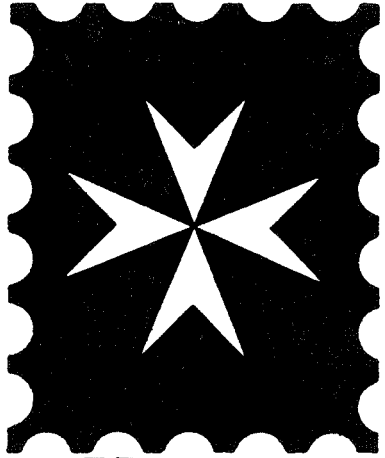


Melita

Vol 4 No 3

1973



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

AUTUMN 1973

Vol 4 No 1.

MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

To All Members

In the forthcoming issue of The Newsletter of The Philatelic Society, a Section under the Heading: 'Letters to the Editor' will be featured.

Members wishing to contribute to the new Section could address their letters to:

The Editor,
17, Block C,
Mountbatten Road,
Blata l-Bajda.

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 1973

Address all correspondence to:

The Editor,

P.S.M. (Magazine),

17/C, Mountbatten Rd.,

Blata l-Bajda,

Malta G.C.

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FORWARD

Dear reader,

From this edition of this newsletter onwards I shall be responsible for its printing. Pressure of other work forced the capable Dr. E. Aquilina from this position and it will cost me much effort to keep the standard of this newsletter as high as he did. However, I shall do my best and, if the members of the Malta Philatelic Society all lend a hand, this job with which I have been entrusted will not be as difficult as it seems.

So far many members have contributed to the making of this issue and I would like to thank them but the next issue is already in preparation and I hope that these members, and others who have not yet made any contribution, send in more articles.

Philately is a vast subject and none of us can ever know too much about it so anything that throws new light on any facet of the subject will certainly interest fellow-enthusiasts.

THE EDITOR

E. SAID
STAMP DEALERS

32, BRITANNIA STREET, VALLETTA — MALTA

Publishers of

THE SAID MALTA STAMP AND COIN CATALOGUE

OF MALTA STAMPS

1974 edition with Decimal Pricing

Price 65c.

or 75p. postage free

SUCCESS IN "POLSKA 73" BY MALTESE PHILATELISTS



Mr. Godwin Said, the Official Commissioner in Malta for the International Philatelic Exhibition POLSKA 73 has received the good news that the Maltese Philatelists have scored a success at the Exhibition.

POLSKA 73 held under the Patronage of the International Federation of Philatelists (F.I.P.) was staged at Poznan, Poland from the 19th August to the 2nd September 1973.

Among the distinguished personalities who displayed their collections were Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Serene Highness Prince Rainier III of Monaco. Several Postal Museums displayed items of general philatelic interest together with 89 Postal Administrators.

Malta was represented by the Malta Post Office, four private collectors and a Philatelic-Publisher.

All the Maltese private participants were successful in obtaining an award. The prizes obtained by Malta are the following:

STAMP COLLECTIONS

- Silver Medal — Godwin Said of Valletta with a Malta Collection of pre-adhesive covers.
- Bronze Medal — George M. Pace of Hamrun with the Malta Collection Of Commemoratives on FDC.
- Bronze Medal — Dr. Edwin Aquilina, B.Sc., M.D., of Valletta with a Collection of Malta 1860-1936 covers.
- Bronze Medal — Anthony Fenech of Balzan with a collection of British Stamps used in Malta and other early Malta Cancellations.

CATALOGUES

- Bronze-Silver Diploma — Messrs. Emmanuel Said, Stamp Dealers of Valletta, with "The Said Malta Stamp Catalogue 1973".

THE IVth MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

This year's Malta Philatelic Exhibition was held between the 7th and the 22nd of September.

It was organized by the General Post Office Malta, under the patronship of Dr. A.V. Hyzler, Minister of Development.

The Judging panel presided over by the Postmaster General, Mr. Joseph Buttigieg, Esq., consisted of:

Dr. Edwin Aquilina, B.Sc., M.D.
Dr. Albert Ganado, B.A., LL.D.
Surgeon Captain J.H. Mercieca, D.D.S.
William F. Micallef, B.Sc., B.E. & A., A. & C.E.
Harry Vella, Esq.

The Organizing Committee was made up of:

Carmel A. Baluci, Esq.
Salvatore V. Psaila, Esq.
George M. Pace, Esq.

