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## THE BRANCH AND SUB POST OFFICES OF MALTA AND GOZO

by Dr. Anthony J. Abela Medici

The Malta Study Circle's Study Paper with the above title submitted that the first post offices to be established in the Maltese Islands were the Sub Post Offices of Rabato and Migiarro in Gozo (page 184). It was also submitted that Victoria was the first post office to be opened as a Sub Post Office in Gozo on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1885 at 5 De Soldanis Street. The first recorded cancellation using the RABATO cds is **31 MY 86**. (page 188). The Migiarro Sub Post Office is also "officially recorded" as being opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1885 probably situated on private premises but operated by a Detached Post Officer. The paper records the first known cancellation on the MIGIARRO cds as being **4 NO 86**. It is stated that "prior to late 1886 it is likely that the datestamp was applied to the envelope with the postage stamp being cancelled at the GPO Valletta" (page 207).

I have recorded a copy of a letter sent On Her Majesty's Service to Captain Payner, Infantry Brigade Signal Officer at Floriana which was redirected to 12 Sda. Marina Sliema. This letter may have been sent from Gozo since it was backstamped with MIG-1 dated "A/JU 22/86". It was sent to the General Post Office in Malta where it was cancelled front and back with MAL-12 dated "A/JU 24/86". On the front there is a handwritten message "Received 25.6.86 at 3 p.m."

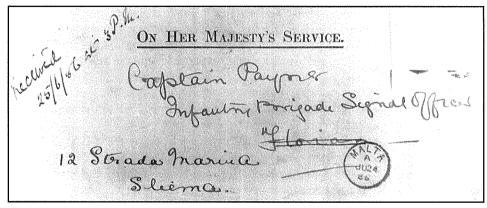
Lately I have discovered a  $\frac{1}{2}$  d green (SG20) stamp with a MIG-1 cancellation dated: "A/NO 11/85"

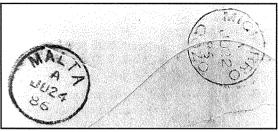


Firstly, I have never seen in any Study Papers or Newsletters any reference to any documentation supporting the claim that the Sub Post Offices of Rabato and Migiarro in Gozo were opened on 1st December 1885. It may well be that this information was transmitted down verbally from possible relatives of persons involved and eventually became enshrined as "official" recording. Such verbal communications must be very carefully assessed before they are taken as facts. Regardless of the above claim, it is very clear that the Migiarro canceller had been in use at least in November 1885 – one month before the claimed official opening of the Migiarro Sub Post Office. Secondly while the official mail sent to Captain Payner was backstamped with the Migiarro cds in June 22, 1886, some other mail must have had their postage stamp cancelled with

the Migiarro c.d.s. in November 1885.

I have carefully examined the Chief Secretary to Government's documents pertaining to the period 1884 to 1886 and I have found two very interesting documents which I reproduce in part below:





CSG/01/3728/Police dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1885 entitled: *Conveyance of Mails between Malta and Gozo*:

Minute 1 of said file states:

"After the  $30^{\text{th}}$  inst the Gozo Mails will be conveyed by the S.S. Gleneagles. The question arises as to the Postal Service to S. Paul's Bay and Melleha, which Saliba offers to continue for £70 a year. The amount of the correspondence is trifling, but it is presumed that communication must be kept up with that part of the Island, whether by arrangement with Saliba or by the Gleneagles dropping and picking up pouches at St. Paul's Bay, (The Melleha pouch is to be conveyed by a Fast ????. ) where I understand Mr Gollcher is laying down moorings."

And in a letter to Mr Paolo Saliba dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 1885 it stated: "I am desired to inform you that, beginning with tomorrow, your omnibus may continue to carry the mails to and from St. Paul's Bay and Melleha for one month, daily, except on Sundays at the rate of £70 a year, the hours of departure and arrival being the same as at present. This is a provisional measure pending further arrangements in regard to the Island Posts. You may be paid up to today at the rate specified in your Gozo contract which expired on the 31<sup>st</sup> ultimo."

CSG/01/5085/1885 Post Office entitled "Mails from Migiarro & Rabato" – Reports that Gleneagles failed to bring."

Minute 4 dated 30.10.85 and signed "V. M." states that:

"The occurrence herein reported is due to the fact that on the day mentioned the notice that the Gleneagles was going to Marsalforn was given by Mr Calamatta to the Telegraph Clerks here, and so the Police at Mjar did not know in time that they had to send the mail

there – the instructions contained on 5084/Minute will however obviate similar occurrences in future – The Messenger who takes the mail from Rabat to Mjar will not be able to call at the latter place when the Steamer goes to Marsalforn. –The Sub P. Master at Mjar will therefore have to be authorized to incur a small expense to send the mail to Marsalforn on such occasions."

Furthermore CSG/01/5261/1885 Post Office "Transport Expenses to enable the Mjar Sub-Postmaster to obtain and distribute correspondence without delay. Recommends sanction of." A report enclosed states:

"Now that there is a detachment at Chambray it is necessary that the Mjar Mail be landed soon on the Steamer's arrival and the outward mail taken on board a little before her departure to afford them the convenience of answering letters on the same day - Could not a small expense for transport be paid temporarily so that the Mjar Mail may be received and despatched independently of the Rabato Mail? I should think that service could be done for 5 or 6/- a month".

In reply Roger Duke, Postmaster, wrote a letter dated  $6^{th}$  November 1885 to the Lieut. Governor and Chief Secretary to Government wherein he stated:

"With reference to the annexed extract from a letter from the Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo, I presume His Excellency will be pleased to authorize the small additional expenditure for transport, to enable "the Migiarro Sub-Postmaster to obtain and distribute the correspondence for his district without delay instead of its being kept on board the "Gleneagles" until the outgoing Mails are being embarked."

