

Postal Diary

1 April 2007 - 15 July 2007

Joseph Fenech

7 April 2007

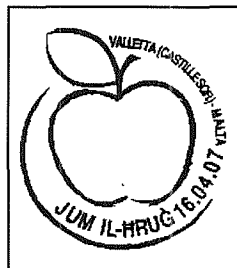
By agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no mail delivery was carried out, and the Maltapost retail outlets did not open for business, on Saturday, 7 April 2007. Normal service was resumed on Monday, 9 April.

9 April

Maltapost announced the introduction of a new alphanumeric postcode, which is made up of three letters followed by four numbers. The three letters in the new postcode indicate the locality, and the first three digits refer to the road/or street with the last digit referring to the actual street segment. The definite change over date from the previous to the new postcode has been set as the end of October 2007. The new postcode can be viewed on the online directory on the Maltapost website, www.maltapost.com.

16 April

A sixteen-stamp sheetlet showing different varieties of fruits grown in the Maltese Islands was issued by Maltapost on 16 April 2007. The set, the work of stamp designer and artist Andrew Micallef, was offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps are 35mm x 35mm square format, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb), and all carry a common value of 8¢/Euro 0.19. The stamps show the prickly pear, the grape, the loquat, the black mulberry, the fig, the lemon, the pear, the plum, the pomegranate, the tomato, the watermelon, the orange, the olive, the peach, the apple and the melon, respectively. A special commemorative handstamp inscribed “-----MALTA/JUM IL-HRUĠ 16.04.07”, was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No 2). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No.249.



16 April

With effect from Monday, 16 April 2007, the Parcel Office was transferred from its location in Triq l-Iskultur, Qormi QRM 3580, to the Maltapost Head Office at 305,

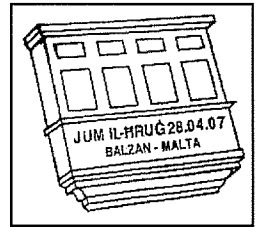
Triq Hal Qormi, Marsa MTP 1001. With effect from this date, all parcel collection, including Customs clearance, and all counter services were made available at the new refurbished premises within the Maltapost Head Office premises.

23 April

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellicha MLH 1024, was closed for business between Monday, 23 April and Saturday, 28 April 2007, both days included.

28 April

A set of five stamps and a miniature sheet featuring Maltese balconies was issued by Maltapost on 28 April 2007. The stamps were designed by artist and philatelist Alfred Caruana Ruggie, and were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamp size is 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb), while the miniature sheet is 123.0mm x 86.0mm. The stamp within the miniature sheet is 41.0 x 30.5mm, with a perforation of 13.5mm x 13.5mm (comb). The stamps are available in sheets of ten. The stamps carry both decimal and Euro denominations, these being 8¢/Euro 0.19 (wrought iron balcony), 22¢/Euro 0.51 (ornate open stone balcony), 27¢/Euro 0.63 (balustraded balcony in the centrepiece of the façade of the National Library of Malta), 29¢/Euro 0.68 (Gozitan balcony, with a lower carved open stone balcony and with a glazed timber upper part), 46¢/Euro 1.07 (example of local Art Deco architecture of the 1930s) and 51¢/Euro 1.19 (detail of balcony accentuating the portal of Hostel de Verdelin in Valletta). A special commemorative handstamp inscribed “JUM IL-HRUĠ 28.04.07/----- - MALTA”, was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No 3). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No.251.



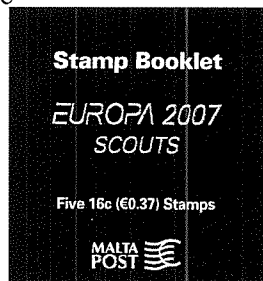
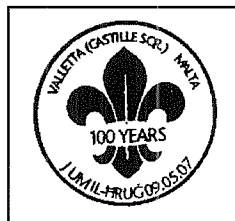
3 May

A special hand postmark – Essen 07 – was used at the Maltapost Retail Outlet, Dar Annona, Misrah Kastilja, Valletta VLT 1001, on Thursday, 3 May and Friday, 4 May, between 8.15 am and 3.45pm, and on Saturday, 5 May, between 8.15am and 12.30pm. The special hand postmark was also used on the Maltapost stand at the Essen Fair, Germany, during the same days. The special handstamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST/ESSEN/3-4-5 MAY/07”.



