

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

VOL. 5 No. 3.

AUTUMN '75

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA MAGAZINE

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FOREWORD

On April 15, 1975, the Philatelic Society of Malta was formally accepted as a full member of the "Federation Internationale de Philatelie". Malta's application was discussed at the 44th International Congress of the F.I.P. held after the closure of the International Philatelic Exposition of Spain, "Espana '75".

The F.I.P. is a non-profit association founded in 1926. It aims at promoting the development of philately in all its aspects, creating friendly relations and maintaining close co-operation between philatelists throughout the world. It also aims at establishing and maintaining close contacts with all bodies in contact with philately, including Postal Administrations. Today the F.I.P. is the only world body representing philately on an international level, and its voice carries the weight of a vast number of philatelic federations and societies all over the world.

The benefits of full membership in the F.I.P. are various. The Philatelic Society Malta now has the privilege of representation at Congress, the supreme body of F.I.P., at which we have the right to vote. Every member of the Federation may appoint a delegate to membership of any of the seven Philatelic Commissions of the F.I.P. entrusted with specific philatelic aspects empowered to formulate regulations for exhibitions after adoption by Congress.

Members of our Society may now participate in any international exhibition organised under the patronage of F.I.P. Up to now, our members have been unable, at least in some cases, to participate in such exhibitions.

F.I.P. membership carries with it also responsibilities. These are mainly financial, as the fee for membership is quite a substantial amount, which has to be paid from our Society's limited funds. It is thus of paramount importance that these funds are never lacking and always available. This will put on responsibility on members to see that their membership fee is always paid and it is hoped that every one honours that duty.

It is time that we as a Society start planning seriously on ways and means to attract more members and providing for them the best atmosphere for furthering their interests. The Maltese collector expects the lead from us. It was easy to gauge the interest from the number of people who visited the Society's display at the Hotel Phoenicia, Ballroom between September 15 and 16. Many wanted to know about the P.S.M. and we are continually receiving such information from abroad as well.

THE EDITOR

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:—

- 198 Mr. Godfrey C. Scerri, 30/2 Ghar id-Dud Str., Sliema
199 Fr. Louis Camilleri, 40 St. Lucy Str., Naxxar
200 Mr. Robert W. Barbour, Casa del Pozzo. San Pawl tat-Targa
201 Mr. Alfred Fenech, "Alfgra", St. Luke's Road, G'Mangia
202 Mr. R. Stevense, Schariekendoorn 32, Rotterdam 3014, Holland
203 Mr. Mario Caruana 177/3 St. Christopher Str., Valletta
204 Dr. Ricardo Farrugia, B.A., L.Ld., "Reverie", Flat 2, Msida Valley Road,
B'Kara
205 Mr. George Coates 127 Harefield Rd., Rickmansworth, Herts, U.K.,
206 Dr. Joseph Attard, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M & H,
"Winneba", Autumn Str. Mosta
207 Anthony J. Abela Medici, 89 High Str., Wimbledon, London, England
208 Patrick Camilleri, Blk.10/Ft.6, Garden Square, Qormi (Junior Member)
209 Godwin Ellul, 217 Main Str., Qormi, (Junior member)
210 Mrs. Eleanor Amy Griggs, 17 Vista Bella, M'scala
211 Emanuel Bonello de Torrella, 28 Grenfell Str., St. Julian's
212 Mrs. Alys Houston, "Dormouse", Tal-Virtu, Rabat, Malta
213 Emanuel Holland, "Casa Zambarett", St. Paul Str., Naxxar
214 D.J. Pearce, Villa Vermont, New Street off Old Railway Rd., Balzan
215 Francis S. Niemczewski, 567 Sunset Ave., Maple Shade, New Jersey, U.S.A.
216 Rodger G. Yeo, P.O. Box 10, Ruislip, Middlesex, U.K.
217 Joseph Sciciuna, 1721 Summit Ave., Union City, N.J. 07087, U.S.A.
218 Joseph R. Katusa, P.O. 396, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania 15320, U.S.A.
219 Joe Vella, 1396 Fort Str., Apt.218, Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146, U.S.A.
220 Bernard R. Asphar, 8 Tage Place, Eastchester, New York 10739, U.S.A.
221 G. Dorflinger, 6204 Taunusstein 1, Arndtstrasse 18, West Germany

