



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

Commemorative Edition
Tenth Anniversary

Vol 6 No 1 & 2.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

The Privileges of membership are:

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 - * Monthly meeting from October to June.
 - * An Exchange Branch, using specially prepared society booklets through which every member is invited to buy or sell.
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-

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**THE
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY
OF
MALTA
MAGAZINE**

**TENTH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE EDITION
(May 1976)**

Vol. 6 Nos. 1 & 2

Winter/Spring 1976

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**FROM
THE
PRESIDENT'S
DESK:**



To those philatelists, who like myself, are fully aware of the difficulties encountered by previous philatelic societies in Malta and their comparatively short span of life, the Tenth Anniversary of the foundation of "The Philatelic Society of Malta" will no doubt be a source of justifiable pride and a tangible proof of what team-work and goodwill can achieve. It is also a landmark in the history of Philately in Malta.

It is exactly the keen interest, so manifestly displayed by a good number of members, who regularly support the activities of the Society and come forward with new ideas, coupled with a dogged determination to surmount the hurdles met with during the Society's lifetime which have seen it passing from strength to strength during its ten years of a healthy and pleasant existence.

It is indeed hard to believe that such a popular hobby as Philately, which even in the past, has counted in its wake many adherents in Malta, has, notwithstanding several attempts, never been successful in having an organised body to look after the interests of its followers, to promote amongst its members an esprit-de-corps and to encourage and facilitate the study of the stamps and postal history of our country.

Without any exaggeration whatsoever, I do sincerely feel that we could celebrated the Golden Jubilee instead of a Tenth Anniversary had members of previous societies shown the same interest and determination as has been shown during the last two lustres.

Yet it is a pity to realise that there are still hundreds of stamp enthusiasts who are persisting in turning a deaf ear to the call of our Society to join its folds. There are yet many more advantages to be gained as the membership of the Society grows and its financial status correspondingly enhanced. Foremost amongst these is my lifelong dream that the Society should have its own permanent home, which surely would give it an absolutely new life and outlook.

May this appeal of mine succeed in awakening those many dormant and indifferent stamp-collectors, who no doubt are totally unaware and therefore unappreciative of what our Society has to offer to them. May they come forward and give their support to the Society, which after all has one of the main objects of its very existence the assembling of stamp lovers under one roof.

On this occasion I would therefore like to express my gratitude and thanks to all Members of our Society for their continued and valuable support and contribution and in a special way to those who have so unselfishly given a good slice of their time in the organization and running of the various activities of the Society.

I would also like to express my most grateful thanks and sincere appreciation, as well as those of my Society, to the Directorate of the Catholic Institute who during the ten years of the Society's existence have so generously and so readily placed at our disposal appropriate accommodation for our meetings.

Finally, may I express right from now my heartfelt augury for 1991 that the Philatelic Society of Malta may befittingly celebrate its Silver Jubilee. This will surely be achieved, if by our determined and combined efforts we shall persevere in keeping alive that same spirit of goodwill and interest that has so successfully seen us through the last ten years.

J. H. MERCIECA

President

ADDRESS BY POSTMASTER GENERAL

It gives me great pleasure to be associated with the Philatelic Society of Malta on the happy occasion of the 10th Anniversary of its foundation.

The work of the Society over this decade of its existence is, I am sure, held in high esteem by the majority of collectors of Malta stamps, both in Malta and abroad. We at the Post Office certainly look upon the Society as a close friend and collaborator and we quite frequently discuss points of mutual interest. There are many occasions when Society Officials or individuals members call at the Department to offer useful and timely suggestions on philatelic matters and for this spirit of co-operation the Post Office is sincerely grateful. The expert advice that is given by officials and members of the Society on official Boards, among which are the Stamp Design Advisory Board, the Judging Panel of the Malta Philatelic Exhibitions and Boards for specific assignments, is invaluable to the Department of Posts. But perhaps the most tangible proof of the high standard of the Society's work is the fact that it is now a full member of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie.

Philately as a pastime ranks among the most commendable and satisfying. The need of interesting young people to take up the hobby, however, is ever present and in such an exercise the Society, as indeed the Post Office, could perhaps try to increase their efforts. I can say that in any activity by the Society aimed towards this goal every possible assistance will be forthcoming from this Department.

The staff of the Post Office, in particular the officers of the Philatelic Bureau, join me in extending congratulations to the Society on its 10th Anniversary and in sincerely wishing it every success in the future.

G. W. BORG

The Chairman of the "MALTA STUDY CIRCLE" of U.K. writes:

On behalf of the Malta Study Circle, congratulations to the Philatelic Society of Malta on completing ten successful years.

I have been visiting Malta for holidays since 1965 and over the years formed many friendships with people associated with Maltese Philately. As a result of this there has been a closer understanding of the numerous aspects of collecting and a greater degree of co-operation between the Malta Study Circle, based in London, and the Philatelic Society of Malta.

I was one of the first 'new boys' from the Malta Study Circle, who was invited to talk to the Philatelic Society of Malta. This was way back in 1967, and tongue in cheek proceeded to tell the members in Malta, on their home ground, about the work of the Study Circle and some of the postal history details which had been discovered. However, I am pleased to say it was well received and subsequently, several other members of the M.S.C. have made the trip to entertain the P.S.M. with many varied interesting selections of material.

Like most things, there have been many changes, not only within the Society but also in the Post Office, effecting the style of new issues, stamp issuing policies and development of a Philatelic Bureau to cater for the demand of Malta stamps.

I can remember back to the early days when new issues on first day covers received a normal Valletta c.d.s., but it was a clean cancellation. Now each new issue has a special decorative cancel which makes the covers even more interesting, resulting in, long queues at the post office every new issue day.

However, while collectors were busy buying up all the new stamps, a small devoted group was concentrating on finding out what happened in yesteryear, how the postal services started and evolved over the years. Very little of this information was recorded in any one book, but scattered throughout many publications. The Malta Study Circle, has been trying to piece together the parts of the jig-saw puzzle and print its findings in Study Papers on numerous aspects of Maltese Philately. Much of this would not have been possible if it had not been for the friendly exchanges of information between members of the Philatelic Society of Malta and the Malta Study Circle. I hope this work and co-operation will continue, so good luck to the Philatelic Society of Malta, and look forward to another celebration in ten years time.

Graham Smeed

THE "GIBRALTAR MALTA — CYPRUS — STUDY CIRCLE" in Germany

In 1974 some collectors of Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus stamps and postal history decided to establish a study circle to get a group of people all interested in the same subject working together and collecting information about postal services in these three countries.

These activities have been initiated and coordinated by Dr. H. Kühne, Aud der Höhe 36, 483 Gütersloh. The study circle is divided into 3 sections, one section for each country.

At the moment we have 49 members and are still expanding. We are publishing newsletters, two in 1974, 3 in 1975, and we try to achieve 4 in 1976. Normally we attach to these newsletters, study papers, which are basically translations of the study papers edited by the Malta Study Circle. We have for instance published study papers on the following subjects:

“Postal History of Malta to the end of the 19th Century”

“The Air Mail of Malta”

“Slogan — and Machine — Postmarks of Malta” and

“International Reply Coupon”.

The next study paper will be on postage due stamps and postmarks.

Up to now we had 2 auctions with a total sales of DM 505,50 the first and DM 1,345,00 the second. This is not too much, but we hope to beat these figures with our 3rd auction, which is going to be prepared. We have initiated an exchange packet service just a couple of weeks ago.

Our second annual meeting was held on April 10th, 1976 in Wuppertal on the occasion of the NAPOSTA, our national stamp exhibition.

We do welcome everybody throughout the world as a member in our circle.

Gerhard Dörflinger

Arndtstr. 18

D-6204 Taunusstein 1

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 5th January, 1976 at the Catholic Institute, Floriana. The President, Dr. J.H. Mercieca, DDS, took the chair in the presence of some forty members.

The President opened the meeting by offering the Society's congratulations to those members who had gained awards at international exhibitions during the past year. These were:

Espana 75	A. Fenech	Silver Medal
Wien 75	Dr. A. Bonnici	Silver Gilt Medal
	G. Said	Silver Gilt Medal
6th. Malta Exhib.	Dr. E. Aquilina	Gold Medal
	G. Coates	Silver Gilt Medal
	A. Caruana-Ruggier	Bronze Medal

The Honorary Secretary, in presenting his Annual Report, was first pleased to announce that the Society had been accepted as a full member of the Federation International de Philatelie. Thus, the Society would now represent Malta at the highest levels of international philately, and its members be enabled to participate in all international exhibitions under the aegis of the F.I.P.

In addition to its monthly meetings, at which several members had given talks and displayed philatelic material, the Society had been pleased to welcome and entertain visitors from overseas, who talked to members and showed some extremely interesting items from their own collections:

Dr. R.K. Clough	—	The 'Queen Victoria' stamps of Malta
Mr. Graham Smeed — Chairman		
The Malta Study Circle	—	Malta Stamps and Postal History
Mrs. P. Turnbull (from Victoria, Australia)	—	The Early Postal History of Malta

In conjunction with Mr. Smeed's visit, the opportunity was taken to mount an exhibition of members' displays, which was open to the public, in the Ballroom of the Phoenicia Hotel. This attracted considerable interest and resulted in a number of new members for the Society.

The Society's 'News Letter' had taken on a new lease of life under the capable editorship of Mr. Nick Cutajar, and it was hoped that it would now appear regularly three times a year, giving news of forthcoming activities and publishing articles of interest to members.

The Exchange Branch, under its superintendent Anthony Fenech, continued to flourish, books circulating among some thirty members. A modest, but welcome, addition to the Society's funds has resulted from this.

The Society has been grateful for the interest shown by the Postmaster General, Mr. George Borg, who attended one of its meetings, and with whom close liaison on Government's philatelic policy is now enjoyed.

The Secretary concluded by reminding members that 1976 sees the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Society. It is intended to commemorate this event in a number of ways, details of which are being worked out by a sub-committee and which will be communicated to members at an early date.

The election of members to serve on the Committee for 1976 then took place:

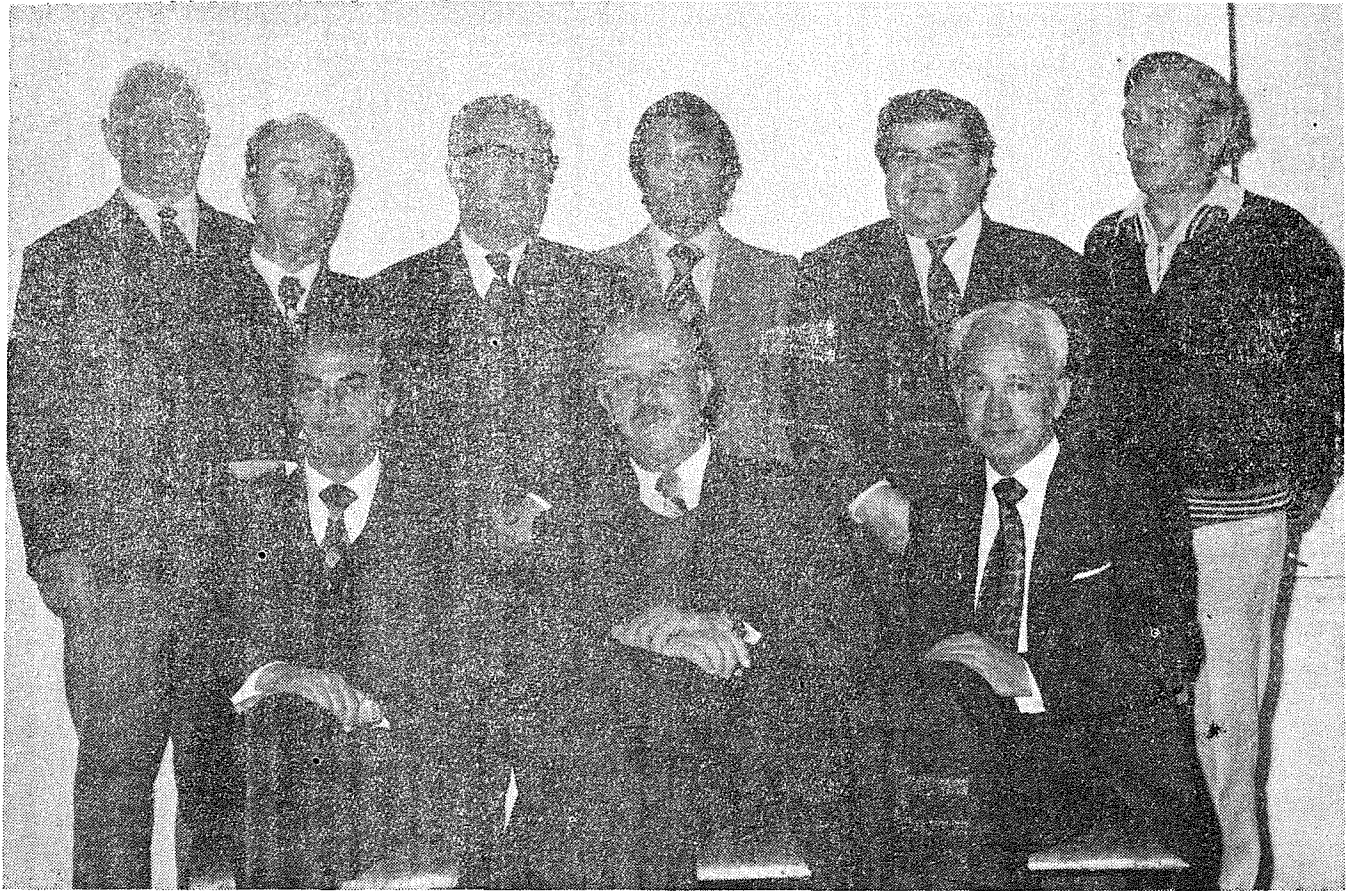
President:	Dr. J. H. Mercieca
Vice-President	Dr. A. Bonnici
Hon. Secretary	Dr. A. Ganado
Asst. Hon. Secretary	Mr. E.H. Collins
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. G. Pace
Exchange Superintendent	Mr. A. Fenech
Editor — 'News-Letter'	Mr. N.A. Cutajar
Press Relations	Mr. S.N. Bush
Members	Dr. E. Aquilina
	Mr. C. Bonavia
	Mr. G. Said

