, painted in 1837 by Alfred Chalon, R.A. (1781-1860). \* The painting was presented by Her Majesty to her mother, the Duchess of Kent, as a memento of the Queen's first visit to the House of Lords on 17 July, 1837. The Chalon portrait was the basis for many postage stamps issued by the British Colonies, notably New Zealand. Canada also utilized this vignette for two other postage stamps—the 7½-pence, issued in 1857 and the 12½-cent, issued in 1859—as did the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

“Twelve Pence” was used to identify the value of the stamp rather than “One Shilling”, to avoid confusion between the monetary values of British Sterling and Colonial currency.

The Postal Museum is fortunate in having an original 24" x 36" engraving after the Chalon portrait. This rare engraving was formerly in the collection of Mr. Gerald E. Wellburn of Victoria, B.C., a prominent Canadian postal historian and charter member of the Postal Museum Advisory Committee. The engraving is the work of Samuel Cousins, A.R.A., and was published on 28 June, 1838 by Francis Graham Moon of London, England. Mr. Wellburn presented the engraving to the Postal Museum in 1975.

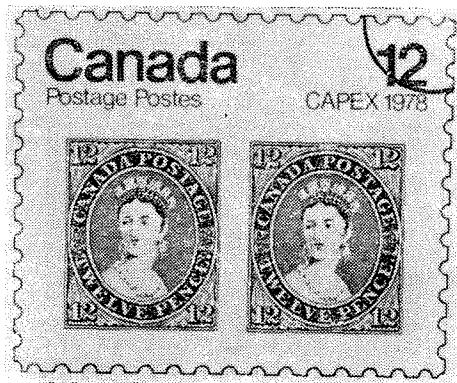
The “Bank Note Companies” in Canada and the United States place great importance on their engravings, since they were used many times for various purposes. Correspondence between the Canada Post Office and the printers in New York suggests the design for the Twelve-Penny stamp was prepared in Canada and taken personally by the Postmaster General to New York. The engraving was done by Alfred Jones under the direction of James Parsons Major, a script engraver and designer, and head of the engraving department at Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson.

The Twelve-Penny stamps do not bear the Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson imprint. Imprints did not appear on the sheet margins of Canadian stamps until 1852. When the first and only consignment of Twelve-Penny stamps reached Toronto in May 1851, problems became apparent. An exceedingly thin grade of transparent laid paper had been used by the printers, which brought criticism from the Postmaster General. A theory to explain this would be the company's use of an existing supply of paper which was not normally used for postage stamp printing purposes. The paper used for the “pence” stamps was manufactured by the Ivy Mills of Chester, Pa., a company noted for its quality banknote papers. It seems quite possible that the laid paper printings were in fact printed on a type of banknote paper.

Thirty-five die and plate proofs are known to exist for the Twelve-Penny stamp. This figure includes the contemporary plate proofs and the composite die proofs that were made from 1859 to 1878. Some authorities claim that the last printing of composite die proofs was probably authorized in 1878 by A.C. Goodall, President, American Bank Note Co.

Based on reliable authority, it is believed that there are between 100 and 145 of the Twelve-Penny stamps, both mint and used, in existence. The same source suggests the following quantities exist:

- (1) 5 mint pairs
- (2) 50 mint singles
- (3) 3 to 5 covers
- (4) 2 used pairs
- (5) 75 used singles



Pair of the 12-Penny Q.V. of 1851  
featured on special stamp (18.1.78)  
heralding "CAPEX 78"

Why the stamp saw such limited use has been discussed among philatelists for many years. The consensus is that it prepaid seldom used rates such as the following: 12d per ounce to Newfoundland and the British West Indies via Halifax and Liverpool; double weight letters to the United States; quadruplicate domestic letters. The sale of so few Twelve-Penny stamps during the period of its availability, must have been a matter of some concern to Post Office authorities, and the reason for its unpopularity may therefore be only part of the story. Some other significant reason may yet be uncovered to clarify this explanation further.

In his Epilogue to the Provincial Issues on page 216 of Vol. 1 Boggs states that in 1902, "The various dies and plates (of both the pence issues and the decimal currency issues of 1859) were cut apart and thrown into a river some miles from Ottawa, after having been lying in the vaults of the Department for years." There is no evidence that this occurred. The Twelve-Penny plate that was sent to Canada on 26 March, 1857 was not destroyed, since it is now on display at the National Postal Museum.

In 1963 Post Office officials attending the annual convention and exhibition of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada in Windsor, Ontario, surprised those assembled by bringing a sealed box to the banquet. When this box was opened during the dinner, all were astonished to see that it contained defaced

printing plates of early postage stamps of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, including the plate for the Twelve-Penny stamp. It is interesting to note that the name "J. Garside, N.J." is stamped into the metal on the reverse side of the plate. Perhaps this is the name of the supplier of the original steel plate.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### \* THE CHARLON PORTRAIT

In 1837, on the occasion of the Queen Victoria's first visit to the House of Lords after her succession to the throne, Her Majesty stood at the front of the grand staircase while Alfred Chalon, R.A. painted a sketch of the young Queen in her Robes of state. From this sketch Chalon made three copies of the portrait which was to become the most famous royal portrait in the world. The first of these copies was given by the Queen to her mother, the Duchess of Kent, who who later presented it to her son-in-law, the Prince Consort.

