

1st November 2000 - 31st March 2001

POSTAL DIARY

by Anthony Fenech

07 November Maltapost plc notifies that the withdrawal date for the 'Republic of Malta 25th Anniversary' issue, previously set at 6th December 2000, has now been extended to 6th January 2001.

14 November New franking machines have been installed at:

- i) Qormi B.P.O. and
- ii) San Ġwann B.P.O.

With effect from today, a 29mm double ring inscribed with the respective Branch cancellation, namely Qormi B.P.O. and San Ġwann B.P.O. has been used. The Qormi B.P.O. machine cancellor is inscribed "Qormi B.P.O./Malta" followed by 5 evenly spaced wavy lines, with the date and time (14.11.00 - 7) in the middle.

The San Ġwann B.P.O. machine cancellor is very similar to that used at the Qormi Branch, but with "San Ġwann B.P.O./Malta" replacing "Qormi B.P.O./Malta".



18 November The Christmas 2000 Commemorative set of 4 stamps and a Miniature sheet comprising the four stamps has been issued today. The values in the set are 6c (without surcharge), 6c+3c (surcharge), 16c+3c (surcharge) and 26c+3c (surcharge). The stamps are designed by Ġorġ Mallia. Date of withdrawal of the stamps in this set and the Miniature Sheet is the 18th April 2001. Maltapost has provided a special handstamp to cancel the Christmas stamps on the first day of issue. The Malta Philatelic Bureau issued "The Malta Stamp" No.183 to preview the stamps in the new set.



05 December The general public is notified that payments of Water & Electricity, Telephone and Cable TV bills are now being accepted at all the Maltapost branches.

05 December Branch Post Office hours during Christmas period: In order to cope with the increased demand for postal services over the Christmas period, Maltapost plc wishes to advise the public that the following Branch Post Offices will also be offering postal services between 4.00pm and 7.00pm on the following dates during this month: 5th to 7th, 11th and 12th, 14th and 15th December.

Branches:	Valletta	–	Dar Annona
	Sliema	–	Manwel Dimech Street
	Paola	–	Civic Centre

Hamrun	–	Old Railway Avenue
Birkirkara	–	Valley Road
Mosta	–	Civic Centre

The public is reminded that the latest date for local posting to ensure pre-Christmas delivery is Monday, 18th December. Maltapost notifies that delivery of mail will also be carried out on Sunday 17th December.

07 December Maltapost plc reminds the public that the minimum size for envelopes intended for mailing is 140 x 90 mm. Mail items smaller than this size will not be processed or delivered.

11 December Three of the four stamps in this year's Christmas Stamp Set issued on Saturday 18th November, include a small surcharge. This has been the practice since 1969, with proceeds from this surcharge being distributed annually to charitable institutions in Malta and Gozo. As a result of last year's surcharge, Lm2460 will be distributed to 20 philanthropic organisations whose principal aim is Child Welfare. It is hoped that this figure will be exceeded with this year's issue.

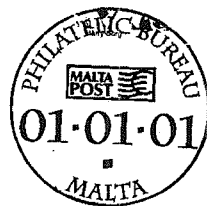
14 December A new 29mm POSTAGE PAID double ring machine slogan has started to be used as from today at the Bulk Mail section at the C.M.R. The double ring is inscribed "POSTAGE PAID/arcs/MALTA" and is followed by 7 wavy lines, with the date and time shown in the middle of the double ring. The slogan is applied in red.



17 December All Maltapost plc Branches are kept open today, Sunday, and mail collections and deliveries are being effected. The Sunday postmark is used on all mail processed today.

03 January - On the occasion of the first date of the New Year, which reads 01.01.01, Maltapost has issued a Philatelic Bureau Card carrying a handstamp with this unique date. The Philatelic Bureau Card is the first in a series of twelve, with similar dates, to be issued over the next twelve successive years.

The Card bearing a 20c stamp from the Greetings issue, stamped with this date can be sent through the post at no extra charge, provided it is posted by not later than Saturday 6th January 2001. Cards similarly cancelled and posted after this date will have to carry stamps affixed thereon to cover the required postage. The second Philatelic Bureau Card in the series will be issued on 02.02.02.



04 January - A limited number of Malta desk Calendars have been made available to philatelists on request to the Customer Care Department at Maltapost. This year's Desk Calendar depicts the winning entries and runners-up in the Children's Stamp Design Competition organised by Maltapost last year.

08 January - The Sub-Post Office at "Malton" 7, Ċensu Scerri Street, Sliema will be closed between today 8th and Wednesday 10th January 2001, both dates inclusive. During this period, the public may avail itself of services at Sliema Branch Post Office in Manwel Dimech Street.