OBITUARY

175 Mr. Hubert R. Williams.

RESIGNED

81 Mr. A.A. Cassar Torregiani.

Mr. Stephen Stanaway, our Ass. Editor, has moved to the U.K. and is now residing at 28, Macclesfield Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 6BE. Elsewhere we publish the members' interests in coded form as well as the code, both of which have been prepared for publication by Mr. S. Stanaway.

MEETINGS

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

SOCIETY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 1975/76 season had a premature inauguration with two meetings in September. In both instances, two members of the Malta Study Circle were the guest speakers.

Mr. Graham Smeed's Meeting.

On September 15, Mr. Graham Smeed, chairman of the Malta Study Circle gave a very interesting talk, profusely illustrated with coloured slides. The meeting was held at the Hotel Phoenicia Ballroom, kindly placed at our disposal by the Management Well over 80 members were in attendance, including Mr. G.W. Borg, Acting Postmaster General. Dr. J.H. Mercieca, President, introduced the speaker stating that the name "Smeed" was a household word within Maltese philatelic circles, as many members still remember him from his earlier visits. However this was a special welcome, since he is now chairman of the Malta Study Circle, with which our Society has strong ties of friendship and collaboration.

For over 90 minutes, Mr. Smeed gave a comprehensive talk on the work of the Malta Study Circle and Malta's postal history. The slides illustrated a number of rare and even unseen nineteenth and early twentieth century Malta cancellations, Paquebot, fiscals and revenues, Postmen's Personal Handstamps, Prisoner of War Mail, Village Postmarks, (including some suspects) and Malta Postal Stationery.

Afterwards, Mr. Smeed replied to a few questions and encouraged discussion on some controversial and yet unsolved mysteries, in connection with the illustrated material.

In closing the meeting, Dr. Mercieca, thanked Mr. Smeed for his very interesting talk and asked him to convey to members of the Circle, the good wishes of the Philatelic Society of Malta, assuring them they will at all times be welcome to Malta.

Before closing, the President was invited to distribute the awards to the prize-winners in the Salstex Philatelic Exhibition. Two Society members received awards: Mr. Ted Collins, gold medal for his entry "The Turkish Cypriot Postal Administration"; and Mr. Nick A. Cutajar, our Editor, received a diploma for his entry in the Hors Concours, with a selection of his contributions to the Philatelic Press abroad.

The Salstex Philatelic Exhibition 1975 was organised by the Old Albertians Association at St. Albert the Great College, Valletta, between September 6 and 14.

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

Philatelic Display — Ballroom Hotel Phoenicia

In connection with Mr. Graham Smeed's lecture, a philatelic display was put up by the Society at the Ballroom of the Hotel Phoenicia, kindly placed at our disposal by the Management. The display was opened in the Afternoon on Monday, 15th September and remained open all day on September 16, staffed by members of the Society.

On display were various collections submitted by members of the Society: Decimal Definitives and Commemoratives of G.B. (S.N. Bush); The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, (T. Collins); Zejtun Postal History and Australia (N.A. Cutajar); Easter Stamp Issues (A.Fenech); The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (G. Said); also on display were the "Salstex '75" entries submitted by Messrs. J. Agius, E. Chappell, T. Collins, N.A. Cutajar and P. Gauci.

The Malta Post Office displayed two frames showing the development of stamp production for the 1968 Christmas Issue and the 1969 Malta Commemoratives Issue.

The spacious Ballroom provided an opportunity for members of the public to acquaint themselves with the hobby and the Philatelic Society of Malta. The interest and response was very encouraging as witnessed by the questions put to the members who manned the display and the enrollment of new members.

