

POSTAL DIARY (2000)

1st January - 30th October 2000

by Anthony Fenech

03 January - The Surface Mail Service is being suspended with effect from Monday 3rd January 2000. No letters, postcards, printed papers, small packets or parcels as listed in the First and Third Schedules of the Overseas Post (Amendment) Regulations of 1997 are being accepted.

25 January - Maltapost plc issued the 1999 Year Pack, the twelfth in the Series. This edition has been produced to a new and larger format. The front and back cover show a selection of stamps issued during 1999, while the inside contains short descriptions of last year's postage stamp themes, together with all mint stamps issued during 1999. The cover is laminated, and the whole pack is presented in a transparent polythene envelope. The 1999 Year Pack is available from all the Maltapost Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo, at a cost, including VAT, of Lm8.85.

09 February - A new postage stamp set "Greetings 2000" was issued today. The stamps with values 3c, 6c, 16c, 20c and 22c, designed by Harry Borg, have tabs with bilingual greetings printed on them. The stamps are ideal for sending best wishes for a birthday, engagement or a wedding, a valentine or simply to get in touch with a friend and much more besides.

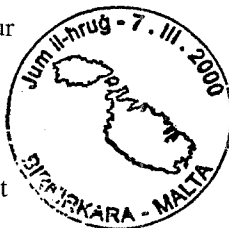
The stamps were printed in sheets of ten stamps on unwatermarked paper at Bundesdruckerei GmbH (Germany). A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



12 February - The Minister for Gozo, the Hon. Giovanna Debono MP inaugurated the Foundation of Gozo Philatelic Society at Tigrija Palazz, Racecourse Street Victoria. A commemorative Card/Cover were prepared for the occasion.

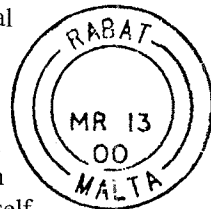
04 March - Maltapost plc notified that the Valletta Post Office Counters and the P.C. Boxes Section in West Street and the Victoria Branch Post Office, Gozo, would close at 1.00p.m. on 4 March, being Carnival Saturday. Mail collections and deliveries would be made normally in the morning, but no collections from street letter-boxes in the Valletta/Floriana area will be effected in the afternoon. All Branch Post Offices, the Central Mail Room, M.I.A. and Sub-Post Offices will operate during their normal business hours.

07 March - On the 7th March 2000 Maltapost plc issued a set of four stamps, whose denominations were 6c, 16c, 22c and 27c - "Malta in the 20th Century". These stamps depict progress achieved by Maltese and Gozitans alike during this Century, with a vivid contrast on each stamp between past and present. The stamps were designed by Frank X. Ancilleri. A special handstamp was prepared by Maltapost plc to cancel philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



13 March - It had been notified by Maltapost plc that a hand metal stamp would be added to that on the Rabat B.P.O. (Malta) Counter as from today.

13 March - The Sub Post Office at 34, Waterfront, Marsascalea (Wied il-Ghajn) will be closed from Monday 13th and Saturday 27th March 2000, both days inclusive. During this period the public may avail itself of services at Zabbar Branch Post Office in Convent Street, Zabbar.



13 March - Maltapost plc will be using **two** machine cancelling slogans reading: "Jum/ Nazzjonali/taz-Żghazagh/2000" and "12th Young Enterprise European/ Trade Fair/18th March 2000/Valletta Malta" from March 13 to March 18, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

15 March - Maltapost plc is launching a Children's Stamp Design Competition for a set

of four stamps which it intends issuing in October 2000.

Category A is open to children up to 8 years of age;

Category B is open to children between 9 and 14 years of age.

Themes for Category A are: "Our Friends the Animals" or "The Natural Environment".

Themes for Category B are: "Malta in the 21st Century" or "Peace in our Time".

Closing date for entries for this Competition is noon of Saturday 13 May 2000.

