

150th Anniversary Edition
The Malta Queen Victoria
Half Penny Yellow



Journal of

THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SLIEMA STAMP SHOP



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93, Manuel Dimech Street, Sliema
Tel: 2134 2189 Fax no: 2134 6069

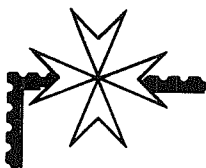


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Members of Federation Internationale de Philatelie
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2010 Committee

**President &
Journal Editor:**

Chev. Dr. A. Bonnici K.M. M.D., FRPSL.
(Tel: 2133 8437, 9949 5066), abonnici@maltanet.net
34 "Casa Bonnici", Sir Augustus Bartolo Street, Ta' Xbiex,
XBX 1093, Malta.

**Vice President &
Ass. Treasurer:**

Mr. J. Buttigieg (Tel: 2134 2189, 9942 4874)
sales@sliemastampshop.com.mt

**Secretary/ Treasurer
& F.I.P. Commissioner**

Mr. John A. Cardona (Tel: 2189 2141, 9983 6966)
johnacardona@gmail.com - 56, Triq Santa Marija, Tarxien,
TXN 1703, Malta.

**Ass. Secretary,
Web site admin &
Public Relations Officer:**

Mr. John De Battista (Tel: 2141 1919)
debfamily@hotmail.com

**Liaison with Malta
Study Circle UK:**

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Mr. John Micallef (Tel: 2143 3545, 9943 2945) - elcamino@onvol.net
Mr. C. Mejlaq (Tel: 2149 8069, 7973 4088) - charlesmejlaq@gmail.com

Overseas Rep:

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chrishowe@skanderbeg.fsnet.co.uk
Dott. Luciano Cruciani, Viale Telese 35, Roma 00177, Italy.
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Mr. Enrico N. Bataille, 6 Hamerkop Street, Cotswold Extn. P. Eliz., S. Africa

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MaltaPost p.l.c.

**on the occasion
of the
150th Anniversary
of the
First Malta Stamp**



1st POSTAGE STAMP

Introduction

Malta's first stamp, the Queen Victoria Half Penny Yellow, engraved by Jean de la Ferte, always had a special attraction for me, and my collection was awarded at F.I.P. Exhibitions, Large Gold in Vienna, Gold in Milan, Tokyo, Barcelona, and Large Vermeil with special prizes in nine other European countries, including London 1980.

This stamp was issued on the 1st December 1860, and remained in use up to the 1st January 1885, when the first definitive set of Malta was issued.

Mr Rigo de Rigi, curator of De La Rue granted me permission to do research in their archive, and in August 1972, my wife Elda and I spent six days locked in the vaults of the Company, going through their meticulously kept volumes, page by page.

It was there that I discovered that the ½d green, Invoice No. 29, which was to have been used when the Post Office was to be handed locally in July 1884, was not used as the transfer happened on the 1st January 1885, so another quick supply of the ½d yellow Invoice No. 30 was provided to bridge this period.

This research was published in serial form in our Society's Journal Vol. 6, 7, 8, between 1976 and 1978, and in Stamp Collecting Weekly Vol. 129 of 10th November 1977.

Following this publication Messrs Stanley Gibbons acknowledged my work in their 1979 Catalogue of British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, stating;

“MALTA. The section covering the 1860-84 ½d, value has been completely revised, based on the articles published by Dr. A. Bonnici in the Journal of the Malta Philatelic Society. Notes now show the relationship of the listed items to the various printings of this design.”

After these publications appeared, Mr George Coats, a prominent Malta collector and member of the UK Malta Study Circle, approached me asking for my permission to reproduce in the Malta Study Circle Hand Book, my researched work. Permission was gladly given.

The Hand Book edited by Mr R. E. Martin, was published in 1980, but there was no reference that Chapter 9, “The Queen Victoria Half Penny Yellow Stamp”, was totally my researched work, and my name only appeared amongst a list of others, who had contributed in some manner in the production of the hand book. However in a special reception following London 1980, hosted by Messrs Robson Lowe, (who had published the Hand Book), I was presented by a special Leather bound edition with an inscription, which read:

“Presented to Alfred Bonnici by the Malta Study Circle for an outstanding exhibit of Malta at the International Stamp Exhibition London 1980. Signed J.G.C. Lander. President.”

Being the 150 anniversary of this classical stamp, the Malta Philatelic Society thought that the publication of the story as a whole was desirable, and we are grateful to MaltaPost for sponsoring this publication.

Chev. Dr A. Bonnici. MD. KM. FRPSL
President, Malta Philatelic Society

The Queen Victoria Malta Half Penny Yellow Postage Stamp

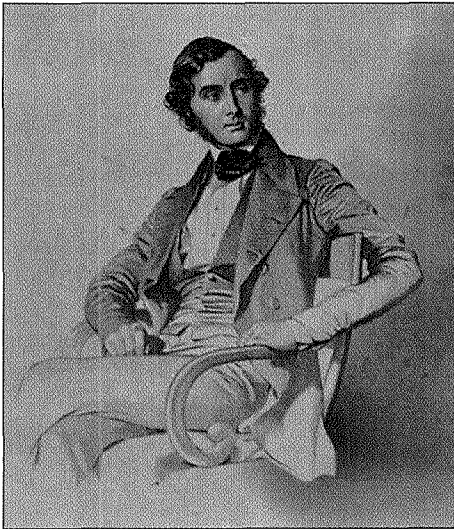
By Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici. MD, KM, FRPSL

In 1859 the Council of Government after a prolonged debate, decided that the Free Internal Post, which had been inaugurated on the 10th June 1853, would be withdrawn on a date to be announced later, and a half penny stamp would be issued for internal use in Malta and Gozo.

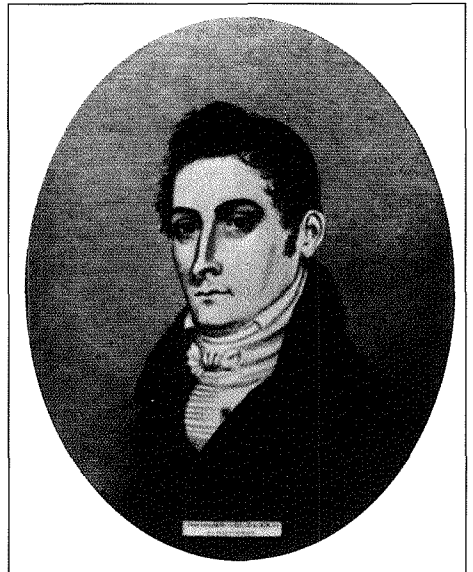
On the 12th March 1859, it was resolved in the Committee of Supply that:

“it is the opinion of this Committee that a sum not exceeding £110 chargeable upon the revenue of the year 1859, be applied under the head of Miscellaneous Services for cost of a die and other articles for making stamps for a half penny postage for the transmission of letters by the inland post”

Following this resolution the Clerk of the Council of Government, on the 30th April 1859, informed the Crown Agents for the Colonies, who in turn commissioned Messrs De La Rue & Co to go ahead with the engraving of a die, which was executed by J.F.Joubert de la Ferte.

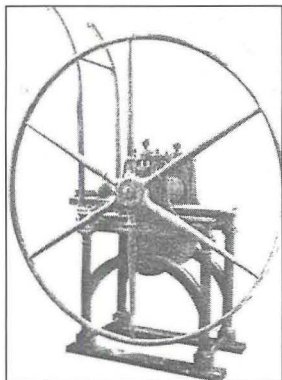


J.F.Joubert de la Ferte



Thomas De La Rue

By the 21st June 1859 a final die proof was produced.



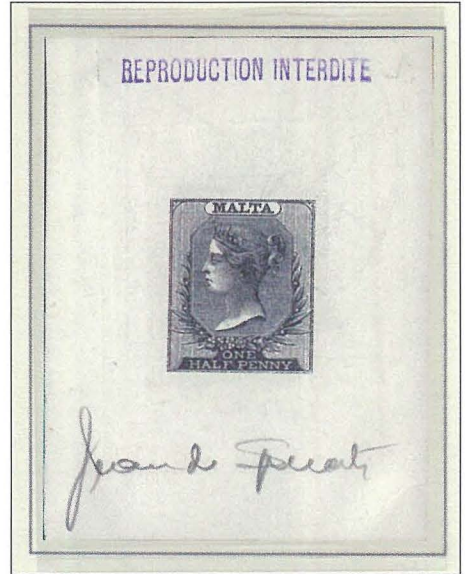
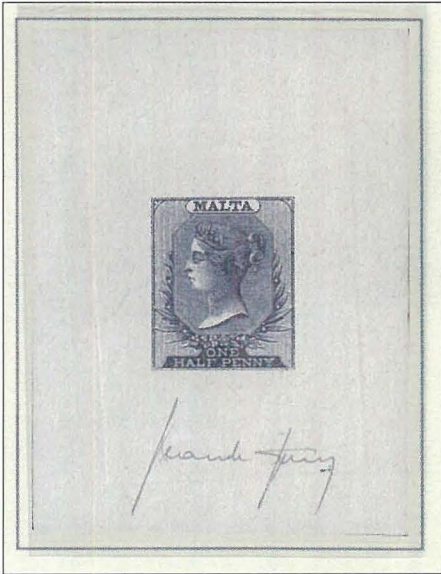
*Printing machine used by
De La Rue*



Specimen stamps issued and sent to Malta for approval by the Council of Government was done, and the printing went ahead by De La Rue carried out on their printing machines.



The Jean de Sperati forged Die Proofs



Jean De Sperati was born in 1884 in Aix-les Bains, and died there aged 73 years. He was a master forger of the classical material which he described as “Art reproductions”. He was caught in 1842 when French Customs Officers intercepted a suspicious mail item sent to Portugal. He was put on trial on the charge of trying to evade customs duty and acquitted but charged again as a forger. He managed to extricate himself again by declaring that he never had claimed that his reproductions were Genuine Stamps. He had always called them:

“ART REPRODUCTIONS”

Colour

The colour of these stamps which are fondly called in philatelic circles the Malta Queen Victoria half penny “**yellow**”, are the cause of considerable different opinions in deciphering to which particular printing a particular stamp belongs by colour, after taking into consideration the perforation and watermark.

This is understandable as the final production of the colour used at De La Rue was achieved by mixing other colours together, and so the final colour depended on the mix done at the time. The mix was calculated by a different individual who happened to be on duty at that moment, all done by hand.

The ink was fugitive which accounts for the shades within a printing (buff and bistre-brown which more or less lasted up to No 12 printing), but as the ink dirt accumulated on the rollers, we begin to have a muddy appearance – bister-brown, which is rarer.

From receipts of inks I discovered in De La Rue archive in 1974, it is quite clear how difficult it was to produce the same colour for every printing.

