

Postal Diary

1 October 2013 – 31 January 2014

by
Joseph Fenech

1 October 2013

MaltaPost plc informed that between the 1 October 2013 and the 14 June 2014, the St. Julian's Post Office situated within Lombard Bank plc in Triq Paceville, was to open from Monday to Friday, between 8.30am and 2.30pm.

1 October

MaltaPost plc informed that between the 1 October 2013 and the 14 June 2014, the Post Office outlet situated within the University of Malta, Msida, was to open from Monday to Friday, between 8.00am and 5.00pm.

5 October

On the occasion of the 38th Interferry Annual Conference which was held for the first time in Malta between the 5 and 9 October 2013, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 5 October 2013, at the MaltaPost Castille Square, Valletta Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. – VALLETTA – MALTA – 05-10-13” in the outer ring, and “INTERFERRY/38TH INTERFERRY/ANNUAL CONFERENCE/5-9 OCTOBER 2013” in the inner ring.



7 October

In a reply to Parliamentary Question No. 4507 given on the 7 October 2013, the Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business gave certain details about the workings of the Stamp Design Advisory Board. This Board, which was first set up in the 1970s, was made up of six members and a secretary. The Board is chaired by Dr. Pascal Demajo, with the members being Greta Apap Bologna, Joseph Said, Martina Zammit, Roger Strickland and Kenneth Zammit Tabona, while the secretary is Mary Grace Simpson. The main function of the Board was to evaluate the designs of the stamps to be issued and to recommend to the Minister which stamp design was to be chosen. The Board meets formally five or six times a year, apart from the communication which takes place between the Board members via e-mail. The Chairman of the Board is paid €3494 per annum, while members are paid €698.81 per annum.

10 October

On the occasion of the Mdina Grand Prix 2013 which was staged between the 10 and 13 October 2013, a special hand postmark was used on Thursday, 10 October 2013, at the MaltaPost Castille Square, Valletta Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. – VALLETTA – MALTA – 10-10-13” in the outer ring, and “MDINA/GRAND PRIX/10-13 OCTOBER 2013” in the inner ring, which also included an outline image of Mdina above the text.



18 October

MaltaPost plc participated in the 14th Maltex Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Malta Philatelic Society at the Green Lounge of the Hotel Phoenicia in Floriana between Friday, 18 October and Sunday, 20 October 2013. The MaltaPost stand was open for business during the opening hours of the exhibition, namely between 9.00am and 6.00pm on Friday and Saturday, and between 9.00am and 12.00 noon on Sunday. All mail posted at this exhibition was cancelled with a special cancellation hand postmark which was inscribed “Maltex 2013/18 – 20 October 2013/Hotel Phoenicia – Floriana – Malta” and also included the logo of the exhibition. A temporary letterbox service was also provided during the opening hours of the exhibition.

For this special event, MaltaPost issued an Occasion Card, a Postal Card, a Maltex Personalised Cover, as well as a Personalised Stamp commemorating the exhibition. The Occasion Card, No. 34 in the series, depicts the Triton Fountain in Floriana, Malta, with the imprinted €0.32 stamp showing the same fountain from the ‘Treasures of Malta Series – Fountains’ set issued on 27 March 2013. This Occasion Card commemorated the Maltex 2013 Stamp Exhibition. The Postal Card, No. 35 in the series, depicts the Lambretta three-wheeler, with the imprinted pair



18 - 20 October 2013



of stamps, of face value €0.37 and €1.19 respectively, from the ‘EUROPA 2013 – Postman Van’ set issued on 9 May 2013. Both cards were individually numbered, and were available for sale in mint or cancelled format. The Maltex Personalised Cover, marked ‘MaltaPost – Personalised Stamp/Cover No. 4/2013’ on the reverse side, included a personalised stamp depicting the Maltex 2013 exhibition logo, cancelled with the special cancellation hand postmark used by MaltaPost during the exhibition.

The Maltex 2013 exhibition, themed “The Post – Yesterday and Today”, was inaugurated by Dr. Giovanni Bonello, former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, on Thursday, 17 October 2013. Artist Cedric Galea Pirota, who designed the artworks for the ‘Malta Buses – The End of an Era – Series II’ and the ‘Treasures of Malta – Fountains’ stamp sets, was in attendance at the exhibition on Saturday, 19 October 2013, between 2.00pm and 6.00pm, to meet philatelists.

