

# MALTA — A DIARY

## January-April 1980

compiled by  
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- 2-1-80 A new "postage paid" handstamp was used at the Central Mail Room and at all Branch Post Offices as from Wednesday, 2nd January 1980. The "postage paid" handstamp used at the Central Mail Room, besides the date, has inscribed: "POSTAGE PAID — 2c5 — MALTA", and those used at the Branch Post Offices also have inscribed thereon the name of the respective locality. The existing "postage paid" handstamps for the 1c and 2c values shall continue to be used, but the "postage paid" handstamps for the 5m value was withdrawn at the close of business on Monday 31st December 1979.
- 8-1-80 New metal date-stamps were put in use at the Central Mail Room, Valletta and at the Parcel Post Office, on the 8th January 1980. At the Central Mail Room 6 new metal hand date-stamps and 4 at the Parcel Post Office were put in use. The ones at the Central Mail Room were inscribed, "VALLETTA — MALTA" and those at the Parcel Post Office, "PARCEL POST SERVICE — MALTA". A number of old hand date-stamps at these two localities were withdrawn from use at the close of business on the day immediately preceding the introduction of the new metal hand date-stamps.
- 11-1-80 New metal hand date-stamps were put in use at the Paola, Cospicua and Birkirkara Branch Post Offices on the 11th January 1980. At Paola B.P.O., 4 new hand date-stamps, inscribed, "PAOLA — MALTA", were put in use. At Cospicua B.P.O. 3 new hand date-stamps were introduced, inscribed "COSPICUA — MALTA". At Birkirkara B.P.O., 3 new hand date-stamps, inscribed, "BIRKIRKARA — MALTA", were put in use. Again a number of old hand date-stamps at these three localities, were withdrawn from use at the close of business on the 10th January 1980.
- 16-1-80 New metal hand date-stamps were put in use at Hamrun B.P.O. (one in number), Gżira B.P.O. (one in number), Rabat B.P.O. (one in number), Victoria B.P.O., Gozo (two in number), and Mgarr B.P.O. Gozo (two in number) on the 16th January 1980. The new hand date-stamps at these localities were inscribed: "HAMRUN — MALTA", "GŻIRA — MALTA", "RABAT — MALTA", "VICTORIA — GOZO", and "MGARR — GOZO". Again old hand date-stamps at these localities were withdrawn from use at the close of business on the 15th January 1980.
- 16-1-80 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Next Stamp Issue — Flemish Tapestries Set — 30 January 1980", was used, on and off, during the period 16th to 29th January 1980, at the Central Mail Room.
- 21-1-80 A new "postage paid" handstamp was used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, as from Monday 21st January 1980. Besides the date, the "postage paid" handstamp also has inscribed thereon: "POSTAGE PAID — 1c5 — MALTA".

- 22-1-80 The 5m stamp of the present Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.
- 30-1-80 The fourth and final Flemish Tapestries Set, issued today. A special hand postmark was used on the first day of issue.
- 11-2-80 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Next Stamp Issue — Restoration of Monuments Set — 15 February 1980", was used during the period 11th to 14th February, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.
- 15-2-80 The "Restoration of Monuments" set, issued today. A special hand postmark was used on the first day of issue.
- 18-3-80 The 8m and 10c stamps of the present Decimal Definitive Set have been reprinted again by Printex Limited. These two stamps were available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.
- 31-3-80 A special hand-postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter, G.P.O., Valletta, from 8.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon on Monday, 31st March 1980, the first anniversary of the End of Military Facilities Agreement with Britain. The special hand-postmark is inscribed: "Jjum il-Ħelsten — L-Ewwel Anniversarju — 31.3.80 — Valletta — Malta". (Freedom Day — First Anniversary — etc.). The emblem of Malta is also incorporated in the postmark. A posting box was placed at the Philatelic Counter on the 31-3-80, for the convenience of those philatelists who wished to have their philatelic mail stamped with this special postmark, to be sent through the post.
- 1-4-80 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Next Stamp Issue Dun Gorg Preca — 12 April 1980" was used, on and off, during the period 1st to 11th April, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.
- 3-4-80 In connection with World Health Day (7th April) which this year has been dedicated by the World Health Organisation to the health hazards of cigarette smoking, a machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "World Health Day — Smoking or Health — The Choice is Yours", was used on the 3rd, 5th and 7th April, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.
- 12-4-80 "Dun Gorg Preca" commemorative postage stamp issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail at the G.P.O. and all B.P.O.s and Sub-Post Offices, commemorating the Centenary of the Birth of Dun Gorg Preca.
- 23-4-80 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Next Stamp Issue — Europa '80 Set — 29 April 1980" was used during the period 23rd to 28th April, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.
- 24-4-80 A special hand post-mark to mark the first centenary of the death of Louis Shickluna, a Maltese who became well known as a pioneer ship-builder in Canada was used at the G.P.O. on Thursday, 24th April, 1980. The postmark is inscribed: "Louis Shipbuilder — Malta 1808-1880 Canada — 24-4-80 Valletta". The postmark also incorporates a line drawing of a steamship, designed by Louis Shickluna, being built in one of his docks.
- 24-4-80 Registration envelopes of a new format were also on sale as from Thursday, 24th April 1980. The envelopes are made of white duplex manilla paper, with the emblem of the Republic of Malta circumvented by the words, "MALTA — REGISTRAZZJONI" in the

top right corner.

The envelopes were available from all Post Offices in three sizes at the following prices, viz:

Size "G" 156mm x 95mm — 4c.

Size "H" 203mm x 120mm — 5c.

Size "K" 292mm x 152mm — 7c.

28-4-80 A Branch Post Office was opened at 228, Victory Street, Qormi, as from the 28th April, 1980.

The hours of business and the business to be transacted at this Branch Post Office shall be those laid down by the Post Office (Hours and Business) Regulations, 1979, (Legal Notice No. 113 of 1979). With effect

from 28th April, 1980, postal articles posted in the area served by the Qormi Branch Post Office were postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed with the following words:

"QORMI — MALTA"

A number of Post Office Private Delivery Boxes are available at the Branch for renting.

The telephone number of the Branch is 47893.

29-4-80 "Europa 1980" set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.