20 March - One of the Balzan B.P.O. Counter Handstamps which lately had been out of use was withdrawn w.e.f. today, Monday 20 March.

22 March - The Sub-Post Office at Just Jase, Islets Promenade in Bugibba will be closed between today and April 5th, 2000. During this period the public may use the St. Paul's Branch Post Office in Main Street, St. Paul's Bay.

28 March - Two postage stamp sets - "Sport" (2 values - 6c, 37c) and "Sydney Olympics" (2 values - 16c, 26c) were issued today. The sets were designed by Ludwig Flask. A special hand postmark, the same for both sets, "Jum il-Hruġ/28-III-2000/SPORT and SYDNEY OLYMPICS" was used at all the Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo and at the Philatelic Bureau to cancel philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



29 March - Postage Paid roller slogans, one in black and the other in red ink were used at the Central Mail Room as from today. The 29mm double ring datestamps show the date in full (29.03.00 - 00) sideways, amid six wavy lines on either side.



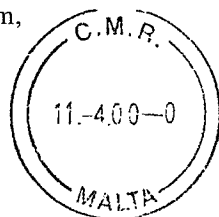
30 March - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Patri Gużè Delia S.J./Poeta mis-Siggiewi/100 sena minn twelidu/1 ta' April 2000" was used at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa, from the 30th March to the 5th April 2000, except for Sunday 2nd April, as the CMR is normally closed for business on Sundays.

01 April - A special handstamp was used at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, to commemorate the Centenary from the Birth of the Maltese poet Guze' Delia S.J. who was born in Siggiewi.



07 April - Maltapost plc notified that a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Portable Altars in Malta/Exhibition/Easter 2000" would be used from the 7th April 2000 to the 13th April 2000, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa. (Sunday 9th April excepted).

11 April - With effect from today, a 29mm double ring C.M.R./Malta followed by 5 well spaced wavy lines was used in red on a stamping machine at the Central Mail Room.



01 May - Maltapost plc used a special hand postmark commemorating the 100th Anniversary since Victoria Sub Post Office had been upgraded to a Branch Post Office. The hand postmark worded “Victoria Branch Post Office Gozo - Malta/1900 - 1st May - 2000” was used at The Banca Giuratale, in Victoria, Gozo, on Monday 1st May 2000 between 8.30a.m. and 1.00p.m. The special commemorative handstamp was designed by Mr George Vella, the P.R.O. of the Gozo Philatelic Society on whose initiative this hand postmark was put into use on 1st May even though it was a public holiday.



02 May - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading “UHM/Union Haddiema Maghqudin/ Sahha u Sigurtà fuq il-Post tax-Xoghol/Waqt ix-xoghol hu hsieb sahhtek” was used at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa from the 2nd to the 8th May 2000.

08 May - A special hand-postmark - Seveso 2000 - was in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta on Monday 8th May 2000, during Office hours. The handstamp was worded “Seveso 7 & 8 - V - 2000/TEMA 2000/ Youth Open/Valletta - Malta”. An identical handstamp was available at Seveso, where Sig Lorenzo Mantegna was representing Maltapost plc during the two-day Stamp Show.



09 May - The “Europa 2000” postage stamp set of two stamps was issued today PostEurop selected the design submitted by Jean Paul Cousin and presented by La Poste (France) to be a common design for Europa 2000 stamps to be issued by its Members throughout Europe on the 9 May. The stamps valued 16c and 46c feature children, to-morrow’s generation, constructing star-shaped blocks into the new millennium “Europa”.



A special handstamp was used on First Day Covers and for the cancellation of other philatelic mail on the first day of issue.

12 May - A special hand-postmark reading “Essen 2000” was in use at the Maltapost plc counter, at Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, on the 12 and 13 May during office hours. A similar handstamp was used on both days, as well as on Sunday 14 May, at the Essen Stamp Fair where Maltapost plc was represented by its Stamp Agents in Germany.