PARTICIPANTS

I — HORS CONCOURS

(a) Postal Administrations of:

Antigua	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Papua and New Guinea
Argentina	Great Britain	Philippines
Austria	Greece	Pitcairn Island
Bahamas	Grenada	Qatar
Belgium	Guernsey	Singapore
Bhutan	Holland	Sovereign Military Order of Malta
Botswana	Hong Kong	Sri Lanka
Brazil	India Indonesia	Sudan
British Honduras	Israel	Swaziland
Burundi	Jamaica	Sweden
Canal Zone	Korea (Republic of)	Switzerland
Central Africa	Kuwait	Syria
Christmas Island	Luxembourg	Thailand
Cyprus	Malagasy	Togo
Czechoslovakia	Malaysia	Trinidad
Denmark	Maldives	United Nations
Dominica	Mauritius	United Soviet Socialist Republic
East Africa	Montserrat	Upper Volta
Egypt	New Hebrides	Vatican
Equador	New Zealand	Venezuela
Finland	Nicaragua	Zambia
Germany (Democratic Republic of)	Nigeria	
Ghana	Norway	
Gibraltar	Oman	

(b) Stamp Printers

PRINTEX LIMITED — Qormi, Malta.

(c) Private Collectors

Dr. Edwin Aquilina, B.Sc., M.D. — Valletta, Malta.

½d. Yellows Queen Victoria: Four Plates showing all the 19 catalogued varieties with their colour variations.

Carmel G. Bonavia — Zabbar, Malta.

Collection of coloured slides of Malta stamp proofs including proofs of stamps not released.

Godwin Said — Valletta, Malta.

1967 Malta Postage Dues — Perf. 12 line.

E. Said Stamp Dealers — Valletta, Malta.

SAID Stamp Catalogue 1973.

Malta Study Circle — London, England.

Study papers on Melita Sets 1922 & 1926; History and Markings of Cospiqua, Paola, Zejtun and Zurrieq Branch Post Offices; other publications.

II — COMPETITIVE SECTION

Private Collections

R.A. Balcomb — Adelaide, Australia.

French Space Activities.

Alfred Balzan — Hamrun, Malta.

Special Malta Postmarks.

Carmel G. Bonavia — Zabbar, Malta.

Decimalization at the Malta Post Office; Stamps, Covers & Study paper.

Dr. Alfred Bonnici, M.D., M.P. — Ta' Xbiex, Malta.

Malta Air Mails.

Charles Camilleri — Hamrun, Malta.

Silver Wedding 1972.

Thomas DeBono — Zejtun, Malta.

Malta S.G. 96 Certified; World's Freedom from Hunger, Paintings on stamps.

George Dougall — London, England.
Postal Stationary of Malta.

Anthony Fenech — Balzan, Malta.
Easter Commemoratives, British Commonwealth and other countries in
marginal blocks of four, sheets and sheetlets.

Daisy Formosa — Valletta, Malta.
Religion on Malta stamps Missionary journeys of H.H. Pope Paul VI.

Marco Gauci — B'Kara, Malta.
Spanish Folklore and Touristic Propaganda Stamps.

Paul Gauci — B'Kara, Malta.
Portuguese F.D.C.

J. Koch — Glenelg, Australia.
Russian space achievements; Space covers from the U.S.S.R.

J.G.C. Lander — Watford Heath, England.
Malta Postman Personal Handstamps.

Mgr. Joseph Lupi — Sliema, Malta.
Religion on stamps.

Lawrence Muscat — Senglea, Malta.
Classical Paintings on Stamps.

Paul A. Pace — Gzira, Malta.
Malta Maximum cards; Malta catalogued & uncatalogued varieties.

G.J. Parkes — Clacton-on-sea, England.
"M" Postmarks on Great Britain Stamps. "A 25" Malta Postmarks.

Francis Saliba — Birzebbuga, Malta.
Red Cross Centenary 1963; Freedom from Hunger 1963; Commonwealth
World Cup Competition 1966.

N. Simon — Richmond, Melbourn, Australia.
USA Inner and Outer Space including authographed covers.

Victor Wickman — Zejtun, Malta.
U.S. Navy postmarks on ships and shore stations.

AWARDS

Specialised and/or Thematic Collections

First Prize — GOLD MEDAL

Carmel G. Bonavia — Zabbar, Malta.
Decimalization at the Malta Post Office.

Second Prize — SILVER MEDAL

Dr. Alfred Bonnici, M.D., M.P. — Ta' Xbiex, Malta.
Malta Air Mails.