At the time of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1897, the original portrait was on view but since that time all record of the whereabouts has been lost.

The two other copies painted by Chalon were given by Queen Victoria to the King of Prussia and to the King of Portugal. It is believed that the first of these was destroyed by the R.A.F. during the last war, but the copy of the King of Portugal found its way back to Great Britain when his successor, King Manuel, abdicated in 1910, and is now in the collection of Robson Lowe of London.

The American engravers, Rawdon, Wright and Hatch (Later Rawdon Wright, Hatch and Edson, and subsequently the American Bank Note Company) produced a small engraving after the Chalon portrait for the Royal Wedding Celebrations in 1840. The portrait also appeared on several bank notes in North America from 1849-1870 and the first adhesive postage stamp to bear the Chalon portrait was the famous Canadian Twelve Pence in black which was issued on the 14th June 1851, having been engraved by Alfred Jones for Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson of New York.

In all, the design of the Queen's Head after Chalon appeared on some three hundred different postage stamps issued in eleven British Dominions and Colonies. Of these, 87 were issued by Queensland, 56 by New Zealand and 46 by Tasmania. No other informal portrait of a monarch has ever achieved such popularity, for it was through this medium that the peoples of the British Empire learned the likeness of their monarch.

For the record, the original Chalon painting of this historic portrait was on Display in the Court of Honour of CAPEX 78, the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Canada between June 9-18, 1978. The painting was on display with the kind permission of Robson Lowe, the owners, and it is the first time it was exhibited at an international philatelic exhibition.

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We handle the design, printing and distribution of stamps from over 50 postal authorities. Information on our new releases is all important and is eagerly awaited by collectors. To achieve this end we have built up excellent liaison with philatelic Journals throughout the world. Of special interest are the Crown Agents "Gazette" and the Crown Agents "News", which are published each month as an integral part of Britain's two largest stamp Journals—Stamp Monthly and Stamp Magazine.

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CYPRUS	NIGERIA	UNITED NATIONS
FAALKLAND ISLANDS	NORFOLK ISLAND	WESTERN SAMOA
FIJI	SULTANATE OF OMAN	PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
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AND  
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STAMPS WITH CHRISTMAS CONNECTION TOP THE POLL

"The Adoration of the Magi", one of the large Flemish Tapestries of St. John's Cathedral, Valletta, reproduced on the 20c stamp of the first Tapestries set issued by the Malta Post Office last year, has been internationally voted as the Most Beautiful Malta Stamp for 1977. The stamp obtained just under 19.5% of the total number of valid votes. Close on its heels in second place, was the 7c + 1c stamp of the Christmas issue showing the Nativity scene from the artistic crib of the Carmelite Fathers at Cospicua, with almost 14.5%. Voted into third place, was yet another stamp featuring a Flemish Tapestry, the "Nativity" reproduced on the 11c value of the series. Thus Malta's best stamps for 1977, all have a Christmas connection and were all designed by Malta's knight of stamp design, Chev. Emvin Cremona.

The full results were officially made known during the Society's monthly meeting, held on April 3rd, at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, at which a substantial number of members were present, although the unfavourable weather conditions prevented others from attending.

Following the announcement of the referendum, prizes were drawn from among the participants in the contest. All participants who had attached an International Reply Coupon with their entry were eligible to participate in the prize draw. Although the stamp with the highest number of votes polled 52 entries, only nineteen were accompanied by an I.R.C. The first prize consisted of a free holiday in Malta for one week, travelling Air Malta and with accommodation at the Malta Hilton. The lucky winner of this fabulous prize, drawn by lot from among the nineteen entries, is Mr. R. Hubbard of 42 Langdale Rd., Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, United Kingdom.

Three other consolation prizes, consisting of a complete year collection of the 1977 issues of Malta, kindly donated by the Postmaster General, were Roy, 13 Du Silence Levis, P. Quebec, Canada; and R. Freeman, 24 Stompound awaded to: A.R. Moss, 26 Primrose Glen, Hornchurch, Essex, U.K.; M-Louis Lane, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, U.K.

The majority of entries were received from W. Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A., though several other European countries were very

well represented, as well as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Malta. Many participants in the contest have shown interest in the Philatelic Society of Malta and its activities and information leaflets were mailed to such requests.

Dr. J.H. Mercieca, President of the Society, in closing the meeting, thanked Air Malta and the Malta Hilton for their cooperation in making possible the first prize, as well as the Postmaster General, for his assistance and gifts awarded as consolation prizes, and other individuals, who assisted in the mailing of the ballot forms. The President ended by pointing out that interest in the stamps of Malta is far and wide as evidenced from the origins of the entries in this year's international referendum and contest.

