

Philatelic Exhibition Commemorative Medals Issued by the Department of Posts (1969 ~ 1980)

By

John V. De Battista

A few introductory words

From time to time the subject of these commemorative medals comes up in discussions between collectors and surprisingly, it transpires that very little is known about them. In view of this I decided to try and bridge this gap in a very small way. It must be mentioned that the humble aim behind this listing is only to provide a record of the commemorative medals issued. As up to now it looks that no such information has been published yet, all the information provided has been gleaned from official sources in my own personal collection.

Finally, I augur that others would be able to add more details to this listing, especially with regards to the designers of these medals and the firm or firms entrusted with minting them. I also wish to thank Mr. Samuel Parnis for his help in scanning the medals for the illustrations provided.

Historic Background

During Malta's philatelic "*Golden Age*", thanks to the genius of Chevalier Emvin Cremona, interest in Malta stamps was at its highest. The postal administration of the time, under the direction of the newly appointed Postmaster General Mr. Joseph Buttigieg (20.01.1969 – 04.02.1975) thought it would be a wise decision if it were to organise regular philatelic competitive exhibitions to further promote the hobby. Besides the competitors themselves, foreign postal administrations were also invited to participate.

The first such exhibition from a total of eight held took place at St. John's Co-Cathedral that same year. The event was a complete success and besides the exhibits mounted by the competitors; no less than forty-two foreign postal administrations took part.

To mark the exhibition, besides a commemorative card and a special hand stamp, the General Post Office also thought it fit to issue a commemorative medal for the occasion. This medal was to be the first from a series ending in 1980, marking each of the exhibitions held.

Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

Ist Malta Philatelic Exhibition

22nd to 31st December 1969

Bronze Gilt; Ø – 42.0 mm

Minting Limit: Not Available (thought to be 500)



Obverse:

A grouping of stylized figures paying homage to baby Jesus in the manner of the “Christmas” stamp set issued on the 3rd October 1968 is to be found at the centre. Above the group one finds the word MALTA while below is the date 1969. The words WIRJA TA’ BOLOL TAL-MILIED • CHRISTMAS STAMP EXHIBITION * are to be found encircling the design around the border.

Reverse:

An outline map of the Maltese Islands in the centre with a stylized rectangular perforated stamp bearing the date 22-31•XII•1969 bordering the south west section of Malta. To the north east of the island the word MALTA is to be found.

Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

IInd Malta Philatelic Exhibition
28th December 1970 to 9th January 1971

Designed by: Chev. E.V. Cremona

Bronze Gilt; Ø – 41.9 mm.

Minting Limit: 500 individually numbered and cert. type 1.



Obverse:

Stylized figure in the manner of the designs used for the “F.A.O. Regional Conference for Europe” stamp set issued on the 21st October 1968. Leaping dolphin facing left next to figure’s right shoulder and waves to its left. A stylized perforation band with the year 19 to the left and 70 to the right of the central figure separates the whole in two. The border is embossed with the words WIRJA / FILATELIKA / TA’ MALTA.

Reverse:

Split in three sections by means of a stylized perforation band in which one finds the words MALTA PHILATELIC / EXHIBITION – 1970. Above the band is a galleon of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta while below it is an eight-turreted tower.

Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

IIIrd Malta Philatelic Exhibition

29th December 1971 to 12th January 1972

Bronze Gilt; Ø – 42.0 mm.

Minting Limit: 500 individually numbered and cert. type 2



Obverse:

The Independence Coat of Arms of Malta at the centre with the words WIRJA FILATELIKA TA' MALTA 1971 encircling the design around the border.

Reverse:

A square in the form of a perforated stamp bearing the words MALTA / PHILATELIC / EXHIBITION / 1971 at the centre, with the post horn placed above it. Two crossed palm fronds are to be found adorning the “stamp”

Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

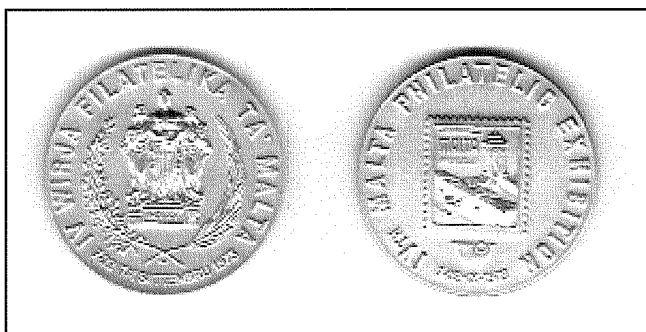
IVth Malta Philatelic Exhibition

7th to 22nd September 1973

Designed by: George M. Pace

Bronze Gilt; Ø – 38.0 mm.

Minting Limit: 400 individually numbered and cert. type 2



Obverse:

The Great Siege monument, a work by Antonio Sciortino, is to be found at the centre; with an olive branch and a palm frond, crossing one another, beneath. The words IV WIRJA FILATELIKA TA' MALTA 7-22 TA' SETTEMBRU 1973 encircle the design around the border.

