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OF MALTA

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

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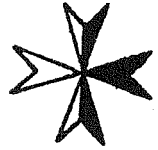
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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA MAGAZINE



VOL. 7 No. 1

WINTER 1977

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Zejtun Malta G.C.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - 1976

Mr. President, Fellow-Members.

Last year's activities were dominated by the celebrations commemorating the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Society.

COMMITTEE

The Committee for 1976 was elected at the Annual General Meeting held on the 5th January, 1976 and the officials, except for those chosen at the General Meeting, were appointed at the Committee meeting of the 22nd January. There were no changes during the Committee's term of office.

The Committee met nine times during 1976. Two other meetings were called but could not be held as the members present did not form a quorum.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

These were held regularly on the first Monday of each month and the programme of activities was as follows:

- February — Talk by Dr. E. Aquilina on "How to prepare a collection for exhibition".
- March — Flight Lieutenant Nichols attended at the invitation of the committee to illustrate the project of Flight Covers.
- April — Stamp auction.
- May — Discussion on the celebrations to commemorate the Xth Anniversary.
- June — The entries for the "Vote-a-Stamp" competition were opened and the result was announced.
- October — Exchange and Discussions.
- November — Talk by Commander Bush on "De La Rue key-plates for the British Colonies".
- December — Stamp Auction.

It is worth recording that during the first year, that is, in 1966 the Committee had decided to hold auction sales of philatelic material for the benefit of members. After two attempts which were not really successful, this activity was suspended until in 1976 it was decided to give it another try.

Thanks to the valid efforts of Mr. Barnet Jacob and Commander S.N. Bush the two auctions held last year found a very positive response. They were quite an encouraging sign for the future, and there is every reason to hope that stamp auctions will become a regular half-yearly activity of the Society. We must however keep in mind that the work put in by the organisers will come to nought if members do not actively participate by submitting lots for sale or bidding for what is offered.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Society was founded on the 7th March, 1966. One of the first tasks of the Committee was to organise a proper commemoration of the Xth Anniversary. A sub-committee had already been formed the previous year and Mr. George Pace, as Treasurer, was appointed to join the sub-committee. Dr. A. Bonnici kindly offered to attend the meetings of the sub-committee although officially he was not a member.

The possibility of holding an exhibition and organising a stamp week was explored but both had to be ruled out because of the manifold difficulties involved.

Eventually it was decided to hold an anniversary dinner. The venue was the Green Lounge of the Hotel Phoenicia. The date: 26th June 1976. Over 100 members and guests took part and the chief guest was the Postmaster General, Mr. G. Borg.

At the Committee's request, the Post Master General, accepted to allow the use of a special cancellation which read: "Tenth Anniversary -- 25 June 1976 -- Valletta -- Malta 1966-1976: Philatelic Society of Malta 1966". The design was made by Mr. George Pace and it incorporated the Malta ½d yellow. Special covers were prepared by the Society signed by the President and the designer. As the number was limited in advance, it was decided to present one cover to the Post Master General and to donate a second one to the Postal History Museum. One cover was reserved to each effective member of the Society and the first numbers were reserved for Committee members. The cancellation was also postally used on a special edition of the Society's magazine which was distributed to members.

I find recorded in the minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 17th April, 1975 that the President of the Society, Dr. J.H. Mercieca, had proposed that in 1976 the Society should fittingly celebrate the Xth Anniversary of its foundation. I remember him emphasising that in the past he had formed part of other philatelic societies that had died out after a few years of existence. The fact that our Society was entering its tenth year was a record to be proud of.

It was a record that the Society did indeed celebrate. What was organised for the occasion went off quite well and we look forward to the future with renewed vigour.

MEMBERSHIP

One of the salutary effects of the celebrations was to bring the Society ever more to the attention of philatelists.

In May 1976 the Committee decided that those members who had defaulted in paying their subscription for a number of years must be struck off the member's list, and the Treasurer carried out the necessary exercise.

This notwithstanding, with a good number of new members joining the Society throughout 1976, we ended the year on a top note and the effective members of the Society are now 118.

MAGAZINE

As members can see for themselves, with the appointment of Nick A. Cutajar as Editor of the Magazine, our headaches are over.

In order to commemorate the Xth Anniversary the Editor produced a special number of the magazine which was of high standard indeed. I feel sure you will all join me in telling the Editor: Give us more like it.

Naturally, it isn't so simple as it looks. Hard work and material for publication is not enough. Printing costs have gone up so much in recent years that it is impossible to produce a magazine if the Society does not have the available steady flow of funds.

That is one of the reasons why the Committee has decided to place before this meeting a motion to increase subscriptions of members. Because of lack of funds, the Committee could not endorse a suggestion made by one of its members that two other numbers of the magazine should be issued during 1976.