In closing, we thank the Manager, Hotel Phoenicia, for making available free of charge the Ballroom for the two days; Mr. George W. Borg, Acting Postmaster General for the loan of the Exhibition Panels and his help; Mr. Eugenio Pace Meli, organizer of "Salstex '75"; all the helpers, especially Mr. Graham Smeed himself, who could not resist giving a helping hand, and the exhibitors.

Mrs. P.L. Turnbull's Visit

On Thursday 25th September, a special meeting was arranged to accommodate Mrs. P.L. Turnbull, who was currently on her third visit to Malta, accompanied by her husband. Mrs. P.L. Turnbull kindly offered to display some of her material and give a talk to members of the Society. During the meeting, which was very well attended considering the announcement at very short notice, the guest speaker talked and displayed on the postal history of Malta and her early stamps.

Mrs. P.L. Turnbull has been collecting since her childhood days, having taken fancy to Malta stamps in the early fifties. She is a member of various societies, among which the Royal Philatelic Societies of London, Victoria and Sydney. She is also founder member of the Malta Study Circle. For her Malta collection, she has won no less than sixteen medals, of which three were gold, and four were silver-gilt, as well as four trophies.

In thanking Mrs. P.L. Turnbull, the President, Dr. J.H. Mercieca, expressed the society's admiration and appreciation for her efforts in philately, and the hope of seeing her again soon.

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Society of Malta is scheduled for Monday, 5th January, 1976, at Mons. Gonzi Hall, Catholic Institute, Floriana. Officers for 1976 will be elected to the A.M.G. Attendance of all members is solicited.

CODING KEY TO MEMBERS INTERESTS

Aa1	African countries	Ge1	Germany
2	- do - to Independence.	2	East Germany
Al1	Australia	5	West Germany
2	F.D.C's.	6	Third Reich
3	Sterling only	Gi1	Gibraltar
Au1	Austria	2	- do - Q.V. and K.E.7
Ba1	Barbados	3	F.D.C's
2	Classics only	Gr1	Greece
Bb1	British North Borneo	Gz1	Graf Zeppelin material
2	- do - specialised	In1	India
Be1	Bermuda	Io1	Ionian Islands
Ca1	Canada	Ir1	Iran
Cc1	Commonwealth	Is1	Israel
2	Flower Stamps	2	- do - F.D.C's
3	Pre K.G.V	It1	Italy
4	Q.E.2 (mint)	2	- do - used only
5	Islands (mint)	Ja1	Japan
Ce1	Ceylon	Jo1	Jordan
2	- do - Classics	Lb1	Libya
Cy1	Cyprus	Li1	Liechtenstein
2	- do - F.D.C's	2	- do - F.D.C's
Cx1	Christmas stamps	Ma1	Malta
DM	Disinfected mail	2	- do - mint only
Ea1	East Africa	3	Used on cover
Ea1	Egypt	4	F.D.C's
Ei1	Eire	5	Postmarks
Ep1	Europa	6	Postal history
Eu1	Europe	7	pre 1935 — mint
2	- do - to 1930	8	½d. yellows
3	(except Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria)	9	- do - on cover
Fo1	Foreign	10	Air mail
Fr1	France	11	G.B. used in Malta
Ga1	Gambia	12	Varieties and flaws
Gb1	Great Britain	13	Sets and Blx4 plate nos. from 1957
2	- do - Commems.	14	Foreign used in Malta
3	Postal History	15	Q.V. only
4	F.D.C's	16	F.D.C's since 1935
5	Channel Islands	17	Village postmarks
6	Regionals	18	Postmen's handstamps
7	Postmarks	Md1	Medical stamps
8	Isle of Man	Me1	Mediterranean countries
9	Ship Letter Marks	No1	Norway