Finally CSG/01/5759/1885 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1885 entitled "Credit Stock of Stamps for Sub-Postmasters & remuneration to Post Runners. Forwards letter from Asst. Sec. Gozo respecting, with observation"

Letter from Assistant Secretary's Office, Gozo (R. Micallef) dated 18th December 1885 stated:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th Instant accompanying £1 worth of Post Cards which I have passed to the **Sub Postmasters of Rabat and Mjar** whose Receipts I send herewith, and 12 Letter Boxes to be put up in the Police Stations of the several Casals.......I remit by bearer £5 value of postage stamps supplied to me on 22nd October last. **The Sub-Postmasters can now**, I believe, send receipts for a small stock to be supplied to them on credit."

Minute 2: sent by F. V. Inglott to Postmaster dated 25 Feb 1886.:

The Detached Post Officers at Gozo are at present supplied with a small credit stock of stamps, upon their own Receipts."

From the above references it is very clear that the Sub Postmasters at Rabat and Mjar had been appointed as Detached Post Officers at Gozo some time after June 1885 and more likely towards October 1885 when the arrangements regarding the Inland Posts had started to be implemented. It is very clear that the post of Sub Postmaster at Mjar had already been filled by the 30th October 1885 and just after the 6th November 1885 the Migiarro Sub-Postmaster was authorized to obtain and distribute the correspondence for his district without delay mainly as a direct result of the detachment of troops at Fort Chambray, Migiarro a few days earlier. In this capacity he would have cancelled the mail in his district with the Migiarro MIG-1 canceller thus producing the above cancellation dated November 11, 1885.

#### THE 'ADRIA' POSTAL MARKINGS IN MALTA

Dr. Giovanni Bonello LL.D.

Letters to and from Malta posted on ships authorised to receive mail arouse a degree of interest in postal historians and Malta's maritime mail has attracted a great deal of attention. Some of the *Adria* markings, besides throwing light on the workings of the postal system, can be visually attractive too.

What we today call *Adria* in reality refers to the "Adria Royal Hungarian Steam Navigation Co.", or, in Italian, the "*Regia Ungarica Società Anonima di Navigazione Marittima Adria*" based on Fiume, a city-port in the Adriatic which up to 1919 belonged to Hungary, was incorporated with Italy in 1924 and joined the former Yugoslavia in 1947. It now forms part of Croatia. The company also used French letterheads in francophone areas: "*Adria Compagnie Royale Hongroise de Navigation Maritime*".

With the change of sovereignty in 1924, the company became "Società Anonima di Navigazione Marittima Adria". It operated steamships to various ports in the Mediterranean, including Spain, France, Italy, Gibraltar, Tunis and Malta. The *Tirrenia* line absorbed the Adria in 1938.

The Malta Study Circle handbook (1980) and its supplement (1985) list two *Adria* steamers which cancelled Maltese mail with special handstamps: the SS *Carola* and SS *Rakoczy*. To these I would add another three: the SS *Andrassy*, SS *Szapary* and the SS *Arpad*, all named after prominent Hungarians: Gyula Grof Andrassy (1823 - 90), statesman and Prime Minister of Hungary, supporter of Kossuth; Geza Szapary (1827 - 98) governor of Fiume and the Hungarian-Croatian sea areas, and Arpad (? - 907) the Hungarian national hero, who founded the royal dynasty that bore his name. Rakoczy was a distinguished Hungarian family, many of whose members played a part in history, the best known of whom was Ferenc II Rakoczy (1676 - 1735), legendary hero of the Hungarian rebellion against the Hapsburgs.

Letters or cards handed to the purser for posting acquired different handstamps on board. First, a generic one: either *Kikotoben*, which means 'delivered in harbour', or *Tengeren*, 'delivered on the high seas'. They could also receive the *Paquebot* cachet exclusive to the *Adria* (in two versions, both in lower case: one underlined, the other not) and also, on landing, the ordinary *PAQUEBOT*, in italic capitals. The *Adria* ones were applied in a rainbow of colours: bright red, blue, purple, lilac, grey, green.

All the letters I have seen show either Maltese or Italian adhesive stamps; this implies, for incoming mail, that the last port of call was necessarily Italian.

One of the problems with *Adria* letters is that the handstamps have no date. Unless a supplementary dated cachet applied at the port of landing clarifies matters, or the postal item happens to have an indication of the date, there remains no way of finding out when the posting took place.

It seems that *Adria* markings started being applied on maritime mail round 1897, although the steamship company had an office in Malta at least since 1892, run by Arturo Kohen. In

1895 it won the contract for a yearly government subsidy of £6000, for a daily passenger and postal service to Syracuse, which the company operated by means of the SS *Carola*, built in 1892. The ship "drew severe criticism for the quality of its service and accommodation". It sunk in July 1916 after a collision.

The ship left Malta at 4.30 a.m., and arrived in Syracuse at 1.00 p.m. in time for the passengers to catch the train heading north. A *Carola*'s first-class ticket to Naples cost two pounds, and fifteen shillings in third class.

Adria used various cachets to cancel adhesives and mark the postal item. Apart from those already mentioned (Paquebot, Kikotoben, Tengeren) I would mention the following:

- M.K. ADRIA (Magyar Kiralyi) in a straight line between two comets, seen stamped in red and in purple (57 mm).
- A fouled anchor on the letter 'A' surmounted by St Stephen's crown, over a scroll with the words HAZANAK HASZNALJ, the official emblem of the company, applied in various colours, including green.
- A spectacular masted ship, unfortunately often a faint impression.
- A large fouled anchor surrounded by the three circular frames containing ADRIA UNGHERESE in at least three sizes: 31, 33 and 35 mm.
- A smaller version within one circular frame with: ADRIA UNGHERESE (22 mm).
- An anchor in a lozenge surrounded by dots.
- A large TRIESTE straight line stamp cancellation (38 mm).

As to the handstamps of named ships, the one that takes the lion's share is the SS *Carola*. This vessel identified its mail by a large circular cachet (32 mm) or by a straight-line Carola (25 mm).

SS Andrassy used a straight-line marking (40 mm).

SS *Arpad* had a framed oval cachet (44 mm) with the company's designation in Italian enclosing the ship's name in a straight line at the centre.

SS. *Szapary* employed a circular framed cachet (35 mm) with the name of the ship surrounded by that of the navigation company in Italian.

