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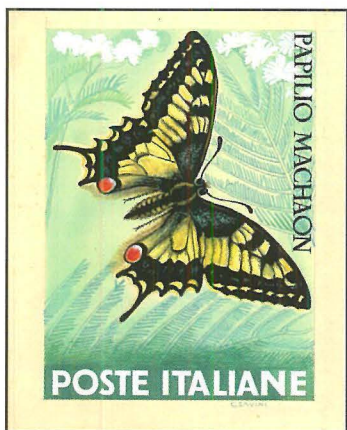
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MAGNIFICENT BUTTERFLY MACHAON

Vladimir Kachan, (Belarus)



Artwork of Italy 1960 with butterfly Papilio machaon

The Swallowtail was one of the first butterflies that were described by Carl Linnaeus in the 10th edition of Systema Naturae in 1758 and named *Papilio machaon*, a figure in Greek mythology. *Papilio machaon* has a striking coloration of black on top of a yellow base color. There are blue and red spots on the hind wings. A mutation or variation on Swallowtails' natural color is the occasional butterfly that displays melanism, a black coloration on the wings, rather than yellow. Also there are butterflies of blue color. There are fairly large butterflies compared to most others. The Swallowtails have two overlapping wings, which create a wing span anywhere from 5.5 - 8 cm in length. Some females even have a fore-wing span that reaches



Stationery card of Belarus 2005 with butterfly Machaon and color error



Artist drawing of Lebanon stamp 1965

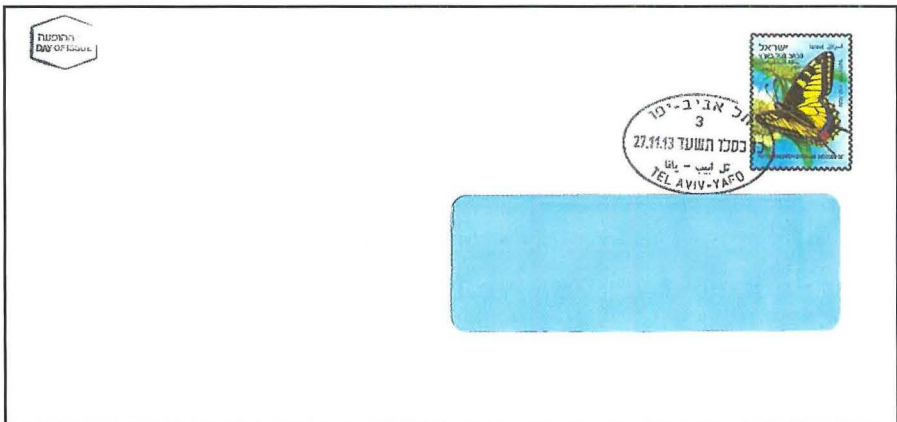
beyond 10 cm. This butterfly is present throughout the entire Palearctic region, ranging from Russia to China and Japan, (including the Himalayas and Taiwan), and across into Alaska, Canada, and the United States. In Asia, it is reported as far south as Saudi Arabia, Oman, the high mountains of Yemen, Lebanon, Iran and Israel. In southern Asia, it occurs in Pakistan and Kashmir, northern India, Nepal, Bhutan, and northern Myanmar. *Papilio machaon* inhabits alpine meadows in the Himalayas occurring from 2,000 feet (610 m) in Kashmir valley to 16,000 feet (4,900 m) in the Garhwal Himalayas. A large areal provided an opportunity for the emergence of many subspecies of *Machaon*. There are 37 recognized subspecies of this butterfly.



Stamp of USSR 1987 with error



Variety of Iran stamp 1974 with *Machaon*



Entire postal of Israel 2013 with butterfly *Papilio machaon syriacus*

Throughout most of its range the Swallowtail shows itself to be highly adaptable, utilising a wide variety of habitats including sub-arctic tundra in Canada, prairies, woodlands and arid canyons in the south of the USA; hay meadows, roadside verges, river banks and sub-alpine pastures in Europe; high montane habitats in the Atlas mountains of north Africa, and semi-cultivated habitats in the Mediterranean area. The butterfly has a characteristic powerful gliding flight, and is capable of covering large distances. The Swallowtail butterfly flies so gracefully, swiftly and easily as a bird, that you can just admire this beauty. On warm sunny



Imperforated stamp of Gabon 1986 with butterfly Machaon

days, male Swallowtails patrol back and forth along a regular route in search of females. Often both sexes home in on a particular clump of bushes, where courtship and copulation take place. In the morning, and again in late afternoon both sexes can be seen flying freely about their habitat, pausing regularly to nectar at the



Entire postal of Romania 1961 with color error



Imperforated stamp and specimen of Tonga 1987 with butterfly Machaon

pink flowers of angelica, knapweeds, marsh thistles, red campion, ragged robin and valerian. When nectaring they keep their wings constantly fluttering to prevent the weight of their bodies from dragging down on the fragile flowers. Like all butterflies, the Swallowtails can be effective pollinators. The flight of Swallowtails is characterized by the strong flapping of their wings during the months of May and June.

The butterflies of the north have one flight sometime in May through July while those of the south have two flights. Pupae of machaon, attached to the stalk of a herbaceous plant or shrub, hibernate near the ground and only in May of them appear butterflies. They lay eggs, caterpillars feed and in the beginning of August

the second generation of butterflies comes out. They lay eggs, caterpillars pupate in September, pupae winter and ... further in a circle.

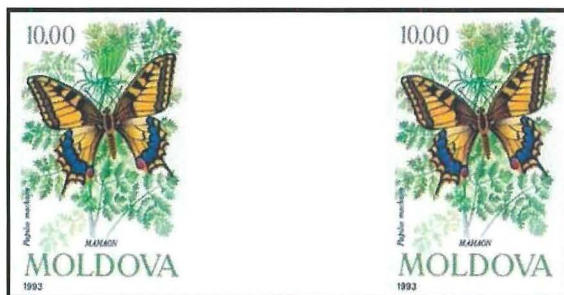
Butterfly Machaon is one of the most magnificent insects. It is distinguished by a chic multi-colored color. At the same time, the shape of the butterfly's wings is unusually beautiful. This is one of the most elegant butterflies in Europe. In view of their scarcity, butterflies



Meter mark of Great Britain with butterfly Machaon



Imperforated stamp of Hungary 1959



Imperforated pair stamps of Moldova 1993 with butterfly Machaon

do not cause any damage to agriculture and need protection. Butterfly Papilio machaon is protected by law in six provinces of Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and in the United Kingdom. The species are listed in the national Red Books of Ukraine, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, and Germany.

Aesthetically butterflies Papilio machaon are unique and therefore by spectacular appearance the popularity of the butterfly in human society has become very great. «Perho» (Butterfly) was a paint product family name of the Finnish company «Suomen Väri- ja Vernissa Tehdas Oy». The company used firm meter mark with stylized butterfly Machaon on firm cover. Also is known butterfly Machaon as trade mark of American company I.P.Farnum. Writer and entomologist Vladimir Nabokov dedicated the lines



Corporate envelope of Finland 1954

of his poem “Butterflies” to the Machaon:

From afar you will learn of machaon
 on solar tropical beauty:
 swept along the mildew
 and sat down on a dandelion by the
 highway.

Strike the net, - and in the grid rustling
 loud.

Oh, yellow demon, how trembling you
 are!

I’m afraid to break the jagged edges
 and black finest tails.

Aim, - but prevent the branches;
 you will wave, - but he flashed, and was such,
 and are poured from an inverted grid
 only torn crosses of flowers ...