Third Prize — BRONZE GILT MEDAL

George Dougall — London, England.
Malta Postal Stationary.

Fourth Prize — BRONZE SILVER MEDAL

George John Parkes — Clacton-on-Sea, England.
Malta "M" Postmarks on G.B. Stamps and Malta "A 25" Postmarks.

Fifth Prize — BRONZE MEDAL

Miss Daisy Formosa — Valletta, Malta.
Missionary Journeys of H.H. Pope Paul VI.

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Anthony Fenech — Balzan, Malta.
Easter Issues.

Mgr. Joseph Lupi — Sliema, Malta.
Religion on stamps.

NUMERICAL CANCELLATIONS OF THE BRITISH POST OFFICE

With the introduction of the postage stamp in 1840 some means of cancellation was deemed necessary to prevent their re-use. This "means" was to deface or obliterate them using a hand-stamp for this purpose. All post towns, and certain sub-offices, were supplied with an obliterator in the form of a so-called 'Maltese' cross. As all the obl iterators were of the same design, with slight variations, thus giving no clue as to where the cancelling was done, even though the name of the office was sometimes impressed or even applied during transit, a method was adopted whereby a different number was given to every office at which the cancelling was done. These new obl iterators were put into use in May 1844. To avoid having more than three figures in an obliterator, a different pattern was used for each of the following series:-

- (a) London Inland Office;
- (b) London District Office;
- (c) England and Wales;
- (d) Scotland; and
- (e) Ireland.

In each series the numbers began at '1', but at first certain numbers were omitted which, when inverted, could be read as another number, e.g. '9' which might be read as '6', the lower number being generally used, but in some cases the lower number was omitted and the higher one used. As may be expected, and this applies to present-day post offices, many of these ceased to exist and the obl iterators were withdrawn and re-issued to other offices. Thus it is possible to find an obliterator used on a Q.V. 1d. imperf, and the same number used on a K.E. stamp, but the post offices can be quite different.

Some notes on the different series may be found to be interesting.

- (a) **London Inland Office.** In all the early obl iterators used at this office the number appears in a diamond, within an oval of bars, but these numbers do not show the different offices at which they were used, but only distinguish the different obl iterators in use.
- (b) **London District Offices.** This department dealt with the circulation of local London letters, and, originally, numbers up to 49, except '9' and '19', were allotted to suburban offices, and the numbers from 50 upwards were used in the Chief District Office. But the list of suburban

offices was not alphabetical but was based on the routes on which the letters were carried. The number of the district was contained in a circle, within an oval of bars.

In 1855, the London District was divided into 10 districts — North, North East, N. West, South, South East, S. West, East, East Central, West, West Central. The design for this obliterator was a circle or oval of bars, two spaces being formed by cutting away the inside of the bars as required, and inserting the letters and numbers.

- (c) **England and Wales.** Numbers were, at first, allotted to towns in alphabetical order, but with the closing down of certain offices and the opening of new ones, no attempt was made to preserve this order. The number itself had two curved bars on each side and straight bars above and below, which gave the obliterator the appearance of an oval, with the curved bars forming the sides. In time, the numbers ran from '1' to '999'. In order to avoid using more than three figures a new series was introduced, commencing at '001' and running to '099'. After all the numbers in the series had been issued, another series was introduced commencing with 'A01' to 'A99', in which the Maltese 'A25' is very familiar, followed by the letters B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J and K. The last list to be issued was the one beginning with 'L', which finished with "L05".

A glance at the Gibbons catalogue section "British Stamps Used Aboard" shows that those 'A' obliterations used in Jamaica and the West Indies are very desirable items.

- (d) **Scotland.** The design for these cancellations was a horizontal rectangle of bars with the centre cut away to leave an oblong space in which the number was placed. Here again the list at first was alphabetical, but later additions were made without regard to alphabetical order. The numbers ranged from '1' to '755'.
- (e) **Ireland.** The design for this series was a diamond of bars, with a square cut in the middle in which the number was placed. The numbers ranged from '1' to '564'. There was much chopping and changing with these numbers, a number being given to an office and then withdrawn. The office was then given another number and this subsequently withdrawn and then given the number which had originally been allotted to the office. It is thus possible to find offices using two different numbers, and at the same time to find different offices using the same numbers!

For the benefit of any of my readers who may be interested in this fascinating subject, there are several books available by such authors as Hendy, Westley, Daniels, Marshall, Vallancey and particularly, G. Brumell whose book 'British Post Office Numbers 1844 — 1906 (1946 edition) is my guide, and to whom acknowledgement is made for much of the information given above.

