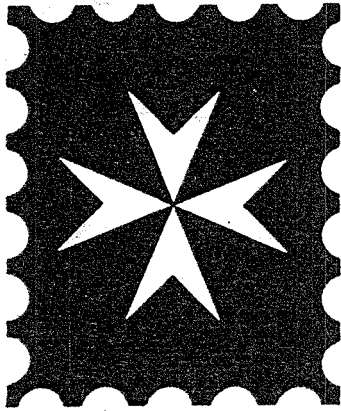


Mr. Fenech



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA MAGAZINE

VOL. 5 No 1.

WINTER ' 75

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FOREWORD

The atmosphere and the results during the auction sale by Harmer's in the early part of December of last year will surely have a sizeable effect on the trade, especially where Maltese philately is concerned. During the sale, some material literally went through the roof, with items, in cases in second rate condition, fetching prices very close to catalogue estimations. Postal history material continues to attract a large number of buyers and higher prices. The implications are far-reaching. Speculative buying as a hedge against inflation is not excluded while collectors buy frantically before prices get even higher; the stresses on the demands and supply are bearing on the future of philately. In these circumstances one wonders what will happen next.

For the majority of us, who are not in a position to attend auctions and enjoy their thrills and excitement, obtaining material for our collections will still have to be made over a friendly chat with our dealer. Some members participate in the exchange branch of the Society and are content with browsing through some twenty booklets hoping to find that long sought after stamp to fill that long-empty gap, at prices we can all afford. About twenty-five members are now participating, but there is scope and place for many more.

For those who want to sell material through the exchange branch, the Society provides standard booklets on which stamps should be handily mounted and priced. These booklets, in batches of between ten to twenty, then circulate among the members on the mailing list for the booklets. Every member passes on the booklets to the next member on the list, who normally lives a couple of miles away, as the mailing list is so prepared to create the least possible inconvenience to members. Any member who would like his name to be included on the mailing list has only got to inform the man on the job. So let's have many more of you joining. Fresh material is always welcome.

The Exchange branch is one activity which has flourished over the years under the capable hands of our Superintendent. I'm sure you all appreciate the volume of paper-work involved and the useful additions he passes on to the Society's funds, through the small commission the Society charges.

After the February meeting, there was talk of more ways through which the society can be of service to its members, and we hope that these will be considered by the new Committee as soon as they are brought to their attention. The holding of auctions by the Society was suggested. There are surely many members who have material they want to dispose of but which consumes time and energy to mount on the Society's booklets. And among us there must be a member capable of handling the hammer.

A successful Society is measured by its service to members and the response from its members.

THE EDITOR.

LOUIS FRANK

At the last Annual General Meeting held on the 4th February 1974, Dr. Albert Ganado, the Honorary Secretary of the Society, communicated to those present the sad news of the passing away of Mr. Louis Frank, a founder member and past President of The Philatelic Society of Malta. We feel his "curriculum vitae" would interest our readers.

Louis Frank was born in Hilversum, Holland, in 1893. During the first world war he became a First Lieutenant in the Dutch Army. In 1920, he represented Holland in gymnastics at the Olympic games held in Belgium. He emigrated to Australia in 1939 when Europe was on the brink of a second world war.

His business acumen flourished in the textile industry. He had his own weaving mills and carried on the largest Persian carpet import business, in Holland first, and in Australia later. In his country of adoption he worked hard for the mentally handicapped.

When he went to Australia he started taking philately very seriously. In 1940 he joined the Philatelic Society of New South Wales and was on the Committee between 1951 — 1960. He also founded the European Circle and was Chairman throughout its ten years existence.

In 1948 he was given membership of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club and was Vice-President 1958-1960.

He was admitted to the Royal Philatelic Society in London in 1954 of which he became a Fellow in 1959.

In 1966, a short while after settling in Malta, he promoted the idea of forming a philatelic society on the island. With the co-operation of Dr. Charles Casar, Mr. Moris Darmanin and Dr. Albert Ganado, he succeeded in creating our Society at a foundation meeting held on the 7th March 1966. Mr. Frank became its first Chairman, and he was confirmed every year until he resigned in December 1971 when he decided to leave Malta for good.