VOTE-A-STAMP

As part of the celebrations to mark the Xth Anniversary, the Society decided to launch a world-wide competition to select the most beautiful Malta stamp issued in 1975. Participants were asked to vote for the stamp they liked best and to give reasons for their choice. The competition was open for two months, throughout April and May. Philatelists from far and wide took part and the majority, namely about 25% voted in favour of the 5c. of the Europa set.

The first prize went to Malta, the second to U.K., the third to Liechtenstein.

The winners of the competition were each given a complete mint series of the 1975 Malta issues kindly donated for the purpose by the Postal Authorities. Five other participants were given gratis a copy of the 1976 Said catalogue kindly donated to the Society by Mr. Godwin Said. On your behalf I wish to express the Society's thanks for these gifts. All the Committee members agreed not to take part in the competition. The holding of this competition was suggested by Mr. Nick Cutajar who wished to make it an annual feature. This was approved by the Committee.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

Through its association in the F.I.P. the members of the Society were invited during 1976 to take part in the following international competitions: "Juphilex 78", "Capex 78".

NEW REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Last February the Committee was informed that new registration envelopes had been put on sale at the Post Office with the embossed stamp defaced by hand with ink. This was being done without proper authorisation and no notice had appeared in the Government Gazette, announcing the sale of these envelopes.

The Committee agreed that this procedure which had been adopted by the postal authorities was highly irregular and I was instructed to send a stiff letter of protest to the Postmaster General.

This letter had the desired effect and proper steps were immediately taken by the Postmaster to remedy the situation.

CONCLUSION

Throughout 1976, as in the previous years, the Catholic Institute was placed at the disposal of the Society for all its activities. On the retirement of Fr. James Orr as Director of the Institute, I wish to place on record the unstinted help and cooperation the Society found in him at all times during these years. I wish therefore to thank Fr. Orr and the management of the Institute for giving us the use of the premises without charging us any rent.

My thanks also go to all those members of the Committee or of the Society who have in one way or another contributed during 1976 towards the success the Society has achieved.

THE COMMITTEE

President — Dr. John H. Mercieca, D.D.S.

Secretary — Dr. Albert Ganado, B.A., LL.D.

Treasurer — Mr. George M. Pace

Vice-President — Dr. Alfred Bonnici, M.D.

Assistant Secretary — Mr. Carmel G. Bonavia

P.R.O. — Mr. Sidney Nigel Bush

Exchange Superintendent — Mr. Anthony Fenech

Members — Dr. Edwin Aquilina, B.Sc., M.D.

— Mr. Godwin Said

Assistant Editor — Mr. Joseph Farrugia

Editor — Mr. Nick A. Cutajar

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

During the Annual General Meeting, held on Monday, 3rd January, 1977, the following motion was carried:

“The Annual Subscription for membership will be one Malta pound and fifty cents for persons residing in Malta; two pounds and twenty-five pence Sterling for persons residing in the United Kingdom, and three United States dollars and seventy-five cents for persons residing in any other country. Junior members will pay twenty-five Malta cents.

“All subscriptions shall be paid in advance by the 31st January of each year.

“This increase in subscription shall have effect as from the 1st January, 1977”.

During the Annual General Meeting, several members after hearing Mr. President explaining the reasons after the Committee's motion for the increase, paid their subscription at the new rate as approved, together with a donation for the Society's funds.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

PROGRAMME APRIL - JUNE 1977

The programme for the next three months is as follows:—

April 4th. — Auction for members only.

May 2nd. — “VOTE A STAMP”; announcement of results of the voting and draw for prizes.

June 6th. — “Preparing To Exhibit”. Members are invited to submit and display up to 5 sheets each for (kindly) criticism and suggestion from a panel of Committee members.

All meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at the Catholic Institute, (ground floor), Floriana, and start at 6.30 p.m. The auction will again be conducted by Mr. B. Jacobs and Mr. S.N. Bush.

The December Auction realised just over £M100, of which the Society retained 10%, but regrettably, over one third of the lots remained unsold. Members are therefore requested to ensure that their material is potentially saleable.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|---|
| 265 | Mr. Joe C. Attard | 253, Zabbar Road, Fgura. |
| 226 | Mr. J.G.C. Lander | 13, Bucks Avenue, Watford Heath,
Herts WD1 4AR, U.S.A. |
| 267 | Mr. Frank Guiliano | 71, Fleet Street, Grira. |
| 268 | Mr. George Glanville | “Spring” Mater Boni Consigli Street,
Fgura. |
| 269 | Mr. Liu Kwok-Hung | 12/F, Flat 16, Kwun Yick Building,
430-440 Des Voeux Road, West,
Hong Kong. |
| 270 | Mr. Ralph Camilleri | “St. Publius”, 6/1 San Anton Strret,
Balzan. |

RESIGNED

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------|
| 165 | Capt. Victor Light; | 197 | Miss Doris Falzon. |
|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------|

DECEASED

- 18 Mr. Thomas DeBono

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THE EVOLUTION OF THE ONE HALF PENNY QUEEN VICTORIA YELLOW STAMP



by
Dr. ALFRED BONNICI
B.Pharm. M.D. M.R.S.H.