De La Rue used what was called “fugitive ink” and called the final mix “Amber” by mixing Indian Red Ink (No 677) and Deep Chrome Ink (No 657),

This Indian Red Ink (No 677), and Deep Chrome No 657, had also to be mixed with other inks separately to achieve the final results as the following invoice receipts point out.

lbs.	oz.	No. 668	Colour <i>Amber.</i>
<u><i>"½ Malta"</i></u>			
1.		<i>Indian Red Ink.</i>	<i>№ 677.</i>
2.		<i>Deep Chrome Ink.</i>	<i>№ 657.</i>

The Indian red ink (wrongly quoted as No 677 in the above invoice, should have been No 667), was in turn mixed with 1lb, Long Silvine Varnish and 4 oz Middle Silvine Varnish.

lbs.	oz.	No. 667	Colour
			<i>Indian Red.</i>
2	"		<i>Indian Red. (dry).</i>
1	"		<i>Long Silvine Varnish.</i>
4			<i>Middle</i>

To avoid fraud, a double fugitive ink - chrome ink was added.

It was of such a nature that a printed obliteration could not be removed to be used a second time, without destroying the stamp itself.

These Fugitive inks in our case "Deep Chrome" had to be achieved by mixing 14lbs of Deep Chrome (dry), 10lbs of Middle silver varnish, and 4 lbs of Long Silver Varnish.

<i>Fugitive Inks.</i>			
lbs.	oz.	No. 657	Colour
			<i>Deep Chrome.</i>
14	"		<i>Deep Chrome (dry)</i>
10	"		<i>Middle Silvine Varnish</i>
4			<i>Long</i>
			<i>Middle Chrome, the same proportions, in general.</i>
			<i>Lemon</i>

Used for Chrome Stamp Inks

Perforation

The perforation used was 14, the perforation machines belonged to the British Government, and so the sheets of stamps were taken to Somerset House in the Strand in London for perforating.

They were comb, otherwise called "triple-cutter" machines, a single horizontal row of stamps being perforated at the top and both sides at each stroke. The perforations at the foot of each row were made in the course of perforating the adjacent horizontal row. The machines were constructed to perforate stamps printed in four panes each of 60, the long line of the comb covered the width of two panes (12 stamps) and the space between the panes - 10mm, was perforated in the middle

by the central “tooth” of the “comb”, so that stamps from the inside of the panes have an extended, or “wing” margin on the right or left, as the case may be.

These machines gauge 14 were used between 1859 and 1877, to perforate supply numbers 1 to 9, 11 and 13 to 19.

These machines were purchased from the British Government by De La Rue in the period 1876-1880.

Supply number 10, whose paper was not of good quality, resulted in a rugged perforation, whilst supply 12 was of good quality paper, resulting in a clean perforation. Both were perforated by a single – line guillotine perforating machine gauge 12½, owned by De La Rue.

Supply number 20 and 21 were perforated by two machines gauged 14 horizontally and 12½ vertically.

Supply number 22 to 28, 30.were perforated by a new “comb” machine purchased by De La Rue gauge 14.

Although the first ½d yellow printing was dispatched from London on 21st July 1859, it was not put on the market before 1st December 1860, and remained in use up to 1st January 1885, when the Gladstone Government accepted a request from the Council of Administration in Malta, to transfer the International Service to local Government control which necessitated the printing of the first definitive set, issued on the 1st January 1885, which included values, to cover postage for both internal, and international use.

The reason for the delay in using the ½d Queen Victoria stamp was that the local government had now intended to install letter boxes in strategic places in Malta, for letters to be posted in, duly franked, and to be collected by post men at special hours, to be cancelled and delivered to addressees.

These letter boxes had been ordered from the UK, and took more time than was envisaged to arrive in Malta.

A Government notice of the 16 November 1860, issued at the Palace Valletta and signed by Victor Houlton, Chief Secretary to the Government of Malta tells us that:

“HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR having been pleased to order a daily delivery of Inland Letters and Newspapers in the town of Valletta for the greater convenience of the public, notice is hereby given that on and after the 1st December 1860, properly and clearly addressed letters placed in such Boxes will be treated with every respect as if posted at the General Post Office, provided such letters, if destined for the Inland Post, bear the Malta half-penny Stamp in proportion to their weight, and if destined for other Countries, be properly stamped, according to the regulations laid down in the Malta Postal Guide.”

The inland deliveries will be as follows:

1. *The letters and newspapers for Valletta will be delivered in Valletta three times a day, at 10am, at 1pm, and at 4pm.*
2. *The letters and newspapers for Floriana and Sliema at 1pm only.*
3. *The letters and newspapers for other places in Malta and in Gozo will continue to be despatched as at present and will be exhibited at the respective Police Stations.*
4. *A rate of postage of one half–penny for every letter of a weight not exceeding ½ ounce, and an additional half-penny for every additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, will be chargeable on letters so delivered; and this postage must in all cases be paid in advance by means of local postage stamps of the value of one-half penny each, which may be purchased at the Post Office, at all the Police Stations, and at the principal Stationer’s shops in the town. No charge will be made for newspapers”*
5. *“It should, however, be particularly borne in mind that these local postage stamps will not be available for paying any letters intended to be forwarded to any place beyond the islands of Malta and Gozo, and that letters not intended for either of these islands, which may be found to have such local stamps affixed to them, will be calculated as unpaid and treated accordingly”.*
6. *The letter boxes will be cleared of their contents half an hour previous to the hour notified for closing the mails at the General Post Office; and foreign letters posted after that clearance, will be delayed until next mail.*
7. *Letter boxes are placed in the following localities;*
 - 1 Pillar box on St George’s Square,*
 - 1 Box in the corner of Strada Britannica and Strada Reale,*
 - 1 “ in Piazza Celsi,*
 - 1 “ in Strada San Paolo, between Strada Vescovo and Strada Christoforo,*
 - 1 Pillar box at the Marina, at the Customs House*
 - 1 Box at Floriana, in Strada Giardino (Police Station)*
 - 1 “ at Sliema, at the landing place, (Police Station)*
 - 1 “ at Sliema, in Piazza Giammalva,*
 - 1 “ at Cospicua, (Police Station)*
 - 1 “ at Senglea, (Police Station)*
 - 1 “ at Vittoriosa, (Police Station)*

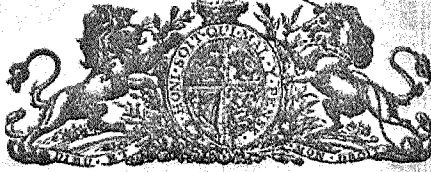
By command,

The Palace, Valletta.

November 16th, 1850

Victor Houlton

Chef Secretary to Government



GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR having been pleased to order a daily delivery of Inland Letters and Newspapers in the town of Valletta, Floriana, and Sliema, and the erection of Letter Boxes at different parts of Valletta for the greater convenience of the public, notice is hereby given that on and after the 1st of December 1860, properly and clearly addressed letters placed in such Boxes will be delivered in every respect as if posted at the General Post Office, provided such letters, if destined for the Inland Post, bear the Malta half-penny Stamp in proportion to their weight, and if destined for other Countries, be properly stamped, according to the regulations laid down in the Malta Postal Guide.

The Inland deliveries will be as follows:

1. The letters and newspapers for Valletta will be delivered in Valletta three times a day, at 10 a. m., at 1 p. m., and at 4 p. m., (Sundays and other Holidays termed *d'intero* excepted). The hours of delivery will be regulated by the delivery of General Post letters, on those days when a general delivery takes place.
2. The letters and newspapers for Floriana and Sliema will be delivered once a day at 1 p. m.
3. The letters and newspapers for other places in Malta, and for Gozo, will continue to be despatched as at present, and will be exhibited at the respective Police Stations.
4. A rate of postage of one half-penny for every letter of a weight not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, and an additional half-penny for every additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, will be chargeable on letters so delivered; and this postage must in all cases be paid in advance by means of local postage stamps of the value of one half-penny each, which may be purchased at the Post Office, at all the Police Stations, and at the principal Stationers' shops in the town.

No charge will be made for newspapers.

5. It should, however, be particularly borne in mind that these local postage stamps will not be available for prepaying letters intended to be forwarded to any place beyond the Islands of Malta and Gozo, and that letters not intended for either of these islands, which may be found to have such local stamps affixed to them, will be considered as unpaid and treated accordingly.

NOTIFICAZIONE DI GOVERNO.

ESSENDOSI SUA ECCELLENZA IL GOVERNATORE compiaciuto di ordinare che sia fatta ogni giorno nella città Valletta, nella Floriana, e nella Sliema, una consegna di Lettere e di Gazzette spedite per la Posta Interna, e che siano collocate delle Casette per la ricezione di tali lettere e gazzette in varie parti della Valletta per maggior comodo del pubblico, si fa noto colla presente che dal 1mo di Dicembre 1860 in avanti, tutte le lettere esattamente e chiaramente indirizzate, e messe in tali Casette saranno per ogni riguardo considerate come se fossero messe nell' Ufficio della Posta Generale, purchè tali lettere, qualora fossero destinate per la Posta Interna, portino il Bollo postale di Malta, secondo il loro peso, e purchè, qualora fossero destinate per altri paesi, portino il Bollo corrispondente, giusta i regolamenti stabiliti nel *Malta Postal Guide*.

La consegna delle lettere spedite per la Posta Interna sarà fatta nel modo seguente:

1. Le lettere e le gazzette per la Valletta saranno consegnate nella Valletta tre volte il giorno, alle ore 10 a. m., all' 1 p. m., ed alle 4 p. m., (eccettuate le Domeniche e le altre Feste *d'intero* preceute). Nei giorni in cui ha luogo una consegna generale, la consegna di tali lettere sarà regolata da quella delle lettere della Posta Generale.
2. Le lettere e le gazzette per la Floriana e la Sliema saranno consegnate una volta il giorno all' 1 p. m.
3. Le lettere e le gazzette per gli altri luoghi di Malta, e pel Gozo, continueranno ad essere spedite come lo sono al presente, e saranno esposte nelle rispettive Stazioni di Polizia.
4. Un dritto di posta di un mezzo denaro per ogni lettera di peso non eccedente mezz'oncia, e di un mezzo denaro di più per ogni addizionale mezz'oncia o frazione di mezz'oncia, sarà pagabile sul le lettere consegnate come sopra; e questo dritto dovrà in tutt' i casi essere pagato anticipatamente per mezzo di bolli postali locali del valore di mezzo denaro l'uno, che si potranno acquistare in ogni Ufficio della Posta, in tutte le Stazioni di Polizia, e nelle botteghe dei principali Cartolai della città.

Niun dritto sarà pagabile per le gazzette.