### Referendum — FULL RESULTS

ISSUE	DESIGN	VALUE	VOTES
SUITS OF ARMOUR 20/1/77	Jean de La Valette Aloph de Wignacourt Jean Jacques de Verdelyn	2c 7c 11c	nil 6 5
FLEMISH TAPESTRIES 30/3/77	"The Annunciation" "The Four Evangelists" "The Nativity" "The Adoration of the Magi"	2c 7c 11c 20c	9 12 40 52
INTERNATIONAL TELE'COMMS UNION 17/5/77	Map & telecommunications ditto Malta & air & sea links ditto	1c 6c 8c 17c	2 1 2 nil
EUROPA 5/7/77	"Ta' l-Isperanza" "Is-Salini"	7c 20c	27 15
MALTESE WORKERS 12/10/77	Assistance to handicapped Masonry and Industry Death at Work	2c 7c 20c	4 9 26
CHRISTMAS 16/11/77	Shepherds The Nativity Shepherds	1c+5m 7c+1c 11c+1c5	6 43 6

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When replying to advertisements please mention the P.S.M. Magazine.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I found Dr. Bonnici's articles on the Q.V.  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. yellow very interesting. My only disagreement is, that like Major Orme, he takes it for granted that the words "Invoiced" and "Supplied" mean the same as "Printing". Of course this is not so. Any printer that receives repeat orders for the same job, will sooner or later run a big quantity than requested, and put the extra printed stock aside for the next order. With this particular stamp the next order would be received within a few months. This would save on makeready time, stock, ink, etc. In other words money.

The example I have in mind is S.G. 18. Supply Nos. 25 to 28. Major Orme makes the statement "It is practically impossible to distinguish between the four supplies of the orange-yellow in unused condition, and only by means of dated copies can one allocate them approximately to the various printings". Then Major Orme goes on and lists the used copies. These all fall nicely into place, the earliest date of one issue always a little later than the latest date of the previous issue. Here we are to believe that every Maltese person in those days, bought these stamps when issued, and used them all up before the next issue became available. Of course one has to be very naive to believe this. Even the first stamp, one that can positively be identified, was found used a year after the second supply was issued, and this was 20 years earlier.

On the other hand Dr. Bonnici makes a similar statement, "very difficult to differentiate between these, without the aid of dated copies" and then goes on changing issue dates, and extending time of used copies.

For example:-

Supply No. 25

Major Orme puts down the date of issue as May 1882. At the time this was convenient as the earliest known postmark was 23.5.88. Now that an earlier copy has been discovered, the month of issue has been pushed back three months. Within the short period of three weeks in February 1882, this stamp was invoiced, and issued in Malta.

Supply No. 26

Major Orme's date of issue is just 1882. As Dr. Bonnici's copy is dated 20 January 1883, it was only proper to list the release date as January 1883. Now this issue had been supplied April 1882 and held over till January 1883 to be issued. While the 25th Supply was invoiced and issued within 2 weeks, this one took ten months between the two periods of invoice and issue.

Supply No. 27

This must have been a rush job. Supplied in May, within four months of the previous issue date and issued within three months, as the earliest dated copy is 4th August 1883.

Supply No. 28

As this issue was supplied in January of 1884, it was only safe and proper to give the date of issue as "1884". This will give somebody in the future the opportunity to guess the month.

Supply No. 30

Shouldn't the Earliest date be 17th Sept. instead of August? The way it is now it looks like it was issued before it was supplied, but this is probably a printing error.

As for myself I do have a S.G. 18 dated 7 July 1887. I know I am to assume that this is from the 30th Supply, but the colour is closer to the 25-28 group than the 30th. So for the time being the only sure thing I know about it is, that it is Watermarked Crown CA and Perf. 14. One thing it proves is that our ancestors did buy some extra stamps and put them away to use in the future.

In conclusion the point I like to make, is that in my opinion, supplies 25-28 are probably from the same printing, and that's the reason for S.G. No. 18. This may be the case in some earlier issues too, but that is something else. My intentions is not in criticising either Major Orme or Dr. Bonnici, but to prove a point I really believe in. I appreciate all the work and time these two gentlemen spent on this subject and Maltese Philately is richer for it.

My best wishes go to you and the Society Magazine. I really enjoy all the articles in it. Please keep up the good work and thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
JOSEPH SCICLUNA  
N.J., U.S.A.

P.S. Incidentally I have been employed in the printing trade as a printing pressman for nearly 30 years, so I do know a little in the change of colour over a period of time. This happens even during the same run, especially with a colour like yellow. Unfortunately this happens even today with all the colour and quality control instruments available.

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*Continued from page 2*

After all, stamp collectors are the main recipients and buyers of the produce of security printers on commission by the postal authority concerned, and they have the right, if not the duty, to demand a more genuine policy, in the absence of which, it is only the respective Post Office that is the loser.