He was a very keen collector and a specialist in several fields of philately. Among his many other awards, the following call for particular mention:

1942	Forgeries and Reprints Exhibition	—	Silver Medal
1950	New Zealand Philatelic Exhibition	—	Silver & Bronze
1950	"ANPEX" (Melbourne)	—	Gold
1953	"ITEP" (Holland)	—	Silver
1955	New Zealand Philatelic Exhibition	—	Gold
1955	"FIPEX" (New York)	—	Bronze
1955	"ANPEX" (Adelaide)	—	2 Gold
1957	"TELAVIV" (Israel)	—	Silver
1959	"ANPEX" (Sydney)	—	12 Gold

(This feat earned him "The Championship of Australia". He exhibited specialised collections of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italian States, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Rumania, Sicily, Spain, Switzerland, Thurn and Taxis)

1960 Poland — Bronze & Silver
1970 "ANPEX" (Sydney) — Malta collection — Silver

Quite an impressive list, especially when one considers it is by no means exhaustive.

One could also mention that he won a trophy at the Eucharistic Congress of 1956 competing against the late Cardinal Spellman on the theme "Religion on Stamps".

He was created Chevalier in the Order of the Royal Crown of Crete in August 1969. Later he became Knight Commander and in March 1973 he received the honour of a hereditary title: Count Louis Frank di Piazza.

After a stay of six years in Malta, he decided to take up residence in Spain. He died at his home at Marbella on the 13th November 1973 after a short illness, on the eve of his eightieth birthday.

He was sadly mourned and remembered with affection by his many Maltese friends and admirers, his sons and his wife, Contessa Susan Frank di Piazza, who was for many years a member of the Philatelic Society of Malta.

(A. G.)

Cospicua — New Discoveries

Recently, an unrecorded Cospicua 20mm diameter village cancel came to light. Up to a few months ago, it was considered to be very rare, but recent discoveries show that it is not quite as rare as is generally thought.

The cancel has the word "COSPICUA" arched in the upper half, and bears a code. The date is in the middle, while the year shown abbreviated in the lower segment. The exact dates of use are not yet known, but it is known that it was used as late as 1911. A "D" code has been seen, so presumably a "B" and a "C" code exist. The handstamp is known both as a receiving mark, (the Editor has in his possession a picture-postcard from Italy, addressed to Senglea, bearing a Valletta 'oyal' dated "19 JU 04", as well as the Cospicua 20mm code letter "A". The card also bears Postman's Personal Handstamp 2), and as an obliterator.

It has come to the notice of the Editor that the Cospicua 23mm village mark is known forged. It is mainly seen on K.G.V higher values and has been made to produce fine used examples of stamps for collectors. The way to recognise it is by its clarity, its "E" code and its date, "AP 10 15". It is also probable that it was made photographically from Said's catalogue. It is also probable that it was made locally.

Rabat

On 2nd January, 1975, new labels were introduced for the Parcel Post and Registration services at the Rabat B.P.O. A blue-printed label was introduced for registration replacing the provisional rectangular rubber handstamp (42.5 x 17.5mm). The new label is inscribed "RABAT MALTA".

The Rabat B.P.O., situated within the Civic Centre complex, replaced the Mdina B.P.O. on 11th March, 1974. On the same day, Rabat was issued with its own appropriately inscribed double-ring canceller.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 13th January 1975

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 13th January, 1975, in Mons. Gonzi Hall, of the Catholic Institute, Floriana. The President took the chair and welcomed the members present.

The Honorary Secretary, Dr. A. Ganado, then delivered his report for 1974 stating that membership during the year had risen from 75 to 90 and expressed the hope that, during the coming year, this number would increase to 100. He appealed to all members promptly to pay their annual subscription, now increased to £M1.

Unfortunately, no issue of the Society's Newsletter had been published during the early part of 1974. A new editor, had been appointed and had produced an issue in November. It was hoped that in future, three issues would be produced annually.