9 May

A set of two stamps in this year's Europa issue, commemorating the centenary year of the Scout Movement, was issued by Maltapost on 9 May 2007. The stamps, which were designed by Mark Anthony Vella, were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps, with face values in dual denominations of 16¢/Euro 0.37 and 51¢/Euro 1.19, are 35.0mm x 35.0mm in size, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb). The stamps are available in sheets of ten stamps, and the 16¢/Euro 0.37 stamp is also available in booklet form containing five stamps. The 16¢/Euro 0.37 stamp depicts the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, with District Commissioner (later Island Commissioner) Captain J.V. Abela in 1937 on his last of several visits to Malta, when he was 80 years old. The 51¢/Euro 1.19 stamp shows the Malta contingent marching past Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Golden Jubilee Jamboree near Birmingham, England, in 1957 to mark the centenary of the birth of Baden-Powell and fifty years of the Movement. The logos on the stamps show the emblem of the Scout Association of Malta, of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, and the Centenary Badge adopted by the International membership. A special commemorative handstamp inscribed "----- MALTA/100 YEARS/ JUM IL-HRUG 09.05.07", was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No 4). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in 'The Malta Stamp' bulletin No. 252.



12 May

The Sub-Post Office at Globe Stationery, 16A Triq il-Kbira, Attard ATD 1027, was closed for business between Saturday, 12 May and Friday, 18 May 2007, both days included.

14 May

Industrial action was ordered by the Union Haddiema Maghqudin at Maltapost, and came into force on 14 May 2007. This industrial action affected the delivery of addressed door to door bulk mail and unaddressed mail. Following agreement reached between the parties on 6 June 2007, this industrial action was suspended and all postal services returned to normal with immediate effect.

21 May

On 21 May 2007, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 86/2007 outlining the post and telecommunications statistics for the quarter January – March 2007. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic amounted to around 12.6 million items of which the absolute bulk represented letters and other printed items (up from 11.2 million items for the first quarter of 2006). The total number of parcels sent through the national post in the first quarter of 2007 was 12,031 (compared to 10,602 in the corresponding period of 2006).

28 May

A two-stamp set showing identical images of Dun Ġorġ Preca and the Blata l-Bajda chapel of the Society of Christian Doctrine headquarters, was issued by Maltapost on 28 May 2007. The stamps were designed by Edward D. Pirotta and were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The face values of the stamps are 8ċ/Euro 0.19 and Lm1.00/Euro 2.33. The stamps are 35.0mm x 35.0mm in size, with a perforation of 14.28 x 14.28 (comb), and are available in sheets of ten stamps. A special commemorative handstamp inscribed “-----
-- MALTA/JUM IL-HRUĠ 28.05.07”, was prepared by Maltapost to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No 5). The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No.253.



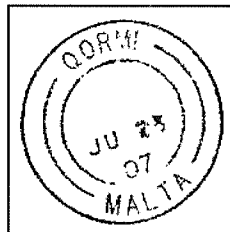
28 May

A silver replica stamp bearing the image of Saint George Preca in one of his characteristic poses, and with the chapel of the Society of Christian Doctrine in the background, was issued by Maltapost on 28 May 2007 to mark the canonisation of Dun Ġorġ by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican on 3 June 2007. This stamp, which is a replica of the Lm1.00/Euro 2.33 stamp of the San Ġorġ Preca stamp issue, and which weighs 20 grams, is a “first” for Maltapost and for Maltese postal history. It was issued in Brilliant Uncirculated (proof-like) condition. Its size is 35.0mm x 35.0mm, with a thickness of 1.53mm. The silver stamp is struck in 99.9% silver and is individually numbered, and the issue is limited to a maximum of 2,000 pieces. The stamp is available in a presentation box, and includes a certificate of authenticity, and it sells for Lm15/Euro 34.94. The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured this silver replica stamp in ‘The Malta Stamp’ bulletin No. 253. A gold replica of the San Ġorġ Preca Lm1.00/Euro 2.33 stamp was presented to Pope Benedict XVI by Monsignor Alfred Xuereb, on the initiative of Gozo Bishop Mario Grech, on 4 June 2007 at the Vatican. Mons. Xuereb is a priest from the Gozitan diocese