Ny1	Nyassaland	206	Attard, J.A.
Nz1	New Zealand		Cc1, Fo1, Ma1.
Oi1	Omnibus issues	200	Barbour, R. W.
Pa1	Palestine		Ma15.
Po1	Poiand	144	Bonavia, C G.
Pr1	Portugal		Ma1, 4, 5, 6, Sm1.
Pp1	Prominent people	211	Bonello de Torrella, E
Rh1	Rhodesia (double heads and Admirals only)	135	Al1, Ma1.
Sa1	Sarawak		Bonner, R. M.
2	- do - specialised	143	Gb3, Ma5, 6.
Sd1	Stamp design		Bonnici, Dr. A.
Sm1	S.M.O.M.	154	Gz1, Ma6, 8, 9, 10, 11.
Sp1	Spain		Borg Salmitro, W.
Sr1	Southern Rhodesia	141	Eu1.
Sw1	Sweden		Bowman, Miss M.S.
Sz1	Switzerland	142	Gb1, It1, Ma1.
Th1	Thematics		Bowman, V
Tr1	Trinidad	193	Gb1, It1, Ma1.
2	- do - classics		Brewer, K. H.
Tu1	Turkey		Gb1, Ir1, Lb1, Ma1,
2	Turkish federated state	152	Th1. Us1.
Ua1	United Arab Republic		Bush, S. N.
Un1	United Nations	64	Aa1, 2, Gb2, Ma1.
2	- do - F.D.C's		Buttigieg, J.
Up1	U.P.U.		Al1, Cy1, Gb1, Gi1,
Us1	U.S.A.	12	Ma1, Nz1, Va1.
2	- do - to 1930		Buttigieg R.
Va1	Vatican		Al1, Ca1, Eu3, Ja1,
Ww1	Whole world.	156	Nz1, Us1.
			Callus, G.
			Cc5, Cx1, Gb1, Ma1,
			Un1.

* * *

Unless otherwise stated, the Members named below collect BOTH MINT AND USED of the countries specified.

MEM. No. Name

207	Abela Medici A.J. Ma1, 6, 17, 18.
50	Aquilina, E. Ma, 3, 16.
155	Attard, A. Ma1, Ww1.

208	Camilleri, P. Gb1, It1, Ma1, Po1.
191	Caruana Ruggier, A. Ma1, 6, Sd1.
3	Cassar, C. G. Ma1, Md1.
81	Cassar Torregiani A. Cc3, Ep1, Fr1, Gb1.
153	Cassola, Miss M. E. Ma1.
174	Cauchi, A. Ge2, Ua1, Us1.

Plate and Imprint Blocks—1972

Heart Issue (20th. March)

The Printing Sheets for this issue had three Panes for each value. Each Pane had sixty stamps consisting of fifteen rows with four stamps. All Blocks examined indicate, that all Panes of all values have all margins perforated except the top margin. Plate Blocks from Panes A and B of all values have the Printer's name, in pale blue small print, in the left hand margin, whilst Plate Blocks from Pane C of all values have the left hand margin blank. I have three Imprint Blocks, one of each value, and each of them has the right hand margin printed with the Printer's name in small print. I cannot say which Panes they are from, or whether all Imprint Blocks from all Panes, of all values, are like these. Colour checks, in the form of two concentric circles, for each colour, are found in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the top three rows.

Plate/Pane numbers:—

All Plate numbers are printed under the first two stamps of the bottom row. 2d, 10d, 2/6=1A×6 up to, and including 1C×6.

Imprint Blocks:— The Printer's name, "Format International Security Printers Ltd." is found under the last two stamps of the bottom row.

1st. Decimal Coinage (16th. May)

About this issue, nothing much can be added to the very interesting Study Paper produced by our friend and member Mr. Carmel Bonavia, with which he won first prize in the 4th. Malta Philatelic Exhibition. This study Paper gives all the information about the position of all Panes in the Sheets, of all values. Also information about the Imprint, Colour checks and other Registration Marks.