I am here illustrating various items from my collection, starting with the official letterhead in Hungarian of the *Adria*, used in Malta in 1892, with its subtitle in English (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1

A fine early letter (1898) from Malta to Fiume shows (**Figure 2**) five Queen Victoria halfpenny greens cancelled by the fouled anchor and crown in dark green, the *Kikotoben* and *Paquebot* straight-line cachets, the first in red, the second in purple.

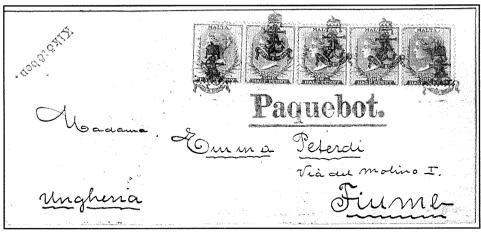


Figure 2

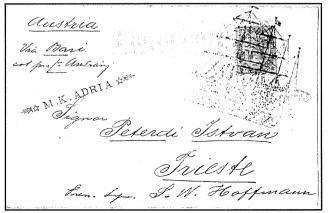


Figure 3 illustrates an earlier letter (1898) from Malta to Trieste, with three handstamps: the M.K. ADRIA straight-line in red, *Paquebot* in faint grey, and the large masted vessel in purple cancelling the two pence halfpenny Victoria blue, while Figure 4 has similar markings on a letter

Figure 3

to Naples. Another letter sent the same year, was carried by SS *Andrassy* from Malta to Riposto in Sicily for onward forwarding to Messina (**Figure 5**).



Figure 4



Figure 5



Two cachets in grey (SS ANDRASSY and *Paquebot*) cancel a Queen Victoria halfpenny green. *Adria* marked a 1899 letter from Malta to Trieste with a *Kikotoben* in red, a *Pauebot* in purple and a TRIESTE in black (**Figure 6**).

Figure 6

The *Adria* anchor in a lozenge surrounded by dots is illustrated in **Figure 7**.



Figure 7

Two SS *Carola* handstamps survive. The first (**Figure 8**), seen here on a letter from Malta to Genova, with three King Edward VII stamps cancelled by a round CAROLA cachet.



Figure 8



Another, on a postal card from Syracuse to Malta dated 1912 (Figure 9) which again shows the round CAROLA cachet accompanied by a *Paquebot*, both in purple and,

Figure 9

(**Figure 10**) a 1911 Italian postal card to Malta, this time with a straight-line *Carola* and *Paquebot*, both in purple.



Figure 10

The *Carola* had fine coloured postcards printed in Vienna, showing the ship in Grand Harbour, Malta, over a smaller vignette of Syracuse. The one illustrated here (**Figure 11**) comes from the Wickman collection. Although the *Carola* took thousands of passengers, this card, quite inexplicably, proves to be extremely rare.

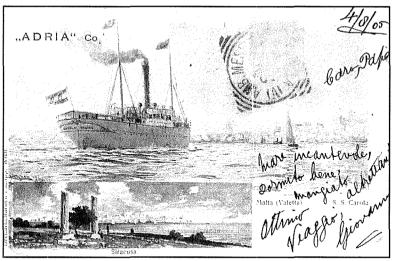


Figure 11

Two fine strikes of the round fouled anchor ADRIA UNGHERESE cachet (they are frequently quite smudged and indistinct) show on a 1906 letter from Catania to Malta (**Figure 12**) coupled with a *Paquebot* - all in purple. A different version of this handstamp can be seen on a 1906 postcard from Malta to France, cancelling a red and black one penny King Edward stamp (**Figure 13**).



Figure 12

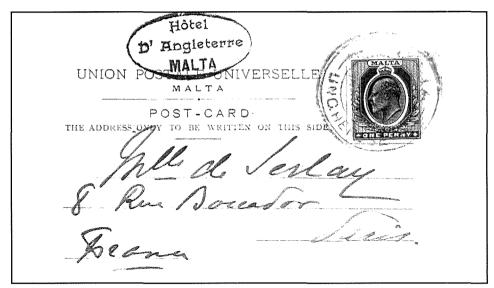


Figure 13

The much scarcer 22 mm circular ADRIA UNGHERESE cachet can be seen on a 1913 express cover to Malta stamped with two different *Paquebot* markings: the *Adria* one in lower-case and the General Post Office one in italic capitals (**Figure 14**).

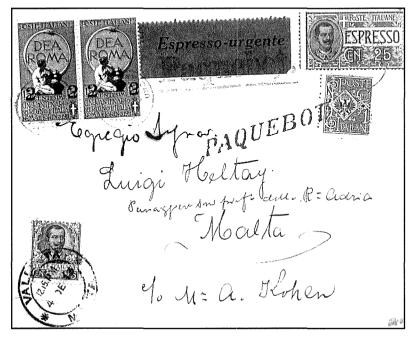


Figure 14

SS ARPAD cancelled a 1906 letter from Syracuse to Malta with her oval cachet in purple which, on the envelope is coupled with a G.P.O. *PAQUEBOT* in black (**Figure 15**).



Figure 15

SS SZAPARY used her round cachet in purple on a 1906 letter from Catania to Malta in which the fouled anchor circular ADRIA UNGHERESE obliterated the Italian Vittorio Emmanuele stamp. (**Figure 16**).



Figure 16

**Figure 17** records the Malta letterhead of the company in Italian, while **Figure 18** consists of a composite of four handstamps or seals found on official *Adria* documents in Malta, though not known used on correspondence.



Figure 17

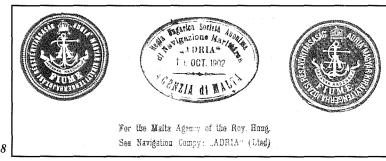


Figure 18

The last illustration is an advertisement for the service operated by the Carola concludes the illustrations (**Figure 19**).



Figure 19

When Fiume became part of Italy in 1924, the names of Hungarian personalities disappeared from the *Adria* fleet. Its ships started being designated by famous Italian composers: *Verdi*, *Puccini* and *Rossini*. Cachets of these ships can also be found cancelling Maltese maritime mails - but that is another story.