who carries out duties at the Papal household at the Vatican. This first gold replica stamp is one of only three minted for the occasion. Of the other two, one is to be auctioned at a later stage, with proceeds going to the Dar tal-Providenza, and the third one is being retained by Maltapost for eventual exhibition in the Maltapost postal museum.

25 June

Maltapost advised that from Monday, 25 June 2007, a new metal postmark was to be used at the Qormi Retail Outlet. Saturday 23 June 2007 was to be the last day of use of the previous postmark. Notwithstanding this notification, in actual fact, the new metal postmark started to be used at the Qormi Retail Outlet with effect from Saturday, 23 June 2007.



30 June

Postal Retail Outlets, with the exception of the Retail Outlets in Castille Place, Valletta, Malta International Airport, Qawra, St. Julians, and Victoria, Gozo, did not open for business on Saturday, 30 June 2007. All Sub-Post Offices and licensed stamp vendors offered postal services as usual. Collection and delivery of mail was still carried out by Maltapost. All postal services resumed on Monday, 2 July 2007.

30 June

All stamp vending machines were removed with effect from Saturday, 30 June 2007. These stamp vending machines were situated respectively at Malta International Airport, St. Luke's Hospital and at the Maltapost P.O. Boxes section in Old Bakery Street, Valletta.

7 July

The seventh card in a series (numbered PB07) being issued by Maltapost on a date when the day, month and year coincide – 07.07.07 – was issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost on Saturday, 7 July 2007. The first card in this series was issued on 1 January 2001, with a date stamp carrying the same figures, 01.01.01. The last card in this series is expected to be issued on 12 December of the year 2012, and stamped with a date stamp showing the figures 12.12.12. This year's card, retailing at 26¢/Euro 0.61, carries an 8¢/Euro 0.19 stamp from the Maltese Crafts issue, stamped with the 7 July 2007 date, and will remain on sale until stocks last. Maltapost advised that this card could be sent through the post to any destination without additional postage, provided it was posted by not later than Monday, 23

July 2007. Cards similarly cancelled and posted after this date had to carry stamps to cover the required postage.

11 July

A set of five stamps showing a selection of children's toys from a bygone era was issued by Maltapost on Wednesday, 11 July 2007. The stamps, which were designed by Richard J. Caruana, were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. The stamps are 44.0mm x 31.0mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb), and are available in sheets of ten. The stamps have five different values, these being 2ċ/Euro 0.05 (showing a rocking horse, tricycle and car, all made in England by Triang in the 1950s), 3ċ/Euro 0.07 (shows a pram made by Pedigree in the 1950s, and constructed out of chrome and rexine, a top drum from the same period and a bottom drum from the 1960s, both by Happy Nak, and a skipping rope, also by Happy Nak, made out of wood and tin), 16ċ/Euro 0.37 (depicts a sailing boat made in England out of tin and canvas by Triang, a spade made out of wood and tin by ACME, another British company, and a Japanese tin cabin cruiser going back to the 1960s; the sand pails on this stamp were also made in England out of tin by ACME), 22ċ/Euro 0.51 (shows a doll made in Italy by Lenci from composite materials, another doll made in England in the 1650s by Pedigree, also from composite materials and a third doll made in France by Armand Marseille in the 1930s; this latter model has a bisque head and glass eyes), and 50ċ/Euro 1.16 (shows a tin toy delivery van made in England by Chadvalley in the 1930s, a tin toy motorcycle with driver in it, made in Germany in the 1950s by P.N. (Niedermayer), and a tin toy clockwork racing car made in Japan during the same period by Alps). Maltapost issued a special commemorative handstamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No 6). The handstamp was inscribed "----- - MALTA/JUM IL-HRUĠ 11.07.07". The Maltapost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in 'The Malta Stamp' bulletin No. 254.



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