21 October

A special hand postmark inscribed “MALTAPOST - VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA - 21-10-13” in the outer ring, and “GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY/14TH EXHIBITION/TIMES & THEMES” in the inner ring, was used on Monday, 21 October 2013 at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo branch, on the occasion of the 14th



Annual Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Gozo Philatelic Society. The special postmark was designed by Gozitan philatelist Anthony Grech. The exhibition was held at the Ministry for Gozo Exhibition Hall, St. Francis Square, Victoria, Gozo between the 21 and 27 October 2013. A special commemorative postcard and a personalised stamp were issued by the Gozo Philatelic Society to mark this edition of the exhibition.

25 October

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on the 25 October 2013.

26 October

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Misto Stationery’, Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara was closed for business between the 26 and 29 October 2013, both days included.

29 October

On Tuesday, 29 October 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a stamp within a miniature sheet to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the International Red Cross (in 1863) by Henry Dunant. The miniature sheet portrays the image of the said Henry Dunant, while the stamp, bearing a face value of €4.57, depicts the Red Cross, and also includes the dates 1863 and 2013. 30,000 individually numbered miniature sheets were printed. The stamp in the sheet is 48.0mm x 39.5mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb), while the miniature sheet measures 120mm x 80mm. The sheets, which were designed in-house by MaltaPost, were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 9/2013). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE/INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/29-10-13”, and also featured an image of the Red Cross in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this miniature sheet in the stamp bulletin No. 314.



30 October

On the 30 October 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published Document MCA/D/13-1738, the final decision on the market definition of the postal sector in Malta and the consequent conclusions of the market review of the letter mail markets. The MCA had carried out a national consultation process during the period running from the 9 July 2013 to the 13 September 2013. The MCA received only one response, from MaltaPost. In the meantime, the MCA took into account this response and provided further justifications for its conclusion in this final decision. The MCA identified the following postal services markets:

Market 1: Domestic Single Piece Letter Mail Market.

Market 2: Outbound Single Piece Letter Mail Market.

Market 3: Domestic Registered Letter Mail Market.

Market 4: Outbound Registered Letter Mail Market.

Market 5: Domestic Bulk Letter Mail Market.

Market 6: Outbound Bulk Letter Mail Market.

Market 7: Domestic Parcel Post Market.

Market 8: Outbound Parcel Post Market.

The MCA carried out an analysis of these markets, and found out that MaltaPost

enjoyed significant market power (SMP) in all the letter mail markets identified in this review. Given the position of dominance held by MaltaPost in these mail markets identified, the MCA imposed the following regulatory obligations on MaltaPost plc: (a) obligation to provide services at cost-oriented prices; (b) obligation of non-discrimination; (c) obligation of provision of services on an unbundled basis; (d) approval and publication of tariffs; (e) accounting separation.

31 October

MaltaPost plc notified that the Sub-Post Office at Tunny Net Souvenir Shop, Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa MLH 9063 was to be closed for business between the 31 October 2013 and 1 April 2014.

1 November

On the 1 November 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued the 'Communications Market Review' for the period January to June 2013 (Document No. MCA/R/13-1726). With regard to the postal sector, an important milestone for the year was the full liberalisation of the sector. The evolving scenario was especially challenging for the provision of universal services. Here, demand had been gradually falling for a number of years, particularly for letter post services. The principal causes behind this development were the digitisation of communication and e-substitution, although more recent market trends may suggest that e-substitution is becoming less prominent over time as the remaining postal customer base is more 'paper' loyal and thus less likely to shift demand away from traditional postal services. In fact, the first six months of 2013 saw an increase in postal mail volumes when compared to the same period a year earlier (1.7% higher, and amounted to 21.1 million items), although it had to be said that the national elections played an important role in boosting postal activity. Also of significant relevance with regard to postal volumes was the contribution of the parcel business, which registered significant growth in line with the increasing popularity of online shopping. Bulk mail accounted for 58.3% of all postal items delivered in the first half of 2013, followed by letter mail at 38.0%, registered mail at 2.5% and parcel mail at 1.2%. The Quality of Service (QoS) targets for the delivery to destination of local ordinary mail and bulk mail on the next day was set at 94%. The QoS targets for the delivery to destination of local registered mail and priority inbound parcels was set at 98%.

