



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Malta)

THE PSM JOURNAL

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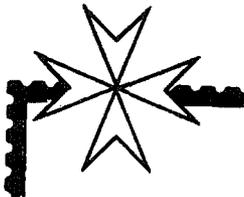


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Editor: Dr A Bonnici, K.M., M.D.

Casa Bonnici, Sir Augustus Bartolo Street,
Ta' Xbiex, Malta.

Tel: 338437 Fax: 339338

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2000 COMMITTEE

- President** Dr J. Mercieca, MOM, DSc (Hon Causa), DDS
193, Rudolph Street, Sliema. Tel: 330459.
- Vice President & Journal Editor:** Dr A Bonnici, K.M., M.D.
Casa Bonnici, Sir Augustus Bartolo Street,
Ta' Xbiex, MSD11; Tel: 338437.
e.mail: abonnici@maltanet.net
- Secretary:** Mr J. Gauci.
17/18, St Anne Junction, Mosta, MST08. Tel: 431907.
- Treasurer & FIP-
Commissioner:** Mr J. Buttigieg.
Miriam House, Zerafa Street, Marsa, HMR 14. Tel: 342189.
- Asst. Treasurer:** Mr John Cardona.
143, St. Mary Street, Tarxien PLA 11. Tel: 892141.
- Asst. Secretary:** Mr J. Micallef.
San Antonio, 5 Triq il-Langas, Naxxar. Tel: 433545.
- Exchange Packet
Superintendent:** Mr A Fenech.
"Miele", Old Railway Road, Balzan. Tel: 440705.
- Members:** Mr T. Camilleri, Mr J. Fenech, Mr H. Wood.

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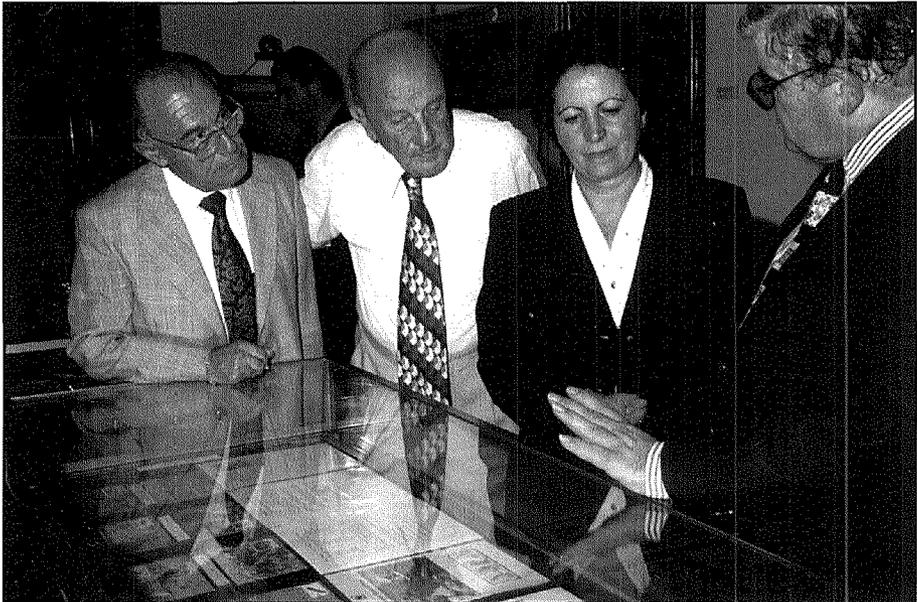
*The Malta Philatelic Society
wishes all our members
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



“A Rare Feast for Philatelists”

“MALTEX 2000”

by Anthony Fenech



The Hon. Minister for Gozo, Mrs. Giovanna Debono MP, being shown round the various exhibits by Mr. A. Fenech in the presence of Dr. J. Mercieca and Mr. J. Cardona during the exhibition in the Gozo Exhibition Hall, Victoria Gozo on Sunday 22nd October 2000

October 17 and 18, as well as October 21 and 22, 2000, were red-letter days in the annals of the Malta Philatelic Society's glorious achievements. For the first time ever, a Philatelic Exhibition, "MALTEX 2000" was organised at Le Meridien Phoenicia, in Malta (17-18th October) and at the Ministry for Gozo Exhibition Halls, Victoria, Gozo (21-22nd October). The endeavours of the Organising Committee were supported by the active participation of Maltapost plc, Maltacom plc and an encouraging number of local and foreign dealers. Heartfelt thanks to the patrons, dealers, exhibitors and visitors who contributed towards the success of our first "MALTEX" Philatelic Exhibition. I am sure that such a manifestation would provide a major stimulus to the long tradition of stamp collecting in the Maltese Islands.

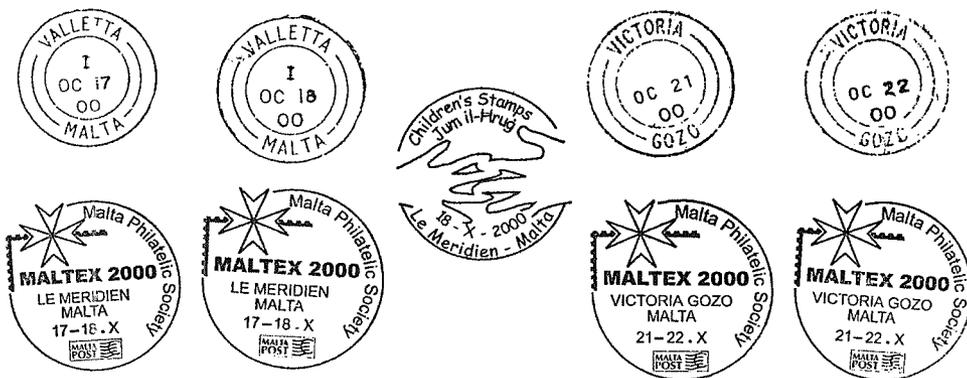
An Organising Committee was set up months before the Exhibition was due. The

Members - Dr. Alfred Bonnici, Joseph Buttigieg, Anthony Fenech and John Gauci have put in many hours of detailed work to ensure the success of this exhibition. As is so often the case, it is the finer detail, often perhaps unnoticed by the visitor, that can make or break an event. The Committee has been supported by many others, very often working behind the scenes who have striven to ensure that everything runs smoothly throughout the exhibition. May I recall the meetings on the very warm July and August evenings held by the refreshing pool in a Ta' Xbiex Villa or on the stifling humid September evenings held in the air-conditioned Board Room of an esteemed Stamp Shop in Sliema. To my fellow Members on The Organising Committee, as well as to all those who have volunteered their services, may I extend a very big, well deserved and sincere "Thank You".

It is worth noting that Maltapost plc supported our request for Temporary Branch Post Offices to be opened at Le Meridien Phoenicia on the 17 and 18 October, as well as at St. Francis Exhibition Hall, Victoria, Gozo on the 21 and 22 October. All the postal transactions normally effected at a normal Branch Post Office were rendered at both T.P.O.'s, where a special postmark was used on all the mail posted in the letter boxes provided. The postal services included:

- Sale of Stamps and Postal Stationery;
- Posting of letters and letter packets;
- Registration of Postal articles;
- Parcel Post Service;
- Issue and encashment of Money and Postal Orders;
- Encashment of Postal Cheques;
- Payment of Telephone Bills;
- Sale of Telecards;
- E.M.S. Datapost.

The handstamp used at Le Meridien T.P.O. bore the logo of the Philatelic Society of Malta, the title of The Exhibition "MALTEX 2000", Maltapost plc logo, the dates 17-18.



Hand stamps used during 'Maltex 2000'



**Part of Mr. Carmelo Bonavia's exhibit featuring Mattia Preti (1613-1699)
– Reproduction of his Paintings on Malta and S.M.O.M. Stamps and Telecards**

X. and the Legend “Le Meridien, Malta”. The handstamp used at the Temporary Branch Post Office in Gozo was very similar to that used at “Le Meridien”, but with the locality “Victoria Gozo, Malta” replacing “Le Meridien, Malta”, and the dates shifted to 21-22. X.

As it happened that on the 18th October there was the Stamp Issue - “Children’s Designs”, Maltapost plc provided a First Day of Issue cancellor inscribed “Children’s Stamps/Jum il-Hruġ/18-X-2000/Le Meridien - Malta”. In fact two different handstamps could be used at the T.P.O. in Le Meridien on that day. Many visitors to the Exhibition cancelled their First Day of Issue Covers with this particular handstamp.

On each of the four days the Exhibition was open to visitors, the special handstamp had a metal datestamp being struck in conjunction with it, namely, “Valletta I/Mal:a” on the 17th and 18th at “Le Meridien” T.P.O., and “Victoria/Gozo” at The Ministry for Gozo Exhibition Hall T.P.O. An attraction to visitors to the Exhibition on the 22nd October was the use of the metal datestamp “Victoria/Gozo” used with a Sunday mark. Sunday postmarks hardly ever occur, as all the Branch Post Offices are closed on a Sunday.

The Exhibition was kept open from 10.00am to 7.00pm on Tuesday (17th), Wednesday (18th), Saturday (21st) and from 10.00am to 1.00pm on Sunday (22nd). Entrance on each day was free. Besides, free valuation of stamp collections was offered by a foreign dealer to visitors to his stand. John A. Mizzi, the Sunday Times Philatelic correspondent has penned “Maltex 2000” as “A Rare Feast for Philatelists” - Vide Sunday Times No 1148 - dated October 15, 2000.

