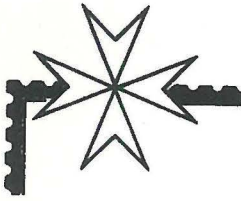




THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Malta)

THE PSM JOURNAL



THE PSM JOURNAL

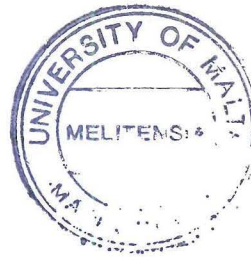
Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84 & AUSIPEX '84
Silver-Bronze ISRAPIL '85 & PHILTEMA '85
Silver STOCKHOLMIA '86
Editor: Dr A Bonnici, K.M., M.D.
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Ta' Xbiex, Malta.
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Vol. 30/1

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Self Portrait of Edward Caruana Dingli reproduced by courtesy of the Director
National Museum of Fine Arts Valletta

Edward Caruana Dingli's MELITA Stamps

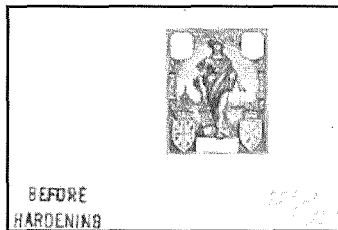
by Anthony Fenech

A few months after the granting of Self-Government in 1921, the Malta Postal Administration decided to issue a new Definitive Set of postage stamps. A Stamp Design Competition was announced and from the designs submitted, those chosen were Edward Caruana Dingli's allegorical figure of "Melita" for the ¼d to 6d and the £1 values and Gianni Vella's symbolic design of "Melita and Britannia embracing" for the 1/- to the 10/- values.

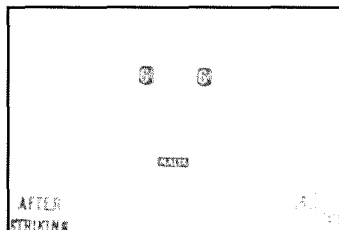
On the 15th July 1921, Edward Caruana Dingli received a formal letter from the Lieutenant-Governor's Office in Malta informing him that "With reference to your letter of the 19th April 1921, I have the honour to inform you that you have been awarded the first prize of £20 for your design for Postage and Revenue stamps of Malta illustrative of the institution of Self-Government in these Islands. A draft on the Crown Agents for the colonies for the above amount is enclosed."

Caruana Dingli's design depicted "Melita", an emblematic figure representing Malta, supporting a rudder with her right hand, and a seascape background with a Gozo boat on the right and the protruding St. Elmo Lighthouse (reproduced on one of the stamps issued by Maltapost last month) on the other side of the figure.

All the values were printed by De La Rue & Co. by the typographic process on chalk surfaced paper (except for the £1), watermarked Multiple Script CA (sideways for lower values, sideways and upright for the £1 value). The undenominated Die Proofs of the key plate with blank name and value tablets indicate that the printing of the stamps was a double operation with the duty plates, as well as the name plate being added afterwards.



Undenominated Melita Die Proof of Key Plate for lower values in black on white glazed card with blank value tablets cleared, marked "Before Hardening" and dated in pencil 22/5/22.



Die Proof of the name and 6d Duty Plate endorsed "After Striking" and dated in pencil 3/7/22.

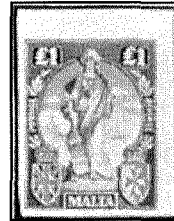


Two of the low values of the melita stamp issue, as issued.

Specialised collections of the “Melita” Issues are enhanced by the inclusion of the different Die Proofs and Colour Trials that were produced by the Printers before the stamps were issued.



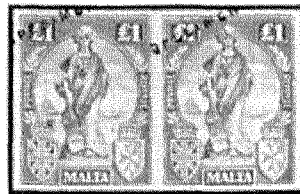
Colour Trial.
£1 Imperforate in blue and green.



Colour Trial
£1 Imperforate in blue and brown.



£1 Imperforate Colour Trial in blue and green overprinted “SPECIMEN”.



£1 Imperforate Colour Trial pair in blue and green overprinted “SPECIMEN” diagonally at top left corners.



£1 Imperforate Colour Trial in blue and brown handstamped “SPECIMEN” in tall sans serifs type diagonally.

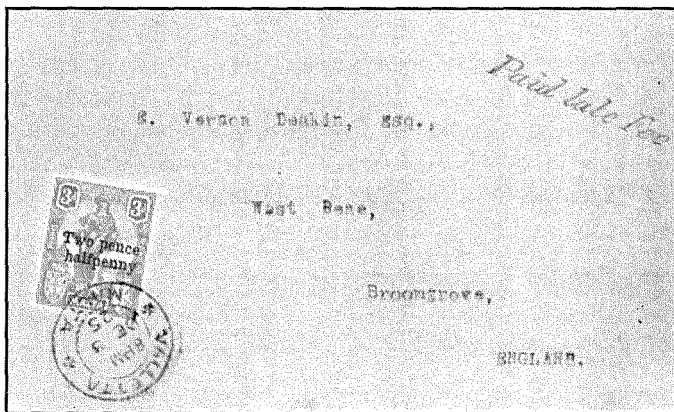
Not all the stamps in the set were issued on the same date. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 6d, 1/- and 2/- values were issued on 1st August 1922. The remaining values were issued as and when the corresponding values of the preceding issue ran off sale. The £1 was put on sale probably on 28th August 1922.

In August 1922 some “rather adverse remarks” were made in the “Popolo di Malta” regarding the postage stamps that had just been issued. Edward Caruana Dingli who was dissatisfied with the engraving of his design, expressed in a letter, in The Malta Chronicle that the printing “in many respects does not tally artistically with the original and the result falls short of my expectations.” The artist could not but endorse the remarks made by the writer in the “Popolo di Malta”, as the printers were not faithful to his original artwork and their execution left much to be desired. Edward Caruana Dingli very much regretted that he had not been consulted as regards the size and colouring of the stamps.

In December 1925, the foreign letter rate fell from 3d to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d and this necessitated a $2\frac{1}{2}$ d denomination. The 3d stamp which existed in shades of cobalt or ultramarine was surcharged “Two pence halfpenny” in two lines at the Government Printing Office, Valletta. A $2\frac{1}{2}$ d value in ultramarine was issued in February 1926 when a new 3d stamp, black on yellow paper replaced the 3d cobalt or 3d ultramarine stock of stamps that had been overprinted.

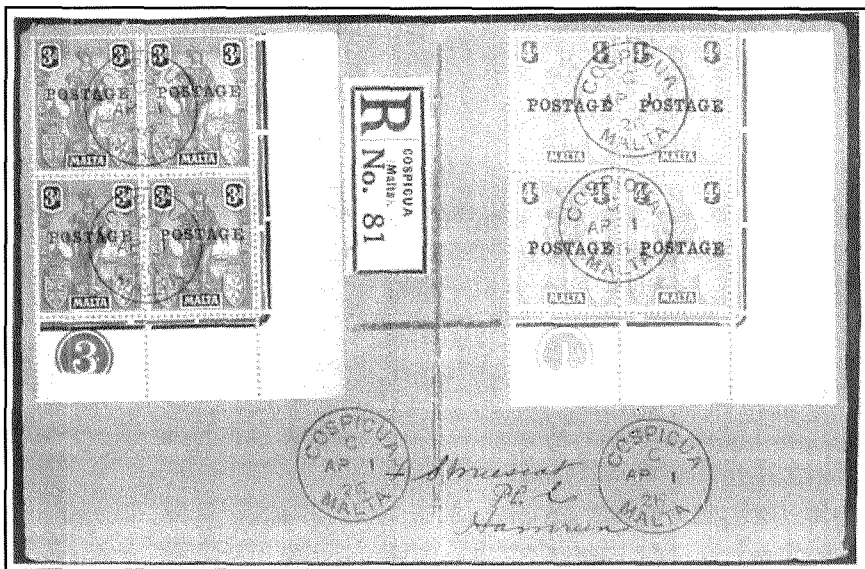


£1 Die Proof in the near issued colours on thin wove card (38 x 48mm).



The “3d” Melita stamp overprinted “Two pence halfpenny” was issued on 3 December 1925. A First Day of Issue Cover of the 3d ultramarine overprinted “Two pence halfpenny”.

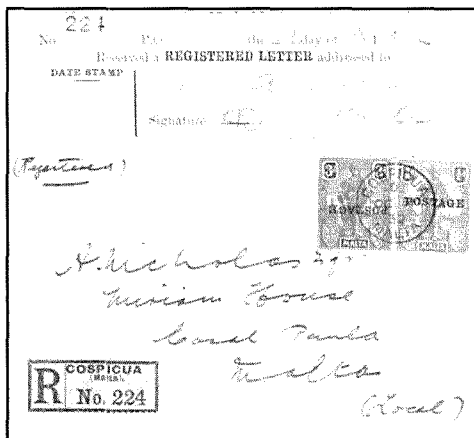
On the 1st April 1926 the Melita stamps were released overprinted “POSTAGE”. The overprinting was carried out at the Government Printing Office in Valletta. Before this date Maltese stamps were valid for both postage and revenue purposes. The issue of the “POSTAGE” overprints which were meant to be used solely for postage ran concurrently with a special revenue set of stamps ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to £5 which had just been issued for fiscal purposes only.



1926 (1st April)-

Two values from the collection of the set of Blocks of four from the lower right corners of sheets with Plate Numbers, of the Melita overprinted "POSTAGE", all neatly cancelled on Registered Cover by Cospicua "C" First Day of Issue Cancellations.

The stock of the £1 Melita stamps were also overprinted "POSTAGE" but when it was found how few there were, it was decided to destroy them. This would avoid speculation. A major variety is the 3d with inverted "POSTAGE" overprint. It is believed that only two sheets of 160 stamps exist with "POSTAGE" inverted. Examples of this variety used genuinely on cover also exist. However, special forgeries of the 3d with inverted "POSTAGE" are offered on the stamp market and one should seek advice before one is lured into buying it.