The President, in closing the meeting, expressed the Society's thanks to Mr. Anthony Cassar-Torregiani who had acted as its Honorary Treasurer for the past four years, but who, for personal reasons, did not seek re-election to the Committee.

The President also thanked the management committee of the Catholic Institute for its continued grant of facilities to the Society for the holding of its monthly and committee meetings, which was very greatly appreciated.

The meeting concluded by the President thanking all members for their support during the past year, but reminding them that, although membership was slowly increasing, still more members were needed, and appealed to any interested in philately to seek membership: also for more advertisers in the Magazine to offset the ever increasing cost of publication.

A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the chair.



The 1976 P.S.M. Committee. Standing (left to right): Messrs. S.N. Bush; Dr. E. Aquilina; C. Bonavia; G. Said; A. Fenech; E.H. Collins. Seated: Dr. A. Ganado; Dr. J.H. Mercieca; G.M. Pace;



THE EVOLUTION OF THE ONE HALF PENNY QUEEN VICTORIA YELLOW STAMP

by

Dr. ALFRED BONNICI

B.Pharm. M.D. M.R.S.H. M.P.

The principal aim of this study is to establish with documented proof the number of printings in chronological order, and record the known Philatelic Gems of the controversial $\frac{1}{2}$ d Malta Queen Victoria Yellow.

It is nearly impossible to be dogmatic on the interpretation of the various shades, as no two persons will see these difficult shades alike. In differentiating between shades, one has to remember that:

1. the ink was 'fugitive',
2. dirt and over inking accumulated on the rollers, giving the impression of muddy appearance,
3. with used copies, bleaching has taken place, especially when one remembers that the Malta water contains a very high percentage of calcium and chlorine, and this must have faded the colour considerably.

However, in spite of the shade, in the great majority of the stamps, the true nature of the ink mixture can best be understood by examining the solid value tablet with a strong magnifying glass.

In the past various studies were attempted, but in spite of this, there has ranged a tremendous amount of doubt and controversy over the number of printings, and their dates of issue. Among the pioneers who established such material were: Mr. Sefi; Lt. W.R. Gatt (1920); R.B. Yardley (1921); Sir E.D. Bacon (1929) in 'The London Philatelist'; and Major P. Orme (paper in 1960).

In 1958 John Eastman published "The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps 1885-1901", on behalf of the Royal Philatelic Society, and devoted two full pages, pages 250 and 360, to the Queen Victoria $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow. Eastman missed the 30th printing. There were actually twenty nine yellow printings, and one green printing, and not twenty eight yellow printings as claimed by Eastman, and that between the 28th and 30th, there was a $\frac{1}{2}$ d Green printing, which De La Rue delivered in two instalments, one on the 20th June 1884, and the other on the 5th July 1884.

On the 1st December, 1960, Major Fred Orme, T.D., published his paper "Malta Half Penny Centenary" and my reproduction of the Invoices and correspondence, from the Archives of the British Postal Museum, hope to establish once and for all the number of printings, and to allay the fears of those who doubt Major Orme's classification. In order to achieve this, I wanted to find concrete proof, and record it. With nothing less than such detail will the ever doubting minds of philatelists be once and for all be satisfied.

My research commenced among the Archives of the House of Representatives in Malta, the Malta Postal Authorities, and the National Postal Museum, London, who are now in possession of the Day Books, Invoices and Correspondence Books of the De La Rue Company. The printers were always conscious of the importance of keeping meticulous correspondence records, which were carefully collected and mounted by their Archivist, the later Mr. G. Leslie Newman, in 83 volumes. These, together with some 450 volumes of correspondence etc., have now been lent on long loan to the British Postal Museum, and my thanks go to the Curator, Mr. A.G. Rigo de Rigi, for allowing me access to their archives, and supplying me with photo-copies and slides of these interesting documents.

CHAPTER I

1st PRINTING (21st JULY 1859) UNWATERMARKED BLUE PAPER, PERF. 14 — BUFF

Up till 1860 letters for inland distribution were delivered privately and by mail contractors. The church Authorities and Business organizations had their own organized deliveries.

In 1853 an important change occurred at the sitting of the Council of Government on 31st March 1853: the Chief Secretary announced the intention of the Government to establish a daily local post to serve Valletta, the Three Cities (Senglea, Vittoriosa and Cospicua) and all the Casals (villages) of Malta and Gozo within the near future. This service, being experimental, was to be Gratuitous, no postage being required for the transit of letters between one locality and another in the Islands. The letters were dispatched to and from the various localities by a mail contractor, who hired a number of boys to carry the letters to and from the Police Stations, where they were held and displayed in glass boxes and handed over when claimed. A sum of £42 was voted to defray the expenses. So on the 10th June 1853, the Free Internal Post was inaugurated. This state of affairs although experimental lasted up till 1860, and as British stamps were being used for overseas mail, a special stamp for inland use was felt to be appropriate.

This was fully explained in the Council of Government of March 1859, by the Crown Advocate General after the Chief Secretary had moved the resolution, which was agreed, and His Excellency reported progress (Minutes, p. 283). In page 231 of the Minutes Book of the Council of Government, under "Seventh Supplementary Estimate", we find the following entry:

(Council of Government of Malta) Committee of Supply. Services exclusive of establishments. Notice given March 9/3/59. Resolution No. 85, in sitting No. 64 March 12/59.

Resolved:

That it is the opinion of this Committee that a sum not exceeding £110 chargeable upon the revenue of the year 1859, be applied, under the head of Miscellaneous Services for cost of a die and other articles for making stamps for a half penny postage for the transmission of letters by the inland post.

Proposed by Victor Hamilton

Seconded by

Passed

G. B. Trapani
Clerk to the Council.

Accordingly on the 30th April 1859, an order was sent to the "Crown Agents for the Colonies", who in turn commissioned Messrs. Thomas De La Rue (now the De La Rue Co.) to go ahead with the engraving of the die, which was executed by J.F. Poubert de la Forte.

PROOFS Proofs in black from the die were struck on white glazed card; one dated in pencil "21.6. 9" appeared in the Frank Basil's sale by Robson Lowe on the 13th October 1972, item 1103, and another die proof inscribed in pencil "after hardening, June 28/59" in Harmer's June sale of 1970, item 118.

Similar but "cut down" proofs in black having 2mm margins, and another in yellow on white paper having 1mm margins, appeared in Harmer's June sale of 1970, items 119 & 120.

SPECIMEN A cut down die proof in yellow on white paper overprinted "SPECIMEN" in black appeared at Harmer's 15th & 16th June sale, as item 121.

IMPERFORATE Major Fred Orme mentions that plate proofs taken in Buff on Blued paper, the issued colour, and imperforate do exist. Although few in number, one appeared on the market as item 147 P in Harmer's June 1970

sale, and was described as "½d. buff, imperf. S.G. 1a, unused margins all round, fine, very scarce only a few examples exist. With B.P.A. certificate". Lately this re-appeared in Stanley Gibbons "Classics of the British Empire" sale of the 4th October, 1973, as item 39, and was described as "1860, ½d. buff, variety, imperf, S.G. 1a, unused, a great rarity, only two or three other examples known with B.P.A. certificate 1949". It created considerable competition and fetched the the record price (for a Malta stamp) of £1750.

The plate formed was an electro type one, the engraving being in relief or in Cameo, consisting of four panes, two above and two below, each containing sixty stamps in ten horizontal rows of six. In the side margins, near the upper right and lower left corner of the sheet, are plate numbers — the numeral "1" in white on a small circular coloured disc, with an inner white concentric circle; and above the upper panes and also between the two upper and the two lower panes, is the inscription "MALTA POSTAGE ONE HALPENNY". There is also a perforation cross in the upper margin and from 1863, the horizontal space between the panes was watermarked Crown Colonies.

This die was used throughout the 29 printings as well as the ½d green printings.

From 1st December 1860 it was decided to impose a local letter rate of ½d. per ½ ounce as detailed in the following Government Notice:—

His Excellency the Governor having been pleased to order a daily delivery of Inland letters and newspapers in the towns of Valletta, Floriana, and Sliema, and the erection of letter boxes at different parts of Valletta, for the greater convenience of the public, notice is hereby given that on-after the 1st of December, 1860, properly and clearly addressed letters placed in such boxes will be treated in every respect as if posted at the General Post Office (British Post Office), provided such letters if destined for the Inland Post, bear the Malta Halfpenny Stamp, in proportion to their weight, and if destined for other countries, be properly stamped, according to the regulations laid down in the Malta Postal Guide.

The Island deliveries will be as follows:—

The Letters or newspapers for other places in Malta and for Gozo will continue to be dispatched as at present, and will be exhibited at the respective Police Station. A rate of one halfpenny for every letter of a weight not exceeding half-an-ounce and an additional halfpenny for every

additional half-ounce or fraction of a half-ounce will be chargeable on letters so delivered, and this postage must in all cases be paid in advance by means of local postage stamps of the value of one halfpenny each, which may be purchased at the Post Office, at the Police Stations, and at the principal stationers' shops in the town.

No charge will be made for newspapers.

It should, however, be particularly borne in mind that these local postage stamps will not be available for prepaying ANY letters intended to be forwarded to any place beyond the Islands of GOZO and MALTA, and that letters, not intended for either of these Islands, which may be found to have such local stamps affixed to them, will be considered Unpaid and treated accordingly.

Palace, Va'letta
Nov. 16th, 1860

By Command
(Signed)
V. Houlton
Chief Secretary
To the Governor.

In spite of the above, Major Cole has an Entire with a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. buff dated "SP 16/63" Duplex, addressed to Philipville, Algires.

1860 1st Printing (S.G. 1 & Said No. 1).

In page 41 of "Day Book A", of Thomas De La Rue, for the period 30th November 1857 to 30th June 1864, we find the following invoice:

FIRST INVOICE

1859
July 21st
100
1 2
7 6
101 9 6

Agents General Crown Colonies
One form containing 240 stamps
Malta-Duty. "One Half Penny"
ordered April 30th 1859
100 sheets of stamps in fugitive
perforated = 24000 stamps @ 11d per 1000
Packing in tin lined cases

Printed on paper bought from W. Turner
(part of three reams)

Signed E.M.M.

From this invoice we can draw the following conclusions:

- a. Delivery date: 21st July 1859.
- b. 24000 stamps were printed on 100 sheets, "Each sheet consisting of four panes, each pane consisting of ten rows by six."
- c. The ink was fugitive which accounts for the shades within a printing (buff and bistre-brown, Orme).
- d. In this particular printing the picture is quite clear at first, — buff, but as the ink dirt accumulated on the rollers we begin to have a muddy appearance — bistre brown, which is scarcer.
- d. Paper was bought from M. Turner, of Chafford Mill, Kent: Unwatermarked, blued paper, and perforation 14.

So although from the above we know that the first $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow printing was despatched from London on 21st July 1859, for some unknown reason, although badly needed in Malta, it was not put on the market before the 1st December 1860.

