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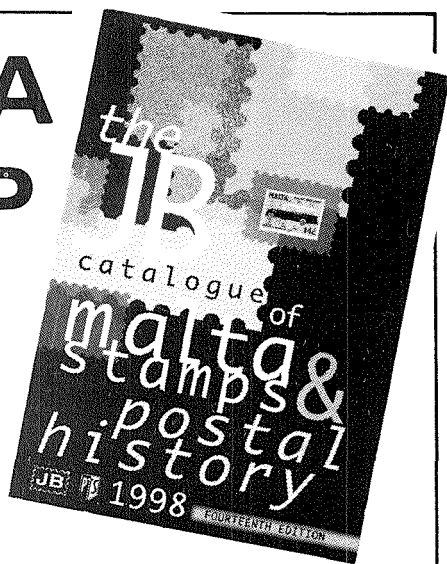
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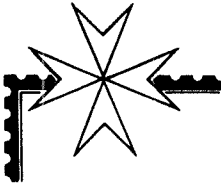
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Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84 & AUSIPEX '84
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Casa Bonnici, Sir Augustus Bartolo Street,
Ta' Xbiex, Malta.
Tel: 338437

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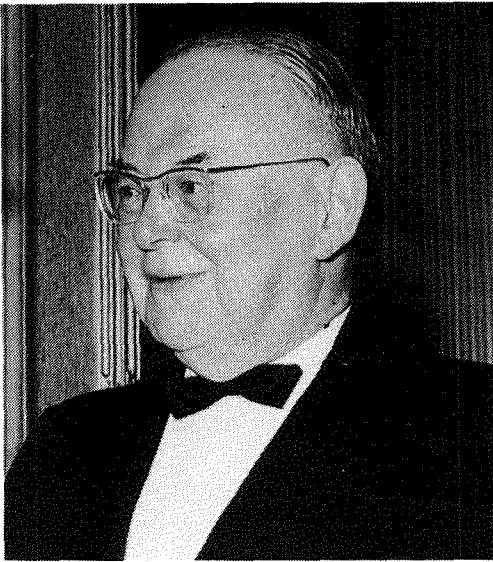
Feb 2, Mar 7, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 8, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, Dec 21

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ROBSON LOWE

1905-1997



I met Robbie, as he was affectionately known to his friends, for the first time in his London Office on April 20, 1970, when I sought his advise how to research the "Malta 1/2d Queen Victoria 1860-84 Printings". In no time he arranged for me an appointment to visit, view and examine the archives of De La Rue, the printers, the next day through Mr AG Rigo de Righi.

From that day onwards, we became close friends, and I began to seek often his advise, and help, especially on Postal History items, for which he had special affection. I

used to call on him at his London Office, whenever I had the opportunity.

I used to enjoy seeing his eyes twinkle, when I showed him some rare Knights of Malta Postal History item, researching it together, sometimes taking months of research in various archives, in London and in Malta. What a delight it was to see the lovely smile on his face, when finally he would come up with a solution.

To me this was Robbie the researcher — the man who was always willing to offer me an unstinted helping hand — the man who encouraged me with my research and publication of the "Malta 1/2d Queen Victoria Postage Stamp Printings" in the 1980 UK-Malta Study Circle Handbook.

The man who always wrote back nice complimentary letters after reading the Philatelic Society Magazine, which I have Edited through his constant encouragement.

My wife Elda and I have had the privilege of entertaining him in our home in Malta to reciprocate his generous entertaining he gave us at the East India Club whenever we were in London.

Thank you, Robbie, for your help, encouragement, and friendship which Elda and I have greatly appreciated through the years we have come to know you.

Lately I have received the enclosed landmarks about him from Messrs. Christie's, which I am publishing with their kind permission, so that our members will share with me the memory of this great man of British Philately.

Dr. A Bonnici, MD, KM



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Dear Dr Bonnici,

29. 1. 86.

Mr Lowe has approached me for a photograph of one Maltese item that was displayed at the Royal Philatelic Society, London on 19th September 1985.

A MEMBER OF THE CHRISTIES INTERNATIONAL GROUP



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Please reply to:

17th May 1983

Dr. Alfredo Bonnici,
"Casa Bonnici",
Sir Augustus Bartolo Street,
Ta'Xbiex,
MALTA.

Dear Alfredo,

I have now read the PSM magazine and thoroughly enjoyed it. The cover illustrated on the bottom of page 1 was from a surgeon working at Scuarari where he described an extraordinary injury of how cross he was because the chief surgeon would not let him send the report on the injury to the medical journal in England. I sent a copy of the letter when it came into me and I am sure his ghost was pleased when they published it.

I read your article on Disinfection with great interest and without making a book of it I do not think you could have done better.

I also liked your contribution on the Napoleonic Period and Marseille De Malthe.

Best wishes to you all

Yours,



CHRISTIE'S ROBSON LOWE

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Dr. Alfredo Bonnici,
MALTA.

28th March 1984

Dear Alfredo,

We found a pretty cover this morning with a corner copy of the 6d. embossed first printing used during the first few weeks of use on a cover to Malta. I am enclosing a couple of photostats of the front as well as a photostat of the content which is of particular interest. It is written by B. Barton who was at Winchester College, possibly a cleric. On the first page he says "I hope and pray that this odious war from which no one can get any good except the French Emperor, may soon cease - its a just war, I believe but it is not less calamitous." On the second page he refers to the Saar of Russia and "I suspect some changes in the ministry are announced today and which show the predominance of the Whigs in the Cabinet whenever they have the upper hand, there is.... to this government and mis-fortune. Lord John Rupert the President of the Council - and Sir George Gray, Colonial Secretary - they will both of them have top opportunities of doing mischief and I shall be greatly surprised, if they do not avail themselves of this."

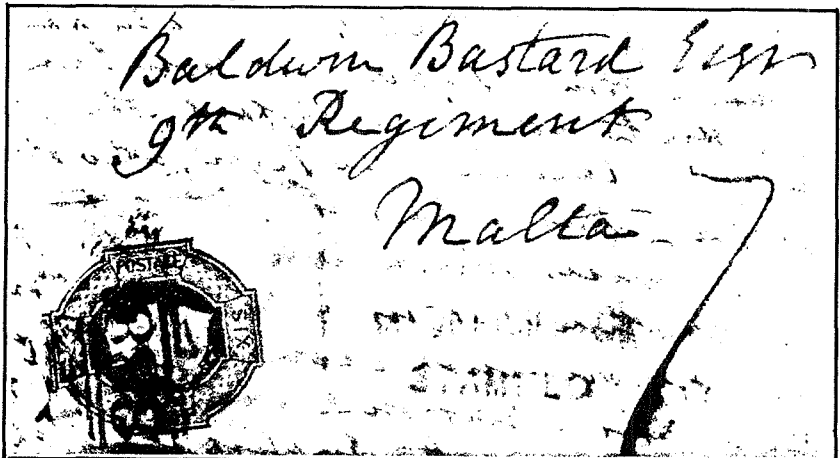
If you think there is a story in it for your journal I will send you a photograph of the front cover. It will at least establish the fact that there were British bastards in Malta and Mr. Mintoff should be delighted.

I found some more early Malta but am pressing on with the sorting and when I have finished the work will let you have photostats of any other early letters.

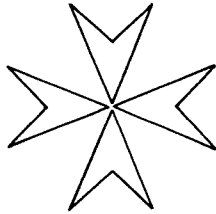
Best wishes.