CHAPTER 4 1870-78

11TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 10)
Dull Orange WMK Crown CC Perf 14
Invoiced on 9th December, 1869
Private Day Book D Page 85

11TH INVOICE: 9th December, 1869
Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage
182 Sheets Duty one half penny
240 on each sheet — 43,680 stamps @ 1/6

3	5	6
	5	6
3	11	0

Case lined tin

COLOUR: This supply was printed in dull orange (S.G. & Said No. 10) and a later consignment, the 14th printing of 31st October, 1872, was in an almost identical shade. Mint copies of the 11th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 19th printings are very difficult to separate one from another with any degree of certainty, but it is possible to divide the printings up fairly accurately by studying used dated copies of these stamps.

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES: This printing was issued in Malta, in April 1870 and the earliest recorded used copy is dated 3rd May, 1870 (Orme) and the latest recorded used copy 15th September, 1871 (Ganado, Malta). Mint block of six (3x2) was recorded in the Harmer sale of 15th/16th June, 1970, item 223. Block of four dated 6th May, 1870 was recorded in Plumridge & Co. sale of 15th March, 1929. Copies imperforate overprinted Cancelled have been recorded. Both Inverted and Reversed copies have been recorded (Cann).

12TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 9)
 Yellow - Orange Crown CC White Perf 12½ clean-cut
 Invoiced on 21st July, 1870

12TH INVOICE: From Private Day Book D Page 159
 21st July, 1870
 Crown Agents for the Colonies
 Malta Postage
 197 sheets of 240 Multiples Duty
 half penny — 47230 stamps 3 10 11
 Case lined tin 5 6

3 16 5

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES: This supply was released in Malta in May, 1871 and the earliest recorded date is 13th May, 1871 and the latest 8th April, 1873 (Orme)

13TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 11)
 Orange buff WMK Crown CC perf. 14
 Invoiced on 18th October, 1871
 Private Day Book D Page 281

13TH INVOICE: 18th October, 1871
 The Crown Agents for the colonies
 Malta postage
 198 sheets of 240 Multiples duty half penny
 47,520 stamps @ 1/6 3 11 3
 Case lined tin 5 6

3 16 9

COLOUR: Printing No. 13 of the 18th October, 1871 S.G. & Said No. 11 consisted of stamps in orange-buff. This orange-buff shade is deeper and harsher than the dull orange (S.G. & Said No. 10) but unfortunately for classification, it is very near to the deeper shades of yellow-buff (S.G. & Said 13).

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES: It was issued in Malta in May, 1872 and the earliest recorded date of use is 8th May, 1873 (Orme). Left Wing Margin Mint Block of 6 x 2 has been recorded.

14TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 10)
 Dull Orange WMK Crown CC Perf. 14
 Invoiced on 31st October, 1872
 Private Day Book E Page 115

14TH INVOICE: 31st October, 1872
 Malta Postage Stamps
 214 sheets of 240 multiples Duty one half penny
 — 51,360 stamps @ 1/6 (1/4) 3 8 6
 Case lined tin 3 6

3 12 0

**EARLIEST-LATEST
RECORDED
DATES:**

The 14th printing is almost identical to printing no. 11. It was issued in Malta in 1873, the earliest recorded date being 26th May, 1873, which is on cover (Dr Clough). The latest, 1st September, 1874 (Ganado, Malta).
Left Wing Margin Mint Block of 6 × 7 has been recorded (Dr. Bonnici, Malta).

15TH PRINTING:

(S.G. & Said No. 12)
Golden Yellow WMK Crown CC White Perf. 14
Invoiced on 23rd January, 1874
Private Day Book E Page 257

15TH INVOICE:

23rd January, 1874
The Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage Stamp
200 sheets of 240 multiples Duty one
half penny — 48,000 stamps
Case lined tin

3	4	0
	3	6
<hr/>		
3	7	6

COLOUR:

The 15th Printing is the well-known Golden Yellow (S.G. & Said No. 12) which is quite distinct in colour from any other supply. The ink used for this printing is aniline, which stains the paper yellow, showing through the back of the stamp. However, care must be taken not to confuse the printing with printing No. 6, if the stamp has been immersed in water, causing the staining partly to disappear and the colour changed to orange.

**EARLIEST-LATEST
RECORDED
DATES:**

This printing was released in Malta in October, 1874 and the earliest recorded date has the October 6th, 1874 cancellation. This is on cover (Dr. Bonnici, Malta). The latest recorded date is 25th August, 1875 on cover (Dr. Clough).

Mint right winged margin blocks of 3 × 2 and 2 × 2 were recorded in the Harmer sale of the 15th-16th June, 1971 as items 226 and 227, and a mint block of four from the upper left corner of left lower panes and a mint horizontal strip of six with sheet margin at left, and bottom (with imprint "Malta — Postage One Half-Penny") from lower corner of left top pane has been recorded at Harmer Sale of 25th-26th October, 1971 as item 473.