5. Si deve particolarmente avvertire però che questi bolli postali locali non potranno servire pel pagamento anticipato di lettere destinate per altri luoghi fuori delle isole di Malta e del Gozo, e che qualunque lettera che non fosse destinata per l'una o l'altra di queste isole, e che si trovasse portare tali bolli locali, sarà considerata come non pagata e trattata conformemente.

From the above, we know that Pillar Boxes and Boxes in some strategic localities for public use, were installed for the first time in Malta in 1860.

Photocopy of Invoice No.1, from De La Rue day book A page 41 for the period 30th November 1857 to 30th June 1864

41	1859 July 21	Agents General Crown Colonies			
		One form containing 240 stamps Malta - Duty - One half Penny ordered April 30 th 1859.	100		
	1859 July 21	100 sheets of stamps in fugitive ink perforated. = 24000 stamps	1	2	
	1/2 Valeur Des D. & Co. Paris	Packing in tin lined case		7	6
	Printed on paper bought from W. Turner (part of three reams) 1/100		101	9	6

Invoice No.1 issued on the 21st July by De La Rue.

AGENTS GENERAL, CROWN COLONIES

1st Invoice 21st July 1859

One form containing 240 stamps Malta-Duty.

"One Half Penny" ordered April 30th 1859.

100 0 0

100 sheets of stamps in fugitive ink perforated = 24,000 stamps @ 11d.

1 2 0

Packing in tin lined case.

7 6

Printed on paper bought from W. Turner
(part of three reams)

101 9 6

Signed: E.M.M.



From this invoice, we can draw the following conclusions:-

(a) Delivery date - 21st July, 1859

(b) 24,000 stamps were printed on 100 sheets. Each sheet consisted of four panes, each pane consisting of ten rows by six.

(c) The ink was fugitive which accounts for the shades within a printing (buff and bistre-brown). In this particular printing, the impression is quite clear at first - buff, but as the ink dirt accumulated on the rollers, we begin to have a muddy appearance - bistre-brown,

which is the scarcer.

(d) Paper bought from W. Turner of Chafford Mill, Kent. Unwatermarked, blued paper and perforation 14. The blue paper was only used for this printing.

Hand Stamps used to cancel the ½d yellow

This First printing of the half penny yellow was cancelled during the month of December 1860 only, with the “M” in an oval of bars.



Since 1857, the “M” in an oval of bars hand stamp, had been used in Malta for cancelling British stamps used on letters going overseas, and so it was readily available for use when on 1st December 1860, the half penny yellow began to be used for internal mail.



This is the earliest recorded letter with the “M” in an oval of bars written on the 13 December 1860, sent from Valletta to Mosta, from G. Grognat (de Vasse), the architect of the Mosta, Church.

From 1st January 1861, the 19mm single ring hand stamp with Malta in a straight line was used up to June 1861.



8 JA



20 FE



20 MR



30 AP



22 MY



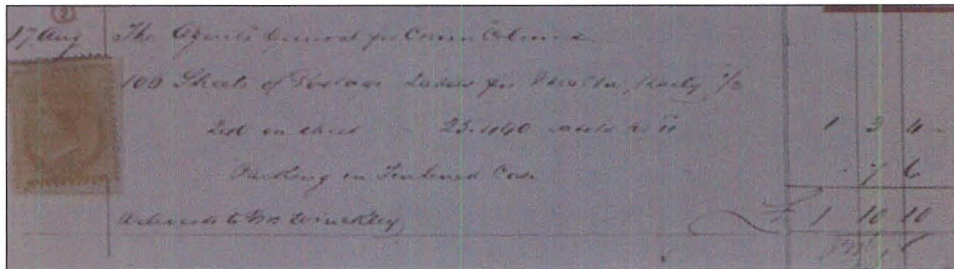
19 JU

From June 1861 onwards up to 1881 a combined 19mm single ring with MALTA in a straight line, and 21mm A25 hand stamp was used.



A / MALTA / DE 3 / 61

2nd Printing (S.G. No.2)



Brown Orange, white paper, no watermark, perf. 14, Private Day Book AA, page 92.

2nd Invoice 17th August, 1861

The Agents General for Crown Colonies

106 Sheets of Postage Labels for Malta, Duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

240 on sheets = 25,440 labels @ 11d.

1 3 4

Placed in a tin lined case

7 6

Delivered to Mr. Winckley

1 10 10

The 2nd printing of 17th August 1861 is brown orange - a blurred and muddy printing which has not been used after 1862. It was issued in Malta in November 1861 and the earliest and latest recorded dates are 4th January 1862 and 16th December 1862 respectively. One dated 8th December 1862 is on entire addressed to Il. Sig Dr. Av. Guseppi Xuereb, Gozo.

The so-called pale buff or clear stone shade listed in some catalogues did not comprise a complete printing, as very few copies are known. The only dated copies seen are 28th March 1862 and 2nd April 1862. The only mint block of four that has been recorded in the last dozen years or so was that in the Damsell collection which makes it numerically rarer than a similar block from the 1st printing.



11 MR

The 3rd Printing (S.G. No. 3a)

Buff and pale buff, no watermark, white paper, perf. 14

Invoice from Private Day Book AA, page 134.

3rd Invoice September 11th 1862.

Malta Postage Stamp

109 sheets Malta Stamp duty one ½d

240 on sheets = 26,160 @ 11d.

1 4 0

Making ready the form (less than 1 ream)

10 0

Packing

7 6

2 1 6

Delivered this day to Mr. Winckley

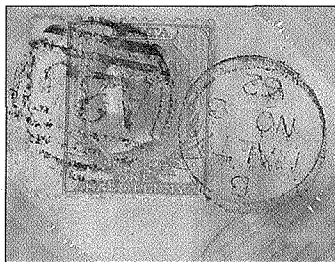
Receipt left.

The 3rd printing was issued in Malta in 1863; the earliest and latest recorded dates being 11th January 1863 and 12th December 1863 respectively.

It may be safely concluded that the unwatermarked, white paper stamps issued 1861-63 (S.G. Nos. 2, 3 & 3a) only consist of the 2nd and 3rd printings.

Watermarked paper Crown CC was used for the 4th printing of 17th April 1863 and continued to be used up to the 24th printing of 28th March 1881. Specimens of the 4th printing are known with inverted watermark. With the introduction of "watermark paper" marginal inscriptions were used for the first time in 1863. The plate "No. 1" uncoloured in a coloured circle, appeared at the NE and SW corners of the sheet. The words "MALTA - POSTAGE ONE HALF-PENNY" were printed in the horizontal margins above the four panes. A perforation guide cross was also printed in the upper margin. These margins and those of the sides were watermarked "CROWN COLONIES".

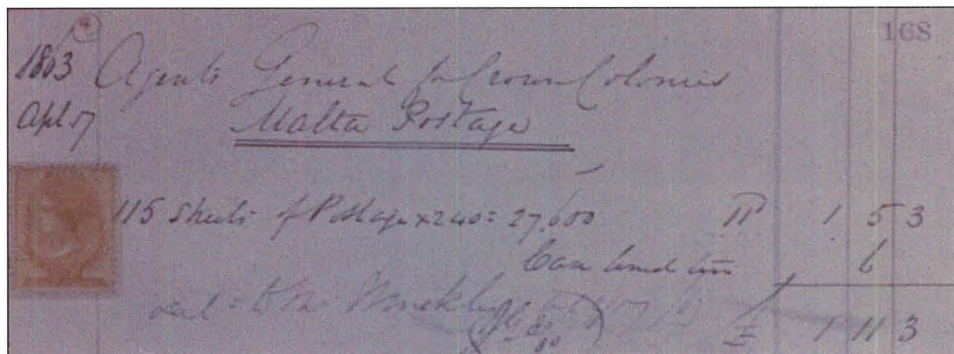
The perforation between the upper two panes and the lower two panes was central giving rise to 20 "Right Winged" margin, and 20 "Left Winged" margin stamps in each sheet. When these Right and Left Winged margined stamps form blocks, they are known as "Interpanneau Blocks". This system of central perforation between panes continued up to the 19th printing. With the 20th printing, a new perforation



3 NO 1862

machine was introduced (14 x 12½d), perforating the stamps close to the margins, doing away with the wings, and instead there is an independent perforated strip separating the “left and right” panes vertically.

4th Printing (S.G. No. 4)



Name	Specimen	Size of Plate	In. on Plate	Paper
Malta Postage 1/2d		4 panes of 60 each	240	M.P.P. Postage 1/2d C.C. Watermark April 1863

Buff, watermark Crown CC, white paper, perf. 14

From Private Day Book AA, page 168

4th Invoice 17th April, 1863

Agents General for Crown Colonies Malta Postage

115 Sheets of Postage x 240 = 27,600

1 5 3

Case lined tin

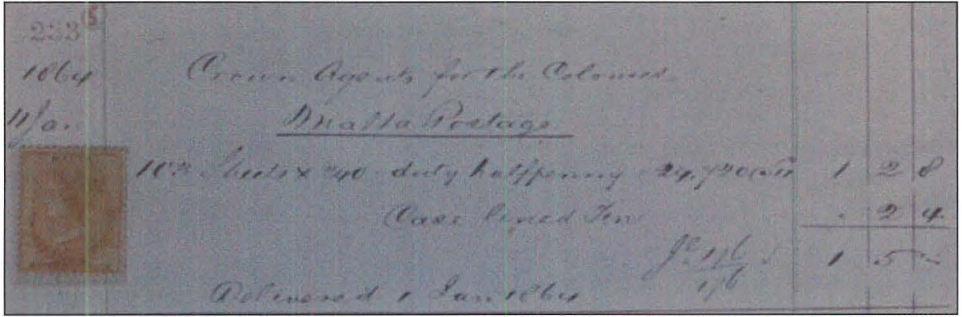
6 0

1 11 3

Delivered to Mr. Winckley

The 4th printing buff is nearer to pale-brown; the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th supplies can only be differentiated by a careful study of dated copies. This 4th printing was on a thin hard surfaced paper and the shade of the stamp is buff, very similar to the “unwatermarked” 3rd printing. It was issued in Malta in June 1863. The earliest recorded date is 4th June 1863 and the latest is 19th May 1864 on piece.

5th Printing (S.G. No. 4)



Pale brown, watermark Crown CC, white paper, perf. 14

Private Day Book, page 233

5th Invoice 11th January 1864.

Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage

103 sheets x 240 duty half-penny = 24,720 @ 11d 1 2 8

Case lined tin 2 4

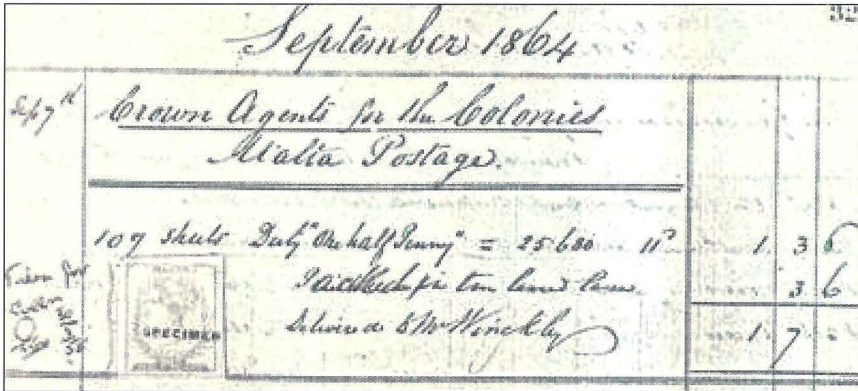
1 5 0

The colour of this printing is best described as pale-brown, although extreme cases exist of “dark brown” stamps with blurred impressions due to over-inking.

This supply was issued in Malta in 1864 and the earliest recorded date is 1st June 1864, whilst the latest is 2nd December 1867 on a piece. The top three rows of the right and left pane with the inscription “MALTA POSTAGE ONE HALF PENNY” on each, making a block of 36 has been recorded, but it is believed that this has now been broken up. In the top right-hand pane, 2nd stamp from the right, there is a crack in the plate under the letter “E” of “PENNY” which can be followed constantly through to the 30th printing, proving the same plate was used throughout. Copies of this printing have been recorded with “SPECIMEN” in small thin type.



6th Printing (S.G. No. 5)



Bright orange, watermark Crown CC, white, perf. 14

Private Day Book B, page 32

The colour with this printing became more on the pale orange side.



This is the imperforate stamp which was stuck to the above 7 Sept 1864 invoice, seen by me in 1974 at De La Rue.

It is from the upper right-hand pane of the sheet, row 2/5, as it shows the damaged "E" to penny Printing No 7 Invoice on 30th March 1865 registered under April 6th Invoice 7th September 1864.

Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage

107 sheets Duty "one half-penny" 25,680 @ 11d = 1 3 6

Packed in tin lined case 3 6

1 7 0

Delivered to Mr. Winckley

Between the 5th and 7th printing there is a bright orange printing varying from pale to bright according to the amount of ink used, and mostly on thin surfaced paper. The ink is mineral and does not stain the paper as does the 15th printing "golden yellow". It was issued in Malta at the end of 1864, the earliest recorded being 4th November 1864 and the latest 4th December 1865 on piece. Inverted watermark stamps are known of this printing.

7th Printing (S.G. No. 4)

Pale brown, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14

From Private Day Book B, page 114

7th Invoice 30th March, 1865

Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage

102 sheets Duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d 240 = 24,480 @ 11d 1 2 5

Packed in tin lined case and cartage 5 0

1 7 5

As stated earlier, the 4th 5th 7th and 8th invoiced supplies can only be allocated to the printings by means of dated copies, as mint copies are extremely difficult to differentiate.

The 7th printing of 30th March 1865 is on unsurfaced paper and of a slightly deeper buff than the 4th printing of 17th April 1863, whereas supply No. 8 of 20th December 1865 is of a slightly paler brown than supply No. 5 of January 1864. The earlier recorded dated copy is 4th April 1865 and the latest 5th June 1866. A mint interpanneau block of 6 has been recorded. Copies overprinted "Specimen" in small thin type are known.



8th Printing (S.G. No. 4)

Pale brown, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14

From the Private Day Book B, page 217

8th Invoice 20th December, 1865

106 Sheets duty one half-penny

240 on each sheet = 25,440 @ 11d 1 3 4



Packed in tin lined case and cartage 5 0

1 8 4

This supply was issued in Malta in 1866. The earliest recorded dated copy is 8th January 1866 and the latest 1st August 1868. This stamp is found as a SPECIMEN and with reversed watermark as well as mint blocks of four and a strip of six with left wing margin with "MALTA POSTAGE ONE HALF PENNY" printed on the separation margin (watermarked "COLONIES") between the upper and lower panes.

9th Printing (S.G. No. 6)

1 October 1866.			
Oct 2-	<u>Inland Revenue</u> <u>Contract Paper</u>		
1866	100 Reams Large yellow-tint 31 ^h 20 ^h 5 ^h	103	2 6

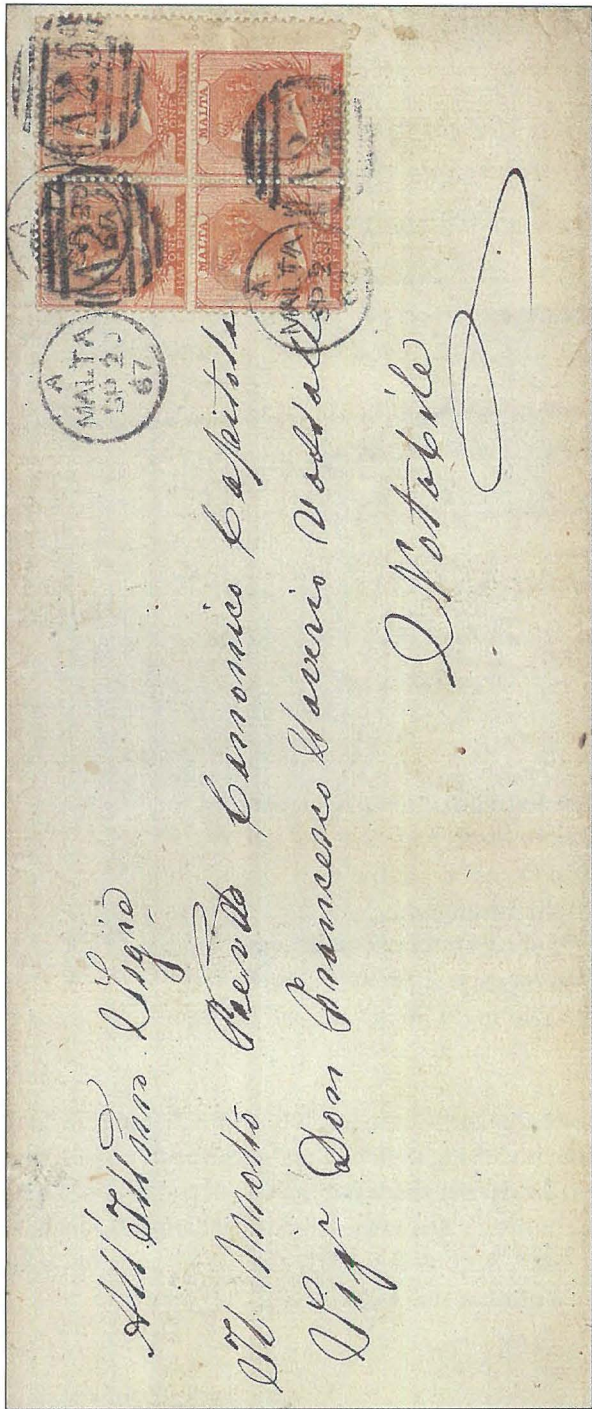
Oct 2. <u>Crown Agents for the Colonies</u> <u>Malta Postage</u>			
	205 Sheets Duty "one half penny". 240 on each sheet = 49,200 @ 11d Packed in tin lined case & cartage.		
Taken for Crown 27/5/58 		2	5 1
			5 6
		2	10 7

Pale red brown, watermark Crown, CC, perf. 14
 From Private Day Book C, page 1
 9th Invoice 2nd October, 1866
 Malta Postage
 205 sheets duty one half-penny
 240 on each sheet = 49,200 @ 11d
 Packed in tin lined case and cartage

2 5 1
5 6

2 10 7

The 9th printing of the 2nd October 1866 is of a distinctive "pale red brown". The ink is clear, though varying in depth, and this, together with the reddish tinge, distinguishes it from the deeper shades of the fourth and fifth printing with which it might otherwise be confused. The earliest recorded date is 1st January 1867 and the latest 11th January 1869. A copy dated 6th May 1867 on letter is known. Winged marginal mint blocks of nine also exist.



9th Invoice Red Brown the only recorded block of 4 used

10th Printing (S.G. No. 14)

Buff, watermarked Crown CC, rough perf. 12½

From Private Day Book C, page 193

10th Invoice 27th May, 1868

Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage

200 sheets duty one half-penny

240 on each sheet = 48,000 stamps @ 1/6d 3 12 0

Case lined tin 5 6

3 17 6

This is the first printing that departed from the previous perforation 14, perforated by the line machine. This printing and that of No. 12 of July 1870 has a clean cut. Existing in two slightly different shades of “buff-brown” and the perforation is rough. Vertical pairs have been found imperforate on top and bottom, issued in Malta at the end of 1868; the earliest recorded date is 3rd November 1868 and the latest 31st May 1870. A block of four mint has been recorded.



11th Printing (S.G. No. 7)

Dull orange, watermark Crown CC. perf. 14

Private Day Book D, page 85

11th Invoice 9th December, 1869

Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage

182 Sheets Duty one half penny

240 on each sheet = 43,680 stamps @ 1/6 3 5 6

Case lined tin 5 6

3 11 0

This supply was printed in dull orange and a later consignment, the 14th printing of 31st October 1872, was in an almost identical shade. Mint copies of the 11th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 19th printings are very difficult to separate one from another with any degree of certainty, but it is possible to differentiate fairly accurately by studying used dated copies of these stamps. This printing was issued in Malta, in April 1870, and the earliest recorded used copy is dated 3rd May 1870 and the latest 15th September 1871. A mint block of six (3 x 2) and a used block of four dated 6th May 1870 exist. Imperforate stamps over-printed “Cancelled” are known. Both inverted and reversed watermarked stamps have been recorded.

12th Printing (S.G. No. 15)

Yellow-orange, Crown CC, white, perf. 12½, clean-cut

From Private Day Book D, page 159

12th Invoice 21st July, 1870

Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage

197 sheets of 240 Multiples Duty

half penny = 47,280 stamps

3 10 11

Case lined tin

5 6

3 16 5

This supply was released in Malta in May 1871 and the earliest recorded date is 13th May 1871 and the latest 8th April 1873.

13th Printing (S.G. No 8)

Orange buff, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14

Private Day Book D, page 281

13th Invoice 18th October, 1871

The Crown Agents for the colonies

Malta Postage

198 sheets of 240 Multiples

duty half penny = 47,520 stamps @ 1/6

3 11 3

tin lined case

5 6

3 16 9

Printing No. 13 of the 18th October 1871 consisted of stamps in orange-buff which is deeper and harsher than the dull orange of the 14th printing but unfortunately for classification, it is very near to the deeper shades of yellow-buff of the 16th printing. It was issued in Malta in May 1872 and the earliest and latest recorded dates of use are 8th May 1872 and 12th May 1873 respectively. A left wing margin mint block of 6 x 2 is known.