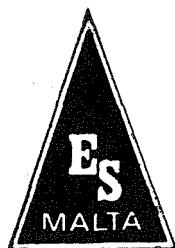
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**SECURITY PRINTERS**

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Supply No.	Date Supplied	Day Book and Page	QUANTITY		Date of Issue in Malta	KNOWN DATES AND RECORDED BY					Paper — Perf.	Watermark Inverted	Specimen/Cancelled	S.G. No. Said	OTHER COMMENTS	
			Sheets	Stamps		Earliest	Recorded by	Latest	Recorded by	Watermark						
1. 21.7.1859	A.41	100	24,000	1.12.1860	3.1.1861	Bonnici	M	Used in December only	13.11.1862	Orme	No watermark	Blued 14	Specimen	Buff/Bistre-brown	1	Imperforate copy: Proofs in black on glazed white card exist. Single ring cancellation earliest used recorded Harmer Sale lot 141, June 1970.
2. 18.8.1861	AA.92	106	25,440	Nov. 1861	24.1.1862	Orme			16.12.1862	Bonnici	No watermark	White 14		Brown-orange	3	Appeared in Robson Lowe Orme sale of 1965, Item 541.
3. 11.9.1862	AA.134	109	26,160	1863	11.1.1863	Orme			12.12.1863	Orme	No watermark	White 14		Buff-pale buff	2 & 4	
4. 17.4.1863	AA.168	115	27,600	June 1863	4.6.1863	Royal Collection			19.5.1864	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14	Specimen	Buff-pale brown	5	19.5.1864 is one piece, Imprimatur Robson Lowe Sale 1965, Item 500.
5. 11.1.1864	A.233	103	24,720	1864	1.6.1864	Clough	2.12.1874	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14	Specimen	Pale brown & brown	5			
6. 7.9.1864	B.32	107	25,680	End of 1864	4.11.1864	Orme	4.12.1864	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14	Specimen	Bright Orange	6	Copy of Specimen in archives — British Postal Museum.		
7. 30.3.1865	B.114	102	24,480	1865	1.4.1865	Orme	5.6.1866	Orme	Crown CC	White 14	Specimen	Buff	5			
8. 20.12.1865	B.217	106	25,440	1866	8.1.1866	Clive Smith	1.8.1868	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14	W/mrk Rev.	Specimen	Pale Brown	5	Watermark reversed recorded by Clive Smith and R. Jones	
9. 2.10.1866	C.1	205	49,200	Early 1867	1.1.1867	Royal Collection	11.1.1869	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14	Specimen	Pale red-brown	7	(Specimen described by Orme).		
10. 27.5.1868	C.193	200	48,000	End of 1868	3.11.1868	Orme	31.5.1870	Turnbull	Crown CC	White 12½	(rough)		Brownish-buff	8		
11. 9.12.1869	D.85	182	43,680	April 1870	3.5.1870	Orme	15.9.1871	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14	Inv. and Rev.	Cancelled	Dull orange	10	Both inverted and reversed watermarks have been recorded (Cann).	
12. 21.7.1870	D.159	197	47,280	May 1871	13.5.1871	Orme	8.4.1873	Orme	Crown CC	White 12½ (clean)			Yellow orange	9		
13. 8.10.1871	D.281	198	47,520	May 1872	8.5.1872	Orme	12.5.1873	Orme	Crown CC	White 14			Orange-buff	11		
14. 31.10.1872	E.115	214	51,360	1873	26.5.1873	Clough	1.9.1874	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14			Dull orange			
15. 23.1.1874	E.257	200	48,000	Oct. 1874	6.10.1874	Bonnici	25.8.1875	Clough	Crown CC	White 14			Golden yellow	12		
16. 6.4.1875	F.165	213	51,120	Sept. 1875	12.10.1875	Bonnici	9.5.1875	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14			Yellow-buff	13		
17. 20.3.1876	F.277	176	42,240	1876	9.8.1876	Bonnici	10.11.1877	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14	Inverted		Yellow buff	13	Inverted watermark recorded by Mrs. Turnbull.	
18. 12.1.1877	G.84	208	49,920	Mar. 1877	20.3.1877	Bacon	6.8.1878	Clive Smith	Crown CC	White 14	Inverted		Pale buff	14	Inverted watermark recorded Orme.	
19. 29.9.1877	G.202	199	47,760	1878	22.1.1878	Clive Smith	6.4.1880	Clive Smith	Crown CC	White 14			Yellow buff	13	Both the earliest and latest recorded are on piece.	
20. 18.5.1878	H.25	214	51,360	July 1878	3.7.1878	Orme	9.10.1879	Clive Smith	Crown CC	White 14 x 12½			Yellow buff	15	Wing margins no longer seen. Centrally perforated.	
21. 14.1.1879	H.147	213	51,120	1879	14.2.1878	Orme	4.5.1881	Clough	Crown CC	White 14 x 12½			Yellow	15		
22. 10.11.1879	I.25	209	50,160	Apr. 1880	19.4.1880	Royal Collection	30.12.1880	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14	Inverted		Orange yellow	16	Inverted watermark recorded by Clive Smith.	
23. 27.8.1880	J.187	211	50,640	1880	12.12.1880	Orme	21.3.1881	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14			Bright orange yellow	16		
24. 28.3.1881	K.32	209	50,160	Apr. 1881	18.4.1881	Ganado	17.7.1882	Orme	Crown CC	White 14	Inverted		Pale to bright yellow	17		
25. 14.2.1882	K.183	200	48,000	Feb. 1882	27.3.1882	Turnbull	30.1.1883	Bonnici	Crown CA	White 14			Pale orange yellow	18		
26. 6.4.1882	K.230	201	48,240	Jan. 1883	20.1.1883	Bonnici	9.7.1883	Orme	Crown CA	White 14			Pale orange yellow	18		
27. 9.5.1883	L.208	202	8,430	1883	4.8.1883	Orme	23.9.1883	Bonnici	Crown CA	White 14			Orange yellow	18		
28. 29.1.1884	M.29	200	48,000	1884	19.3.1884	Orme	26.8.1884	Orme	Crown CA	White 14			Orange yellow		Reversal of date. 14th May-16th May recorded Clive Smith.	
29. 20.6.1884)	M.72	688	165,120)	1.1.1885	1.1.1885	Orme	—	—	Crown CA	White 14			Green	20		
30. 5.7.1884)	M.77	1017	244,180)	1884	17.9.1884	Orme	—	—	Crown CA	White 14			Reddish orange	19		