Reverse:

Reproduction of the five penny definitive stamp, the subject of which depicts "Fortifications", issued on the 1st August 1970; with the post horn beneath. The words IV TH MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 7-22,IX,1973 encircle the design around the border.

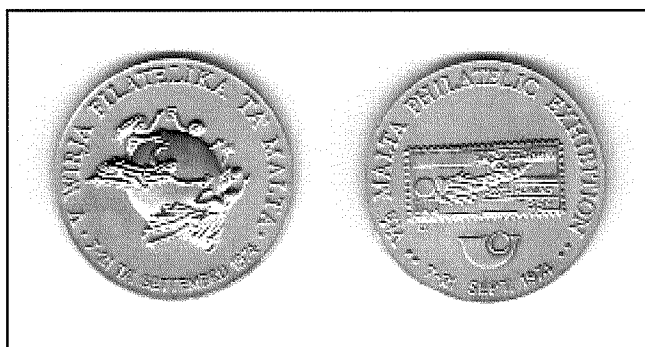
Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

Vth Malta Philatelic Exhibition

7th to 21st September 1974

Bronze Gilt; Ø – 37.5 mm

Minting Limit: 400 individually numbered and cert. type 2



Obverse:

The UPU emblem which embodies the Universal Postal Union's truly universal mission, depicting five messengers who symbolise the five continents as they pass letters round the globe. The words V WIRJA FILATELIKA TA' MALTA • 7-21 TA' SETTEMBRU 1974 • encircle the design around the border

Reverse:

Reproduction of the thirty-five cent stamp from the Airmail Definitive set issued on the 30th March 1974, with the post horn below. The words Vth MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION •• 7-21 SEPT. 1974 •• encircle the design around the border.

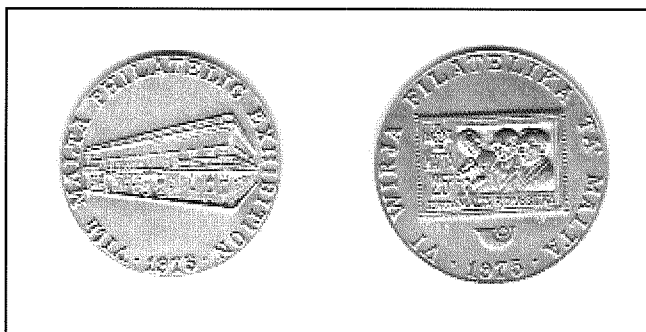
Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

VIth Malta Philatelic Exhibition

11th to 18th December 1975

Bronze Gilt; Ø – 37.7 mm.

Minting Limit: 400 individually numbered and cert. type 3



Obverse:

The Grand Master's Palace in Valletta, designed by Maltese architect Gerolamo Cassar and erected between 1572 and 1580 to the order of Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere is shown at the centre, with the words VIth MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION • 1975 • encircling the design around the border.

Reverse:

Reproduction of the twenty-five cent stamp portraying Malta's first President Sir Anthony Mamo addressing the public, flanked on his right by Dr. Anton Buttigieg and on his left by Prime Minister Duminku Mintoff from the "Birth of the Republic" set issued on 31st March 1975 at the centre, with the post horn beneath. The words VI WIRJA FILATELIKA TA' MALTA • 1975 • are to be found encircling the design around the border.

Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

VIIth Malta Philatelic Exhibition

12th to 17th December 1977

Gold Plated; Ø – 38.3 mm.

Minting Limit: 400 individually numbered and cert. type 3



Obverse:

A reproduction of the emblematic and symbolic sculpture to be found above the main entrance leading into the Auberge d' Italie, which housed the G.P.O. in Valletta from 1973 to 1997. The words VIITH MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION •• 1977 •• encircle the design around the border.

Reverse:

Reproduction of the five cent stamp showing an Allegory of Malta from the "Europa" set issued on the 15th July 1975, with the post horn emblem underneath. The words VII WIRJA FILATELIKA TA' MALTA •• 1977 •• encircle the central design around the border.

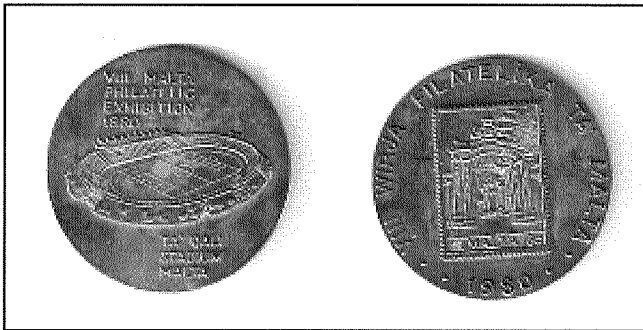
Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

VIIIth Malta Philatelic Exhibition

9th to 16th December 1980

Gold Plated; Ø – 38.0 mm.