Yours,

Robbie



The Knights of Malta



The Lazara Correspondence



1662-1669

1789-1798

By Robson Lowe

To Alfred Bonnici
with gratitude
Robson Lowe

PHILATELIST AND PIONEER POSTAL HISTORIAN

Robson Lowe who died in Bournemouth aged 92 after a long illness which did not prevent him from working until the last few weeks of his life, will be best remembered as the father of postal history, a subject upon which he published many definitive works. He was, in all probability, THE professional philatelist of the twentieth century.

Robbie, as he was known to his many friends throughout the world, will be remembered as an avuncular character and his corpulent frame, cherubic visage, corn-cob pipe and penchant for risqué jokes, postcards and limericks were but a few of his distinguishing characteristics. His colleagues in business occasionally saw the other side of his personality which could erupt in outbursts of petulance should he not get his own way; however, the turbulence never lasted long and he was not a man to harbour grudges. From his staff, he expected extreme loyalty and dedication, yet he was not aloof and was always on hand to give paternal advice and practical assistance whenever required. He believed that teamwork was the cornerstone of a successful business. His relationship with the philatelic trade could be uneasy and more than one prominent dealer was turned away from an auction for not having settled an account.

John Harry Robson Lowe was born in London on January 7th 1905 and had an inauspicious start to life as his mother sustained a heart attack shortly after his birth; in his early years he was brought up by a foster mother and his sister. He began collecting postage stamps in 1911 and his first "major" purchase was made at the age of 10 when he acquired 1000 British Empire stamps for one shilling and nine pence. It was during his early school days that he started trading stamps with his fellow pupils.

On May 6th 1920 Robson Lowe embarked on a career in philately which was to span over five decades and have a profound affect on the hobby that was effectively his life; virtually every serious collector has benefited from his multifarious activities. To list all his achievements during a highly eventful life is the work of a biographer, but the following are some of the landmarks listed in chronological order.

1920 - he sold his personal collection for £20 and opened a bank account, one of his first successful transactions was the unlikely acquisition of a commode for 10/-, the commode contained a cache of early letters from India which were sold for £75.

1928 - he married Winifred Marie Denne; among the wedding gifts was an example of the famous USA 24c. Inverted Jenny donated by the finder of the sheet, Col. E H R. Green. Sold for £90, the proceeds furnished their home. He then travelled to South Africa where he did a thriving trade and unwittingly acquired an orange farm in Natal after a bibulous evening with fellow philatelists;

After two months he managed to exchange the farm for a stamp collection and made a profit.

1923 - he bought a box of some 10,000 stamps which proved to be forgeries by the Spiro Brothers of Hamburg; this "instigated his great interest and knowledge of the subject which culminated in him purchasing, on behalf of the British Philatelic Association, the master forger Jean de Sperati's stock for £8,000.

1926 - he opened offices at 93 Regent Street and made his first visit to the USA where he covered the country by car and made significant finds of correspondence, notably Wells Fargo and Co., and other Western Express Company letters during visits to the Gold Rush towns.

1932 - he published the first edition of Regent Stamp Catalogue and three years later this became the Regent Encyclopaedia of Empire Postage Stamps.

1935 - he started Regent Stamp company, specializing in retailing rare stamps and collections of the British Empire.

During the reigns of George V and George VI, when Sir John Wilson was the curator, Robson Lowe was a regular visitor to Buckingham Palace and assisted both Kings, who were avid and knowledgeable philatelists, in adding to the Royal collection.

1936 - he contracted hepatitis and retired to Bournemouth and wrote the first edition of the Handstruck Stamps of the British Empire.

1939 - he moved to 50 Pall Mall after a bomb had damaged the premises of the Regent Stamp Company. 50 Pall Mall was to become one of the Meccas of philately until the business was transferred to Bournemouth in 1976.

1941 - he held a series of Red Cross auctions in conjunction with Christie's. These were the start of a close relationship culminating in the acquisition by Christie's of Robson Lowe Ltd in 1980.

During the war years Robson Lowe's Specialised Stamp Sales continued trading and offered important collections including those of McGowan (GB), Beckton (Finland), Jewell (Argentina), Vallency (GB), Small (Br. Guiana) and Ginger (New South Wales).

1945 - he started Bournemouth Stamp auctions; operations started with a staff of two. The highly popular general sales attained an annual turnover of over £1,500,000 before they closed in 1991.

1947 - he set up an office in Philadelphia and held a series of successful auctions in partnership with Arthur Pierce; the operation ceased when the British Inland Revenue ruled that he had to pay both US and British taxes - the venture bankrupted him.

1948 - he published The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume I (Europe); subsequent sections have been published with the final volume remaining incomplete.

1950 - he founded the Society of Postal History to promote interest in and knowledge of the subject.

1956 - he acquired the eminent dealers P L Pemberton and with the business their stock and their house magazine "The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain".

1961 - he set up in partnership with fellow auctioneers Jacques Robineau (Paris), Urs Peter Kaufmann (Basle) and J.L. Van Dieten (Hague) who amalgamated to exploit the potential market in Switzerland; the conglomerate was named the Uncommon Marketeers. They were later joined by Adriano Landini of Milan making it a potent force in the European philatelic community.

1962 - he received instructions to offer the major part of the incomparable worldwide collection formed by Maurice Burrus, a tobacco magnate from Switzerland; the collection was dispersed over a period of some three years and Lowe's sales totalled over £2,000,000.

1964 - he acquired printers D. Wood and Sons of Perth.

1966 - he held a sale of stamps on board the Queen Mary, an adventurous operation which entailed radio communication links being set up from the ship to bidders in Great Britain, the USA and European capitals; unfortunately the auction was a fiasco due to adverse weather conditions and a telephone strike in Paris.

1968 - he continued to expand his business by forming Robson Lowe International, with representatives being appointed on a global scale (over 15 countries).

1980 - he sold Robson Lowe Limited to Christie's in September. Later in the decade, he processed the Corsini, Medici and Venturini 15th to 18th Century Italian correspondences which he meticulously researched.

In April 1993, Christie's acquired Spink and Son Ltd., the fine art and collectables dealer. At this time Christie's worldwide coin, banknote and medal auctions were merged with those of Spink and auctions are held worldwide in association with Christie's. Then in January 1997, in order to increase the services to stamp collectors worldwide, the stamp department was added to the collectables division of Spink.

In his later years Robson Lowe spent much of his time writing and producing The Philatelist but he never failed to keep in contact with his philatelic friends, his Christmas letter being appreciated by many throughout the world.

Robson Lowe was an avid collector who formed fine studies of historical letters, including missives from the Battle of Agincourt, Queen Anne and many other European monarchs; he also collected United States Local Posts and Postal History; his last interest was prisoner of war mail.

For his services to philately Robson Lowe received numerous awards including the 1970 Liechtenstein Medal award (Collectors Club, New York), the John Luff Award of the American Philatelic Society and the National Philatelic Writers Hall of Fame Award in 1980. He was also a signatory of the American and South African Rolls of Distinguished Philatelists. Although proposed, he declined to sign the United Kingdom Roll of Distinguished Philatelists unless they deleted the signature of the South African faker, Jurgens; they did not.

He is survived by his daughters Annabelle Forrest and Marion Fortnum both of whom with their respective husbands, were partners in his business for many years.

POSTAL MARKINGS ON AGIUS DE SOLDANIS'S CORRESPONDENCE

By Giovanni Bonello LL.D., K.M.