14th Printing (S.G. No. 7)

Dull orange, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14

Private Day Book E. page 115

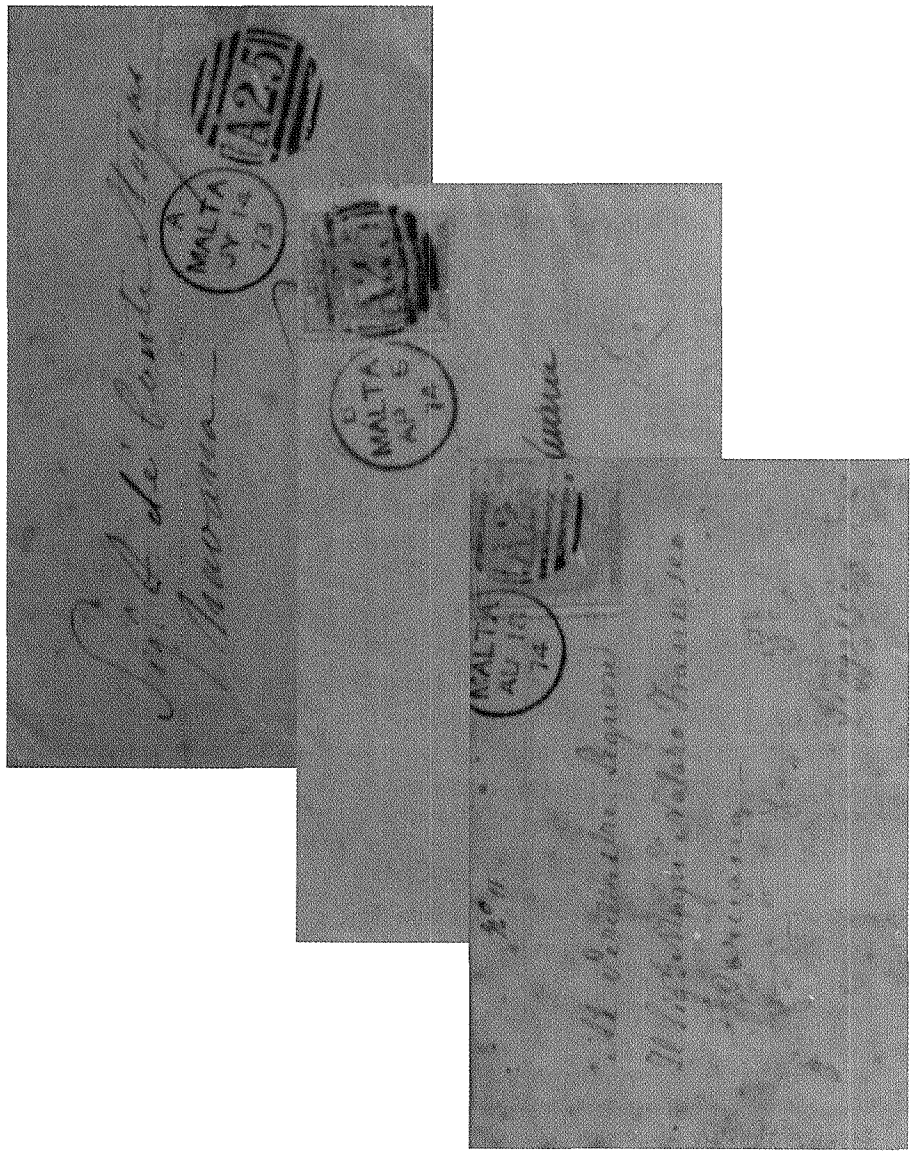
14th Invoice 31st October, 1872

Malta Postage Stamps

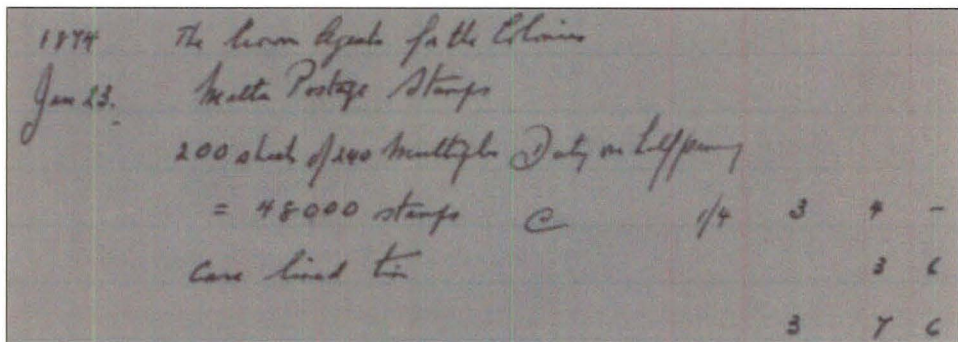
214 sheets of 240 Multiples Duty one half penny
 = 51,360 stamps @ 1/6 (1/4)
 Case lined tin

3	8	6
3	6	
3	12	0

Issued in Malta in 1873, the e.r.d. being 26th May 1873 and the latest 1st September 1874. A left wing margin mint block of 6 x 7 has been recorded.



15th Printing (S.G. No. 9)



Golden yellow, watermark Crown CC, white, perf. 14

Private Day Book E, page 257

15th Invoice 23rd January, 1874

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamp

200 sheets of 240 multiples Duty

one ½d = 48,000 stamps

3 4 0

Case lined tin

3 6

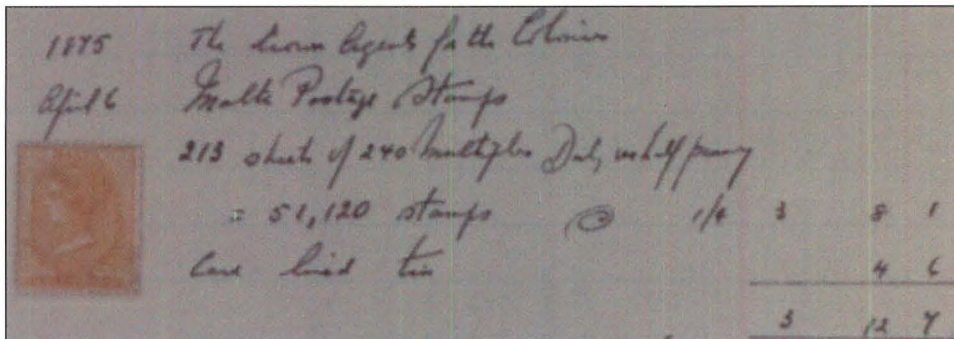
3 7 6

This 15th printing is that of the well-known golden yellow shade and which is quite distinctive in colour from any other supply. The ink used for this printing is aniline, which stains the paper yellow, showing through the back of the stamp. However, care must be taken not to confuse this printing with No. 6, if the stamp has been immersed in water, the staining partly disappears and the colour changes to orange. This printing was released in Malta in October 1874 and the earliest recorded date has the 6th October 1874 cancellation, which is on cover. The latest recorded date is 25th August 1875, also on cover. A block of four from the upper left corner of left lower pane is recorded.



courtesy of MaltaPost

16th Printing (S.G. No. 10)



Yellow buff, watermark Crown CC, white, perf. 14

Private Day Book F, page 165

16th Invoice 6th April, 1875

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamp

213 sheets of 240 Multiples Duty ½d

= 51,120 stamps

Case lined with tin

3 8 1

4 6

3 12 7

Supplies 16, 17 and 19 were all printed in yellow buff which is the commonest shade in this series. The deeper shades of the 16th printing (6th April 1875) and the 17th printing (20th March) 1876 resemble the orange buff of the 13th printing of 1871 whilst the 19th supply of 29th September 1877 was printed in a pale yellow buff, a distinctly deeper shade than the pale buff of the 18th printing of 12th January 1977.

The 16th printing was released in Malta in September 1875 and the earliest recorded date of use is 12th October 1875 and the latest is 9th May 1876. An interpanneau block consisting of the left lower row (x 6) and the right lower row (x 6) of the upper two panes and the top left upper row (x 6) and the top right upper row (x 6) with the full inscription “MALTA POSTAGE ONE HALF PENNY” on the left and right of the separating margin of the upper and lower panes watermarked “CROWN COLONIES” is known.





*16th printing interpanneau block from both lower and upper row of the panes
courtesy of MaltaPost*

17th Printing (S.G. No. 13)

Yellow buff, watermark Crown CC, white, perf. 14

Private Day Book F, page 277

17th Invoice 20th March, 1876.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamp

176 sheets of 240 Multiples Duty $\frac{1}{2}d = 42,240$ 2 16 3

Case lined tin 4 6

3 0 9

Only when one studies dated copies can one be relatively sure of this printing. The earliest recorded date of use is 19th August 1876 and the latest date is 10th November 1877. A mint left-winged margin block of 6 x 3 has been sold at auction. Stamps of this series cancelled with the duplex A 25 are of the 17th printing as this duplex was used only for a few weeks in August and September 1876, after having been discarded in 1868. An inverted watermark has also been recorded.

18th Printing (S.G. No. 11)

Pale-Buff Yellow Watermark Crown CC, white, perf. 14

Private Day Book G, page 84

18th Invoice 12th January, 1877.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamps

208 sheets of 240 Multiples Duty $\frac{1}{2}d = 49,920$ 10 3 0

Case lined tin 7 6

10 10 6

The 18th printing of 12th January 1877 is a pale-buff yellow shade. It was released in Malta in March 1877, and the earliest recorded used date is 20th March 1877 and the latest is 6th August 1878. Inverted watermarked copies exist of this printing.

19th Printing (S.G. No. 10)

Yellow-buff, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14

Private Day Book G, page 202

19th Invoice 29th September, 1877

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage one half penny

199 sheets of 240 Multiples duty ½d = 47,760	3	3	8
Case lined tin	4	6	
			3 8 2

The 19th printing was released in Malta in 1878, and the earliest recorded used copy 2nd January 1878 on piece and the latest used copy 6th April 1880 on piece. A left-winged margin block of 6 x 2 has been seen at auction.

Up to this printing, the vertical gutter between panes was centrally perforated giving rise to 20 left and 20 right-wing margined stamps in each sheet. These winged margined stamps were no longer seen after this printing.

The 20th and 21st printing present no difficulty in identification as the stamps have a compound perforation 14 x 12½ produced by a line machine. The two printings differ in shade, the earlier yellow buff, the later yellow.

20th Printing (S.G. No. 16)

Yellow-buff, watermark Crown CC, white, perf. 14 x 12½



From Day Book H, page 25

20th Invoice 18th May, 1878.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Malta Postage Stamps

214 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 51,360 stamps 3 8 6

Case lined tin 4 6

3 13 0

Issued in Malta in July, 1878.

The earliest recorded date is 3rd August 1878 and the latest is 10th January 1880.