SPECIMENT S.G. 1, no watermark, blued paper, per. 14 exist overprinted "SPECIMEN" in black bold capital letters.

DATED The following covers have been recorded:

COPIES Kit Sloan — 3.1.61 and 2.10.61;
Mrs. P. Turnbull — 22.3.61;
Robson Lowe (1st & 14th April 1966 Sale) — Cover addressed to Gozo, dated 15.1.61;
Dr. E. Aquilina — 16.1.61;
Harmer 1971 Sale — Pair on cover dated 28.1.61;
Sefi — 21.1.61;
Wardley — 3.4.61 and 17.7.61.

Postmarks Used — The First Cancellation Used.

The "M" obliteration in a horizontal oval of bars measuring $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm in width, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm in height, was used to frank British stamps used in Malta (for overseas mail) and for franking the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Queen Victoria, on blued paper, during the month of December 1860 only. Stamps franked in this manner either as a single or on entire are quite rare. A pair S.G. 1. with the "M" cancellation appeared in Harmer's 15th & 16th June 1970 sale as item 146, addressed to Zejtun-Malta.

The second cancellation used to frank the first $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow was the 1.9 cm single ring, which was already in use to register the arrival of a letter from overseas. It is usually found at the back together with other transit cancellations. This type of cancellation was used for a relatively short time, the earliest recorded date being 3rd Jan. 1861 (Harmer June 1970, item 141). The ones I have examined have the following characteristics:

Slug A/Malta (In a straight line in block letters),
Month (abbreviated) & date/Last two digits of the year.

This type of cancellation was followed by the circular ring having the above characteristics, combined with the "A 25" in an oval of bars. This A25 duplex circular cancellation, exists with thick and thin bars, the thin bar type being the rarer. So far I have only been able to record A, B, C, and D slugs on the circular ring of the A25 thick bar duplex. The latest date known is 13.11.62 (Orme, Robson Lowe, 1965 Sale, item 541).

CHAPTER '2'

1861 — 1863 Unwatermarked, White Paper, Perf. 14

A rather controversial issue in the unwatermarked white paper — Perf. 14, series, is whether there were three printings as listed by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Said as S.G./Said Nos 2, 3, 4, or in actual fact only two as claimed by Major F. Orme.

From the Invoices of Private Day Book AA of Messrs De La Rue, it results that the following printings were executed on the dates specified below.

2nd Printing	17th August 1861	Private Day Book AA Page 92
3rd Printing	11th September 1862	Private Day Book AA Page 134
4th Printing	17th April 1863	Private Day Book AA Page 168
5th Printing	11th January 1864	Private Day Book AA Page 233

The earliest recorded date of a Watermarked, Crown CC, Perf. 14 stamp is 4th June 1863 and a cover addressed to "Il Conti A. Sant, Commandante del Forte Chambray" — Gozo, having one watermarked Crown CC white paper — perf 14 stamp has the date 29th November 1863. (C. Smith). This proves that the watermarked Crown CC white paper perf. 14, belongs to the 4th Printing of the 17th April 1863, as the 5th Printing was Invoiced on the 11th January 1864, and so like Orme, we are quite correct in assuming that there were only two Unwatermarked — white paper, perf. 14 printings; namely the 2nd printing of the 17th August 1861 and the 3rd Printing of the 11th September 1862.

The 2nd Printing — 17th August 1861 (S.G. & Said Nos. 2 & 4)

Buff (variation: stone colour); white paper; no watermark: perf. 14.

Invoice from Private Day Book AA Page 92

17th Aug. 61. The Agents General for Crown Colonies
106 Sheets of Postage Labels
for Malta, duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

240 on sheets = 25,440 labels @ 11d	1	3	4
Packed in tin lined case		7	6

Delivered to Mr. Winckley	1	10	10
---------------------------	---	----	----

The 3rd Printing — 11th September 1862

Brown Orange; white paper; no watermark; per. 14.

Invoice from Private Day Book AA Page 134

1862 Agents General for Crown Colonies

Sept. 11th Malta Postage Stamp

109 Sheets Malta Stamp Duty one half penny			
240 on sheet = 26,160 @ 11d	1	4	-
Making ready the form (less than 1 Reem)		10	-
Packing		7	6

Delivered this day to Mr. Winckley receipt left	2	1	6
--	---	---	---

The 2nd printing of 17th August 1861 is a Buff shade — a blurred and muddy printing which has not been seen used after 1862. The so called pale-buff, or clear stone shade listed by S.G. & Said as No. 2, did not comprise a complete printing, as very few copies have been recorded. The only copies recorded are dated "MAR 28/62" and "APR 2/62" — (F. Orme). Of all the famous collections that have been sold on the market over the past ten years, there was not one single mint block of four, the last recorded being in the Damsell collection, which makes such a mint block of four numerically rarer than S.G. 1, whereas from the above quoted Invoices we know that the 2nd printing of the 17th August 1861 consisted of 106 sheets, a total of 25,440 stamps, and the third printing of the 11th September 1862 (S.G. & Said No. 4) consisted of 109 sheets, a total of 26,160 stamps. This printing is the Brown Orange shade which is not recorded as used prior to 1863.

From the above it is therefore clear that the pale buff (S.G. & Said No. 2) is a variation of the 2nd printing of the 17th August 1861, and that S.G. & Said Nos. 2 & 4 are really the 2nd printing of the 17th August 1861.

We may therefore safely conclude that the period 1861-63, (what S.G. and Said list as Nos. 2, 3, 4, Unwatermarked, white paper, perf. 14), really consist of the:—

2nd Printing 17th August 1861 — Buff shade — variation pale buff
(S.G. & Said Nos. 2 & 4) and the

3rd Printing 11th September 1862 — Brown Orange
(S.G. & Said No. 3).

The 2nd printing of the 17th August 1861 was issued in Malta in November 1861, and the earliest and latest recorded dates are 24.1.62 (Orme) and 16.12.62 respectively. One dated the 8th Dec. 1862 is on entire addressed to H.Sig.Dr.Av. Guseppi Xuereb, Gozo, (Bonnici, Malta), while one on piece has the date 16.12.62 (Bonnici, Malta).

The 3rd printing of the 11th September 1862 was issued in Malta in 1863 and the earliest and latest recorded dates are 11.1.63 and 12.12.63 respectively, (Orme).

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CHARITY OR WELFARE STAMPS

by DR. J.H. MERDIECA

President

It is unfortunately not known who was the first person to come out with the idea to use stamps not only for the franking of letters and other postal articles but also, at the same time, to afford a measure of social help.

It is indeed a pity that the name of this person has remained unknown. The inventor of this splendid idea would have certainly deserved a monument to his memory, although he himself would have surely had no notion of the immense usefulness his charitably-motivated idea would have later been to social help, especially after it had gathered momentum and become so widely diffused throughout the world as we see it to-day.

With the issue of its first ever charity stamp of $4\frac{1}{2}$ p + $1\frac{1}{2}$ p, on the 22nd January of this year, Great Britain is the last but one country to have joined the band-waggon of countries in Europe which have issued such stamps, the other being the Republic of Eire.

The first ever charity stamps were not issued in Europe but in the Australian States of Victoria and New South Wales in the 1897, when these states still issued their own stamps. In both states a set of 2 stamps of the denominations 1d and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d were sold at 1/- and 2/6 respectively. The surcharge in the case of Victoria was passed on to a Hospital Fund whereas in New South Wales it was used to raise funds to build a Consumptives Home. We further find that in the year 1900 the State of Victoria issued its second Charity set of 2 stamps of the denominations of 1d and 2d which were sold at 1/- and 2/- respectively, the surcharge going in aid of the Boer War Patriotic Fund. A set of 2 stamps of the same denominations and sold for the same scope was issued by Queensland in the same year.

Thus, these have definitely been the forerunners of a class of stamps which throughout the years were destined to be of immense value in helping different charities and of which the majority of countries have made good use in raising funds for the Red Cross, in national calamities such as hurricanes and earthquakes. Later on such stamps have also been issued to raise funds for the holding of Philatelic Exhibitions, for the participation of national teams at the Olympic Games, erection of monuments and to help raise money for Sinking Funds.

After a seven year interval, the West Indian island of Barbados issued in 1907 the "Kingston Relief Fund" 1d on 2d stamp. This stamp which was sold at 2d had a franking validity of 1d, the other penny went to the fund in aid of the victims of the Jamaican earthquake.

In 1923 Jamaica issued a set of three stamps of the denominations $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d each with a surcharge of $\frac{1}{2}$ d in aid of the Children's Welfare Fund. These stamps were on sale for one month at the beginning of each subsequent year up to 1927.

The idea of these Charity stamps gained favour with other Commonwealth countries and we find that in 1929 New Zealand issued its first stamp with a surcharge, the 1d + 1d inscribed "Help stamp our Tuberculosis" and a year later the same stamp was reissued with the inscription altered to "Help promote Health". Ever since New Zealand has yearly issued these health sets which are rather popular with collectors.

The then colony of British Honduras (now Belize), in 1932 had the lowest five denominations of the current King George V set overprinted with a premium equivalent to the face value of the respective stamp and the wording "Belize Relief Fund" in aid of the victims of the hurricane.

In 1933 South Africa too issued a set of four stamps with a surcharge in aid of the Vortrekker Memorial Fund. In 1935 these same stamps were overprinted S.W.A. and used in the territory of South West Africa.

The above are the earliest Charity stamps to be issued in the British Commonwealth and naturally enough there have later on been several other such issues from different colonies and territories.

Amongst the European nations Roumania and Russia were the first two countries to issue Charity stamps. In 1905 Russia issued a set of 4 stamps each of which was sold with a premium of 3 Kopecks in aid of the orphans of the russo-japanese war, whereas between 1905/06 Roumania issued no fewer than four sets of 4 stamps each with a surcharge in aid of charities. These stamps had only internal postal validity and thus could not be used for franking letters destined for abroad.

The next European country to have Charity stamps was Holland which in 1906 issued a set of three stamps of low denominations each with an equivalent premium in aid of the Anti-tuberculosis Campaign. Since 1923 up to the present Holland has yearly issued one or two such sets in aid Children's Charities.

In 1910 BELGIUM issued 2 sets of 4 stamps each, depicting St. Martin on horseback after a painting by Van Dyck. These stamps were sold with a premium equivalent to their face value except in the case of the 10c on which the premium was 5c, for the Exhibition of Belgian Art of the XVIIth Century. In 1911 these same two sets were re-issued overprinted "1911" and later again "Charleroi 1911".

In the same year, too, Italy issued its first ever set with a surtax to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the occupation of Sicily by Garibaldi. Two pairs of the same denominations were issued, each in a different design.

But, perhaps the most attractive and widely-collected series of Charity stamps are the popular Pro-Juventute stamps of Switzerland, which since 1913 to date have been uninterruptedly issued every year with a small surcharge in favour of youth charities. During the 61 years these stamps have been issued, we find that a variety of subjects have been selected for the stamps including coats of arms of the various cantons, national costumes, landscapes and mountain scenes of Switzerland, prominent nationals, flowers, sports, butterflies, birds etc.

During the 1914-18 War many European countries issued their first Charity stamps in aid of the Red Cross, war orphans and the war effort and these included Austria, France, Greece etc. Many other countries, which had already issued Charity stamps before, again issued such stamps in aid of these deserving causes.

After the First World War we find that other European countries such as Germany, Poland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and others started issuing sets of stamps with a surcharge in favour of some charitable cause and though some of them have discarded the idea or resorted to it very occasionally others have issued them yearly or still more often.

The purchase and use of these stamps is, in the great majority of cases, voluntary and during the period of their sale, definitive stamps of the equivalent denominations are kept currently on sale on the counters, yet in a few instances charity stamps had to be used additionally to the stamps franking a letter.

As a general rule, in the various countries issuing these stamps, the proceeds recovered from the surcharge went to local charities, whereas in a few instances, such as in the case of Denmark, stamps were issued with a surcharge in aid of foreign charities, such as the 1953 stamp NL + 10 ore in aid of the flood victims of the Netherlands and in 1957, the 30 + 5 ore in aid of the Hungarian refugees.

Apart from the ½d and 3d War Tax stamps, Malta was one of the last countries in Europe to issue a charity set proper i.e. with a surcharge and and it was only in 1969 that for the first time the Christmas set of that year was issued with a small surcharge of 5d on the whole set, in aid of local charities. This policy of a surcharge on the Christmas stamps has been kept ever since. Additionally the 1971, 1972 and 1973 sets were also issued in Miniature sheet form, which idea was discontinued in 1974.