1932 (31st October)-

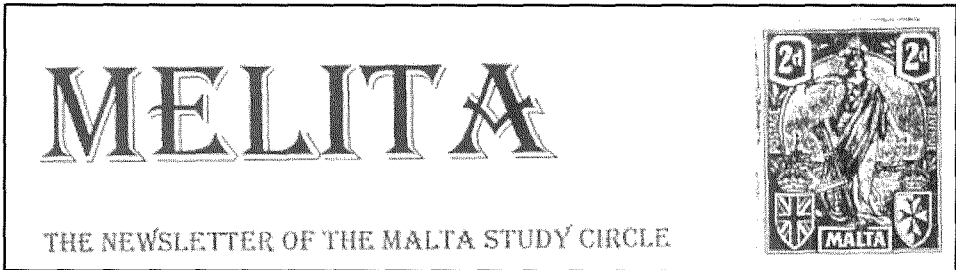
Melita 3d "POSTAGE" inverted and 1/2d "POSTAGE" tied to a Registered Cover by Cospicua "D" cds addressed to Casal Paula.

3d Inverted overprint stamp accepted as genuine by the Malta Postal Authorities. Registration slip No. 224 as issued by the clerk at the Cospicua B.O.

The issue of Edward Caruana Dingli's folklore stamps is a tribute to the artist who created the helmeted allegorical figure of Malta - the much cherished "MELITA". Philatelically, Edward Caruana Dingli will be immortalized through his creation much endeared by the avid collector of the ever popular Malta stamps.



The Melita "£1" Stamp adopted by the Philatelic Society of Malta for its 20th Anniversary Commemorative Card.



The Malta Study Circle of London Newsletter is named after Edward Caruana Dingli's MELITA.

Acknowledgements:

- Ms Lotty Mallia
- Mr Gordon Caruana Dingli MD, LRCP & S(E & G), FRCS (E), FRCS (G).
- James A. Mackay - The Story of Malta and her Stamps.
- The Malta Study Circle - Malta, The Stamps and Postal History (1576-1960).
- Popolo di Malta - August 1922.
- The Malta Chronicle - August 1922.
- Robson Lowe International Ltd. - Major Clifford Cole Sale Catalogue Basle (4-7 April 1978).
- Phillips London - The Dr Gordon Latto Sale Catalogue (Thursday 28 October 1993).
- Harmers of London - Dr R.K. Clough Collection Catalogue of Sale (January 16, 1990).
- Harmers of London - the Col. Lloyd - Lowies Sale Catalogue (January 24/25, 1978).

Anniversaries 1997 -----X Pioneers In Education -----Y

by J. Farrugia

	X	Y
Date of Issue	10-7-97	24-9-97
Values	1c, 16c (Antonio Sciortino) 6c, 11c (Gozo Cathedral) 6c, 22c (Joseph Calleja)	6c, 16c, 19c, 26
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm (1c, 16c) 44mm x 31mm (6c, 11c) 44mm x 31mm (6c, 22c)	31mm x 44mm
Art Designer	Design Section Posta Ltd.	Debbie Caruana Dingli
Printers	Printex Ltd.	Printex Ltd.
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	14 x 13.9 (1c,16c) 13.9 x 14 (6c, 11c) 13.9 x 14 (6c, 22c)	14 x 13.9
Watermark	Crosses Upright (1c, 16c) Crosses Sideways (6c, 11c) Crosses Sideways (6c, 22c)	Crosses upright
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 in issues X and Y were printed in the following order: values 1c and 11c of issue X, Yellow, Cyan, Magenta, Black. The other four values of issue X and all values of issue Y, 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. 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.

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps in 16c and 11c values (Gozo Cathedral) and in the 6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja) but made up of five rows of ten stamps in the 1c and 16c values (Antonio Sciortino). The 1c and 16c values are of the vertical format, the other four values being of the horizontal format.

Issue Y – 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 values are of the vertical format.

Perforation Of Margins:

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A and B, in the 1c and 16c values (Antonio Sciortino) are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 6c and 11c values (Gozo Cathedral) and in the 6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja) the top margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, of these four values, are all perforated. The usual printing registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet in the 6c and 11c (Gozo Cathedral) and in the 6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja). Unless eliminated during cutting, this mark could be seen at the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and in the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes B, of these four values. In the 1c and 16c values, it was only seen at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of the Printed Sheet. Again unless eliminated during cutting, this mark could be seen only at the top of the right hand margin of Panes A and at the bottom of the right hand margin of Panes B, of these two values.

Another printing mark consisting of a circle 1cm in diameter, enclosing the “Postal Horn” and the words “Posta Ltd. Malta”, can be seen in the left and right hand margins, of each Pane, of each value. It is next to the first and last stamps of the third row in the values 1c and 16c, but next to the first and last stamps of the fifth row in the other four values.

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 printing registration mark was only seen at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of the Printed Sheet. Unless eliminated during cutting, this mark could be seen at the top of the right hand margin of Panes A and at the bottom of the right hand margin of panes B, of all values. Another printing mark can be seen in the left and right hand margins, of each Pane, of all values. This consists of a square, 1cm side, printed in Cyan, next to the first and last stamps of the middle row of each Pane. Enclosed in this square are the words “Posta” and “Malta”, also printed in Cyan, and the “Postal Horn” printed in Yellow.

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 x 4, 1B x 4.

16c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

6c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

11c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

6c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

22c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

Issue Y 6c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

16c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

19c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

26c = 1A x 4, 1B x 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 the 6c and 11c values (Gozo Cathedral) as well as the

6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja) of issue X, but as shown in figure (b) for the 1c and 16c values (Antonio Sciortino) of issue X and all values of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values of issues X and Y, would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is Sideways in the 6c, 11c, 6c, and 22c values of issue X, but Upright in the 1c and 16c values of issue X, as well as in all the values of issue Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom in figure (a) and from left to right in figure (b).

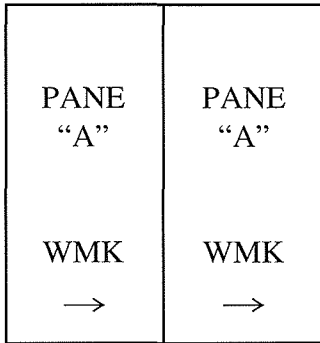


fig. (a)

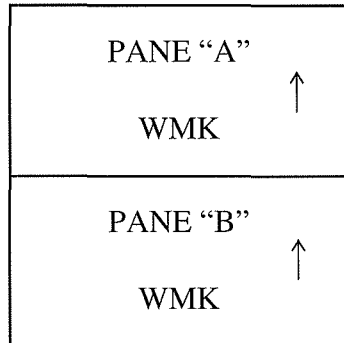


fig. (b)

Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint “PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the middle stamp of the bottom row in Panes of values 6c and 11c (Gozo Cathedral) and in the 6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja) of issue X, but under the fifth and sixth stamps of the bottom row in Panes of the 1c and 16c values (Antonio Sciortino) of issue X, as well as in 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 was used for cancellation on the first day of both issues. Stamps of these issues were withdrawn from sale on 8th July 1998, (issue X) and on 24 th September 1998 (issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted. On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm 17,950 (issue X) and Lm 21,334 (issue Y).

LAST CALL

Have you paid your 2000/2001 subscription?

If not please send your dues immediately to:

the Treasurer, Mr. J. Cardona

143, St. Mary Str., Tarxien PLA 11, Malta

Tel: 892141

Valentine Day. Scottish $\frac{1}{2}$ Road Tax Marks. Land's End Cachets.

By Dr A. Bonnici MD.KM

Mr Bob Rostron and his wife Jackie are regular visitors to Malta during the winter months. He retired from business management a few years ago, is a keen Philatelist and Postal Historian, being a Past President of the Merseyside and St Helen Philatelic Societies, and a member of several others. These days travel takes up much of his time, and as usual, he brought material to work on, during his winter holiday in Malta this year.

Mr Rostron has given talks to our Society in previous years, his latest being on the 5th February this year, but this feature concerns only his lecture cum display on the 1st February 1999, which was delivered in three sections as described below.

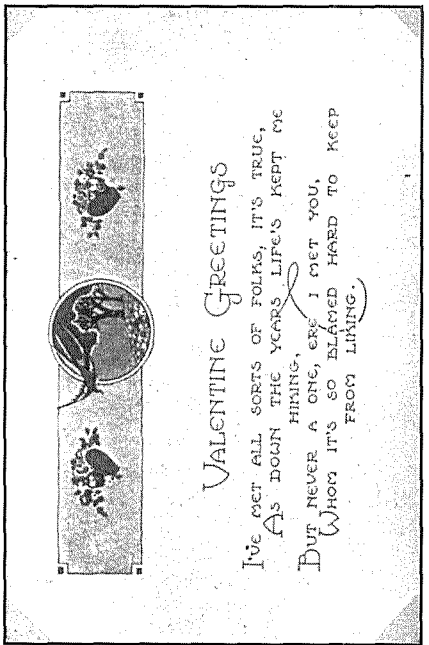
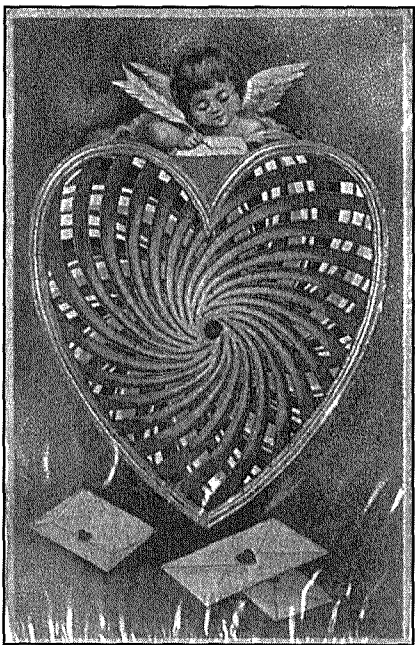
Part 1.

Valentine Day

This, Mr Rostron said, was included as a light-hearted opener due to the close proximity of the 14th February.

Being a subject mainly celebrated in the U.K. and USA, material was shown from these countries by way of FDC's, picture post cards, and stamps [mainly Q.V.] bearing relevant dates. Also shown, were some pre stamp covers and fronts from 1823 onwards.