For the information of Plate Block collectors, especially those who have not seen Mr. Bonavia's Study Paper, some information will be of interest.

There are eight Panes to each Printed Sheet, for values 2m, 3m, and 2c. For the values 5m, 1c, and 5c there are six Panes to each Printed Sheet, whilst for the values 10c and 50c there are only two Panes. All Plate numbers of all values, appear under the first two stamps of the bottom row.

Plate/Pane numbers:—

2m, 3m, 2c=1A×4 up to, and including 1H×4
5m, 1c, 5c=1A×4 up to, and including 1F×4
10c, 50c =1A×4 and 1B×4

Imprint Blocks:— "Format International Security Printers Ltd." is found under the last three stamps of the bottom row, in the 2m, 3m, 5m, 1c, 2c and 5c values. Therefore an Imprint Block of six must be bought to have the full Printer's name included.

In the 10c and 50c values, the printer's name is found under the last two stamps of the bottom row, hence an Imprint Block of four will be enough. The Colour Checks, which are in the form of two concentric circles for each colour, can be seen in the top right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the first and second rows.

Overprint Issue (30th. September)

This set was issued due to a shortage of certain values of the Decimal Coinage set. Its duration was short, and all three values were withdrawn from sale when the Europe issue was released in November. The overprinting was in black and carried out at the Government Printing Office, Valletta. Use was made of three values from the Historic Definitive Issue of 1965 and overprinted thus:—

1c3 on 5d; 3c on 8d; 5c on 1s-3d.

The original values were obliterated by two black bars.

Plate/Pane numbers:— All Plate numbers used in the Historic Set for these three values, were again used in this Overprint issue. All Plate numbers of all values are found under the penultimate stamp of the bottom row.

1c3 = 1A×4, 1B×4.

3c = 1A1A1A1A1A1A and 1A1A2A1A1A1A

5c = 1A1A1A1A1A1A

In the 1c3 value the right hand margin of both Plate Blocks is perforated whilst the right hand margin of both Plate Blocks of the 3c value and that of the 5c value are imperforated. The bottom margin of all Plate Blocks of all values is only perforated with one hole.

Imprint Blocks:— Only the 1c3 value has an Imprint, which is in the centre of the bottom margin. An Imprint Block of eight will include the whole Printer's name "Harrison And Sons Ltd. London."

Europa (11th. November)

This is the first issue that was printed by "Printex Ltd. Malta". It was also the first time that a miniature sheet of ten stamps was issued. I shall always remember this set, because it created quite a problem for Plate Blocks collectors, as never before had so many different Pane numbers been issued for each value.

Plate/Pane numbers:— There are twelve Panes (Sheetlets of ten stamps) for each value. The Plate numbers of the first nine Panes of all values are found under the first stamp of the bottom row, whilst for the last three Panes of all values they are printed under the first and second stamps of the bottom row.

1c3, 3c, 5c, 7c5 = 1A×4 up to, and including 12A×4

Imprint Blocks:— "Printex Limited-Malta" is found under the last two stamps of the bottom row. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks, which are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp.

Christmas Issue (9th. December)

With this Xmas. set, a miniature sheet consisting of three stamps, one of each value, was also issued. This is the second Xmas. miniature sheet issued, and although no Plate numbers are involved, it is the only one with an Imprint. "Printex Limited-Malta" is printed in the bottom right hand corner. The normal sheets consist of fifty stamps, ten rows of five stamps.

Plate/Pane numbers:— As if to make up for the large number of Plate numbers issued with the Europa set, only one Plate number for each value was printed with this Xmas. issue. Naturally the quantity of Plate numbers depend on factors like size of stamps and the most economical use of printing paper. The Plate numbers of all values are printed under the first stamp of the bottom row. The bottom and the left hand margins of all Plate blocks, of all values are perforated.

8m+2m, 3c+1c, 7c5+1c5=1A×3

Imprint Blocks:— The printer's imprint "Printex Limited-Malta" is found under the last stamp of the bottom row. An Imprint Block of four will also contain the Colour checks, which are in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the ninth row. The bottom and the right hand margins of Imprint Blocks of all values, are perforated.