The National Library of Malta houses a sizeable accumulation of letters written by or to Canon Gio Pietro Francesco Agius de Soldanis (1712-1770). A full assessment of their historical and social value has not yet been undertaken. This, I believe, would yield handsome returns. The story of eighteenth century Malta needs greater depth and tone.

I am reproducing a summarized biography of Agius de Soldanis from Joseph Cassar Pullicino's excellent lecture. The booklet, published by the Malta Historical Society in 1996, give the most up to date information about this valuable scholar.

"Born at Rabat, in Gozo, on October 31, 1712, he studied Latin and other languages in Malta, and was appointed Canon of the Collegiate of Gozo at the early age of seventeen when he was not yet ordained priest. He studied Philosophy and Theology at the Jesuits' College in Valletta. Agius also studied Law, graduating from the University of Padua, in Italy.

"His publications include a grammar of the Maltese language, which he considered as a direct survivor of the original Punic language. As a member of at least four Italian academies, he kept up a steady correspondence with some of their prominent members. In 1763 he was appointed first Librarian of what is now known as the National Library. He died on January 30, 1770".

I have only examined the National Library collection in terms of postal history, looking out for those specimens which could throw light on the poorly known postal arrangements prevailing during the last century of the Knights' rule in Malta. Here are some preliminary observations.

The collection can conveniently be divided into two: letters sent by De Soldanis to his correspondents, and those received by him. Those originating in Malta and forwarded abroad would obviously have had the greatest postal history relevance. Unfortunately, on file are only copies of the letters which De Soldanis had kept; these have no mail markings and no postal history significance.

We will thus have to make do with the second category: letters which Agius De Soldanis received from abroad. These are obviously originals that travelled privately or through an organised postal system.

By far the greatest bulk of letters received by De Soldanis has no postal markings at all. This seems to suggest that those letters were carried privately, or through the Order's receivers in Rome and elsewhere, together with the officially authorised mail, possibly clandestinely. It had to be so, as the private use or the meagre postal resources of the Knights of Malta was frowned upon and never fully acknowledged.

But exceptions do occasionally occur in the accumulation, and some of the more salient ones I have selected for illustration. The time span ranges from 1736 to 1759.

One feature that strikes instantly is the duration of the postal journey, which results from the careful annotations the Canon made on some of the letters themselves. Choosing at random from the Paris correspondence:

- A letter left Paris on October 3, 1736, and reached Malta on November 10 (fig.1)
- Another letter left Paris on January 26, 1744, and was received on March 12 (fig.2)
- A third Paris letter took from November 26, 1752 to December 5 - a record, or a blatant error (fig.6).

Letters from Paris and Grenoble (Switzerland) did not travel directly to Malta. They were addressed to Marseilles (fig.1, 4, 5, 6) where they were taken over by the Order's official forwarding agent. One has a clear instruction on its front panel: *Recommandé a Mr Simon, Agent General de l'Ordre de Malte a Marseille* (fig.1). He collected all the Order's mail in Marseille and was responsible to arrange for its delivery in Malta. An unknown use of the function of a forwarding agent, which precedes anything studied and published to date in the fascinating area of postal forwarding agents.

Another letter to De Soldanis from Syracuse witnesses a most devious route. This time round the Order's forwarding agent was the one in Venice. So the letter went first to Messina, where the rare (?) transit hand-stamp 'Messina' was applied, and thence north to Venice *Raccomandata all'Ill.mo Sig. Ricevitore della S(acra) R(eligione) Gerosolimitana* (fig.9).

Most interesting are the letters which show obvious signs of disinfection. We almost instinctively associate the fear of contagion with mail originating in North Africa and the Near East, endemic hearths of the plague.

But two letters from Paris, one dated 1744 (fig.2) and the other 1752 (fig.6) are really worth examining.

The first has very obvious scorch marks on the back folds, which prove that the letter had been placed on a hot plate for purposes of disinfection. The letter looks, for all intents and purposes, identical to those which survived the great plague in Malta. But it is almost 70 years earlier.

Even more intriguing is the second one, which shows both substantial scorch marks, and disinfection slits right through. I believe it is the only one in the De Soldanis hoard, and it must be among the very earliest with both scorch marks and slits in Maltese postal history.

In default of precise indications in the letters themselves, or of documentary evidence, it is impossible to establish with any degree of certainty whether the disinfection was carried out in Paris, Marseilles or Malta. Logically the preference points to the last port of delivery. Postal authorities slit letters to "let out the pestilential air" trapped inside them. It would have made little sense to perform that operation weeks before the actual delivery of the letter. I suggest that the disinfection routine - scorching and slitting - must have been carried out in Malta.

The overseas handstamped postal cachets found on the De Soldanis letters require examination by foreign experts more qualified than myself. Most were applied at the place of origin; Paris (fig.1, 3, 4, 11), Grenoble (fig.5), Rome (fig.7, 8, 12) and Palermo (fig.10). Another, Messina, I believe to be a transit handstamp.

Other postal markings which require study are the charges in manuscript. From Paris to Marseilles, for onward transmission to Malta; "7" (fig.1, 4, 6, 11); similarly from Grenoble (fig.5); from Syracuse to Venice: "8" (fig.9); from Palermo to Rome: "4"; from Rome to Malta: "7" (fig.12) and from Paris to Rome: "21" (fig.3).

The De Soldanis correspondence is contained in four bound volumes: Lib Ms. 146/1/2/3 and Lib. Ms. 155. Photocopies by courtesy of the National Library.