Butterfly Machaon is so popular that it is depicted on the coat of arms of Skrudalienas volost (small rural district) of Latvia. Subspecies *Papilio machaon melitensis* is the largest butterfly in the Maltese Islands. The race occurring locally is endemic, that is, it is not found anywhere else. In the not so distant past it was much common but like most



Souvenir post card of USA 1908



Stationery card of Latvia 2013 with butterfly Machaon



Stamp of Malta 2002 with butterfly *Papilio machaon melitensis*



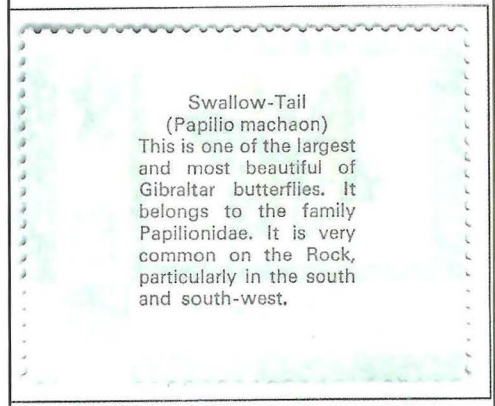
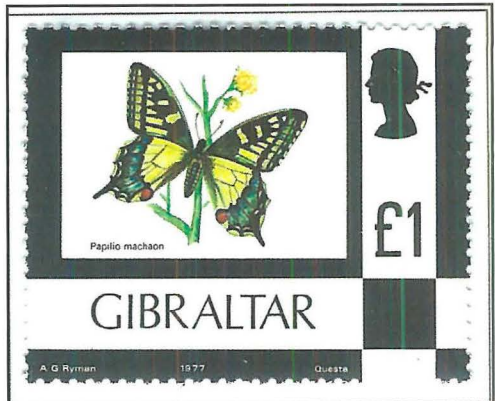
Proofs of Monaco 1987 with butterfly Machaon

butterflies it has declined drastically through human activities. In 1976 this butterfly was figured on the 10Lm Gold Coin of Malta. This butterfly is also the logo of the National Museum of Natural History of Malta.

How to keep this magnificent butterfly? Butterfly Machaon lives only about three weeks. We admire these fragile creatures, their light flight, we marvel at the life cycle and amazing transformation. Let's watch their life in flight, in the wild, and they will please us with their beauty. It is impossible not to admire these gentle creatures!

I hope that my article, illustrated with unusual philatelic material, will be stimulate interest of philatelists in studying of philatelic material of the world with butterflies. I wish new interesting discoveries for philatelic enthusiasts.

Author always glad to help for philatelists in creation or improve of philatelic exhibit on butterflies and moths. My address for letters is the next: Vladimir Kachan, street Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus, e-mail: vladimirkachan@mail.ru



Stamp of Gibraltar 1977 with butterfly Machaon and advertisement on back side of stamp

Please remit your membership dues for 2019 immediately

to Mr John Cardona, 56 Triq Santa Marija - Tarxien TXN 1703

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Local Members:

(Adults) - Eur 10.00 • (Junior Members) - Euro 3.00

Overseas Members:

Australia - Aud 40.00 • Canada - Cad 30.00 • U.S.A. - US\$ 21.00
 • Euro Countries - Eur 20.00 • South Africa - US\$ 31.00 • U.K. - GBP 15.00

MALTA

MALTA – THE GREEN CROSS LABEL SCHEME 1940 - 43 **The R.A.F. Air mail service to the Island**

By Tony Camilleri

After the fall of France and the entry of Italy into the war, the Governor and C. in C. of Malta complained of the inadequate air mail service to the Island which was having a serious effect on the morale of British Forces.

A few Sunderland flying boats had made the trip in the past few weeks but these had carried high priority material and were unable to include mail in their cargo.

It was proposed by the R.A.F., in liaison with the Post Office, that three Wellingtons of No. 24 (Communications) Squadron at Hendon, should be used to provide a weekly outward and homeward service and should carry 100 lbs of private mail addressed to service personnel at Malta.

The Post Office printed small, oblong labels bearing a green St. Andrews Cross of "one ounce" type on 3rd August 1940 and "half ounce" type on 5th November 1940. These were sent to Malta and distributed to Servicemen for enclosure with their mail home, then to be used on return letters which would be sent by the short air route to Malta.

It was designed to ensure that the very limited space which was available for mails on the few aircrafts which operated direct between the United Kingdom and Malta was devoted to the carrying of letters not exceeding half ounce in weight addressed to troops and civilians from their friends in this country.

The prepaid postage on a Green Cross letter was 2½d when addressed to a civilian and 1½d when addressed to members of H.M. Forces.

Secrecy was essential and correspondents were asked not to use "By Air Mail" labels – they often did! The G.P.O. also denied 'postal significance' for the labels and refused to answer enquiries about the scheme at Post Office counters. The scheme was a success and, although due to enemy presence, it is doubtful whether the once weekly average was achieved, mail which had previously flown on the UK – Lisbon – Gold Coast (Ghana) – Cairo route and had been subject to very long delays, reached Malta quickly.

With an improvement in the British military and naval situation, the scheme ceased to operate on 1st October 1943.

THE BRITISH PHILATELIST
For Collectors of
BRITISH STAMPS, CARDS,
and ENVELOPES.

No. 1—Vol. XL.
Whole No. 469.

March, 1949.

3d. [SUBSCRIPTION
3/- PER ANNUM

THE GREEN CROSS LABEL



When the siege of Malta became so severe that it was difficult to maintain the mail services a new air mail service was arranged. Each soldier was given one green cross label per week. This he sent home to his relatives and they put it on the front of the reply letter. Letters bearing these labels were flown to Malta by special fast planes. All others went via the Cape, taking over two months instead of a few days. Very few such letters bearing labels have survived.

J. DOVE,

MALTA

Types of Green Cross label

First type showing St Andrew's Cross in deep olive green ink with inscription "Weight/not to exceed one ounce" ordered on 29th July 1940 and available for dispatch on 3rd August. When it was later decided that one ounce was too heavy for letters a number of the printed one ounce labels were altered by hand to read " $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce".



Second type in light green ink with inscription "Weight/not to exceed half ounce" ordered on 23rd October 1940 and available for dispatch on 5th November. There were at least two printings of this label – *sans serif* lettering and *serif*.



Serif

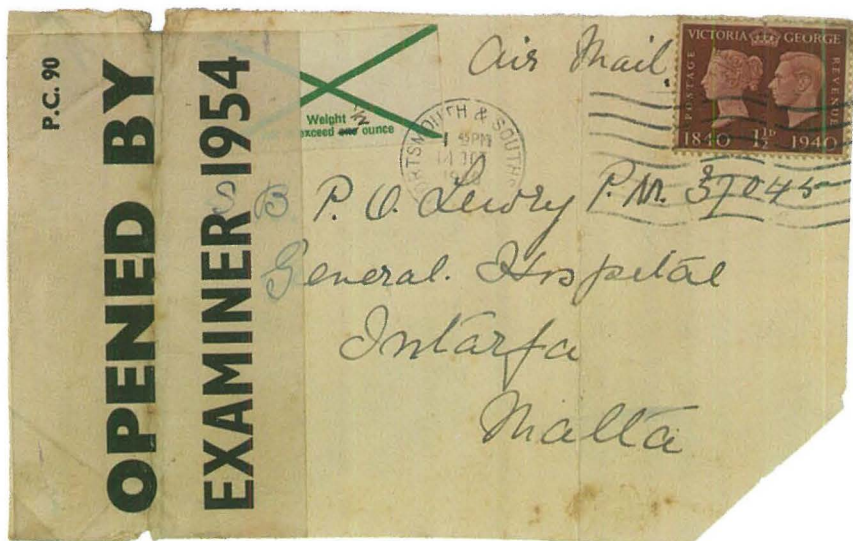


Sans Serif



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When the weight of letters was restricted to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz a small number of the printed labels for one ounce were altered to read ' $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce' by hand



Cover front posted 14 October 1940 franked GB 1½d, Forces air mail rate, addressed to P.O. Lewry at General Hospital, Imtarfa, Malta
Green Cross label from the first printing with a deep olive green ink inscribed "Weight/not to exceed one ounce" with 'sans serif' lettering amended to read " $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce" by hand

