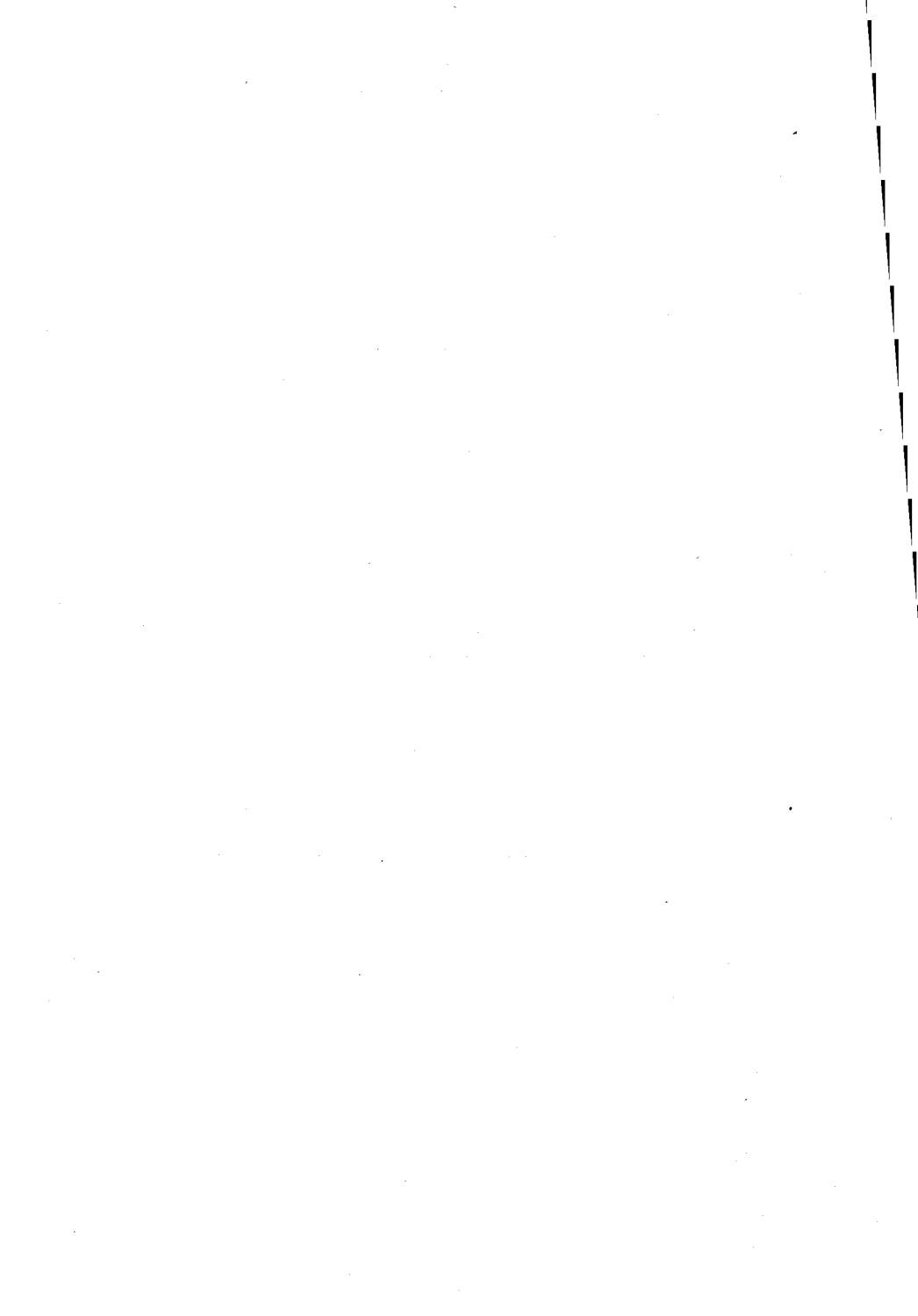


THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

1967 Vol 1 No 3



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1967

Volume 1 No. 3

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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

This month sees the start of the 1967/68 season of activities, and, it is hoped that local members will turn out for the monthly meetings in greater numbers. Attendance at the last two meetings was disappointing to say the least.

Occasionally, Maltese stamps come in for quite a bit of criticism, with comment on the originality of design. What do you think? Your comments will be published.

Although some of the monthly meeting activities have been allocated the Committee would welcome offers of displays etc., especially for the months January to June.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to publish in this edition of the Newsletter details of the forthcoming events, as up to the time of going to press details were known, but the exact chronological order is not known.

The following is from a poem by Miss Heather Grove, President of the Mufulira Business and Professional Women's Club. It is entitled "How Hard Do We Try?"

"Is it quite enough to join and wear a badge?
Is it quite enough to just attend?
Do you really actively support and do your bit?
How long since you've brought along a friend?
It's not enough today to be a passenger to ride
On the path of progress, down the path of time;
Every little effort everyone of us can make
Is a pattern in our final proud design."