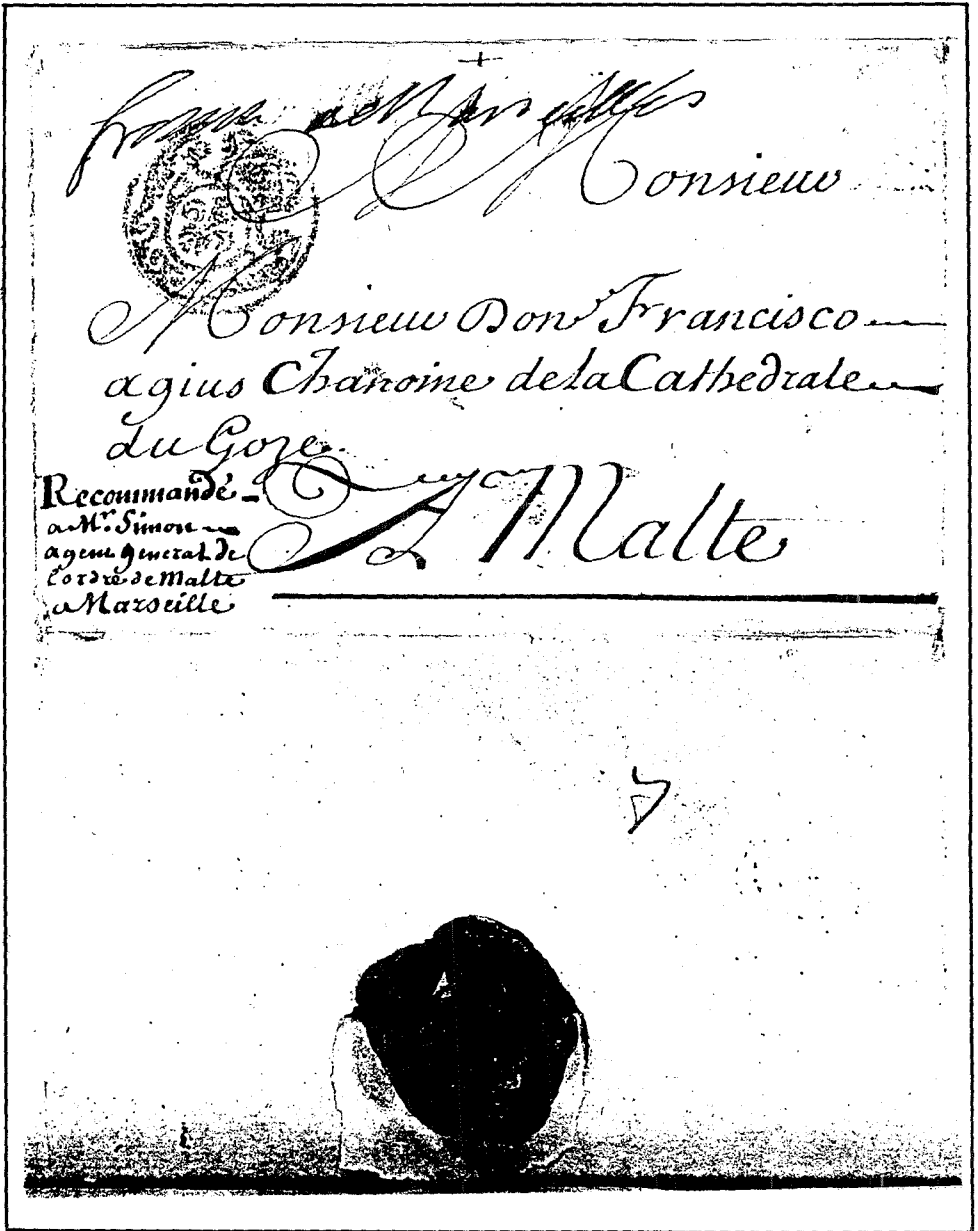


Fig. 1 Letter from Bailli Dericard to De Soldanis, sent from Paris on October 3, 1736 and which reached Malta on November 10. Note the handsome royal Fleur-de-Lys hand-stamp in black and the instructions to M. Simon, who acted as the Order's Forwarding Agent in Marseilles, from where the letter was carried by the Order's courier. (Lib. Ms. 146/3, f.71v)

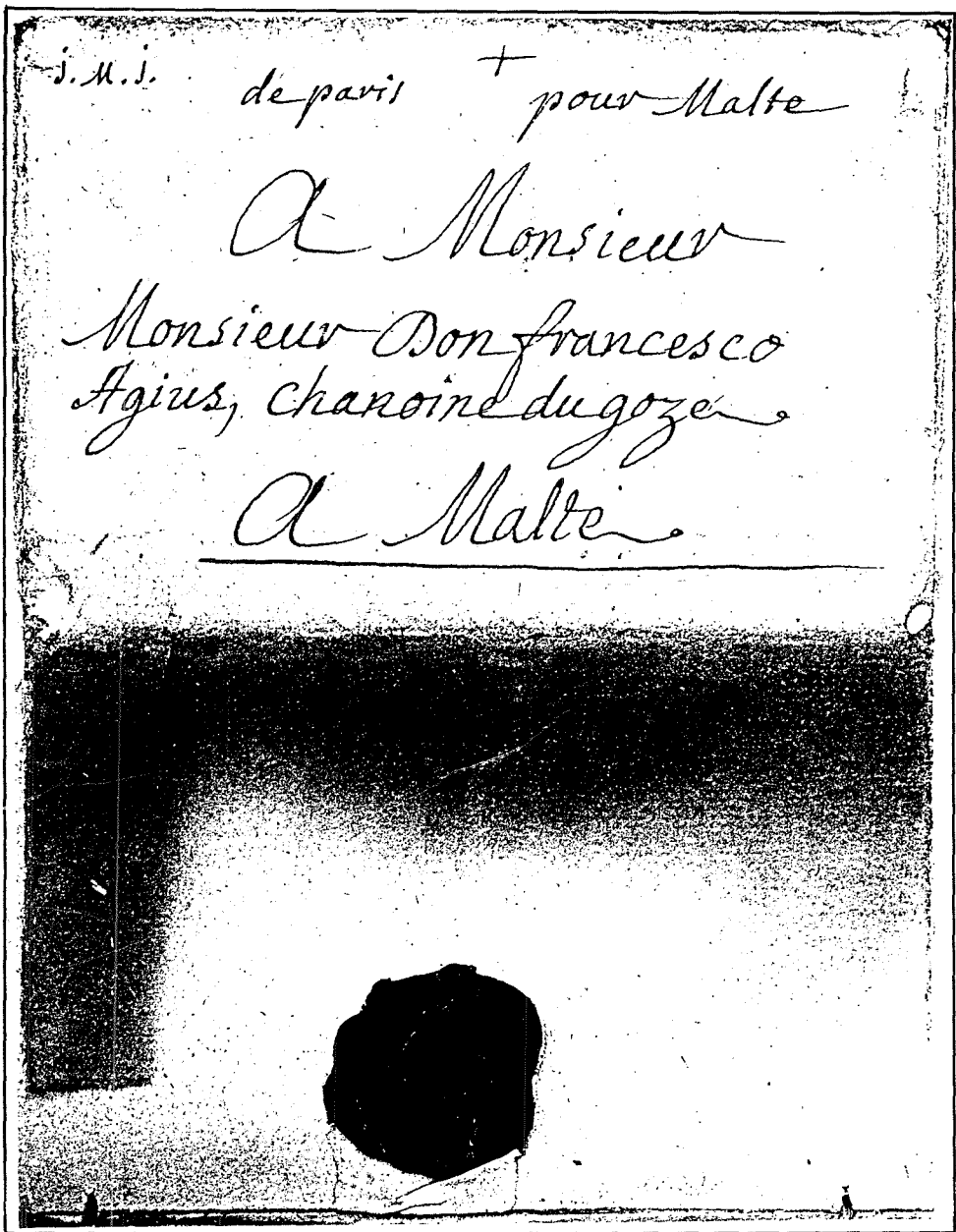
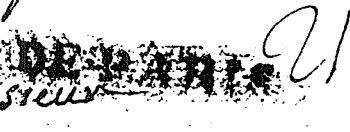


Fig.2 Letter from Bailli Dericard to De Soldanis, sent from Paris directly to Malta on January 26, 1744 and received by the addressee on March 12. Note the obvious scorch marks left by the disinfection process on the under-folds. No forwarding agent at Marseilles seems to have been involved, and it is thus safe to assume that the letter was disinfected on arrival in Malta (Lib. Ms. 146/3, f.192v)

J.M.J.

de paris. ⁺ pour Rome

DE PARIS
A Monsieur 

Monsieur l'abbé Dom francisco Agius
Chanoine du goze.
avanti la chiesa de quaranta Martiri
di transtevere

A Rome

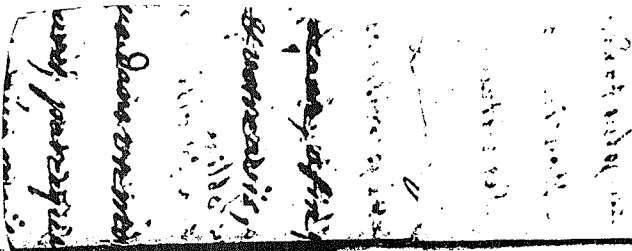


Fig. 3 Letter from Bailli Dericard to De Soldanis in Rome, sent from Paris on April 3. It carries the "DE PARIS" handstamp in black and is rated "21" (Lib. Ms. 146/3, f.139)