(Unless otherwise stated, illustrations from the author's collection)

#### Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Mr Victor Wickman, Mr Emanuel Magro-Conti of the Maritime Museum, Ms Theresa Vella of the National Museum of Fine Arts and Judge Andras Baka of the European Court of Human Rights, for their kind assistance.

#### Hand Obliterator – Malta – Maritime Mail – Dated 02.10.06 on Raphael Tuck & Sons – Maltese milkman Oilette post-card.

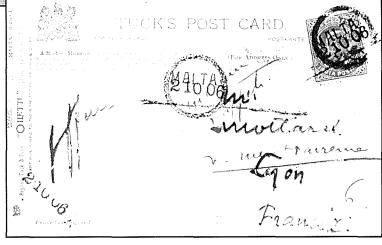
by Dr A. Bonnici KM, MD

The oilette – Maltese Lady – published in PSM Journal Vol. 31/1, April 2002 issue – generated considerable interest, but no new comments for or against? Malta Maritime postal connection have been put forward.

However our U.K. member **Michael Lewis** very kindly sent me another oilette – "A Maltese Milkman," sent to the same address on the same date to France – having identical markings.

Thanks go to Mr M. Lewis for sending me his item. Your observations and comments would be very much appreciated.





#### Fishing – Quarantine Regulations during the Plague Epidemic of 1813-1814

### Permission Granted to Fisherman from Gozo to fish in Comino Channel

by Dr A. Bonnici KM, MD

The plague of 1813-1814 extinguished itself in Malta on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1814, but not before invading Gozo which, thanks to the strict quarantine measures adopted in that island, had so far enjoyed a complete freedom from plague during the whole period of the disease in Malta. Governor Maitland cut off all communication with Gozo under penalty of death. A man was killed by firing squad because he had concealed that he was infected with plague (J. Attard, Xaghra Gozo). The first case is reported as that of Angelo Galea on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1814. The number of persons who died in Gozo was one hundred and four.

The pratique for Malta and Gozo was proclaimed on the 8th September 1814.

I believe that no historian has so far made reference to permits issued individually to Gozitan citizens/fisherman to fish in the Channel between Gozo and Comino, and I am happy to publish today two such certificates one issued on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1814 to Mr Michele Debrincat by Salv Carter, Captain Comanding in Gozo and another issued on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1814 to Dr Giuseppe Grima issued by N. Andora, *Ispettore Generale di Pulizia*.

They read as follows:

(Illustration No.1)

It is permitted to Mr Michele Debrincat and two sailors in his company to fish from sunrise to sunset in the channel between the island of Malta and Gozo, not to approach Comino, nor to pass beyond a straight line beyond Comino and to have a yellow flag flying.

The above mentioned Debrincat has taken an oath not to communicate with other boats at sea neither from the island of Malta or Comino under any circumstances. He and his companions were subjected to the most severe penalties, in case of contravention.

Rabato, 24th June, 1814

Given Salv. Carter Captain Commanding in Gozo

(Illustration No.2)

Is a similar permit given to Sig. Dottore Giuseppe Grima

on 27 June 1814, to go fishing in the Comino Channel, and to observe the same regulations and to be subjected to the same penalties in case of contravention

Rabato, 27th June, 1814

Signed N. Andora Inspector General of Police glie di festere dalla funta del giovus sino al ramontar del Gole.

glie di festere dalla funta del giovus sino al ramontar del Gole.

nel canale tra l'Isola di Malta, e quella del gip uon dovendo avvinnansi a comino, ne obrefassare la divezione in linea vetta.

di quest'ultima Isola lunyo el dotto canale, dovendo avere una Il sudetto Debrinest ha giuvato di non tommuniare con barca alui.
nos, uè con 90ti Isola di Malter, uè con quella di Cenino, essendi Edio dope getto, com e foure i duoi com fiagni alle fiiù vigorose fune in caso Di contravbuzione. Je de Jimo a nuovi ordini. Jabbato li 24. Rugno 1814. bahdieva gialla.

Illustration

(di gusy ultim Golo- fungo 11 8 grade dovamos avens una bandiene that ajiwate 'di non tommounicare, con barco-alouna, ne con da imo a condus maxinavi in opiosno sino al tramoni ne con gratto. In Comino, aprimo Cath, come youve, I you ! non devembe audicinasti a famino na olha la.meta" dek poin' magroda, paona, in east d'entidueny late sino o nuov "ordin

Illustration 2

## More about British Guiana Air Mails

by Dr A. Bonnici KM, MD

The British Guiana Philatelic Journal used to be published in June and December each year.

During a recent visit to the library of the Royal Philatelic Society, I came across two neatly bound volumes containing several issues from 1919 to 1931.

And I found the following references to an Air Mail Service.

No. 26 of June 1919 p. 4.

An article reviewing the experimental service parts says "that the West Indian chain of Islands is particularly adaptable to an Air Service."

No. 30 of June 1921, under aerial mails, amongst other things says The prospects of a British Guiana. West Indies – Great Britian air service are remote without a large subsidy from the British and Colonial Governments. The inauguration of a trial service for a year or two is a matter which should be taken up promptly by the British Guiana and West Indian Governments and merchants, in the present slow and unsatisfactory steamer mail service. The advantages to the colony would be great and widespread and cannot be reckoned in the mere cost of such a service.

No. 32 of June 1922 under Air Mail describes how Albermail stamp collector under the caption of British Guiana have got hold of a wrong idea with regard to an Air Mail to this colony and the West Indies.

What occurred was that the Government of British Guiana arranged with the Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Co., who were engaged for many months in an Aerial Survey of the Oronoco delta in Venezuela, to give a week's demonstration in British Guiana of the possibilities of making a complete aereal survey of the Colony. The seaplane delayed for weeks by rains and winds, eventually made a few trial flights, and in the flight to the hinterland came to grief by striking a submerged rock in attempting to rise. One or two parcels and letters were carried through the courtesy of Capt. Cochrane – Patrick, the aviator, to some officials in the district, but nothing went through the Post Office.