All in all, it is felt, that the idea of such stamp issue is commendable, as it gives the charity-minded members of the public an opportunity to contribute voluntarily to a deserving cause, so long as the surcharge is reasonable and is not grossly overdone as has been the case in some unfortunate issues where the charity premium was fixed at several times the face value of the stamps undesirable and objectionable and smacking of high-handed speculation.

APRIL MEETING

The House Auction

On Monday April 5th, the Society organised what might be termed the most successful evening for the season so far, when a house auction was held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana. The evening drew one of the largest crowds ever to attend a function organised by the Society with well over sixty members in attendance, attracting some of those who make an appearance on the 29th February.

A five-page catalogue list, comprising 135 lots, mostly Great Britain and Malta material, with some European, Commonwealth and other popular countries also represented, was produced and mailed to members well in advance of the auction date.

The President of the Society, Dr. J.H. Mercieca, opened the meeting after members had an opportunity of viewing the various lots which were to be auctioned, pointing out the importance that was being attached to the function, and registering his satisfaction of seeing such a sizeable number of members present.

Starting at 6.45 p.m. Mr. B. Jacobs, who handled the gavel, ably assisted by Mr. S.N. Bush, with an expertise that brought him an impromptu round of applause at the end of the auction, went through the various lots with great efficiency.

Rather surprisingly there was very little interest in a number of bargain mint lots of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Australia, most members obviously being interested in the Great Britain and Malta items. Prices of most G.B. and Malta lots fetched in the region of between 50% and 80% of catalogue prices, with a couple of exceptions. A small packet of revenue stamps, with an estimate of 25c fetched £2. All the Malta postmark items were sold, a Gharghur strike fetching £10 (estimate £8), and a small collection of village postmarks realising £17 on an estimate of £8.

A mint set of the Malta 1956 Q.E. II definitives, complete to the £1, realised £15 — a real bargain for the buyer, as this set is listed by S. Gibbons in the new catalogue at £40 — and this particular Malta issue has been singled out recently by a number of philatelic tipsters as a “good buy”.

Almost one hundred of the lots were sold, with the total realisation amounting to £171, from which the Society enjoys a commission of about £20, a very useful addition to our funds. The general feeling at the end of the sale was that the evening was a great success. The two members responsible for the entire organization, Messrs. B. Jacobs and S.N. Bush, did a fine job. With such an expert auctioneer, with the support and the obvious interest of a large number of members, there is no reason why the Society should not hold a bigger and better auction in the very near future. Before the close of the evening, photographs of the members present and the committee were taken.



**DURING
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AUCTION**

left to
right:

**Dr. J.H. Mercieca,
President,
Mr. S. M. Bush,
and the
auctioneer
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The twenty-fifth anniversary of the first issue of United Nations stamps will be commemorated with special displays throughout the year at philatelic exhibitions in various parts of Europe. The highlight of this programme will be reached on 8 October 1976 when commemorative stamps and first day covers, honouring UNPA's anniversary, will be made available to philatelists simultaneously in New York, Geneva and Valletta.

1976 NEW ISSUES

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|-------------|--|
| 23 April | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| 31 May | United Nations Conference on Human Settlements |
| 8 October | 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Postal Administration |
| 19 November | United Nations World Food Council |

These stamps help to bring the work of the World Organisation to the attention of a wider audience.

The stamps to be issued on 8 October 1976 in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Postal Administration will be different from all other United Nations stamps issued so far. Firstly, they will be printed in sheets of 20 not 50 stamps to a sheet as in the case of all previous issues. Secondly, the US denominations will be of one design and the Swiss denominations will be of another.

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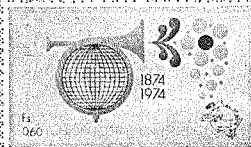
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THE DIPLOMATIC COURIER OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY MALTA

By Paul Cassar, S.B.St.J., M.D., B.Sc., D.P.M., F.R.Hist.S.,

Hon. Fellow of the Royal University of Malta

The scope of placing the transmission of diplomatic correspondence on a privileged footing is to allow the government of a country to communicate with its official representative abroad privately and without its being subject to the scrutiny of foreign powers.

The diplomatic courier service of the Order of St. John during the eighteenth century operated in three ways: — (a) “in the ordinary way” (*per la via ordinaria*) i.e. through the established postal service (*secondo il corso della posta*); (b) entrusting despatches to members of the Order who happened to be coming to Malta from abroad; and (c) by means of an *ad hoc* boat to various ports in Sicily and Italy.

By 1761 direct sea connections had been established between Malta and the following places:— Syracuse, Augusta, Licata, Messina and Naples.

The type of boat employed was the *speronara* or the *felucca* which is referred to as the *speronara del dispaccio* (1729) except when sent with urgency when it was called *seria speronara* or *barca seria*.

From the above-named ports, the despatches were forwarded to their ultimate destination by the “land courier”. Naples was the main clearing centre. In fact from this city, correspondence was sent by courier to the ambassador at Rome who was sometimes asked to direct despatches from Malta to his counterpart in Paris; to the Order’s ambassadors at Paris and at Vienna; and to the Receiver in Turin. Despatches to the English monarch in London were routed through the Order’s ambassador at Rome or at Paris (1); those destined for Madrid and Portugal were sent through the Receiver at Genoa (2).

It is not known exactly how long the transit took as the data one has to go by are the date of the despatch sent from abroad and the date of the reply from Malta. It is very likely that the time taken in transit was less than this interval between the two dates, as the reply from Malta was not always sent immediately on the receipt of the despatch from overseas. In fact it is on record that despatches were not answered promptly if their contents were “of such great importance that they deserved to be pondered on before an adequate reply could be formulated” (3).

It appears that sometimes several despatches written on different dates were collected at some clearing place on the Italian mainland awaiting a courier or a boat to Malta. Thus, for instance, despatches written on the 13th, 20th and 27th September 1763 were received at Malta in one batch on the 20th October.

According to the "date "interval" alluded to above, the time taken in transit was 22 to 37 days from Rome; 23 to 27 days from Venice; 20 to 23 days from Naples and 5 days from Licata.

The transit of the diplomatic bag to its final destination was sometimes hampered by delays, mishaps and loss. In fact the Chancellery's concern as to the quick or safe arrival of despatches is implied by the use of such expressions as **essendo di nostra somma premura l'annesso piego per Parigi** or by the instructions to the Receiver at Naples to forward despatches to Rome **al suo arrivo subito e con staffetta seria**.

Occasionally the ambassador at Rome is told **tostochè lo riceverete avrete l'attenzione di farlo partire col primo corriere per Francia** or else that the despatch was being sent from Malta "with great haste" or to use "every diligence to ensure the arrival of the attached packet of letters with the utmost security" to Vienna. At times the haste with which the **speronara** was sent to Sicily did not give the Chancellery "enough time to place (in the packet) everything that was required" (1729) (4).

To ensure against loss, despatches were sent in duplicate or even triplicate (5) by different routes and at different intervals of time (6).

There were instances when the anxiety of the Chancellery reached such a pitch that the Receiver was enjoined to inform Malta of "his doings to put our mind at rest" or else to "send us immediate news of your actions which we await with impatience".

The disappointment of the Chancellery at the delay in the receipt is evoked by such complaints as "we are surprised that we have had no letters from you" or "we have been deprived of news from you to our great displeasure". These expressions were at times accompanied by warnings to the Receivers to send their despatches with greater regularity (7).

When the time factor was of extreme importance, the despatch was sent urgently by **una speronara apposta**. The Grand Master had resort to this means in September 1729 when he wanted to forestall a communication from the Inquisitor to the Secretary of State of H.H. the Pope during the controversy that had arisen between him and that prelate in connection with his jurisdictional powers.

In winter rough seas disrupted the regular conveyance of despatches. In January 1729 no less than sixteen despatches, brought by four different land couriers to Augusta from Rome for shipment to Malta, were held up in that port as it was not possible for the **speronara** to sail safely to Malta (8). In March of the same year nineteen despatches were delayed to Syracuse. It happened at times that in spite of the rough weather the **speronara** took the risk of crossing the channel for Malta but with the result that the packet of letters reached the Island "in a damaged condition due to its being washed over by the waves during the voyage" (March 1729). Indeed the papers were in such a bad state that they could not be read and duplicate ones were asked for (9).

Towards the end of November 1763, the *speronara* which had left Malta for Sicily had almost reached the coasts of that Island when it was prevented from entering the port of Syracuse by the bad weather and was forced to return to Malta with the undelivered despatches and wait in our harbour for calmer seas.

In January 1766 the correspondence from Palermo was delayed and reached Malta after a diversion to Catania as the Receiver of Palermo was compelled to move about "under the escort of soldiers on account of the bandits that infested the Kingdom of Sicily" (10).

The outbreak of infectious diseases abroad also caused disruption in the service as the packets had to be submitted for disinfection by the sanitary authorities to ensure that they carried no danger of passing the "contagion" from one place to another

I have come across no instances of misuse or abuse of the diplomatic bag, as happens in our time, for the smuggling of objects from one country to another or for the passage of espionage information; nor of any hints of attempts by anyone to gain access to its contents so much so that I have found no indication that any code was used.

The correspondence that passed between the Maltese Chancellery and its ambassadors and Receivers abroad dealt with the most varied subjects imaginable ranging from matters of finance, negotiations for the importation of wheat and meat or the acquisition of wood for the naval arsenal to the sending of news of the outbreak of "contagious" illnesses, the sending of Christmas greetings and congratulatory messages to members of the European nobility on the birth of an heir and letters of recommendation to highly placed personages "to assist and protect" young men going to Italy to pursue a course of academic studies. Strained relations between the Grand Master, the bishop and the Inquisitor; requests for preachers from Italy for the delivery of sermons at the Conventual Church of St. John during Advent and Lent; and pleas for aid from continental powers in the form of armaments and soldiers for the defence of the Island against Turkish attacks also figured among the items of correspondence.

It seems that the diplomatic bag could stretch in size from a packet of letters to several packing cases. In fact apart from despatches, the *speronara* and land courier carried other articles to and from Malta such as "small box" containing objects of porcelain to Florence (1729) (11), *lunari* and newspapers from Livorno (1761). In 1761 twenty-four *compagne di vetro* and, in 1763, a number of *salviette damascate* were received from Venice. In December 1764 six falcons were sent to the King of Naples (12); but the most frequent items that left Malta with the diplomatic bag were the cases of oranges offered as gifts to the Court of Naples, the Duchess of Savoy at Turin and other personages at Genova, Ancona, Parma and even Vienna between the months of March and July. The oranges for the Empress at Vienna arrived in a bad state in June 1764. This is not

surprising as before they reached their ultimate destination they were directed to the Order's Ambassador at Venice who in turn channelled them to Vienna through Trieste. Apart from the length of the journey, however, there must have been something amiss with the way they were packed for it was decided that in future the packing of the fruit would be carried out "in accordance with the instructions forwarded by the *confetturiere*" of the Empress (13).

The letters are written in Italian except those addressed to the English King, the King of Poland and the Empress at Vienna which are written in Latin (14).

In general the letters are concise, business-like and marked by a tone of compromise, tolerance and politeness. The greatest defence was used towards foreign potentates even when differences of views and conflicting issues were being dealt with. There figure only a few ecclesiastical personages with regard to whom the customary restraint in language gave place to uncomplimentary and indignant words. These targets were provided by the Inquisitor, the Bishop of Malta and the Capuchin Friars.

The Inquisitor was a thorn in the flesh of the Grand Master. The latter was exasperated by the prelate's **torbido ed irriquieto modo di operare** and by his having troubled the Order "in so many ways" in connection with his unceasing efforts to undermine the authority of the Grand Master (1729) (15).

Another festering sore was the Bishop who clashed with Grand Master Em. Pinto de Fonceca on the question of "clerics". Thus the despatch sent to the ambassador at Rome by the Grand Master on the 26th March 1765 dealt in very articulate terms with the "prostitution of the tonsure bestowed on whoever was presented to the Bishop" (16) and referred to "the imbecility of Mgr. Bishop which is becoming worse and which causes us new troubles". This friction had arisen from the "clandestine tonsures placed on the heads of persons of advancing age who have no vocation for the ecclesiastical state" and whose only aim in acquiring the tonsure was to evade the authority of the Grand Master (17) and thus gain exemption from the payment of certain taxes, from performing military services and from submission to trials in a secular court.

In 1766 the Capuchin friars also embittered the life of the Grand Master, so much so that in his letter to the ambassador at Rome of the 23rd June he referred to them as "**le cabale fratesche (che) non solo fanno dimenticare il proprio dovere ma di più procurano d'impedire il bene** and he asked to have the **Commissario di Terra Santa** appointed by a **breve apostolico** to render that official independent from the superiors of his community (18).