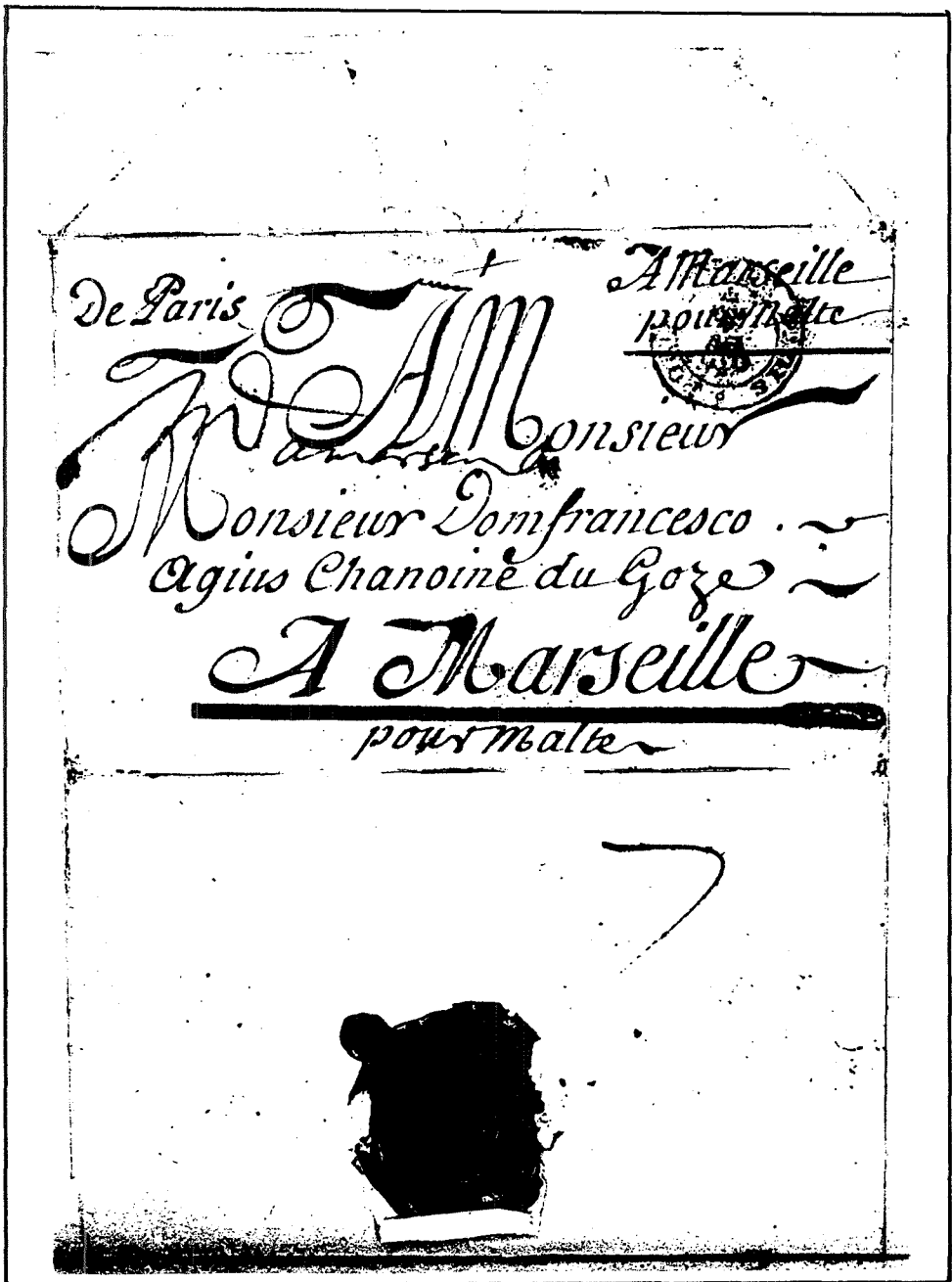


Fig. 4 Letter from Paris by Bailli Dericard sent on February 1, 1751 to Marseilles for onward transmission to Malta to De Soldanis. It is handstamped with the round Paris postal cachet in black and rated "7" (Lib. Ms. 146/3, f.124r)

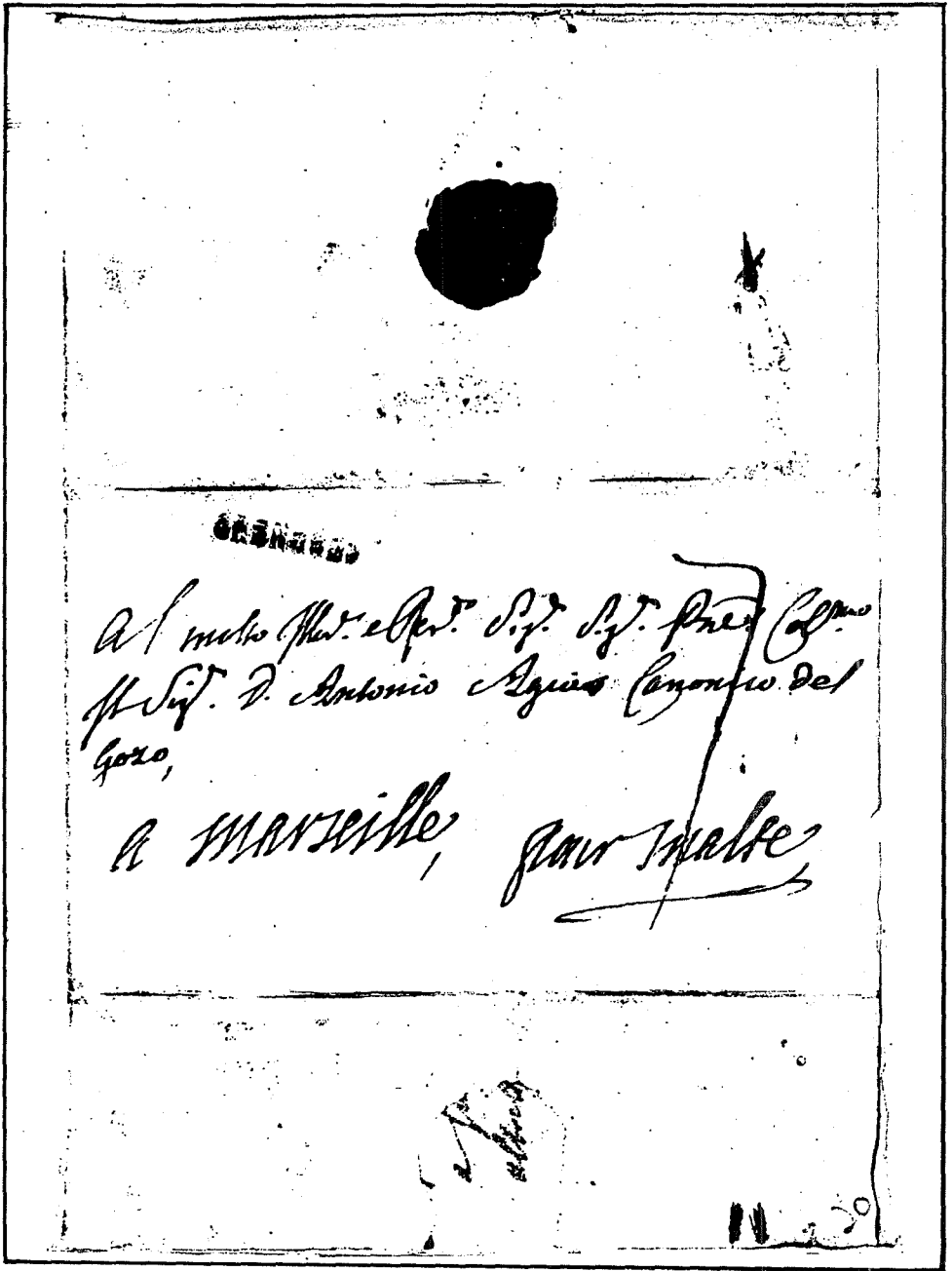


Fig. 5 Letter from M. de Belmont in Grenoble, sent on February 25, 1751 to De Soldanis in Malta, through the receiver in Marseilles. It is handstamped "GRENOBLE" (Lib. Ms. 146/2, f.111v)