A British Guiana and British West Indies Air Mail is in a very nebulous state; all we have seen of it are schemes on paper.

'French Guiana' – In French Guiana aerial transport has been more progressive. Early in 1920 a company named 'The Transport Aerienade Guyanais' with two Machines started operations carrying freight and passengers from Cayenne to St. Laurent and to Iuiui, the

gold fields of French Guiana. About a year ago the Company issued stamps to be affixed to all mail carried by aeroplane.

No. 37 December 1925, states that B. Guiana may be having an aerial post of the diamond field before long.

No. 101 June 1931.

Among other things says that 'Curacao to British Guiana' – On the 13th May last a first flight despatch from Curacao was received at Georgetown containing 21 letters made up of 9 registered and 12 ordinary articles. No special cachet was applied at Curacao but all the letters were dated on the 7th May, and in all events show proof of hasty preparation. Mail was backstamped "Air Mail G.P.O BRITISH GUIANA 13 MAY 1931" with usual circular dates stamp. The Service which was operated by the Pan American Airways, Inc., was discontinued at the end of June.

'Salvador, C.A., to British Guiana' – From Salvador, Central America, there was received at Georgetown on the 15th inst. a first flight air mail comprising about 30 pieces. The entire mail had a special cachet applied.

From 1930 onwards reference in mark is made to Vol 31/1 of the PSM Journal, and B. Proud's Postal History of British Air Mails p. 219.

#### "Per First Mail" from Curacao (Willemstad) Dutch West Indies to Malta. 24 June 1932

by Dr A. Bonnici KM, MD

This interesting cover from Curacao to Malta left Curacao on the  $27^{th}$  June 1932 arriving in Liverpool on the 15th July.

It was registered having a red Curacao / Willemstad Registration label – Boxed black AR and a manuscript in the same hand writing of that for the address panel "per first mail." It bears also in a different hand writing "avec AR."

There are three, 15c postage stamps cancelled by the double ring CURACO / 27.6.32/WILLEMSTAD. It also bears the registered 15 July 1932 Liverpool marking. However there is no Malta arrival hand stamp.

What did the sender want to indicate by "per first Mail"?

Was it the first available ordinary mail? or was it the first (Air) Mail?

The fact that it took from  $27^{th}$  June to  $15^{th}$  July (19 days) from Curacao to Liverpool makes me more inclined to think that it was carried by ordinary Mail.

CURAÇAO.
Willemstad.
N° 17078



#### St. Kitts Nevis R.W.I. 23rd May 1932 to Malta on 17th June 1932

by Dr A. Bonnici KM, MD

This cover from St. Kitts Nevis B.W.I. to Malta having  $1\frac{1}{2}d$ , 6d, 1/-, stamps cancelled by St. Kitts Nevis - 23 May 1932 obliterator - arrived in Malta on 17th June 1932, after stoping at St. John's - Antigua B.W.I., on the 26th May 1932. This cover having a boxed Blue Paper, "By Air Mail/Par Avion" was crossed by a purple three parallel lines.

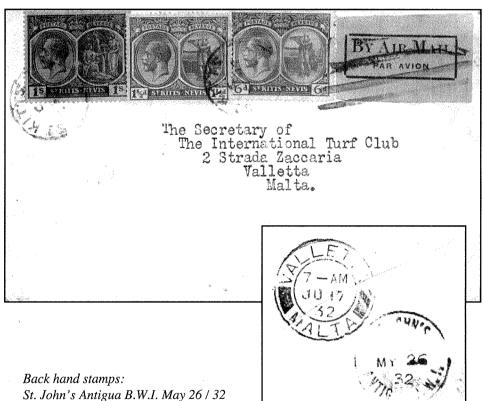
Obviously this cover was meant to be carried by air mail, and had the correct air mail franking  $1/7\frac{1}{2}d$ .

Why was the Air Mail label crossed out??

Was there a disruption of Air Mail service in this period? The franking of  $1/7\frac{1}{2}$ d seem to me to be correct.

It took 25 days to arrive from B.W.I. to Malta.

Your comments would be appreciated.



Valletta, Malta June 17 / 32

#### Treasures Of Malta - Maltese Costumes

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	. 26 February 1998
Values	. 6c, 16c, 6c, 16c and 26c
Stamp Size	. 39.5mm x 48mm (26c)
	31mm x 44mm (other values)
Art Designer	Frank Ancilleri
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	. Lithography.
Perforation	. 14 x 14 (26c)
	14 x 13.9 (other values)
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways (26c)
	Maltese Crosses Upright (other values)
Paper	. Chalk Surfaced
Gum	

#### This issue in the series "Treasures of Malta", features the following:

#### Costume in Malta - (values 6c and 16c)

The 6c stamp shows a gentleman's waistcoat circa 1790 -1810.

The 16c stamp shows a lady's dinner dress circa 1880.

#### Antoine De Favray - (values 6c and 16c)

The 6c stamp shows a portrait of Maria Amelia Grognet.

The 16c stamp shows a portrait (signed and dated) of Veneranda nee dei Baroni Abela with her grandson.

#### Souvenir Sheet - (value 26c)

The Souvenir Sheet incorporates a 26c value stamp, commemorating the choice of Valletta as European City of Culture for June, 1998.

Detailed information will first be given about the printing of the two pairs of values 6c and 16c. Information about the printing of the Souvenir Sheet will be given later.

#### **Colours:**

The two pairs of values 6c and 16c were printed in the four-colour process. The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Black--Cyan-Magenta-Yellow.

#### **Colour checks and Pane numbers:**

These are seen at each corner, of each Pane, in the two pairs of values 6c and 16c. Colour checks are seen in the left and right hand margins, next to the first and last stamps of the top and bottom rows whilst the Pane numbers are seen in the top and bottom margins,

above and below the same mentioned stamps. Colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right in all positions.

#### Plate/Pane numbers:

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in bottom margin only, printed in Black, in all Panes, of the above four values.