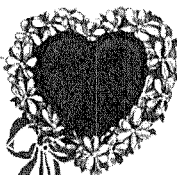
Some examples are being illustrated.



U. S. A.



Saint Valentine's
Greetings
to
You.



Just a Valentine
Remembrance
man I think if you had this custom
in a better note water let it stay as
in it



VALENTINE GREETINGS

Oh, here's a card with
flowers bedight,
Sent as a little token -
If you my love will not requite,
My heart is surely broken.

A Valentine for you
and sincere wishes for
your happiness



Part 2.

G.B. Postal History.

Scottish 1/2 Road Tax Marks.

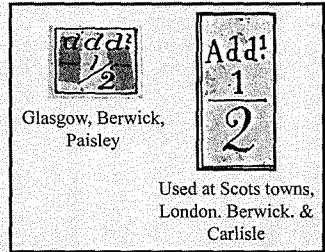
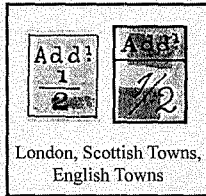
The speaker has an extensive collection - cum - accumulation of items with these markings and was in the process of formally organising them into Groups, according to the design of the 1/2 hand-stamp.

The introductory page is shown, indicating the origins of the hand stamp. It gives the main forms in which it is to be found, apart from manuscript versions.

The hand stamps were mainly applied in Scotland, but were also provided to some English towns, for mail being sent to Scotland.

The four main types are being illustrated.

Group 1



Group 2



Mainly as Group 1. Without Frame. Used in Scots Towns, English Towns & Dublin

Group 3



London, Carlisle, Falmouth, Scots Towns



English Towns, London, Scots Towns

Group 4

Scots Towns, Manchester, Exeter



Carlisle



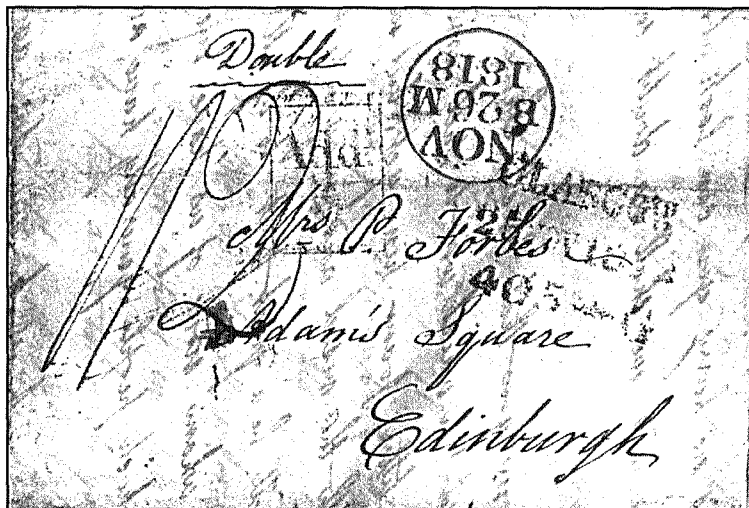
London



Bristol

During the period of their use, several colours are known, most common in black, but blue and green and many subtle varieties exist.

Items from their first year of official introduction in 1813, and last month of official use, prior to them being replaced by the 4d uniform post in 1839, and then in May 1840, by adhesive postage stamps, were also displayed, and are being reproduced.



Entire Glasgow to Edinburgh. With Glasgow straight line mileage mark dated 25th November 1818 and Edinburgh receipt of 26th November 1818 with an "added 1/2d" mark of Glasgow. Marked "Double". Double rate Charged. 1/2d.



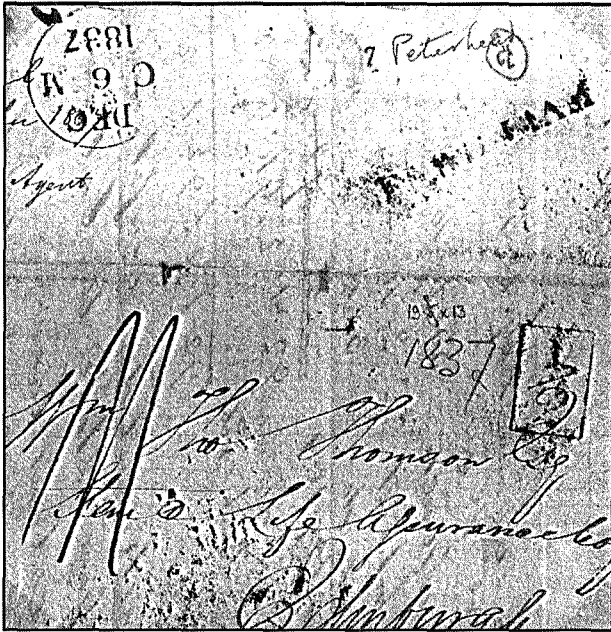
Entire Glasgow to Edinburgh. With Glasgow d/Ring mileage marked dated 24th March 1819 and Edinburgh receipt superimposed in red dated 25th March 1819. Boxed "Add 1/2d" of Glasgow. Although a double entire it is not marked "double" (as the above) and only single rate of 7d charged.



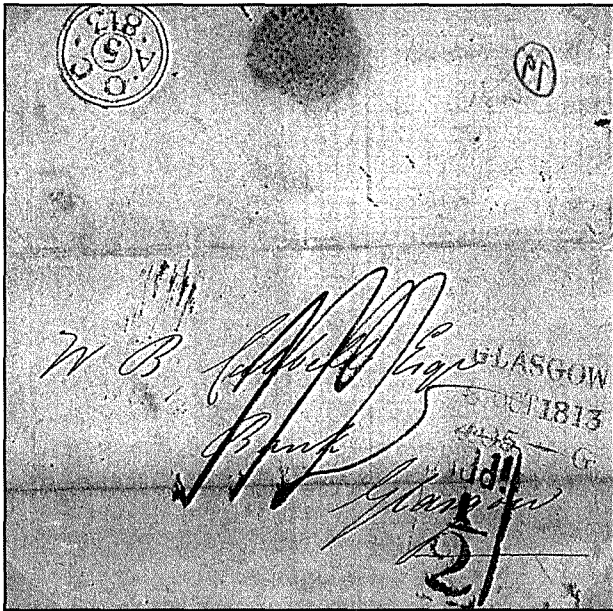
Entire Glasgow to Edinburgh. With Glasgow D/Ring mileage mark despatch dated 12th November 1827, Edinburgh receipt dated 12th Nov 1827. "Additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d" of Glasgow.



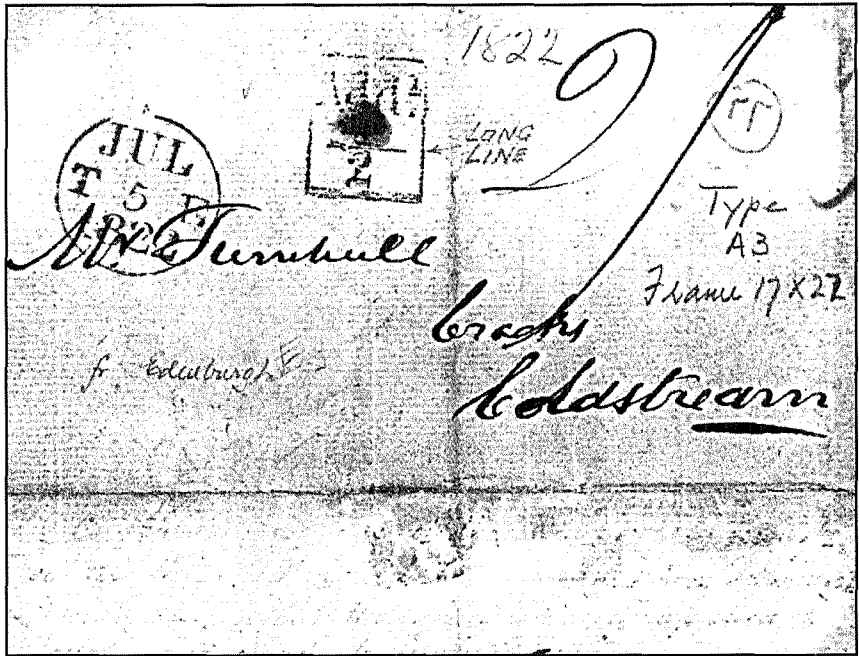
Front. Dumbarton to London. With boxed Dumbarton undated mileage mark. Glasgow straight line mileage mark dated 26th June 1813, used as transit mark (Note Dumbarton Mileage as "420-G" denoting through Glasgow). London receipt 29th June 1813 and M/S charge $1/2\frac{1}{2}$ d. "Add $\frac{1}{2}$ d" London.



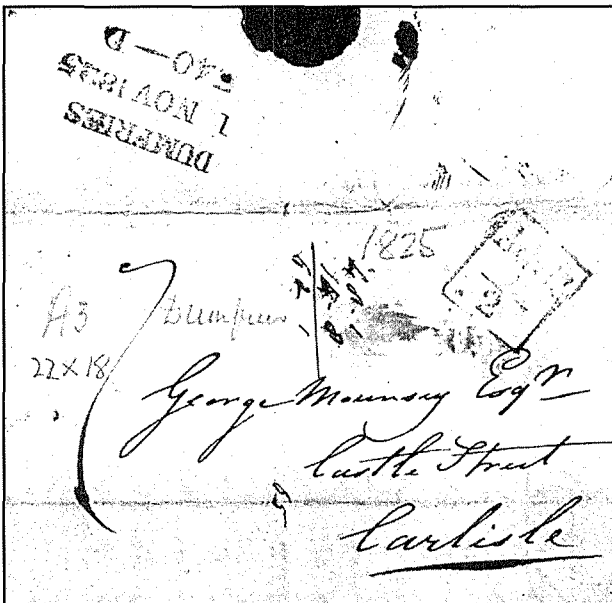
Front. ???? to Edinburgh (reputed to be Peterhead) With undecipherable straight despatch and Edinburgh receipt of 6th December 1837. Provincial "Add ¼d".