The main contributors to this “rare feast” were the exhibitors, namely:

- Carmel G. Bonavia – “Reproduction of Paintings by Mattia Preti (1613-1699) on Malta and S.M.O.M. Stamps and Telecards”
- Dr. Alfred Bonnici – Malta Air Mails
- Anthony Camilleri – Malta Zeppelin Flights
- John Cardona – World Wild Fund stamps, Covers and Maximum Cards
- Alfred Cauchi – Pope John Paul II visit to Malta (1990)
- Anthony Fenech – Crash and Wreck Covers (Malta connection)
- Dr. John Mercieca – Art on French Stamps
- Hadrian Wood – Old Malta Picture Postcards
- Gozo Philatelic Society – Display of interesting Philatelic items (in Gozo only)

A Certificate of participation was awarded to all the Members exhibiting in the “Maltex 2000” Show. The aim of the exhibition was “the involvement of people in the fine hobby of philately which is still relevant to life in the third millennium.” (Recommended by Knud Mohr – President FIP - Federation Internationale de Philatelie - The Stamp Show 2000.)

The Philatelic Society of Malta is most grateful to Maltapost plc, Maltacom plc, The Sliema Stamp Shop, Fryent Stamps - Malta, Pizzi Club, Filatelia Inter Hobby, John Curtin, Geoff Milsom, Phil Dodds and Chris Bonnet for patronising the Exhibition. Hats off to George Vella, the P.R.O. of The Gozo Philatelic Society who designed and printed the Participation Certificates to the Exhibitors, without charging our Society a single cent. We are very thankful to the Director of Culture in Gozo, Mr John Cremona, who provided us with the Ministry for Gozo Exhibition Hall where we could hold “Maltex 2000” Philatelic Exhibition in Victoria, Gozo. The Director of Culture in Gozo took every possible measure for safeguarding the exhibits during the days of the Exhibition.

It was an honour for The Philatelic Society of Malta to have the Minister for Communications, the Hon. Censu Galea, opening “Maltex 2000” at Le Meridien on Tuesday. It was also a pleasure having The Minister for Gozo, the Hon. Giovanna Debono and the Speaker, the Hon. Anton Tabone, as the main visitors to “Maltex 2000” at the Ministry for Gozo Exhibition Hall in Victoria on Saturday.

Besides the commitment of the Organizing Committee, “Maltex 2000” owes its success to the support of the President of The Malta Philatelic Society, Dr John Mercieca, who despite his venerable age, left no stone unturned to see that the Show, the first of its kind, becomes a reality. The Society is privileged to have him at its helm. He was present at Le Meridien on Monday evening when we were mounting the exhibits and seeing to the final touches. He stayed on until we were ready. I was so much impressed by his last few words before we left the Green Lounge, “I can go home with my mind at ease, now, that everything is in order, ready for to-morrow’s opening!”

Dr Mercieca spent long hours at the Exhibition welcoming visitors; he was on top of the world hearing favourable remarks from those who had gone round the exhibits and visited the dealers’ tables. His last words to them were: “Next year’s Show would be better still!” We will not let him down; we promise better planning and more dedication on our part in “MALTEX...” to come!

MALTA IN THE WEMBLEY EXHIBITION, 1924

Postal Connections

by Giovanni Bonello LLD.

In the tradition of the great Universal Exhibitions which had gained popularity and momentum in the previous century, London embarked on its own showpiece in 1924, to demonstrate to the world the might of the British Empire.

1924 was a momentous year for Britain. Stanley Baldwin's Conservatives resigned in January, to be followed by the first Labour Government ever, led by Ramsey MacDonald, only to be shortly later heavily defeated at the polls by the Conservatives. Baldwin was back with a vengeance in October. The Prince of Wales, later the short-lived King Edward VIII, chaired the Exhibition. Baldwin and Edward VIII soon fell out badly over the Wally Simpson romance.

The exhibition had been meticulously planned since the end of the First World War. Britain expected every dominion and colony to be present with its own pavilion.

The choice of a venue fell on Wembley. A huge park was laid out, including a new soccer stadium, virtually the only structure that survives today.

The design of the Malta Pavilion was entrusted to architect Joseph Cachia Caruana (1894 - 1981) who conceived the edifice as a walled fortress, to which access was gained



King George V, King Victor Emmanuel III and Queen Elena of Italy visiting the Malta Pavilion at Wembley on May 28, 1924.

through a full-scale replica of Mdina gate. Three large halls made up the interior space; one for Malta's prehistory, another for the island under the Knights and finally one for contemporary industry, trade and art.

King George V inaugurated the Exhibition on April 23. Royalty and heads of state from all over the world had been invited. In fact, King George V, King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, together with his wife Queen Elena from Montenegro, the Prime Minister of the U.K. and the Governor of Malta, Lord Plumer, visited the Malta Pavilion together on May 28. King Victor Emmanuel's troubles had to start that year: Benito Mussolini won a convincing victory in the parliamentary elections in Italy.

Preparations for the occasion had been going on in Malta for quite some time, with a grand preliminary exhibition being organised at the Auberge d'Italie, for a selection of those firms, products and works of art that would be sent to Wembley, to be displayed during the British Empire Exhibition. Keen rivalry underscored the competition.

The cream of local artists took part: from Edward Caruana Dingli (with a Salome) to Giuseppe Cali (with a Madonna and Child), Lazzaro Pisani (Death of Abel), Gianni Vella (Youth) and Gużè Duca who entered a scene of Marsamxett harbour with a policeman booking a boy swimming starkers. Lord Plumer's portrait, by Edward Caruana Dingli, was also on show at Wembley. It is now in the Casino Maltese, Valletta.

Two other local artists played a prominent role in the pavilion. Robert Caruana Dingli painted the large frieze running round the whole of the Neolithic hall. I still have his letters to my father, discussing the progress of the pictures and asking for advice. If I remember correctly, the canvases, or some of them, now hang in the Ghar Dalam museum.

Ramiro Cali executed the friezes round the Hall of the Knights of Malta, representing episodes from the history of the Order, and some of its buildings. He also authored a large allegory of Malta under British rule, now, I believe, in the staircase of the Maritime Museum at Vittoriosa.

The prehistoric section showed models of the neolithic temples, the 'fat lady' sculptures and a large profusion of ancient pottery. Originals or replicas? The priceless jars and bowls, looking more fragile than ever, sit, totally unprotected, on tables and shelves. An elbow in the wrong direction and 5000 years of history would turn to powder.

The organisers cluttered the Hall of the Knights with a huge medley of paintings, mirrors, wall-clocks, furniture, arms and armour. By today's canons of display that mass of objects, often on three tiers, would be deemed unseemly, notwithstanding the worth and beauty of each individual item.

Many products of Malta were on show in the contemporary "Industrial Section" to stimulate orders and business opportunities. Cigarettes from the ATLAM factory, stone carvings, embroidery, pottery, wickerwork, filigree and wood products, together with edibles, such as honey, jams, oranges, grapes, wine etc, and "attractive young women making Malta lace".

The silversmith's craft, proudly displayed a model of HMS Renown and one of Verdala Castle by Francis Meli, recently again on show at the Silver Exhibition organised by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti* in 1995 at the Palace, Valletta. The infant tourist industry also exploited the Pavilion as a showpiece and a promotion occasion.

The Exhibition, meant to close down in November, turned out to be such a popular

success that it had to be extended well into the following year. In all it welcomed 14 million visitors, with peaks of up to 300,000 in one day.

The Maltese government (in 1924 headed by Francesco Buhagiar and, later that year, by Sir Ugo Mifsud) commissioned Edward Caruana Dingli for the artwork of two postcards, as souvenirs of the Wembley Exhibition. These were splendidly printed in full colour by Ritcher & Co of Naples. One represents a Maltese lady in faldetta against a sunset on Grand Harbour; the other the close-up of a country woman selling oranges against the Cottonera side of Grand Harbour. They both show the Tourist Board's slogan: Malta - the Island of Sunshine and History.

The prolific London postcard firm of Raphael Tuck & Sons Ltd already had to its credit a number of attractive Malta sets; it did not let the Empire exhibition go by without putting its wares on the market. It published a set of 12 sepia photogravure cards, representing in detail the Malta Pavilion - externally and internally, together with views of Malta and a tourist collage. They sold in two separate envelopes of six cards each.

The Maltese government kept the copyright on all the cards. Those which are not photographs reproduce sections of the frieze in the Hall of the Knights of Malta and are probably the work of Ramiro Cali, except for the last one, showing Neptune overlooking Ta' Liesse and Grand Harbour, which seems more in the pictorial style of Edward Caruana Dingli.

Postcards in full colour commissioned by the Malta Government from the painter Edward Caruana Dingli to serve as a souvenir of the British Empire Exhibition in Wembley in 1924

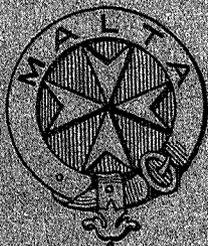


Six Photogravure Postcards

OF

MALTA

Reproduced by RAPHAEL TUCK & SONS, Ltd.