16TH PRINTING:

(S.G. & Said No. 13)
Yellow — Buff Crown CC White Perf. 14
Invoiced on 6th April, 1875
Private Day Book F Page 165.

16TH INVOICE:

6th April, 1875

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamp

213 sheets of 240 Multiples Duty half-penny

— 51,120 stamps

Case lined with tin

3 8 1

4 6

3 12 7**COLOUR:**

Supplies 16, 17, 18 were all printed in yellow buff (S.G. & Said No. 13), the commonest shade in this series. The deeper shades of the 16th printing (6th April, 1875) and the 17th printing (20th March, 1876) approach the orange buff of the 13th printing of 1871 (S.G. & Said No. 11) whilst the 19th supply of 29th September, 1877 was printed in a pale yellow buff, distinctly deeper however than the pale buff of the 18th printing of 12th January, 1877, (S.G. & Said No. 14).

**EARLIEST-LATEST
RECORDED
DATES:**

The 16th printing was released in Malta in September, 1875 and the earliest recorded date of use is 12th October, 1875 (Bonnici, Malta) and the latest recorded date is 9th May, 1876 (Bonnici, Malta).

An interpanneau block consisting of the Left Lower row (× 6) and the Right Lower row (× 6) of the Upper two panes and the top left upper row (× 6) and the top Right upper row (× 6) with the full inscription "Malta Postage — One half-penny" on the left and right of the separating margin of the upper and lower panes watermarked CROWN COLONIES has been recorded (Bonnici, Malta).

17TH PRINTING:

(S.G. & Said No. 17)

Yellow buff — WMK Crown CC White Perf. 14.

Invoiced on 20th March, 1876.

Private Day Book F. Page 277

17TH INVOICE:

20th March, 1876.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamp

176 sheets of 240 multiples duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 42,240 2 16 3

Case lined tin 4 6

3 0 9**EARLIEST-LATEST
RECORDED
DATES:**

Released in Malta in 1876.

Only when one studies dated copies can one be relatively sure of this printing. The earliest recorded date of use is 19th August, 1876 (Dr. Bonnici, Malta) and the latest recorded dated No. 10, 71 (Dr. Bonnici, Malta).

A mint left winged margin block of 6 × 3 was recorded in Robson Lowe sale of 15th October, 1972 at Basle, item 1125. Stamps of this series cancelled with the duplex A 25 (S.G.



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Printex Ltd. Mill Str., Qormi, Malta

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

CHRISTMAS ISSUE - 1976

Date of Issue	23rd. November 1976.
Values	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5, 10c + 2c
Stamp Size	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5 = 47.15mm × 20.5mm. 10c + 2c = 35mm × 30mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5 = 13.5 × 13.5 Comb. 10c + 2c = 13.5 × 13.8 Comb.
Watermark	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5 Maltese Crosses pointing upwards 10c + 2c Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

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

Design:—

In this issue the Malta Post Office has maintained the tradition of including a small surcharge in addition to the postal value of each stamp. This is the eight Christmas issue in succession on which a surcharge has been included. The proceeds from this surcharge are distributed to various local organisations that carry out child welfare work.

The 10c + 2c stamp shows the complete painting, known as the "Madonna And Saints" by Domenico Di Michelino (1417-1491). The 10c + 2c stamp is split into the three single stamps depicting St. John the Baptist and St. Michael, (1c + 5m), Madonna and Child (5c + 1c), St. Christopher and St. Nicholas (7c + 1c5). This painting is one of the best works of Domenico Di Michelino, an important 15th. Century artist, well known for his portrait of Dante in Florence Cathedral. It is on permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta. It was donated to the Museum in recent years by Mrs. Salvina Zahra of New York.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of all values. Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm and printed in black.

The Printed Sheets of the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5 consist of three Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All three stamps are of the vertical format.

The Printed Sheet of the 10c + 2c consists of two Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. The stamp is of the horizontal format.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, as to the position of colour checks, Pane numbers and especially direction of watermark, it is best to say that a Pane of stamps is looked at, and assumed to be the right way up, when the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left hand side of the bottom margin, and the colour checks are at the bottom of the right hand margin. In this way the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and the 7c + 1c5 Panes, will be seen with the stamps sideways resting on their 47.15 side and the 10c + 2c Pane will be seen with the stamps looking the right way up. Also, in this manner, the watermark in all the Panes, of all four values, is sideways. But if the stamps are looked at individually, the right way up, the watermark in the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5 will be seen upwards and in the 10c + 2c will remain sideways.