The overall impression that one gains from reading these diplomatic files is that the arrangements devised by the Order of St. John for the

transmission of despatches were quite efficient for their times; that great care was taken to record copies of outgoing letters in a chronological order and in a clear hand that is a pleasure to read; that the volumes containing this correspondence constitute unexplored sources of information about the foreign affairs of the Order, the relations of the Grand Master with the ecclesiastical authorities of the Island and the social conditions of Malta. They are especially valuable with regard to the perennial problems of ensuring adequate food supplies for an ever increasing population that has, throughout our history, always depended for its sustenance on foreign markets.

(This article first appeared in the quarterly Scientific Review "SCIENTIA", Vol. XXXVII, No. 3, 1974, July-September).

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| (1) Archives 1521, no pagination,
Royal Malta Library (RML) | (10) Archives 1522, n. n., RML. |
| (2) Archives 1490, n. p., RML. | (11) Archives 1490, n. p., RML. |
| (3) Archives 1520, n. p., RML | (12) Archives 1520, n. p., RML. |
| (4) Archives 1490, n. p., RML. | (13) <i>Ibidem</i> . |
| (5) Archives 1521, n. p., RML. | (14) Archives 1521, n.p., RML. |
| (6) Archives 1490, n. p., RML. | (15) Archives 1490, n. p., RML. |
| (7) <i>Ibidem</i> | (16) Archives 1521, n. p., RML. |
| (8) <i>Ibidem</i> . | (17) Archives 1520, n. p., RML. |
| (9) <i>Ibidem</i> . | (18) Archives 1522, n. p., RML. |

THE "ANGLO-MALTESE STAMP HINGES"

Way back in the 1900's a local stamp dealing firm, introduced in Malta the "Anglo-Maltese Stamp Hinges". An advert in the "Malta Philatelic Monthly Journal" claims that the hinges were "FREE of any ACID" being made of the best "onion skin paper and of the purest gum". The hinges were made "in such a special way, that they can be easily removed, either from the Album or Stamp, without the slightest injury to same. Furthermore, they did not require any "aid of moisture, when removing them, as nearly all hinges on the market require".

A packet of 1000 "Anglo-Maltese" hinges with directions for use only costed 6., post free.

"SALIENT POINTS IN STAMP COLLECTING"

by Dr. E. Aquilina

Philately, or the hobby of stamp collecting is a wide and varied subject with an excess of personal likes and dislikes. Thus one may opt for a particular country, another may have an inkling for Thematics (one particular theme, e.g. butterflies or ships), while another may go for whatever tickles one's fancy.

The result of all this, is that unless you get well organised, you are bound to become confused and end up by having a lot of unnecessary material which will not be worth anything, except what you may think of in your illusionary world of philately. To start with, you have to decide by selecting your preferencies which must be limited to two or three countries or themes. An improvement would be just one particular country — being a Maltese myself, I would say Malta stamps only, and stop there.

It is after having decided on this important and vital choice, that you proceed further and channelise what you possess into its proper place by following one of the leading stamp catalogues. As for the rest of your philatelic material, get rid of it as fast as you can in exchange for what you need to complete what you are after, your country or theme of choice.

You must realise by now where you stand, and your next step will be how to mount up your precious stamps. In the case of one country albums, there is a very wide range of selection on the market, which go quite a long way to satisfy all the requirements of a choosy collector. The actual mounting up, then, presents some headaches. Assuming that the album bought contains suitable plastic pockets, then your problems are more or less solved. If no pockets exist, then you must go into some pains to select the right pockets, which will have to be cut to size and carefully affixed to the album leaf, for the stamp to be slipped into.

At this stage you may have to decide on whether you collect mint, used, or both; in the case of mint, then I would recommend pockets with a black background, while for used specimens the pockets must be completely white. The reason for this is obvious. Greater contrast for your stamps is achieved in the case of mint stamps. It must be remembered that the cancellation or obliteration on stamps is normally dark in colour and this shows better on a white background.

The one golden rule which should always be kept in mind, is that under no circumstances should stamps be hinged, especially if mint. In the latter condition, they will loose all their commercial value. Of course, you cannot help the fact that many of the earlier issues were hinged, as our predecessors did not own our modern facilities for stamp mounting. Admitted, but let us stop at thirty to forty years ago, and let us not repeat the error on the later or recent issues.

If this business of mounting up with pockets gets on your nerves, the nearest equivalent is a good stockbook, soft-padded, and transparent (not translucent) strips. Such stockbooks will display the stamps quite clearly, and at the same time keeping them well-positioned. The choice of black or white stockbook leaves, depends, as has already been stated, on whether the stamps are in mint or used condition. Personally I would opt for black for the mint and white for the used for the usual reasons of contrast.

By now, the reader must have formed some idea of what goes at the basis of mounting up. However, the story is far from complete unless a few words of advice are not pointed out, in defence of our biggest enemy — foxing. By foxing or moulding, is meant the yellow brown stains or “rust” which appear mainly at the perforation line of stamps. It is true that they are the philatelist’s headaches, but their formation can be limited if certain elementary precautions are headed in due time.

To begin with all albums should be placed in a vertical position and not lying flat on top of each other like a pack of cards. The next step is to keep them in well-aired rooms which are free from damp. An abundance of natural light is essential. The main reasons for the above precautions are that foxing is nothing but a mould, (a form of yeast) which thrives on paper in humid atmosphere and away from light. Thus it would be an excellent idea, if say once every fortnight, you have a look at your stamps, while at the same time you will be “airing” them as well as allowing sufficient light to inhibit the growth of the mould.

The more your stamps are stucked away in some nook or corner of your library, the greater the risks of foxing. I always compare the value of a stamp collection to a block of ice. Unless ice is kept in proper surroundings, it melts away and end up by having nothing; so will your collection, unless taken care of in a manner similar to the one described, you will finish up with a hatful of rain.

An attempt has been made to give a few hints to the philatelist, mainly the beginner, and to place him on the right track, that he may love his stamps better; not to look at his collection as just bits of coloured paper, gummed or otherwise, but as something worth possessing, that can be handed down to posterity with pride. It is sincerely hoped that the above does not fall on deaf ears.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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



QUALITY PRINTERS

SECURITY PRINTERS

Printex Ltd. Mill Str., Qormi, Malta

EUROPA 1975

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

Date of Issue	15th. July 1975.
Values	5c and 15c.
Stamp Size	29mm x 47mm (both values).
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.6 x 13.9 (Comb).
Watermark	"Maltese Crosses" pointing upwards.
Colours	The colours of these stamps were produced by the multi-colour process.
Designs	5c stamp features a reproduction of Francesco de Mura's, (1696 — 1782), "Allegory of Malta". 15c stamp reproduces "Judith and Holofernes" by Valentin de Boulogne (1591 — 1632).

Since 1972, Malta has issued the Europa set in small sheets of ten. This year was no exception, and again the two values have been issued in small sheets of ten. Both values are of the horizontal format. Each sheet is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. The third space of the third row is used to describe the painting and the artist. The third space of the fourth row is used to show the C.E.P.T symbol plus the wording, "EUROPA 1975 REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA". The value of each sheet of ten, is seen in the top margin, above the middle stamp.

Colour checks are found in the right hand margin, next to the last spaces of rows three and four, which are used for descriptions as explained above. They are in the form of five coloured discs 3mm in diameter. The colours from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes of all values. There are six Panes of ten stamps each for each Printing Sheet of each value.

Plate/Pane numbers: These are found under the first stamp of the bottom row. The colours are in the same order from left to right as the the colour checks from top to bottom.

5c = 1A x 5 up to, and including 1F x 5.

15c = 1A x 5 up to, and including 1F x 5.

In the 5c value, I noted quite a noticeable difference in the colour shade used for the background. In Panes B and D it is more on the greenish side compared to Panes C, E and F which are more on the reddish side. Pane A looks a bit different from both. I would say my Panes are from different Printing Sheets after cutting. I mean other people will notice the difference in shade, in a different order than that which I noticed in my Panes.

Perforation of margins:

Panes B, D and F of both values, have the top, bottom, left hand and right hand margins fully perforated.

Panes A, C and E of both values have the top, bottom and right hand margins of these Panes is imperforated. I did not notice any cutting lines or any other registration marks on any of the margins.

From a study of the perforations on all margins, Pane numbers and direction of watermark, the Printing Sheet may have consisted of the six Panes as shown.

A	D
B	E
C	F

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" printed in black, is found under the last space, of the bottom row. The letters used are 1mm high. I would suggest that the bottom half of a sheet is bought. This will include a block of four stamps, the Plate number, the two spaces used for description, the colour checks and the Imprint.

As usual a special handstamp was again used for cancellation on the first day of issue. With this issue there were eighteen different cancellations, instead of the usual seventeen from the different Post Offices. This was because of the temporary Post Office at the Trade Fair, Naxxar, which was still open on the 15th. July.

Up to 12.30 p.m. on the first day of issue, sale of stamps of this issue had realised £M167,257.

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR 1975

Date of Issue	16th. September 1975.
Values	1c3, 3c, 5c, 25c.
Stamp Size	24.5mm x 56mm (All values)
Art Designer	Richard Engländer.
Printers	Printex Ltd. Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.7 x 13.8 Comb.
Watermark	"Maltese Crosses" pointing sideways
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A

Values/Colours/Designs

- 1c3 — Grey, orange, black; floor plan of the pre-historic remains of Ggantija.
3c — Purple, orange, black; the old citadel of Mdina.
5c — Grey, orange, black; typical Maltese (in fact Gozitan) landscape.
25c — Brown, orange, black; the silhouetted walls of Fort St. Angelo.

Colour checks are in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. They are in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter. 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 the top and bottom margins. The figures for these values are 2.5mm high and printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consists of two Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps.

Plate/Pane numbers: These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row. The colours are in the same order from left to right as the colour checks from top to bottom, in all four Panes.

1c3, 5c = IA x 2, IB x 2; 3c, 25c = IA x 3, IB x 3.

Perforation of Margins: The left hand, right hand and bottom margins, of all Panes, of all values are fully perforated. The top margins, of Panes "B" of all values, are fully perforated. The top margins, of Panes "A", of all values, are imperforated.

Registration marks in the form of a small square 4.5mm side, subdivided into four other small squares by means of two lines from the mid-points of each side of the 4.5mm square, or parts of these, can be seen on all Panes, of all values. In the top left and right hand margins of Panes "A" of all values can be seen whole squares of 4.5mm side, whilst in the bottom left and right hand margins, only small parts of this square can be seen. Again in the top left and right hand margins, of Panes "B" of all values, parts of this square can also be seen. In the bottom left and right hand margins of these Panes, no registration marks are seen. From a study of the perforations on all margins, Pane numbers, direction of watermark and the registration marks mentioned above, the Printed Sheet before cutting consisted of Pane "A" on top of Pane "B".

Imprint Blocks: "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. A block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue and up to 12.30 p.m., sales amounted to £M65,367.

XMAS, 1975 ISSUE

Date of Issue	4th. November 1975.
Values	8m+2m, 3c+1c. 7c5+1c5.
Stamp Size	8m + 2m & 7c5 + 1c5 = 24.8 x 26.4mm; 3c + 1c = 49.6 x 26.4mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin. Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.6 x 13.5 (Singles & Triptych) Comb.
Watermark	"Maltese crosses" Pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A

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

Design: The three stamps in Triptych feature the "Nativity" by Maestro Alberto (XV-XVI Century). This painting is on permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta.

Colour Checks: These are in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter. The colours of these discs from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, on all Panes of all values. Colour checks in Pane "A" of the Triptych set are seen in the left hand margin, next to the last two stamps of the first column. In Pane "B" of the Triptych and all other Panes in Single form, the colour checks are found in the right hand margin, next to the last two stamps of the last column. Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the top and bottom margins. In the case of Triptych Panes, the values in top and bottom margins are for columns of complete Triptych sets. The figures for these values are 2.5mm high and printed in black.

Plate/Pane numbers: These are seen under the first and second stamps of the bottom row in the 8m + 2m, 7c5 + 1c5 and Triptych sets. In the 3c + 1c Single form value, they are under the first stamp of the bottom row. Plate number collectors are to be careful with this set, because not all the values have the same number of Panes.

The Printed Sheet of the 8m + 2m and the 7c5 + 1c5 in Single values consist of four Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps.

The Printed Sheet of the 3c + 1c in Single form value consist of two Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of ten rows of five stamps. The Printed Sheet of the Triptych set, consist of two Panes. Each Pane has twenty Triptych sets, made up of ten rows of two sets.