5 November

On the occasion of the XI European Marian Network Conference, held in Mellieħa between the 5 and 8 November 2013, a special hand postmark was used on Tuesday, 5 November 2013, at the MaltaPost Mellieħa Post Office. The

postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – MELLIEHA – MALTA – 05-11-13” in the outer ring, and “SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF MELLIEHA/XI EUROPEAN/MARIAN NETWORK/CONFERENCE” in the inner ring, which also included the logo of the Marian Sanctuary of Mellieha. To commemorate this special occasion, the Mellieha Parish issued a set of five personalised covers, as well as a personalised stamp.



5 November

On the 5 November 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued a Consultation Document (MCA/C/13-1743) dealing with a “Market Review for the Postal Sector: Parcel Post Markets – Analysis of Markets, Determination of Market Power and Setting of Remedies”. Following an analysis it had carried out, the MCA concluded that MaltaPost had significant market power in all the standard parcel post markets. Given this position of dominance held by MaltaPost, the MCA was proposing to impose the following remedies: (a) obligation to provide services at cost-oriented prices; (b) obligation of non-discrimination; (c) obligation of provision of services on an unbundled basis; (d) approval and publication of tariffs; (e) accounting separation. The consultation was originally meant to run up till the 16 December 2013, but following a request from an interested party, the deadline was extended up till the 2 January 2014.

14 November

On the 14 November 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued a Consultation Document (MCA/C/13-1748) titled: “Consultation and Proposed Decision on a Price Control Mechanism for MaltaPost plc and Revised Postal Tariffs for Financial Years 2014 and 2015”. In September 2013, MaltaPost plc had submitted an updated request for revised postal tariffs. The MCA tested whether this request fitted within the proposed price control framework. The MCA’s assessment of this proposal indicated that some of the tariffs proposed by MaltaPost could be fully accepted (namely, those for domestic single piece letter mail – over 50g in weight, domestic bulk letter mail – over 50g in weight, European outbound mail and local parcels), whilst others could be partly approved (namely, those for domestic registered mail, international registered mail and locally registered newspapers). The consultation was to end on the 12 December 2013.

18 November

On Monday, 18 November 2013, MaltaPost plc issued the Christmas 2013 stamp set. This set consists of a miniature sheet bearing two stamps, as well as a set of three stamps reproducing parts of the scenes shown on the two stamps in the miniature sheet. All the stamps feature important sections from the mechanical nativity crib found at the Jesus of Nazareth Institute in Żejtun, which was inaugurated in 1947 and is the work of Paul Pavia. The stamps in the miniature sheet have a face value of €1.00 each, while the other three stamps (issued in sheets of 10) have a face value of €0.26, €0.37 and €0.63 respectively. The stamps were designed in-house by MaltaPost. The stamps in the miniature sheet each measure 20mm x 76mm, while the three single stamps measure 20mm x 38mm each; the miniature sheet measures 105mm x 68mm, with a perforation of 13.6 x 14.0 (comb). The miniature sheet and stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. 20,000 miniature sheets (each individually numbered) were printed. Besides, 1,600,000 copies of the €0.26 stamp were printed, together with 150,000 copies of the €0.37 stamp and 80,000 copies of the €0.63 stamp. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 10/2013 – set of 2 envelopes, marked 1 of 2 and 2 of 2, respectively). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST ----- MALTA/CHRISTMAS 2013/JUM IL-ĦRUGĠ/18-11-13”, and also included an outline image of Baby Jesus in a manger underneath a star. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 315.



22 November

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Alessio’s Old Cottage’, 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511, was closed for business on Friday, 22 November 2013.

22 November

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Għaqda Mużikali Viżitazzjoni of Għarb, Gozo, a special hand postmark was used on Friday, 22 November 2013, at the MaltaPost Għarb, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – GĦARB, GOZO – MALTA – 22-11-13” in the outer ring, and “10 SNIN MIT-TWAQQIF/TAL-GĦAQDA MUŻIKALI/VIŻITAZZJONI” in the inner ring, which also included an image of the Għaqda Mużikali Viżitazzjoni emblem in the centre.



23 November

The Sub-Post Office at 'Midas', 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on Saturday, 23 November 2013.