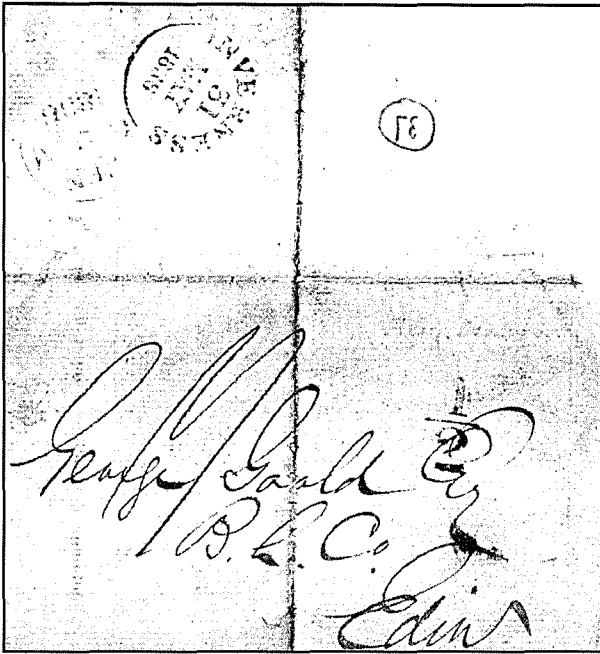
Front. London to Glasgow. With London despatch of 5th October 1813 and Glasgow straight line mileage mark as receipt dated 8th October 1813. London "Add ¼d".



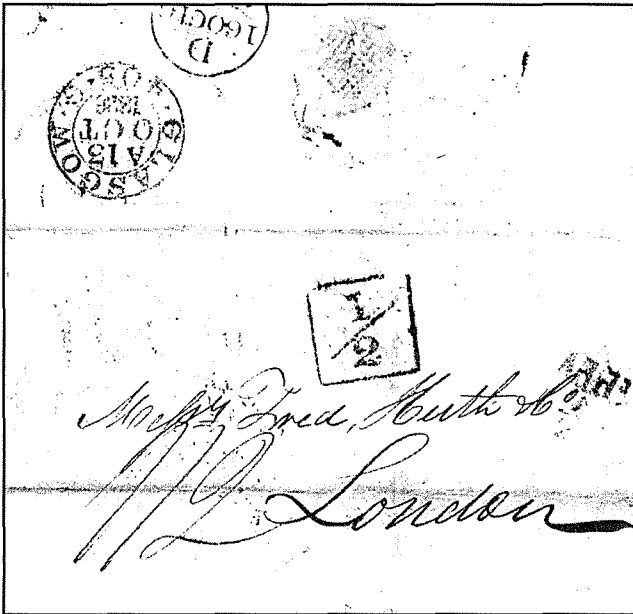
Front from Edinburgh to Coldstream. 5th July 1822. With Edinburgh evening despatch and a boxed Additional $\frac{1}{4}$ of Edinburgh.



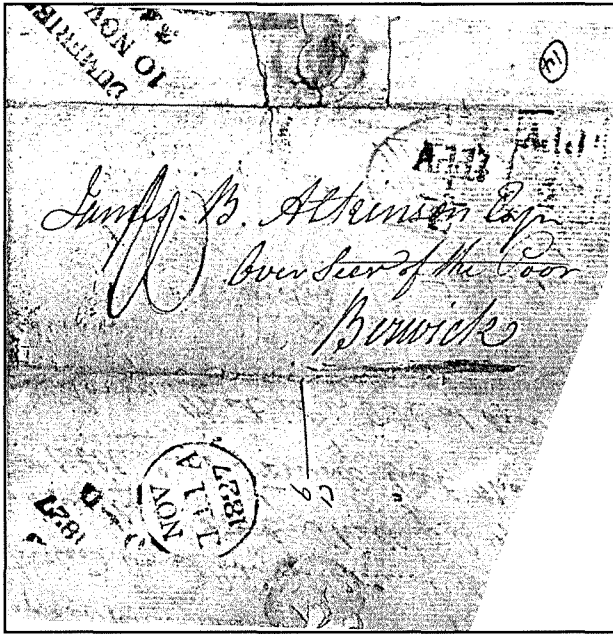
Entire Dumfries to Carlisle. With straight line dated mileage mark of Dumfries dated 1st November 1825. Boxed Add $\frac{1}{4}$ of Dumfries.



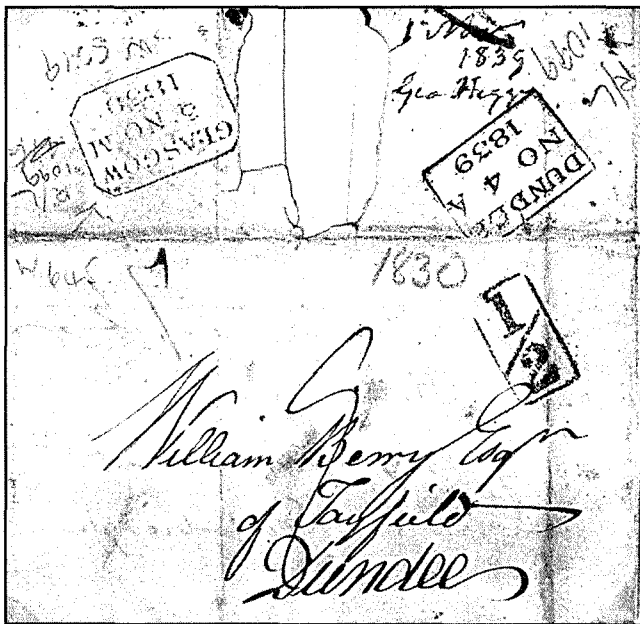
Front. Inverness to Edinburgh. With Inverness despatch dated 31st May 1836. Faint receipt of Edinburgh dated 2nd June 1836. "Add $\frac{1}{2}$ " of Inverness.



Entire. Glasgow to London. With round Glasgow mileage mark dated 13th October 1826 London receipt dated 16 October 1826. Boxed "Add $\frac{1}{2}$ " of London and unboxed Glasgow.



Entire. Dumfries to Berwick. With Dumfries (unframed) mileage mark. Dated 10th November 1827. Edinburgh Transit dated 11th November 1827 and two "Add d" marks. Dumfries and Berwick?



Entire. Letter Glasgow to Dundee. With Boxed Glasgow despatch dated 3rd November 1839, Boxed Dundee receipt dated 4th November 1839 and "Add d" of Glasgow (Boxed).

Part Three.

Landsend Cachets.

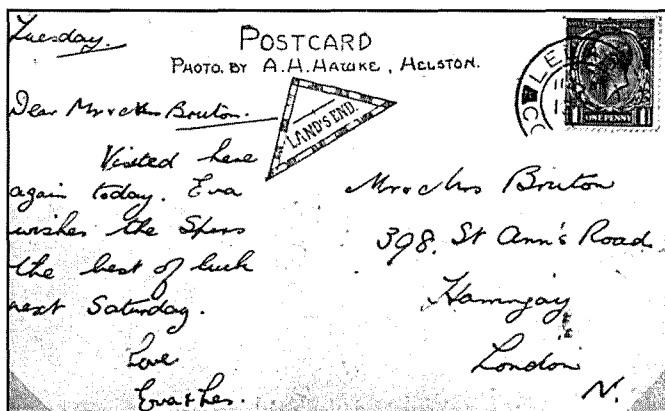
The most southerly tip of the U.K. has long been an attraction for tourists. The postcard industry saw opportunities to specialise their cards with cachets in the very early days of postcards.

The first type was produced in 1901, being a small rectangle with cut away corners. Later, a somewhat bewildering range of cachets was used in various colours, being mainly black, purple, blue, green and red.

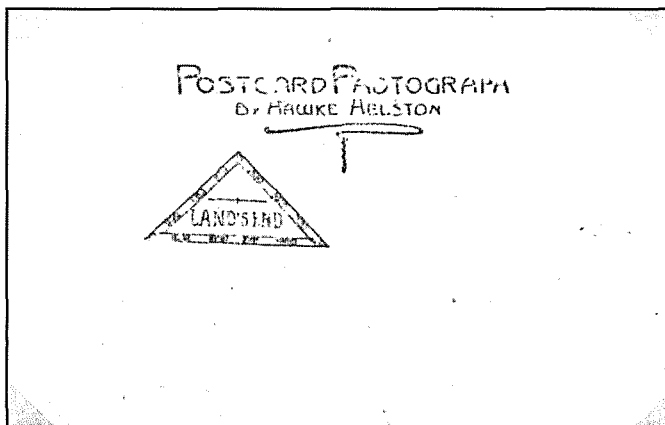
They have been classified in a small catalogue by G. Beckwith, and Mr Rostron used this as a reference for his display.

Although far from complete, it gave members an insight into a somewhat unusual but interesting subject.

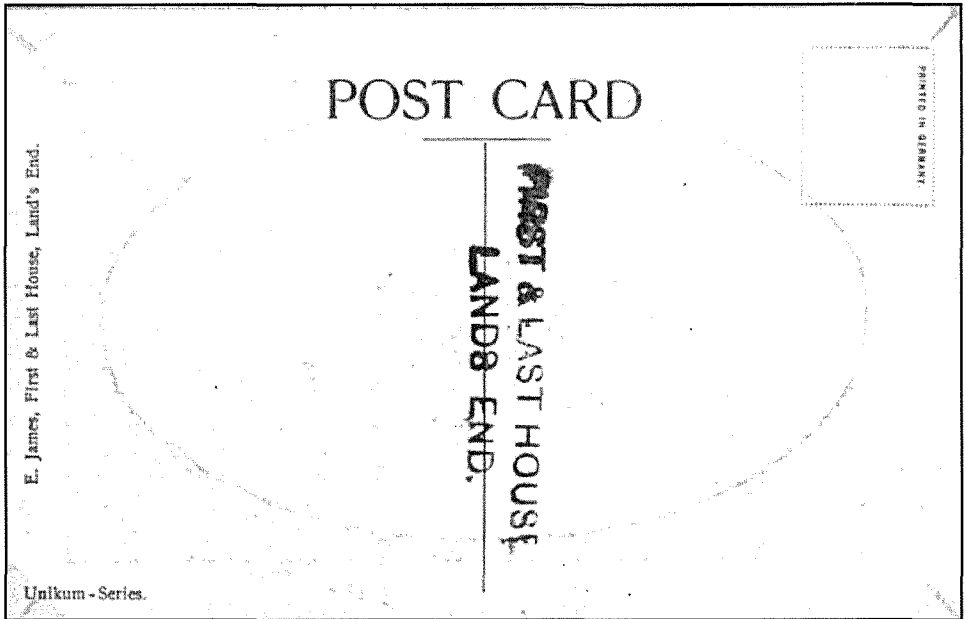
Some of these designs are being published in this feature.