MALTESE STAMPS AT AMPHILEX '67.

Maltese stamps were displayed by Dott. Eng. B. Pasti of Italy who was awarded the Silver Gilt, and Mr. Louis Frank of Malta, who was awarded the Bronze Medal.

Dr. B. Pasti's exhibit was 144 sheets, including a block of 12 ten shilling, S.G. 96. All ½d Queen Victoria 1860 in blocks of 4 or larger, and most on cover. Nearly all of Dr. B. Pasti's exhibit of Malta stamps were in blocks of four.

Mr. Frank had 90 sheets on display, mainly Pre stamp covers of G.B. used in Malta, with "M" and A25 postmarks, most on cover. From 1860 onwards there were some blocks of C.C. watermark and C.A. watermark in sheets of 60. Further issues were nearly all in blocks.

Congratulations to Dr. B. Pasti and Mr. L. Frank on their success.

SOCIETY NEWS.

The May 1967 meeting was held as usual at the Catholic Institute at 6.30 p.m. Mr. John Hamilton and Mr. Joseph Hamilton gave a fine display of First Day Covers from all over the World. Unfortunately the display was marred by the fact that we could not have our usual room as our meeting clashed with a lecture for engaged couples. Consequently much time was wasted in finding another room and setting up tables.

Many of the First Day Covers Mr. Hamilton displayed of Malta, were not only designed by him but also painted by him. These were of a very high standard. Mr. Hamilton is to be congratulated not only on his skill as an artist but also on the originality of his designs.

JUNE 1967.

At the final meeting of the Malta Philatelic Club's 1966/67 season, held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, Mr. Arthur Jagger gave a talk on the Philatelic History of Rhodesia. This was accompanied by a display of stamps of that country from the first issue up to the present date.

Mr. Jagger pointed out that the first Rhodesian stamps were issued in 1890, thirty years after Malta's first issue. These, however, bore the name of the British South Africa Company, and it was not until 1909 that the name Rhodesia was first included in the form of an overprint.

In the following year when King George 5th acceded to the throne the first set printed in the joint names of Rhodesia and the British South Africa Company was printed. These were rather large stamps for that period being about the size of recent U.K. commemoratives. Most of the values were printed in two colours and all bore the portraits of the King and of Queen Mary.

Rhodesia's first territorial change came in 1924 when it was divided into two parts, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia, each of which issued its own stamps for the next thirty years, when, in 1954 the two territories were again merged and with the addition of Nyasaland were formed into the Central African Federation. The stamps then bore the names of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

In 1964 the greatest change of all took place when the Federation was dissolved and the territories of Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia resumed their individual identities and again issued stamps in their own names. These however had a very short life, as later in the same year Northern Rhodesia was granted Independence and changed its name to Zambia and Nyasaland became the independent state of Malawi. Southern Rhodesia then resumed its earlier name of Rhodesia.

It had, of course, been intended to change the constitution of Rhodesia with a view to giving increased representation in Parliament to the native Rhodesians, leading to the granting of complete Independence, but the exist-

ing cabinet felt that they were being rushed at too fast a pace, and long negotiations failed to produce a satisfactory agreement and finally deadlock was reached. Then, towards the end on 1965 the Rhodesian Cabinet took the unprecedented step of declaring unilateral Independence.

Mr. Jagger had on view a coloured facsimile of the Deed of Declaration, bearing the signatures of the Prime Minister and the members of his cabinet, and also a photograph of the actual signing of this very important document by Mr. Ian Smith with his cabinet grouped around him.

There were also on display copies of the 2/6 Independence stamp issued to commemorate this event, mint, used and on covers. This stamp had been promptly declared illegal by the United Kingdom Government and invalid for use on any mail entering Britain. Mr. Jagger had several covers on which surcharge had been made or which had escaped invalidation.

Until a new definitive set could be prepared the Ministry of Posts caused all the remaining stocks of the Southern Rhodesia stamps to be overprinted with the words "Independence 11th November 1965". Reasonable quantities of most values were available with the exception of the 5/- value which was sold out almost on the first day. For this reason 20,000 of the Winston Churchill 1/3 stamp were also overprinted with the Independence wording whilst the value was increased from 1/3 to 5/-. These were snapped up even more eagerly than had the normal 5/- overprint and quickly became so scarce that dealers were offering to buy mint or used copies at £12 each. However, prices gradually settled down and these stamps can now be bought for about half this price. Mr. Jagger was fortunate in being able to get a complete mint set of the overprints, as well as a First Day Cover, and with the help of his friend — Mr. Joe Buttigieg — to secure mint and used copies of the Churchill overprint.

On the 9th February, 1966 the new Rhodesian definitive set was issued, and since then several commemorative sets have also been produced. All of these stamps, including the one to mark their Independence have carried the portrait of the Queen, because, say the Rhodesians, they still maintain loyalty to Her Majesty, if not to the U.K. Government.

