

# Postal Diary

## 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015 – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Compiled by  
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### 21<sup>st</sup> August

MaltaPost re-invited the public to support and vote for the Malta stamp in the online competition for the most beautiful 2015 EUROPA stamp. The online contest will end on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 with the winning stamps being announced on 14<sup>th</sup> October in Cyprus. (*see entry dated 14<sup>th</sup> May*)

### 24<sup>th</sup> August

MaltaPost informed Għargħur residents that the Sub Post Office situated in “Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur GHR 1014 will be temporarily closed on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August. The public was advised that as an alternative it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office, situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.



In a leaflet and covering letter sent out to philatelists, the Philatelic Bureau announced the issue of “The Grandmasters’ Collection”. However, no official date of issue was indicated. The collection consists of a customised presentation box containing a set of the “Grand Masters of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1530-1798)” stamp set issued on 30th September 2014, with each stamp being individually encapsulated in an acrylic capsule; a replica of each of the twenty-eight stamps in 0.2mmg thick sterling silver 999.0 foil each with a denomination of €14.15; an eighteenth century map of Malta, also in silver foil; a biography giving a profile of each of the Grand Masters and a magnifying glass.

The size of the silver foil stamps is 40mm x 50mm while their edge is mill finished. Issue limit was set at 650 proof sets, retailing at the price of €398 each, with orders being accepted on a first come first served basis. MaltaPost reserved the right to limit / reduce orders so as to satisfy the largest number of clients possible.

Curiously enough, this time around MaltaPost announced that the proof-quality silver foil “stamps” from this limited issue collection **were valid for postal usage**, a decision which sparked off a chorus of disapproval by philatelists. A number of reasons have been put forward for this criticism; the main one being that such purely

cash-raising curios issued in limited editions clearly aimed at collectors and not for regular use by the general public, should never be deemed valid for postal use. Such validation renders these issues to be classified as forming an integral part of the regular Malta postage stamp series. Philatelists feel that besides not conforming to the Philatelic Code of Ethics recommended by the UPU for the use of member countries, such an official recognition will seriously harm the standing of Maltese philately worldwide. The declaration also brought to the fore doubts as to whether or not certain prerogatives and provisions defined in the Postal Services Act, together with universal philatelic ethics, are being diligently observed as they should by the respective authorities and bodies entrusted with specific responsibilities to oversee and regulate this aspect of the postal service. Philatelists reminded that Maltese postage stamps embody a manifestation of Malta's sovereignty; are proof of prepayment for a government guaranteed universal postal service as specified by and under all obligations of UPU Conventions and Acts; and unused are stored value documents same as paper money. Together, these properties constitute the foundations for the definition of a postage stamp. They are also the basis upon which legal requirements governing the formulation of a postage stamp issuing programme and official government approval in the name of our country in respect of all true postage stamp issues, through the Minister responsible for the postal sector, are stipulated.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> September**

The Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the latest available data on the telecommunications and postal sectors in Malta for the second quarter (Q2) of 2015 covering the period April to June 2015. With regards to the Postal Services sector, the results indicate the following:

The number of postal mail items that were delivered in the second quarter of 2015 was down by 911,808 (or by 8.9 per cent) when compared to the number of postal mail items that were delivered in the second quarter of 2014 (10,280,720).

The number of standard letter mail items delivered in the second quarter of 2015 was down by 191,386 (or by 5.3 per cent) when compared to the same period in 2014 (3,602,165).

The number of bulk mail items was also down, in this case by 736,858 (or by 6.7 per cent), from 6.3 million mail items in the second quarter of 2014 to 5.5 million mail items in the second quarter of this year.

Another drop in mail volumes was recorded in terms of registered mail. The number of registered mail items delivered in the second quarter of 2015 totalled 311,985. This figure is down by 1,421 (or by almost 0.5 per cent) when compared to the

corresponding period a year earlier (313,406).