Fig. 6 Letter from Paris by Bailli Dericard to De Soldanis dated November 20, 1752. Notice the scorch marks on the back panels and the slits right through the letter (Lib. Ms. 146/3, f.126v)

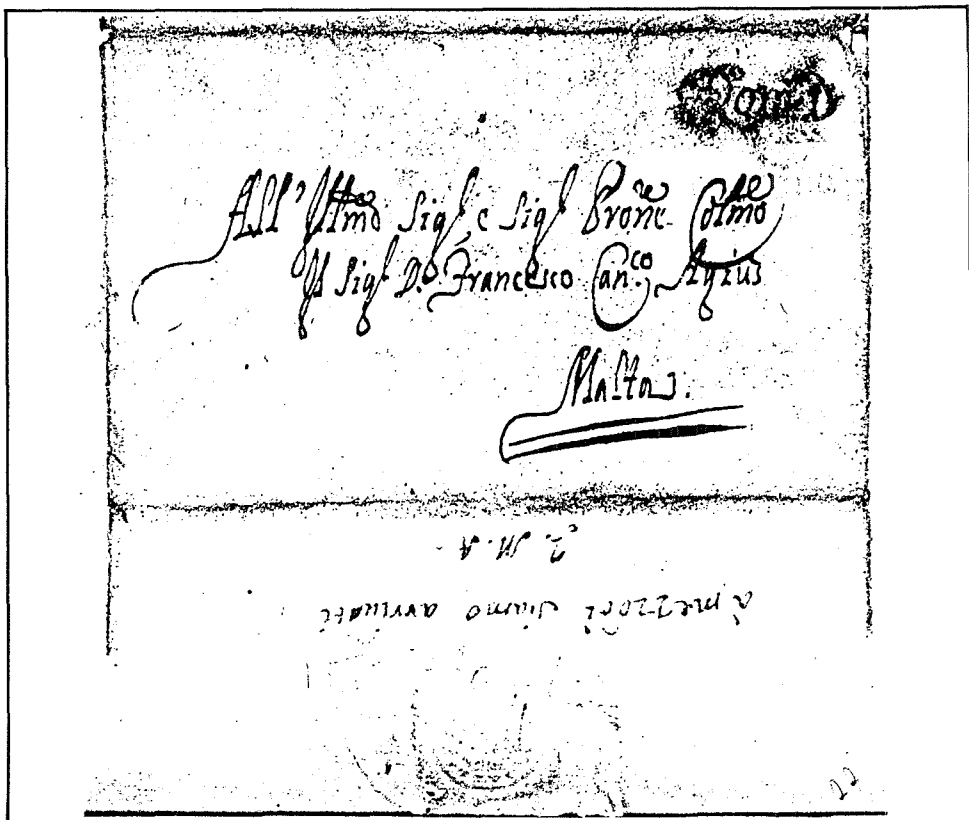


Fig. 7 Letter from Rome By Giovanni Trieste to De Soldanis dated July 25, 1755, received on August 18. "Roma" handstamp in black script (Lib. Ms. 155, f.91v)

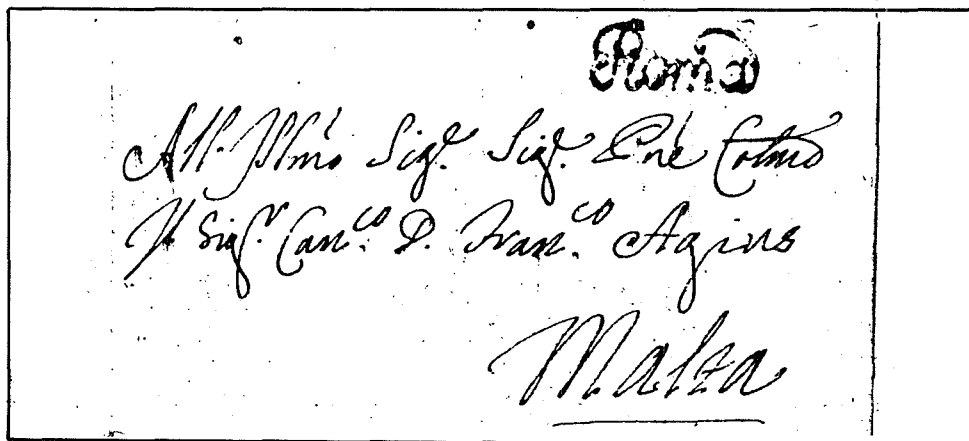


Fig. 8 Lettr from Rome By Francesco Saverio Scerri to De Soldanis, dated April 20, 1756. Carries the cursive black handstamp "Roma" (Lib. Ms. 146/1, f.36v)

All' Illmo e Rev. mo Sig. S. Paolo
 Il Sig. Canonico D. Francesco Agius
 raccomandata
 all' Ill. mo Sig. Giovanni D. R. Feropolimitano
 in
 Venezia

Fig. 9 Letter from Conte Cesare Gaetani, from Syracuse, to De Soldanis. It has the "Messina" transit (?) handstamp and is directed to the Order's forwarding agent in Venice (Lib. Ms. 146/2, f.13v)

All' Illmo Sig. e Sig. Paolo
 Il Sig. Can. D. Franco Agius,
 Roma

Fig.10 Letter from Giovanni Trieste e Bovio to De Soldanis in Rome. Handstamped "Palermo" in red. (Lib. Ms. 155, f.53v)

A Monsieur
Monsieur Azis de Soldanis
du Gore, au Gore, près Malte.