Cover was opened by Examiner before leaving the UK

This is the earliest recorded use of the Green Cross label

MALTA



13 February 1941 - franked 1½d, normal Forces rate



20 May 1941 - franked 1s3d, air mail letter rate

Covers with Green Cross labels from the first printing printed with a deep olive green ink inscribed "Weight/not to exceed one ounce" with 'sans serif' lettering

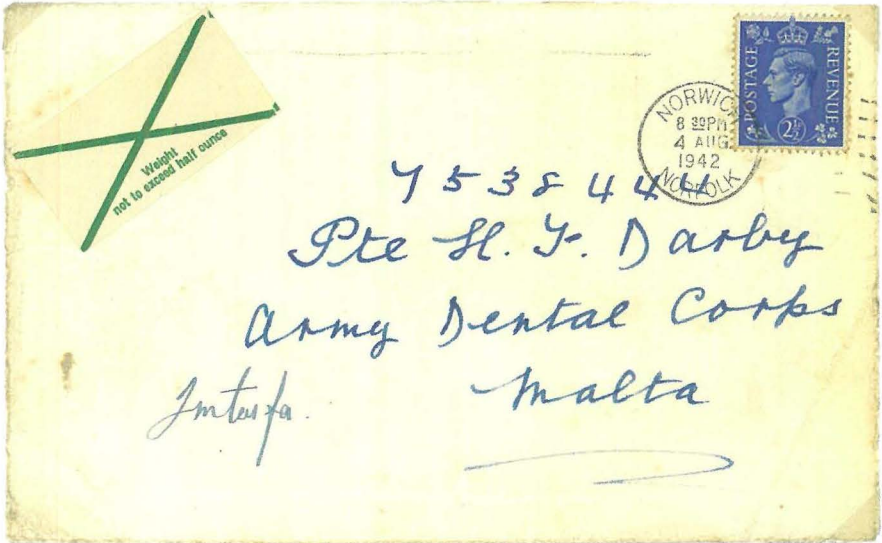
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Cover to Malta posted 31 July 1941 franked GB 2½d, civilian rate
Green Cross label from the first printing printed with a deep
olive green ink inscribed "Weight/not to exceed one ounce" with
'sans serif' lettering amended to read "½ ounce" by hand
Cover opened by examiner before leaving the UK

MALTA

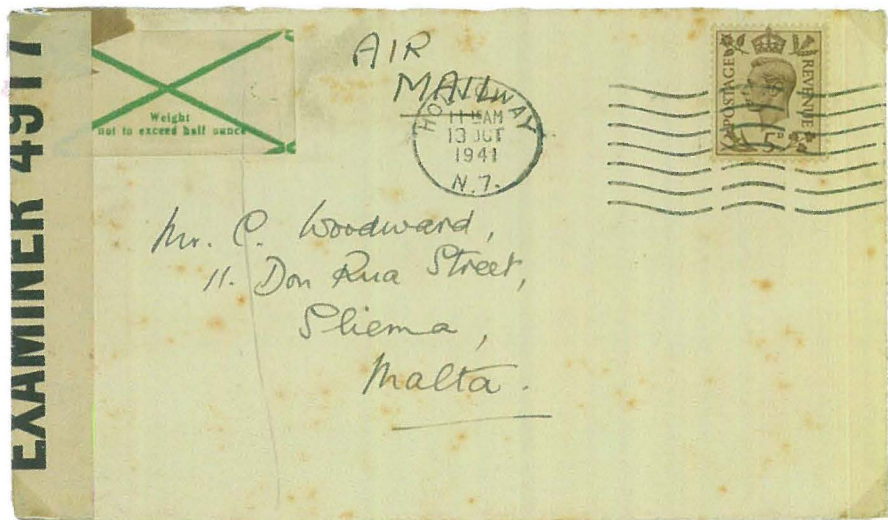
Second type with inscription "Weight/ not to exceed half ounce" of which there were at least two printings of this label using 'Serif' and 'Sans serif' letterings



Cover posted 4 August 1942 at the civilian rate of 2½d, addressed to a serviceman at the Army Dental Corps, Imtarfa Hospital, Malta
Green Cross label inscribed "Weight/not to exceed half ounce" with 'sans serif' lettering

Manuscript annotation '14.8.42' entered on the flap

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Cover posted 13 October 1941 from Holloway, UK rated 5d,
the European air rate, addressed to Malta
Label with inscription "Weight/not to exceed half ounce"
with serif lettering partly tied with P.C. 90 censor label
It is quite unusual for a Green Cross cover in being
opened by examiner before leaving England
Delivered by Postman Number 10

MALTA



Cover to Malta posted on 14 January 1942 rated 2½d the civilian rate
Label with serif lettering "Weight/not to exceed half ounce"



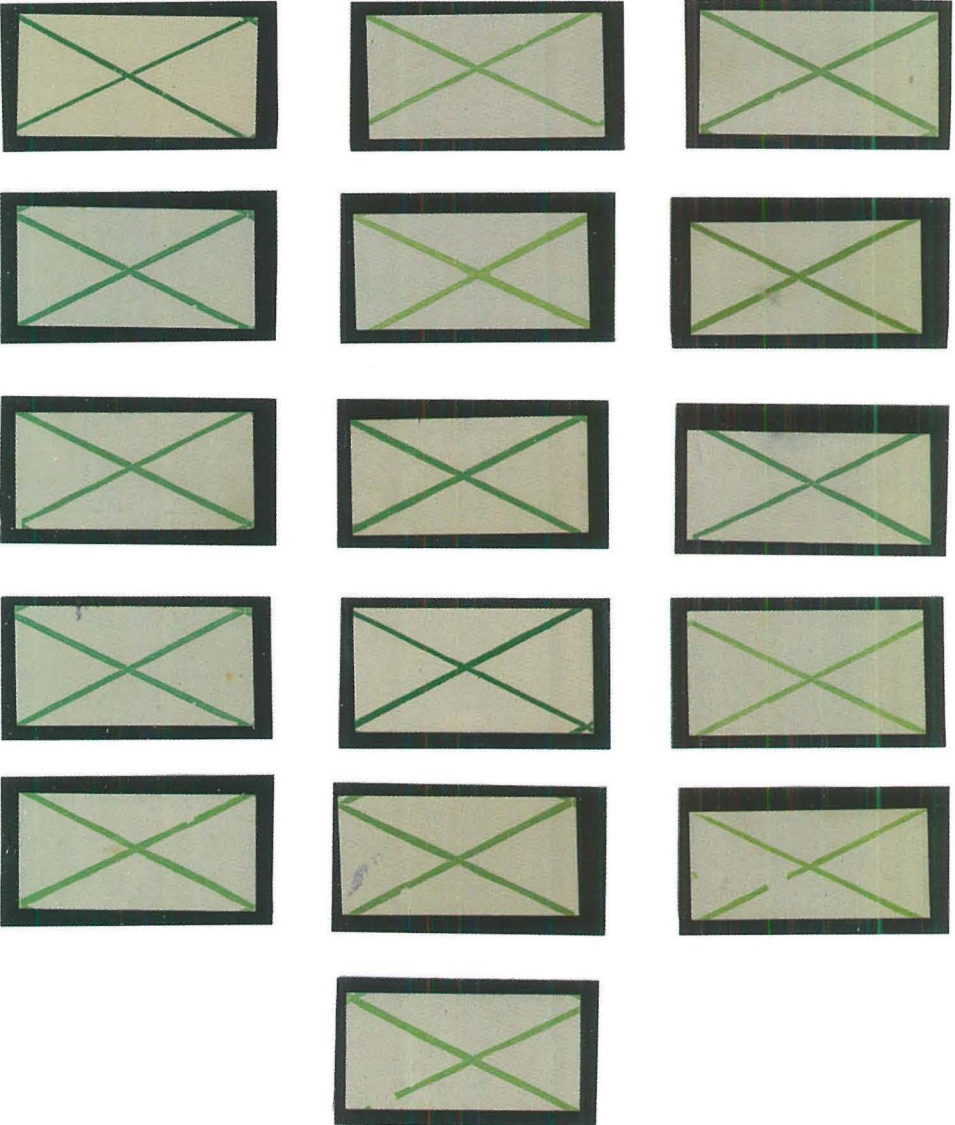
Cover to Malta posted on 19 January 1943 rated 2½d the civilian rate
Label with serif lettering "Weight/not to exceed half ounce"

MALTA

Third type with no inscription printed in many different shades and colours from apple green to deep blue green and thin to thick lines used from July 1941.