S. STANAWAY

MANXLAND — A swift historical account +

The British Post Office,, relenquished its postal responsibility of the Isle of Man on July 4th, 1973, after taking care of the Island's mail for more than 300 years. To mark the occasion, the British Post Office issued a "last day" cover, complete with the then current 4 Isle of Man regional values — 2½p, 3p, 5p, and 7½p.

On 5th July, we saw the birth of a new stamp issuing authority within the U.K. Thus four independent postal issues now form part of the British Isles area.

The first definitive set, issued on 5th July, consisted of 16 stamps, ranging in value between ½p and £1, and totalling a face value of £2.25½. The set features island scenes, historical sites and indigenous animals.

A seventeenth stamp was also issued along the definitive range, to mark the inauguration of Postal Independence; this had a face value of 15p and illustrated Viking settlers coming ashore in 938 A.D.

Even today, many are only vaguely acquainted with the Isle of Man. Set in the Northern half of the Irish Sea, Isle of Man holds a very unique political position within the British Isles. Although a part of the British Isles, it forms no part of Great Britain, the United Kingdom. In fact, Manxland, is a separate kingdom, whose 'Lord of Mann' happens to be also the Monarch of Great Britain.

It is thought that most probably, the island's earliest inhabitants were the Palaeolithic or Stone Age people. However, evidence in support of this hypothesis, must have been lost for ever during the Glacial Age, 20,000 years ago. Then it was no mere island, but part of the great plateau of Western Europe.

After the Ice-age, probably, 5,000 years ago, a new race of people took over the island; their ancestors must have crossed over from France and Spain. A bold, seafaring people, they left burial mounds and forts as witness along the greater part of the Western coast of Europe.

Irish monks, followers of St. Patrick and St. Columba, may have converted the isle to Christianity. By the time the Vikings made their first raid, the whole of Manxland was Christian. The Vikings settled in the Isle in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

In 880, the King of Norway included the Isle of Man in his Third Kingdom; the last Scandinavian King of 'Mann' was Magnus, 1252-1266, who accepted the overlordship of Alexander III of Scotland.

Ruled for centuries by noblemen, kings and governors in succession the Isle of Mann's ruler became known to this day as 'Lord of Mann', when in 1504, Thomas III took that title. In 1765, the British Parliament passed the

the Revesting Act, buying the lordship of Mann, on behalf of the British Crown.

Perhaps one of the best known facts about the Isle of Mann, is that it has its own Home Government modelled on the Scandinavian Legislature, established as early as the 9th Century.

The Manx language, likened to Scottish Highland/Gaelic and Irish was only a spoken language up until the 18th Century. The first Manx grammar was only a spoken language up until the 18th Century. The first Manx grammar was published in 1804 and the first dictionary in 1835.

"The Three Legs of Man", is the national emblem of the Isle of Mann. Its appearance dates back to circa 1250 on the Manx Sword of State.

Among its famous personalities, are found participants in the Mutiny of the "Bounty": Fletcher Christian, a member of the island's famous Christian family of Milntown; Peter Heywood who was Manx by birth; and Captain Bligh, who married a Manx woman, Miss Elizabeth Betham on the island and whose daughter was baptized on the island at Douglas in 1784. Another famous personality of the Island, is Sir William Hillary, founder of the Royal National Institute. Hillary was a member of the Isle of Man, (Douglas) Lifeboat crew in the early mid 1800's.

1974 will see the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and it has already been announced that the Isle of Mann will be marking this occasion with a commemorative set.

*with acknowledgement to Mr. M. Clarke.

NICK A. CUTAJAR

SANTON STAMP SHOP

STAMP DEALER

**SELECTION OF MALTA (MINT, USED & F.D.C.)
AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH**

50b OLD BAKERY STREET, VALLETTA — MALTA

AIR MAIL NOTES

The following item appeared in Gibbons' Stamp Monthly of August 1931, under Air Mail Notes, and may be of interest to some of our readers.

We reproduce here the two Government Notices with regard to the new Air Mail facilities now available in Malta.

(No. 230)

It is hereby notified that His Excellency, the Governor, availing himself of the powers vested in him by Article 12 of the Post Office Act, 1924, has been pleased to direct that the air mail fee, in addition to postage, payable on mail matter posed in these Islands for transmission by air from Egypt to the undermentioned places be fixed as follows:-

	For every $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or fraction thereof.
To Palestine	2d.
To Iraq	3d.
To Persia	5d.
To India (by air to Karachi and then by train)	5d.
To India (by air to Delhi)	8d.
To Sudan	4d.
To Belgian Congo (via Juba)	7d.
To Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika	7d.