Corrections

Vol. 5, No. 2 (Spring '75). Page 7: The second line under 'Second Print' should read :

4m (September 1973) = 1A×5 up to, and including 1D×5.

Page 10: Plate/Pane Numbers. Details for the 5c value should read:

5c = 1A×2, 1B×2.

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

International Women's Year Issue

Date of issue	30th. May 1975.
Values	1c3, 3c, 5c, and 20c.
Stamp Size	20mm×38mm (All values)
Art Designer	Mr. Donald Friggieri.
Printers	Printex Ltd. Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14.0×13.6 (Comb).
Watermark	Maitese Crosses pointing upwards.
Colours/designs	1c3 (purple & gold) and 5c (green and gold) "Women in Family Life" 3c (blue and gold) and 20c (brown and gold) "Women in Public Life".

Colour checks are in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp, of the bottom row. The colour checks are in the form of two coloured discs, 3mm in diameter. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from right to left, on all Panes, of all values. Cumulative totals are seen in the bottom margin only. At the bottom of the last column, under the last stamp, is seen the sum total of a complete sheet of fifty stamps. The figures used for these values are 2.5mm high, in the same colour as the Printer's imprint (Different colour for each value).

There are four Panes of fifty stamps each, (five rows of ten stamps), 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 colour checks from bottom to top, in all four values.

1c3, 3c, 5c, 20c = 1A×2 up to and including 1D×2.

Perforation of margins:

The top, right hand and bottom margins, of all Panes, of all values, are fully perforated.

The left hand margins, of all Panes, of all values are imperforated. A small part of a vertical line, similar in colour to one of the colour checks, can be seen in the top margin of Pane D in the 5c value. It is in the left hand corner, parallel to the first vertical perforation line, extending from the edge of the sheet, down to the third perforation hole. Two small parts of two horizontal lines, in the same colours as the colour checks, one shorter than the other, can be seen at the bottom left hand corner, on the imperforated left hand margin, of Pane "C", in the 20c value.

From a study of the perforations on all margins, Pane numbers and
Continued from page 12

151	Cilia, C. Cc2, Ma12.	146	Jacobs, B. Gb1, Ma1.
205	Coates, G. Cy1, DM, Gb9, Gi1, Io1, Ma1.	114	Jacobs, M. Eg1, Gb1, Ma1.
190	Collins, E. Cy1, Ge6.	46	Lateo, C. Cc1, Gb1, Ma1, Us1, Va1.
137	Cutajar, N. A. Al1, 2, Gb1, 3, Ma1, 6.	148	Lawrence, Mrs. Sally. Ma1, 4.
166	Cutajar, D. Ma1.	185	Lawrence, E. Cy1, 2.
44	Darmanin, A. Gb2, Ma2, 4.	165	Light, Capt. V. E. Fr1, Gb1, Ma1, No1.
121	Davies, R. P. G. Bb1, Cc1, Gb1, Gi1, Ma1, 5.	136	Lishman, I. M. Ba1, Cc3, Ce2, Gi12, Ma15, Rh2, Ta2.
209	Ellul, G. Ww1.	187	Mardling, Mrs. C. H. Al1, Gb1, 5, 8, Ma1.
149	Farrugia, F. Gb1, Ma1.	188	Marriner, D. G. Cy1, Gi1, Ma1.
148	Farrugia, J. Ma13.	27	Mercieca, Dr. J. H. Cc1, Eg1, Eu1, Is1, Ma1, Us1.
204	Farrugia, R. Fr1, It1, Ma1.	158	Mercieca, V. Fr1, Gb1, It1, Ma1, Sz1, Us1.
80	Fenech, A. Ma1, 5, 11, 14, Un1.	177	Micallef Attard, A. Gb4, Ge5, Ma1.
6	Formisa, Miss D. Cc1, Gb1, Ma1, Va1.	129	Middlehurst, R. Be1, Ea1, Fr1, Gb1, Ma1, Sw1.
162	Galea, A. T. Ma1.	14	Mifsud, J. Bb1, 5, 6, Ma1.
145	Galea, Josephine. Gb1, It1, Ma1, Pp1, Un1.	140	Mifsud, Lawrence. Al1, Gb1, Ma1.
47	Galea, J. M. Cc1, Ma1, Va1.	170	Mifsud, Mrs. M. Cc1, Fr1, Gb1, It1, Ma1, Va1.
2	Ganado, Dr. A. Ma1, 6	189	Muscat, L. Li1, 2, Un1.
115	Giordmaina, A. Cc4.	30	Manduca, J. M. Fr1, Ma1, Va1.
195	Grech, J. Caruana Ma1, Sm1, Va1.	182	McArthur-Davies, B.A. Cc1, Ga1, Gb1, 6, Jo1, Ny1, Pa1, Pr1, Us1.
159	Harward, Dr. R. L. Cc1, Sz1.		
213	Holland, E. H. Cy1, 2, Ma1, Tu2.		