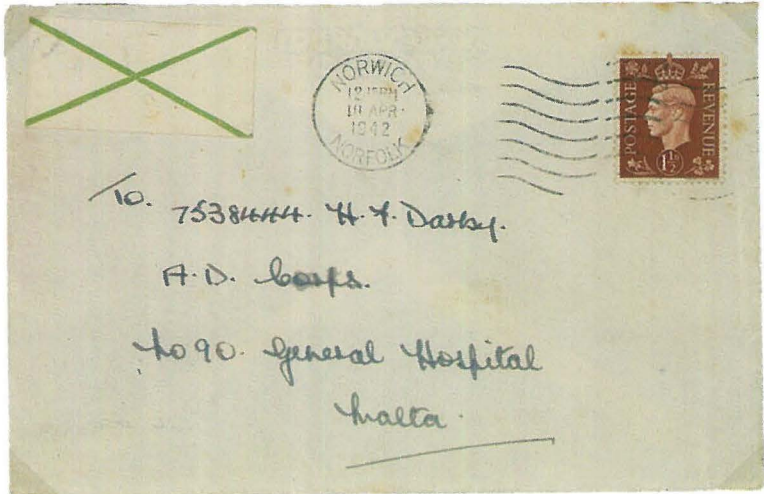
A few of these labels were also altered in manuscript to read "*Not exceeding ½ oz*" or "*Not more than ½ oz*"

As printing was from several different plates, many of them being more or less defective, various flaws and varieties showed up on the resulting labels.



MALTA

Different shades and colour from the third printing with no inscription



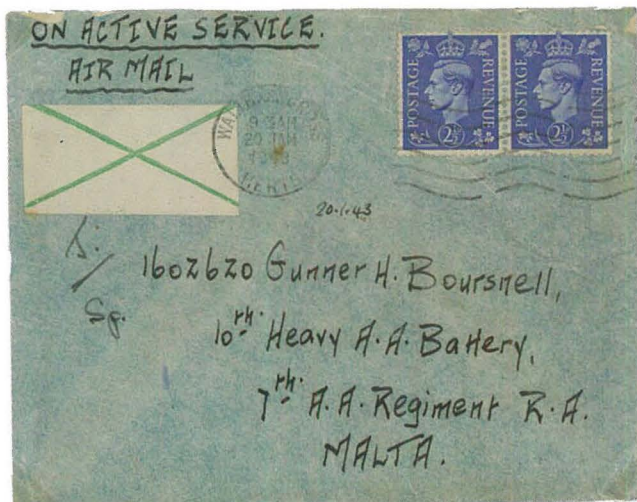
Posted 10 April 1942. Franked 1½d - Green Cross Forces Rate



Posted 17 April 1942. Franked 5d - European Air Rate

MALTA

Different shades and colour from the third printing with no inscription



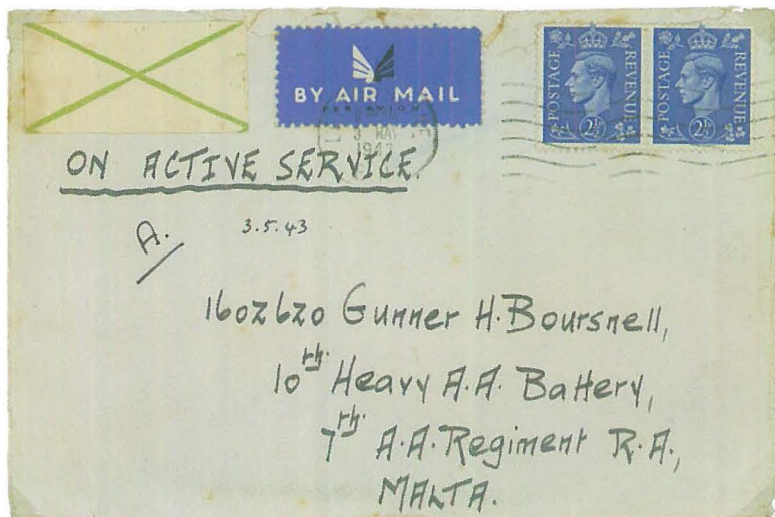
Posted 20 January 1943. Franked 5d - European Air Rate



Posted 22 April 1943. Franked 1s3d - European Air Rate

MALTA

Different shades and colour from the third printing with no inscription



Posted 3 May 1943. Franked 5d - European Air Rate



Posted 2 June 1943. Franked 1½d - Green Cross Forces Rate

MALTA

Different shades and colour from the third printing with no inscription



Posted 7 September 1942. Franked 1½d - Green Cross Forces Rate



Posted 16 May 1943. Franked 2½d - Green Cross Civilian Rate

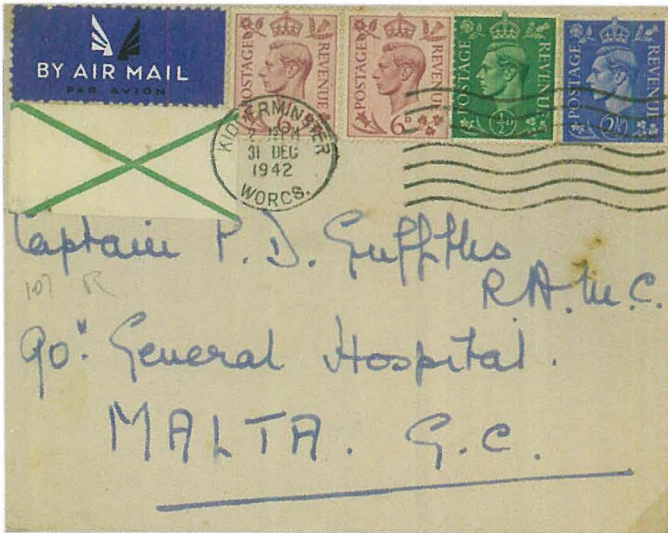
MALTA

Apple Green variety



A. Bonnici

MALTA



Wide Light Green (Kidderminster 31st December 1942.)