Air Mail Fees may be paid in ordinary Postage Stamps.

By Command,
Edw. R. Mifsud,
Secretary, Maltese Imperial Government.

June 17, 1931.
Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
The Palace, Valletta.

(No. 231)

It is hereby notified that His Excellency, the Governor, availing himself of the Powers vested in him by Article 12 of the Post Office Act, 1924, has been pleased to direct that the air mail fee, in addition to ordinary postage, payable on mail matter posted in these Islands for transmission by air to Italy or Tripoli, be fixed at 2d. for every $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight or fraction thereof.

The air mail may be paid in ordinary postage stamps.

June 17, 1931.

S. STANAWAY

BOOM IN STAMPS

1973 is a boom year for the stamp business, according to Stanley Gibbons, the international stamp dealers, who have had to make increases of as much as £13,000 on single stamp prices to keep up with the market in the 76th edition of their British Commonwealth catalogue due out in August.

Price increases sweep right across the board, from stamps listed at a few pence to those over ten thousand pounds.

The highest increases are for the Mauritius "Post Office" Penny Orange-Red and Two Penny Blue rarities of 1847, which have gone up from £27,000 each unused to £40,000 in less than a year. Used they are now priced at £27,000 each from £18,000. In 1965 they were catalogued at £12,000 each unused and £9,000 used.

One remarkable increase is shown for the Falkland Islands red frank of 1877 on an envelope, which is now listed at £2,500 — a leap of £1,550 since the last listing. Another example is the used Inverted Swan of Western Australia of 1854, which has increased by £2,000 to £5,000. In 1969 it was listed at only £2,000.

The Bermuda "Postmasters" of 1848, 1849, 1853, 1854 and 1856 have all increased by £1,000 and the Penny red/greyish blue "Postmaster" of 1861 by £750. The British Guiana Two Cent Rose of 1850-51 has also increased by £1,000 to £11,000 since the last catalogue listing.

The Penny Black, probably the most popular stamp in the world, has risen to £160 (Previously £125) for an unused, intense black, example of 1840 and the Two Penny Blue of the same year, also unused, to £250 (previously £200). At the beginning of this century a good copy of the Penny Black could have been bought for one shilling. More than sixty-eight million were printed, but only a small proportion have survived.

"SAID MALTA STAMP AND COIN CATALOGUE"

1974

E. Said, Stamp Dealers, of 32, Britannia Street, Valletta, are proud to-day to add another landmark to their long and cherished achievements in the philatelic field by the publication of yet another edition of their stamp catalogue.

The current issue of this philatelic compendium comes under a slightly different guise from its predecessors in that Messrs. Said have very wisely added a section to their handbook covering the new decimal coinage which was introduced in Malta 18 months ago, as well as the 1972 Malta Gold and Silver coins struck by the mint of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. This is a welcome innovation not only for the reason that philately and numismatics go well together to-day, but also because we have not had so far an authoritative commercial publication of the current coinage of the Maltese Islands.

This interesting compilation necessarily increases in size with every publication as it is brought up to date and recent and additional data incorporated. Its 227 pages are a mine of information about stamp issues stretching from Malta's first postage stamps early in the middle of the 19th. century up to the present day, and details little known facts about official postal stationery, specimen stamps, perforations and curio items as well as historical facts like pre-adhesive cancellations, Lazaretto marks and the full variety of postal cancellations including the peculiar but much prized town and village postmarks which were in use a century ago and coming up to the present day slick cancellations featuring slogans, advertising and publicity symbols.

The treatise, the digest of a mass of information, is the result of painstaking scholarly research from sources in Malta and overseas — it is profusely illustrated and contains 344 reproductions of stamp or coins and 403 line drawings.

The catalogue, while basically a collector's manual could however grace any shelf of Melitensia as its contents cover a mass of historical detail, some of which hitherto unknown, of the fascinating subject dealing with the establishment of philately in Malta and its development through the years, thanks to the zeal and foresightedness of the Postal Administration in Malta.

The Said Stamp and Coin Catalogue 1974 was offset printed at the Progress Press — Malta, and sells for 65 cents.

Stanley Gibbons buy Stamps!

Stanley Gibbons buy Stamps?

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Why?

Stanley Gibbons buy Stamps!

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