On the other hand, parcel mail volumes in the second quarter of 2015 were up by 17,857 (or by 19.1%) when compared to parcel mail volumes recorded in the second quarter of 2014 (93,680).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> September

MaltaPost notified that for the occasion of the consecration of P. George Bugeja O.F.M., a commemorative postmark was going to be used on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September at the Post Office of Victoria, Gozo. The occasion commemorative double-ring hand stamp was inscribed “\* MALTAPOST \* VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 04-09-15” in the outer ring, and “KONSAGRAZZJONI P. GEORGE BUGEJA O.F.M. / SANTWARJU NAZZJONALI MADONNA TA’ PINU” in the inner ring, encircling an outline image of the bishop’s miter and crosier.



### 4<sup>th</sup> September

It was announced by MaltaPost that to mark the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great Siege, on the 7<sup>th</sup> September it was to issue a stamp in miniature sheet format. The miniature sheet consists in a detail of a painting titled “The Allegory of the Triumph of the Order” by Mattia Preti to be found at St. John’s Co- Cathedral in Valletta. Preti painted the allegorical figure of Victory representing the Order, dressed in armour and helmet with a sword in one hand and the flag of the Order in the other. In the background lie wounded knights and a fortified city that recall the Great Siege.

Each stamp measures 48.0mm x 39.5mm and has a comb perforation of 14.2 x 14.2. Overall, the Maltese Crosses watermarked sheet measures 120mm x 80mm. Printex Limited printed the sheets through the offset process and the issue consists of 20,000 individually numbered sheets. The face value of the stamp is of €4.25.

The battles of 1565 in Malta were the climax of longstanding hostility between the Christians and the Islamic Ottoman Empire for control of the Mediterranean. Emperor Charles V of Spain had granted Malta to the Knights of St. John in 1530, amongst other reasons, with the aim of creating a strategic line of defence for Christian Europe from Ottoman attacks. At dawn, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 1565, an Ottoman fleet of forty thousand men arrived in Malta and this marked the start of the Great Siege. The siege of Malta ended on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1565 when the Ottoman troops started their retreat. Malta had survived the Ottoman assault and throughout Europe people celebrated what would turn out to be the last epic battle involving Crusader Knights. The Great Siege also catalysed the building of the City

of Valetta on Mt. Sciberras immediately afterwards. The event is still commemorated as a National Day and is popularly known by the Maltese as 'Il-Vitorja'.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 11/2015). The single-ring hand stamp was inscribed “\* MALTAPOST \* ----- - MALTA” bordering the ring, and “450<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY/OF THE GREAT SIEGE/JUM IL-HRUĠ/07-09-15” below an image of the allegorical figure of Victory in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the stamp in Stamp Bulletin No. 339.



## 10<sup>th</sup> September

MaltaPost notified that for the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of Dar tal-Providenza a commemorative postmark was being used on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at the Post Office located at Castille Square, Valletta.



The occasion commemorative double-ring hand stamp was inscribed “\* MALTAPOST \* CASTILLE SQR. - VALLETTA - MALTA 12-09-15” in the outer ring, and “ID-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA / 50 / SENA / ANNIVERSARJU / 1965-2015” in the inner ring, with the words ANNIVERARJU and year span placed inside a banner.

## 14<sup>th</sup> September

MaltaPost notified that on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, it will be issuing the folder “Colourful Cultures of Europe 6” published by SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation).

This is the sixth folder in the series and includes stamps and images from twelve European postal administrations. These are Aland Post, Posta Faroe Islands, Gibraltar Post Office, Post Greenland, Guernsey Post, Iceland Post, Isle of Man Post Office, Jersey Post, Liechtenstein Post, MaltaPost, La Poste Monaco and Post Luxembourg.

The theme for this year’s SEPAC collection is ‘Culture’ and member postal administrations issued stamps illustrating various elements of culture from their respective countries. The Malta Stamp in the SEPAC Folder is the €0.59 value illustrating the Regatta boat races from the stamp set ‘SEPAC Series Culture’ issued earlier this year on the 16<sup>th</sup> June.