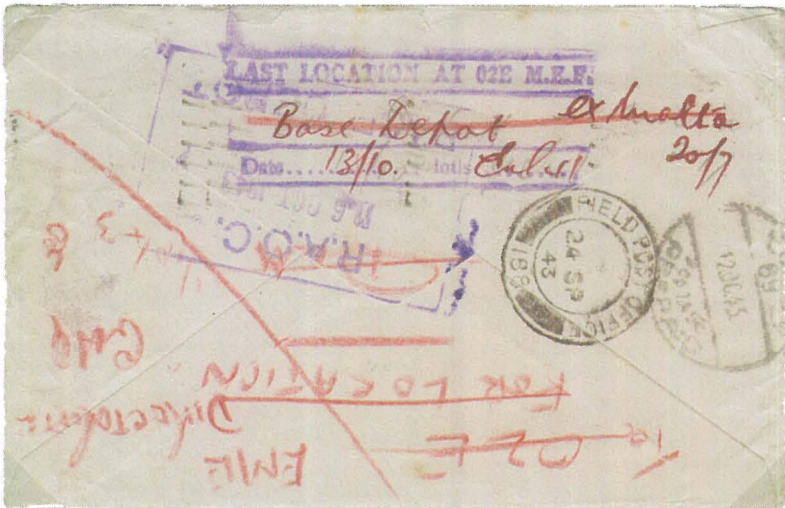
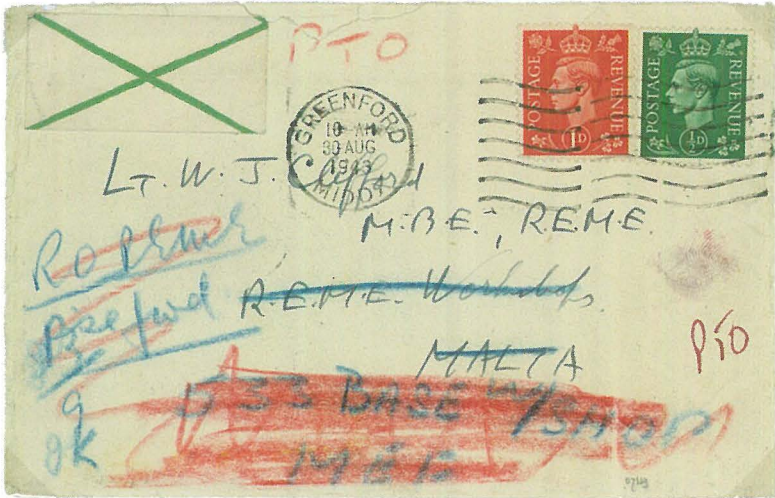
A. Bonnici



Narrow Dark Green (29th January 1943.)

A. Bonnici

MALTA



Cover with a Green Cross label with no inscription from the third printing posted 30 August 1943, a month before the Green Cross label scheme ceased to operate. Franked GB 1½d the Forces rate, the cover was primarily addressed to R.E.M.E. Workshop, Malta but then redirected to Egypt arriving 12 October 1943.

MALTA



Cover posted in June 1943 bearing a 10d GB stamp cancelled FPO 165
which was located in Egypt

Green Cross label tied to the envelope by the word 'ON' in
manuscript. Censored in Egypt before forwarding to Malta

The use of a Green Cross label on mail other than from U.K. is
most unusual

MALTA

Fourth type was hand-drawn labels in green ink drawn on the envelopes and the very few examples known made their appearance from December 1942 to February 1943.



Posted 11 February 1943. Franked 5d - European Air Rate



Posted 16 February 1943. Franked 5d - European Air Rate

MALTA

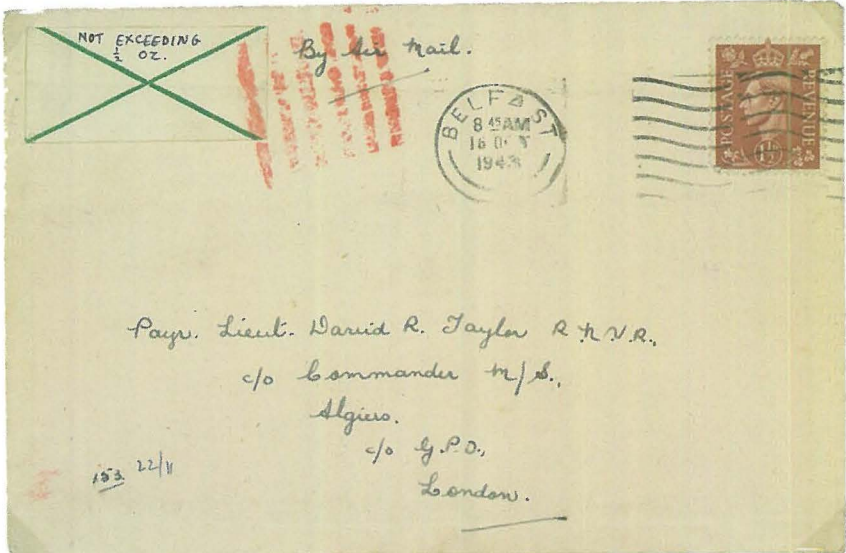
An imitation of the Green Cross label drawn on an envelope posted on 25 January 1943 to Gunner Boursnell, from his fiancée in U.K.



The hand drawn Green Cross obliterated by two rough hand strokes in red ink applied by a postal official in London
Usually a cancel of six bars in red ink was the normal practice when conveyance by air could not be provided

This air letter with a hand drawn Green Cross is the only example coming from the same source to have been cancelled in this way

MALTA



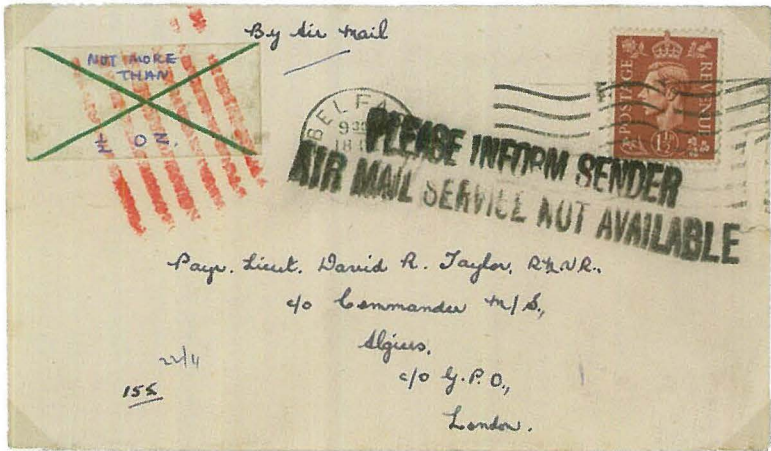
Manuscript 'NOT EXCEEDING/½ oz.'



Manuscript 'NOT MORE/THAN/½ oz.' (partly scratched)

Two covers posted on 16 October 1943 from Belfast to Algiers c/o GPO London Green Cross labels and manuscript *By Air Mail* deleted in red by a cancel of six bars indicating that they were not valid as the Scheme had ceased operating on 1 October 1943 and there was no longer a special Air Mail Service Covers received by addressee on 22/11 as per manuscript bottom left

MALTA



Cover posted on 18 October 1943 from Belfast, Northern Ireland to a Naval Officer in Algiers, North Africa c/o GPO London, as was usual
Endorsed "PLEASE INFORM SENDER/AIR MAIL SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE"

Green Cross label endorsed in manuscript 'NOT/MORE/THAN/1/2 oz.'
overstruck in red by a cancel of six bars indicating it was not valid
The Green Cross Label Scheme had ended on 1 October 1943 and there
was no longer a special Air Mail Service
Cover received by addressee on 22/11 as per manuscript bottom left



The above mark was copied from the original hand stamp

MALTA

A Post Office circular issued on 13 October 1943 sets out the arrangement for the issuing of a refund where postage was prepaid for an air mail service that no longer existed. Two types of handstamps, in violet were introduced



1943 (17 October) On Active Service cover posted in U.K franked 5d in G.B stamps and having the air mail label cancelled by five violet horizontal bars. Two other violet handstamps also applied;

"1/3 PER 1/2 OZ AIR MAIL LETTER
SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE"

"Air Mail fee 3 1/2 d
refunded"

The amount of '3 1/2 d' is filled in by hand and then initialled. These handstamps were introduced for a very short period by the Post Office after the Green Cross Label Scheme was withdrawn on 1st October 1943

MALTA



Type 1

1943 (13 October) O.A.S. cover from U.K showing violet handstamp
"1/3D PER HALF OZ AIR MAIL/SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE"



Type 2

1943 (10 October) O.A.S. cover from U.K showing violet handstamp
"1/3 PER 1/2 OZ AIR MAIL LETTER/SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE"