Mr. Jagger closed with the hope that the future philatelic history of this insecure and unhappy country would continue to reflect alliance with the British Monarchy and people.

NEW STAMPS

November 13th: To Commemorate the Queen's Visit.

Christmas Issue: Date as yet unknown.

THE "GENIUS" OF JEAN DE SPERATI.

Jean de Sperati, noted craftsman of Aix-les-Bains, France, has retired from business. The producer of many reproductions which have deceived the Experts over the past 40 years, he has disposed of his stock, tools and "dies", and they are now under control of the British Philatelic Association.

As far as is known, Sperati produced some 558 different stamps some of them as many as a dozen times. The period necessary for the manufacture of a "die" was several days and to print copies was a laborious business. As this master craftsman had to prepare the paper, often by dissolving in chemicals the design of a genuine but common stamp, the gum or the cancellation. Sperati has been described as "an outstanding craftsman of printing, a fine chemist and a magnificent artist". Furthermore he was a first class philatelist and it was this factor which made his work so dangerous.

During his long career, he made several great varieties, the most valuable was the Swedish 3 skilling banco error coloured in yellow instead of green. The only known genuine copy of this rarity was for many years in the collection of the late King Carol of Roumania, and was valued at £10,000. He used a cheap 4 sk. banco from which he dissolved the design on the stamp on which he printed the great rarity.

In 1948 the Swedish Imra Vajda started a process against Sperati. Sperati did not deny having made a reproduction of this rare stamp, but denied the sale of such a stamp. French law permitted the private reproduction of stamps provided that they are sold as imitations. This Sperati did in the ordinary course of business, refusing naturally to accept responsibility for what happened to them once he had sold them. Only too often the purchaser sold them as genuine and frequently the new owners submitted them for an opinion to one of the leading experts, only to be told that they were genuine in every respect.

So eccentric was the artistic, sensitive Frenchman that he protected the copyright of the designs he was reproducing on the grounds that they were not stamps, even if they looked like them, but were, in fact products of his, Sperati's genius.

Genius is the only word applicable to this master of art. Long years of study made him familiar with paper, ink and gum used a hundred years ago in the production of the issues he successfully copied.

Shortly after the second world war his name became prominent in France and abroad, because the French Customs confiscated a letter with "stamps" destined for Portugal, because the sender did not have a permit to export "valuables," in this case stamps. He was to pay 300,000 francs fine, but refused to pay on the grounds that they were not rare stamps, but forgeries made by himself: The stamps were submitted for the opinion of experts who

declared them as "genuine". From then on the "world of stamps" and philatelists were on their guard, and for several years since, the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Society and the British Philatelic Association have been acquiring all the Sperati reproductions procurable and recording where other experts have similar material.

Sperati, 72 years of age, found his eyesight failing. He could no longer execute his work with that degree of accuracy necessary to satisfy his desire for perfection. Nothing enraged Sperati more than to be told that his forgeries were genuine. He tried every device to convince the unbelieving experts that he made the stamps himself.

The British Philatelic Society in co-operation with the Royal Philatelic Society of London have formed 500 collections to distribute among their members. Each collection is numbered so that any stamp from that collection coming on the market can be traced.

FROM ST. BARNABAS TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS

This article is translated from the Flemish Society of Stamp Collectors magazine "DE POSTZEGEL", written by Dr. M. van Meensel.

Many collectors of Cyprus, have perhaps asked themselves how it is possible that the Highest Religious authority on the Island, Makarios, Archbishop of Nicosia, took such an active part in the "Struggle for Freedom", and on the 16th August 1960, upon achieving Independence, was honoured with the highest Civil Authority — The Presidency.

The reason for this "anomaly", according to Western thinking, can be seen in a commemoration block of stamps issued on the 25th April 1966, by the Cyprus Postal Administration.

The story on it is in the Greek language, in a condensed form. As it will interest many people, it is here translated with the necessary comment.

Cyprus, after Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica is the fourth largest island in the Mediterranean. It is situated south of the Turkish coast, opposite Egypt and has 600,000 inhabitants. From these 80% are, according to origin and language Greek, and of Greek Orthodox religion. 18% are Muhammedan Turkish and 2% are Armenian, Jews, etc.

From 1878 till 1960 Cyprus was under British rule. Before that for 300 years it was under Turkish domination and other "foreign rulers".

The conversion of the Island to Christianity took place during the time of the Apostles, or more precisely in the year 47 A.D. when the apostle Paul, accompanied by his disciple Barnabas — who came from Cyprus — sailed from the Syrian harbour Seleucia and landed on Cyprian soil. They were sent

out by the Christian Community of Antioch to preach the religion of Christ to the population of the Island.

The inspiring words of St. Paul and the knowledge of St. Barnabas about his fellow citizen had results.

They succeeded in converting the Roman Governor Sergius Paulus, as well as many important Cypriots. Tomaso, now called Politiko, St. Barnabas ordained the Cypriot Herakleides as the first Bishop of the young Christian Community. During the following 300 years practically the whole of the Island's population were converted to Christianity.