24 January - 2000 Year Pack, the 13th in the series is issued today at all Maltapost Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo. The front and back cover show the design of the Lm2 stamp in the Definitive (Part 2) issue, while the inside contains short description in English, Italian, German and French together with all the stamps issued during 2000.

09 February - Three new 26.5mm double-ring datestamps inscribed "C.M.R. - Marsa/(arc spacers)/Malta" replaced the former "Central Mail Room/Marsa" handstamps with effect from today. These handstamps are operative at The Central Mail Room desk on incoming and outgoing mail and show both date and time.



12 February - Maltapost advises the public that a chain letter is being circulated with instructions for further circulation by post without the need for affixing postage stamps. The public is being informed that the instructions circulated with the chain letters contravene the Post Office Act, Article 30 of the Inland Post Regulations which specifies that a postal article posted without the postage being pre-paid or when insufficiently pre-paid, shall be charged with double the deficient postage and delivered to the addressee who shall be liable to pay the said charge upon acceptance of the postal article. If in such case the postal article refused by the addressee or delivery of the postal article cannot be effected, the postal article shall be returned to the sender, who shall be liable to pay the aforementioned charge.

23 February - A new postage stamp set '2001 Malta Carnival' has been issued today. The set consists of 5 stamps (Values 6c, 11c, 16c, 19c and 27c) and a Miniature Sheet incorporating 2 stamps values 12c and 37c. The stamps designed by Francis X. Ancilleri are printed on unwatermarked paper at Bundesdruckerei GmbH (Germany). A special handstamp, shaped like a balloon has been used on the new stamps and Miniature Sheet posted on the first day of issue. The Malta Philatelic Bureau issued "The Malta Stamp" (No 184) to preview the stamps and Miniature Sheet in this set.



09 March - A new 35mm double ring metal datestamp has been introduced today at The Central Mail Room to cancel outgoing mail, as well as backstamping incoming mail handled at the C.M.R. Desk. The date on this datestamp appears in a single line in the middle - 09.03.2001 - the year being shown in full. This datestamp is unique in that it has a handle and it is shaped like an auctioneer's mallet. To cancel stamps on a postal article,



one has to rap its head onto the envelope or packet, as if one were hammering a nail into a piece of wood.

10 March - As a result of Local Council Elections being held in certain districts, Maltapost has been asked to close its Branch Post Offices at Birżebbuġia (Zaren Dalli Street), Hamrun (Old Railway Avenue) and Xagħra, Gozo (132 Racecourse Street) during the voting period today, Saturday 10th March. The Sub-Post Office at Arznell Street, Marsaxlokk is also being kept closed in connection with the Elections.

12 March - A special hand postmark - B. Vincente Sicluna Hernandez - is being used today at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, during office hours. The handstamp is inscribed "B. Vincente Sicluna Hernandez/Wild 1-Emigrant Malti/12.III.2001/Valletta/Malta".



20 March - The Sub-Post Office at "Just Jase", Islets Promenade, Bugibba will be closed between today, Tuesday 20th March and Tuesday 3rd April 2001, both days inclusive. During this period, the public may avail itself of services at St. Paul's Bay Branch Post Office in Main Street.

21 March - Maltapost issued its second commemorative set for 2001, today. The set "Lighthouses in Malta" is designed by Richard J. Caruana and consists of 3 stamps whose values are 6c, 16c and 22c. The stamps are printed on unwatermarked paper, in sheets of 10 stamps at Bundesdruckerei GmbH. The date of withdrawal of this set of stamps will be 21st March 2002. The "Lighthouses in Malta" set has been previewed in "The Malta Stamp" bulletin No 185 issued by the Malta Philatelic Bureau.



A special hand postmark has been used today to cancel the new stamps on their first day of issue.

22 March - A special hand postmark "Bellinzona 2001" was used at the Counter Hall, Castille Place, Valletta from Thursday 22nd March to Saturday 24th March during office hours. The handstamp inscribed "Bellinzona/22-25.III.2001/Aero Espo Filatelia 01 - Valletta - Malta" was also used, besides these dates, at Bellinzona Stamp Fair, in Italy, on Sunday 25th March. Maltapost was represented at this Fair by Sig. Lorenzo Mantegna.



For Your Diary Maltex 2001
Gozo - 16th & 17th October / Malta - 20th & 21st October
For more information Contact: Joe Buttigieg
91, Manoel Street, Sliema, Malta.
Tel: (00356) 342189 Fax: (00356) 346069