22 May - A temporary arrangement regarding interdepartmental Government mail has been put in place by the Ministry for Economic Services for the duration of the industrial action at Maltapost.

As from today, interdepartmental government mail only may be delivered and collected from a repository at Auberge d’Aragon between 9.00a.m. and 11.00a.m., Monday to Friday. The entrance to the premises is opposite the letter box in Independence Square.

22 May - A Commemorative Postal Card was issued on the occasion of Maltapost plc participation at the Stamp Show 2000 International Philatelic Exhibition which was held at Earls Court, London, from the 22nd to the 28th May 2000.

The Card has imprinted thereon the two stamps of the Europa 2000 postage set and an appropriate motif. The Postal Card could be purchased in mint condition or with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-postmark inscribed "Earls Court - London/22-28 May 2000" and which incorporated the logo of Maltapost and of the exhibition. This postmark was also used at the Stand of the Stamp Show 2000 International Philatelic Exhibition.



The card, cancelled with the special postmark, could be sent through the post at no extra charge provided it was posted during the period 22nd to 28th May, 2000. Cards cancelled with the "London 2000" hand-postmark posted after the 28th May 2000, ought to have additional stamps affixed thereon to cover the required postage.

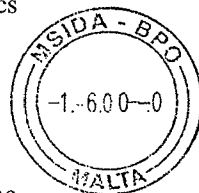
The special postmark commemorating this event was available at the Counter Hall, Valletta between Monday 22nd and Saturday 28th May 2000, and also on the Maltapost Stand at Earls Court Stamp Show 2000.

Another special postmark (not official) commemorating the Stamp Show 2000 was used by Harry Allen who was representing the Maltapost plc at Earls Court International Stamp Exhibition - Stamp Show 2000 - to cancel stamps on the Passports as well as on other philatelic material.

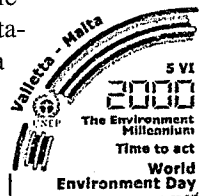
27 May - Today, Saturday 27th May, the Minister for Gozo, the Hon. Giovanna Debono MP, inaugurated a philatelic Exhibition held at the Exhibition Hall of The Ministry, in Victoria. The Bishop of Gozo, Mgr. Nikol Cauchi blessed the exhibition. This was the first show organised by the Gozo Philatelic Society for its Members and was open to the General Public until Sunday 4 June. The Exhibition was staged in collaboration with the Gozo Cultural Council and sponsored by Bank of Valletta.

The Gozo Philatelic Society is a non-governmental organisation that was set up last September and its main aim is to spread the hobby of stamp collecting in Gozo.

01 June - A new stamping machine was transferred from the Logistics Section of The Central Mail Room to the Msida Branch Post Office. A 29mm double ring "Msida B.P.O." followed by five evenly spaced wavy lines was used on this stamping machine at the Msida Branch Post Office as from today.



05 June - A special hand-postmark inscribed "5.VI/2000/the Environment/Millennium/Time to act/World/Environment Day/Valletta-Malta" was used at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta on Monday 5th June 2000 during office hours.

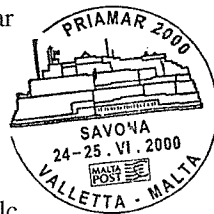


05 June - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "5.VI.2000/

The Environment/Millennium/Time to Act/World Environment Day” was used from the 5th June 2000 to the 10th June 2000 at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

06 June - Maltapost plc advised the public that the Sub-Post Office, at The Globe Stationery, Main Street, Attard, would be closed between Tuesday 6 and Tuesday 13 June 2000, both dates inclusive. During this period, the public could avail itself of services at Balzan Branch Post Office in Main Street.

24 June - A special handstamp was used at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta on Saturday 24th June 2000, during office hours. This handstamp was used on the occasion of Maltapost participation in the Priamar 2000 Stamp Fair at Savona, Italy, through its representative Sig. Lorenzo Mantegna. The handstamp carried the words “Priamar 2000/Savona/24-25.VI.2000/Valletta, Malta”. An identical commemorative handstamp was used on the Maltapost plc Stand at Priamar 2000 on both the 24th and the 25th June.