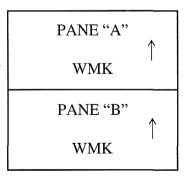
The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. All four values are of the vertical format.

#### **Perforation of Margins:**

The left hand margins of Panes A and B of each value, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual registration mark was only seen at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of the Printed Sheet, in each value. Unless eliminated during cutting they could be seen at the top and bottom, of the right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively. The Malta Post logo, consisting of a square, 1cm side,

enclosing the words "Posta" and "Malta", (all printed in Cyan), plus the "Postal Horn", (printed in Yellow), can be seen in the left and right hand margins, of each Pane, in each value, next to the middle row.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each of the four values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why, watermark in the four values is upright. Perforator ran from left to right.



#### **Imprint Blocks:**

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen below the fifth and sixth stamps, of the bottom row, in each Pane, of the four values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in Black. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, will contain only the Imprint.

A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

This set will be withdrawn from sale on the 17th February, 1999, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

On the first day of issue, of this set, sales amounted to Lm25,814.

#### Souvenir Sheet:

A 26c value stamp incorporated in a Souvenir Sheet, was also issued with this set. This Souvenir Sheet, which measures 123mm x 88mm, features Valletta, the Grand Harbour and parts of the Three Cities. The 26c stamp depicts Valletta, which in June 1998, was designated a European City of Culture.

The size of this stamp is 39.5mm x 48mm and its perforation is 13 x 13.1. This Souvenir Sheet was also printed in the four colour process and the progressive sheets were printed in the same order as in the other values. The frame of the Souvenir Sheet, like the frame of the other four values, is also part of the four colour process, an imitation of gold. The Printed Sheet consisted of sixteen Souvenir Sheets made up of four rows of four Souvenir Sheets.

The watermark on the Souvenir Sheet is Maltese Crosses Sideways, whereas that on the other four values is Maltese Crosses (upright)

#### Europa 1998 Issue

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 1998
Values	16c and 35c
Stamp Size	$33\text{mm} \times 27\text{mm}$
Art. Designers	Frank Ancilleri & Richard Caruana
Printer	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	$13.7 \times 13.8$
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

#### Colours:

This issue was printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Black-Cyan-Magenta-Yellow.

Both stamps are of the horizontal format.

A Pane of ten stamps of each value, is divided into twelve spaces, 4 rows of 3. In the first space, of the top row, of both values, are printed the following: at top of space the wording "National Festival" and at bottom of space, the translation in Maltese "Festival Nazzjonali". In between these wordings can be seen the three "Palji" I, II and III won by the first three competitors in the "Regatta" as well as the "Shield" held by the winners of the "Regatta" for a year. In the first space of the second row, of both values, can be seen the word "Europa" and the figure "'98". The value of a whole Pane of ten stamps is seen in the top margin, above the middle space of the top row, printed in black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter, are seen in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of both values. They are seen next to the first and last spaces of the top and bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right in all positions, in all Panes, of both values. Another printing mark is seen, in the left and right hand margins, next to the first and last spaces of the third row. It consists of a square, 1cm side, printed in Cyan, enclosing the words "Posta" and "Malta" also printed in Cyan. Also enclosed in the square, is the "Postal Horn" printed in Yellow.

The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of nine Panes, of ten stamps, A to I.

#### Plate/Pane Numbers:

These again, like the colour checks, are seen in four different positions on the margins of each Pane, of both values. They are seen above the first and last spaces of the top row as well as below the first and last spaces of the bottom row, of each Pane.

$$16c = 1A \times 4$$
 up to and including  $1I \times 4$   
 $35c = 1A \times 4$  up to and including  $1I \times 4$ 

#### **Perforation of Margins:**

Pane "A" WMK	Pane "B" WMK	Pane "C" WMK
Pane "D" WMK	Pane "E" WMK	Pane "F" WMK
Pane "G" WMK	Pane "H" WMK	Pane "I" WMK

The left hand margins of Panes A, D and G are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, plus the four margins of Panes B, C, E, F, H and I are all perforated.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values, would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in both values is upright. Perforator ran from left to right.

#### **Imprint Blocks:**

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen below the middle space of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, from each value, will include the Imprint, the colour checks, the Pane numbers and also the square, 1cm side, mentioned earlier. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set was withdrawn from sale on 22nd April, 1999, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

## International Year of the Ocean----X World Cup 1998-----Y

by J. Farrugia

	X	$\mathbf{Y}$
Date of Issue	27-5-98	10-6-98
Values	2c, 6c, 16c, 27c	6c. 16c. 22c
Stamp size	$31$ mm $\times$ 44mm (2c, 6c)	$33\text{mm} \times 27\text{mm}$
	$44$ mm $\times$ $31$ mm (16c, 27c)	
Art Designer	Isabella Borg	Richard Caruana
Printers	Printex Ltd.	Printex Ltd.
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	$14 \times 13.9 (2c, 6c)$	$13.75 \times 13.9$
	$13.9 \times 14  (16c, 27c)$	
Watermark	Crosses Upright (2c, 6c)	Crosses Upright
	Crosses Sideways (16c, 27c)	
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.	P.V.A.

#### **Colours:**

These two sets were printed in the four colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets of both sets were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter were printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of each value, of both issues. These are seen next to the first and last stamps, of the top and bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, in all positions.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in bottom margin only, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values, of both issues.

#### **Printed Sheets:**

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps (values 2c and 6c), and ten rows of five stamps (16c and 27c). Values 2c and 6c are of the vertical format and values 16c and 27c are of the horizontal format.

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three panes A, B and C.

Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All values are of the horizontal format.

#### **Perforation of Margins:**

Issue X – In the 2c and 6c values, the left hand margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 16c and 27c values the top margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet in the 16c and 27c values, but only at each end, in the right hand margin, of the Printed Sheet, in the 2c and 6c values. So these registration marks may have been seen at the top and bottom of the left hand margins of Panes A and at the top and bottom of the right hand margins of Panes B in the 16c and 27c values, but at the top only of the right hand margin of Panes A and at the bottom only of the right hand margins of Panes B in the 2c and 6c values. The logo of the Maltapost plc. may be seen at each end of the fifth row, in Panes A and B, in the 16c and 27c values, but next to the third row, of Panes A and B, in the 2c and 6c values. It consists of a square of side 1cm, printed in Cyan, enclosing the words "Posta" and "Malta", also printed in Cyan, plus the "Postal Horn" printed in Yellow.