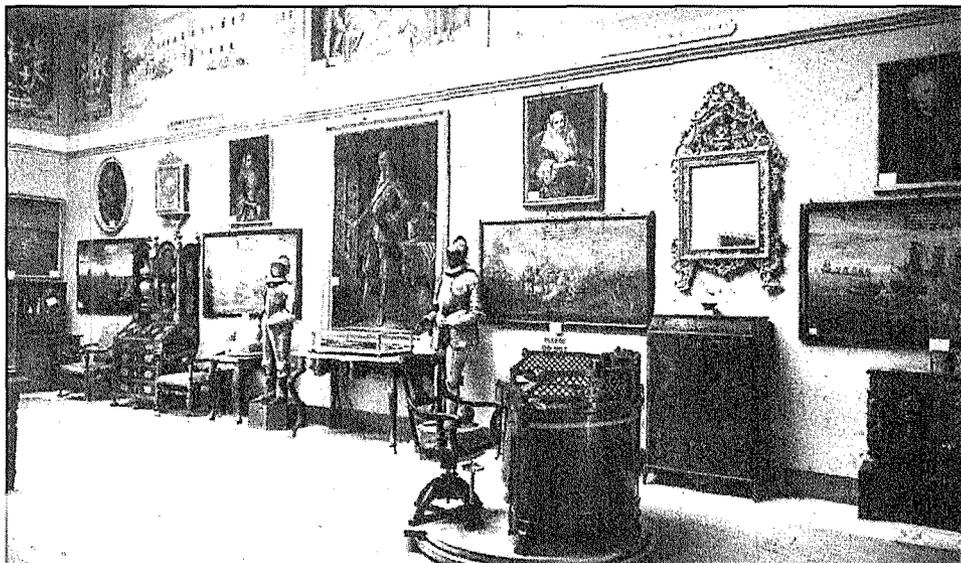
Specially taken for

THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION

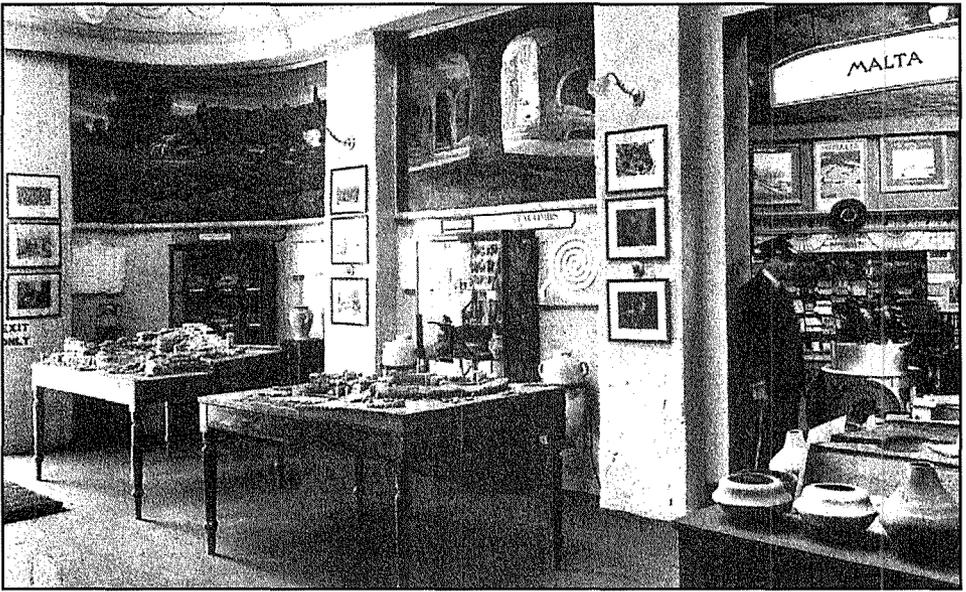
1924

SERIES 1

Envelope containing a set of six cards published by Raphael Tuck & Sons in 1924 on the occasion of the Wembley Exhibition.



“Hall of Malta under the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem”.
No.2 in the Raphael Tuck series of 12.

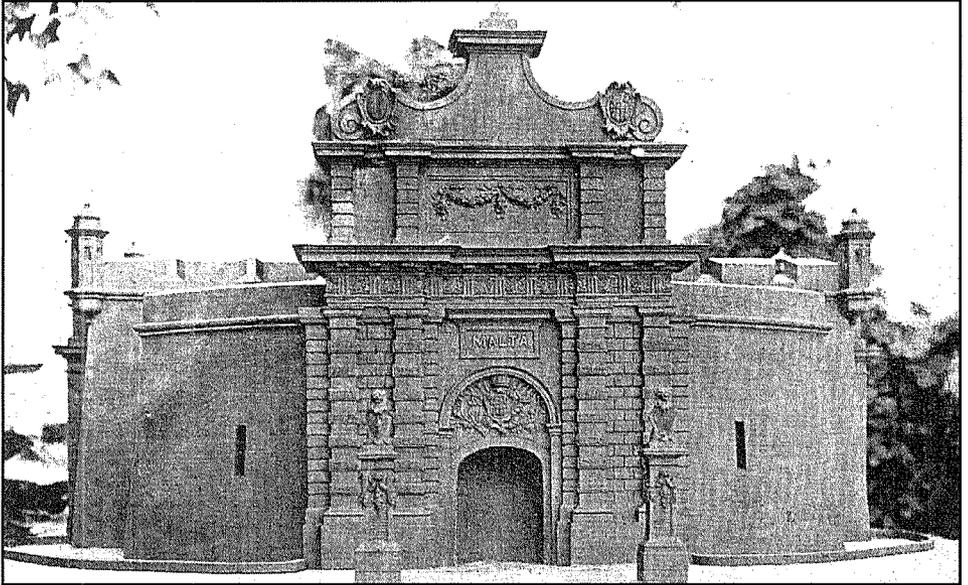


“Prehistoric Malta Section”. No. 4 in the Raphael Tuck series.



**“Industrial Malta Section”.
No. 7 in the Raphael
Tuck sets.**

Concurrently, Malta distributed a large black and white card showing the Pavilion, with a short script in the then trendy Art Deco style, and a booklet about Malta, specially prepared for the Exhibition, which sold for four pence.



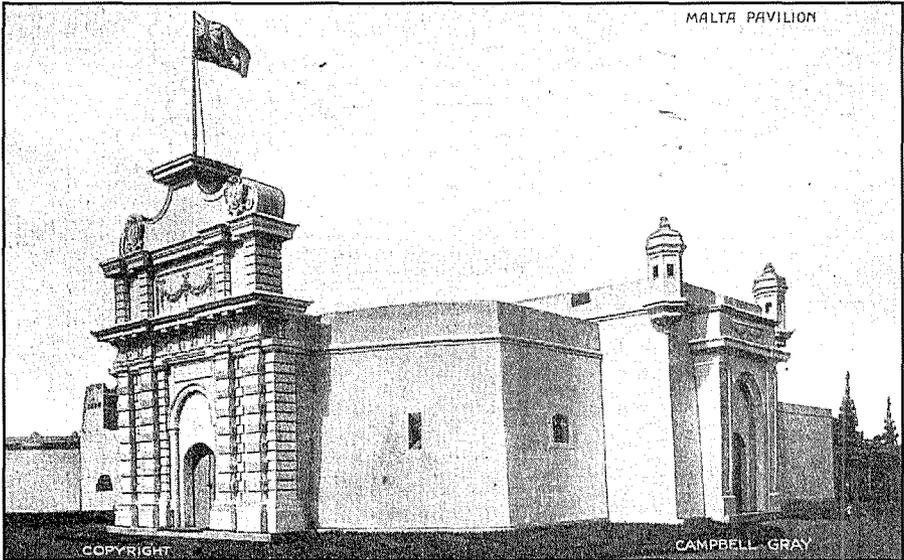
THE MALTA PAVILION
AT THE
British Empire Exhibition 1924

Large card showing architect Joseph Cachia Caruana's concept of the Malta Pavilion at Wembley.