About the year 400 A.D. the Patriarch of Antioch claimed the right to ordain the Bishops of Cyprus, referring to the fact, that the conversion of the Island was instigated by the community of Antioch, while the Cypriots insisted on choosing their own religious leaders.

In 431 A.D. this question reached its culminating point and the Patriarch Johannes of Antioch referred to the Byzantine Emperor, to prevent, even by force of arms a new Bishop being nominated by the Church Community of Cyprus. The Concilia of Ephesus which was held about the same time pronounced itself in favour of the independence of the Cypriot Church.

In 488 A.D. under the reign of Emperor Zeno of Constantinople, sympathy was shown for the claims of the Antioch Community concerning the guardianship of the Cyprian Church Community. The whole question was re-disputed again and the Cypriot Religious Independence looked "black".

The situation was cleared up "through the direct interference of St. Barnabas himself".

According to the tradition transmitted by mouth, the Holy Barnabas was returned to his homeland Cyprus to die, but nobody knows where he was buried. In 488 A.D. in the "heat of battle" for religious independence, the Holy Barnabas appeared before the Archbishop Artemios, and must have told him that his grave was to be found under a breadfruit tree, at Salamis.

With great pomp accompanied by the whole Clergy, Archbishop Artemios the next day went to the stipulated place and gave the order to dig under the bread-tree. Soon a coffin was excavated, and in it, the well preserved body of Holy Barnabas, and on his breast in his own hand-writing, the "Evangelium" according to Matthew.

Archbishop Artemios hurried himself, accompanied by the representatives of the Cyprian Clergy to Constantinople, to submit this wonderful happening to Emperor Zeno himself.

A convoked religious Synod decided for the undisputed precedence of the Cyprian Church Community, and the Emperor of Constantinople awarded to the Archbishop of Cyprus the following privileges, "From today until the end of time".

1. The right of the Archbishop of the Island to sign his name in the Emperor's red ink: a privilege he had to share only with the Emperor.



1875

1875

2. The right to wear an Emperor's Purple Coat for Church ceremonies.

3. The privilege to carry an Emperor's Sceptor, as a sign of his shepherdly dignity, instead of the curved staff with a cross, as the other Bishops.

These and other distinctions placed the Archbishops of Cyprus in great esteem by their compatriots, also his prestige in the Oriental Church was raised considerably and in order of dignity, since 488 A.D. the Cypriot Archbishop came fifth, immediately after the Patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. He also had the rank of Patriarch, though in general he does not carry this title.

To stress the remarkable privileges the Cypriot Church have enjoyed already for fifteen centuries and to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the discovery of the grave of St. Barnabas, a set of stamps of large dimensions was issued. It had to be large, 10.3 x 8.3 c.m. to copy a fresco, painted in the 18th century on the wall of St. John's Church at Nicosia.

In this painting, the whole story of this wonderful interference of St. Barnabas is depicted in four phases, with short comments in Greek.

1. St. Barnabas appears to the sleeping Archbishop Artemios.

2. Discovering the grave of St. Barnabas under the bread-tree.

3. Emperor Zeno receives Archbishop Artemios, who hands him the evidence found in the grave of St. Barnabas.

4. Emperor Zeno awards to the Cypriot Church Community and her leader, the special privileges.

Here is the origin of the remarkable privileges the Archbishops of Cyprus have enjoyed for fifteen centuries and which are making him of so much importance to the Island.

Also during the Western occupations of the Island (Venetians, Lusignans) in the Middle Ages, as well as under the Turkish rule, the Cypriot Church which has strong ties with her Orthodox tradition, was always suppressed. But always the Archbishops of the Island constituted a nucleus around which resistance, religious, as well as political, chrystallized itself.

By the time of Greek rebellion against the Turkish repression was without any compassion. They did not spare anyone and the then ruling Archbishop was tortured.

By getting some insight into the political and religious history of the Island going far back into the past, one understands better how religion and politics are intermingled in sunny Cyprus.

This also declares how Archbishop Makarios in spite of a fierce Turkish opposition has been for seven years, the undisputed religious and political ruler of the Island. He even dares to express himself in favour of the "Ennos-is" for connection of Cyprus with the Greek mother country.

Trans. from the Flemish by Mr. L. Frank.

PHILATELIC EXCHANGES.

By Surg. Capt. J.H. Mercieca

During my happy forty years connection with Philately and with the various philatelic societies that have come and gone during these four decades, I have not the slightest difficulty in finding out that the activity of a philatelic society to which members much look forward when joining up, is the opportunity they would eventually have in coming in contact with other philatelists with a view to exchanging their duplicates for much sought after items to enhance their collections. Such an activity is highly encouraged and carefully organized by all philatelic societies of standing and it definitely increases the attraction to and the membership of any particular society and without it a philatelic society would, in my opinion, be unattractive and incomplete. It is not the first time that I have eagerly sought a particular stamp or set of stamps and eventually ordered it from a dealer abroad only to discover later that another person, whom I never dreamt to be a collector, had a number of them amongst his swops and which he would have been most willing to let me have in exchange for some other item he badly required for his own collection.