Issue Y – The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C, of all values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet, but may have been eliminated during cutting of Printed Sheets into Panes. If not eliminated they may be seen, or parts of them, at each end of the top margin of Panes A and at each end of the bottom margin of Panes C, of each value.

#### Plate/Pane numbers:

These like the colour checks, were printed in four different positions, on the margins of each Pane, in all values of issues X and Y. They are seen above the first and last stamps of the top row and also under the first and last stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure (a) for the 16c and 27c values of issue X and as shown in figure (b) for the 2c and 6c values also of issue X, but as shown in

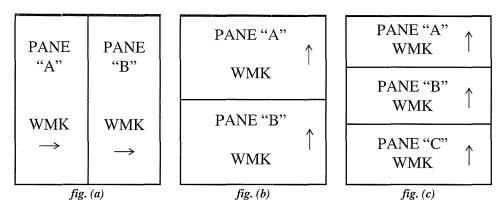


figure (c) for all values of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in the 16c and 27c values of issue X and upright in the 2c and 6c values of issue X as well as in all values of issue Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom in figure (a) and from left to right in figures (b) and (c).

#### **Imprint Blocks:**

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen below the fifth and sixth stamps of the bottom row, in the 2c and 6c values, in each Pane of each value, but below the middle stamp of the bottom row in the 16c and 27c values, in each Pane of each value, of issue X. The same Imprint is seen under the sixth stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issue Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, in issues X and Y, will contain only the Imprint.

A special hand postmark, with an appropriate motif, was used for cancellation on the first day of both issues.

Stamps of these issues were withdrawn from sale on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1999 (issue X) and on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1999 (issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted.

#### **Souvenir Sheet:**

With issue Y, a Souvenir Sheet, measuring  $122\text{mm} \times 87\text{mm}$  was also issued. The three values of issue Y, having the same stamp size and perforation, were printed together in the Souvenir Sheet. The Watermark in the Souvenir Sheet is Maltese Crosses Sideways, instead of Upright as in the normal Panes. Thus individual stamps of any value, can still be distinguished whether they formed part of a Souvenir Sheet or a normal Pane, by means of the direction of the watermark.

The Printed Sheet of the Souvenir Sheets, consisted of sixteen Souvenir Sheets, made up of four rows of four Souvenir Sheets.

#### Anniversaries 1998-----X Christmas 1998-----Y

by J. Farrugia

	$\mathbf{X}$	$\mathbf{Y}$
Date of Issue	17-9-98	19-11-98
Values	1c, 6c, 11c, 19c, 26c	6c, 6c+2c, 16c+3c, 26c+3c
Stamp Size	$27$ mm $\times$ $33$ mm	$39.5$ mm $\times 48$ mm
Art Designer	Harry Borg	Maltapost p.l.c.
Printers	Printex Ltd.	Printex Ltd.
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	$13.8 \times 13.7$	$14 \times 14$
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.	P.V.A.

#### **Colours:**

These two issues were printed in the four colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan,Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets, for all values, in issues X and Y, were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta and Yellow.

Colour Checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter were printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of each value. They are seen next to the first and last stamps, of the top and bottom rows, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right in all positions.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the bottom margin only, in all Panes, of all values, printed in black, in issues X and Y.

#### **Printed Sheets:**

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. All values are of the vertical format.

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has forty stamps made up of five rows of eight stamps. All values are of the vertical format.

#### **Perforation of Margins:**

Issue X – The top margins of Panes A, B and C, of all values are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet, and unless eliminated during cutting, they may be seen at the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes C, of each value. Another printing mark, the Maltapost p.l.c. logo, is seen in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, of each value, next to the first and last stamps, of the fifth row.

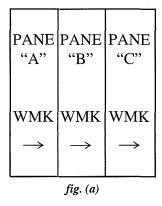
Issue Y – The left hand margins of Panes A and B, of all values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, are all perforated. The usual registration mark was seen at each corner of the printed sheet, and unless eliminated during cutting, they may be seen at each end of the top margin of Panes A, and at each end of the bottom margin of Panes B, of each value. Another printing mark, the Maltapost p.l.c. logo, is seen in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, of each value, next to the first and last stamps of the third or middle row.

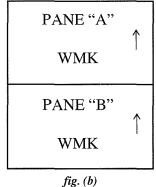
#### Plate/Pane numbers:

These like the colour checks, were printed in four different positions, on the margins of each Pane, in all values of issues X and Y. They are seen above the first and last stamps of the top row and also under the first and last stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane.

Issue X 
$$1c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4$$
  
 $6c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4$   
 $11c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4$   
 $19c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4$   
 $26c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4$ 

Issue '	$6c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$
	$6c + 2c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$
	$16c + 3c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$
	$26c + 3c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$





From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values before cutting into Panes would look as shown in figure (a) for all values of issue X, but as shown in figure (b) for all values of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence

why, watermark in all values of issue X is sideways but upright in all values of issue Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom in figure (a) but from left to right in figure (b).

#### **Imprint Blocks:**

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the middle stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values of issue X, but under the fourth stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issue Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will contain only the Imprint.

A special hand postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of both issues. Stamps of these issues were withdrawn from sale on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1999 (issue X) and on the17<sup>th</sup> March, 1999 (issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted.