With this printing began the use of a central strip between the right and left panes of (the top and bottom panes in) each sheet, perforated close to the margin of the stamps, giving rise to the central strip, so doing away with the wing margin.

21st Printing (S.G. No. 17)

Yellow, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14 x 12½

From Day Book H, page 147

21st Invoice 14th January, 1879.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamp

213 Sheets of 240 duty ½d = 51,120 stamps 3 8 2

Case lined tin 4 6

3 12 8



This printing was released in Malta in 1879. The earliest recorded date is 3rd February 1879 and the latest is on a cover addressed to II Sig. Carlo Zimmerman Barbaro, Cav. del S. Sepolcro, Armeria, Zurrieq, having the date 4th May 1881.

The 22nd, 23rd and 24th Printings

The 22nd, 23rd and 24th printings were the last produced on the Crown CC watermarked paper, perf. 14. Of these printings, the 22nd and 23rd were orange-yellow, of a lighter and brighter shade than any of the previous consignments, and they can be easily distinguished from the aniline printing as the ink does not show through the back. Supply No. 24 were stamps of pale to bright yellow in colour.

With the 23rd supply we find the introduction of the A25 oval duplex cancellation (AD-2); copies with the AD-1 cancellation are from the 22nd printings.

22nd Printing (S.G. No. 12)

Orange yellow, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14, white

From Day Book I, page 25

22nd Invoice 10th November, 1879.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamps

209 Sheets of 240 duty ½d = 50,160 stamps 3 6 10

Case lined with tin 4 6

Issued in Malta in April, 1880.

3 11 4

The earliest recorded date being 19th April 1880 and the latest 30th December 1880. Considering that the 22nd printing was issued in Malta in April 1880 and the 23rd printing invoiced on 27th August 1880 it would seem that the 22nd printing had a relatively short period of use.



23rd Printing (S.G. No. 12)

Bright orange yellow, watermark Crown CC, white, perf. 14

From Private Day Book J, page 187

23rd Invoice 27th August, 1880.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamps

211 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 50,640 stamps 3 7 6

Case lined tin 4 6

3 12 0

This printing was issued in Malta in 1880. The earliest and latest recorded dates are 9th December 1880 and 26th March 1881 respectively.

24th Printing (S.G. No. 13)

Pale to bright yellow, watermark Crown CC, white, perf. 14

Private Day Book K, page 32

24th Invoice 28th March, 1881.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamps

209 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 50,160 stamps

3 6 10

Case lined tin

4 6

3 11 4

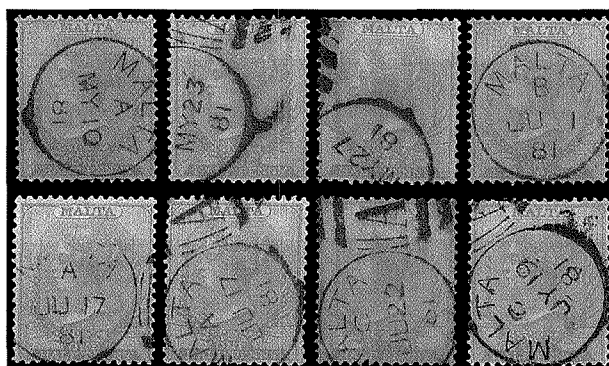
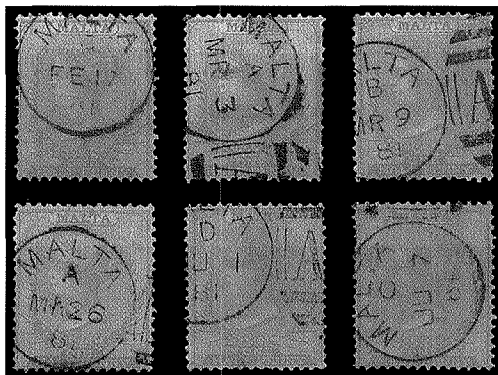
Issued in Malta in April, 1881.

The earliest recorded date is 18th April 1881 and the latest date 17th July 1882.

Inverted watermark copies are known.

With the 25th printing the paper was changed to watermark Crown CA.

The 25th to 28th supplies vary in colour from pale to deep orange-yellow and it is very difficult to differentiate between these without the aid of dated copies. The 29th printing was in green to conform with the U.P.U. regulations.



25th Printing (S.G. No. 18)

Pale orange yellow. watermark Crown CA, perf. 14

From Day Book K, page 183

25th Invoice 14th February, 1882.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamps

200 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 48,000 stamps 3 4 0

Case lined tin 2 6

3 6 6

Issued in Malta in February, 1882.

The earliest and latest recorded dates are 24th March 1882 and 30th January 1883 respectively. A complete sheet of four panes of sixty stamps was auctioned in 1976.

With the 25th printing of 14 February 1882, the watermark became Crown CA, and imperforate specimen stamps overprinted CANCELLED were printed.



The hand obliterator also changed.

The circular 19mm section had MALTA along the upper arc of the circle and the "A 25" became oblong and bigger.

26th Printing (S.G. No. 18)

Pale orange-yellow, watermark Crown CA, white, perf. 14

From Private Day Book K, page 230

26th Invoice 6th April, 1882.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamps

201 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 48,240 stamps

3 4 4

Case lined with tin

4 6

3 8 10

The printing was released in Malta in January 1883, and the earliest recorded date is 20th January 1883 and the latest is 9th July 1883.



27th Printing (S.G. No. 18)

Orange-yellow, watermark Crown CA, perf. 14

From Private Day Book L, page 208

27th Invoice 9th May, 1883.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Malta Postage Stamps.

202 sheets duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d of 240 = 48,480 stamps

Case lined tin

3 4 7

4 6

3 9 1

The 27th printing was issued in Malta in 1883. The earliest recorded copy is 4th August 1883 and the latest one is 23rd September 1884.



In 1883 it was decided that the time had come for the Malta Post Office to be controlled internally. (The original date proposed for the transfer was July 1884.)

On 4th September 1883, Roger Duke, the Post Master General in Malta, wrote to the Hon. Walter Hely Hutchinson, C.M.G. requesting “*approximate quantities of the several denominations of stamps which will have to be provided for use after Transfer*”, adding “*I have just been informed that it has been decided to have certain stamps of uniform colour throughout the Postal Union, i.e., the $\frac{1}{2}$ d in green,*” etc.

On 8th September 1883 the Chief Secretary, Walter Hely Hutchinson, wrote to the Crown Agents in London informing them of the request of the Maltese Post Master General. On 26th September 1883 De La Rue returned the above-mentioned

correspondence, giving the necessary information. From this letter it follows that the printing plate used for the ½d green was the same as that for the ½d yellows as among other details we find “A printing plate is in existence here for the ½d stamps, so that it becomes necessary to provide only for producing five denominations (1d, 2d, 2 ½d, 4d and 1/-).”

On 27th November 1883 the Chief Secretary of Malta requested the Crown Agents to supply Malta with 200 sheets of halfpenny postage stamps and enclosed a requisition. This was received by the Crown Agents on 5th December 1883 and written in the margin is the following note: “*Instruct Messrs. De La Rue that having regard to the correspondence respecting the new stamps, generally we may assume that the Malta Government approves of the ½d stamps being printed in green as recommended.*” From the correspondence it is clear that the Crown Agents did not realise that this requisition was a separate and distinct one from the correspondence that had just passed between Malta and London for the issue of stamps after “*the date the Post Office was to pass to internal control*”, and they assumed quite wrongly that this requisition was to be in green. This information was passed to the printers. Consequently, on 10th December 1883 the Crown Agents transmitted this requisition, stating “*We herewith beg to return the requisition covered by your letter of yesterday for 200 sheets of ½d Malta Postage Stamps, which you inform us are to be printed in green, etc.*”

On 13th December the Crown Agents informed the Chief Secretary in Malta that the printing was going to be in green, which must have upset Roger Duke, the Post Master in Malta, considerably, as the Chief Secretary, on 31st December 1883, replied to the Crown Agents as follows: “*The Post Master reports much inconvenience will result if green half-penny stamps be introduced before the transfer of the Post Office to Colonial control, and I am therefore to request that you will be so good as to give the necessary intructions for a supply of yellow stamps, the green ones which you have already ordered being kept for future use.*”



On 11th January 1884 the Crown Agents placed a new requisition for a supply of yellow stamps. On 14th January 1884 Messrs. De La Rue informed the Crown Agents that the original order of the 10th requesting a green printing had not yet been executed, and so the colour of this printing would be yellow. On 16th January 1884 the Crown Agents approved this letter.

28th Printing (S.G. No. 18)



Orange-yellow, watermark Crown CA, perf. 14

From Private Day Book M, page 29

28th Invoice 29th January, 1884.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamps

200 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 48,000	3	4	0
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Case lined tin	4	6	
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3	8	6
---	---	---

The printing was issued in Malta in 1884. The earliest recorded copy is 6th March 1884 and the latest one is 26th August 1884. Reversal of date slugs 14th May and 16th May have been recorded.

On 29th May 1884 the Chief Secretary wrote to the Crown Agents requesting various quantities of postage stamps and postal stationery stating “*The Post Office is to be handed over in July, etc.*” On 3rd June the Crown Agents requested De La Rue to print the quantities (which included the halfpenny green) mentioned and De La Rue replied on 4th June stating “That a good supply should reach Malta by the end of this month. The requisition to complete will take from six to eight weeks from now.”

The invoice covering this 29th printing (which is in green) is in the De La Rue Day Book M on page 72, 23rd June 1884, 688 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 165,120 stamps plus 100 specimens.

The Post Office was not, however, transferred in July as had originally been planned, and so the Malta Government, although they had now an ample supply of ½d green, once again ran short of the ½d yellows, and on 8th August 1884 the Chief Secretary requested the Crown Agents to supply the “*Usual 200 sheets of Malta local Postage Stamps*”. On 18th August the Crown Agents placed the order with De La Rue for 200 sheets of ½d adding “*I have to add that the colour of the stamps is to be in Yellow*”. This letter was acknowledged by De La Rue on 19th August and their Private Day Book M, page 92, shows that this last printing of the ½d yellow stamps was dispatched to Malta on 27th August 1884.