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# DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

## ALBRECHT DURER ISSUE

Date of Issue .....	7th March 1978.
Values .....	1c7, 8c and 17c.
Stamp Size .....	31mm x 44mm.
Art Designer .....	Antoine Camilleri.
Printers .....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process .....	Lithography.
Perforation .....	14 x 13.9 (comb)
Watermark .....	Maltese Crosses pointing upright.
Paper .....	Chalked Surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.

### Colours

1c7 Blue, Black and Red.  
8c Grey, Black and Red.  
17c Green, Black and Red.

### Designs

This set commemorates the 450th anniversary of the death of Albrecht Durer (1471-1528). Born in Nuremberg, Durer was a master of various media. He was not only an important painter, draughtsman and engraver but also the best representative artist of Germany. His creative genius reached its highest expression in the graphic arts, the copperplate engravings and especially the woodcuts, which he refined and perfected.

The Malta Postal Administration has reproduced three of his copperplate engravings from the fine collection at the Cathedral Museum, Mdina, Malta. The Durer prints, acquired by the Cathedral Museum in 1896, form part of a large collection of prints bequeathed to the Cathedral Museum, by Count Saverio Marchesi (1757-1833) in 1833.

Count Saverio Marchesi had acquired his Durer prints partly from an auction sale held in Valletta in 1815, and partly from purchases made in 1815 and 1822 from the painter and engraver Filippo Benucci. The complete collection of Durer woodcuts and engravings once owned by Count Marchesi is now on permanent exhibition at the Cathedral Museum, Mdina.

The 1c7 stamp—Young lady on horseback and trooper—shows a lady of high standing sitting on a horse with her right hand resting on the shoulder of a man carrying a helbard. Durer's mark is seen in the middle at the base of the picture. The 8c value—The bag-piper—depicts a peasant leaning against a tree playing the bag-pipe. The year 1514 and Durer's mark are seen at the base to the left. The 17c stamp—Mary with the long tailed monkey—features the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus who is playing with a bird perched on his right hand. A monkey tied to the planks of the seat, is resting at the feet of the Virgin. Durer's mark is seen near the tail of the monkey.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs, 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row in all Panes of the three values. This is another set, where it must be pointed out again, that a Pane of stamps is looked at in such a way that the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left hand side of the bottom margin and the Printer's Imprint on the right of the same margin. In this way looking at any Pane of the three values, the stamps will be seen sideways, resting on their 44mm side.

In all the three values, the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in both Panes of each value.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in Blue, Grey and Green in the 1c7, 8c and 17c values respectively.

The Printed Sheets of all three values consisted of two Panes, "A" and "B". Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. The stamps of all three values are of the vertical format.

### Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

1c7 = 1A x 3, 1B x 3.

8c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3.

17c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3.

### Perforation of Margins

The top margin of Pane "A" of all three values is imperforate. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of Pane "A" of all three values are fully perforated. The top, bottom, left hand and right hand margins of Pane "B" of all three values are also fully perforated. No registration marks were seen on any Pane of all three values.

PANE "A"  
WATERMARK 

PANE "B"  
WATERMARK 

From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheets of all three values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all three values will be seen sideways resting on their 44mm side. Hence the reason why, when individual stamps are examined, the watermark will be seen upright.

I would like to thank the Postal Authorities for giving us the chance to see the progressive sheets of all three values of this set. These were exhibited at the Cathedral Museum, Mdina, during the Durer exhibition. Also on show, was the work done by the designer of this set, Mr. Antoine Camilleri, and it must have been a hard job for the Board to choose the best three designs from all of Mr. Camilleri's artistic works.

#### Imprint Blocks

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row and printed in Blue, Grey and Green in the 1c7, 8c and 17c values respectively. Letters are 1mm high. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed, "L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hrūg" — Malta — 7.3.78" and the name of the respective locality. Durer's monogram is also incorporated in the postmark. On the first day of issue, the amount realized from the sale of this set amounted to £M37,998.