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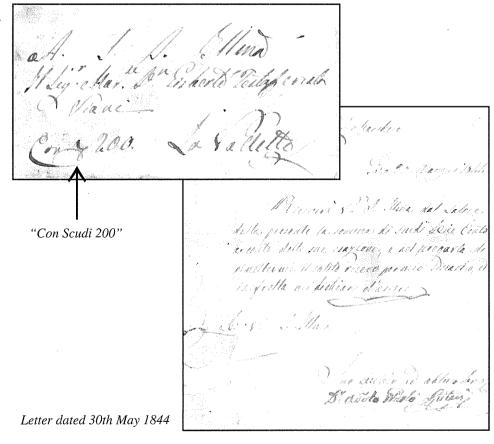
#### **Unusual Monetary Markings on Entires 1844 - 1849**

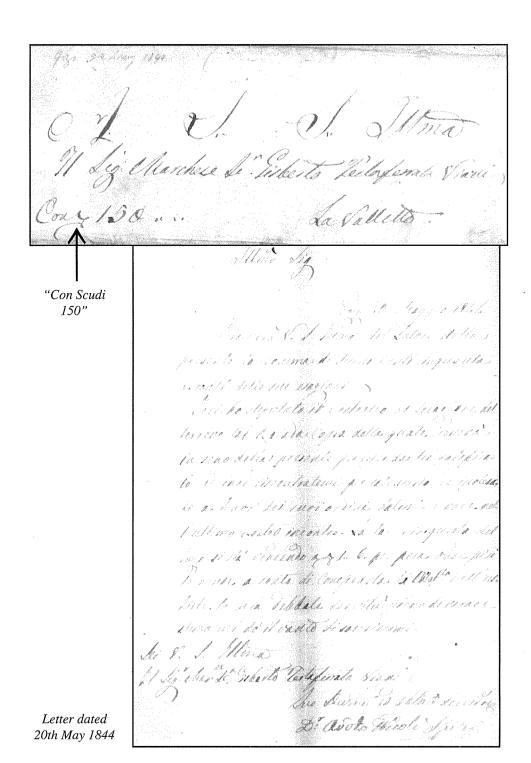
by Dr A. Bonnici KM, MD

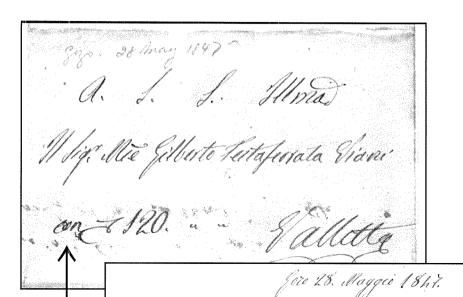
I am reproducing four entires written by Avvocato Nikola Spiteri during the period May 1844 to September 1849, from Gozo to "Il Sig. Marchese Gilberto Testaferrata Viani" in Valletta, Malta.

On each of these letters there is written in the left hand corner "Con scudi 200, con scudi 150, con scudi 120 and con scudi 50."

Going through the letters it transpires that Avvocato Spiteri was collecting this money due to the Marchese and sending it to him by a personal courier who was to hand him the letter, and the money separately, as it was impossible to include 200 scudi coins in such entires. Scudi Coins formed part of the official coinage of the Knights of Malta and ceased to be legal tender in 1886.







"Con Scudi 120"

Plicevera & S. Illina dal faller della più di chiertimi fe 120, a cente delle rus ceariène fatte, è da farer. So nell'intranti mere intende di venire costa, e un tale eccasione avro l'enere di com, municane meglio a viva voce qualche cora ro i rue i intergri — Oggi intende di irlasciare il mandato cecativo contro friuga pe fatt, e friurppe Opape per i residenta la careraina, mentre la, nariamente, non ostante d'aver mandato per qui peù volle, non interdocre di pagare, neuti altro per ora, du cultirle come il ro, lete la mia resvita, muntre mi dichiare d'yerre.

Di el S. Allmad

Juo Bumo, a Olfmo Servid;

Wato (Violo Spoten)

Migi Marchus Gilbirto Tutaferrata Giani

Letter dated 28th May 1846

Ggo 6:01.9 fre e 'Con Scudi 50' nente intocarjons nel fueturo 1. V. anico Sincero Letter dated 21st September 1849

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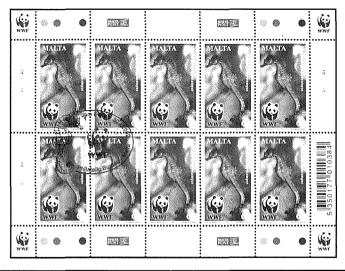
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## THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## MALTEX III PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 8th. 9th and 10th NOVEMBER 2002

c/o 91, Manwel Dimech Street, Sliema SLM14, Malta The Members of the Exhibitions Commitee 2002 of the Malta Philatelic Society are:

email: secretary@maltaphilately.org

Dr Alfred Bonnici MD KM (Chairman) Anthony Fenech, Joseph Buttigieg, John Cardona and Walter Rizzo FCCA FIA CPAA

#### EXHIBITOR'S APPLICATION FORM

Applicable only for residents in Malta

I the undersigned wish to participate in the Third Maltey Philatelia Exhibition in the Section

	ed hereunder:	recipate in the Time istance I infactic Exhibition in the Section
a)	MALTA	Traditional / Postal History
b)	FOREIGN	Traditional / Postal History
c)	THEMATIC	Collections
d)	YOUTH SECTION	Under 16 years
Kindly	tick $[\sqrt{\ }]$ which of the a	above is applicable.
Descri	ption of the Exhibit:	
 Numbe	er of pages in the Exhib	pit
		f the Exhibition and agree to abide by them.
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This Application Form duly signed and complete in all respects should reach the Exhibitions Committee of the Malta Philatelic Society at c/o 91, Manwel Dimech Street, Sliema, Malta, by not later then 30th September 2002.

We regret we are unable to invite foreign participation for Maltex III.

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# Birthday Card Christmas Card Anniversary Card Congratulations Card Greeting Card

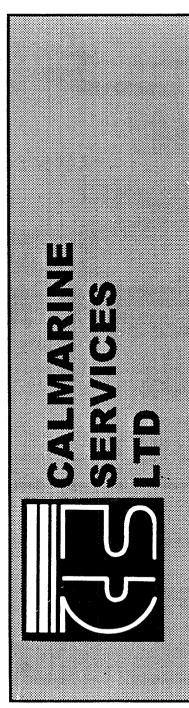


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## Maltese Cuisine











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