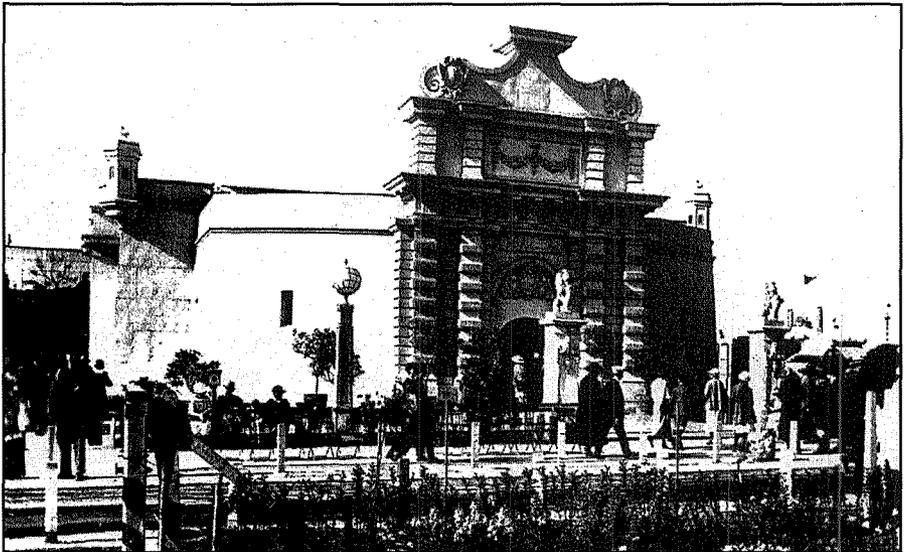
The Raphael Tuck & Sons Ltd sets for the Malta Pavilion at Wembley

- 1 Hall of Malta under the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. Photo.
- 2 Ditto (another angle). Photo.
- 3 Prehistoric Malta Section. Photo.
- 4 Ditto (another angle). Photo.
- 5 The Grand Harbour and the Three Cities Malta. Artwork (probably by Ramiro Cali).
- 6 The Malta Pavilion at Wembley. Photo.
- 7 Industrial Section Malta. Upright. Photo.
- 8 Valletta and the Marsamuxetto Harbour/The Destroyers of the Mediterranean Fleet moor in this Harbour. Artwork (probably by Ramiro Cali).
- 9 Auberge de Castille, Valletta, Malta. Artwork (probably by Ramiro Cali).
- 10 A Maltese boat. Artwork (probably by Ramiro Cali).
- 11 Picturesque Malta. Upright. (The 'fjord' before Ghar Lapsi). Photograph.
- 12 Malta. The Island of Sunshine. Upright. (The statue of Neptune overlooking Liesse Church and Grand Harbour). Artwork (probably by Edward Caruana Dingli).

Two other British publishers printed postcards of the Malta Pavilion, all based on photographs by Campell Gray. One was the Fleetway Press of Holborn, the other Wildt and Kray of London. Curiously, Campbell Gray's photo of the Pavilion is common to both publishers.



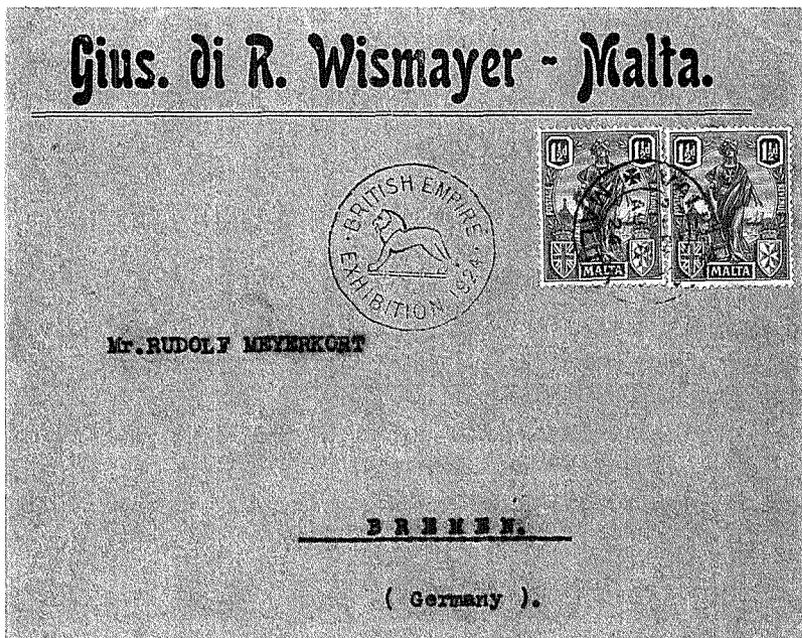
**One of the cards issued by the publishers Fleetway Press
for the British Empire Exhibition of 1924.**



**One of the cards issued by the publishers Wildt & Kray in connection
with the Wembley Exhibition.**

(All illustrations from the author's collections)

The Malta Post Office made history by issuing its first-ever commemorative handstamp. Before Wembley, the only cancellation used by the local postal authorities consisted of a cachet indicating the post office and the day of cancellation. The first exception was made for the Wembley Exhibition - a circular cachet with the British lion at the centre and the words "British Empire Exhibition 1924" round the rim. The graphics of the lion used by our Post Office reproduce the official logo of the exhibition.



Envelope showing the first ever commemorative handstamp issued by the Malta Post Office in conjunction with the Wembley Exhibition.

Very likely three 'Wembley' handstamps were issued: one each for the Valletta, Sliema and Cospicua post offices. They were already in use in May 1923; collectors prize envelopes and cards displaying the cancellation; they fetch dizzy prices on the market.

The Postal Services in Malta in the Mid-Nineteenth Century

Some Mercantile, Commercial and Social Aspects

Dr. Paul Cassar M.D.

Philatelic Section by Dr. Alfred Bonnici M.D.

This account is based on the contents of two registers which were found by chance by the present writer in the spring of 1978 during a stroll in the countryside in the area of Tal Mirakli, Attard. They had been discarded and dumped in a rubbish heap.¹

Each register measures 30cm by 21.5cm. Some of the leaves are torn with missing pieces. They have dated entries, written in Italian in faded ink. There are indications that they were originally bound but their hard covers are missing together with their backstrips; joints are broken; the leaves show some foxing and are frayed in the margins. Each page is divided by vertical lines into columns headed:-

Date and time of arrival of letters; name of ship; date and time of dispatch of letters; name and address of person receiving the letter; and a column bearing the name of the employee delivering the letter.

The earlier register starts on the 16th May 1838 and ends on the 18th November 1838 with a few blank folios at the back. The other register has a "titlepage" with the words *Libro resposte dalli 9 ottobre 1848 alli 13 febraio 1850 (sic)*.

The Time of the Order of St John

During the time of the Order of St John in Malta (1530-1798), the main scope for an overseas postal service was to meet the requirements of trade and the administrative affairs of the Order. There was in fact hardly any need of a postal service for purely friendly letters and family news. In fact the population of the island was varying from twenty-two thousand in the mid-sixteenth century to one hundred thousand at the close of the eighteenth and consisted mainly of illiterate rural groupings with hardly any extra-insular connections. Up to the end of the eighteenth century the ceaseless warfare between the Moslems and Christians in the Mediterranean led to the Maltese being captured and taken slaves to the Barbary States and Turkey - a circumstance which rendered these men and women beyond the pale of epistolary reach.

It was only between Malta and Sicily that the carriage of overseas letters was possible. From Sicily the letters were sent to their ultimate destination on the European mainland by means of land couriers. Originally the expense of this service to Sicily was defrayed by the state but some time after 1708 a postal tariff was fixed, the rate being based on the weight or the number of sheets enclosed in the folder. In 1792 a fortnightly service with Italy was replaced by a weekly one, the opportunity being taken to double the postal rates.

The official responsible for the running of the postal service was known as the Commissary of Post, this designation being later changed to that of Post Master. He had a staff of two assistants, a senior clerk and a post deliverer. He was Mr Dominic Montanaro who retired on pension in 1816 and was succeeded by Mr Robert Macnab Agent to the Post Master General of His Majesty the British Monarch.

Direzione delle Lettere

Rimarche

1.	<i>Insidioma Turco, & Hag Abdalla Benarius</i>	<i>E. Vassallo</i>
1.	<i>Caterina Zammit Pirrasa Longo</i>	<i>En. Micallef</i>
1.	<i>John Dilany Esq. Ireland</i>	<i>spediti in</i>
1.	<i>M^{rs} Thomson Leicester England</i>	<i>Posta</i>
1.	<i>W. J. Eynaud Esq. Malta</i>	<i>F. Berg & Mifs</i>
1.	<i>M^{rs} W. B. Treiravas, England</i>	<i>spediti con il</i>
1.	<i>M. John Crabb, Liverpool</i>	<i>Grand A. Zammit</i>
1.	<i>Brith^o Wilson Esq. Ireland</i>	<i>spediti in Posta</i>
1.	<i>M^r Charles Treiravas Cornwall England</i>	<i>E. Vassallo</i>
1.	<i>Dig^o Giuseppe Fogola, Napoli</i>	<i>Message</i>
	<i>Antonis Palazig</i>	
1.	<i>D^o Vincenzo Mallise</i>	
1.	<i>Beati Adam^e Ed^o Harvey Esq^o</i>	<i>spediti con</i>
1.	<i>M^{ra} Giacetta Vice Adam^e Pir M. Pastres</i>	<i>F. Berg</i>
4.	<i>J. Holton Esq. Esq^o</i>	<i>consegnati al M^o</i>
1.	<i>St^a Emmanuele Pirrasa</i>	
1.	<i>Dig^o Emma Zammit</i>	<i>Messaggere</i>
1.	<i>Vis. Consul of Spain</i>	
1.	<i>Mons^r Bertora, Agent des paquebots Malta</i>	<i>Messaggere</i>
1.	<i>Sir John G. Tindler, Bar^o Capt of Regt, Southampton</i>	<i>Posta</i>
1.	<i>M^o L^o Cavallo con Malta</i>	<i>Malta</i>

II. - - - - - arriva, - - - - - Le - - - - - 17th 1850

Libro risposte dalli 9 Ottobre 1848 all 13 Febbraio 1850. Consegne 17 Ottobre 1848. 10.30 a.m.
Sent on the same day

Plague and the Disinfection of Letters

The possibility of an invasion of Malta by plague was a perennial fear. In those days it was believed that paper and other objects from plague-infected places could convey the disease from one person to another. This explains why there was a close connection between the Post Office administration and the Quarantine system which was based on the Lazzaretto on Manoel Island and which was responsible for the depuration of merchandise, the isolation of incoming travellers at the Lazzaretto or Fort Manoel; the anchoring of ships with their crews in the nearby Quarantine Harbour, and the retention of imported livestock in *ad hoc* enclosures on a stretch of Manoel Island.