26 November

MaltaPost plc notified that the letterbox number 64 situated at Triq il-Marloċċ, Żabbar, was relocated to Misraħ il-Qalbiena Maltin, Żabbar.

28 November

The Sub-Post Office at 'Midas', 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business between the 28 and 30 November 2013, both days included.

1 December

In a publicity brochure it had circulated, MaltaPost plc recommended early posting before Christmas so as to enable MaltaPost to maintain the optimum level of service. The last recommended posting date for letters/postcards/parcels sent to a Maltese address was 20 December 2013, the last posting date for those addressed to Europe was 16 December 2013, while the last posting date for those addressed to the rest of the world was 2 December 2013.

2 December

In order to further enhance the postal service during the Christmas period, MaltaPost plc extended the opening hours of a number of its post offices, between the 2 and 23 December 2013. The post offices in Birkirkara, Mosta, Paola, Rabat, Sliema (Dingli Street) and Victoria, Gozo, were to open between 7.30am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday, and between 7.30am and 1.00pm on Saturday, while the post office at the Marsa Head Office was to open between 8.00am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday. All other post offices retained the usual opening hours.

4 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, with immediate effect, the outlet at Xlendi Hotel, 15, Triq San Xmun, Xlendi, ceased to operate as a Sub-Post Office.

6 December

MaltaPost plc notified that the letterbox situated in Triq it-Turisti, Qawra, St. Paul's Bay, was being closed for an indefinite period due to construction works on site.

7 December

On the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the foundation of the Confraternity of the

Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 7 December 2013, at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 07-12-13” in the outer ring, and “350 SENATL-FRATELLANZA TAL-IMMAKULATA – GĦAWDEX – 1663 - 2013” in the inner ring, which also included an outline image of the Immaculate Conception in the centre. This postmark was designed by George Vella.



7 December

On the occasion of the opening of the Museum at Dar Karmni Grima, in Għarb, Gozo, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 7 December 2013, at the MaltaPost Għarb, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – GĦARB, GOZO – MALTA – 07-12-13” in the outer ring, and “FTUH MILL-ĠDID TAL-MUŻEW – DAR KARMNI GRIMA” in the inner ring, which also included an outline image of Karmni Grima in the centre. This postmark was



designed by Gozitan philatelist Anthony Grech. This museum was originally opened on 2 May 1965, but has now been completely renovated. Karmni Grima (1838 – 1922) was a Gozitan spinster who, in June 1883, heard the call of the Virgin Mary in a small chapel on the outskirts of Għarb, where today we find the magnificent Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of Ta’ Pinu. The Dar Karmni Grima museum was re-opened on the 7 December 2013, on the eve of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and exactly 175 years from the birth of Karmni Grima.

9 December

On the 9 December 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this communication, MaltaPost stated that the project it had announced previously wherein it was seeking the appointment of a MaltaPost plc subsidiary as an agent for Middlesea Insurance plc, was not to be pursued further. Nevertheless, the MaltaPost Board of Directors still intended to pursue its project of cooperating with other parties in an insurance activity, and would make further announcements at the appropriate time.

9 December

On the 9 December 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this

communication, MaltaPost announced that its Board of Directors had approved the published Preliminary Statement of Annual Results as extracted from the Company's Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2013. The Board resolved that these audited Financial Statements be submitted for the approval of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for the 15 January 2014. The Board of Directors further resolved to recommend for the approval of the Annual General Meeting the payment of a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share, as well as the option to shareholders of receiving the dividend either in cash or by the issue of new shares. The Attribution Price, at which the number of new shares to be issued was to be determined, had been established at €1.07 per nominal €0.25 share. With regard to the financial year ended 30 September 2013, it was stated that profit before tax decreased by 5.4% to €1.95 million. Turnover increased by 2.5% to €21.64 million. Business generated through e-commerce registered an increase over the corresponding period the previous year while traditional mail volumes declined in line with global trends. Expenses increased by 4.2% to €19.92 million, mainly as a result of higher labour costs, while other operating costs were contained. The Cost-to-Income ratio stood at 92.1%. Total Assets increased by 5.0% to €30.43 million. The shareholders' funds increased by 6.8% to €16.63 million.