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#### EUROPA 1978 ISSUE

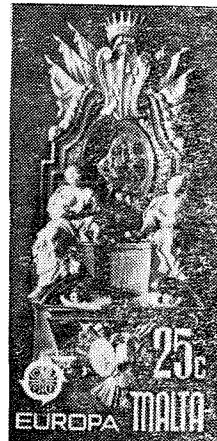
Date of Issue .....	26th April 1978.
Values .....	7c and 25c.
Stamp Size .....	21.5mm x 43mm.
Art Designer .....	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers .....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process .....	Lithography.
Perforation .....	13.8 x 13.3 (comb).
Watermark .....	Maltese Crosses pointing upright.
Paper .....	Chalk surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.



**E U R O P A ' 7 8**

**7c Monument to  
Grandmaster  
Nicola Cottoner**

**25c Monument to  
Grandmaster  
Ramon Perellos**



## Colours

The colour of these stamps was produced by the multi-colour process.

## Designs

The "Europa" stamp set for this year features two of the finest monuments in the Co-Cathedral of St. John in Valletta. Both monuments can be seen in the Chapel of St. George, which was the National Chapel of the Langue of Aragon, Catalonia and Navarre of the Hospitaller Order of St. John.

The monument to Grand Master Nicola Cottoner, featured on the 7c stamp, is probably the work of the Florentine sculptor Giovanni Battista Foggini (1652-1725). The 25c stamp depicts the monument to Grand Master Ramon Perellos, which is the work of Giuseppe Mazzuoli, of Siena, (1644-1725).

This is the eighth "Europa" set, issued by the G.P.O. and has again been printed in small Panes of ten stamps. Both values are of the vertical format. Each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. The second space of the top row is used for the wording "EUROPA 1978" with the C.E.P.T. symbol on top. The third space of the top row is again used for the wording "EUROPA 1978" but with the C.E.P.T. symbol under it. The value of a whole Pane of ten stamps is seen in the top margin above the two middle spaces just described.

Colour checks, in the form of discs, 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin, of each Pane, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. The colours from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left on all Panes of both values. There are nine Panes of ten stamps, to each Printed Sheet, of each value.

## Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row and also extending to the left, of the first vertical perforation line.

7c = 1A x 6 up to and including 1I x 6.

25c = 1A x 6 up to and including 1I x 6.

## Perforation of Margins

The left hand margins of Panes "A", "D" and "G" of both values are imperforate, whilst the same left hand margin of Panes "B", "C", "E", "F", "H" and "I" are fully perforated.

The top, bottom and right hand margins, of all Panes from "A" to "I" in both values are also fully perforated.

PANE "A"	PANE "B"	PANE "C"
WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑
PANE "D"	PANE "E"	PANE "F"
WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑
PANE "G"	PANE "H"	PANE "I"
WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑	WMK. ↑

The Printed Sheet before cutting would have looked as shown on left. This is a similar setting to that used for the 'Europa' 1977 set. The only difference being that in this set, the perforator ran from Panes "A", "D", "G" to Panes "B", "E", "H" to Panes "C", "F", "I" and in last year's set, it ran from Panes "A", "B", "C" to Panes "D", "E", "F" to Panes "G", "H", "I". Looking at the Printed Sheet, as shown in diagram, stamps of both values, would be seen the right way up. Hence why watermark is upright.

## Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA", in letters 1mm high, is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, and also extending to the right hand margin.

A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue for cancellation. It is inscribed with the date, "26-4-78", the name of the respective locality and the C.E.P.T. emblem, surrounded by the words: "L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Fluġġ", "Malta".

Up to 4 p.m. the sales of this set realized the sum of £M284,136, a record sale for a first day of issue, of any EUROPA set.

## AUCTIONS

Members will join in thanking Mr. B. Jacobs and Mr. S.N. Bush in their joint effort in organizing the Society's auction. Mr. B. Jacobs now left the Island and his departure means we are left without an auctioneer. We need somebody who can offer some of his spare time to organize the next auction. Any volunteers?

## Exhibitions

### **“PHILASERDICA 79”**

Bulgaria will be organizing a World Philatelic Exhibition between May 18th — 27th, 1979 as part of the country's celebrations to mark the centenary of its independence from the Ottoman Empire. The Exhibition will be known as **PHILASERDICA 79**, Serdica being one of the oldest names of the Bulgarian Capital Sofia.

The exhibition will also coincide with another very important event in the history of Bulgaria, for 1979 is also the 1300th Anniversary of the birth of the Bulgarian state.

The Philatelic Society of Malta has nominated Mr. Godwin Said, of ‘Scorpio’, 114 Tower Road, Sliema, Malta as the national Commissioner from whom are available application forms, regulations and other details.

### **JUVAPHIL 79**

The “Cercle Philatélique Alfred De Vigny”, a young philatelist society of Courbevoie, La Garenne and surroundings, under its energetic Committee, is organizing an important European Philatelic Exhibition for Young Philatelists to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Council of Europe. The exhibition, officially named “JUVAPHIL 79”, will be held between April 26th-29th in the Public Halls of the Stadium of Courbevoie.