Referring to monthly meetings, the Secretary said that these were held, as usual, on the first Monday of the month, with the exception of July, August and September, in the Catholic Institute Floriana, to the Managing Committee of which, the Society is greatly indebted for the facilities afforded.

Talks on philatelic subjects had been given by members, and included "The Channel Islands" by Mr. H. Williams; "The History of East Africa" by Mr. S. N. Bush; "The Universal Postal Union" by Dr. J. H. Mercieca. In December, a showing of two colour films was given. (Details of the 'Film Evening' are given elsewhere in the issue). Further illustrated talks and film shows are projected for the coming year.

The Society's application to join the "Federation Internationale de Philatelie" will be considered during the Philatelic Congress of the Federation to be held in Madrid next April. The Society has been requested to send a delegate to attend the Congress and provide information on the Society and its activities.

The Exchange Branch, organised and supervised by Mr. A. Fenech, has continued to circulate books among about twenty-five members, resulting in a useful addition to the Society's funds. In April, the Society set up a panel of experts to advise members, and others, on the stamps of Malta. Members of the panel are Dr. J.H. Mercieca, Dr. A. Bonnici and Dr. A. Ganado.

Finally the Secretary informed that the Society expressed its thanks to the Postmaster General for adopting some of its suggestions at the Vth Philatelic Exhibition of Malta, 1974, in which it was hoped to re-include the section devoted to Literature.

In conclusion, the congratulations of the Society were offered to two members, Mr. A. Fenech and Mr. G. Said, who won first and second place respectively for their display at the above Exhibition.

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr. A.A. Cassar Torregiani, then delivered his Financial Statement for the year ending on the 31st December, 1974. This showed a favourable balance of £M69.37.5.

The following members were later on in the evening, elected to serve as Officers and on the Committee:

President:	Dr. J.H. Mercieca
Vice-President:	Dr. A. Bonnici
Honorary Secretary:	Dr. A. Ganado
Asst. Hon. Secretary:	Mr. E. Collins
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr. A. A. Cassar Torregiani
Asst. Hon. Treasurer and Exchange Branch Supt.:	Mr. A. Fenech
Editor — Newsletter:	Mr. N. A. Cutajar
Asst. Editor:	Mr. S. Stanaway
Press Relations:	Mr. S. N. Bush
Members:	Dr. A. Aquilina
	Mr. G. Said.

The following motion, submitted by the Committee was passed. Delete article 9 of the Statute and substitute as:

- 9 a. "If any member of the Committee fails to attend three consecutive meetings without requesting the Committee to be excused, he shall automatically forfeit his seat, and the Committee shall at the earliest opportunity record this fact and inform such member that his appointment has lapsed."
- b. "Any vacancy occurring in the Committee shall be filled by the remaining members of the Committee, first preference being given to the members who at the last election polled the highest number of votes among those who failed to get elected."

It is opportune at this stage to point out that under "Subscription" in the Statute published in Autumn 1974, article 14, the amount now reads "£M1".

The President, in closing the meeting, thanked all the members, for their support during the past year and looked forward to their continued attendance at future meetings of the Society. He also expressed the hope that the Society would attract many more new members, to whom it extended a warm welcome.

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AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE PUBLISHED MEMBERSHIP LIST:

ADDITIONS

- 103 Mr. A.J. Grech,, 2/37 Hughes Hallet Str., Sliema
 176 Major Clifford Cole, FRICS, Cryan, Sydenham Road, Cheltenham,
 Glos., GL52 6 EA, England.
 177 Mr. A. Micallef Attard, Block V/1, 4 Luqa Rd., Tarxien — 23993
 178 Sister M. Annunciata Gatt, Welcome House, Sir L. Preziosi
 Street, Floriana
 179 Mr. Mark Anthony Ferry, 31, Antonio Sciortino Street, Msida
 180 Mr. George M. Pace, "St. Rita", 21 Eldorado Street, Hamrun
 — 25398
 181 Mr. Anthony S. Schembri, 666/5 St. Joseph Road, Hamrun
 182 Mr. Bernard A. McArthur Davis, O.B.E. 8/1 Alexandra Str. Sliema.
 183 Mr. S.J.E. Sloan, Sta. Maria Estate, Mellieha
 184 Miss Sally Joan Lawrence, 2 San Anton Flats, Locker Str., Sliema.
 185 Mr. Eric John Lawrence, 2 San Anton Flats, Locker Str., Sliema.
 186 Mr. R.C.B. Smith, 16 Rowley Close, Weybridge, Surrey, England.
 187 Mrs. G.H. Mardling, 2, Capuchins Road, Kalkara
 188 Mr. Dennis Marriner, 8, Main Street, Attard — 41024
 189 Mr. Lawrence Muscat, 1a St. Michael's Street, Senglea — 28824
 190 Miss S. Galea 9, Jubilee Esplanade, Mgarr
 191 Mr. Alfred Caruana Ruggier, 186, St. Gajetans Street, Hamrun
 192 Mr. Kenneth H. Brewer, Tarabanka, High Ridge, St. Andrews
 193 Mr. Henry Borg, Blk. 13, Flat 12, Ivy Path, St. Lucia
 194 Mr. Edward Collins, Villa Gloriana, Hope Str., Mosta — 45657
 195 Mr. Stahl Gerhard, FI-9490 Vaduz, Bartlegrosch 5, Furstentum,
 Liechtenstein.
 196 Mr. Joseph Caruana Grech, 71, Britannia Street, Zurrieq
 197 Miss Doris Falzon, "Clidia", St. Thomas Street, Rabat.

— ALTER ADDRESS

- 113 Mr. R.P. Turk 4 Berries Square, Naxxar — 45532
 129 Mr. R.D. Middlehurst, "Gifford", Ballafesson Rd., Port Erin,
 Isle of Man.
 136 Mr. I.M. Lishman San Pawl, tat-Targa, limits of Naxxar.
 151 Mr. C. Cilia "Bowie", New Street off Tower Rd., B'Kara.
 160 Mr. S. Stanaway, 3 Maryanne Flats, Old Railway Road, Balzan.

— DELETE (Deceased)

- 112 Mr. L.A. Appelt; 139 Mrs. V. Ormiston; 157 Mr. A. Bugeja.

— ADD TELEPHONE NUMBER

64	Mr. J. Buttigieg — 23722	153	Miss M.E. Cassola — 42521
123	Miss F. Zammit — 28868	156	Mr. G. Callus — 21120
140	Mr. L. Mifsud — 75 / 6161	162	Rev. A. Galea — 23681
143	Dr. A. Bonnici — 38437	165	Capt. V. Light — 35707
149	Mr. F. Farrugia — 39448	166	Mr. D. Cutajar — 32997
152	Cmdr. Sydney N. Bush — 40503	101	Mr. J.E. Sullivan (alter to — 74184

— MISCELLANEOUS

115	Mr. Anthony Giordmaina,	3 St. Pius V Str., Rabat.	74076
141	Miss M.S. Bowman,	5 Manoel Mansions, De Paule Ave.,	Balzan 40811
142	Mr. V. Bowman,	5 Manoel Mansions, De Paule Ave.,	Balzan. 40811
144	Mr. Carmel G. Bonavia;	148	Mr. Joseph Farrugia.
158	Mr. Vincent Mercieca;	167	Sgt. Brian Kelly.
170	Mrs. Mary Mifsud,	10 Balluta Buildings, St. Julian's.	

The Editor would be very much obliged if members would check their own details as given in the lists, and thus enable him to correct any discrepancies which may have been made.

December Meeting — "Film Evening"

The spacious Auditorium of the Catholic Institute, Floriana, on Monday, 2nd December, 1974, was the venue of a successful "Film Evening" featuring the stamps of the United Nations Postal Administration. The event was jointly organised by the Philatelic Society of Malta and the Hobbies Society, both of which cater for substantial number of stamp collectors in the Maltese Islands. The films were kindly lent for the occasion by the U.N.P.A.