## 17<sup>th</sup> September

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Alessio Old Cottage”,

12, Triq il-Paroċċa, Imqabba MQB 1511 was to be temporarily closed for business on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from these nearest postal outlets:

Luqa - 11, Trejqa Dun Ġulju Muscat, Ħal Luqa LQA 1450

Luqa - MIA Hall, Ħal Luqa LQA 5001

Żurrieq - 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Żurrieq ZRQ 1088

In a separate Press Release, MaltaPost also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Midas”, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsascalea MSK 2113 was to be temporarily closed for business between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October, both days included. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from these alternative postal outlets:

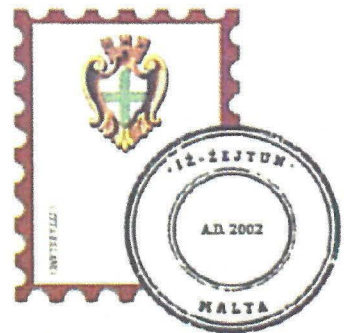
Żabbar - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Żabbar ZBR 1351

Żejtun - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Żejtun ZTN 1834

## 24<sup>th</sup> September

MaltaPost informed the public that between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the opening hours of the St. Julian’s Post Office situated within Lombard Bank p.l.c. in Paceville Avenue were to be from Monday to Friday between 08.30 and 14.30, while those of the Post Office situated at the University of Malta were Monday to Friday between 08.00 and 17.00.

On the occasion of the “Żejt iż-Żejtun” annual cultural event, which is organised by the Żejtun Local Council (ŻLC), members forming part of the Grupp Filateliku Żejtun held a philatelic exhibition with the theme “Memorji li jibqgħu Ħajjin” (*Memories that stay alive*). The exhibition was held at Ġużepina Curmi Hall, located in Bishop Emm. Galea Street, Żejtun between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September. The philatelic group forms part of the “Culture, Tourism and Higher Education” initiative for the locality championed by the ŻLC and was founded in 2002. It is worth mentioning



Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

that although small, the group is a very active one, with meetings being regularly held on a monthly basis. Presently it is being led by local councillor Sean Chircop.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> October

MaltaPost informed Ġharghur residents that the Sub Post Office situated in

“Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur GħR 1014 was to be temporarily closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.

## **5<sup>th</sup> October**

On 9th October the Postal Community all around the world celebrate World Post Day. This day enables us to reflect with satisfaction on a rich history of transformation within an industry which has played such a pivotal role in the world’s marketplace. Indeed, the Post can pride itself on being the oldest medium of communication, one that still plays a key role in the transmission of information and goods.

As outlined by the Universal Postal Union’s Director General Bishar Abdirahman Hussein in his message for the 2015 World Post Day, the traditional postal business line which was reliant on letter post, has been greatly challenged by faster and more efficient ways of communication thanks to the advancement in information and communications technologies. The survival of the post hinges on its ability to quickly change and innovate.

In line with this, MaltaPost enhanced its clients’ online shopping experience with the launch of SendOn granting the opportunity to local consumers to shop from UK online stores, particularly from those which do not ship directly to Malta. Now with the launch of SendOn USA and soon SendOn Germany and Italy the Maltese consumer can shop from e-sellers worldwide from the comfort of their home or office. This year MaltaPost continued to increase its public accessibility to its services with the opening of a new Post Office in Swieqi. To continue strengthening the postal network, the opening of new branches in Smart City and Floriana are planned for the near future. MaltaPost also invested in new premises to support its Document Management Service which supports business clients to print, scan, archive and index information in both electronic and physical formats, and, when required, destructing it in a confidential manner.

## **6<sup>th</sup> October**

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost announced that its Board of Directors will be meeting on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December to consider and approve the MaltaPost p.l.c. Financial Statements for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The announcement bore the signature of Company Secretary Graham A. Fairclough.

## **8<sup>th</sup> October**

To increase the accessibility of postal services for the general public and specifically

to residents in Iklin, MaltaPost announced that it has introduced a new Sub Post Office in this locality.