The organizing Committee is reserving five frames for Malta for display purposes but any number of participants from Malta will be accepted to participate the best two or three selected for inclusion in the frames. No special theme has been allocated to the exhibition, but collections about Malta or Europe would be appreciated, though this is not restrictive.

There are seven classes, one non-competitive, and another a collective class, with various classes for different age groups. Eligible to participate at **JUVAPHIL 79** are all young philatelists under 25 years of age. Details and application forms are available from: Mr. Nick A. Cutajar, National Commissioner, **JUVAPHIL '79**, 7 Wied il-Għajn Road, Zejtun, Malta.

### **ROCPEX TAIPEI 78**

The Centennial of the first Chinese stamps was commemorated by the Republic of China with an International Philatelic Exhibition, “**ROCPEX TAIPEI 78**”, held between March 20th-29th. Our Editor, Mr. Nick A. Cutajar, was awarded a Bronze medal at this Exhibition for his bound transcripts of the TV documentaries, “The History of the Postal Service in the Maltese Islands”.

#### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Please attend whenever possible and bring a guest; the warm friendly atmosphere of philately is always in evidence at our monthly meetings.

# TIME IN CODE LETTER FORM

by  
ANTHONY FENECH

## PART III

### GENERAL POST OFFICE BRANCHES

Code letters appear also on handstamps used by the various branches of the General Post Office. Here is a detailed study of the Code letters and their meaning on handstamps employed in different departments:

The Returned Letter Branch, G.P.O., Malta, 24 mm single ring was used on mail that could not be delivered before it was returned to the sender. Code letters "A" to "E" were used; the "A" coded handstamp as the early morning and the "E" as the late evening handstamp with code letters "B", "C" and "D", in between times. The Malta Study Circle (Malta Newsletter, Vol. 5 No. 3, March 1966), reports a late 1957 use of this handstamp but without code letter, as it was accompanied by a Valletta c.d.s. A double ring 27 mm Returned Letter Office, Malta, superseded this handstamp and is known to have been used with Code Letters "A" and "B", with an asterisk or without anything at all.

Three datestamps 'Parcel Post Service, Malta', all with code letters "A" to "K" above the date were used on parcels from 1880 to the early 1930's. Most of the Queen Victoria, Edward VII and George V High values are known to be cancelled with these stamps. Two other handstamps 'Parcel Post, Malta', with asterisks above the date appear to have replaced the former for a time, but the old handstamps have again been in use lately, with code letters "A" and "B" until early 1974, and then with an asterisk or none. On November 17th, 1977, two of the old type Parcel Post Service handstamps were replaced by a double ring 27 mm Parcel Post Service without any form of coding.

The Accounts Branch, G.P.O., Malta, used a dated 19 mm single ring with the code number "5" above the date. Other code numbers have not been recorded. This Accounts Branch had been using eight pointed cross handstamps with Accounts/Code Letter/Date/G.P.O., Malta, to frank mail from the Accounts Branch of the G.P.O. and the Cashier, and to date Money Order Advice and Postal Orders when issued at the G.P.O. Until recently, Code Letters "A" to "T" were used. The Code Letters had no time meaning, but each counter clerk was responsible for a datestamp with a particular letter corresponding to her or his Account with the G.P.O. But on the 1st June, 1976, the code letters on these handstamps were replaced by numbers which correspond to the clerk's Account Number at the G.P.O. Accounts Section. The code letters "A" and "I" have been retained, "A" at the Cashier's Office, whilst "I" at the A.C.D.; the code letters "B" to "H" have now been replaced by the following code numbers namely "1", "9", "13", "19", "25", "27" whilst one had been withdrawn.

The Delivery Branch, G.P.O., Malta, had been using its stamps — the early type 27 mm single ring with code letters and its successor, the 23 mm single ring with an asterisk above the date, but never with code letters, as there was no scope for them.

#### FORCES MAIL, MALTA

The Army Post Office S Z 7 can be seen on mail from Malta between 18 OC 15 and 27 JU 17, with code letters "A", "B", "C", "D" and "X", presumably "A" and "B" for the forenoon duties, "C" and "D" for the afternoon duties and "X" for counter duties.

The Army Post Office H D 1 was introduced early in 1917 and was used concurrently with, but soon replaced Army Post Office S Z 7 handstamp. It is presumed that "H.D." indicates Home Depot. The code letters used on these handstamps were "A" for the morning strikes, "B" for the afternoon strikes and "+" for counter duties.

The Fleet Mail Office used in mid 1940's a double ring circular date stamp with the wording British Fleet Mail with killer blocks each side of the figure '10' known with a star, with "AM" as well as with "PM" above the date.

All the Field Post Office handstamps — double ring with killer blocks on each side of the F.P.O. number metal handstamp; single ring with FPO steel handstamp; single ring metal handstamp with Field Post Office in full; double ring metal handstamp with Field Post Office with thin arcs on either side of the number — use the code letter "A" for the morning and "B" for the afternoon cancelling. The asterisk is used for the counter cancels. Code letters "A", "B", "C" also appear on machine cancellations on Forces' Mail from Malta.