11 December

The Sub-Post Office at 'Misto Stationery', Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara was closed for business between the 11 and 14 December 2013, both days included.

11 December

On the 11 December 2013, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 239/2013 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the third quarter (July – September) 2013. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic decreased by 2.1% when compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year, and stood at just over 9.2 million. Total parcels and other items were recorded at 25,741, an increase of 24.6% when compared to the previous year (20,660 parcels/other items sent then).

14 December

The Sub-Post Office at 'Midas', 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on Saturday, 14 December 2013.

17 December

The Year Pack including all the ten stamp issues for 2013, was issued by MaltaPost on Tuesday, 17 December 2013. This Year Pack was presented in a folder which

also included all the technical details of the 2013 issues. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this Year Pack in a specific stamp bulletin (unnumbered) issued at the same time.

24 December

On the 24 December 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued document MCA/D/13-1777 – Price Control Mechanism for MaltaPost plc and Revised Postal Tariffs for Financial Years 2014 and 2015 – Response to Consultation and Decision Notice. Through this Decision Notice, the MCA approved certain postal tariff revisions which were to come into force with effect from the 1 January 2014. The MCA directed MaltaPost plc to notify the public of these changes in a transparent manner through the customer channels at its disposal, in close coordination with the MCA.

24 December

MaltaPost plc informed that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa, was to open between 8.00am and 4.00pm on the 24 December 2013.

24 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the last collection of mail from all letterboxes was to be effected at 1.00pm, on the 24 December 2013.

24 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the St. Julian's Post Office was to open between 8.30am and 1.00pm, on the 24 December 2013.

26 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no delivery of mail was to be effected, and all post offices were to remain closed for business, on Thursday, 26 December 2013. Normal service was to resume on Friday, 27 December 2013.

26 December

The Sub-Post Office at 'Future Focus', 9, Triq l-Imħażen, Floriana FRN 1118, was closed for business on the 26 December 2013.

26 December

The Sub-Post Office at 'Fleet Stationery', Testaferrata Street, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1402, was closed for business between the 26 and 28 December 2013, both days included.

30 December

The Sub-Post Office at 'MC Stationery', 33, Triq Ġlormu Cassar, Mosta MST 4117, was closed for business between the 30 December 2013 and 2 January 2014, both days included.

30 December

The Sub-Post Office at C@C Stationery, Trejjet Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580, was closed for business between the 30 December 2013 and the 8 January 2014, both days included.

31 December

MaltaPost plc informed that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa, was to open between 8.00am and 4.00pm on the 31 December 2013.

31 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the last collection of mail from all letterboxes was to be effected at 1.00pm, on the 31 December 2013.

31 December

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the St. Julian's Post Office was to open between 8.30am and 1.00pm, on the 31 December 2013.

31 December

On the 31 December 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published document MCA/O/13-1779 – A Postal Authorisation Fee Structure for a fully liberalised market environment. This document provides the salient points of the feedback received by the MCA following a consultation exercise on the subject which had been launched by the MCA in September 2013. MaltaPost plc and DHL International Ltd. had submitted their views with regard to the consultation. The document also includes the proposals raised in the said consultation, and the MCA's reflections on the feedback provided. The MCA proposed a revised authorisation fee structure. Postal operators who are licensed to provide postal services within the

scope of the universal service, would be required to pay, on an annual basis, 1.5% of the total gross revenue from postal services within the scope of the universal service, or €5,000, whichever amount is higher. Postal operators who are authorised by way of a general authorisation to provide only postal services which are outside the scope of the universal service, would be required to continue to pay, on an annual basis, €150, provided that an operator whose annual gross revenue does not exceed €24,300 would be exempt from the payment of such a fee. The MCA proposed that the new authorisation fee structure should come into effect on the 1 January 2014. On the basis of the consultation and the related responses received, the MCA intended to propose to the Minister responsible for postal matters, changes to the postal authorisation fee structure specified in the Postal Services (General) Regulations.

Every Member should enrol another member

The annual membership rates are:-

Local Members	€ 8.00
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(Junior Members under 16)	€ 2.33
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Overseas Members

Australia	AUD 32.00
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Canada	CAD 22.00
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Euro Countries	EUR 16.00
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South Africa	US \$ 25.00
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U.K.	GBP 9.00
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U.S.A.	US \$ 17.00
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