Exchange of stamps can be arranged either in the form of an Exchange Packet under the supervision of the society, where members contribute a booklet of stamps, which are circulated in rotation, amongst members, who at their leisure could inspect the material and remove any of the stamps they need for their own collections, or by a private arrangement amongst two or more individual members of a society, where a collector takes from his friend's duplicates any of the material he requires and giving in exchange stamps of more or less the same value, which his partner is very willing to add to his collection.

All philatelic societies abroad attach great importance to such an interesting activity and our society, mindful as to its desirability by its members is giving the matter the attention it rightly deserves and as a start organized its first exchange meeting on the opening night of the current season.

Furthermore, I am sure, that the committee of our society, would indeed welcome any suggestions from its members anent the organization of stamp exchanges as it is its express wish to be of full service to its members, who on their part, I am sure, would like to see our society passing from strength to strength.

WANTED.

ANY PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS OF MALTA.

Dr. Albert Ganado, 1, Scots Street, Valletta, Malta G.C.

PHILATELIC FURY.

Philately may seem a gentle advocacy, but Postmaster Larry O'Brien knows better. After he approved a 5 cent stamp to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth, furious collectors complained that the Post Office Department was making the Walden Ponderer look like a thug, a Communist, a hippie, or "a beatnik suffering from withdrawal symptoms". One fan even threatened civil disobedience. "If you bring a blown-up poster of this hideous thing into Concord, Mass.," he wrote, "you'd better send a company of the National Guard". Fortunately no one had to call out the troops when the Postmaster General Richard Murphy formally issued the stamp — bearing a rugged, brooding likeness of Thoreau by Artist Leonard Baskin — before a well-behaved crowd of 400 in Concord.

SUGGESTION BOX. Every Postmaster General takes a pasting over stamps. This year the Bureau of Engraving will roll out some 24 billion of them, in 51 varieties, including 24 new issues. A good many are sure to come back on letters from pressure groups, cranks philatelists and historical groups.

Currently, members of the John Birch Society and other right wing organizations are complaining that the Post Office is cottoning to subversive types with a 25 cent stamp portraying Negro Leader Frederick Douglass, a \$1 issue honouring Playwright Eugene O'Neill, an 8 cent Albert Einstein number, and others of Philosopher John Dewey and Revolutionary War Pamphleteer Tom Paine. Last spring the Protestant — dominated Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed suit in U.S. district court to prevent the 1967 reissue, in a slightly larger version of last year's Christmas stamp, a Madonna and Child portrait by 15th century Flemish Artist Hans Memling. The suit charged that O'Brien, a Roman Catholic, is, in effect, proselytizing for his faith.

The department is also besieged by oddball nominations, including recent proposals for the commemorations of mothers-in-law, the ten most wanted men, the Texas longhorn, the pretzel industry, the hamburger, the 100th anniversary of the first daylight bank robbery in the U.S. (a heist on February 13th, 1866, in Liberty, Mo.), and the 4,000th anniversary of the pickle.

Shadows and warts. Sometimes the Post Office does heed its mail. When last year's 5 cent George Washington brought protests, the department agreed that "The stamp needs a bit of a face lift". Last month it doctored the shadows and warts in the design.

All stamp designs (for which commissioned artists receive \$1,000) are reviewed by the Postmaster General's eleven — member Stamp Advisory Council, which is trying to avoid turkeys like the 1948 stamp celebrating the poultry industry. Still, the department must occasionally wince and yield to pressures from Capitol Hill. In 1966, Louisiana's Representative Jimmy Mor-

ri-son, chairman of the House postal — rate subcommittee, wanted a stamp commemorating the Great River Road that runs from Canada to New Orleans along the Mississippi — and right through his district. Larry O'Brien, needing Morrison's support for a parcel — post reform bill, ordered the stamp. But when the Congressman came up for re-election last fall, his constituents voted him out of office. As for his stamp, a poll run by LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS, the philatelist's bible, elected the Great River Road design the ugliest of the year.

First published in "TIME" magazine.

BOOK REVIEW.

Postage Due Handstuck Markings of Malta. A Malta Study Circle Paper No. 5. 24 pages. (8" x 10"). Photo and line illustrations. Price: 8/6. plus postage. Available from the publisher J.G.C., 13, Bucks Avenue, Watford Heath, Watford, Herts., U.K.

Here is another unfinished research published by the busy Malta Study Circle who hopes readers will thereby be encouraged to come forward with first hand information that probably lies neglected in their collections. To Mr. Lander please.

What is assembled here so far comprises a look at the Regulations and Procedures, descriptions of the Handstuck Marks and their development — with their illustrations neatly attractive as the front cover decorations — a table-showing amounts charged against various marks. Markings on Air Mail are included and further tables of "Taxe" and combinations of early Postage Due markings. The adhesives are dealt with separately and include notes on forgeries, specimens, printings and varieties.