"AM" or "PM" are noted on US ship cancellations, whilst 'a six ray star' appears on the single ring handstamp Postes Navales — Medit. C.

#### NEW POSTMARKS

Towards the end of 1977, the handstamps used at the Valletta General Post Office Mailing Room, on the counters at the G.P.O., Parcel Post Office, at the Philatelic Bureau, and in many Branch Post Offices were changed. None of these except the two handstamps employed at the Philatelic Bureau bear code letters. These were issued to the Philatelic Bureau officials on the 1st December, 1977 and bear code letters "A" and "B". These code letters do not tell time, but it is intended that they will be used alternately on bulk mail from the Philatelic Bureau.

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#### S M A L L A D S

Small Ads are charged at 2c per word, including name and address. Members of the Philatelic Society of Malta qualify for one free advert in any one year, of not more than 30 words, including name and address. All copies must be received two months prior to publication date.

**MALTA — A DIARY**  
**JANUARY — APRIL 1978**  
Compiled by JOE FARRUGIA

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.

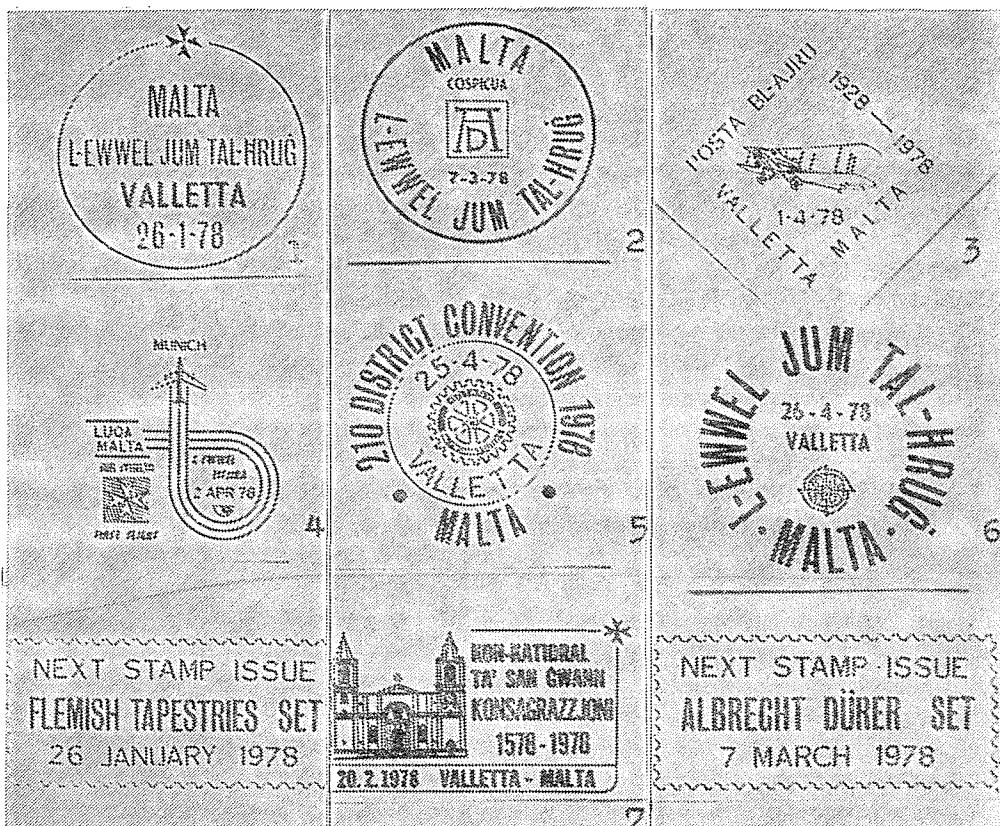
For the benefit of our overseas members, it will be of interest to let them know the reason of the issue of this notice. On the 28th December 1977, for the first time in Malta, we had a murder by means of a letter bomb. The unfortunate victim was a young girl of fifteen years, Karin Maria Grech, daughter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

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**MONTHLY MEETINGS — OCTOBER**

The June Monthly Meeting, held on June 23rd, 1978 hosted Mr. George Coates, Chairman of the Malta Study Circle, who gave a most interesting and fascinating display of 'Malta Air Mails'. The meeting brought to a close the season.

The next monthly meeting is due Monday, 2nd October, 1978. Make sure you keep that date on your diary reserved for the P.S.M.

**BACK NUMBERS**

The Editor would always be grateful to receive back any unwanted back numbers of our magazine for either resale or use as specimen copies.



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1978  
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Issued also in sheets of 50 stamps

### RELEASE SCHEDULE

AIRMAIL SET

OCTOBER

CHRISTMAS SET

NOVEMBER

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE PHILATELIC BUREAU, GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
AUBERGE D'ITALIE MERCHANTS STREET,  
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