A display of U.N.P.A. publicity and informative material, including press-releases, folders and fold-outs, posters and a catalogue of U.N.P.A. issues, was put on by members. The display attracted a lot of attention and it was encouraging to talk to a collector who had given up the stamps of the United Nations, and decided to take them up again.

The President, Dr. J.H. Mercieca, addressed briefly the gathering and thanked Fr. Orr for making available the Auditorium of the Catholic Institute, and Mr. Nick A. Cutajar, through whose initiative, the showing of the films was made possible. The films shown were: "Messengers of Peace", 28-minute armchair tour of the United Nations Headquarters showing the Stamp Design Committee at work; "United Nations New York" which described the establishment of the United Nations Postal Administration and showed the printing procedures of the early issues.

In conclusion, it is safe to note that both films were well received and points raised after, encouraged further similar activities for the future.

Malta Special Commemorative Postmarks

CHRISTMAS 1974

A special 30mm pictorial commemorative postmark for first day of issue facilities was employed on the 22nd November 1974, at the Central Office and all Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo. The words "L-EWWEL JUM TAL-HRUG", (First Day of Issue) are inscribed arched in the upper half of the postmark. A "Cremonian" type of star adorns the centre, while the bottom part carries "(name of office) — MALTA", underneath which is the date "22 - XI - 1974".

PHILATELIC TWINNAGE Firenze-Mdina

As part of the 19th International Philatelic Meeting, organised by the "Circolo Filatelico Fiorentino" on the 23-24 November, 1974, a philatelic twinnage cover was prepared, between Firenze (Italy) and Mdina (Malta). The special cover, (folding type), with a 5c Airmail Definitive stamp in the top-right corner, was cancelled with a special maltese rectangular (42, 5 x 20mm) handstamp. The handstamp carried, in the left part, the coat-of-arms of the two cities underneath which are the respective names of the cities. The words "TEWMINAGG/FILATELIKU/23 - XI - 1974" were inscribed in the right hand section. A few centimetres lower than the Malta stamp, on a grey background, an Italian stamp, the L. 40 showing the "Fontana dell'Oceano", (one of the second series of stamps showing Italian fountains, issued on the 9th November, 1974) was affixed. The stamp was cancelled with a pictorial handstamp reading "FIRENZE/C.P. /Servizzi distaccati/GEMELLAGGIO/FIRENZE/MALTA".

Dr. Albert Schweitzer

On January, 14th, 1975, a commemorative slogan cancellation was used at the Mail Room, Valletta, to mark the birth Centenary of Dr. Albert Schweitzer. The slogan, which was to the left of the cancellation, read "CENTINARJU/1875 — 14 ta' JAN — 1975" in the upper part, while in the lower part "DR ALBERT/SCHWEITZER".

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT 1973/74 OF THE POST & TELEPHONES DEPT.

The revenue collected during the year exceeded expenditure by £M340,195. Comparative figure for the years 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74 are given hereunder:

	1973/74	1972/73	1971/72
Revenue	£M1,014,990	£M1,029,665	£M703,221
Expenditure	674,795	660,900	665,857
Surplus	£M340,195	£M368,765	£M37,364

(Contd. on page 14)

Plate Blocks and Imprint Blocks on Maltese Stamps

By Joe Farrugia

The collecting of Plate & Imprint blocks is becoming over more popular, as it offers a new side-line to philately. In this and subsequent issues, we shall try to establish a comprehensive list of all issues of Malta's stamps, submitted by a member of our society, to whom we are indebted. Mr. Joe Farrugia assures us that he has in his possession, or seen himself, any mention of plate numbers:

(the Editor)

The hobby of collecting stamps in blocks of four, besides singles, is increasing everywhere, Malta being no exception. Many of us who collect Malta stamps in blocks, prefer to collect Plate Blocks or Imprint Blocks or both. For those collectors who never interested themselves in this type of hobby, perhaps it will be of some help to try and explain what this side-line is about.