8m + 2m & 7c5 + 1c5 = 1A x 6, up to, and including ID x 6.

3c + 1c & Triptych set = 1A x 6, IB x 6.

Perforation of Margins: The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of all Panes, of all values, including the Triptych are fully perforated. The top margins, of Panes "C" and "D", of the 8m + 2m and the 7c5 + 1c5 values are fully perforated. The top margins of Panes "A" and "B", of all values including the Triptych are imperforated.

Registration marks in the form of a small square 4.5mm side, subdivided into four other small squares, could be noticed only on Panes "A" and "B" of the Triptych set. In Pane "B", these whole squares can be seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the top and bottom rows. The right hand margin of this Pane is much wider when compared to the left hand margins. In Pane "A", similar registration marks are seen in the left hand margin next to the first stamps of the top and bottom rows. The left hand margin is much wider than the right hand margin. Printex have been producing Malta stamps since 1972, and I have always noted that colour checks are always in the right hand margin of all Panes. With this Xmas. issue, I noticed an exception in Pane "A" of the Triptych, where the colour checks are in the left hand margin.

From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet before cutting was made up as follows:

For the 8m + 1c5 and the 7c5 + 1c5 values, Panes "A" and "B" were on top of Panes "C" and "D", with Pane "A" on top of Pane "C" on the left and Pane "B" on top of Pane "D" on the right.

For the 3c + 1c and the Triptych, Pane "A" was on the left and Pane "B" on the right.

Imprint Blacks: "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in the three values in Single form. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. In the Triptych set, the same Imprint is seen under the last two stamps of the bottom row. Letters are 1.3mm high and also printed in black. An Imprint block of four from any Pane of any value will also include the colour checks, except if it is from Pane "A" of the Triptych set, where the colour checks are in the left hand margin. An Imprint block from Pane "B", besides the colour checks, will also have one of the registration marks mentioned above. So an Imprint block from the Triptych set is easy to distinguished whether it is from Panes "A" or "B".

As usual a special handstamp was used on the first day of issue of this set.

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.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC

Date of Issue	12th. December 1975.
Values	1c.3, 5c, 25c.
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm (All values)
Art Designer	Anthony De Giovanni.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14 x 13.9 (Comb.)
Watermark	"Maltese Crosses" pointing upwards.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Values/Colours/Designs

1c3 — Blue, red, brown, black; the right to work.

5c — Blue, green, brown, black; the safeguarding of the environment.

25c — Blue, red, black; the national flag of Malta.

Colour checks in the form of discs 3mm in diameter are found in the right hand margin of all Panes, of all values, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. Cumulative totals of progressive columns are seen in the top and bottom margins. Figures for these values are 2.5mm high and printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consist of two Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps.

Plate/Pane numbers: These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row. The colours are in the same order from left to right as the colours checks from top to bottom in all values.

1c3 & 5c = IA x 4, IB x 4, 25c = IA x 3, IB x 3.

Perforation of Margins: The top, bottom and right hand margins of all Panes, of all values are perforated.

The left hand margins of Panes "B" of all values are perforated.

The left hand margins of Panes "A" of all values are imperforate.

From a study of the perforations on all margins, Pane numbers and direction of watermark, the printing of the sheets was such, that Pane "A" was on top of Pane "B", with all stamps resting on their 44mm side. If after printing, the Printed Sheet were to be turned ninety degrees to the left, all stamps would be seen their right way up, with Pane "A" on the left and Pane "B" on the right.

Imprint Blocks: "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was again used on the first day of issue.

There were eighteen different cancellations instead of the usual seventeen, the reason being the extra temporary branch Post Office at the sixth Malta Philatelic Exhibition which opened on the 11th December. Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue of this set, sales amounted to £M41,384.

EMBLEM OF MALTA — DEFINITIVE STAMP ISSUE

Date of Issue	28th. January 1976.
Values	£M2.
Stamp Size	35mm x 30mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printext Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.6 x 13.9 (Comb.).
Watermark	"Maltese Crosses" pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours: Black, Red, Yellow, Blue, Brown, Ochre, Green and Gold.

Design: The stamp features the "Emblem of Malta".

Colour checks in the form of discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows. Cumulative totals of progressive columns are seen in the top and bottom margins. Figures for these are 2.5mm high and printed in black.

The Printed Sheet consist of only one Pane. The Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten row of five stamps.

Plate/Pane numbers: These are seen under the first and second stamps of the bottom row. The colours are in the same order from left to right as the colour checks from top to bottom.

£M2 = IA x 8.

Perforation of Margins: The top margin is imperforate, whilst the bottom, left and right hand margins are fully perforated. The left hand margin is wider than the right.

Imprint Blocks: "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used on the first day of issue.

This stamp is replacing the £M2 stamp showing the "Coat of Arms" which was issued on 31st. March 1973 and withdrawn on 1st. January 1976.

Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue, sales amounted to £M151,830.

MALTESE FOLKLORE ISSUE

Date of Issue	26th. February 1976.
Values	1c3, 5c, 7c5, 10c.
Stamp Size	1c3 & 10c = 27 x 33mm; 5c & 7c5 = 33 x 27mm.
Art Designer	Nazareno Camilleri.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.9 x 13.75 (Comb.).
Watermark	"Maltese Crosses" pointing sideways in values 5c and 7c5 and pointing upwards in values 1c3 and 10c.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours: 1c3 Brown, Blue, Light-Yellow, Red.
5c Brown, Blue, Yellow-Ochre, Orange.
7c5 Black, Light-Blue, Light-Yellow, Orange.
10c Brown, Blue, Yellow-Ochre, Red.

Design: The four stamps depict "Village Feast" 1c3, "Mnarja" 5c, "Carnival" 7c5, and "Good Friday" 10c.

Colour checks in the form of discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row, except in the 7c5 value, where the top disc touches the top perforation line of the bottom row. The Pane numbers were noticed to be all in line, in the 5c and 7c5 of all values, except in Panes "A" and "B" of the 10c value. In these Panes the top disc is not in line with the other three, but 3mm to the right.

The colour of these discs 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 are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm and printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consist of two Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps in the 5c and 7c5 values (horizontal format) and five rows of ten stamps in the 1c3 and 10c values (vertical format).

Plate/Pane numbers: These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row of stamps. These coloured discs are seen to be in line, in all Panes values. In the 1c3 value, the second "IA" in Pane "A", and "IB" in Pane "B" are seen to be above the other three. In the 10c value the first "IA" in Pane "A" and the first "IB" in Pane "B" are lower than the other three.

1c3, 5c, 7c5, 10c = IA x 4, IB x 4.

Perforation of Margins: In the 1c3 and 10c values (vertical format) the top margins of Panes "A" and the bottom margins of Panes "B" are not fully perforated. The bottom and right hand margins of Panes "A" as well as the top and right hand margins of Panes "B" are fully perforated. The left hand margins of Panes "A" and "B" are imperforated.

In the 5c and 7c5 values (horizontal format) the top margins of Panes "A" and "B" are imperforated. The right hand and bottom margins of Panes "A" as well as the left hand and bottom margins of Panes "B" are fully perforated. The right hand margin of Panes "B" of both values are not fully perforated. The left hand margin of Pane "A" of the 5c value is fully perforated whilst that of the 7c5 value is not. Some difference might be noticed to what I have said about the perforation of margins, the reason being that not all the Panes of certain values seem to have margins of the same width

Registration marks in the form of cutting lines could be seen in the bottom left hand corners of Panes "A" and "B" in the 10c values, and in the top left hand corners of Panes "B" in the 5c and 7c5 values. None were seen in either Pane of the 1c3 value.

From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet of the 5c and 7c5 values (horizontal format), was such, that stamps were printed the right way up, with Pane "A" on the left and Pane "B" on the right. The Printed Sheet of the 1c3 and 10c values (vertical format), was such, that stamps were printed sideways, resting on their 33mm side, Pane "A" being on the right and Pane "B" on the left. If after printing and before cutting, the Printed Sheet were to be turned ninety degrees to the left, the stamps would look the right way up, with Pane "A" on top of Pane "B".

Imprint Blocks: "PRINTEX LIMITED" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high. Under the last stamp is also seen the total value of fifty stamps. Whilst in the 10c value, the Printer's name is printed under this total, in the other three values, it is printed above it. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. From the information given about the perforation of margins, an Imprint Block can be traced as to whether it formed part of Panes "A" or "B"..

A special handstamp was again used for cancellation.

Up to 4 p.m. sales amounted to £31,766.

MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN 1901

under the patronage of
H.E. Gen: Sir F.W. Grenfell G.C.B., G.C.M.G.
Governor of Malta

In the year 1901 on the occasion of the visit to Malta of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York — now their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary, the Malta Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce, organized an Exhibition under the patronage of H.E. General, Sir Francis W. Grenfell G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

One of the divisions of this Exhibition was reserved for local philately, in which many collectors exhibited their collections and specialities. There were especially two collections which were greatly admired. Their owners were, Mr. Camilleri who was awarded first prize for his famous general collection, and Mr. Charles A. Micallef, who was awarded a diploma for his special collection of Malta Stamps. It was very curious to see this Malta collection complete up to the 26th May 1901 with every issue, variety, error, etc. Among the specialities it contained we especially noticed:—

1871 $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow buff — Wmk Inverted.

1885 4d brown — Block of 2 Imperforated.

1886 5s rose — Block of 3 Wmk Inverted.

1899 5d vermilion — Wmk Reversed.

A registration envelope franked with a pair 1885 4d brown Imperforated.

Since the year 1901 no other philatelic exhibition took place in Malta; a thing which is anxiously awaited by all local philatelists.

We are sure that a similar Exhibition will be a great success, and that a marked progress will be noticed since that of 15 years ago, for, during this period the number of Philatelists in Malta has steadily increased.

The Malta Stamp Society and our Philatelic Journal which is yet in its infancy, but which we hope will steadily grow, are instances of the progress which Philately in Malta, has made during the last few years.

We hope that we shall soon hear of some organization for this much desired Exhibition which will be beneficial to all at large. It will bring the Collectors of the Island more in touch with one another, old collectors will find an opportunity to show their fine collections, young ones to see, learn and emulate, and several who are indifferent and some who even despise Stamp Collecting, will see what an interesting hobby it is, and probably will become stamp-collectors themselves.

The Editors.

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ORGANISED PHILATELY IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS

(PART 1)

by NICK A. CUTAJAR

MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY — 1890

Ever since the appearance of the first postage stamp in May, 1840, stamp collecting established itself rapidly, not only in the country of origin, but in most other countries where the use of the stamp as prepayment of postage was introduced. People were then fascinated by the little bits of paper that were travelling long distances witnessing that postage had been paid. And in spite of the difficulties the early collector had to face, stamp collectors were buying the few stamps in existence through the services of the couple of dealers that had presumed profitable enterprise in stamp dealing. Thus philately was getting itself organised and a number of stamp clubs and societies were forming themselves in many parts of the world.

Malta issued its first postage stamp on December 1st, 1860. The stamps had been in Malta for over a year, after their dispatch from London in 1859, and their introduction must have been awaited with great anticipation. Within a span of thirty years, five stamps in different designs were already in existence, though of course, the specialist will affirm that there were at least twenty-nine different printings of the first Malta stamp alone, which even to the early collectors must have provided (them) with the rudiments of philately in all its interesting and suggestive aspects.

In 1890, the first form of an organised philatelic fraternity in Malta had its birth, catering in its fold for an ardent group of collectors. The society was known as the "Malta Philatelic Society". Very little is known of the first committee of the Society, its activities and members. However a little research has revealed an active society with connections far and wide.

Reference is made to the Malta Government Gazette of 1899, in connection with the sale of revenue stamps. (Govt. Notice No. 218):

"List of Post Offices, shops, etc., to sell revenue stamps —

The Malta Philatelic Society, 134d Strada Brittanica"

Palace Valletta

August 7, 1899.

From the above, it appears that the Malta Philatelic Society, by 1899, had established itself in such a manner as to be entrusted with the sale of revenue stamps, and presumably postage stamps, though no records to this effect have yet come to light. It is also evident that the Society had its own quarters in "Strada Brittanica", and this within only a span

of nine years of its inception, thus reflecting the extent of its needs. One may also safely assume that these quarters were open daily at least during working hours, (in those days much more than today's norm of a forty-hour week), to provide the facility for the sale of the revenue stamps, otherwise the licence would not have been granted.