The fear of the eruption of a bubonic plague epidemic from overseas by handling paper and other fomites, was ever present in the early decades of the 19th century especially after the invasion by plague from abroad in 1813-1814. All kinds of articles were suspects. In fact Robert Grieves, the Secretary to Government, records that in June 1818 some papers and money were found in "a table drawer which had been purchased from a house in Casal Zebbug five miles distant away from where some inhabitants of that village had died of plague in 1813. The purchaser with the acquired furniture were immediately conveyed to the Lazzaretto and placed under a foul quarantine under proper Health Guards" It was only after no occurrence of disease, neither at the Lazzaretto nor in the village, that the furniture etc., were released from quarantine.(2)

Sea Routes in the Early British Period

With the establishment of the British Protectorate in 1800 and the subsequent British Rule after 1814, overseas trade grew and Malta became a clearing point between East and West in the Mediterranean. Concurrently, with this development, the postal service expanded to keep pace with the new demands made upon it. But those were still the days of sail and the delivery of letters took an appreciable time. The postal ships were of various types and nationalities: schooners, fore-and-aft rigged vessels with two or more masts; brigantines, and single decked vessels using sails and oars (galeotte). The first steamship to call at Malta was the London Engineer on her way to Alexandria on 3rd July 1825. By the early thirties an English Government Steam Packet was plying between England and Malta, the trip taking about seventeen days.

The principal sea routes by which the mails were carried by the mid century were the: (a) Peninsular and Oriental Company engaged by the British Government in 1840 to carry mails between England, the Iberian Peninsula and Egypt calling at Malta on this route; (b) Her Majesty's Packet bringing the London mails from Marseilles and the Indian post from Alexandria; (c) the French Pacquebots carrying letters to France, the United Kingdom, via Marseilles; from Egypt and Constantinople; (d) Italian ships conveying letters to Naples; and (e) occasionally Her Majesty's war ships.

The First Packet Agent

The first Packet Agent in Malta was appointed in 1806. He was responsible for the dispatch of overseas mail between Malta, Gibraltar and Falmouth (UK). This route was extended with the passage of years. A Daily Packet List was published by Her Majesty's

Published under the
 Her Majesty's
 Authority



Authority of
 Postmaster General

DAILY PACKET LIST.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.
 [G.R.S.]

No. 15,733

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1840.

DAILY STATEMENT OF THE PACKET BOATS.						
Stations.	Destinations.	Made up in London.	When due in London.	Mails Arr.	Date.	Mails due.
DUNKERQUE	Calais	Twice daily, Sunday except	Twice daily, Sunday except	4	—	—
	Ostend	Every day but Sunday	Daily	2	—	—
THE THAMES	Holland	Wed. & Sat. Morning	Monday & Thursday	1	—	—
	Hamburg	Tuesday and Friday	Tuesday & Saturday	1	—	—
LIVERPOOL	Dublin	Every day but Sunday	Daily	4	13 14 15	—
HELYHEAD	Dublin	Every day but Sunday	Daily	4	13 14	—
PORT PATRICK	Donaghadee	Every day but Sunday	Daily	2	13 14	—
SOUTHAMPTON	Jersey & Guernsey	Mon. Wed. & Friday Even.	Tues. Thurs. & Saturd.	—	—	—

SOUTHAMPTON STATION.

Destinations.	Mails dispatched from London.	Last Packet sailed from Southampton.	Next Packet due at Southampton.	Arr. at Southampton and date of Mails.
Lisbon, Spain, and Gibraltar	7th, 17th, & 27th of every Month.	JUPITER April 7.	Next Mail due . . . Apr. 26	MONTROSE Gibraltar Apr. 5 Cadix 6 Lisbon 9 Oporto 10 Vigo 11
Gibraltar, Malta, Greece, & Ionian Islds.	20th of every Month	JNDUS Mar. 30	Next Mail due Apr. 28	
Egypt, Ceylon, India, and China	20th of every Month	SEVERN Apr. 2	Next Mail due Apr. 22	
British Colonies in West Indies, (except Honduras, Nassau & Bermuda)	2d and 17th of every Month.	SEVERN Apr. 2	Next Mail due Apr. 22	
Foreign Colonies in W. Indies (except Havana), Venezuela, & Jamaica	2d of every Month only.	SEVERN Apr. 2	Next Mail due Apr. 22	
(By Newbern, Nassau, New Orleans, Mexico, Montserrat, & Havana)	2d of every Month only.	TAY Mar. 17	Next Mail due May 7	
(By Madeira, Grey's Cove, St. Juan de Nicaragua, & New Granada, Chili & Peru)	17th of every Month only.			

FALMOUTH STATION.

Destinations.	Mails dispatched from London.	Last Packet sailed from Falmouth.	Next Packet due at Falmouth.	Arr. at Falmouth and date of Mails.
Madeira	Evening of 4th of every Month.	HMB LANCET April 6	HMB PERCIVAL Apr 26	
Brazil	Evening of 4th of every Month.			
Buenos Ayres	Evening of 4th of every Month.			

LIVERPOOL STATION.

Destinations.	Mails dispatched from London.	Last Packet sailed from Liverpool.	Next Packet due at Liverpool.	Arr. at Liverpool and date of Mails.
British North America, and United States.	Every alternate Friday (before Decr. 1st, January, February, and March, every Friday after that the remainder of the year).	CAMBRIA April 14	CANADA Apr. 19	

NOTICE.—Mails will be made up at this Office on the Evening of the 30th inst., for MADRIRA, and the West Coast of Africa, to be conveyed by one of Her Majesty's Ships appointed to sail on the 1st. proximo. Letters for Madeira will be liable to a postage of 1s. 10d. the half ounce, and so on, and Newspapers for Madeira will be chargeable with a postage of 2d. each. Letters for the West Coast of Africa, will be liable to a postage of 1s. the half ounce, but no charge will be made on Newspapers. All Letters and Newspapers for Sierra Leone, not directed to be forwarded by any other vessel, will be dispatched by these Mails. Letters and Newspapers for Madeira, or for any part of the West Coast of Africa, except Sierra Leone, intended to be sent by this vessel, must be specially addressed "By Her Majesty's Ship." Further notice will be given about the 26th inst., as to the name of the Packet, and the port from which she will take her departure.

MADEIRA BRAZIL AND BUENOS AYRES.
 [From August to January inclusive, the Packet touches at PENAMBUCO and BAHIA on her outward passage to Rio Janeiro, and the other Six Months on her return.]

WEST INDIES, &c
 Avon, for the Mails of the 17th inst.

AMERICA.
 CAMBRIA, sailed 14th inst., with all Letters for America, &c. that arrived or were posted at Liverpool up to the Morning of that day inclusive.
 The United States Mail Packet "WASHINGTON," is appointed to sail from Southampton, on the 20th inst. Letters to be forwarded by this vessel must be addressed "By United States Mail Packet."

HOLLAND AND HAMBURG
 GRAPPE, with the Holland Mails of the Morning of 14th inst., sailed 14th inst.

VIGO OPORTO LISBON CADIZ GIBRALTAR.
MEDITERRANEAN EGYPT INDIA AND CHINA.
 MONTROSE, arrived, brought Passengers, Lady Home; Messrs. Reppeche, Bermisillo, Sansuro, Le Roy, Pereira (Mother and Wife), Mills, Potter (and Family), Ellis, and Wiles, Miss Potter.
 Mails for the Peninsula, &c. Mails of the Morning of 17th inst.
 MONTROSE, for the Mediterranean, Egypt, India, &c. Mails of the Morning of 20th inst.
 The next Mails for GIBRALTAR, MALTA, GREECE, the IONIAN ISLANDS, EGYPT, INDIA, &c., and Southampton, will be dispatched from hence on the Morning of 20th inst.
 The next Mails for the Mediterranean, Egypt, India, &c., via Marseilles, will be dispatched from hence on the Evening of 24th inst.

FRANCE & BELGIUM.

Postmaster General showing the destination of mails despatched from Southampton to Malta, Gibraltar, Egypt and China by the packets *Indus, Sultan, Erin, Ripon* and *Hindustani*(3).

The earliest postal markings on letters consisted of the word *Malta* which first appeared in 1807. Two years later the word *Paid* was added. These markings remained in use until about 1840.

The inland mail was entrusted to a local Postmaster but this office and the Packet Agency were in later years placed under one head.