180	Pace, G. M. Ma4, Oi1, Sm1, Up1, Va1.	101	Sullivan, Joseph E. Au1, Gb1, Ma1.
146	Pace Bonello, Lt. Col. A. L. Cc1, 4, Ww1.	113	Turk, R. P. Al3, Cy1, Gb1, Gi1, Ma1.
116	Sant, I. Ma1, 4, 12, 14.	130	Vassallo, D.J. Al1, Ca1, Gb1, 4, Gi1, It1, Ma1, 4, Sp1, Us1.
181	Schembri, A. Al1, Ca1, Gb1, Ma1, Un1, Us1, Va1.	8	Vassallo, P. P. Gb1, Ma1.
190	Scerri, G. C. Al1, Ca1, Eu1, Gb1, It1, Ma1.	215	Yeo, R. G. Ma1.
131	Shoot, I. Al1, Ca1, Ei1, Gb1, Me1, Un1, Us1.	123	Zammit, Miss F. Al1, Ca1, Fr1, Gb1, Ge1, In1, It1, Ma1, Sp1, Un1, Us1, Va1.
160	Stanaway, S. Ce1, Ei1, Fr1, Gb7, Gr1, Sr1.	49	Zammit, Lupi, Dr. J. Al1, Gb1, Ge5, Is2, It1, 2, Ma1, 4, Sw1, Un2, Us1.
117	Sullivan, G. E. Eu2, Sw1, Us2.	161	Zarb, A. Lb1, Ma1, 4.

Continued from page 10

direction of watermark, one may get the impression that the Printing Sheet consisted of the four Panes, one on top of the other, but I was assured that it was not. Any suggestions?

Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint "PRINTEX LTD. MALTA" is found under the last stamp of the bottom row, printed in letters 1mm high. A block of four will also include the colour checks. The colour of the Imprint in each of the four values, is the same as the main colour used for each stamp. A special hand-stamp was again used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

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VILLAGE POSTMARKS

(Malta Study Circle, Study Paper No. 25; 41 pp, illustrated)

Study Paper 25 'The Postal History of The Villages and Small Towns of Malta and The Village Marks' written by Mr. R.S.C. Stewart and edited by Mr. A.B. Bannister is the result of research work by some of the M.S.C. Members and deals with the relative scarcity, earliest and latest dates of use and errors and abnormalities of the 'Village Marks'. It includes also illustrations, including The Proof Book illustrations on page 14, reproduced by courtesy of the British Post Office. The Front Cover illustration shows the Wignacourt Tower at St. Paul's Bay built in 1613 which was a Postal Agency between the years 1891 - 1921.