The Society's activities were not confined to local official business. In fact, very early in its existence, the Malta Philatelic Society had the courage to introduce an exchange or booklet circulation scheme for members, which must have had quite a success, as a member from Brazil was already on the list of possible source of material to satisfy the earnest needs of the members. A Malta postal card dated 13, March, 1900, and locally postmarked the next day with the Valletta oval postmark, sent by the Vice Honorary Secretary of the Society, Mr. W.R. Gatt, reveals the extent of the connections established, and the success of the packet exchange branch of the Society. The card is addressed to "Senor Viktor Weskofef, Horencio de Abreu No. 4, Sao Paulo, Brazil". The following is the text:

170 Strada Forno
Valletta, Malta
13.3.1900

Dear Sir,

I have been a long time expecting to receive your sheets for exchange, as you promised me in your letter of the 11th December. As I have not, I thought it well to write to you. Some of the members want Stamps of Falkland Islands & the new Jubilee (Commemorative) stamps of Brazil with view, namely 100, 200, 500, 700 reis —

We will send you some of our sheets in a short time. We have been appointed Stanley Gibbons Agents & we have everything in stock.

(signed)

W. R. Gatt

I will leave the conclusions as to the success or otherwise of the exchange scheme of the Society to the readers. But one other interesting observation develops in the fascinating history of this remarkable society, by now ten years of age. It is a striking development in the unpredictable history of organised philately in Malta, especially in the late nineteenth century and the first years of the consecutive century.

Stanley Gibbons, the famous dealers, were granting agencies to established philatelic societies for the sale of postage stamps that were being handled by the firm. The Malta Philatelic Society was a fortunate applicant, and it deserved it quite rightly, as the agency must have provided the Society with a much needed financial addition to its funds. Furthermore, the Hon. Vice Secretary affirms in his letter, that the Society "had everything in stock". I can only imagine a group of

members in charge of the agency, working full-time, stocked with "everything" the reputed firm had to sell. Quite an astonishing feat and one that must have entailed substantial organising requirements.

It is a pity that the Malta Philatelic Society seems to fade away into history some time early in this century. It would be very interesting to know of any members of our Society who may have been members of the Malta Philatelic Society. Maybe they could supply me with its performance during the first years of the twentieth century. When did it last cease to exist? What was the reason? Was it because the number of members began to dwindle or because of some other development that forced it to close doors.

THE MALTA PHILATELIC MONTHLY JOURNAL — 1916

In my endeavours to trace the history of organised philately in Malta, in July last year, having a spare couple of minutes, I dialed a number on the phone. When the voice of Mr. Alfred Micallef answered, I apologetically excused myself for my voice, (I had a soar throat) and continued to tell him that his son-in-law suggested this contact. In our first short talk over the phone, Mr. Micallef revealed quite an astonishing development I was not prepared for. He told me that at one time, some sixty years earlier, he was involved in the publication of a monthly philatelic magazine.

This revelation struck me and I immediately prompted an appointment to meet him the following Saturday at his office in Merchant Street, Valletta, which he accepted with delight. That Saturday, Mr. Micallef had brought with him a treasured bound volume of all the issues of the "Malta Philatelic Monthly Journal", as well as a few unbound loose copies for me to go through.

The "Malta Philatelic Monthly Journal" had its first edition published as Vol. 1. No. 1 in August 1916. Messrs. G. & A. Micallef were the editors and publishers, and the journal was printed at the "Malta Herald" Printing Office. It measured seven and half by ten inches, the front page printed in red and black, containing five odd leaves. Above the name of the Journal, printed in red, there was also printed in red and white the Maltese Cross enclosed in two rings, the outer being red, topped by a crown. Subscription to the "Malta Philatelic Monthly Journal" was a humble florin per year for twelve issues. The publishers offered a free advertisement of 4 lines repeated 6 times yearly as an incentive.

The Journal also carried the formal advertisements at the rate of 15/- per page, 8/- per half-page, 4/3 per quarter-page, with a 1 inch column advert costing 1/-. It is noteworthy to record that Stanley Gibbons had an advert in the first issue, announcing their purchase of the "Famous and most important Stamp Collection, Queensland of Mr. Leslie R.R. Hausburg" and greatly added by several stamps from the collections of Messieurs W.W. Blest and Vernon Roberts. "M.M. Yvert & Tellier Amiens" of 37, Rue des Jacobins also had an advert in the first edition.

That historic edition also carried the headline "Guaranteed World-wide Circulation" and it was no mere boisterous claim. The Editors in their inaugural write-up promised that the second issue will contain a page in French and Italian, which they fulfilled to the letter in the next edition. In the "Miscellaneous Advertisements", addresses from some odd forty countries, including most European countries, as well as Bermuda, Chile, Cuba, Argentina, Egypt, New Zealand, Ceylon and Jamaica, were noted. From the onset, the publishers were ascertained a wide distribution, and to prove this, the fifth edition, published in 1916, the editors proclaimed "Publication now exceeds 2500 copies" in bold headline type.

The Journal provided very interesting reading with reportage of philatelic news in the "New Issues and Discoveries" furnished by the Editors as well as readers and official notices. Local philatelic events, the few that were organised, were also reported, and supplemented by comments. The articles were as varied as can be; the first issue carried "Observations on the Plates of the First Issue", an article communicated to the Siam Philatelic Society on the 22nd September, by its Secretary J.R.C. Lyons. Also in the first edition, the following details about type-written stamps of Long Island were featured:

"The "L'Echo-Amiens" states that the English had established an island in the Aegean Sea for their naval base. This belonged to Turkey and was then baptised "Long Island". On the 7th May (1916) a post office was established and issued Turkish fiscal stamps with surcharge something similar to fig. 1 (G.R.1./Postage/2½/Pence), S.G. 1-3. These run out very quickly and then typewritten stamps were issued nearly similar to fig. 11 (G.R. 1/LONG ISLAND/POSTAGE &/REVENUE/ONE PENNY) S.G. 4 onwards.

It was thus only a few months after their introduction that the Journal reported their appearance, proving once again the swiftness of reportage on the part of the editors and the reliable contacts they had established. In the following edition of the Journal, a press-release from the Post-Master General was reproduced concerning the type-written stamps renouncing the issue as invalid for the prepayment of postage and unauthorised. The catalogue seems to think otherwise.

In Vol. 1, No. 2, (September 1916), it was reported that the Bahamas 5c Orange and Black stamp has been surcharged "SPECIAL DELIVERY" in two lines, and that these stamps were sold out as only 600 copies were surcharged. A glance look at the catalogue confirms the report, noting that the first printing of 600 was on sale from 1 May 1916 in Canada.

In Vol 1, No. 3, reference is made to the then current 6d stamp (Said No. 80) of the King George V series, being "now printed in deep violet colour." That same edition also carried an article by Rog. Cachia, entitled "Stamp-Collecting and its Educational Utility"; while their French correspondent contributed "Les Consequences de la Guerre". A serialised article entitled "History as exemplified by Postage Stamps" by

Rog. Cachia made its first appearance in Vol. 1, No. 4, while, prompted by Rog. Cachia's earlier contribution, Rev. Dr. J. Psaila-Cumbo, took up "Educational Value of Stamps" launching his series with the New Testament account of St. Paul's Shipwreck in Malta.

The "Malta Philatelic Monthly Journal" must have generated local interest in the formation of a new philatelic society as witnessed by a letter sent to the editors by Mr. Rog. Cachia, who proposed it. The Editors took up the initiative and readers were invited to write to the temporary secretary, Mr. Rog. Cachia himself, so that a general meeting would be arranged.

In the next edition of our Society's magazine, I hope to treat this society on its own and hope that readers who may have been members of that society way back in 1916-1917, would communicated to me their memories so that a full account and tribute will be published.

MALTA GIBRALTAR CYPRUS

(1937 - 1976)

Please send 10p or 8c postage for lists.

I also wish to buy and welcome your

offers but please write first.

RODGER G. YEO

P.O. BOX 10, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 7NG, U.K.

MALTA AIR MAIL SERVICE

— by CARMEL G. BONA VIA —

Progress in any form of transport, by land, sea or air, is always reflected in new ways of mail conveyance from one country to another. The very nature of the mail demands two great factors: security in conveyance and speed in delivery. These two features were kept in mind by all postal authorities before a new route was chosen to carry any mails.

Malta has a long tradition of well organised postal services, both local and to the neighbouring continents. For long centuries, the sea which isolated this archipelago, had afforded an excellent connection with the surrounding shores for the transmission of our mails. The introduction of airplane opened a new era in the conveyance of mail.

FIRST AIR MAIL

The air mail service was introduced here on April 1st, 1928. At that time, Malta had no airports. Only a British Service seaplane base at Kalafrana was in operation. The Services might have carried some of their mail by their seaplanes but civil mail had to be carried by sea to the nearest port, normally Syracuse, and then by train to the first airport.

The first air mail was launched to the East: Iraq, Persia, North East Arabia and North West India. The mail was only despatched every alternate week and linked to the Egypt-Iraq mail service run by the Postal Authorities of Great Britain through the Imperial Airways. The time gained over mail sent all the way by ordinary sea service, varied from 16 days for letters to Bagdad to 2 days for those to Karachi.

This service was not restricted to letters only, but any postal article was accepted to be sent by air mail. A pre-payment of 6d for every ounce extra to ordinary postage was charged on each item.

AIR MAIL STAMP

This air mail fee, at first, had to be paid only by a special stamp issued for the purpose. The King George V 6d. violet and red stamp issued in 1926, was overprinted "Air Mail". It was put on sale on the inauguration of the service. This was the only Air Mail stamp issued in Malta until March 30th, 1974, when the new air mail definitive was released.

All mail to be conveyed by air had to bear the words "BY AIR MAIL" clearly written or printed. A special blue label with this caption was made available free from all Post Offices. Similar labels were already in use in Great Britain. After the Universal Postal Union Congress held in London in the following year, 1929, this label was universally adopted.

EXTENSION OF AIR MAIL SERVICE

As air routes were extended to the other parts of the British Empire, the Malta air mail was linked up to services serving various countries.

Malta mail could thus join other mails to their final destinations.

Such a quick service was very much appreciated by the commercial community and the relatives of emigrants.

Australia had an internal air service towards the late 20's. In fact in 1929 it was possible to link Malta air mail to this service at Perth and Fremantle, thus saving from four to one day on ordinary mails.

Later the Imperial Airways extended their routes to Africa. The Malta Post Office made arrangements to link our air mail to Soudan, Belgian Congo, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika via Egypt through Brindisi. In fact, for many years, all our air mail from Malta had to be conveyed to Brindisi by ordinary service and from there it joined the various air services operating from this airport.

DIRECT FLIGHTS

It was only in 1931 that direct flights from Malta were possible. The Società Anonima Navigazione Aerea of Genoa included Malta in its tri-weekly air service between Rome and Tripoli. This stop at Malta afforded an excellent chance to the Post Office to give a direct air conveyance to mail. In less than nine hours air mail from Malta could reach Genoa. From there mail was either conveyed by train or continued its second lap of an air journey to its final destination.

During the same year, the London Egypt air service was extended to Mwanza. Arrangements were made with the General Post Office in London so that air mail from Malta to various African countries would be picked up at Brindisi.

At this time the air mail charges in addition to normal postage, varied from 2d per half an ounce for letters to Athens to 1s 6d for South Africa. Later, when the air mail service was extended to Australia and New Zealand the rate was 2s 3d for every half ounce.

GRAF ZEPPELIN MAIL

In the early thirties, the airship offered the only hope of long distance flying. After various flights, it was thought safe enough to carry mail. Air mail was scheduled to be flown by the Graf Zeppelin from Friedrichshafen (Germany) to South America.

This service afforded a chance for air mail from Malta to be despatched to various South American countries via Rome. The postage for air mail by the Graf Zeppelin air service was 2s 4d every 5 grammes to Brazil and 2s 9d for the other five South American countries, in addition to ordinary postage.

The Italian airline "Ali Littoria", in 1939, included Malta in its flight: Malta — Catania — Palermo — Naples — Rome. Thus our air mail could

make all its journey by air and the old system of conveying the mail to Brindisi was scrapped.

Unfortunately this improved air service came to an abrupt end at the outbreak of the Second World War. For almost five years, the air mail service was very much curtailed. Make shift arrangements had to be improvised for urgent correspondence, mainly with the families of foreign troops engaged in the defence of the Islands. Nevertheless, a prisoner-of-war mail service was also organised through the good services of the International Red Cross.

POST-WAR PERIOD

During the Second World War great improvements were made in air transport. These facilities provided a better and quicker air mail service as soon as communications between the different countries slowly returned to normal.