A Malte

7

Fig. 11 Letter from L.N. Mandoux to De Soldanis sent from Paris directly to Malta on July 31, 1758. It is handstamped with the round Paris cachet in red (Lib. Ms. 146/2, f.30v)

FEPA Calendar of Philathelic Events for 1998 - 2000

1998

Israel	Israel 98	Tel Aviv	FIP	12/21.05
Germany	"5 in 98" -	Donaueschingen	ML	21/24.05
France	Dunkerque 98	Dunkerque	N	29.05/01.06
Luxemburg	Debenelux 98	Mondorf-les-Bains	ML	30/31.05
Spain	Garcia Lorca (Lit/Mophila)	Granada	FIP	05/11.06
Germany	Najubria 98	St. Ingbert	N-Youth	11/14.06
Luxemburg	Juvalux 98 (Youth/P.H.)	Luxembourg	FIP	18/21.06
Romania	Efiro 98	Bucharest	N	12/16.07
Hungary	Olympiafila 98 (Olympics & Sport)	*****	MI	August
Germany	Bobria 98	Bothel	R	28/30.08
Portugal	Portugal 98	Lisbon	FIP	04/13.09
Czech Republic	Praga 98	Praha	C-FEPA	10/13.09
Germany	8.Vogtlandschau 98	Plauen	R	11/13.09
Luxemburg	Journée du Timbre 98	Echternach	N-Youth	Sept.Oct.
Germany	Ambria 98	Amberg	R	02/04.10
Switzerland	Nationale 98	Yverdon	N	15/18.10
Denmark	Nordia 98	Odense	Nordic	16/18.10
South Africa	Ilsapex 98	Johannesburg	FIP	20/25.10
Italy	Italia 98	Milano	FIP	23.10/01.11
Norway	Aalesund	Ålesund	N	November

1999

Denmark	Viborg 99	Viborg	N	20/21.03
Australia	Australia 99	Melbourne	FIP	20/29.03
Germany	50 Jahre BRD	Bonn-Bad Godesberg	R	22/24.05
Germany	Ibra 99	Nürnberg	FIP	27.04/04.05
France	Philexfrance 99	Paris	FIP	25.06/04.07
China	China 99	Beijing	FIP	21/30.08
Finland	Nordia 99	Turku	Nordic	24/26.09
Slovenia	Fila 99	Ljubljana	ML	September
Belgium	Bruphila 99	Brussels	ML	29.09/02.10
Bulgaria	Bulgaria 99	Sofia	FIP	05/10.10
Germany	Mübra 99	München	R	29.10/03.11
Czech Republic	Kosmos 99	Praha	ML	November

2000

Czech Republic	Masaryk 150	Brno	ML	Spring/Autum
Danmark	Esbjerg 2000	Esbjerg	N	March
Thailand	Bangkok 2000 - Youth	Bangkok	FIP	25.03/04.05
Germany	Wüba 2000	Würzburg	R	29.04/01.05
Great-Britain	Stamp Show 2000	London	FIP	22/28.05
Austria	Wien 2000	Vienna	FIP	30.05/04.06
Netherlands	*****	Leiden	N	May
Switzerland	Nationale 2000	St. Gallen	N	20/25.06
Australia	Olympilex 2000	Sydney	FIP	July/Aug.
Indonesia	Indonesia 2000	Bandung	FIP	11/20.08
Spain	Espana 2000	Madrid	FIP	07/15.10

**Quarantine Notification Issued on the 6th
August 1817 and other Notifications as Published in
'Repertorio di proclami, ordinanze, notificazioni
ecc. pubblicati dal Governo di Malta dall'ottobre
1813 a giugno 1843'.**

by Prof Luciano DeZanche

POSTA.

NOMINA D' IMPIEGO CIVILE.

Sua Eccellenza il Governatore, in seguito ad una comunicazione avuta colli Direttori Generali della Posta di Sua Maestà, si è compiaciuto di divenire alla seguente nomina.

Rob. Macnab Esq. come Agente dei Direttori Generali della Posta, finchè sia noto il loro piacere,

a' di 28 Gennajo, 1817.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Sua Signoria l'Onorabile Luogotenente Governatore si è compiaciuto di pubblicare, per informazione generale, li seguenti regolamenti, da lui stabili, finchè rapporto alli medesimi si venga a sapere il piacere di Sua Eccellenza il Governatore, per guida dell' Ufficio della Posta di quest' Isola; e per assicurare più efficacemente la dovuta ricezione e consegna delle lettere che arrivano in quest' Isola, a bordo di Bastimenti Mercantili, dalle diverse parti del Mediterraneo, del Levante ecc:—E Sua Signoria Onorabile confida che questa disposizione, mentre da un canto tenderà a vantaggiare le rendite dell' Ufficio di Posta, somministrerà dall' altro una considerabile facilitazione agl' Interessi Commerciali in queste Possessioni; e per l' avvenire assicurerà ad ognuno una giusta, imparziale e sollecita distribuzione delle lettere.

1. All' arrivo nel Gran Porto di qualunque Bastimento Mercantile, il Capitano del Porto, od il suo Assistente, avanti di ammettere in pratica tale Bastimento, consegnerà al Capitano dello stesso una formola stampata, [da prepararsi a tale effetto] in cui quest' ultimo dovrà certificare il numero delle lettere esistenti a bordo, specificando se siano alla rinfusa, od entro una cassetta o sacco suggellato; e, se siano alla rinfusa, menzionare il loro esatto numero: e le lettere di questa descrizione, unitamente al certificato del Capitano del Bastimento, saranno depositate in cassette da tenersi a questo oggetto, [una chiave

delle quali da rimanere presso il Capitano del Porto, o suo Assistente, ed un'altra in potere del Soprintendente all' Ufficio di Posta,] e trasmesse immediatamente all' Ufficio di Posta, unitamente alli sacchi o cassette suggellate contenenti lettere che potranno esistere a bordo, [colle eccezioni espresse nella clausola 5.]

II All' arrivo di qualunque Bastimento nel Porto della Quarantina il Capitano del Porto, nel visitare tale Bastimento, ordinerà al Capitano di spedire a terra, unitamente alle lettere, un notamento per iscritto, specificante l' esatto numero delle lettere alla rinfusa, e delle cassette o sacchi suggellati con lettere, che si troverà avere a bordo, sottoscritto da lui medesimo.

III. Colla vista di assicurare la necessaria ed efficace profumazione delle lettere che arrivano in Bastimenti soggetti a Quarantina, si fanno li seguenti regolamenti, da servire di guida agli Ufficiali impiegati in quella branca del Dipartimento della Quarantina, circa il tempo in cui si devono consegnare tali lettere.

1. Ancorando qualunque Bastimento nel Porto della Quarantina durante la notte, od avanti le ore otto A. M. si deve avere per inteso che tutte le lettere esistenti a bordo di tale Bastimento (colle eccezioni a cui si è di sopra riferito) verranno sbarcate, regolarmente profumate, e spedite all' Ufficio di Posta, alle ore 3 P. M. dello stesso giorno, o prima; a meno che il numero di tali lettere non eccedesse 200, nel qual caso sarà accordata una proporzionata dilazione, giacchè non sarà ammessa veruna consegna parziale di lettere da verun Bastimento rimanendo del resto per sempre inteso, che le lettere da qualunque Bastimento, debbano venire rimesse all' Ufficio di Posta nello stesso ordine di successione in cui saranno state ricevute nel Lazzaretto.

2. Ancorando qualunque Bastimento tra le ore 8 A. M. e le 4 P. M. si deve avere per inteso che tutte le lettere esistenti a bordo di tale Bastimento [colle eccezioni sopra menzionate] saranno trasmesse allo Ufficio di Posta, alle ore 8 A. M. del seguente giorno o prima.

3. Li periodi stabiliti colli due precedenti Articoli per la consegna delle lettere dal Lazzaretto, non potranno essere oltrepassati, in veruna circostanza, se non se colla conoscenza e consentimento del Governo. Si aspetta del resto, che nel caso dell' arrivo di un piccolo numero di lettere, entro lo specificato periodo, gli Ufficiali in quella branca del Dipartimento della Quarantina non agiranno rigorosamente dietro alla lettera di questi regolamenti, ma che tali lettere saranno profumate, e spedite nell' Ufficio di Posta, al più presto possibile.