28 June - A postage stamp set consisting of 2 se-ent pairs (6c, 6c, 16c, 16c) and a Miniature Sheet incorporating the four values was issued today. The set of stamps, commemorating Air Transport 1900-2000, was ably designed by Richard J. Caruana. A special hand-postmark “Transport bl-Ajru/--/Malta” was used for cancelling philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



The Malta Philatelic Bureau, through its official bulletin “The Malta Stamp” No. 179 previewed the stamps in the set. The designer, a leading Aviation artist and historian, gave a very interesting and detailed account of Air Transport during the past century.

10 July - Maltapost plc notified the public that with effect from the 10 July, 2000, the new opening hours at Dar Annona, the Valletta Branch Post Office on Castille Square would be as follows:

Mondays to Fridays – 8.15a.m. - 4.30p.m.

Saturdays – 8.15a.m. - 12.30p.m.

The new opening hours are effective throughout the year.

11 July - The public was informed that due to earlier mail delivery times during summer, the first collection from letter boxes was being carried out at 6.00a.m. instead of 7.00a.m. until further notice by Maltapost plc.

19 July - The “Fireworks” postage stamp set (5 stamps valued 2c, 6c, 16c, 20c and 50c) designed by Martin Bonavia was issued to-day. A special handstamp was used to cancel first day covers and other philatelic mail on the first day of issue. The “Malta Stamp” No. 180 was issued by The Malta Philatelic Bureau to preview the stamps in the Fireworks set released today by Maltapost plc.



01 August - The public is advised that the Sub-Post Office at Fleet Stationery, Testaferrata Street, Ta' Xbiex will open for business, mornings only, between 8.00a.m. and 1.00p.m. during the month of August, and will be closed all day Monday 14th August. On this day the public may avail itself of services at Msida Branch Post Office in Guardamangia Hill.

05 August - It had been notified that the following five Sub-Post Offices were to be closed temporarily as follows:

- * Tarxien Sub-Post Office – from Sat 5 - Sun 20 August, both days inclusive. Nearest B.P.O. – Paola B.P.O.
- * Marsaxlokk Sub-Post Office – from Thurs 10 - Sat 19 August, both days inclusive. Nearest B.P.O. – Żejtun B.P.O.
- * Kalkara Sub-Post Office – from Mon 14 - Sat 26 August, including both days. Nearest Branch – Cospicua B.P.O.
- * Ghaxaq Sub-Post Office – from Thurs 17 - Wed 30 August, both days inclusive. Nearest Branch – Żejtun B.P.O.
- * Dingli Sub-Post Office – from Mon 21 - Sat 26 August, both days inclusive. Nearest Branch – Rabat B.P.O.

10 August - Maltapost plc has issued its schedule for the latest posting dates for Christmas Mail:

Christmas 2000	Air Letters	Parcels	Parcels(SAL)
Africa - Northern States	4 Dec.	15 Nov.	--
Africa - Central & Southern States	4 Dec.	15 Nov.	--
Asia - Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan & India	4 Dec.	22 Nov.	--
Asia - Middle East	4 Dec.	15 Nov.	--
Asia - Far East	29 Nov.	15 Nov.	--
Europe	4 Dec.	22 Nov.	--
UK & Rep of Ireland	4 Dec.	22 Nov.	--
Australia, N.Z. & Pacific Ocean Is.	4 Dec.	22 Nov.	--
Canada	4 Dec.	22 Nov.	--
U.S.A. and Alaska	4 Dec.	22 Nov.	--
Central America & West Indies	4 Dec.	22 Nov.	--
South America	4 Dec.	22 Nov.	--
(Tanzania, India, Phillipines, U.K., Australia, Canada, U.S.A., Alaska and Brazil)			
S.A.L.	--	--	14 Nov.