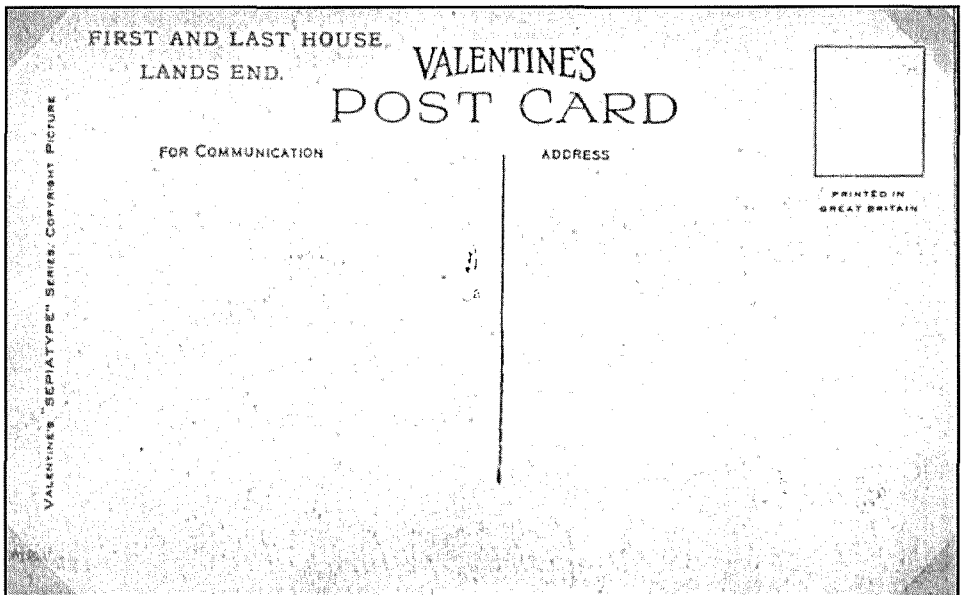
Type 45 1934. Known as the "Hawke Triangles" because they were printed A. H. Hawke Real photo cards. This is the smallest of 3 versions, 29mm x 21 x 21.



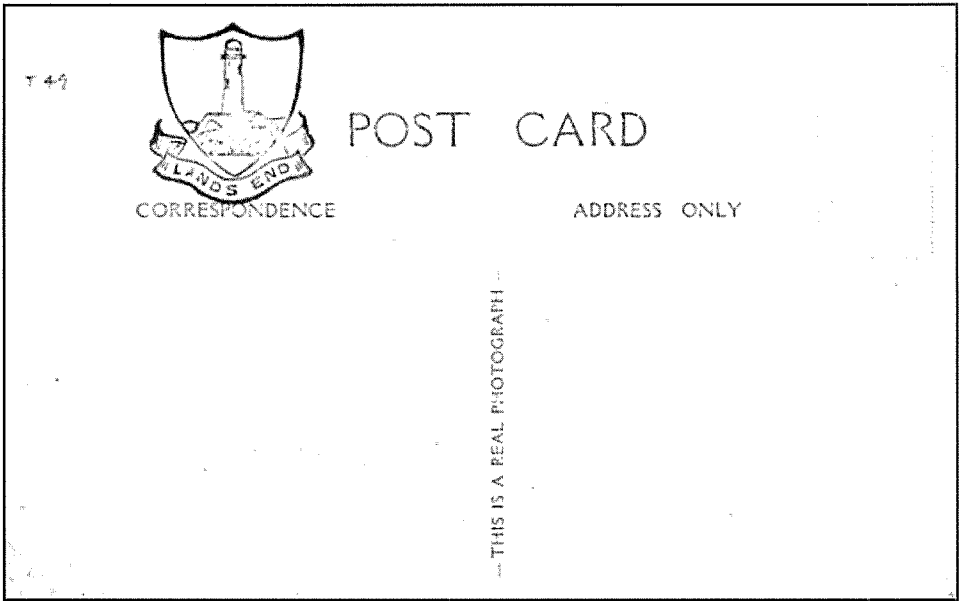
Type 45 1933. An unused "Hawke" of intermediate size 38mm x 27 x 27.



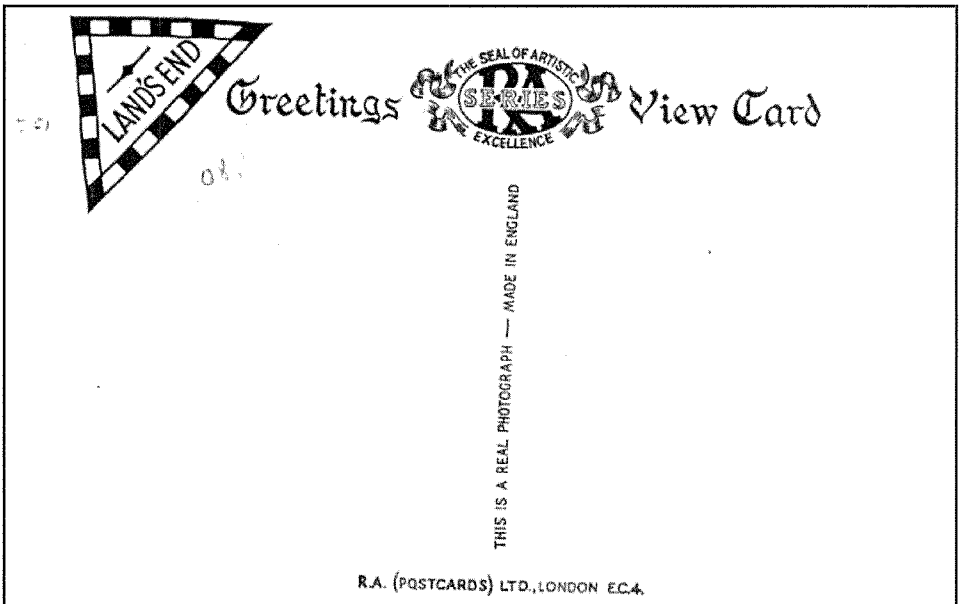
Type 9 1913. The first of this type with no comma after "House".



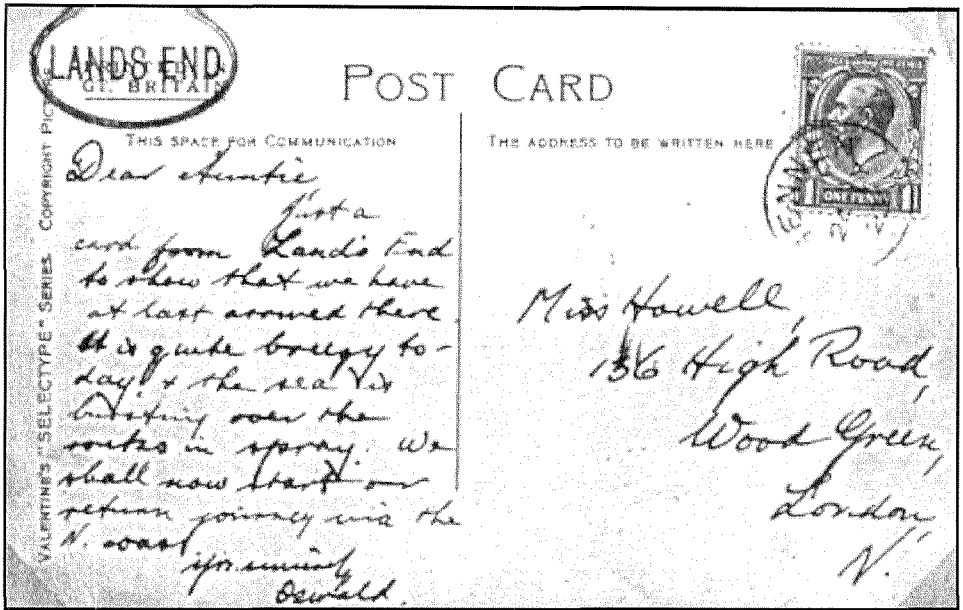
Type 23 around 1930. Always printed on Valentine's "Sepiatype" postcards.



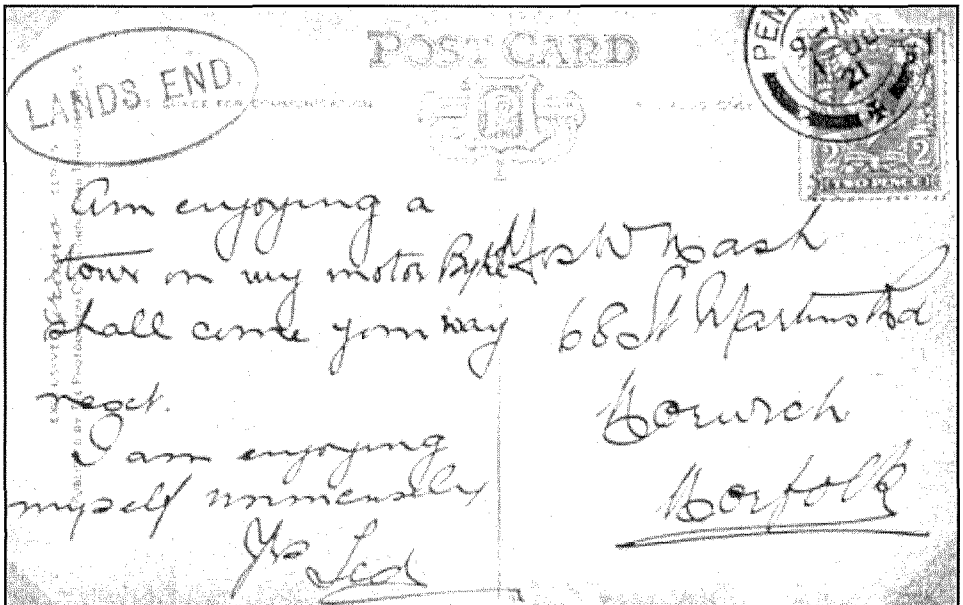
Type 49 1935. Longship Lighthouse within shield, only in purple.