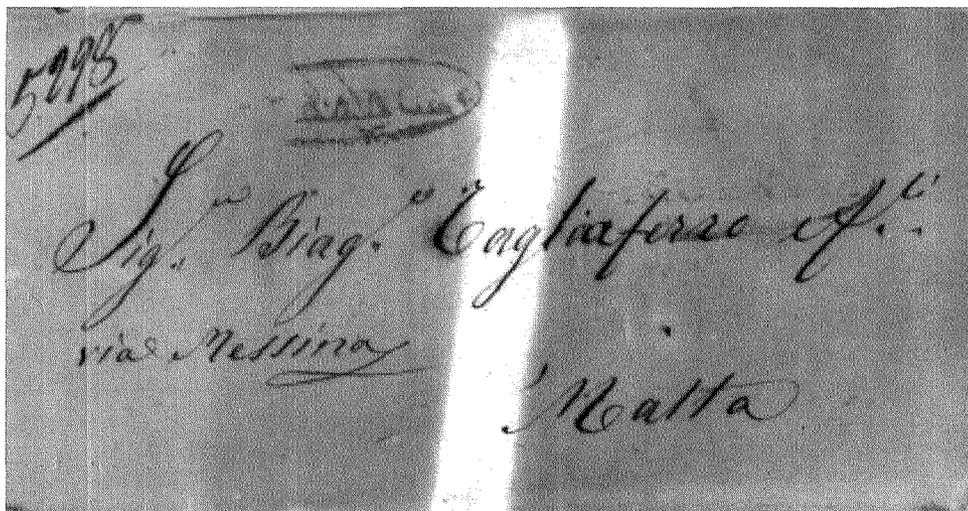
Difficulties Encountered by the Postal Service

In the registers under review there are no records of complaints from senders or recipients regarding any missing, delayed, mis-sorted or mis-directed letters - and this in spite of the fact that quite a number of letters risked being undelivered because of such adverse circumstances as:-

1. Those insufficiently addressed rendering the receiver difficult to identify. Example: Thomas Bell; Mr Smith Strada Teatro; Sig. Rosario Messina (the letters having been found at sea on 16 October 1848); a letter addressed *Nix Mangiari* without the name of the addressee(4); a letter for the Town Major, Malta on 13 November 1848; a letter "*in idioma arabo nella chiesa dei Cattolici, Malta*"; Signor Michele Amodeo di Salvatore Malta; Sig Vincenzo e Giuseppe Farrugia or their sisters nicknamed *TA GAUDI*, Gozo.
2. Letter with addresses in Greek or Turkish scripts. These were passed on to Mr Giovanni Farrugia, the Ottoman Consul, for eventual delivery to the addressee (19 October 1848 and 11 April 1849).
3. Two bills of exchange of fifty pounds sterling each for James Bell.
4. A letter from Constantinople addressed to Laferla and Said Bey "to await for Laferla's arrival in Malta".
5. A sealed package marked "thirty gold napoleons" for the Russian Consul in Malta" dated 27 April 1849.(5)
6. Seventeen passports, three of which were wrapped in a piece of hide on 26 September 1849.
7. *Un libretto* for the French Consul with his *giornale di navigazione* and three loose sheets of paper.
8. There is one recorded mishap which was noticed immediately by the postal officials and attended to without loss of time. It concerned a letter, in a batch of one hundred and thirty-five ones, destined for England and addressed to a corporal of the Royal Marines. While this letter was being slit with a chisel to expose its interior to the *profumo* fumes for disinfection it was accidentally divided into two portions. These were brought together as "perfectly as possible" and enclosed in a new envelope bearing the address of the corporal and "sent to England with all the other letters".

Letters in quarantine

As all postal matter from overseas was considered liable to be infected with the contagion



Entire showing Tong Marks

of plague, letters were not delivered directly to the Post Office for distribution to the recipients in Malta, but were first taken to the *profumo* office at the Lazzaretto on Manoel Island for disinfection by “fumigation” or “smoking” as this procedure was popularly called. Paper money was dealt with in the same manner; but coins were disinfected by immersion in vinegar.

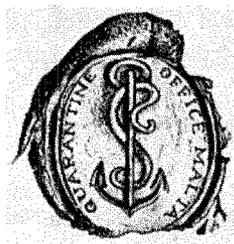
Letters written by travellers already undergoing quarantine were similarly treated before being sent to local residents or sent abroad. The letters were taken from the writer to the *profumo* office by one of the employees of the Lazzaretto known as Health Guardians.

The names of these men are recorded in one of the columns of the registers under study. A separate column contains the names of (a) the employees who delivered the letters to the addressee, (b) the boatman who took the post to ships; (c) and the recipients who called personally at the post office to collect their mail themselves.

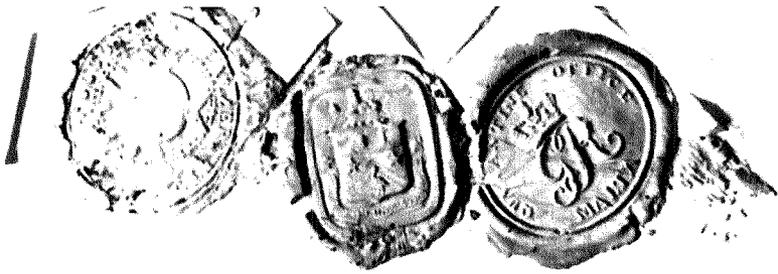
Letters were opened for fumigation and resealed by means of red wax seals.



First Group during the period 1816-1825



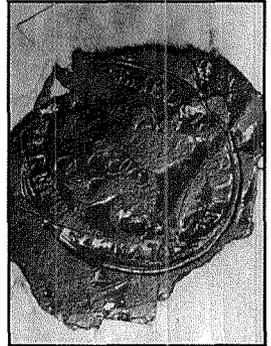
These have been described as having the legend “SANITA / DI MALTA”. And “QUARANTINE OFFICE MALTA” having a fouled anchor with distinct ring and stock; shank with ring like structure and small flutes measuring 25mm by 22mm and 30mm by 26mm respectively.



A Second group of red wax seals was used during the period 1825 – 1840 bearing the crown and Royal Cipher G.R. (George IV Rex King) with the inscription “*QUARANTINE OFFICE MALTA*” measuring 33mm by 25mm.

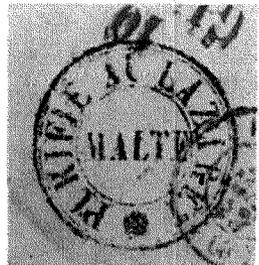
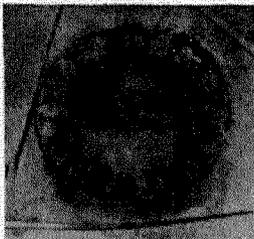
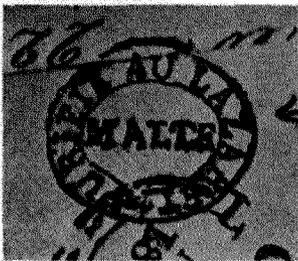
Third group between 1825 – 1844

A horizontal double oval heavy line frame red wax seal measuring 25mm by 21mm. In the centre there is a crown and royal cipher GR, while between two frame lines the inscription reads “*OPENED AND RESEALED / LAZZARETTO OF MALTA*”.



Cachets:

The Business and Diplomatic Community protested very strongly against the opening of their mail, and so, after a serious diplomatic incident, it was agreed that letters would no longer be opened, but slits applied by means of a chisel so that fumigation vapors could enter the entire, and so disinfect it, and the “*PURIFIÉ AU LAZARET MALTE*” applied. The following types have been recorded.



1836-38
26mm by 22mm

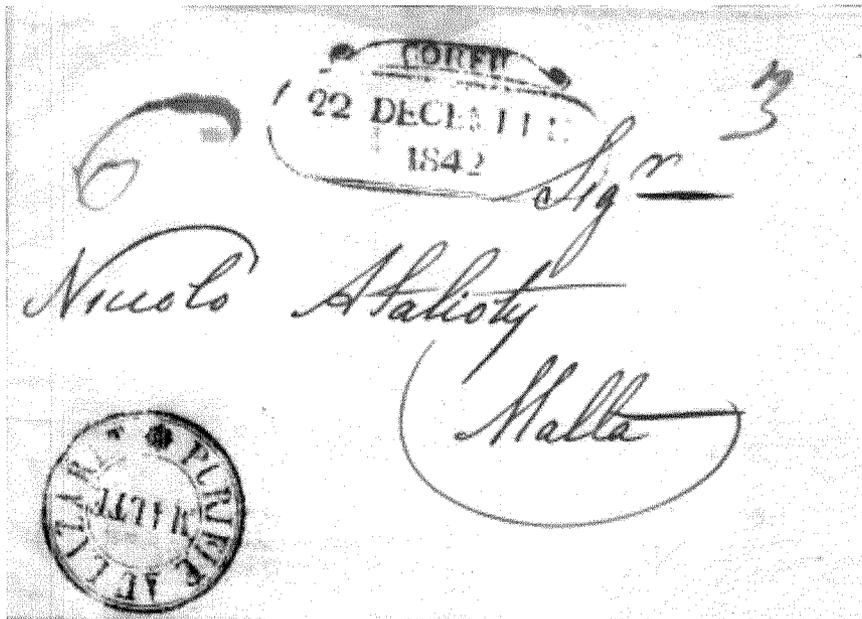
1838-79
25mm & 26mm

1838-79
25mm & 26mm

To further allay any fears, on the part of the recipient, of catching the plague from his letters the envelope was prominently stamped with the words **PURIFIÉ AU LAZARET MALTE** (Disinfected at the Malta Lazzaretto).



Entires showing two different types of "PURIFIÉ AU LAZARET MALTE"



Other circular cachets were used between 1896 and 1904.