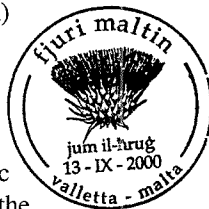
23 August - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Festa Żgħażaġh/23-30 August/Trade Fair Grounds" was used at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa from the

23rd August to the 30th August 2000.

01 September - A special hand-postmark marking Maltapost plc participation in the Riccione Fair was in use at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, on the 1st and 2nd September 2000. An identical handstamp was used concurrently and on the 3rd September at Riccione, on the Maltapost Stand. Mr Joseph Buttigieg of The Sliema Stamp Shop represented Maltapost plc and for the occasion prepared a special Exhibition Card (Exhibition Card No.2) to be cancelled at the Counter Hall, Valletta, Malta and on the Maltapost Stand at Riccione.



13 September - Part Two of the new Definitive Set (Maltese Flora) was issued today. The values in this series are 1c, 3c, 10c, 12c, 20c, and Lm2. The remaining six stamps in this Definitive Set will be issued next year. The stamps were designed very effectively by Maurice Tanti Burlò. A special handstamp was prepared to cancel the new definitive stamps on the first day of issue. The Malta Philatelic Bureau issued "The Malta Stamp" No.181 to preview the stamps in the new set.



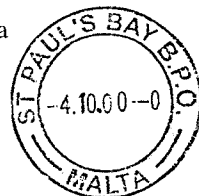
22 September - A special hand-postmark to mark Maltapost plc participation in the Sestri Levante Stamp Fair was used at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta on the 22nd and 23rd September, during office hours. An identical handstamp was also used concurrently and on Sunday 24th, at Sestri Levante by Sig Lorenzo Mantegna who was representing Maltapost plc on its Stand at the Fair. The 33mm circular postmark incorporated the logo of Malapost plc, a sketch of Mosta Church and was inscribed Sestri Levante 2000/22-24.IX/Valletta, Malta.



02 October - A new franking machine was installed at the Victoria, Gozo Branch Post Office. A 29mm double ring postmark inscribed "Victoria B.P.O/Gozo" with the date in a straight line in the middle and followed by five evenly spaced wavy lines started to be used on this stamping machine as from to-day.



04 October - A stamping machine, similar to that installed at the Victoria Gozo B.P.O. started to be used with effect from to-day at St. Paul's Bay Branch Post Office. The postmark franked by this machine is a 29mm double ring followed by five evenly spaced wavy lines. The date appears in a single line in the middle of the postmark.



10 October - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jum Dinji ghas-Sahha Mentali/ 10 ta' Ottubru/Ibza' ghas-Sahha Mentali Tieghek" was used as from to-day until the 16th October, at The Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

12 October - A special handpostmark - Karlu V was in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta, to-day during office hours. The postmark, oval in shape, bears the effigy of Charles V and is inscribed "Hames Mitt Sena mit-Twelid ta' Karlu V/12-X-2000/Valletta, Malta."



A special commemorative Cover, No 14 in the series, was prepared for the issue of this special handstamp by the Maltese-Spanish Philatelic and Numismatic Club. The designer of both the handstamp and the cover is John Micallef, the Secretary of the Circulo and a Committee Member of the Philatelic Society of Malta.

14 October - A Prize Giving Ceremony was held to-day at Le Meridien Phoenicia wherein Maltapost Chairman Frank Dimech awarded the prizes to the children whose designs were chosen for the Children's Stamp Issue on the 18 October. In Category A, "Our Friends the Animals" and "The Natural Environment", the winners were Jean Paul Zammit aged 7 of Qormi and Bettina Paris aged 6 of Swieqi. Chiara Borg aged 14 of Sliema and Roxanne Caruana, aged 11 of Birkirkara were the winners in Category B of the Competition in which the themes were "Malta in the 21st Century" and "Peace in our time".