The bibliography will help readers in search of deeper instruction — and "Suggested Further Research" is where the readers can learn how to come to the aid of the Circle. If you have Maltese covers within this subject why not make them available now?

R.P.

Acknowledgements to The Philatelist.

WANTED.

GOOD QUALITY CLASSICAL ISSUES OF MALTA.

Mr. Louis Frank, 23, St. Roque Street, Kalkara, Malta G.C.

MALTA HEARSAY.

Once again, Chevalier Cremona outshone himself as an artist in executing an excellent design for the three value set commemorating the 25th anniversary of the award of the George Cross. The blue ribbon of the medal, an exact replica of the original, certainly adds a considerable amount of "flavour" to the stamp.

The majority of users still remember those incessant air raids of the early 1940's which reached a climax in the spring of 1942 when the Luftwaffe decided to wipe out all signs of the "Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier". Much to the disappointment of the Nazi leaders, Malta stayed firm and solid. Helped by Britain and her Allies, the Maltese stood up to their tradition of being loyal fighters.

The only jarring note about the issue was the failure on the part of the postal authorities to make use of the long awaited special date stamp showing a "First Day of Issue" cancellation. It really puzzles everybody why such an attractive novelty takes so long to put into effect. The set would have looked more complete on a first day cover if it were thus postmarked.

Malta stamps have finally stopped in their sharp rise to fabulous prices. This was certainly an exaggerated and undesirable move, motivated from a great demand by our friends on the Continent. This demand came mainly from collectors and dealers, and certainly not from visitors; thus it is most unlikely that the market will at some time or other be flooded by these issues. The only exception is perhaps the Malta Trade Fair set, which was conered on the second day of issue. This may come up for sale at some time or other.

The fact that so many collectors have shown an interest in Maltese philately may be attributed, in part, to the excellent artistic designs offered by Chev. Cremona.

It is again rumoured that Malta intends to commemorate local celebrities of international status. A reference to this was made some months ago in 'Malta Hearsay'. This is a very wise move which will certainly meet with everyone's approval.

Our Island is pregnant with a wealth of priceless history. Surely, events or people can easily be selected and duly commemorated. On the other hand, an excess of this is very harmful indeed and the number of issues should never exceed five (or, possibly four) each year.

Emmanuel Said.

First published in Stamp Collecting.

THE CIRCULAR VILLAGE STAMPS OF MALTA. — Part 2

By W.L. Freshwater

In the tabulated list of offices below, I have given first the office, with the diameter measurement of the cancellor, followed by the period or letter indices recorded, and then the earliest and latest date of use which I have recorded. Offices which remained open after 1921 have no latest date shown. AM and PM periods have not been listed separately with the exceptions of Asciak and Misida, which are self-explanatory.

Offices in Gozo are indicated by *.

Asciak,	22	AM.	PM.	21.12.00	3.11.11	Type 1 to 9.6.09
		AM.	PM.	19. 5.09	25.10.21	Type 2 from 15.8.10
Attard.	23	AM.		22.10.00	14. 1.10	
Balzan.	23	AM.	PM.	12.11.18	20. 8.21	
Birchircara.	21	A,B,C.		29. 7.87		
*Caccia.	23	AM.		12.10.00	19. 8.20	
Cassal-lia.	19	A,B,C,D.		17. 1.00	21. 1.21	
Chircop.	21	AM.		27.10.02	11.12.04	
Cospicua.	23	A-G.incl.		4. 8.90		
Crendi.	21	AM.		14. 9.00	1.10.19	
Cumri.	21	AM.	PM.	15.12.00	17.10.21	
Dingli.	20	AM.		23. 5.04	1. 9.21	
*Garbo.	23	AM.		29.11.10	29.11.10	No other dates seen.
Gargur.	21	AM.		1.12.00	13.16.12	
*Għan Sielem.	23	AM.		28.11.00	27.11.02	
Gudja.	22	AM.		1.10.00	7. 7.21	
Hamrun.	20	A,B.		10. 9.22	20. 6.12	
	24	AM.	PM.	21. 4.12	8. 9.21	
Luca.	22	AM.		1. 1.01	1. 9.21	
Marsa.	23	AM.	PM.	19. 3.01	1.12.21	
Mel ha.	21	A.		16. 1.01	21. 4.21	
Micabbjba.	21	AM.		9 5.01	25.12.20	
*Migiarro.	21	A,B.		23. 9.87		
Misida.	22	AM.	PM.	17.12.01	16.12.09	AM to 22.9.08 only.
		A.		13.10.08	1. 7.10	
		AM.	PM.	14. 3.10	12.21.21	AM from 9.7.10 only.
Musta.	21	AM.	PM.	17. 7.01	3. 8.17	
		None.		24. 9.17	24. 3.20	
		AM.	PM.	23. 7.20	7.10.21	
*Nadur.	23	AM.	PM.	30. 4.02	19. 8.12	
Naxaro.	21	AM.		25.12.00	8. 9.16	
Notabiel.	19	A-F.incl.		27. 1.98		
Paula.	21	A,B,C.		31. 5.86	19.10.21	
*Rabato.	21	PM.		9. 9.00	20. 7.87	
Safi.	21	A.		9. 2.01	17. 6.02	
St. Pauls Bay.	21	AM.	PM.	7.10.00	9. 6.21	
Siggieui.	27			9.11.95	5. 9.21	
Sliema.	21	AM.	PM.	30. 4.01		
Tarxien.	21	A.		9. 7.18	7. 9.21	
		A.		8.12.97		
Valletta.	29			20.12.87	28. 6.00	
*Victoria.	23	A-G.incl.		20. 9.00		
		AM.	PM.	7. 4.04	29. 9.12	
*Xeuchia.	22	AM.	PM.	10.10.21	10.10.21	
Zabbar.	21	AM.	PM.	1. 8.01	1. 9.21	
Zebbug.	21	AM.	PM.	9. 7.01	3. 8.21	
Zeitun.	21	AM.	PM.	27.10.00	10. 7.21	
Zurrico.	21	AM.	PM.			

