

**Hand Obliterator – Malta – ? Maritime Mail –
Dated – 2.10.06,
on – Raphael Tuck & Sons – Maltese Lady –
Oilette post-card.**

by Dr. A. Bonnici KM, MD


This beautiful oilette post-card, of a Maltese Lady, wearing the *ghonnella* or *faldetta* which was worn by Maltese Ladies pre 1940, and later becoming part of the ladies section dress, of a lay Maltese Religious Organisation, (M.U.S.E.U.M.), was addressed to *MR. MOLLAR* in Lyon – France, and was returned, presumably back to Malta, endorsed in manuscript red ink, as having an *incomplete and unknown address*, together with a **6** also in manuscript red ink, which probably was the Postage Due.

It bears the following (?) unrecorded / unpublished / unusual, multiple hand obliterator(s), which, according to my analysis has the following features.

The same multiple obliterator was applied in three different places on the card:

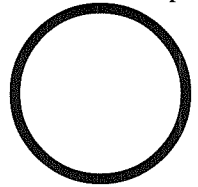
1. Used to *cancel* the India KEVII. One Anna, stamp overprinted *Ön. H M S* (S.G. No. 54.)
2. On its own *in the middle of the back of the card*, and
3. again on the *right top part of the front of the card*.

The sequence of the application of this interesting multiple obliterator applied probably is as follows:

First the word **MALTA** flanked on either side, by a triangle, and from its tip, emerging the tip of a spear head, was applied. 

Then a circle was applied to frame MALTA,
and finally the date **2.10.06** tying the circle.

This date was also applied on its own *in the right hand bottom corner of the back of the card*.



The sender addressed the card in thick blue ink to Mr MOLLARO in Lyon France, signing his name on the right hand side of the back of the card, and writing “*Malta / 2.10.06 / and initialling it*” on the *front left top corner of the card*.

The card was returned, because “*address was incomplete and unknown*”.

Comments.

This post-card was bought in Malta, by, probably an Indian sea man, or a passenger, on board the P & O ship named “Malta”, who had in his possession, the Indian stamp, which he used as postage, posting the card on board the ship “Malta”.

Have any of our members come across this multiple hand stamp. Your comments would be appreciated, as in my opinion this obliterator falls under Maritime Mail.