This is the first time, since Printex have been producing Malta stamps, that when a Pane, is looked at as suggested above, (which I have always done in the past), stamps are seen sideways.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

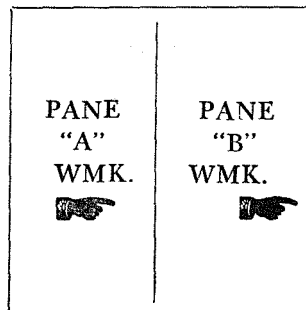
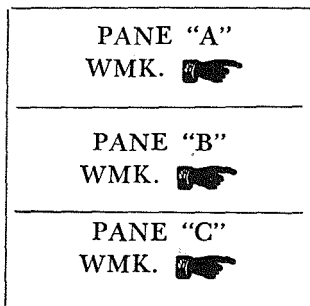
These are seen completely under the first stamp of the bottom row in the 10c + 2c value, but also extending on the left hand side of the first vertical perforation line in the other three values.

- 1c + 5m = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
- 5c + 1c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
- 7c + 1c5 = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
- 10c + 2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

Perforation of Margins:—

In the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5 values, the top margins of Pane "A" of all three values, are imperforate. The bottom margin of Pane "A" as well as the top and bottom margins of Panes "B" and "C" of the e values are fully perforated. The left hand and right hand margins of Panes "A", "B" and "C" of these values are also fully perforated.

In the 10c + 2c value, the top margins of Panes "A" and "B" are imperforate. The left hand margin of Pane "A" and the right hand margin of Pane "B" are nearly fully perforated except for a little space at the edges, where two more perforations could have been inserted. The right hand margin of Pane "A" and the left hand margin of Pane "B" are fully perforated. The bottom margins of Panes "A" and "B" are also fully perforated. The only registration marks seen were on Pane "A" of each of the three lower values. It was in the form of a small horizontal line or lines at the edge of the right hand margin, just under the first horizontal perforation line.



From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheets before cutting would look as shown above, the left hand side for the three lower values and the right hand side for the high value.

In this way the stamps of the three lower values would be seen sideways and the high value stamp, the right way up.

Imprint Blocks:—

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in the 10c + 2c value, but also extends to the right hand side of the last vertical perforation line, in the other three values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. As usual, a special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day issue. Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue, the sale of these stamps realized the sum of £M36,108.

We need a volunteer to compile a complete index up to 1976 of the Society's Magazine. If you have the time and feel like contributing something to the Society, please write to the Editor.

✱ Watch out for the next number of the Magazine. A competition can win you a prize.

SUITS OF ARMOUR ISSUE

Date of Issue	20th. January 1977.
Values	2c, 7c and 11c.
Stamp Size	47.15 mm × 20.5mm.
Art Designer	Chev. J. Briffa.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 × 13.5 Comb.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upwards.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

The colour of these stamps was produced by the four colour process, (Magenta, Yellow, Bright Blue and Black), but the colour of each value could be described as,

2c Green, Grey, Brown and Gold.

7c Vermilion, Ochre, Brown and Gold.

11c Blue, Grey, Brown and Gold.

Designs:—

One of the richest legacies left by the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Malta during their stay in Malta from 1530 to 1798, is the Armoury which is found at the Magisterial Palace in Valletta. The number of items it contains and the high quality of some of its items makes it one of the most interesting armouries in the world.

The 2c stamp features a suit of half armour belonging to Grand Master Jean de La Valette (1557-1568). The armour is of Milanese make, and is divided into bands, enriched with aqua fortis engravings. The 7c stamp features a full suit of armour, made for Aloph de Wignacourt, Grand Master (1601-1622). It is of Italian fashion, and by reason of its high quality of workmanship, its elegance of form and the richness of its ornamentation, it has a rightful claim to the first place among the best known 17th. Century suits of the armouries of Europe. Grand Master Wignacourt is represented wearing this armour in his portrait by Lionello Spada at the National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta.

The 11c stamp reproduces a suit of complete armour, made for the Grand Commander Jean Jacques de Verdellin (1500-1673). The work both from the point of design and execution, is really fine. Grand Master Wignacourt is represented wearing de Verdellin's armour in a portrait by Caravaggio at the Louvre, Paris.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of all values. Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in black in the 7c and 11c values. In the 2c value they are printed in magenta. The only relation I could find, between the difference in colour of these figures, is the different order of the colour checks in the three values. A close look at the colour checks will show that the order from top to bottom in the 7c and 11c values is: Bright Blue, Yellow, Magenta, Black, Brown and Gold, whilst in the 2c value the order is, Bright Blue, Yellow, Black, Magenta, Brown and Gold.

The Printed Sheets of all three values consist of three Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All stamps are of the vertical format.

All that was written about the three lower values of the Christmas Issue 1976, holds good for this set. That is, if a Pane of stamps was looked at in such a way, that the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left hand side of the bottom margin and the colour checks are at the bottom of the right hand margin, stamps will be seen sideways resting on their 47.15mm side. In this way the watermark is sideways, but if stamps are looked at individually, the right way up, the watermark is upwards.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

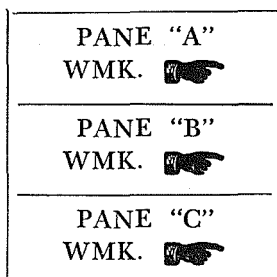
These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

7c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

11c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

Perforation of Margins:—



All margins of all Panes, of all values are fully perforated except the top margins of Pane "A", of all values, which is imperforated. No signs of any registration marks could be seen on any of the Panes examined.

The Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting, would look as shown on left. In this way, stamps would be seen sideways resting on their 47.15mm side.

Continued on Page 24

Malta - A DIARY

Compiled by JOE FARRUGIA

- 11-2-76 The two hand date-stamps in use at the Mosta Branch Post Office were withdrawn at the close of business on Wednesday, February 11. They were replaced by two new hand date-stamps, inscribed with the words "MOSTA — MALTA" as from Thursday, February 12.
- 1-4-76 New postal rates, inland and overseas, were published in separate legal notices in the Government Gazette of Tuesday, March 16. The new rates as well as new regulations on post office private boxes, came into force on April 1, that is at the beginning of the 1976/77 financial year. The increases in postal rates were announced by the Finance Minister, Dr. Joseph Abela, in his Budget speech on February 27.
- 1-4-76 Three new "postage paid" hand-stamps were used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta and at each Branch Post Office as from Thursday, April 1. The denominations were 5m, 1c and 2c respectively. All "postage paid" hand-stamps used previously at the G.P.O. and at Branch Post Offices were withdrawn at the close of business on Wednesday, March 31.
Registration envelopes in sizes "G" (small) and "H" (large) with 4 cent registration fee stamp obliterated and bearing a new registration fee stamp, incorporating the Emblem of Malta, were put on sale at the G.P.O., Branch Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices as from Thursday, April 1. The selling price of the registration envelope is, "G" size 7c each, "H" size 7c5 each.
- 1-4-76 A new hand date-stamp was used at the Gżira Branch Post Office as from Thursday, April 1. The date-stamp is inscribed with the words "GŻIRA — MALTA". The old date-stamp was withdrawn at the close of business on Wednesday, March 31.
- 7-4-76 A special machine stamp cancelling slogan reading, "World Health Day Foresight Prevents Blindness" was used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta on Wednesday, April 7.
- 20-4-76 A list of postage stamps, bearing sterling currency denominations issued in Malta from May 12, 1937, to March 20, 1972, which will no longer be valid for prepayment of postage as from October 20, 1976, was published in the Government Gazette of Friday, April 20. Any postal article stamped with such postage stamps, on or after October 20, will be deemed to be not duly stamped for the purposes of the Post Office Act, 1975.
As from October 20 and up to six months later, persons still in possession of stamps invalidated may surrender them to the Postmaster General, who will exchange them for other valid postage stamps of an equal value.
- 3-5-76 The Central Mail Room, Castile Place, Valletta as from Monday, May 3, started using three "postage paid" machine stamps. The stamps are inscribed with the words "Valletta/Malta Paid", and the respective denomination and date.
- 5-5-76 A special machine stamp-cancelling slogan, reading "5 TA' MEJJU 1976 — JUM L-EWROPA" (May 5, 1976 — Europa Day) was used at the Central Mail Room, Castile Place, Valletta on Wednesday, May 5.

- 13-5-76 A special machine stamp-cancelling slogan, reading "17 TA' MEJJU — JUM DINJI TAT-TELEKOMUNIKAZZJONI" (May 17, World Telecommunications Day) was used at the Central Mail Room, Castile Place, Valletta on working days from May 13 to 17.
- 20-5-76 Thursday, May 20 was the first of a two-day Auction of Malta stamps, by Stanley Gibbons. This auction fetched a total of £81,924. It is believed to be the highest total ever realised for a single auction of Maltese Philatelic material. There were 721 Lots in all, dating from 1600 to 1969. Top price of the sale was £1,800, paid for an unused block of four, of Malta's first stamp, the ½d Buff. Less than six such blocks of this stamp are known to exist.
- 21-5-76 A Branch Post Office was opened at Żabbar on Friday, May 21. Mail is post-marked by a date-stamp inscribed "ZABBAR — MALTA". Three "postage-paid" hand date-stamps of 5m, 1c and 2c denominations were also used at this Branch Post Office from the same date.
- 1-6-76 A new metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words "St. Paul's Bay S.P.O. — Malta" was used at the St. Paul's Bay Sub-Post Office as from Tuesday, June 1. The previous rubber hand date-stamp was withdrawn at the close of business on Monday, May 31.
- 3-6-76 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "JUM DINJI/TA' L-AMBJENT/5 TA' GUNJU" (World Environment Day, June 5) was used at the Central Mail Room, Castile Place, Valletta, from June 3-5.
- 25-6-76 A special hand-stamp cancellation, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Malta was used at the G.P.O. Valletta on Friday, June 25. (Fig. a).
- 1-7-76 A Post Office was opened on Thursday, July 1, at the XX International Trade Fair, Naxxar. A special hand-stamp cancellation, commemorating the event was used from July 1 to July 15. (Fig. e).
- 15-7-76 On the occasion of the first "Air Malta" Flight, Malta-Tunis on Thursday, July 15, 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, Auberge d'Italie, Merchants Street, Valletta. (Fig. c).
- 2-8-76 A newly-designed stamp cancelling slogan, worded "IBZA' GHALL-ILMA" (Save Water), came into use on local and incoming letters at the Central Mail Room, as from Monday, August 2.
- 9-8-76 Two "postage paid" machine stamps of the 5c and 7c denominations were introduced at the Central Mail Room of the Department of Posts, Castile Place, Valletta, as from today Monday, August 9. Both machine stamps are inscribed with the words "VALLETTA/MALTA — PAID" and the respective denomination and date.
- 13-8-76 A special hand post-mark with the words "PARLAMENT FIS-SALA L-GDIDA — MALTA" surrounding the emblem of Malta, the date "13-8-76", and the word "VALLETTA", was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail, at the General Post Office, on Friday, August 13, between 7.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. The post-mark marked the occasion of the first sitting of Parliament in the new Chamber (Fig. b).