The above list is complete as far as my records go, but not to the best of my knowledge. Sannat cancellor was sent out in 1900 and the 1909 editions Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste published by the U.P.U. lists this office as being in current existence. In the same volume are listed offices at Birzebuggia, Cottonera, Kala, Marsaforno, Marsascirocco, Marsascala, Pieta, and St. Julians. What has happened to them? Did they have any cancellation devices?

It is a well-known fact that the police station was often the post office. A number of Queen Victoria adhesives are known with police cancellations; could any of them be tied down to these offices? It would need a supply of these police cancellations and an intimate knowledge of the police locations of the period to decide this — has anyone the material and knowledge to undertake this investigation?

It is to be understood that this is a record of the early circular date stamp only and does not include the well known circular date stamp showing only Malta at the top, index letter (A-Q), below and date across the middle. Neither does this article deal with the various changes in type of cancellations used by the main offices after 1921. However, to bring the list of offices to completion, it would be as well to mention that Paola re-opened for a short period during the late thirties, spelt Pawla; Prince of Wales Road is a modern postmark used by Sliema; Tower Road is another office opened during George VI reign and destroyed by enemy action in August 1941; Rabato was the original name for Victoria; and finally the modern spelling for Birchircara is Birkirkara.

In conclusion, I have to thank many members of the old Malta Study Circle and of the newly revived club for the help and information in completing this article, and Major F. Orme for editing and correcting before going to press.

Extract from Postal History Society Bulletin No. 85.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE NEWSLETTER.

Any member wishing to avail themselves of this service for the exchange of stamps, etc., Can for a small charge use this service. A small charge is made to defray printing expenses. They are, 3d per word for small print and 6d a word for **BLOCK CAPITALS**.

THE £1 STAMPS OF MALTA.

By M.E. Jetten.

Malta, which began issuing its own stamps 107 years ago, has in all that time had only five £1 stamps. It has been said that there is no need, except for fiscal purposes, for a stamp of such high value.

It is true that Malta managed with values of 2s.6d., 5s., and 10s., up to 1922, with the first 5s. value in 1886, and first 2s.6d. and 10s values in 1899. Nevertheless, it is certain that all the £1 values have been used on registered and highvalue packets and on official, and private, larger packets and parcels; but it must be admitted that many £1 stamps have been seen with purely philatelic cancellations.

On a design basis, the number of £1 stamps could be said to be merely four, the only practical difference between the issues of 1922 and 1925 being that of a watermark; the 1922 issue with sideways watermark and the 1925 issue with upright watermark.

The £1 black and carmine-red of 1922, S.G. type 22, watermark Crown and Script CA, perf. 14 (comb) was recess printed by De La Rue in sheets of 80 (8×10). It had no plate numbers, but two narrow red lines frame the outer edge of the sheet. The design by C. Dingli who has been said to have been a Government servant, shows the allegorical figure of Melita, "a half-sister to Britannia". The values are in two tablets top left and right, and the inscriptions POSTAGE and REVENUE, at left and right sides with MALTA at the foot between two shields. These shields show, at the left, the Union Jack, and at the right, a Maltese Cross.

The £1 of 1925 is the same design but with the difference of watermark mentioned earlier. It is also in a different colour, being on a paler shade of paper and in black and bright carmine as distinct from carmine red.

There was no £1 value in the King George VI definitive stamps and so it was 14 years (from 1935 to 1949) before the next one appeared, this being the Royal Silver Wedding commemorative "omnibus" issue for the colonies. Malta's Silver Wedding £1 is different from general issue in that "MALTA" appears between a Maltese Cross and the George Cross, national symbols of which she is rightly proud. All the £1 Silver Wedding stamps were printed in recess by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. Ltd., with the country name typographed except Malta, her name being printed in recess. The watermark is Mult. Script C-A, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$. The date of issues varied, Malta's being January 4th, 1949. The £1 stamps of the Silver Wedding are becoming increasingly sought-after and Malta's may prove to be one of the best. First day covers of the set are difficult to get today.