Through this Sub Post Office, clients can avail themselves of a range of postal services such as registered mail and the facility to pay bills. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words Iklin S.P.O. will be used at this Sub Post Office, which is situated at “Iklin Stationery”, 89, Ċensu Busuttil Street, Iklin IKL 1201. Its opening hours are as follows: In winter from Monday to Friday except Wednesday, between 7.00 am - 12.30 pm and 4.15 pm - 7.00 pm. On Wednesday & Saturday between 7.00 am - 12.30 pm.



In summer from Monday to Friday except Wednesday, between 7.00 am - 12.00 pm and 4.15 pm - 7.00pm. On Wednesday & Saturday between 7.00 am - 12.00 pm.

### **9<sup>th</sup> October**

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated in “Troy DVD and Stationery”, 4A Pjazza Arċisqof Gonzi, Kalkara will be closed on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October. On these two days, all postal services offered from this office including collection of mail items, will be available at the Cospicua Post Office at Block 14, Fuq San Pawl between 7.30 am till 12.45 pm.

### **12<sup>th</sup> October**

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated in “Iklin Stationery”, 89, Triq Ċensu Busuttil, Iklin IKL 1200 will be closed on 13<sup>th</sup> October. The public was advised that as an alternative it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Balzan Post Office situated in 153, Triq il-Kbira, Balzan BZN 1251.

### **14<sup>th</sup> October**

Through MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau “Malta Philately Newsletter 23/2015”, it was announced that the company has issued for sale a diecast model truck bearing the company’s livery. The model, which is manufactured in a combination of plastic and metal, measures 10.0 cms x 3.7 cms x 3.1 cms and sells for **€5.95**.

### **16<sup>th</sup> October**

MaltaPost today issued a Press Release informing the public that the Sub Post Office at “MC Stationery”, 33, Triq Ġilormu Cassar, Mosta MST 4117, as from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October will no longer be in operation.

Mosta residents wishing to make use of postal services within



their locality can make use of postal services provided at the Mosta Post Office situated in the Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kostituzzjoni, Mosta, MST 9059.

## 19<sup>th</sup> October

To mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary from the founding of the United Nations (UN), MaltaPost announced that on the 24<sup>th</sup> October it will issue a miniature sheet bearing one stamp with a face value of €3.51.

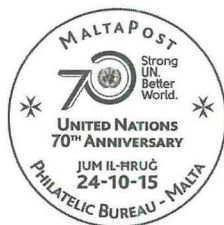
The UN was founded in 1945 at the end of WWII, bringing together different countries in an effort to achieve world peace and prosperity. The UN started off with 51 countries, but is now made up of 193 member states. Its Charter, which was signed in San Francisco on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1945 at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on international organisation, sets its objectives which reach every corner of the world. They include that of keeping peace throughout the world; develop friendly relations among nations; help nations work together so as to improve the lives of poor people; conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy and last but not least to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedom. In essence, it seeks to harmonise the actions of nations so as to achieve these goals.

In a message released by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for this anniversary, he noted how the event will be an opportunity for the organisation to reflect, look back and take stock of its enduring achievements. The year 2015 is a decisive year for the United Nations as it seeks to establish a new framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in all its aspects.

The miniature sheet was designed in-house by MaltaPost's graphic designer Sean Cini and features the official logo for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the UN70 motif, against a background of flags of the UN member states.

Each sheet measures 120.0mm x 80.0mm, while the stamp measures 35.0mm x 35.0 mm. and has a comb perforation of 13.75 x 13.75. Printex Limited produced the sheet in offset on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The issue consists of 20,000 individually numbered sheets.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 12/2015). The single-ring hand stamp was inscribed “\* MALTAPOST \* ----- MALTA” bordering the ring, and “UNITED NATIONS/70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/24-10-15” below an image of the UN70logo. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 340.