- 23-8-76 The Branch Post Office at Prince of Wales Road, Sliema, was transferred to the Government School, Isouard Street, corner with Depiro Street, Sliema, as from Monday, August 23, until repairs at the Prince of Wales Road premises are completed. All postal facilities continued to be given at the temporary office. The letter box at the Prince of Wales Post Office continued to be used.
- 23-8-76 A new hand-stamp inscribed with the words "POSTAGE PAID — 3c — MALTA" was used at the Central Mail Room of the General Post Office from Monday, August 23.
- 28-8-76 A Branch Post Office was set up at the Grand Hotel Verdala, Rabat during the VI World Congress of Lasallian Federations between Saturday, August 28 and Tuesday, August 31.* The post office dealt with the sale of stamps and postal stationery, the registration of letters, the issue and payment of money and postal orders and the posting of parcels, between 8.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Postal articles posted at the Congress were postmarked with a date-stamp with the words, "VI KUNGRESS MONDJALI TAL-FEDERAZZJONIJIET LASALLJANI/MALTA" (Fig. g).
- 28-8-76 The Malta Post Office participated in the 28th. International Stamp Fair at Riccione, San Marino, between August 28 and 30. A limited number of commemorative covers were prepared, and sold at 3c each from the General Post Office. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O. during the period August 28 to 30. The postmark was inscribed with the words, "XXVIII INTERNATIONAL STAMP FAIR — RICCIONE — MALTA POST OFFICE". Identical postmarks were used at Riccione during the same period. (Fig. d).
- 1-9-76 A Sub-Post Office was opened at "Monarch", Church Square, Birżebbuġa, as from Wednesday, September 1st. A hand metal-stamp inscribed with the words "BIRZEB-BUĠA S.P.O. MALTA" was used at this Sub-Post Office.
- 6-9-76 A Branch Post Office was set up at the Corinthia Palace Hotel, during the Vth. European Poultry Conference between Monday, September 6 and Friday, September 10. The post office dealt with the sale of stamps and postal stationery, the registration of letters, the issue and payment of money and postal orders and the posting of parcels, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. except Wednesday, September 8. On Wednesday the post office was open between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Postal articles posted at the Conference were postmarked with a date-stamp having the words, "V EUROPEAN POULTRY CONFERENCE — MALTA" (Fig. f).
- 8-10-76 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading, "U.N. POSTAL ADMINISTRATION 25th. ANNIVERSARY 8-10-76" was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta.
- 9-10-76 A special hand postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail at the General Post Office, Valletta from 8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. This was to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Hobbies Society. The special hand postmark was inscribed with the words, "X ANNIVERSARY — HOBBIES SOCIETY 1966 — 1976, 9-X.76, VALLETTA — MALTA" (Fig. h).