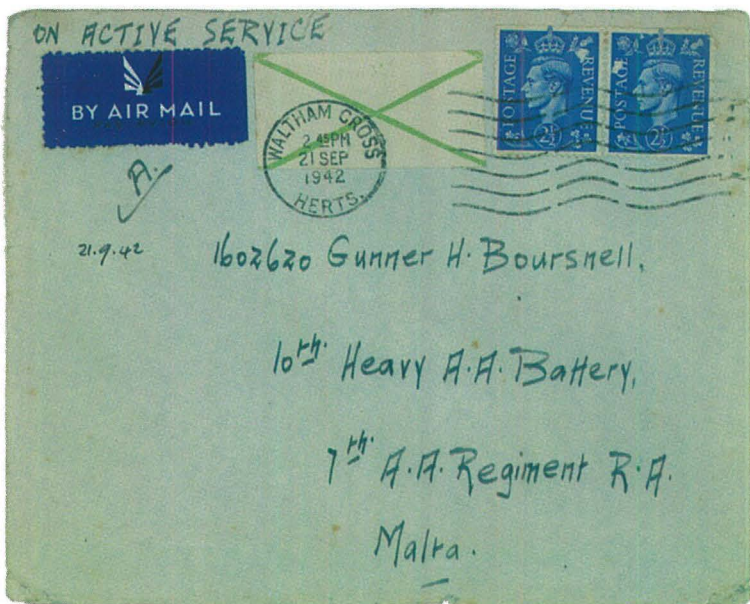
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Marks probably made by Sorting Officer before delivery



- 30 Nov 1942 - Yorkshire

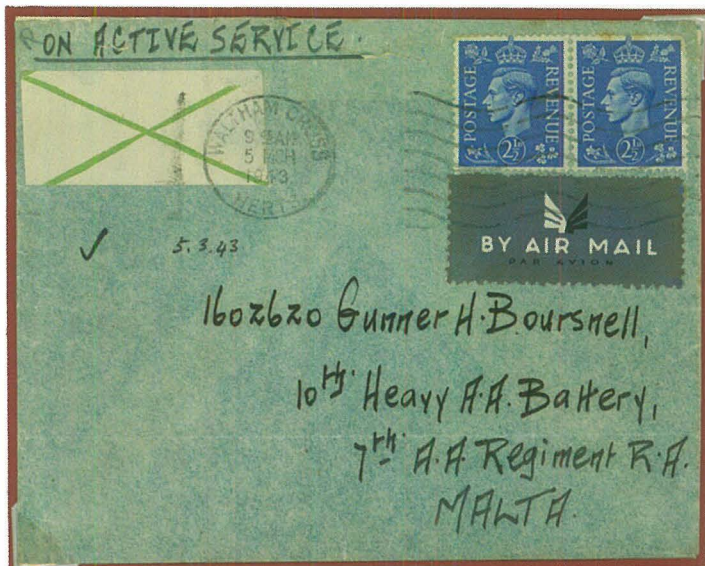
A. Bonnici



Waltham Cross - 21 Sep 1942 - Herts

A. Bonnici

MALTA



Medium Pale Yellow Green, narrowing at centre
(Waltham Cross 5th March 1943.)

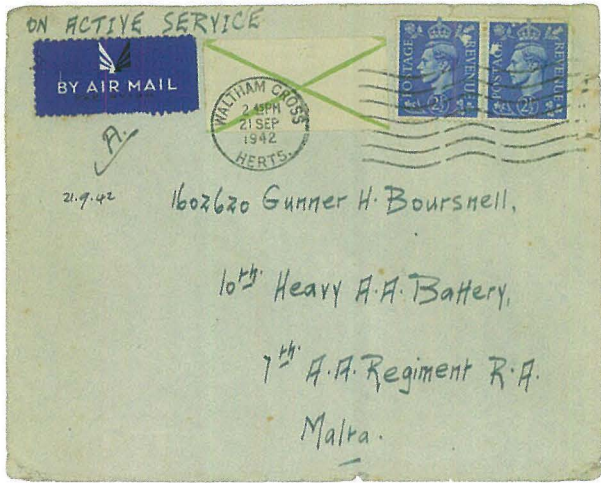
A. Bonnici



Censored by examiner 6510 Charlton 9 Sep 1941

A. Bonnici

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MALTA

L.
Sg.

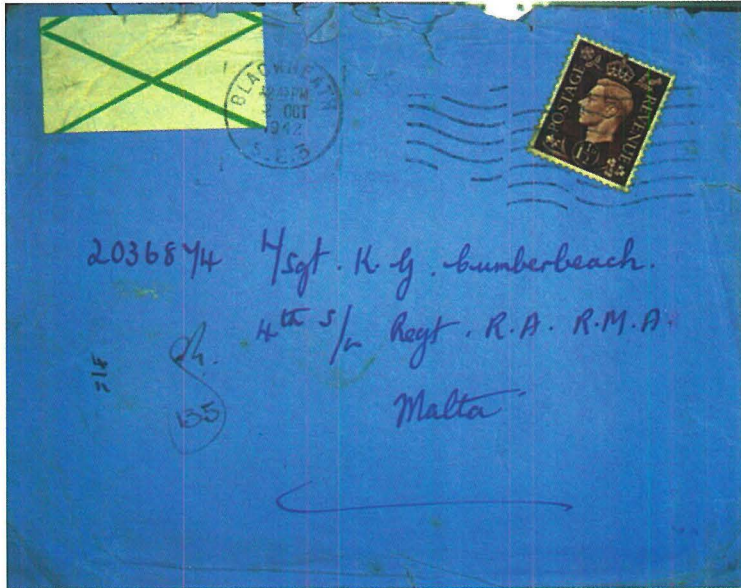


L.
Sg.



✓



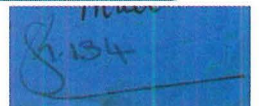


John Winter



Geoff Dean. W.W.II. data base.

S/L School (Search Light School)



POSTAL DIARY

7TH FEBRUARY 2018 – 20TH JUNE 2018

Compiled by
John V. De Battista

07th February

MaltaPost announced that on the 9th February it will issue a set of three stamps depicting Traditional Maltese Costumes.

Daily life in early modern Maltese history was very much dependent on economic traits, mainly divided in two distinct spheres. The Grand Harbour area was centred on maritime activity which along various centuries was fuelled by trade, industry, strategic importance and wartime replenishment to generate years of considerable prosperity. The rest of the archipelago remained heavily reliant on agriculture up to the mid-twentieth century. This dichotomy finds its imprint in dress, since like all other forms of art, costumes reflect the society which produces them.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of 10 stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm, and has a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb.) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheets measure 185mm x 118mm. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 700,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 300,000 of the €0.59 stamp and 80,000 of the €1.16 stamp.

The three photographs of the different attires, faithful reproductions sewn by Alda Bugeja, are courtesy of Heritage Malta.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.1/2018). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “TRADITIONAL COSTUMES” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST -----
----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/09-02-18” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the costume shown on the €0.26 value positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 369.

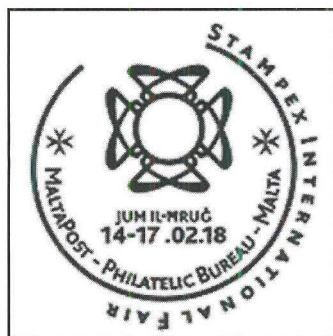


14th February

MaltaPost will be participating in the Stampex stamp fair to be held in London between the 14th and 17th February 2018. The stamp fair is an annual event where

international postal operators showcase their philatelic items. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau will be participating in this fair with a variety of Maltese stamps related to various popular themes.

For this event, the Philatelic Bureau will issue an Occasion Card (Number 49) and a Personalised Stamp/Cover featuring the exhibition logo. MaltaPost also prepared an occasion postmark for use during the duration of the event. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "STAMPEX INTERNATIONAL FAIR" along the outside bordering the ring and "* MALTAPOST - PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The words "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/14-17.02.18" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the fair's logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. It is strange how the words JUM IL-ĦRUĠ (Day of Issue) have been incorporated in the handstamp which does not relate to a single day but covers a period of four days!



It is strange how the words JUM IL-ĦRUĠ (Day of Issue) have been incorporated in the handstamp which does not relate to a single day but covers a period of four days!