## 21<sup>st</sup> October

In its Philately Newsletter 24/2015, MaltaPost today announced its participation in the Maltex 2015 philatelic exhibition. For this special event the Philatelic Bureau informed that it will be issuing an Occasion



Card, a Postal Card, and a Personalised Stamp/Cover. The Occasion Card (N<sup>o</sup>. 40) shows the Wignacourt Arch from the Treasures of Malta series issued in April 2015 in grey sepia, selling at €2.00. The Postal Card (N<sup>o</sup>. 37), selling at €3.00, depicts a typical old Maltese toy - the Cart (Karretta) lifted from the design of the €0.59 stamp from the Europa 2015 “Old Toys” issue with postage being prepaid through an imprinted reproduction of the same set. The Personalised Cover features a collage vignette of recent Malta stamps and is franked by the personalized stamp with the label showing the Maltex 2015 Logo on a background of Maltese crosses in grey. The personalized stamp alone sells for €1.00, while the personalized cover sells for €2.00. All above items were released for sale as from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, the first day of the opening of the exhibition for the public.

(See also entry dated 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October)

## 22<sup>nd</sup> October

The non-competitive Maltex Philatelic Exhibition, which is organized by the Malta Philatelic Society and is Malta’s annual major stamp and postal history event, was officially inaugurated today at “The Green Lounge”, Hotel Phoenicia, Floriana by the Hon. Mr. Evarist Bartolo MP, Minister for Education and Employment.

The theme of this year’s exhibition, the sixteenth in a row, was “*Education Through Philately*” and was open to the public over the weekend from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

In his opening address, Dr. Alfred Bonnici, President of the M.P.S. stated that “*Philately is a hobby. It is something that is not forced on the individual, but a hobby chosen freely by the individual. He does it freely and with pleasure. It therefore educates and enhances one’s knowledge in a subtle way. More often than not the student - youngster does not realize that his knowledge is being enhanced. It is education without tears.*”

Minister Bartolo concurred with this, congratulating the M.P.S. and its members for their efforts to keep this educational hobby alive. This, he underlined, despite the great difficulties in doing so due to changed social habits which evolved over the last few decades as a result of the fast technological developments that occurred and are still taking place in the educational and communication fields. He augured

that the Society and its members will be able to continue with this spirit.

The participants in this year's exhibition and the subjects of their exhibits are:

Mr. Birkett Allan, John: "Sailors' Letters" & "Malta Airmails 1944 - 1955"

Mr. Bonello, Carmel: "Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth Omnibus Issues"

Dr. Bonnici, Alfred: "Messageries Imperiales, hand-stamps of their ships and P & O mail 1853-56."

Mr. Camilleri, Anthony: "Crash & Wreck mail"

Mr. Cardona, John A.: "GB Fdc's with and without phosphor bands, 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1962 – 24<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1967"

Mr. Caruana Ruggier, Alfred: "Malta Parcel Post: Valletta, BPO's, SPO's and TPO's"

Mr. Ciappara, Christopher: "The IV Centenary of the 1565 Great Siege commemorative stamp issue"

Mr. Cumbers, Michael: "The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Penny Black"

Profs. Cutajar, Carm Lino: "Two Shining Beacons in the History of Humanity: Doctors David Livingstone & Albert Schweitzer"

Mr. De Battista, John V.: "The 1981 Definitive 3c 'Money Minting' stamp" & "Coinage Depictions on Maltese stamps"

Mr. Howe, Christopher: "Changes of rate over the years for Belgian Christmas Mail & the Special Stamps issued for Christmas"

Mr. Micallef, John: "The sufferings of Jesus Christ in philately"

Mr. Parnis, Gerald: "A taste of Thematic Philately"

Mr. Sant, Anthony: "Mourning Covers"

Mr. Wood, Hadrian: "Malta Revenue stamps" & "Malta Postal Stationery Cards: 1877 - 1945"

## **23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Maltex XVI Philatelic Exhibition was open to the general public. Besides the philatelic exhibits displayed by members of the Malta Philatelic Society, the "Green Lounge" also included a Dealers' Bourse and a Temporary Post Office which were open throughout all its opening hours. At the T.P.O. the sale of stamps, postal stationery, philatelic and collector curio items were



available. The T.P.O. also included posting facilities, where mail and philatelic items could be cancelled by a commemorative postmark marking the event. This single-ring oval hand stamp was inscribed with the Maltex 2015 logo positioned right across the upper section, this being complemented by the words “Hotel Phoenicia – Floriana – Malta” around the lower section of the ring, The exhibition dates “23–25 October 2015” in a straight line in the middle of the post mark complete the hand-stamp. The metal dater used at this T.P.O. was that of the Philatelic Bureau.