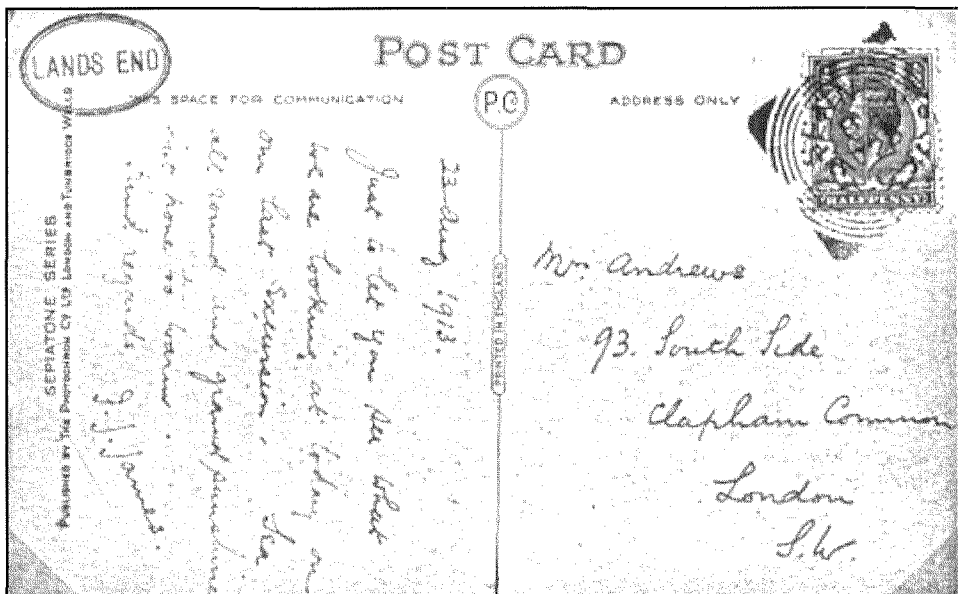
Type 51 1951. A malformed cachet which is known as the "Bump"



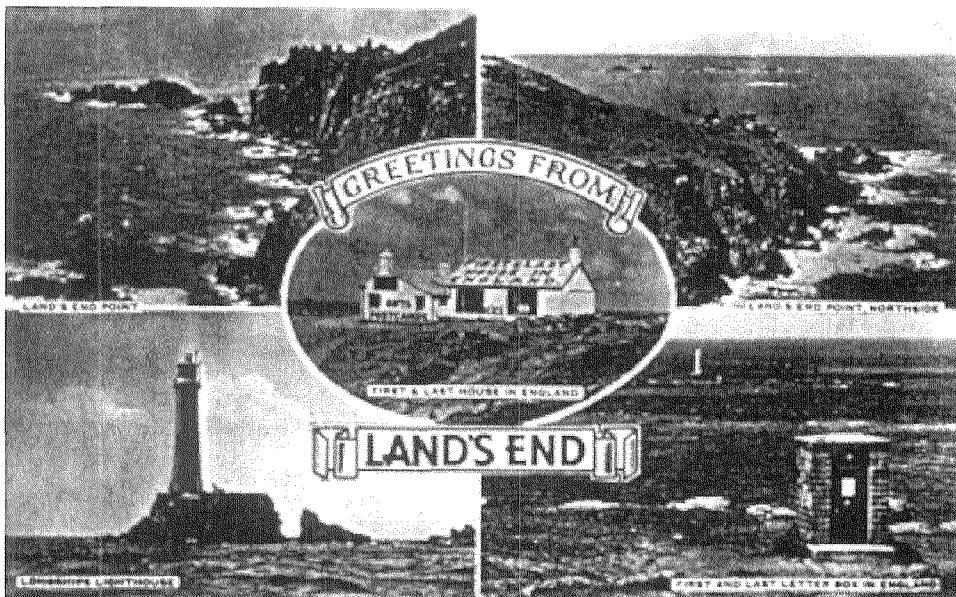
Type 7 1915. Large double ring oval. Only known in purple.



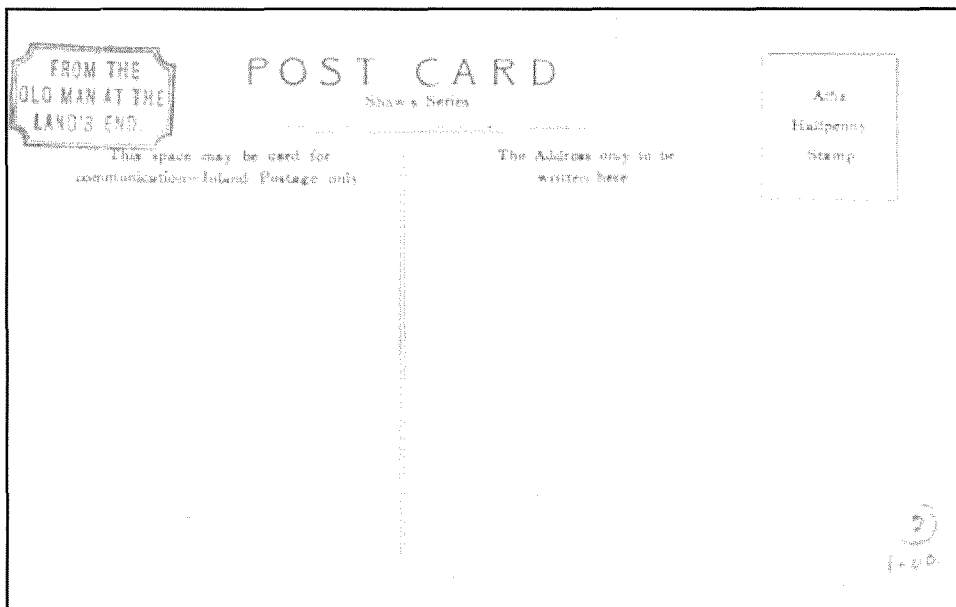
Type 8 1921. Large single ring Oval. Only known in purple.



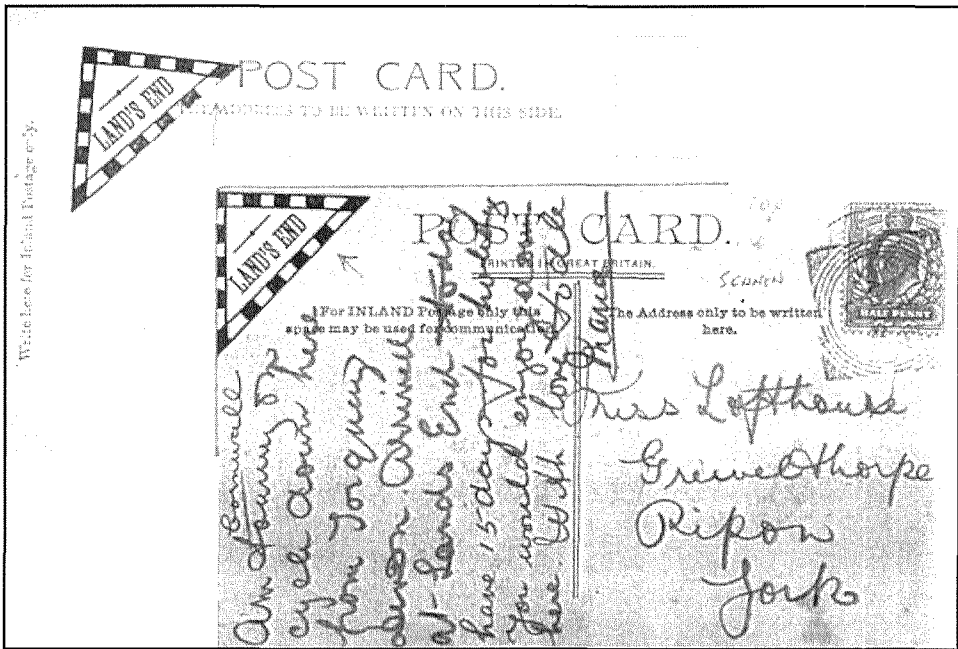
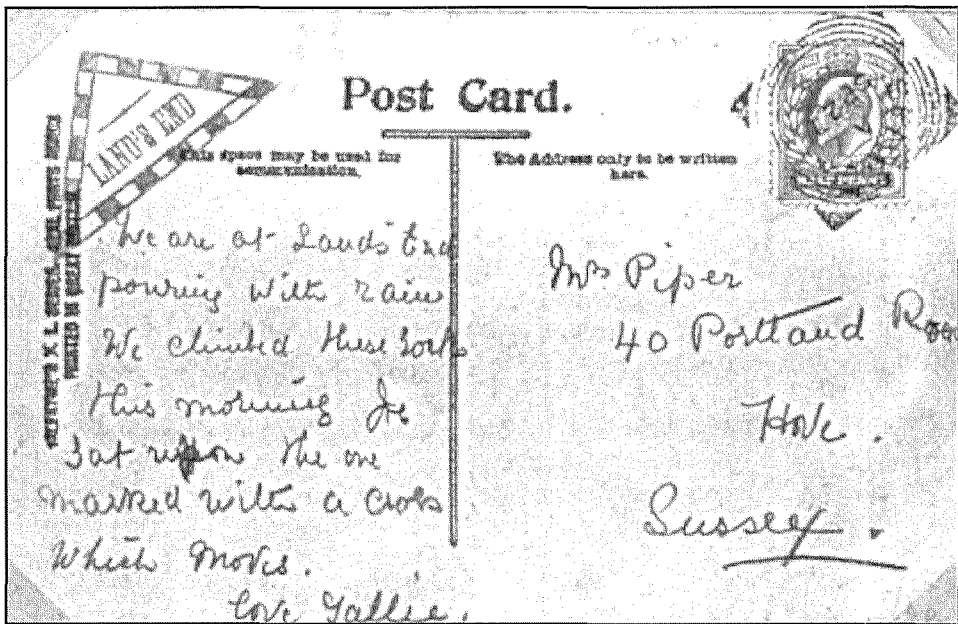
Type 6a 1911. Small double ring oval. Apart from purple and green (shown) also in blue.