Minting Limit: 400 individually numbered and cert. type 3



Obverse:

The Ta' Qali National Stadium inaugurated in 1980 in the centre, with the words VII / PHILATELIC / EXHIBITION / 1980 above to the left of the design and TA' QALI / STADIUM / MALTA to the right below.

Reverse:

A reproduction of the six cent stamp from the "Restoration of Monuments" set issued on the 15th February 1980, with the words VIII WIRJA FILATELIKA TA' MALTA •• 1980 •• encircling the design around the border.

Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

Page from the 1980 Philatelic Exhibition Catalogue

MIDALJA LI TIKKOMMEMORA T-VIII WIRJA FILATELIKA TA' MALTA

VIII MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

Li Stadium Nazzjonali ('Ta' Qafi, li se jesa' madwar 30,000 spettatur, jidher fuq il-faccata tal-midalja. Li Stadium, li huwa l-ewwel *sports ground* ta' Malta ta' *standard* internazzjonali, se jigi nawgurat fit-13 ta' Diċembru, 1980. Minbarra *football pitch* bi' haxx, li Stadium għandu madwaru *track* għall-atletika u *facilities* ta' għal avvenimenti b' jkum *stgħu* jsiru fil-*ground*. Li *sports* li jsir ta' *gewwa* jista' jsir *gol-bini* li fuqu hemm li *stands*, b'hekk li Stadium jkun *kumpless* ta' li *Sports* u mhux biss *ground* tal-*football*.



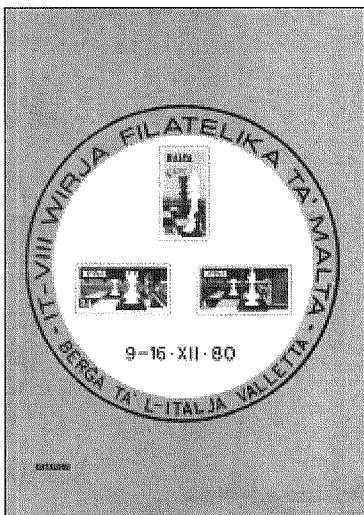
The Ta' Qafi National Stadium, which will seat about 30,000 spectators, is featured on the obverse of the medal. The stadium, which is Malta's first sports ground of international standard, is being inaugurated on the 13 December, 1980. Besides a grass football pitch, the Stadium has a surrounding athletics track and facilities for field events. The structure carrying the stands will accommodate indoor sports, thus making the Stadium a Sports complex more than just a football ground.

Il-bolla tas-sitt centezmi (6c) tas-sett tar-Restawr ta' Monumenti mahnega bil-15 ta' Frar, 1980, tidher fuq wara tal-midalja. Il-bolla turi l-Palazz Vilhena u s-Sur Il-Palazz inbena mill-Grand Mastro Manoel de Vilhena (1722-1736) b'hala residenza u f'ejali tiegħu fl-Imdina li qabel kienet il-kapitali ta' Malta.



The six cents (6c) stamp from the Restoration of Monuments set issued on 15 February, 1980 is reproduced on the reverse of the medal. The stamp depicts the Vilhena Palace and Bastion. The Palace was built by Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena (1722-1736) as his official residence in Mdina, the then capital of Malta.

Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals



*Catalogue cover of the last
Malta Philatelic Exhibition
held by the Department of Posts*

Example of Authenticity Certificate Type 1

MALTA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1970

GILT BRONZE MEDAL
Published in the Malta Government
Gazette No. 12,479 dated the 24.11.70
(Designed by Chev. E.V. Constant)

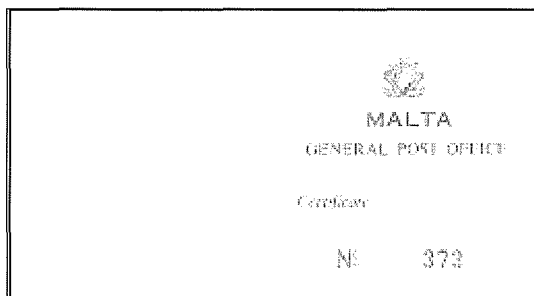
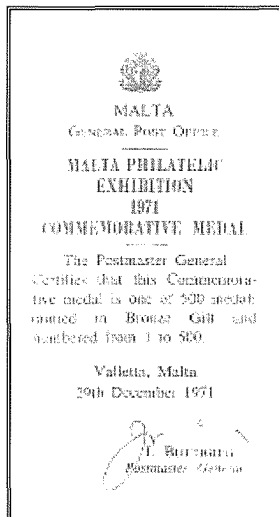
This is to certify that Medal No. 129
commemorating the Malta Philatelic Exhibition - 1970 is an official one
out of a number of 500 issued by the General Post Office, Malta.

JOS. BUTTIGIEG
Postmaster General

Plain Back

Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

Example of Authenticity Certificate Type 2



Malta G.P.O. Commemorative Medals

Example of Authenticity Certificate Type 3