30th Printing (S.G. No. 19)

Reddish-orange, watermark Crown CA, white, perf. 14

Private Day Book M, page 92

30th Invoice 27th August, 1884.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies

Malta Postage Stamps

200 sheets of 240 duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 48,000 stamps

3 4 0

Case lined tin

4 6

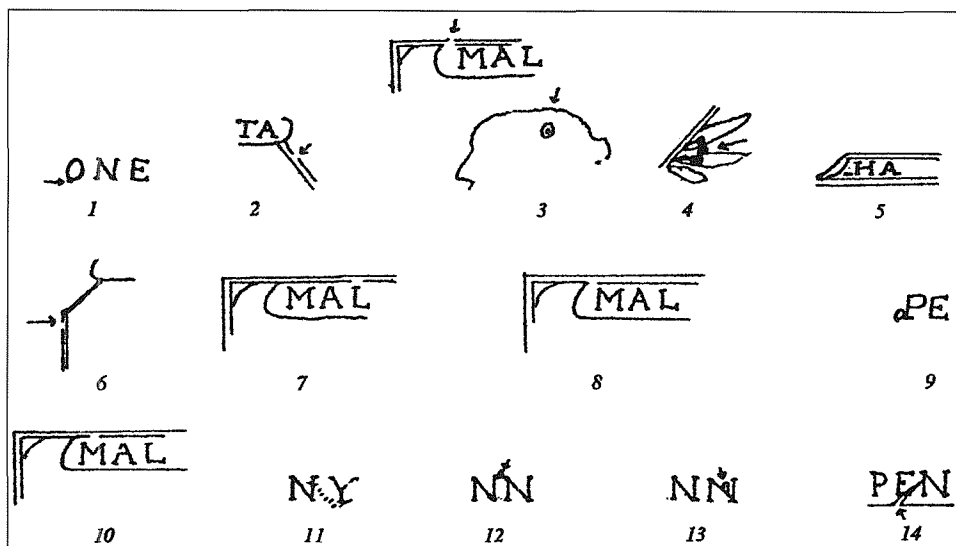
3 8 6

Issued in Malta 1884. Earliest and latest recorded dates are 17th September 1884 and 26th November 1885 respectively.



Varieties

The following varieties have been noted in the ½d yellow stamps; these varieties may, of course, be found on the ½d green.



Lower Left Pane

- Row 1, Stamp 5, Break in hair above and near end of Tiara (S.G. 20)
- Row 2, Stamp 1, Flaw through curl of chignon (S.G. 20)
- Row 2, Stamp 3, Spot on cheek (S.G. 20)
- Row 2, Stamp 4, Break in shading above head below "A" of Malta (S.G. 20)
- Row 4, Stamp 2, Large flaw on ear (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 4, Stamp 6, Broken lower right-hand corner of outer frame (S.G. 20)
- Row 5, Stamp 1, Tail on "O" of one (Fig. 1) (S.G. 20)
- Row 5, Stamp 4, Top inner frame line broken at right spandrel (S.G. 20)
- Row 6, Stamp 3, Spot under eye (S.G. 18, 19)
- Row 6, Stamp 4 "NY" joined at top serif (S.G. 20)
- Row 7, Stamp 3, Break in outer Portrait frame line at right (Fig. 2) (S.G. 20)
- Row 8, Stamp 4, Spur on right-hand bottom serif of "H" (S.G. 20)
- Row 9, Stamp 1, Broken outer and inner frame lines above "M" also in hair (S.G. 3, 20)
- Row 9, Stamp 2, Flaw in "A" of half (S.G. 3, 20)
- Row 9, Stamp 5, White spot on second leaf between buds at right (Fig. 4) (S.G. 18, 19 20)
- Row 9, Stamp 6, Line before lower serif of "H" (Fig. 5) (S.G. 18, 19, 20)

Row 10, Stamp 3, Broken outer frame line exactly under under “Y” (S.G. 20)
Row 10, Stamp 6, Broken outer frame line lower right corner (S.G. 19, 20)

Lower Right Pane

- Row 1, Stamp 1, Break in line of shading on cheek (S.G. 20)
Row 1, Stamp 4, Seventh line of shading broken under and right of “A” in Malta (S.G. 10, 20)
Row 2, Stamp 1, Break in line of shading in front of Tiara (S.G. 20)
Row 2, Stamp 4, Break in fourth line of shading under “A” in Malta (S.G. 20)
Row 2, Stamp 6, Break in outer frame line 4 mm from right corner (S.G. 20)
Row 3, Stamp 2, Dot above first “N” in penny (S.G. 20)
Row 3, Stamp 3, Sloping crossbar in “A” of Malta also break in first line of shading under “L” in Malta (S.G. 20)
Row 3, Stamp 4, Broken line of shading centre of neck (plate proof, S.G. 20)
Row 3, Stamp 5, Broken line of Portrait shading level with third bud on left (S.G. 14, 19, 20)
Row 3, Stamp 6, Broken outer frame above right leg of “M” of Malta (S.G. 20)
Row 4, Stamp 2, Broken lines of shading in front and back of neck (S.G. 20)
Row 4, Stamp 3, Broken outer portrait frame line below angle at left (Fig. 6) (on Plate Proof over-printed CANCELLED; S.G. 20)
Row 6, Stamp 3, Spur on lower left serif of “F” and dot between “F” and “P” (S.G. 20)
Row 6, Stamp 5, Broken inner frame line above “L” in Malta (Fig. 7) (S.G. 20)
Row 7, Stamp 1, Broken line of shading behind curl also on cheek (S.G. 20)
Row 7, Stamp 2, Broken inner frame line left of “M” in Malta, nick under neck, and dot above second “N” in penny (Fig. 8) (S.G. 20)
Row 7, Stamp 4, Spot on neck (S.G. 20)
Row 7, Stamp 5, Dot near nostril also solid spot of colour in background shading top right corner (S.G. 20)
Row 8, Stamp 1, White flaw joined to left of lower serif of “P” in penny also broken line of shading immediately above hairline (Fig. 9) (S.G. 20)
Row 8, Stamp 2, Broken inner frame line above centre of “M” in Malta (Fig. 10) (S.G. 20)
Row 8, Stamp 4, Spot on neck (S.G. 20)
Row 9, Stamp 1, Line on “O” of one, and dot between “F” and “P” (S.G. 19, 20)
Row 9, Stamp 2, Spot under neck (S.G. 20)

- Row 9, Stamp 5, Broken outer frame line $\frac{1}{2}$ mm from lower left corner (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 10, Stamp 1, White flaw under and through “NY” (Fig. 11) (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 10, Stamp 2, Broken line of shading near and behind nape hair (S.G. 20)
- Row 10, Stamp 4, Scratches through frame and “L” in half (S.G. 20)
- Row 1, Stamp 3, Lines of shading missing on front portion of headband of Tiara (S.G. 19)
- Row 1, Stamp 5, Broken outer frame lines lower right corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 2, Stamp 3, Broken lower outer frame line near right corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 2, Stamp 4, Broken lower outer frame line near left corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 2, Stamp 6, Nick in inner frame under and between “LF” of half (S.G. 19)
- Row 3, Stamp 3, Break in lower hairline on forehead above eye (S.G. 19)
- Row 3, Stamp 6, White flaw joining top serifs of “NN” in penny (Fig. 12) (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 4, Stamp 2, Thin crossbar in last “A” of Malta, and broken lower outer frame line right corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 4, Stamp 3, Crossbar of first “A” in Malta slopes downwards to right, and is thicker at right (S.G. 19)
- Row 5, Stamp 1, Broken lower left angle of Portrait frame line (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 5, Stamp 4, Broken inner frame line above “L” in Malta (Similar to 6/5 Lower Right Pane) (S.G. 19)
- Row 5, Stamp 5, Spur on crossbar of second “N” in penny (Fig. 13) (S.G. 11, 19, 20)
- Row 6, Stamp 1, Breaks in lower outer frame line (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 6, Stamp 6, Broken lower outer frame line right corner (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 7, Stamp 2, Two shading lines on nose broken close to eye (S.G. 20)
- Row 7, Stamp 4, Broken lower outer frame lines near or in right corner (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 7, Stamp 5, Broken lower outer frame lines near or in right corner (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 7, Stamp 6, Broken lower outer frame lines near or in right corner (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 8, Stamp 5, Broken lower outer frame line right corner (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 9, Stamp 3, Nick under right downstroke of second “N” in penny (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 9, Stamp 5, Nick under and between “FP” in halfpenny (S.G. 20)
- Row 10, Stamp 4, Broken righthand outer frame line near lower corner (S.G. 20)
- Row 10, Stamp 6, Spot of colour in hair between end of Tiara and Chignon (S.G. 19, 20)

Upper Right Pane

- Row 1, Stamp 1, Broken inner portrait frame line at leaf right of rose (S.G. 19)
Note: Similar breaks in this frame line occur in a number of positions on the sheet, but they appear to be haphazard.
- Row 2, Stamp 5, Flaw through frame and “E”, to “N” in penny (Fig. 14) (S.G. 18, 19, 20)
- Row 3, Stamp 1, Broken top line of shading under “T” in Malta (S.G. 19)
- Row 3, Stamp 3, Broken outer frame line lower right corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 4, Stamp 2, White flaw on crossbar of “A” in half (S.G. 19)
- Row 5, Stamp 2, Broken inner Portrait frame line above rose (S.G. 19)
- Row 5, Stamp 6, Broken inner Portrait frame line above rose (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 6, Stamp 1, Broken outer frame line lower right corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 6, Stamp 5, Broken line of shading under neck and above rose (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 6, Stamp 6, Broken line of Portrait shading near and almost on Nose (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 7, Stamp 6, Stop after “Y” in penny, also broken outer frame line lower right corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 8, Stamp 2, Broken lines of shading in hair above clover leaf of Tiara (S.G. 10, 18, 19, 20)
- Row 8, Stamp 3, Broken lower outer frame line near right corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 8, Stamp 5, Nick in name tablet frame line under lower left serif of “L”, also break in lower right corner of portrait shading (S.G. 19)
- Row 9, Stamp 3, Nick in value between “AL” of half, also broken lower outer frame line right corner (S.G. 19)
- Row 9, Stamp 6, Two spots on nose and spot in centre of eyeball (S.G. 19)
- Row 10, Stamp 3, White spot “hanging” on top left serif of second “N” in penny (S.G. 19, 20)
- Row 10, Stamp 5, Solid spot of colour above Queen’s lip, also a larger spot of colour in background shading to left and below name tablet (S.G. 19)

Maltex 11th Philatelic Exhibition

October 2010

by John A. Cardona



Dr. A. Bonnici – President, Malta Philatelic Society, Dr. R. Evans – Chairman, Malta Study Circle (UK), Rev. Fr. A. Galea S.J.

The eleventh edition of the Maltex Philatelic Exhibition has come and gone and is now history. The number of visitors to the Exhibition was one of the best ever and according to general consensus it was a success. It would be unethical to add any further comments by one who was involved both in the organisation and as an exhibitor.

The Exhibition was held at the ‘Green Lounge’ of the Hotel Phoenicia from 8th to 10th October. It was inaugurated on Thursday 7th October by the Chairman of the Malta Study Circle (U.K.) Dr. Rodger Evans B.Sc., Ph.D., Hon. F.A.P.S., and blessed by the Rev. Anthony Galea S.J. who has been a member of the Malta Philatelic Society since 1977.