Without going into all the complicated details of what happens between the time that the winner of a stamp design competition is chosen and the actual sale of the same stamps from across the counters, it is enough to say that different processes of production may be adopted to print these stamps. The main processes used are: Recess-printing, Photogravure, Typography, Lithography and Delacryl. It is interesting to note that all these processes were used, at some time or other, in the printing of Maltese issues, by different printing firms. Whichever process is used, a printing plate is always involved, by means of which the final printed sheet is produced. This sheet may be composed of two or more Panes, and each of these panes is the actual sheet that is sold from the counters. In the majority of cases, all the panes that make up a printed sheet, are marked by numbers or letters or a combination of both. These markings are nearly always found in the bottom margin of each pane, either to the left or to the right. The Imprint, which is the name of the printers of the stamps, is also found in the bottom margin. Occasionally, plates are not marked in numbers or letters, and we say that an un-numbered plate has been used. In this case, we, plate-number collectors, refer to such a case as plate-number 'nil' or 'none'. There are also cases when the imprint is not printed.

The Plate collector's aim is to acquire a corner block of stamps, from the bottom of each pane that make up a printing sheet. Each of these blocks will have a different number or letter or both, and taken together will form a sequence, which corresponds to the number of panes that make up the printing sheet, from a particular printing plate. When study papers of particular issues are being prepared, Plate corner blocks are very helpful, and I would advise any collector possessing such blocks, especially of the earlier issues, not to break them up if they can help it, or at least

to try and exchange them for singles with other interested collectors.

The Imprint collector's main concern is to obtain a block of four or more stamps from the bottom of one of the panes, on the margin of which, the printer's name is shown in full.

Many converts to plate collecting, conveniently, started their collection with the first Decimal Coinage issue of May 1972. Others took their year of departure 1964, with the Independence issue, while the real hunters go back even further: Queen Elizabeth II, with the Coronation issue of June 1953; King George VI with the Coronation issue of May 1937. To satisfy both 'old' and 'new' collectors of plate numbers, I shall endeavour to give as much information as possible, starting from all issues of 1974, and going back, year by year, up to 1937. As new Malta stamps are issued, information about plate numbers will be inserted with each future issue of this magazine, which we hope, under our new energetic editor, Mr. N. Cutajar, will be issued regularly.

Naturally, the Editor needs the help of all of us and this is exactly what prompted me to write this humble contribution. This is my first try at writing for our magazine, and most probably, I shall commit errors and receive deserved criticism, but please, at least, put your criticism in writing to the Editor, who will be more than glad to receive it and publish it in our magazine. That way all of us will benefit and learn more about our hobby. Before I close, I would like to forward a suggestion to our newly elected committee. How about inviting someone from "Printex Ltd., Malta", the printers of Malta stamps since the Europa issue of 1972, to give us a lecture on how Malta stamps are produced, (or perhaps a visit)?

PLATE AND IMPRINT BLOCKS — 1974

Prominent Maltese Personalities (12th January)

Plate/Pane numbers: There are three panes for each value. All plate numbers are under the first stamp, of the bottom row.

1c3, 3c, 5c, 7c5 & 10c=

1A x 3 up to, and including 1C x 3.

Imprint Blocks: The printer's name 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is under the last two stamps, of the bottom row. An Imprint block of four would also include the traffic lights, or colour checks, which are on the right side margin, to the last stamp.

Air Mail Definitives (30th March)

Plate/Pane numbers: There are three Panes for each value. All Plate numbers are under the first and second stamps of the bottom row.

3c, 4c, 5c, 7c5, 20c, 25c & 35c=

1A x 5 up to, and including 1C x 5

Imprint Blocks: The printer's name "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is shown under the last stamp of the bottom row. An imprint block of four stamps

would also include the colour checks, which are on the right-hand margin, next to the last stamp and the one above it.

Europa (13th July)

Taking issues in a reverse order, as we are proposing to do, this will be the first set that we come across which was issued in small sheets of ten stamps each. The 1c3 and the 5c sheetlets are in a horizontal format, while the 3c and the 7c5 values are printed in vertical format. From a study of all the Panes of the values issued, I think that the printing sheet was made up of thirty-six panes, that is nine panes per value, and each pane being a sheetlet. I arrived at this conclusion after a study of all the perforations along the margins, cutting lines where they still showed, and especially the watermark. I would appreciate the opinion of other collectors about this.