Luqa Airport soon became the official office for all air mail despatches and receipts. On April 1st 1958, a Branch Post Office was opened for the convenience of passengers and for special postal facilities. Luqa Airport Post Office, as its counterpart in other foreign airports, affords "late" postings of air mail up to about 50 minutes before each flight. Up to one kilogramme of mail may be added to all mail despatched from the General Post Office in Valletta. This "late" air mail posting is very important mostly to merchants and businessmen.

Normally all our air mail is now channelled through the direct flights to London, Rome, Catania and Tripoli. Mail addressed to countries beyond these cities, is linked to other flights for its final destination.

AIR MALTA

With the setting up of AIR MALTA, our air mail will now be carried by our own airline. Air Malta has direct flights to London, Manchester, Birmingham, Paris, Rome, Frankfurt and Tripoli. These non stop flights will surely accelerate our air mail service to most countries.

For the inauguration of this service, a set of seven airmail stamps, the first ever to be issued by Malta, was released on March 30th 1974.

The stamps, on originals by Chev. Emvin V. Cremona, have two designs: one showing the Air Malta Boeing 720B on a typical Maltese skyline and another showing an allegory of flight. These stamps have been printed by Messrs Printex Ltd. of Qormi, Malta.

AIR MALTA FIRST FLIGHTS

Covers posted at the Philatelic Bureau, General Post Office, Valletta, to be carried by Air Malta's aircraft on the respective first flight were

franked with a special hand postmark which indicated the date of the first flight and the place of destination.

The number of these covers was as follows:—

1st April, 1974	1037	Malta/London
1st April, 1974	998	Malta/Rome
3rd April, 1974	986	Malta/Tripoli
3rd April, 1974	986	Malta/Birmingham
5th April, 1974	993	Malta/Frankfurt
6th April, 1974	1028	Malta/Paris
7th April, 1974	968	Malta/Manchester

"ET DONA FERENTES"

by

Prof. Duane Koenig

University of Miami

Let me assume that at birthday, anniversary or holiday season you want to bestow a present on a collector. Do not, I pray, send him stamps. Allow me to explain. The Prince Regent once asked Beau Brummell's opinion of a horse someone had given him. Brummell, instead of judging the beast in the usual way, went behind and spent time examining its tail. When Wales inquired at what he was playing, the dandy said: "Sir, you should never look a gift horse in the mouth." If you want fulsome thanks for a philatelic donation rather than a smile like a fox eating yellow jackets, go slow.

Unless you have an exact knowledge of your friend's stamp holdings, packets, plate blocks or first day covers — things that appeal to your eye — in place of filling his albums with sought-after specimens more often than not will add to his supply of duplicates. What you can provide for his pastime with little fear of redundancy are supplies and literature. **Figurezvous:** can a collector ever have enough stock books to shelter his surplus adhesives? Several years ago a trader on Old Bakery Street in Valletta featured the Stanley Gibbons accessory line; there I saw several handsome stock albums which I wish I could have found room in my luggage to ferry home. A subscription should be welcome to a general or

specialty journal he does not take. Today, by coincidence, I received at the hands of a former student paid up membership in a society devoted to German colonies and an issue of its newsletter *Vorlaeufer*. It made my afternoon! Just so, early copies of next year's Sassone, Minkus, Gibbons, Scott or Zumstein catalogues will spare him having to order them.

For a couple of Maltese pounds you can buy a small press to take crease out of stamps or to prevent them from curling while they are drying. Costing slightly less is an ingenious help called a stamp lift. It allows quick and easy removal of old hinges and restores hopelessly stuck mint stamps without destroying original gum. Various types of magnifiers or combination magnifying glass and flashlight can be selected, or a mineralight philatelic lamp at £18 for detecting luminescent inks, papers and phosphorescent tags. Providing you know your friend preserves sheets or covers, a mint sheet album or a blank cover album will make fine presents. Too you never will go wrong with a dozen or more approval cards; these are splendid to arrange stamps before mounting or to sort duplicates.

Should your recipient be a general collector, consider a historical atlas that shows maps of earlier periods and of dead countries. Only the most primitive student of stamps is not interested in learning where Eastern Roumelia, North Ingermanland, Manchukuo or New Granada were located. Beyond periodicals the literature of the hobby is so broad that reference or monographic books are generally grateful. I see on my shelf, for example, Lowell T. Ragatz, *The Fournier Album of Philatelic Forgeries* (Worthington, Ohio, 1970) about the old Swiss facsimilist. Anyone who pursues stamps should like that. The Kenneth W. Anthony *Beginner's Guide to Stamp Collecting* (London, 1973 paperback) has odd data I had missed in the half century since I gave up collecting cigar bands for stamps.

Now to abridge slightly my opening; I resemble the diplomat in the old saw: when a diplomat says yes he means maybe, when he says maybe he means no, but if he says no he is no diplomat. When the receiver is a beginner, then indeed a packet of 300 Spanish colonies or 1,000 Scandinavia may be offered. At the other end of the scale an advanced collector can use an extra copy (in top condition) of rarities. In a Robert A. Siegel New York auction some months ago I notice that Maltese mints went at these prices: Scott No. 2 at £40, No. 60 at £208, No. 73 at £42. No doubt the same price levels obtain in Europe; such stamps would enrich anybody's albums. Your copy, if he has the item, may be better than his or have a postmark of peculiar interest.

For a middling collector the so'ie stamps I recommended are those picked up on trips abroad or secured from overseas correspondents. The USA sells for about a pound an unused set of the year's commemoratives along with a cardboard album for the same. There are also highly coloured and illustrated paperbacks treating our stamps, available at any sizeable

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
Tenth Anniversary
of
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA
MESSRS. EMMANUEL SAID

of
32, BRITANNIA STREET-VALLETTA

WISH THE
SOCIETY
CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE
SPECIALISTS IN STAMPS AND COINS
OF MALTA AND S.M.O.M.

Publishers of the Said Malta Stamp & Coin Catalogue

American postoffice giving their current value used and mint, and the stories attached to them. One can purchase from postal clerks in the territory of Belize (British Honduras) the butterfly definitives through the \$5 and \$10 values. I fancy these on a registered letter or airmail package — per picture — could not fail to make some stamp field, as they were called in the 1890's, content.

By considering the above points before rushing at the closest trader to hunt a gift for your stamp collecting acquaintances when one is needed, you can avoid a dusty response like that the nineteenth century English writer Charles Lamb gave when he was questioned how he liked babies. "Boiled," was his reply.

VOTE A STAMP

ANNUAL SELECTION OF THE BEST MALTA STAMP COMPETITION

As part of the celebrations to mark its tenth Anniversary, the Philatelic Society of Malta has launched a world-wide annual competition to select the most beautiful single Malta stamp. The competition is being inaugurated this year with the selection of the best designed stamp issued during the calendar year, 1975.

Stamp collectors all over the world have been invited to vote for one stamp which they feel is the most beautifully designed stamp issued last year by the Malta Post Office. Participants were asked to write a letter to the Hon. Secretary giving their name and address, and details of the stamp they wish to vote for, as well as the reasons for their choice. Voting took place between 1st April and 31st May. At the time of going to press, votes are still coming in from collectors in Malta and abroad.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. G.W. Borg, Postmaster General, and the staff of the Philatelic Bureau of the Malta Post Office, as well as Mr. G. Said, of "E. Said Stamp Dealers", for their valuable assistance in mailing between them, for the Society thousands of leaflets publicising the competition, to all parts of the world. Without their support, the venture would not have reached so many collectors spread around the world. The local press and broadcasting media were instrumental in promoting the initiative locally.

Meanwhile, a sub-committee will be appointed by the Society to register all votes on specially prepared cards. Results of the voting will be announced during the monthly meeting to be held on June 7th, at the Catholic Institute, Floriana. Prizes of stamps will be awarded to the first three participants, drawn by lot during the June meeting, from among those who have voted for the stamp that has attained the highest number of votes. A number of consolation prizes will also be awarded. A full report and the results of the competition will be published in the next edition of the Society's magazine, due for publication in December.

POSTMEN'S PERSONAL HANDSTAMPS

Dr. A. Ganado, Secretry, sends the following information regarding the postmen's handstamps:

According to Study Paper No. 18, published by the Malta Study Circle, the earliest use of the Postmen's handstamps in Malta recorded so far is the year 1893. I have the following handstamps on covers used between 1888 and 1892.

PH — 13 13 x 11 mm.

16 AU 88, Ghar-id-Dud, Sliema (The envelope is addressed to Judge Dr. Luigi Ganado).

PH — 5 14 x 11 mm

Five different covers dated respectively: 9 SP 89; 10 NO 90; (Dec.) 90; 4 MY 91; 8 JU 91. All the covers are addressed to Sir Adrian Dingli, Chief Justice and President of the Court of Appeal, and one only has "Valletta" written on it. I can however confirm that Sir Adrian lived at 3 Strada Forni, Valletta.

PH — 5 14 — 11 mm

9 DE 89. Envelope addressed to S.F. Houswin, Via S. Antonio, Valletta.

PH — 2 14 x 11 mm

Two c.d.s. on the same cover, one dated 26, the other 27 DE 92. Addressed to E.G. Degaetano, c/o Mrs. A. Duncan, Malta, without any further details.

The following are dates extensions and recordings of new handstamps:

PH — 61 17 x 14 mm

16 AP 27 addressed to 47 Strada Marina, Sliema.

PH — 65 14 x 13 mm

1 SP 36 addressed to 103 Strada S. Francesco, Floriana.

PH — 65 24 JA 40 addressed to 22 Piazza Filippo Sciberras, Floriana.

PH — 74 13 x 13 mm

7 JY 39 addressed to Villa Priui, (41, Main Street), St. Julian's.

Mr. Nick A. Cutajar submits the following date extensions, new types and localities, as well as recordings of new numbers so far 'not yet seen'.

PH — 13 (c) 13.5 x 10.5 mm

9 JY 35 — Chamber of Solicitors, Imperial Courts, Valletta.

PH — 15 (a) 13.5 x 11 mm

13 MR 98 — Piazza Torre, Floriana

PH — 15 (b) 13.5 x 10.5 mm

19 AU 13 — Convento Sta. Margerita, Cospicua.

PH — 16 (c) 18 x 16 mm (new type)

8 AU 36 — Dingli Street, Sliema, and another dated circa 12.5.33.

- PH — 21 ? x ? mm (probably type a)
9 AU 26 — Capucchins Convent, Floriana.
- PH — 28 (b) 16 x 11 mm (new type)
20 JU 33 — R. Forbes Bentley, Birchircara.
- PH — 30 14 x 13.5 mm
15 AU 06 — Dogana, Valletta.
- PH — 34 (b) 16.5 x 11.5 mm
13 OC 30 — Birchircara.
- PH — 53 18 x 15 mm (Never recorded)
Front only locally postmarked "Prince of Wales" to Bristol; triangular censor mark, manuscript "R.L.B." (Returned Letter Branch); large red pencil "P.T.O.", & small black pencil mark "P.T.O./Gone Away".
- PH — 55 18 x 14.5 mm approx. (Never recorded)
Local cover posted from Valletta with the 'Maltese Cross' spacers mark on "OC 12 28" to 17, Brighella Str., Hamrun.
- PH — 65 14 x 12 mm
17 JU 32 — Convento dei Capuccini, Floriana.
- PH — 69 14 x 12.5 mm
3 NO 36 — Melita Street, Sliema.
- PH — 73 14 x 12.5 mm
Two covers dated "SP 12 39" & "SP 19 38" to Britannia Street, Zurrieq.
- PH — 74 14 x 12.5 mm
Local cover dated 18 OC 44 to Old College Str., St. Julian's.
Also the handstamp on a K.G. VI stamp.

MALTESE PHILATELY — A Bibliography

edited by CARMEL G. BONAVIA

As a service to its members, our Society proposes to publish a list of books, articles, and other publications featuring Maltese stamps and philately. This list will be compiled with the help of all members, each sending information when he reads anything on the subject. As a start, we have compiled the following list. I hope it will grow in time and that our members will find it very useful and interesting.

My thanks go to the Editor of our Magazine, and to Mr. J.J.S. Goss, who compiles the "Index to Current Philatelic Literature" for "The Stamp Lover", published quarterly by the National Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

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 - "Cronaca di Malta" by Nich A. Cutajar in *Francobolli* regularly monthly since Febraury 1973.

Other articles and study papers of important appear regularly in publications by the Malta Study Circle. Study papers are devoted to one particular aspect, while each Newsletter contains valuable information. The listing of the various different topics here would render the list an index rather than a bibliography. Any member interested in the publications of the Malta Study Circle, may inquire with the Editor or the Secretary of the Society.

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