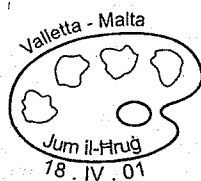


1st April 2001 - 30th June 2001

POSTAL DIARY

by Anthony Fenech

18 April - Maltapost issued “Caruana Dingli’s Folklore” commemorative stamp set today. The values of the stamps in the set are 2c, 4c, 6c, 10c and 26c. The stamps designed by Harry Borg are printed on unwatermarked paper, in sheets of 10, at Bundesdruckerei GmbH in Germany. The stamps will be withdrawn from the Maltapost Counters on the 17th April 2002. The new set of stamps has been previewed in “The Malta Stamp” Bulletin No.186 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.

Maltapost issued a set of 5 Maximum Cards related to the five stamps issued today. These postcards have been welcomed not only by stamp collectors but also by Malta Postcard collectors as well.

01 May - Full rates will be charged to Government mail as from today.

04 May - Pope John Paul II set of two stamps and a Miniature Sheet has been issued today. The stamps are designed by Joseph Mizzi and printed on unwatermarked paper in sheets of 10 by Bundesdruckerei GmbH in Germany. Two commemorative covers were put on sale, one for the 6c and 16c singles and the other for the 75c Miniature Sheet. “Malta Stamp” No.187 issued by the Malta Philatelic Bureau previewed the stamps.



A commemorative handstamp was prepared by Maltapost to cancel all mail posted on the First Day of Issue of this set of stamps. The handstamp was inscribed “Zjara tal-Papa Ġwannii Pawlu II/Jum il-Hruġ. 4-V-2001”.

An “Occasion Card” bearing an imprint of the 16c stamp from the Papal Issue was put on sale at 16c from all the Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo.

09 May - Maltapost plc notified that on the occasion of the Pope’s visit to Malta, a Temporary Branch Post Office is being set up near The Floriana Granaries today, for the duration of the Beatification Ceremony. The following business may be transacted at the T.P.O.:

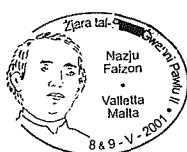
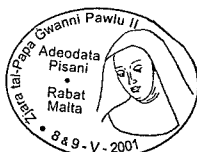


- sale of stamps and postal stationery;
- posting of letters and letter packets;

- Registration of postal articles;
- sale of telecards.

A special handstamp related to the Beatification Ceremony has been prepared to cancel all mail posted at the Floriana Granaries T.P.O. today. The handstamp is inscribed: “Żjara tal-Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II/9-V-2001/Floriana - Malta”. Visitors to the T.P.O. could also buy commemorative covers prepared for this occasion.

10 May - In order to further highlight the Pope’s visit to Malta, four other special handstamps relating to the visit have been prepared. A special commemorative envelope has been issued for use at the T.P.O., for the Pope’s visit to Dun Ġorġ Preca’s tomb at Blata l-Bajda, for the Pope’s meeting at the Palace in Valletta, with President Guido de Marco and localities in connection with Adeodata Pisani and Nazju Falzon. These four special postmarks, together with the one used at the T.P.O. on the 9th May, will be available from all Maltapost Branches in Malta and Gozo on the 10th May and subsequent days also, following the visit.



10 May - A temporary Branch Post Office will be in operation at the Karanne Hotel, Blacktail Street, Bugibba, during the 24th CERP Plenary Assembly, on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th, where all normal postal services will be available. A commemorative handstamp inscribed “CERP/Plenary Assembly – Bugibba – Malta/10 & 11. V. 2001” was used at this T.P.O.



21 May - The Sub-Post Office at the Globe Stationery, Attard will be closed between Monday 21st and Saturday 26th May 2001, both days inclusive. During this period, the public may avail itself of services at Balzan Branch Post Office.

23 May - A new postage stamp set “Europa 2001” has been issued today. The set consists of 2 stamps (values 16c and 46c) designed by Trevor Zahra and printed on unwatermarked paper on sheets of 10 stamps by Bundesdruckerei GmbH (Germany). Date of withdrawal of this set of Europa stamps will be 22nd May 2002.



The stamps have been previewed in “The Malta Stamp” bulletin No.188 issued by The Malta Philatelic Bureau.

A special handstamp has been used on all mail franked by the Europa 2001 stamps posted on the first day of issue.

01 June - Maltapost has terminated the appointment of the postmaster at Xlendi (Gozo) S.P.O. and closed down the Sub-Post Office with effect from today.

09 June - Maltapost has issued a commemorative Postal Card to mark its participation in the International Philatelic “Belgica 2001” Exhibition, which is being held in Brussels, between June 9-15.

The Card has two stamps of the Europa 2001 postage set imprinted on it. It may be purchased in mint condition or with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-postmark inscribed “Belgica 2001, 9-15 June” and incorporating logos of Maltapost and the exhibition. This postmark will also be used at the “Belgica 2001” International Philatelic Exhibition.



The card, cancelled with the special postmark may be sent through the post at no extra charge, provided it is posted between those dates. Cancelled cards with the “Belgica 2001” hand postmark posted after June 15 must have additional stamps to cover the required postage.

The special postmark commemorating the event will also be available at the Valletta Counter Hall between Saturday 9th and Friday 15th June 2001 with the exception of Sunday 10th.

13 June - A new stamping machine was installed at Żejtun B.P.O. A 29mm single ring postmark inscribed “Żejtun B.P.O./arc spacers/Malta”, followed by five evenly spaced wavy lines has been used on this stamping machine as from today. The date appears in a single line in the middle of the postmark.



15 June - A new stamping machine was installed at the Valletta Postmen sorting room in Old Bakery Street, Valletta. With effect from today, a 28.5mm single ring machine cancellor followed by five evenly spaced wavy lines, inscribed “Valletta B.P.O./arc spacers/Malta” has been used on the new machine. The date, month and year appear in the middle of the datestamp.



16 June - A special hand postmark - Priamar 2001 - is being used today at the Counter Hall, Valletta during office hours. Besides today, Saturday 16th June, the handstamp will be used also tomorrow at Savona. The handstamp prepared by Sig. Lorenzo Mantegna, Maltapost plc representative at Savona, is inscribed: “Priamar 2001/Savona 16-17.VI/Valletta - Malta” and showing one of De Redin’s Towers (St. Paul’s Bay) and Maltapost logo.



22 June - The sixth commemorative set for 2001 issued by Maltapost - "Birds of Malta", a sheetlet of sixteen 6c stamps has been issued today. The stamps are designed by Andrew Micallef and printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH on unwatermarked paper. This set of stamps will be withdrawn from Maltapost counters on the 21st June 2002, provided that the stamps are not sold out earlier.



A special hand postmark has been used today to cancel the new stamps on their first day of issue. Two different sizes of envelopes were provided by Maltapost, the larger ones for the whole sheet First Day Cover and the smaller (a set of four envelopes) for the four blocks of four in the set.

The Birds set has been previewed in "The Malta Stamp" No.189 issued by the Malta Philatelic Bureau.

25 June - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Middle Sea Insurance plc/ 20th Anniversary/1981-2001" will be used from 25th June to the 28th July 2001, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

URGENT

Have you paid your 2000/2001 subscription?

If not please send your dues immediately to:

**The Treasurer,
Mr. J. Cardona
143, St. Mary Street,
Tarxien PLA11,
Malta.**