The current year coincided with the 150th Anniversary of Malta’s first stamp the halfpenny Queen Victoria yellow. To commemorate the event members of the Malta Study Circle (U.K.), who had organized a visit to Malta, were invited to attend the official opening and to participate as exhibitors if they wished to do so.

The Society commemorated the special anniversary by commissioning a limited number of souvenirs to mark the unique event. The souvenirs consisted of a crystal paperweight and a metal keychain both of which were designed by Mr. John De

Battista a member of the Society. Both souvenirs were packed in attractive boxes and bore the image of the stamp and an inscription marking the occasion.

Listed hereunder are the exhibitors that participated in the non competitive exhibition. As could be noticed from the titles of the exhibits there was something of interest for everybody to see and enjoy:-

- Birkett Allan John “The Green Cross label scheme and patriotic labels”.
- Bonavia Carmel G. “Special covers commemorating Pope Benedict’s visit in 2010”.
- Bonello Carmel “G.B. Victorian postmarks on stamps”.
- Bonnici Alfred (Dr.) “Grandmasters’ letters to the Farnese Dynasty”.
- Camilleri Anthony “Malta Zeppelin mail / The Green Cross label scheme 1940-1943”.
- Cardona John A. “Halfpenny stamps of Malta”.
- Cutajar Lino (Profs.) “David Livingstone & Albert Schweitzer – two medical philanthropists in Africa”.
- De Battista John “1885-1902 Postage Stamp shades and Postal Stationery”.
- Howe Christopher “Death in Belgium”.
- Micallef John “Spanish provincial costumes”.
- Oberholzer Karl “Halfpenny yellows / Paquebots”.
- Parnis Samuel “Stamps, covers & other philatelic material depicting QV ½d yellows”.
- Sant Anthony “Great Britain used in Malta Stamps”.
- Wood Hadrian “Malta Revenue stamps and advertising labels”.
- Wroe Ken “Women on stamps / Articles of the United Nations / An old album”.

Junior Section

- Parnis Gerald “French mythical heroines on stamps”.

Members are reminded to pay their membership fee for the year 2011

Please send your remittance to:

Mr. John A. Cardona

56 Triq Santa Marija, Tarxien TXN 1703 Malta

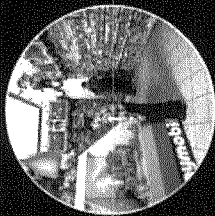
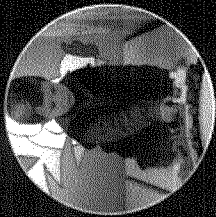
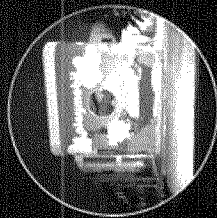
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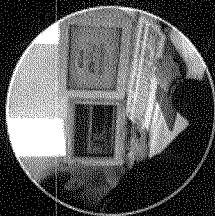
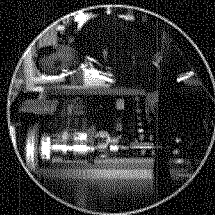
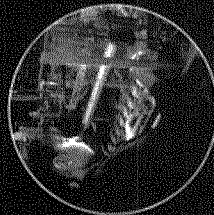
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INFORMATION TABLE OF THE MALTA Q.V. ½d YELLOW

Supply No.	Date Supplied	Day Book and Page	No. of Sheets	Stamps	Date of Issue in Malta	Earliest recorded date	Recorded by	Latest recorded date	Recorded by	Watermark	Paper – Perf.	Inverted Watermark	Specimen/Cancelled	Colour	S.G. No.	OTHER COMMENTS
						M		Used in December only					Specimen	Buff/Bistre-brown	1	Imperforate copy: Proofs in black on glazed white card exist. Single ring cancellation earliest used recorded Harmer Sale lot 141, June 1970 Appeared in Robson Lowe Orme sale of 1965, Item 541
1.	21.7.1859	A.41	100	24,000	1.12.1860	3.1.1861	Bonnici	13.11.1862	Orme	No watermark	Blued 14					
2.	17.8.1861	AA.92	106	25,440	Nov. 1861	4.1.1862	Orme	16.12.1862	Bonnici	No watermark	White 14			Brown-orange	2	
3.	11.9.1862	AA.134	109	26,160	1863	11.1.1863	Orme	12.12.1863	Orme	No watermark	White 14			Buff-pale buff		
4.	17.4.1863	AA.168	115	27,600	June 1863	4.6.1863	Royal Collection	19.5.1864	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14	Inv. W/mrk	Specimen	Buff-pale brown	3a	19.5.1864 is one piece, Imprimatur Robson Lowe Sale 1965.
5.	11.1.1864	A.233	103	24,720	1864	1.6.1864	Clough	2.12.1867	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14		Specimen	Pale brown & brown	4	
6.	7.9.1864	B.32	107	25,680	End of 1864	4.11.1864	Orme	4.12.1865	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14	Inv. W/mrk	Specimen	Bright Orange	4	Copy of Specimen in archive – British Postal Museum
7.	30.3.1865	B.114	102	24,480	1865	4.4.1865	Orme	5.6.1866	Orme	Crown CC	White 14		Specimen	Pale Brown	5	
8.	20.12.1865	B.217	106	25,440	1866	8.1.1866	Clive Smith	1.8.1868	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14	W/mrk Rev.	Specimen	Pale Brown	5	Watermark reversed recorded by Clive Smith and R. Jones
9.	2.10.1866	C.1	205	49,200	Early 1867	1.1.1867	Royal Collection	11.1.1869	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14		Specimen	Pale red-brown	4	(Specimen described by Orme).
10.	27.5.1868	C.193	200	48,000	End of 1868	3.11.1868	Orme	31.5.1870	Turnbull	Crown CC	White 12 1/2 (rough)			Brownish-buff	6	
11.	9.12.1869	D.85	182	43,680	April 1870	3.5.1870	Orme	15.9.1871	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14	Inv. and Rev.	Cancelled	Dull orange	14	Both inverted and reversed watermarks have been recorded (Cann).
12.	21.7.1870	D.159	197	47,280	May 1871	13.5.1871	Orme	8.4.1873	Orme	Crown CC	White 12 1/2 (clean)			Yellow orange	7	
13.	18.10.1871	D.281	198	47,520	May 1872	8.5.1872	Orme	12.5.1873	Orme	Crown CC	White 14			Orange-buff	15	
14.	31.10.1872	E.115	214	51,360	1873	26.5.1873	Clough	1.9.1874	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14			Dull orange	8	
15.	23.1.1874	E.257	200	48,000	Oct. 1874	6.10.1874	Bonnici	25.8.1875	Clough	Crown CC	White 14			Golden Yellow (Aniline)	9	
16.	6.4.1875	F.165	213	51,120	Sept. 1875	12.10.1875	Bonnici	9.6.1875	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14			Yellow-buff	10	
17.	20.3.1876	F.277	176	42,240	1876	19.8.1876	Bonnici	10.11.1877	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14	Inverted		Yellow-buff	13	Inverted watermark recorded by Mrs. Turnbull.
18.	12.1.1877	G.84	208	49,920	Mar. 1877	20.3.1877	Bacon	6.8.1878	Clive Smith	Crown CC	White 14	Inverted		Pale buff	11	Inverted watermark recorded Orme.
19.	29.9.1877	G.202	199	47,760	1878	2.1.1878	Clive Smith	6.4.1880	Clive Smith	Crown CC	White 14			Yellow buff	10	Both the earliest and latest recorded are on piece.
20.	18.5.1878	H.25	214	51,360	July 1878	3.8.1878	Orme	10.1.1880	Clive Smith	Crown CC	White 14 x 12 1/2			Yellow buff	16	Wing margins no longer seen. Centrally perforated.
21.	14.1.1879	H.147	213	51,120	1879	3.2.1879	Orme	4.5.1881	Clough	Crown CC	White 14 x 12 1/2			Yellow	17	
22.	10.11.1879	I.25	209	50,160	Apr. 1880	19.4.1880	Royal Collection	30.12.1880	Ganado	Crown CC	White 14	Inverted		Orange yellow	12	Inverted watermark recorded by Clive Smith.
23.	27.8.1880	J.187	211	50,640	1880	9.12.1880	Orme	26.3.1881	Bonnici	Crown CC	White 14			Bright orange yellow	12	
24.	28.3.1881	K.32	209	50,160	Apr.1881	18.4.1881	Ganado	17.7.1882	Orme	Crown CC	White 14	Inverted		Pale to bright yellow	13	
25.	14.2.1882	K.183	200	48,000	Feb.1882	24.3.1882	Turnbull	30.1.1883	Bonnici	Crown CA	White 14			Pale orange yellow	18	
26.	6.4.1882	K.230	201	48,240	Jan.1883	20.1.1883	Bonnici	9.7.1883	Orme	Crown CA	White 14			Pale orange yellow	18	
27.	9.5.1883	L.208	202	48,480	1883	4.8.1883	Orme	23.9.1884	Bonnici	Crown CA	White 14			Orange yellow	18	
28.	29.1.1884	M.29	200	48,000	1884	6.3.1884	Orme	26.8.1884	Orme	Crown CA	White 14			Orange yellow	18	
29.	23.6.1884	M.72	688	165,120	1.1.1885	1.1.1885	Orme	–	–	Crown CA	White 14			Green	20	
30.	27.8.1884	M.92	200	48,000	1884	7.9.1884	Orme	26.11.1885	Orme	Crown CA	White 14			Reddish orange	19	

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'Victory' on Trafalgar Day

The sale of the 'Victory' collection of Malta on October 21st was a resounding success, bringing a total of over £580,000, leaving the presale lower estimate of £404,000 far behind.

The postal history section of the sale contained a number of items that held considerable historical interest. An 1803 letter from Lord Nelson to Major General Villettes, Governor of Malta, sold for an impressive £21,645. Among many attractive later covers was an 1855 incoming entire letter from Dacca, India that soared to £14,397.

Many scarce essays, proofs and other items were on offer among the issued stamps and fierce competition repeatedly drove prices past pre-sale estimates. The 1860 ½d. buff imperforate plate proof, one of only three known examples rose to £10,558, a hand-painted essay for the 1886 5s. achieved £10,764, whilst the imperforate plate proof block of four of the 1919 10s. rose to £26,910. High prices are now perhaps to be expected for King George VI varieties and the used example of the 1948-53 'SELF-

GOVERNMENT' ½d. albino overprint, was no exception, achieving £17,996 against a catalogue value of £13,000.

The stamps and postal history of Malta feature regularly in our auctions and we would be very pleased to hear from prospective vendors.



Lot 3344, which sold for £26,910.

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