For the record it is worth mentioning that at the entrance to the T.P.O., the original artist drawings by Cedric Galea Pirota used for this year’s issue in the ‘Treasures of Malta Series’, together with those for the ‘Europa2015’ by Joe Mark Micallef were on display.

*(See also entry dated 21<sup>st</sup> October)*

## **27<sup>th</sup> October**

Following the success of its forwarding hubs in the UK and USA, MaltaPost announced that it has now also launched a new hub in Germany. It informed clients that the UK service has been upgraded in that it is now offering a standard service to complement its current priority service from the UK allowing clients to shop for items heavier than 30kg from EU online stores.

Thanks to the new trucking services offered by MaltaPost from Germany and the United Kingdom, local online shoppers may now shop for items of all sizes from the EU, particularly from those which do not ship directly to Malta. They can now forward these items to MaltaPost’s SendOn new hubs in Germany and the UK, which are geared to truck heavy items of up to 300kgs. and benefit from very competitive trucking prices.

## **28<sup>th</sup> October**

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at “Tunny Net Souvenir Shop”, Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa MLĦ 9063 will be temporarily closed for business as from 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following alternative Postal Outlets:

Post Office - 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107

Sub Post Office - 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024

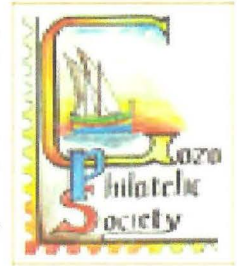
In a separate Press Release, it also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at “Papel Stationery”, 1, Triq is-Salvatur, Qrendi QRD 1701 will be closed for business on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. In this case, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of services provided by these alternative Postal Outlets:

Post Office - 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Żurrieq ŻRQ 1088

Sub Post Office – “Alessio Old Cottage”, 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511

## 6<sup>th</sup> November

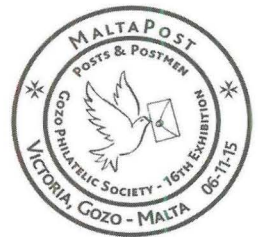
The Gozo Philatelic Society’s 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Philatelic Exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon. Dr. Anton Refalo MP, Minister for Gozo. The exhibition with the title “*Posts and Postmen*”, which was open to the public till 27<sup>th</sup> November, was held at the Gozo Ministry Exhibition Halls in Victoria Gozo. The exhibits included old and rare philatelic material, postal history, social philately and a section of entries by junior members of the Society.



A number of activities were held during the duration of the exhibition.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November a lecture by Notary Dr. Michael Refalo titled “*Not the Great Siege; just a trivial Turco-Maltese postal dispute*” was held, while on 15<sup>th</sup> November, Mr. Godwin Vella gave a lecture on “*Gozo’s Gran Castello; an overview of its defensive role and assemblage*”. The 21<sup>st</sup> November was reserved for an auction of excess philatelic material donated to the GPS by Mr. Wolfgang Juncker, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November the monthly members’ meeting took place.

For the occasion, MaltaPost released a commemorative postmark. The double-ring hand stamp was inscribed “\* MALTAPOST \* VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 06-11-15” in the outer ring, and “POST & POSTMEN / GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY – 16<sup>TH</sup> EXHIBITION” in the inner ring, encircling an outline image of a dove in flight carrying an envelope in its beak.