15th February

MaltaPost informed the public of the temporary closure of two Sub Post Offices.

The Sub Post Office at 'Alessio Old Cottage', 12, Triq il-Parrocca, L-Imqabba MQB 1511 will be closed between Saturday 10th and Sunday 25th February 2018.

On this day, customers were advised to use the postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

- Luqa Post Office situated at 11, Trejqa Dun Ġulju Muscat, Ħal Luqa LQA 1450
- Żurrieq Post Office situated at 8, Triq Santa Katerina, iż-Żurrieq ŻRQ 1088

The Sub Post Office, "Aquavel", Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur, GHR 1014 will be closed between Friday 9th and Monday 12th February 2018.

During this period, the public was advised to use the postal services provided from Naxxar Post Office situated at the Civic Centre, 21st September Avenue, Naxxar NXR 1018 as a close alternative.

19th February

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at Iklin Stationery, 89, Ċensu Busuttil Street, IKLIN IKL 1202 will no longer operate as Sub Post Office as from Monday 19th February 2018 as it will be closed permanently.

As an alternative, residents in the area were advised to use postal services provided from Naxxar Post Office situated at the Civic Centre, 21st September Avenue, Naxxar NXR 1018.

07th March

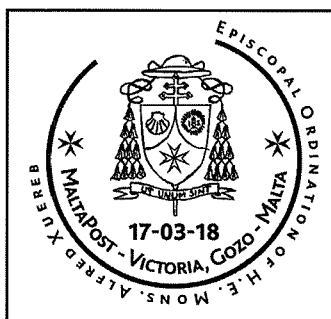
MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Alessio Old Cottage’, 12, Triq il-Parrocca, L-Imqabba MQB 1511 will be temporarily closed between Monday 12th and Sunday 25th March 2018.

During this period Mqabba residents have been requested to collect their mail from Zurrieq Post Office situated at 8, Triq Santa Katerina, iż-Żurrieq ŻRQ 1088.

15th March

Today MaltaPost notified that a special hand postmark for the occasion of the Episcopal Ordination of H.E. Mons. Alfred Xuereb, will be issued on Saturday 17th March 2018 at the Victoria Post Office, Gozo.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF H.E. MONS. ALFRED XUEREB” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “17-03-18” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image depicting the Coat of Arms positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



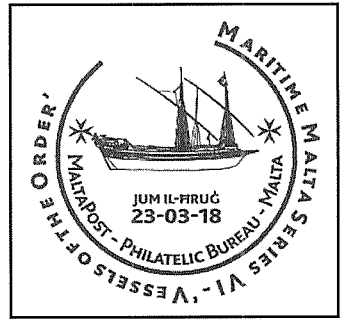
20th March

Today it was announced that on the 23rd March 2018, MaltaPost will issue a set of stamps from its ‘Maritime Malta’ series. This is the sixth stamp issue from the maritime series consisting of three stamps featuring vessels dating back to the Order of Saint John.

The €0.26 and €0.42 stamps depict two models of galleys, while the €1.00 stamp depicts a model of a brigantine. All models are currently on display at the Malta Maritime Museum.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of 10 stamps with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb.) and printed on paper bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 185mm x 118mm. Printex Limited produced the stamp set in offset and the issue consists of 60,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 80,000 of the €0.42 stamp and 25,000 of the €1.00 stamp. The set was designed by Sean Cini

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.2/2018). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “MARITIME SERIES VI – VESSELS OF THE ORDER.” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/23-03-18” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the Sensile shown on the €0.26 value, positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 370.



22nd March

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at ‘Needz Stationery’, 1, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsascala MSK 3306, will be temporarily closed between Thursday 29th March and Sunday 8th April 2018.

During this period Marsascala residents were requested to collect their mail from Żabbar Post Office situated at the Civic Centre, Triq il-Kunvent, Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

23rd March

During the Company’s Annual Staff meeting, a number of excellence awards were presented to MaltaPost staff members in recognition for their hard work and outstanding performance in 2017.

In his address, MaltaPost’s Chairman Joseph Said presented the 2017 financial and quality results. He also highlighted the Company’s commitment to enhance its services to facilitate eCommerce business and identify new opportunities for new investment and further areas for growth. As eCommerce traffic continues to grow at significant rates, the company’s strategy will necessitate closer concentration on this area of business and the related logistics market. MaltaPost’s Chief Executive Officer Joseph Gafa’ who presented the awards, congratulated the winners whilst thanking all the Company’s staff for their hard work throughout 2017.

During this ceremony, MaltaPost also recognised the team members involved in the development of SendOn and Easipik services. These services received the Best eCommerce Site (B2C) Award by the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) in April 2017. The MCA recognises that through the combination of these two services, MaltaPost provides an innovative international logistics solution, allowing eCommerce users to purchase any items within international market

places and collect in Malta at any time from these automated parcel locker stations

The awards presented were as follows:

Employee of the year award 2017- Mark Abela

Best Employee Delivery - Yanika Grima, Mario Zammit

Best Employee Central Mail Room - Keith Giordmaina

Best Employee Courier and Parcel Office - Brian Camilleri

Best Employee Administration - Charlene Azzopardi

Best Post Office - Mosta Post Office

Best Employee Retail - Sammy Mallia

Best Document Management Employee - Joseph Said

Best Employee Unaddressed Mail Section - Anisia Agius

Best Operations Department - Courier Drivers

Best Corporate Social Responsibility Award - San Ġwann Delivery Centre

Long Service Award - Stefania Camilleri

Best Student MCAST Diploma in Postal Services: Nicholas Agius, Carmel Borg

Five retired employees were also honoured during the ceremony; namely Moses Azzopardi, Carmel Buhagiar, Charles Darmanin, Paul E. Sullivan and Vincent Farrugia

In another media communication, MaltaPost informed its clients that two of its post offices in Gozo will be having a change in their opening hours. The Għarb Post Office will be open for business on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between 7.30 and 13.00 and the Xagħra Post Office will be open for business on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 7.30 and 13.00.

29th March

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Fast Forward Stationery’, Wileg Street, QAWRA SPB 1922, will no longer operate as a Sub Post Office as from 30th March 2018.

Residents were directed to use postal services provided from St. Paul’s Post Office situated at 511, St. Paul Street, St Paul’s Bay SPB 1922.

In a separate media communication, MaltaPost notified the public that a special hand postmark for the occasion of the Consecration of Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, will be used on Wednesday 4th April 2018 at Castille Post Office in Valletta.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “KONSAGRAZZJONI TAL-

BAŻILIKA TAL-KARMNU VALLETTA” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. VALLETTA - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “04-04-18” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image depicting Our Lady of Mount Carmel above the Basilica’s Cupola positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



11th April

MaltaPost notified that a special hand postmark for the occasion of the appointment of the new Archpriest of St Publius Parish Church in Floriana, Dun Charles Cini, will be used on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at the Floriana Post Office.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “PUSSESS TAL-ARĊIPRIET DUN CHARLES CINI FIL-KNISJA TA’ SAN PUBLIJU” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST - FLORIANA - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “11-04-18” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image depicting the Coat of Arms positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



23rd April

In today’s media communication, MaltaPost announced that on 3rd May 2018 it will join other European postal administrations by the release of a stamp set bearing the theme “Bridges”.

EUROPA stamps underline cooperation between European postal administrations and seek to promote philately and build awareness of the common goals, roots, culture and history of Europe.

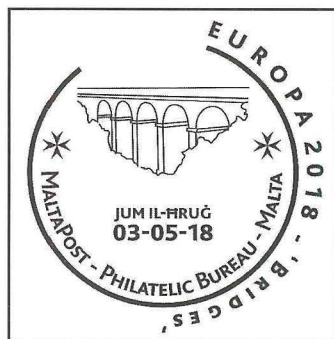
This issue features two bridges, The Madliena Bridge in Hal Għargħur and the Grand Harbour breakwater bridge. Both bridges were built when Malta was under British Rule.