Who were the correspondents?

Who were the persons who sent and received letters from overseas? Their names reflect the interests of commercial, professional and ecclesiastical classes that dominated social life in the island. It is not possible to pry into their contents and we can only speculate as to their themes! Were they simply personal or family news? Or business affairs? Or matters concerning government policies or political moves of a confidential nature? And what about the contents of letters of the Italian political refugees living in Malta during the turbulent years of the Risorgimento?

An attempt has been made to classify the hundreds of letters noted in the two registers in accordance with the status or known activities of senders and recipients by referring to information from other sources. They may be grouped as follows:

Senders and Receivers of Letters

Government Officials

His Excellency The Governor (Frederick Henry Bouverie (1836-43). Major General, a veteran of the Napoleonic wars.

Sir Hector Greig, KCMG,

Chief Secretary to Government (1841). Member of the Council of Government, Ex-Superintendent of Quarantine.

Mr Henry Lushington who succeeded Greig in 1846.

Sir John Stoddart.

King and Admiralty Advocate in Malta; Chief Justice until 1838. Friend of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1804).

Sir Frederick Cavendish Ponsonby, Major General. Governor of Malta (1826-36). Veteran of Battle of Waterloo at which he lost his right hand.

Admiral Sir Robert Stopford GCMG

Commander-in-Chief of British Fleet in the Mediterranean (1841)

Admiral Sir William Parker

British Naval Commander-in-Chief based at Malta. When in 1848 Rome was proclaimed a Republic Sir William Parker sent the *Battleship* HMS *Bulldog* to give protection to the Pope and to receive him on board if he so wished, but the Pope fled to Gaeta instead.

Luigi Casolani, Captain of the Lazzaretto

Sir Vincent Borg, *Direttore del Lazzaretto*

Rear Admiral Edward Harvey, Senior Officer, Malta. A letter was sent to him "on immediate service" in December 1849 with the boatman Francesco Borg.

H. Brown Esq., Dockyard, Malta. A letter was sent to him "On Her Majesty's Service".

The Prince of Capua. He was the brother of the King of Naples who seized the Prince's estates as he did not approve of the Prince's marriage. He was in Malta between 1836-7 and again in 1846.

Ecclesiastics

Rev. Mgr. Annetto Casolani, Member of the Council of Government in 1849. Through his interventions in this council the Catholic Religion was recognised as the dominant religion vis-a-vis any other Christian Church (6).

Rev. Mgr. Saverio Caruana who in 1848 spent some time in quarantine at Fort Manoel. Letters were addressed to him as Bishop and Archbishop of Malta.

Rev. Mgr. Publio dei Conti Sant.

Successor to Archbishop Caruana on 17 December 1847.

Prominent Businessmen

Badger, George Percy

Barbar, Lewis, 26 Strada San Giovanni, Valletta. A wine merchant. He was a Sicilian but became a naturalised British Subject (1833).

Dalzel, George 225 Strade Reale, Valletta. Agent of Life Insurance. United Kingdom (1844)

Dalzel and Gingell, same address. Auctioneers (1841)

Eynaud, William 341 Strada San Paolo, Valletta. American Underwriter and insurance agent.

Kilburn, Anne 271 Strada Reale, Valletta. Fashion shop (1841)

Muir, G 247 Strada Reale, Valletta (1840). Bookseller and printseller. Printer of Muir's Almanack. By 1871 this firm appears as W. Watson.

Petrocchino, Eustachio. 13 Stada Reale (1868) Merchant

Portelli, Agostino 268 Strada Reale, Valletta. Member of the Council of Government (1841); one of the chief Maltese merchants; promoter of the Chamber of Commerce (1840); Vice President of the Bank of Malta

Slythe, Robert 156 Strada San Christoforo (1848) and 206 Strada Reala (1868), Valletta.

Tagliaferro, Biagio e figli. St John Street, Valletta. He founded a band in Valletta in 1812. His brother Gio Batta was born in Genova, later became a naturalised British subject.

Watson, A 248 Strada Reale, Valletta. He was still active in 1898.

Watson, John 277 Strada Reale, Valletta. Bookseller and merchant still active in 1822. There was also a Watson, E. Bookseller.

Zimelli, Ettore 124 Strada San Domenico, Valletta. Consul for Sweden and Norway; member of the Commercial Rooms founded in 1809 in rooms of the Jesuit College (later the University of Malta); member of the Society of British Merchants who were a group of leading businessmen.

Men of letters

Editor of the Malta Times (1849-1868) published by the British Press, Strada Zecca.

Filippo Izzo, Editor of the **Mediterraneo** (1850), 93 Strada Vescovo, Valletta (in 1868)

George Mitrovich (1795-1885) Merchant at Strada Zecca (1868). Senglea born, he belonged to a group of intellectuals who exerted pressure on the British Government to grant liberal reforms in the field of public instruction and a moderate liberty of the press.

Quintano, J. Stationer and bookseller (1848), 27 Strada Stretta, Valletta.

Consuls

Giovanni Farrugia, Ottoman Consul (1848)

Thomas Mac Gill. Consul for Greece, 27 Strada Stretta, Valletta (1811). Director of a Silk Factory at Verdala Castle Buskett Gardens. Member of Commercial Rooms.

Joseph Slythe. Consul of Sardegna.

William Slythe son of Joseph and his successor as Consul of Sardegna.

Robert Slythe. Nephew of Joseph and successor of William as Consul of Sardegna. He was an import merchant of wine, wax, etc., a member of the Commercial Rooms and one of the founders of the Anglo Maltese Bank (1809).

F. Tagliaferro. Consul for Russia. Other members of the Tagliaferro family were Biagio (Banker, 1812) and Giovanni Battista both born in Genova and later becoming British subjects.

Medical Practitioners, Maltese

Luigi Gravagna, 67 Strada Britannica, Valletta. *Medico di Polizia, del lazzaretto* (1838 and 1841) and Member of the *Comitato medico* (1841).

Gio Carlo Grech Delicata, 26 Strada Mezzodi, Valletta (1848). Secretary of the *Societa' Medica d'Incoraggiamento*, at 145 Strada Stretta, Valletta. He was the leader of a group of sympathisers of Italian refugees known as the *Associazione Patriottica Maltese*.

Publio Monreal, 86 Strada Mercanti, Valletta. *Medico di polizia*, and Anatomical Dissector (1841).

Arcangelo Pullicino, address? Member of the *Societa Medica*

Professor Costantino G. Schinas, Professor of Medicine, University of Malta.

Emanuele Speranza. address?.

Giuseppe Maria Stilon, 167 Strada Stretta, Valletta and Strada Reale, Valletta.

He was of Italian origin. He was taken prisoner by the British armed forces at the Battle of Maida (Sicily) and taken to England where he was freed and joined the British naval medical service. In this capacity he was later sent to Malta where he died in 1848. He is the author of an account of the cholera epidemic that struck the island in 1837.

British

Francis Fremoult Sankey, 76 Strada Forni, Valletta

? **Witmarsh,** address? He was the recipient of a letter enclosing a key.

John Little, The British Naval Hospital, Malta. This hospital consisted originally of a section of the military hospital set up in a part of the erstwhile Holy Infirmary of the Knights at Valletta. On the 5th June 1804 seven British merchant firms and two sea captains had complained about the absence of a naval hospital for the reception and treatment of sick and injured merchant seamen and suggested that mariners be received in one of the Maltese hospitals where they could be provided with the necessary medicines and food. They proposed that the expenses be provided by British ships using Malta harbours.

William Londsey, Deputy Inspector, Royal Naval Hospital Malta

William Davey, Assistant Surgeon, The Admiralty, Malta

G Richardson, Fort St Angelo

? **Nicholson,** HMS *Martin*

Pharmacists. Maltese

Carmelo Arpa, 89 Strada Vescovo, Valletta (1862) and 241 Strada Reale (1868)

Antonio Emanuele Borg (?)

Giuseppe Fenech

Farmacia della Carita. (17.5.49)

Farmacista Giuseppe Mamo, nell'Ospedale Civile, Malta. (18 September 1849); 134 Strada Reale, Valletta (1862).

Italian Refugees

The first half of the 19th century was a period of revolutionary movements in Europe. A secret Neapolitan organisation with liberal and republican aims was known as the **carbonari** perhaps from the fact that they disguised themselves as charcoal burners (7). Their persecution led to the Neapolitan revolution of 1820 and to an influx of Italian political refugees from Sicily to Malta (8). In fact Malta was considered as the centre of the majority of Italian revolutionaries to the chagrin of the Bourbon King of Sicily.

The postal register under study records that in 1838 two batches of seventeen and nineteen letters from the **carbonari** refugees in Malta were sent to England by Mr H Holton, the acting Superintendent of the Peninsular and Oriental Line; on the 25th November of that year.

Emilio Usiglio took refuge in Malta, on and off, between 1835 and 1842. He was in close touch with Giuseppe Mazzini and may have been a relative of Cesare Usiglio from Modena who was also in Malta by 1832 when he graduated in medicine at the Malta University (9).

Luigi Fabrizi was in Malta between 1834 and 1848. He joined the ranks of Giuseppe Garibaldi and took part in the Crimean War (10).