Plate/Pane numbers: There are nine Panes for each value. For the 1c3 and 5c sheetlets, the plate numbers are under the middle stamp of the bottom row. Since the bottom row consists of three stamps only, for those who do not want to buy whole sheetlets, a block of four from the bottom left-hand corner, would also include the Plate numbers. For the 3c and the 7c5 sheetlets, the Plate numbers are under the first stamp of the bottom row.

1c3, 3c, 5c & 7c5 =

1A x 3 up to, and including 11 x 3.

Imprint Blocks: The printer's name "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is under the last stamp of the bottom row in the 1c3 and 5c sheetlets, and under the last two stamps in the 3c and 7c5 sheetlets. An Imprint block of four from the 1c3 and 5c values will also include the Plate number, but not the colour checks, which are in the top right hand margin. An Imprint block of four from the 3c and 7c5 values will include the colour checks but not the Plate numbers.

Centenary of the Universal Postal Union (20th September)

Besides the four values, in Panes of fifty stamps, a miniature sheet incorporating the four values, was also issued, but no Plate numbers are involved in its printing.

Plate/Pane numbers: There are four panes for each value. All Plate numbers are found under the first stamp of the bottom row.

1c3, 5c, 7c5 & 50c =

1A x 3 up to, and including 1D x 3.

Imprint Blocks: "PRINTEX LTD. MALTA" is found under the last stamp in the bottom row. The word "LIMITED" is abbreviated in this issue. An Imprint block of four would also include the colour checks, which are next to the last stamp in the right hand margin.

Christmas (22nd November)

For this issue, no miniature sheets were printed. There were three Panes of fifty stamps each for each value.

Plate/Pane numbers: All plate numbers are found under the first stamp, in the bottom row.

8m+2m, 3c+1c, 5c+1c & 75+1c5=
1A×4 up to, and including 1C×4.

Imprinted Blocks: "PRINTEX LTD. MALTA" is again found under the last stamp, in each bottom row. An Imprint block of four stamps also includes the traffic lights, which are found next to the last stamp and the one above it in the right hand margin.

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FROM UNDER THE HAMMER OF HARMER'S

One of the advantages offered by major Auction Houses is the possibility of grouping in one sale, collections of a substantial value and which complement each other to offer to the buyers comprehensive selections spanning whole of a country's philately.

Undoubtedly, one of the best examples of what we have said, was furnished by the sale of Malta, the Cape of Good Hope and the British Commonwealth, of the renowned H.R. Harmer Ltd., between the 9th and 11th December, 1974. This three-day sale brought £51,200. Two vast collections by well known philatelists, Messrs. A.G. Carpenter and C.A. Warren, which represented in one day the whole span of Maltese philately, set new price levels with a total of £22,100.

In the Malta sale, 287 lots were offered under the hammer, and these comprised, pre-adhesive material (69 lots); Great Britain used in Malta (74 lots); 1860-1884, ½d yellow, first Malta stamp (55 lots). Prices have been excellent, especially for superior items. We give here some of the most significant prices: (Prices in brackets are for the estimated or catalogue value)

Lot 1, 1759, letter to France with clear "MARSEILLE" and "DE MALTHE" handstamps, fine (£75 to £100) — £420.

Lot 18. 1823, a front to England showing the scarce "MALTA/AU 29/1823/F" marking in green, a little soiled, (£20) — £105.

Lot 16. 1820 officer's letter addressed to Essex inscribed in MS "By H.M. Packet Lady Wellington" and with black framed 'MALTA' in fancy capitals and 'PAID' above, the letter mis-sent to Carlisle and with circular dated Carlisle mileage mark, a little soiled, (£20 to £30) — £150.

Lot 31. 1839 letter to Livorno, black "MALTA POST OFFICE" and arrival datestamps, the letter with fold and a few small stains (£20 £30) — £70.