The €0.59 stamp features the Madliena Bridge, also known as the Wied id-Dis Bridge, built in 1880 by the British military forces to facilitate transportation of military equipment and also servicemen along the Victoria Lines. The €2.19 stamp depicts the Grand Harbour Breakwater Bridge also known as the St. Elmo Bridge. Photographs used as the basis for the stamps are by David P. Attard.

The stamps will be issued in two sheetlets each bearing 11 stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm, has a 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.) perforation bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheetlets measure 158mm x 150mm. The stamps were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process and the issue consists of 35,200 of the €0.59 stamp and 39,600 of the €2.19 stamp.

This stamp set will be Malta's entry for the '2018 EUROPA Online Stamp Contest'. The contest is an annual online event where creative entries from across Europe compete for the best design.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.3/2018). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed "EUROPA 2018 – 'BRIDGES'" along the outside bordering the ring and "* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *" on the lower inner side of the ring. The words "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/03-05-18" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the Madliena Bridge positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 371.



23rd April

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at "Step in", Misrah ir-Rebħa, il-Birgu, BRG 1300 will be temporarily closed for the period between Thursday 26th April and Tuesday 1st May 2018.

During this time, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may use the postal services provided from Bormla Post Office at Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

26th April

A Company Announcement issued by MaltaPost p.l.c. pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules noted that the Board of Directors of MaltaPost plc is scheduled to meet on Wednesday 16th May 2018 to consider and approve the interim financial statements for the six months ended 31st March 2018.

In a separate media communication it was also announced that MaltaPost will be participating in the Essen stamp fair between the 3rd and 5th May 2018 in Germany. The stamp fair is an annual event where international postal operators showcase their philatelic items. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau will be participating in this fair with a variety of Maltese stamps related to various popular themes.

For this event, the Philatelic Bureau will issue an Occasion Card (Number 50) and a Personalised Stamp/Cover featuring the exhibition logo. The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “PHILATELIC EXHIBITION – ESSEN 2018” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/03-05.05.18” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the fair’s logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. It is quite strange to note that the words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ” (First Day of Issue) were included in the hand stamp which is covering a period of three days.



17th May

Today MaltaPost p.l.c. issued a company announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules wherein it was stated that at a meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 16th May, 2018, the board had approved the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Statements for the six month period which ended on the 31st March, 2018.

21st May

MaltaPost notified that a special hand postmark in commemoration of the 50th anniversary from when ‘Viola Club Malta’ was established will be issued on Monday 21st May 2018 at the Valletta - Castille, Post Office.

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “VIOLA CLUB MALTA – 50TH ANNIVERSARY – 1968-2018” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST – VALLETTA, CASTILLE - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “21-05-18” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image of the club’s logo positioned at the top centre of the handstamp.



In a separate media communication, MaltaPost also notified that on the 22nd May, it will issue a set of three stamps commemorating Valletta’s prestigious title of European Capital of Culture 2018.

The stamps bear a face value of €0.26, €0.63 and €2.00. They were produced by Printex Ltd by the offset process and the issue consists of 1,160,000 of the €0. 26 stamp, 60,000 of the €0.63, and 60,000 of the €2.00 denomination. The issue will be

in sheets of 10 stamps and each stamp measures 31mm by 44mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. Each sheet measures 185mm by 118mm. The stamps are reproductions of paintings by local artist Joseph Pulo.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.4/2018). The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “VALLETTA 2018 – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST -----
--- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/22-05-18” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the iconic Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 372.



22nd May

Today it was announced that on 22nd May 2018, the Central Bank of Malta and MaltaPost will be issuing a joint numismatic and philatelic product consisting of a silver coin and a silver foil stamp replica to mark Valletta European Capital of Culture 2018.



The coin, struck at the Royal Dutch Mint, shows the emblem of Malta and the year of issue 2018 on the obverse. On the reverse it carries a personification of Valletta, a fortress city, represented as a woman wearing armour. The silver foil stamp replica and the coin will be available both as a set in one presentation case, or in separate presentation case format. The coin has a face value of €10. It is struck in proof quality in 0.925 silver, has a weight of 28.28 grams and a diameter of 38.61 mm. The mintage is limited to 2,000 coins. The coin was designed and engraved by Noel Galea Bason.

The silver replica stamp was also produced for MaltaPost by the Royal Dutch Mint and depicts the €0.26 postage stamp from the ‘Valletta 2018 European Capital of Culture’ stamp issue.

23rd May

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Malton Stationery”, 7, Triq Censu Xerri, Sliema SLM 3062 will be temporarily closed on Friday 25th May 2018.

On this day, customers were advised that if they so wished, they could use the postal

services provided from the following nearest Post Offices:

Sliema Post Office situated at 118, Triq Manwel Dimech Sliema SLM 1055

Sliema Post Office situated at 39, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Sliema SLM 1902

24th May

For the occasion of its 275th anniversary from when Ħal-Qormi became recognized as a city and was given the prestigious title Citta Pinto by Grand Master Manuel Pinto da Fonseca, MaltaPost notified the public that a special hand post mark will be issued on Friday 25th May 2018 at the Qormi, Post Office.



The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “275 SENA ANNIVERSARJU / 1743 – 2018 / CITTA PINTO” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST - QORMI - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The date “25-05-18” in a straight line is to be found below an outline image depicting the Pinto Coat of Arms at the top centre of the handstamp.

In a separate media communication MaltaPost p.l.c. informed the public that the letterbox situated at Triq San Leonardu corner with Sqaq San Lawrenz had been relocated near St. Peter’s Bocci Club in the same street.

25th May

MaltaPost announced that it continued to invest in upgrading the services it offers to its clients through the opening of a new Post Office at 75, Main Street, Żurrieq, ŻRQ 1317. This Post Office replaced the Post Office which was situated at Post Office 8, St. Catherine Street, within the same locality.

This Post Office offers all postal services including local and registered mail as well as philatelic and numismatic products, encashment of cheques issued by the Central Bank of Malta, international money transfers, PostaPay&Save Payment account and card as well as a wide selection of stationery and greeting cards.

This new retail outlet also hosts Easipik; a 24/7 always open parcel pick-up service and will be open as from Wednesday 30th May, from Monday to Saturday between 7.30am and 13.00pm.

29th May

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Gorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa, MLĦ 1024 will be temporarily closed between Friday 1st June and Wednesday 6th June 2018.

It also advised that during this period, the public may wish to make use of the postal services provided from the Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107.

13th June

Tomorrow, 14th June, MaltaPost will be issuing a miniature sheet bearing one stamp marking the 2018 FIFA World Cup™.

The stamp carries a face value of €3.00 and depicts the official mascot of the event. Russia's official mascot for this event is a wolf named Zabivaka™ designed by a student, Ekaterina Bocharova. In Russian, Zabivaka™ means “the one who scores”, a suitable name for this wolf who radiates fun, charm and confidence. Apart from promoting the event, the mascot's role is also intended to serve as an ambassador of Russia throughout the world.

The miniature sheet, designed by MaltaPost graphic designer Sean Cini measures 84mm x 84mm and bears the Maltese Cross watermark. The stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.00 (comb.). Printex Limited printed it in offset and the issue consists of 20,000 miniature sheets. MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.5/2018).

The single severed-ring handstamp is inscribed “2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA™” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST - -----
--- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words “JUM IL-HRUĠ/14-06-18” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the World Cup above the words “FIFA WORLD CUP / RUSSIA 2018” positioned at the top centre of the handstamp. MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 373.



20th June

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Fleet Stationery’, Testaferrata Street, Ta’ Xbiex XBX 1402, will be closed between Friday 22nd June and Monday 25th June 2018.

On these days, the public was advised that if they so wish they could make use of the postal services provided from the Gżira Post Office, situated at 21, Pjazza Meme’ Scicluna, Gżira GZR 1120.

Lombard Bank - 225, Tower Road, Sliema



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