- 14-10-76 The Malta Postal Administration participated in the Official Class of the World Stamp Exhibition ITALIA '76 which was held in Milan from October 14 to 24, 1976. ITALIA '76 was held under the patronage of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie.
- 23-10-76 The Malta Post Office participated for the second year running in the Third Annual Washington International Lions Stamp Show held in Washington, U.S.A. from the 23rd. to 25th. October, 1976. A special hand postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O. during the period 23rd. to 25th. October, 1976. The postmark was inscribed with the words, "INTERNATIONAL LIONS STAMP SHOW, WASHINGTON D.C. WILSHOW 111 — MALTA POST OFFICE." Identical postmarks were used at WILSHOW 111 during the same period. Commemorative covers at three cents each were sold from the G.P.O. as from the 19th October, 1976. A limited number of special covers each bearing one U.S. stamp and one Malta stamp, each cancelled with an appropriate postmark of the respective Postal Administration were also on sale at twenty cents each. (Fig. j and k).
- 23-10-76 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded, "JOINT ARAB CHAMBERS/OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE/MALTA 1976" was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta, on the 23rd. and 25th. October, 1976.
- 4-11-76 A special hand postmark with the words, "1946 — 1976 UNESCO MALTA" was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the counter at the General Post Office, Valletta, on November 4 from 8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. It marked the 30th. anniversary of UNESCO. (Fig. i).
- 15-11-76 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded, "GIMGHA NAZZJONALI TAL-KTIEB, 15-21 NOV. '76" was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta, on the 15th November, 1976.
- 17-11-76 A temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the Grand Hotel Verdala, Rabat, during the holding of the Malta Lions Europa Forum from the 17th to the 20th November 1976. A special commemorative cover was printed by the Department of Posts. These covers were on sale at 3 cents each from the G.P.O. Valletta as from the 15th November, 1976 and from the Verdala temporary branch from the 17th to the 20th November, 1976. The Branch Post Office was opened from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and from 8.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Satu day. The B.P.O. was open for the sale of stamps and postal stationery, registration of letters, issue and payment of Money and Postal Orders and posting of parcels.
A date-stamp, inscribed "LIONS INTERNATIONAL EUROPA FORUM, MALTA 1976" was used to postmark all postal articles posted at this B.P.O. (Fig. l).
- 18-11-76 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded "IL-POSTA TAQLEB GĦAS-SISTEMA METRIKA, 1 ta' JANNAR 1977" started being used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta as from Thursday, 18th November 1976.
- 22-11-76 A Sub-Post Office was opened at 21/1, Wilga Street, Paceville, on 22nd November, 1976. A hand metal date-stamp inscribed with the words "ST. JULIAN'S S.P.O. — MALTA", was used at this Sub-Post Office.

- 27-11-76 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded, "JUM TA' TFADDIL NAZZJONALI — IT-TFADDIL DMIR TAC-CITTADIN — 30 NOVEMBRU 1976" was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place Valletta, on the 27th, 29th and 30th November 1976.
- 29-11-76 A "postage paid" machine stamp of the 3 cents denomination was available at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta as from Monday, the 29th November, 1976. The "postage paid" machine stamp is inscribed with the words, "VALLETTA MALTA — 3c — PAID" and the date.
- 6-12-76 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded, "GHINU T-TFAL FIL-BZONN UZAW BOLLI TAL-MILIED" was used at the Central Mail Room, Casille Place, Valletta from the 6th December 1976.
- 17-12-76 In the Government Gazette of the 17th December 1976 it was stated that the 5 cents stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set had been reprinted again by Printex Limited, Malta and was for sale from the Philatelic Bureau.
- 17-12-76 The Post Master General notified that two "postage-paid" machine stamps were available at the Post Offices of Hamrun, Valletta, Sliema and B'kara as from Monday 20th December 1976. Each of the machine stamps is inscribed with the name of the "POST OFFICE — MALTA — PAID" and the 1 cent and 2 cents denomination.
- 21-12-76 The Postmaster General notified that due to a technical fault the "postage-paid" machine stamps which were to be available as from the 20th December 1976, at the Post Offices of Hamrun, Valletta, Sliema and B'kara, as notified in the Government Gazette of the 17th December 1976, will now be used at a later date which will be announced in due course.

Because of paper costs and due to shortage of space, small print had to be used for this article. Every effort will be made to use normal print for the 1977 diary.

A full page showing the special hand-postmarks mentioned in this diary, will be printed in the next issue of the magazine.

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(1937 - 1976)

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Continued from Page 18

Imprint Blocks:—

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row and also extending to the right hand side of the last vertical perforation line. Here again the Imprint in the 7c and 11c values is printed in black and in the 2c value, it is printed in magenta. Letters are 1mm high. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. Up to 4 p.m., on the first day of issue the sale of these stamp realised the sum of £M33,641.

S M A L L A D S

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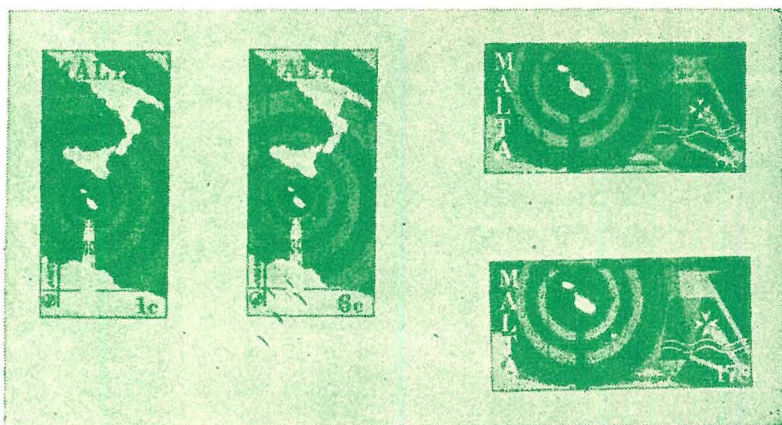
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REPUBLIC OF MALTA

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY ISSUE
TELECOMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT



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