Paolo Fabrizi, brother of Luigi. He was a graduate of the University of Pisa in 1827 and later of the University of Malta. (1839-40). He was a plastic and orthopaedic surgeon.(11) Politically he propagated the idea of the unity of Italy.

Nicola Fabrizi (1804-1885). He was a native of Modena but had his political headquarters in Malta (1837) where he lived in the house of Emilio Usiglio (1838). He kept a constant correspondence in code with Giuseppe Mazzini in London and with other patriots in various parts of the world. He fought in the ranks of Giuseppe Garibaldi (1860) and welcomed him in Malta in March 1864.

Adriano Lemmi had been secretary of the Hungarian revolutionary Kossuth and at one time Grand Master of Italian Masonry. The Austrian Charge d'Affaires urged the Tuscan Consul in Malta to keep a watch on Lemmi's activities. The discovery of the smuggling into Italy of a revolutionary pamphlet over the initials A.L. was ascribed to Lemmi; and the latter was ordered to leave Malta. On one occasion he spent a period of quarantine on board the steamer **Rostand** anchored in the Lazzaretto creek. A letter was delivered to him on board by the Lazzaretto boatman. He left Malta on 12 October 1852.

Women recipients

Lady Hamilton Chichister, Pieta, Malta, 1838

Lady Julia Lockwood, Sa Maison. A letter was delivered by an officer of the 65th Regiment.

Lady Stoddart, wife of lawyer Sir John Stoddart (1773-1850), King's and Admiralty Advocate and President of the High Court of Appeal in Malta (1826-40). Sir John was a friend of S.T. Coleridge. He resided at the Auberge d'Allemagne, the site now occupied by St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral.

Mrs I Rodgers, Strada San Nicola (?) Marina, Isola (Senglea).

Mrs (name?) Barnes, 10 Strada San Paolo, Valletta

Mrs (name?) Baxter, 85 Strada Sant'Anna, Floriana

Madam (name?) Goodenough (address?)

Miss (name?) Waugh, (address?), received some newspapers on 23 August 1838.

Antonia moglie di Gio Maria (surname?), 47 Strada Stretta, Floriana

Signora Vincenza Abela (address?)

Margerita Sciortino, Zebbug

Maria Zammit detta ta' Gian (no address)

Hotels receiving letters from abroad

Clarence Hotel, 249 Strada Reale, Valletta

Morelli, 224 Strada Reale, Valletta

Dunsford (locandiere) 254, Strada Reale, Valletta

Princess Royal Hotel (formerly Baker's Hotel), 111 Strada Vescovo

Payment of postage

Until 1817 postage was levied in accordance with the number of sheets enclosed in the envelope. Letters with unpaid postage were returned to the sender. A letter to the United Kingdom was charged fifteen pence (1850) and those to India and Singapore were charged two shillings sixpence (1848).

Number of letters sent abroad

The number of letters sent overseas in one day varied from time to time. To give an idea of the quantities involved here are some figures taken at random. In 1848 the smallest number for England (via Marseilles) was thirteen, and for India forty-eight. Eighteen letters with Turkish addresses were sent to Constantinople in the same year. In 1849 a "sack" of thirty-eight letters from British army officers was despatched on the 17 June 1849. Another batch of one hundred seventeen letters, also for England, followed soon after.(12).

The only disruption of the overseas service was due to rough seas. Thus no ships arrived for three days between November and December 1848; and for four days at the beginning of 1849.

References and Notes

The Philatelic Section was contributed by Dr. A. Bonnici.

- 1 Cassar, P. The Correspondence of a Senglea Merchant During the Plague of 1813, Hyphen Vol. II, No. 4, 1980, p.147.
- 2 Lib. 483, no pagination, letter dated 18 September 1818. National Library of Malta
- 3 Daily Packet List, No. 15, 788, 16 April 1849, Cripplegate.
- 4 **Nix Mangiari** was the name of a short street near the Victoria Gate, Valletta.
- 5 A **napoleon** was a French twenty-franc piece of Napoleon I.
- 6 Laferla, A.V. British Malta, Vol. I. 1938, pp. 189, 207 & 209.
- 7 Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English, Oxford, The Clarendon Press, 1929, p. 166.
- 8 Laferla, A.V., op., cit., p.121.
- 9 Cassar, P. Overseas Medical Graduates and Students at the University of Malta in the 19th Century, Melita Historica, Vol8 1981, p93
- 10 Bonello, V. Fiorentini & Schiavone, L' Echi del Risorgimento a Malta, Malta, 1963, pp. 138-9.
- 11 Cassar, P. Medical History of Malta, London, 1965, p.536.
- 12 It may be noted that in 1841 there were three British Regiments in Malta besides the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery.

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Almanacco di Malta per l'anno bisestile 1848, Gabriele Vassalli, Tipografo.

D'Angelo Michela, *Mercanti inglesi a Malta 1800-1825*, Milano, 1990.

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.

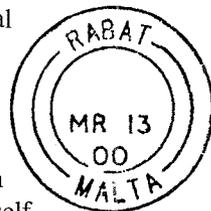
04 March - Maltapost plc notified that the Valletta Post Office Counters and the P.C. Boxes Section in West Street and the Victoria Branch Post Office, Gozo, would close at 1.00p.m. on 4 March, being Carnival Saturday. Mail collections and deliveries would be made normally in the morning, but no collections 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, Marsascala (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.



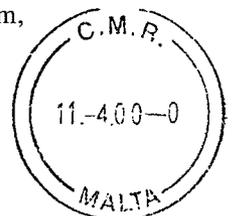
30 March - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Patri Gużè Delia S.J./Poeta mis-Siggiewi/100 sena minn twelidu/1 ta' April 2000" was used at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa, from the 30th March to the 5th April 2000, except for Sunday 2nd April, as the CMR is normally closed for business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



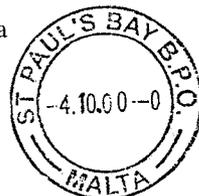
22 September - A special hand-postmark to mark Maltapost plc participation in the Sestri Levante Stamp Fair was used at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta on the 22nd and 23rd September, during office hours. An identical handstamp was also used concurrently and on Sunday 24th, at 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.

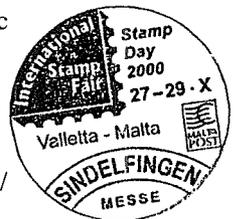
25 October - A Branch Post Office was opened for all postal transactions at 100, Triq il-Mithna l-Gdida, Mellieha MLH 06, at 7.30am. The hours of business and the postal transactions at this Branch Post Office are those laid down in the VIth Schedule of the Inland Post Regulations 1985.



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".



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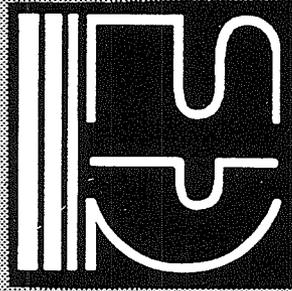


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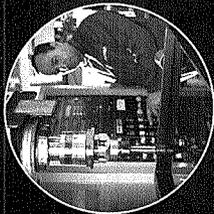
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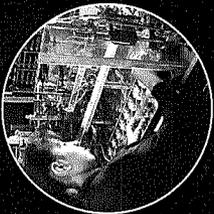
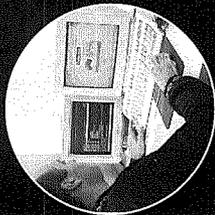
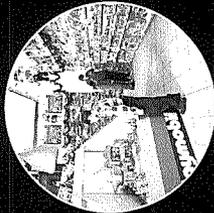
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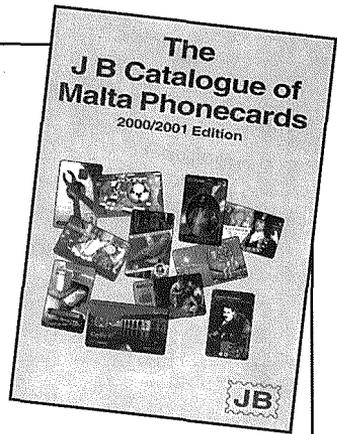
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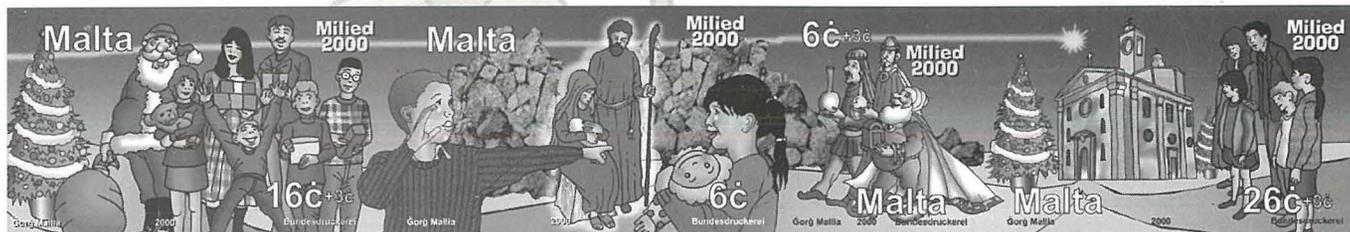


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Date of Issue:
18th November

Design:
Görg Mallia

Date of Withdrawal:
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