17/18 October - A Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at Le Meridien Phoenicia between 10.00am and 7.00pm on both these days.

Postal articles posted at this T.P.O. were postmarked by a handstamp bearing the logo of The Philatelic Society of Malta, Maltapost plc logo, the title of the Exhibition "Maltex 2000" and the dates 17-18.X. The handstamp was also inscribed "Le Meridien, Malta".



18 October - Today, Maltapost plc issued a set of four 6c stamps designed by the four winners in the Children's Stamp Design Competition namely, Jean Paul Zammit, Bettina Paris, Chiara Borg and Roxane Caruana.

A special handstamp was used to cancel First Day Covers and other philatelic mail bearing the new stamps and posted on the first day of issue. This special handstamp was used also at the Temporary Branch Post Office set up at Le Meridien Phoenicia for "Maltex 2000" Stamp Exhibition.

"The Malta Stamp" No 182 was issued by The Malta Philatelic Bureau to preview the stamps in the new set. Date of withdrawal of this set of stamps is the 18th October 2001.



21/22 October - Another Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at St. Francis Exhibition Hall, The Ministry, Victoria, Gozo on these days in connection with "Maltex 2000" Stamp Exhibition. Postal articles posted at this T.P.O. were postmarked by a handstamp bearing the logo of the Philatelic Society of Malta, Maltapost plc logo, the dates 21-22.X, the title of the Exhibition "Maltex 2000" and "Victoria Gozo, Malta".



The Malta Philatelic Bureau offered Maltapost plc postal services to those philatelists who were unable to proceed to Gozo, if they handed their philatelic material properly

stamped to The Philatelic Bureau, in Marsa by Saturday, 14 October 2000.

The Sunday postmark used at this T.P.O. on Sunday 22nd October was an attraction to philatelists visiting the Exhibition in Gozo.

23 October - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "ETC/10th Anniversary/ Employment & Training Corporation, Malta/ a Catalyst for change" was used from the 23rd to the 28th October 2000, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

24 October - At 2.00pm, this afternoon, there was the Official Opening of the Mellieha Branch Post Office by the Minister for Communications, the Hon. Censu Galea, in the presence of the Hon. Prof. Josef Bonnici, Minister for Economic Services and the Parliamentary Secretary the Hon. Dr. George Hyzler.

No postal business was transacted at this Branch to-day. Mellieha B.P.O., according to the Maltapost Chairman, Mr. Frank Dimech is the first Branch to carry the Company's new Corporate identity and livery.

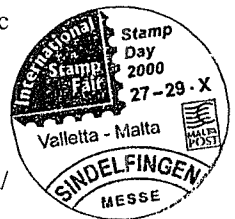
25 October - A Branch Post Office was opened for all postal transactions at 100, Triq il-Mithna l-Gdida, Mellieha MLH 06, at 7.30am. The hours of business and the postal transactions at this Branch Post Office are those laid down in the VIth Schedule of the Inland Post Regulations 1985.



With effect from the 25th October, 2000, postal articles posted in the street letter boxes in the areas served by the Mellieha Branch Post Office (Mellieha, Ghadira, Ċirkewwa and Armier) were postmarked by a datestamp inscribed "Mellieha - Malta".

Post Office Boxes are available and may be rented on application. The telephone number of the Mellieha Branch Post Office is 525376.

27 October - A special hand-postmark marking Maltapost plc participation in the Sindelfingen Messe was in use at the Counter Hall, at Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, on the 27th and 28th October. An identical handstamp was used on both these days and on the 29th October in Germany. The handstamp was inscribed "International Stamp Fair/Stamp Day 2000/27-29. X/Valletta-Malta/Sindelfingen Messe".



LAST CALL

Have you paid your 1999/2000 subscription?

If not please send your dues immediately to:

the Treasurer, Mr. J. Buttigieg

'Miriam House', Zerafa Str., Marsa HMR 14, Malta