

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**.