Some of the scenes which appear on the front of the following postcards-
for which cachets are the theme.



Type 1 1901. Colours in purple, green and blue.



Type 2 Group 1. Possible colours are black, blue, purple & mauve.
The earliest known date 19.09.01

Crompton Letters

by Con Rutter

Some years ago Mr Con Rutter had acquired the “Crompton” archive and he kindly sent me the letters relating about Malta for publication. Mr Rutter went to great pains to decipher the near illegible handwriting and type them. Unfortunately because of lack of space I was unable to reproduce his contribution until now - my apologies.

There are letters for the period 11 December 1824 to March 1826 describing his journey through Italy-Sicily-Malta-Egypt-Syria.

I am publishing four letters written by H. Crompton, three written on the 2nd March 1825 to his father Joshua Crompton, one to his sister Miss Crompton while in Malta and one from Alexandria written on the 20th March to his brother Robert.

Our Crompton was a relative of the Lancashire Crompton who was the inventor of “Crompton’s Mule” for the wool industry.

In the 19th century the “Cromptons” developed the “Electric Light Bulb” and other electrical devices.

From these letters it transpires that the family had three different residencies namely: Micklegate House - York, Esholt Hall - North Bradford and Azerliy Hall - North _____, all in Yorkshire (Editor).

Itinerary of Mr H. Crompton from letters dated between 11th December 1824 and 10th March 1826 during his journey to the Middle East.

		Addressed to:-	Archival No.
London	11th December 1824	Miss M.F. Crompton, Esholt Hall, Bradford.	1
Calais	17th December 1824	Miss Mary Crompton, Esholt Hall, Bradford.	2
Paris	24th December 1824	Joshua Crompton Esq., Esholt Hall, Bradford.	4
Lyon	28th December 1824	Miss Crompton, Esholt Hall, Bradford.	5
Rome	25th January 1825	Miss Crompton, York, via Paris.	7
Messina	10th February 1825	Miss Crompton, Micklegate, York.	9
Malta	2nd March 1825	Joshua Crompton Esq., Micklegate, York.	10
Malta	2nd March 1825	Joshua Crompton Esq., Micklegate, York.	11
Malta	2nd March 1825	Miss Crompton, Micklegate, York.	12

Alexandria	20th March 1825	Robert Crompton Esq., Esholt Hall, Bradford, redirected York.	13
Cairo	13th April 1825	Joshua Crompton Esq., Esholt Hall, Bradford.	14
Cairo	16th May 1825	Joshua Crompton Esq., Esholt Hall, Bradford.	15
Smyrna	13th January 1826	Joshua Crompton Esq., York.	18
Corfu	10th March 1826	Rookes Crompton Esq., Esholt Hall, Bradford, re-directed via Malta, and again to Micklegate, York.	

The first letter from Hotel Victory in Malta (10th in Archive), written on the 2nd March 1825 describes in great detail his passage through Sicily and his intention to go to Egypt and Syria. There are only two small references to Malta:-

- 1) that mail from Italy to Malta is “so uncertain that one may almost as soon receive a letter from England when the packets are regula:-”.
- 2) “the Malta mail is made up in London the first Tuesday in every month, and it leaves Falmouth the first Friday”.

The second letter from Malta (No.11 in the archive), also dated 2nd March 1825, also describes in great detail his journey through Sicily from Scaletta to Catania and his trip up the mountain to see the Volcano Etna.

The third letter also from Malta (12th in archive) continues to describe his trip to Mount Etna. His departure from Catania and his stay in Malta, which is being reproduced:-

“From the top of Mount Etna I could plainly see Malta, which is unusual.”

“We agreed with the captain of a ‘Speronara’ to take us to Malta for 20 crowns, the 3 persons 1-12-6 nearly in Sicilian money, 1-8 in English. Manway was no use this first day.”

“By daybreak, we saw Malta, but the wind dying. Even though we had 7 rowers, we did not enter the celebrated harbour till past sunset, when it was too late for Pratique. We were obliged to pass another night on board.

Early in the morning we were released, and found ourselves comfortable in an English Inn, having greater comforts than any place since I left England.

I find I have a little room for my ‘proceedings’ in this place, but I must give you some little idea of the Island.

We enter the Grand Harbour, having to your right the Fort of St. Elmo, and to the left that of Ricasoli, to the strong fortifications; as you advance, the Fort of St. Angelo stands quite opposite, having 4 tiers of guns ready to blow up a fleet if one should enter. It is supposed that no Naval Force whatever could stand a few hours before these tremendous bastions which are on all sides.

Two small Creeks run down to the left of St. Angelo, where are the Government Docks and the moorings for the Merchant Vessels. The flagship 'The Revenge' is here, also the Euryalus Frigate which is commanded by Captain Clifford, brother to the Duke of Devonshire, he is very ill, not likely to recover.

The Medina (?), the Hinde, the Chanticleer, the Alacrity are also here. Windyard, who was in the Revenge but who leaves for England soon, has promised to carry me a parcel containing some seeds. Let some of them be sown of each sort, but not all. I have collected them from all parts.

The Quarantine Harbour is at the other side of Fort St. Elmo, quite removed from the town.

The town of Valletta and Floriana which is a suburb, is quite, I believe, impregnable. The walls are cut out of solid rock, and to the person even ignorant of Fortifications, have a most imposing appearance! We have not men on the Island to man one twentieth part of the works, to do so properly would require 60,000 men; we have about 1,500. But as I have not paper for a description, I will give you a little of our proceedings.

We had some Letters of Introduction to different persons which we delivered and also left our Cards on the Marquis of Hastings.

On the 23rd, the next day, Dr Wilson the 'Maynard's' (?) personal Secretary, called on us with the Marquis' compliments, and asked us to dinner that day. We went and had a very pleasant party. There was a large party afterwards and Marquis and Marchioness introduced us to numbers of persons and on this account I think we experienced such marked civility from all persons on the Island. The Marchioness, who is supposed by the Inhabitants to be so remarkably proud, we found civil in the extreme.

24th. We had a letter of Invite from Sir Manly Pavers, the Commander of the forces here. For the next day (we spent, in view of the different (?) Posts) the two Blanes direct with the Major de Bathe, they had a letter to him. If she had been well enough to have seen any person, I should have also called, but she is in wretched health, so thin as to be perfect skin and bone.

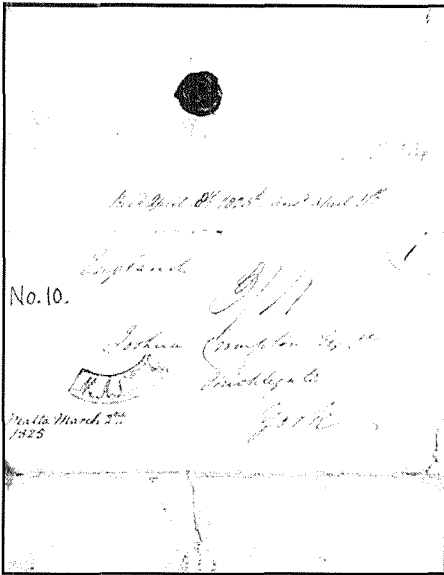
25th. Went to visit the Revenge. Windyard showed us the whole, highly pleased. She is one of the newly constructed vessels with round Stern, and is considered the finest in the Navy.

Afterwards, went to see the Euryalus come home for to '_____' for Sir Manly Pavers. After, went to a very pleasant Ball given by Col. and Mrs Gardner, where we saw all the belles of the place.

26th. After viewing more sights, went to call on the Officers of the 85 who had all left their names. Dined at home and went to the Opera, which is good. It was a benefit night.

Sunday, 27th. After Church, went to the Public Library, to which we had been without. It is a good collection and they also take in the Papers. Saw the speech in 'Gal ___' 'nexf ___', which I thought was fine and manly. Dined with Mr Ross, the Principal '_____' in this place.

28th. We spent most of this day in preparing for our Journey. We were invited to dine with Captain Bayley who has an office under Government. I and Mr Blane refused as we were so busy, the Captain went, and found only a Stupid Party.



First Letter from Malta, 2nd March, 1825

March 1st. The morning spent in Roving (?) and walking about. Mrs Blance and help dined with the 85 and had a delightful party. I found an old Harrow Man who I knew, Captain Yorke, he has been in the Greek Station 2 years and is going again. He offered to take us, as also did Lord John Churchill, who commanded the Hinde. They both sail soon, one for the coast of Smyrna, the other for the 'morea' off Cape Matapan.

I should have liked much to have been able to join them. In the evening, went to Major and Mrs Fox's Party. They had asked us to dinner, which we refused by before engaged this by Captain Blane, I asked for Corfu.

Major Fox is Lord Holland's son, and Mrs was one of the Miss 'T___' Clarences, they are very pleasing persons.

When we returned, found two invites, one from the Palace, one for dinner on the 3rd and

the other a party for the '___', the former we were obliged to refuse, as we were engaged to Mrs President (?), the Head of the Law here.

3rd. We dined at home, having refused the invites. In the evening, went to the Palace and was told by all persons that we had committed a great breach of etiquette by refusing the Marquis, as all other parties gave way. However it was lucky it was so, as the Marquis told me he was sorry and if we could fix a day before our Departure he would be most happy to see us. I told him we were disengaged Friday and that day he sent us an invite.

The party tonight was not so good as one as usual. I dined with Mr President 'Wright' (?) where we met all the 'Learning' (?) of the Island, and a very pleasant party afterwards.

4th. Went to see the Gardens at Antonio also the Cetta Vecchia and Boschetto. The gardens of the Palace of Antonio are beautiful. We had an order from the Marchioness, who while we were there arrived and showed them respect. She gave me the melon seeds which I have sent home.