On its part, the G.P.S. issued a 103 limited edition commemorative card (N<sup>o</sup> 103) and released a personalized occasion stamp as a memento. Both the card and vignette on the personalised stamp label were designed by Mr. Anthony Grech.

MaltaPost informed that the Post Office at 1, Dar Annona, Castille Square, Valletta VLT 1060 will close at 14.00 on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, due to the EU-Africa Migration Summit which will be taking place in Valletta.

The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Sub Post Office located at “Future Focus”, 9, Triq L-Imħażen, Floriana FRN 1119.

## 10<sup>th</sup> November

MaltaPost announced that the issue of this year's Christmas stamp set will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> November. The issue consists of a set of 3 stamps featuring artworks of Albrecht Dürer's series "Life of the Virgin".

Dürer was one of the greatest artists of the Renaissance; he was a brilliant painter, draftsman, writer and print maker. He revolutionised printmaking, elevating it to the level of an independent art form. Albrecht Dürer's prints, titled 'The Flight into Egypt', 'The Nativity of the Lord' and 'The Adoration of the Magi', feature on the €0.26, €0.59, €0.63 stamps respectively. These artworks can be found at the Cathedral Museum in Mdina along with other works of Dürer.

The stamps were designed in-house by MaltaPost. The sheets are made up of ten stamps and overall measure 186mm x 119mm. The stamps were printed in offset by Printex Ltd. on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper, with each stamp measuring 31.0mm x 44.0mm and having a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. The print run consists of 1,600,000 of the €0.26 stamp, 600,000 of the €0.59 stamp and 88,000 of the €0.63 stamp.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 13/2015). The single-ring hand stamp was inscribed "\* MALTAPOST \* --- ----- - MALTA" bordering the ring, and "CHRISTMAS 2015/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/14-11-15" below an image of the Albrecht Durer monogram. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin No. 341.



## 18<sup>th</sup> November

Today MaltaPost announced that its SendOn service is expanding further. A couple of weeks after launching new hubs in the UK and Germany, MaltaPost is now launching a new hub in Italy. This will allow clients to shop for items of any size, from small clothing to large furniture from their favourite Italian brands.

This hub will complement the current SendOn UK (Priority and Standard), Germany and USA services.

Also, in a leaflet and covering letter sent out to philatelists, the Philatelic Bureau announced the issue of the "CHOGM Malta 2015 – Silver Stamp Ingot, Coin and Banknote Engraving Joint Issue". The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which Malta will be hosting for the second time in ten years, is being commemorated jointly by MaltaPost, the Central Bank of Malta and De La Rue. The stamp ingot is a replica of the €3.00 postage stamp from the CHOGM 2015

miniature sheet planned to be issued on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, and each stamp ingot is individually numbered and boxed with a Certificate of Authenticity. The proof like quality stamp replica, produced in 999.0 silver alloy by PAMP S.A., weighs 20 grams and has a dimension of 35.8 mm x 35.8 mm. Its minting limit was set at 2000 pieces.

Besides in the individually boxed version at the price of €55.00, it could also be bought as part of a complete set made up of the silver ingot, silver coin and nickel banknote engraving, jointly boxed and with an issue limit of 1150, at the price of €145.00.

## **24<sup>th</sup> November**

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at situated at “Not Just Stationery”, Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara BKR 4253 will be closed for business on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November.

The public was advised that it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following alternative Postal Outlets:

Post Office - 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013

Sub Post Office – “Oreana Stationery”, 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR 4532

Sub Post Office – “Landau Stationery”, 84, Triq Dun Gejtanu Mannarinu, Birkirkara BKR 9085

Sub Post Office – “D Spiral”, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691

In a separate Press Release, it also informed the public that on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November the Post Office at the University of Malta will be closed for business. In this case, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of services provided by these alternative Postal Outlets:

Post Office - Triq in-Naxxar, San Ġwann SGN 9031

Sub Post Office – “Fleet Stationery”, Triq Testaferrata, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1402

Sub Post Office – “Squire Stationery”, 85 Triq Manoel De Vilhena, Gżira 1016