Regarding the Early Posts, the editor admits that they are "handicapped by a scarcity of records." In fact members are invited to try to research an further information of the Free Postage of 1853, the omnibus company taking over the conveyance of the rural mails, and the Mail contractors until 1893, and the establishment of the Branch Post Offices between 1885 - 1902. Before the establishment of the Police Postal Agencies in 1891, letters posted at the time, had no identifying postmark, as they were all passed to the Central Post Office in Valletta.

Members of the Philatelic Society of Malta had already been favoured by two articles regarding the subject. These were extracted from The Postal History Bulletin No. 85 and published in Vol. 1. No.2 (Summer 1967) pp. 14 and 15 and in Vol. No.3 (Autumn 1967) pp. 15 and 16. Their contributor was W.L. Freshwater whose work is acknowledged by The Editor of this Study.

Enriching this study in question are relevant illustrations of the strikes, the Police Stations and strikes on Covers and Card on pp. 25 and 26. Very enlightening are the 'lists' based entirely on the research carried out by the members of the M.S.C. which compare closely with individual listings by Messrs. Buttigieg, Freshwater and Lander over a period of years. These 'lists' deal with the relative scarcity of the strikes irrespective of Times Coda or stamp, as well as of the strikes including Time Code, but irrespective of stamp.

Two facts that have been established by this study are that village marks "undoubtedly form the rarest group of Maltese marks on Cover" and that there are "probably fewer examples of the 21 mm Victoria marks used on Cover up until 1921 than there are of the Boite Mobile strike" shown recently on the Miniature Sheet of the U.P.U. ably designed by George and Sandra Ellul Sullivan.

Hats off to the Editor and contributors of this Study Paper which I am sure was welcomed by many philatelists who have the study of The Postal History of Malta at heart.

A. F.

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Any stamp catalogue editor is continually faced with the problem of keeping prices abreast of the times and of improving over the previous year's edition. E. Said Stamp & Coin Dealers, of Valletta, Malta, have once again managed to solve both problems in a rewarding way with the publication of their 1976 edition of the specialised "Said Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue".

The 1976 edition has the usual listings of all Malta stamps and their actual size illustrations, a full postal history of Malta with reproductions of all the cancellations from the pre-adhesives to present day, and major varieties. The coin section lists contemporary numismatic issues of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Malta coins and detailed information of all Malta currency notes.

The new volume also introduces a complete list and illustrations of the S.M.O.M. series. This new theme is continually gaining popularity both locally and abroad, following the Bilateral Agreement between the local Postal Authorities and that of the S.M.O.M. It is to be noted that S.M.O.M. issues are now being produced locally by the local security printers, "Printex Ltd." of Qormi.

Another novelty in the 1976 edition is an introduction to the fashionable Postmen's Personal Handstamps, with a few specimen numbers illustrated for good measure. This aspect of Maltese philately gained interest mostly following the Malta Study Circle study on the subject, which at the moment is receiving further attention. Mention in the catalogue will undoubtedly focus more attention and it is hoped that many new data will be made available to 'bona-fide' philatelists interested in the matter.

The variety section has had some inclusions of a substantial nature following last year's adopted principle of listing only major items. Needless to say the catalogue has been brought up to date with suitable corrections that have been brought to the notice of the editors from various sources. These corrections are mainly in the Plate numbers, the Postal stationery listings, as well as village postmarks. Thus the Cospicua 20mm c.d.s. (recorded in our magazine Vol. 5, No. 1) has been included while the Cospicua 25mm c.d.s. has been deleted from the early cancellations, as this postmark made its appearance after 1921.

Prices have naturally appreciated in value, especially with the earlier issues in line with recent auction realisations, which at the moment are likely to be the only guide to the actual value of any classic item. This is more evident in the ½d yellows and the elusive S. G. 96.

The price of the catalogue, with a substantial increase over last year's is still very good value for money and an invaluable guide to any collector interested in the varied and fascinating aspects of Maltese philately.

N.A.C.

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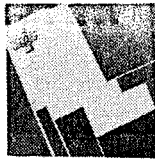
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