This Palace is the Country House of the Governor, 4 miles from Valletta. We had a very pleasant party at dinner at the Palace. In the evening, she showed us the whole of her Indian Sketches, which are all well worth seeing, they are not of her drawing but by artists who she employed. The extreme kindness that they both have shown is so singular that I do not understand it. On taking leave tonight they shook hands with us in the most cordial manner, and the Marquis presented me with a book, the History of his administration in India. I have not in the least exaggerated his civility, nor near mentioned all.

Today, the 5th, we were to dine with Mr 'Frere' (?) and Lady Erroll, but as we expect to sail by 4 in the afternoon, we refused.

I shall be sorry to quit a place where we have been so kindly treated.

The climate at present is delightful, but soon it will be hot. I wish I had not sent your

money to Rookes. I would have bought you two Maltese chains and hope Blane has done so for his sisters, I am not so with.

I must now end and I have not half room to give my best love and remembrances to you all. My father must accept my very best love, and to you all separately and conjunctively.

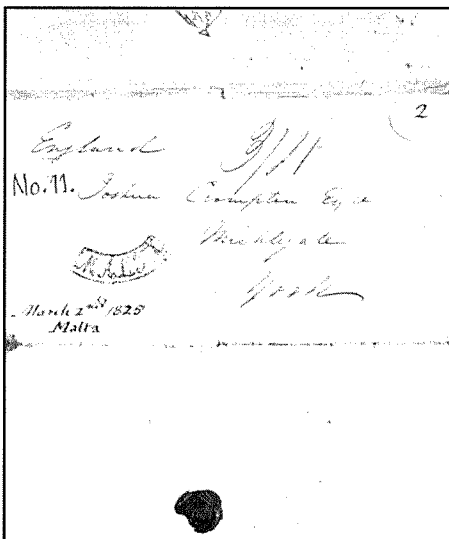
I can assure you I send you my very best and give my love to Robert Rookes, Emma, Caroline, Maria Preston and the two brats, and all who are not at home. I wish you to remember me also to my Uncle and Aunt Gilbert and the Hartfords family and all I know in York or elsewhere. Give my remembrances to Matison (?) and Brockhill, tell her such as him will certainly run no 'rigging' (?). God bless you all. Write to me at Cairo, as directed. You will hear from me soon. I remain, your ever affectionate brother.

(signed) **H. Crompton.**

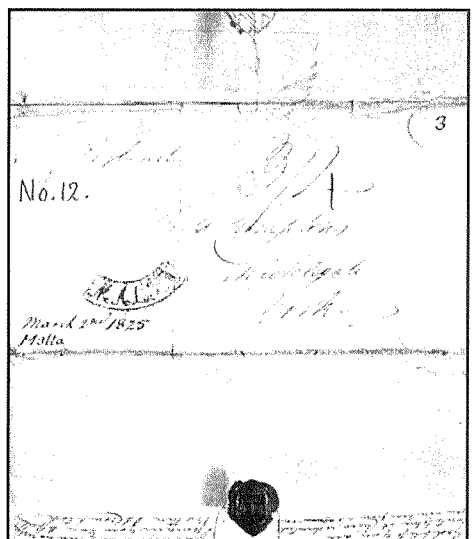
The fourth letter (No.13 in the Archives) was written on the 20th March from Alexandria. In this letter he describes his departure from Malta, saying:

"My letters at Malta brought me to Saturday the 5th March, but we did not sail that afternoon as expected, as the Captain could not get part of his cargo ready, this was provoking as we were to have dined with Mr Frere and Lady Errol, and there was Miss Blake to have been there, the super extra belle of Malta.

Only think what we lost, however I easily got over the disappointment and in the morning of Sunday the 6th, we left the Harbour of Valletta, about twelve or one, just after Church. Numbers of persons came to see us leave the shore, for the vessel which was ready to receive us off the Fort of Ricasoli. We were at least, I speak for myself, sorry to leave so hospitable a place, and I could not help fancying, we were leaving all that was civilised far behind to the westward, when under a favourable breeze, we left rapidly the small island of Malta."



Second Letter from Malta, 2nd March, 1825



Third Letter from Malta, 2nd March, 1825

1st November 2000 - 31st March 2001

POSTAL DIARY

by Anthony Fenech

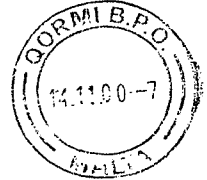
07 November Maltapost plc notifies that the withdrawal date for the 'Republic of Malta 25th Anniversary' issue, previously set at 6th December 2000, has now been extended to 6th January 2001.

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.

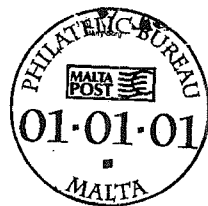
14 December A new 29mm POSTAGE PAID double ring machine slogan has started to be used as from today at the Bulk Mail section at the C.M.R. The double ring is inscribed "POSTAGE PAID/arcs/MALTA" and is followed by 7 wavy lines, with the date and time shown in the middle of the double ring. The slogan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

Every Card has its purpose

Birthday Card

Christmas Card

Anniversary Card

Congratulations Card

Greeting Card

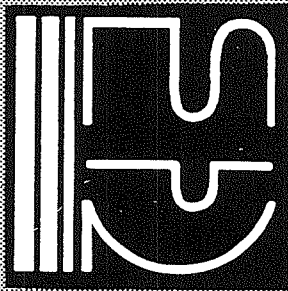


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For further information contact:

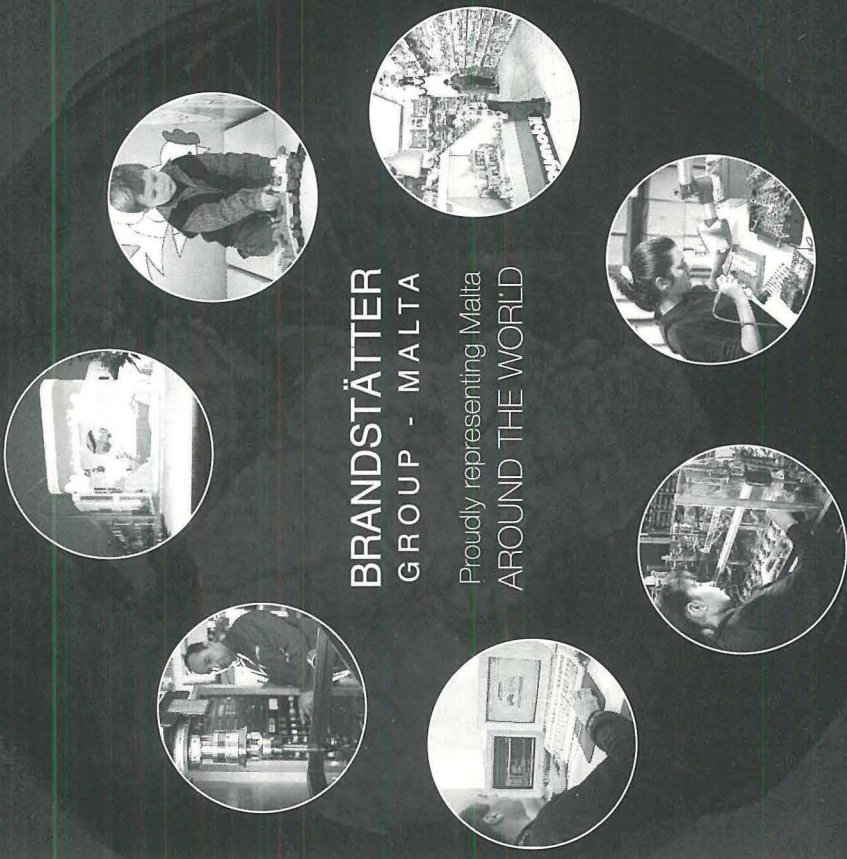
BRANDSTÄTTER GROUP - MALTA

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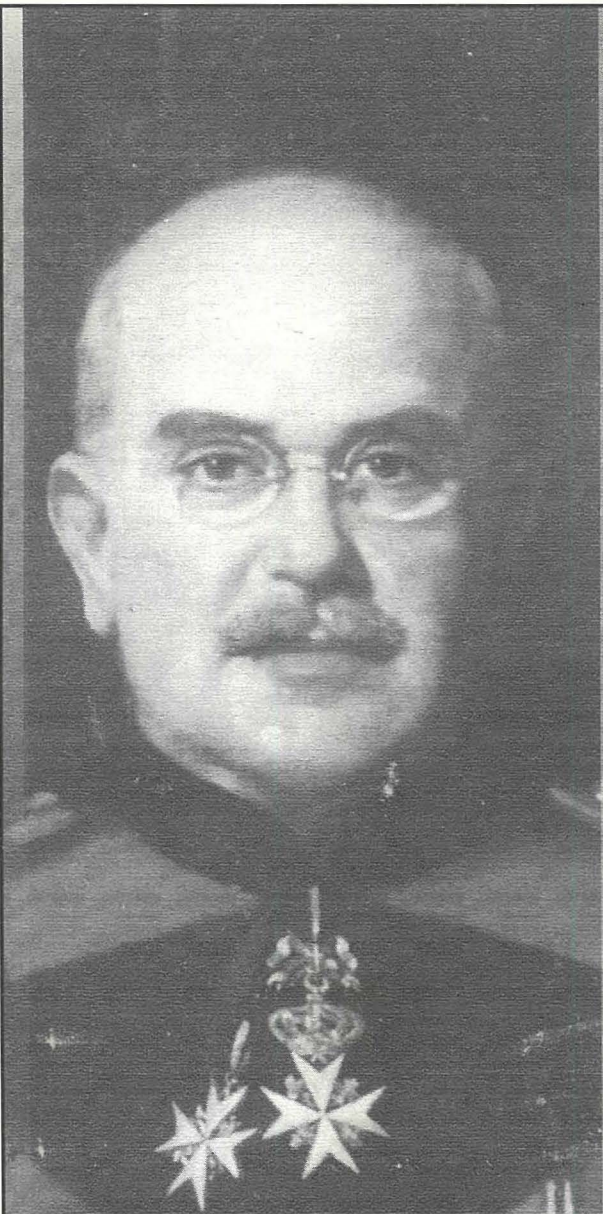


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