Lot 40. 1841 letter to Marseille, black "MALTA POST OFFICE" marking, fine but horizontal fold, (£40 to £50) — £130.

Lot 48. 1841 wrapper to Palermo with "MALTA POST OFFICE" in black, red oval framed "VAPORI/DA MALTA" and Messina and Palermo datestamps, a few small stains and fold, (£75 to £100) — £230.

Lot 58. 1862, a mourning envelope addressed to England showing a good strike of the octagonal "MALTA/MB/AP 30/62" marking, the envelope a little damaged at top-left corner and stained at top, (£40 to £50) — £105.

Lot 75. 1d rose-red, the collection of plate numbers, all different plates in pairs or strips, chiefly fair to fine, (bearing the "A25" cancel), (£100 to £125) — £380.

Lot 98. 2/— brown, clearly cancelled, fine but for a few small perforation repairs; "A25" cancel. (cat £170) — £190.

Lot 103. ½d Plate 19 well tied to letter with an "A25" obliteration, to Sira, slightly stained and horizontal fold, scarce, (£40 to £60) — £145.

MALTA – 1975 Programme of New Issues

According to the official programme for 1975, published in "The Malta Stamp", N.8, official bulletin of the Malta Philatelic Bureau, five special issues are planned for the year. In January, the set to mark the "International Women's Year 1975" was scheduled for release, but it is now certain that the set will not be released before March, during which yet another issue was scheduled for release.

Through an official release it is now learned that the first issue of the year will be one to mark the birth of the Republic of Malta, which will be issued on the 31st March, 1975. The issue will contain three values, whose respective designs will feature: 1c3, the swearing-in of the Prime Minister by the first President of the Republic in the presence of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The ceremony was held in the Hall of the Grand Council of the Order of St. John in the Magisterial Palace, Valletta. 5c — depicts the National Flag of Malta. 25c — reproduces the scene from the Palace Balcony from where the President of Malta, Sir Anthony Mamo addressed the public after the swearing-in ceremony. Also shown are the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice and Parliamentary affairs. The two scenes on the 1c3 and 25c values, are shown over the National flag, with an appropriate Legend. The stamps have been designed by Chev. Emvin Cremona.

The other issues in the programme for 1975 are as follows: the "International Women's Year 1975", an issue for Europa, 1975, another for the "European Architectural Heritage Year 1975" and the 'Christmas' issue, it is hoped, will close the programme for the year. Due to the changes that had to be made in the programme, it is not yet possible to advise our readers of the dates of issues of the above proposed issues.

(Contd. from page 8)

Philatelic Sales

The revenue from philatelic sales totalled £M454,000. Hereunder are comparative results for the last five years.

Year	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74
Sales	£M244,000	£M184,000	£M190,000	£M475,000	£M454,000

Christmas Stamps Surcharge

The 1973 Christmas issue was issued with a small surcharge, which produced £M6,824 which were distributed among Child Welfare Organisations. (Last year's Christmas issue produced £M8,906). Following this year's (1974) publicity campaign for the use of Christmas stamps, it is expected that Christmas 1974 will produce an increase in funds collected from the surcharge.

Mail Service

The number of postal articles handled by the Post Office in 1973 amounted to 30,600,000 against 37,100,000 in 1972.

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Such is the introduction to the Hobby Guide published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., and compiled by Russell Bennett and James Watson. Readers of this magazine may remember the article which appeared in the last issue, describing major varieties of paper and numbering twelve. In this book there are 34! Did you know, for instance, that in 1919, Latvia issued stamps on paper intended for the manufacture of cigraettes? Watermarks are illustrated, in colour, and there are 12 of these. Perforations are dealt with at length, including Roulette, and these number 30 in all. This book is a MUST for all collectors, and priced at £1 sterling is exceedingly good value for money.

S. S.

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In this year's edition, the Variety Section has been revised and the listing has now been restricted to major and substantial errors. Thus minor flaws of printing, so common these days through offset printing have been shelved, bringing the catalogue "in line with the current trend".

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