There was a period of eight years before the next £1 value appeared, on January 5th, 1957, to complete the 1956 definitive Queen Elizabeth II issue.

It featured the Queen's portrait and the great marble group, "The Baptism of Christ", by Guiseppe Mazzuoli, which dominates the choir of the Co-Cathedral of St. John in Valletta. The name of the country appears at the top of the stamp flanked by the now familiar Maltese and George Crosses, and beneath the Queen's portrait the value and POSTAGE/REVENUE. This stamp was recess-printed by Waterlows. Watermark Mult. Script C-A; perf. 14×13½. Another eight years and two days passed before the next £1 appeared at the top value of the first post Independence definitives on January 7th, 1965. Designed by Chev. E.V. Cremona, the 19 values were symbolic of every period of Malta's long history. The £1, printed in photogravure by Harrison and Son, Ltd., on Maltese Cross watermarked paper, perf. 14½, depicts the Island three patron saints, Paulus, Publius and Agatha. St. Paul, of course, was shipwrecked on Malta as recorded in his Second Epistle to the Corinthians. St. Publius was the Roman Governor whom St. Paul converted to Christianity and who became the first Bishop of Malta. St. Agatha was the daughter of a Sicilian nobleman who fled to Malta to avoid marriage to the man to whom her father had betrothed her. Being devoutly religious, she had wanted to dedicate her life to the Church. On returning to Sicily, she was brutally martyred.

One wonders what turn of events, what accident of history, or to what extent of modern desire for constant change will decide how long we wait for the next £1 stamp of Malta.

Acknowledgements to Stamp Collecting.

POST OFFICES OF ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORY

After the six day war against the Arab states Israel opened a number of post offices in Jordan and Gaza. The postmarks and dates are:—

Jerusalem Old City P.O.	5. 7.67.
Hevron	9. 7.67.
Bethlehem.	10. 7.67.
Ramalia.	11. 7.67.
Jericho.	12. 7.67.
Nablus.	13. 7.67.
Gaza.	13. 7.67.
Tul Karem	16. 7.67.
Genim.	17. 7.67.
Direl Balah.	20. 7.67.
Han Yunes.	20. 7.67.
Rafiah.	23. 7.67.

First day covers were available with the following inscription printed in six languages "WE STRIVE FOR PEACE AND AMNITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD".

THE MALTA 5d. STAMP OF 1889.

By Chas. Spiteri.

When one looks at the 5d. Malta stamp issued in 1889, listed in Gibbons' Catalogue as No. 32, one immediately notices, on the upper corners, the so-called Maltese eight pointed cross worn on the habit of the Knights Hospitaliers of St. John of Jerusalem.

On the left side of the ornament are to be seen a shield bearing the eight pointed Maltese Cross and several other implements of war such as swords, lances of various types, as well as a drum. Such a drum used to be sounded in the streets of all the towns and villages of Malta to give the inhabitants the warning of an approaching enemy. This warning was called "In-Naffra".

On the right side of the ornament are depicted other war implements: the slide bearing the Maltese colours of red and white which are the National colours given to the Maltese by Count Roger of Normandy when he liberated Malta from the Arab yoke in 1090.

The middle design represents a Maltese galley in which the Knights Hospitaliers of St. John of Jerusalem used to fight the Turkish corsairs of the Mediterranean, the great enemies of the Christian Faith.

These galleys were constructed at the arsenal situated between the two towns of Senglea and Vittoriosa. Nearby are still to be seen barrel-vaulted magazines hewn from the living rocks by the slaves of the Hospitalliers. These magazines were made so damp-proof that everything appertaining to the construction of a galley was stored in them.

If one were to go back as far as 1644 and place oneself in the Watch Tower of St. Angelo, one would then see such galleys as that on the above-mentioned stamp, with the command amidship dressed in full armour and his red habit bearing a white cross at the front and back, and big red and white feathers dangling in his visor.

Alongside of him stand in files the knight brothers with shield in the left hand and drawn sword in the right hand, flaunting their scarlet and gold amid a forest of oars.

Gradually the galley would be seen leaving Vittoriosa side and the Commander's quarters, setting forth for her perilous summer cruise while her white and red coloured sails take in the breeze which slowly carries her out of harbour.

With such a galley the courageous General de Cambere Boisbour defeated the big Turkish Sultana, a marine colossus, near Rhodes Isles on the 8th September 1644 in a fight which lasted seven hours. A memoir of this battle may still be seen on a fresco in the Magisterial Palace in Valletta.

Waving from the poop mast, the galleys flag may be seen bearing the Cross of St. John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of the Knights Hospitaliers of Jerusalem, a flag which every Moslem dreaded and under which every Christian traveller sailed in all confidence.

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