IV. Il modo di trasmettere le lettere all' Ufficio di Posta, dopo profumate, sarà come si disse di sopra circa quelle che vengono dal Gran Porto, — con questa eccezione, — che il Capitano del Lazzaretto le tra-

smetterà, e terrà una chiave delle cassette, in vece del Capitano del Porto.—Ed il notamento delle lettere sottoscritto dal Capitano del Bastimento deve sempre accompagnare le stesse lettere.

V. Il Capitano di qualunque Bastimento, che arriva nel Gran Porto, sarà autorizzato di trattenere quelle tali lettere, che potesse avere in suo potere, dirette, *bona fide*, al Consegnatario del detto Bastimento.— E nel Porto della Quaraatina sarà permesso al Consegnatario di qualunque Bastimento di ricevere le lettere a lui dirette, ed arrivate con tale Bastimento, tosto che saranno state profumate nel Lazzaretto, I Dispacj pel Governo verranno, com'è naturale, spediti senza dilazione al Palazzo, od all' Ufficio del Principale Segretario. E le lettere dirette al Console del paese da cui arriva il Bastimento, dovranno accompagnare tali Dispacj, e dal Governo saranno immediatamente rimesse ai rispettivi Consoli.

VI. Le Polizze di carico, che arrivano in Bastimenti Mercantili, dirette a' Consegnatarj di Mercanzie esistenti a bordo di tali Bastimenti, saranno esenti dal pagamento del dritto di Posta.

VII. Le lettere, che arrivano col Pacchetto di Smirne, verranno profumate, e spedite all' Ufficio di Posta, a norma delli detti regolamenti, e di là consegnate agli Agenti di quel Pacchetto a loro richiesta.

VIII. Le lettere che arrivano a bordo di legni da guerra di Sua Maestà in Quarantina, verranno profumate, e spedite all' Ufficio di Posta, entro i periodi specificati pei Bastimenti Mercantili.

IX. Il diritto di Posta in quest' Isola, sulle lettere che arrivano a bordo di legni da guerra di Sua Maestà, o di Bastimenti Mercantili, da qualunque parte del Mediterraneo, del Levante ecc. rimarrà sul piede attuale; ma il modo in cui viene ora esatto tale diritto, cioè, sul numero di fogli, [che rende necessario il taglio delle lettere, affine di ciò accertare,] sarà abolito:—e, dopo le lettere singole, doppie e tripple, il diritto di Posta sarà regolato sul peso, in proporzione alla rata al presente stabilita pei fogli.

X. Le ore stabilite per affari nell' Ufficio della Posta di quest' Isola [eccettuate le Domeniche] sono le seguenti:—dalle ore 8 A. M. fin a mezzo giorno,—dalle 2 fino alle 5 P. M.—e nei casi di arrivi straordinarj, l' Ufficio rimarrà aperto nelle Domeniche, ed in ore straordinarie.
a' di 6 Agosto 1817.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Nessuna Lettera sarà per l' avvenire incamminata dall' Ufficio della Posta di Malta a qualunque dei Porti e de' luoghi della Sicilia, o nell' Italia, ammenocchè tale Lettera non sia diritta o raccomandata ad una persona residente nel Porto, per cui il Bastimento sarà diretto.

a' di 20 Novembre 1817.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Sua Signoria l'Onorabile Luogotenente Governatore si è compiaciuto di permettere a Charles Godfrey Esq. di esercitare le Funzioni di Agente pei Pacchetti di Sua Maestà, e di Soprintendente alla Posta dell' Isola, durante la temporanea assenza da quest' Isola di Robert Mac Nab Esq., per motivi di Salute.

a' di 27 Maggio 1818.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

La Tariffa de' dritti di Posta ora in forza per l'Ufficio della Posta di Malta, cesserà di aver vigore li 25 corrente, dalla quale data si agirà dietro la riformata Tariffa, pubblicata qui appresso.

Tariffa dei dritti di Posta esigibili dal Governo sopra tutte le lettere ricevute nell' Ufficio della Posta di Malta, o da questa inviate per l'estero.

<i>Sulle Lettere inviate all'estero o qui ricevute.</i>	<i>S T</i>		<i>Sulle Lettere Profumate nell' Ufficio di Quarantina.</i>	<i>S. T. G.</i>		
Ogni lettera singola . . .	0	2	Ogni lettera singola . . .	0	2	10
Ogni altra Lettera sotto il peso di un' Oncia . . .	0	3	Ogni altra lettera sotto il peso di un' oncia . . .	0	4	10
Un'oncia e meno di due onc.	0	6	Un'oncia e meno di due onc.	0	9	0
Due oncie	1	0	Due oncie	1	6	0
Al di sopra di due oncie, sei tari per oncia, o per qua- lunque parte di essa . .			Al di sopra di due oncie, tari otto per oncia, o per qua- lunque parte di essa . .			

a' di 20 Maggio 1819.

NOMINA D' IMPIEGO CIVILE.

Richard Bouchier, Esq. passa a soprintendente dell'Ufficio della Posta dell' Isola, in vece di Robert Macnab, Esq. morto.

a' di 1mo Maggio, 1820.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

E. F. Phillips, Esq. dovrà agire qual soprintendente dell' Ufficio della Posta di Governo, durante l' assenza, con permesso, di R. Bouchier Esq.

a' di 22 Gennajo 1821.

NOMINA D' IMPIEGO CIVILE.

Edward Francis Phillips Esq. terzo Assistente dell' Ufficio del Principale Segretario di Governo è nominato *ex officio* Soprintendente dell' Ufficio della Posta di quest' Isola, in vece di Richard James Bouchier Esq.

a' di 1mo. Luglio 1822.

TARIFF

Of the Postage authorized to be levied for account of Government on
all Letters received at, and forwarded from the Island Post Office
in Malta.

	Outward, and from the Great Harbour.		From the Quarantine Harbour.	
	S.	D.	S.	D.
Each single Letter	-	3	-	4
Every other Letter, if weighing				
Less than one Ounce	-	5	-	8
One Ounce and less than two Ounces	-	10	1	3
Two Ounces.	1	8	2	6
Above two Ounces, for each Ounce, or any part thereof	-	10	1	1

24th Decembre, 1825.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Sua Eccellenza il Luogotenente Governatore, avendo avuto delle rimostranze dal Governo di Sua Maestà in Inghilterra, che alcune persone residenti in queste Isole sogliono spedire le loro lettere private colà a spese pubbliche, si compiace di ordinare, che per l'avvenire non sia posta alcuna lettera entro i sacchi di Dispaccj, che si preparano nell' Ufficio dell' Principale Segretario di Governo, la quale non fosse diretta ad uno dei Segretarj di Stato, od a qualche altro Ufficiale Pubblico in Inghilterra, e non portasse in angolo il nome dello Scrivente.

a' di 24 Marzo 1828.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Vincenzo Mamo Esq. agirà come Soprintendente dell' Ufficio della Posta di Malta durante l' assenza di E. F. Phillips Esq.

a' di 5 Aprile 1830.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Edward Francis Phillips, Esq. essendo ritornato in quest' Isola, ha oggi ripreso l' esercizio della sua carica di Soprintendente alla Posta di quest' Isola.

a' di 1mo. Novembre 1830.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Avendo il Principale Segretario di Stato di Sua Maestà pel Dipartimento Coloniale ordinato che nessuna cosa non riguardante il servizio pubblico si spedisce all' Inghilterra per mezzo dei sacchi nei quali s'inviano i dispacci di Governo, il Luogotenente Governatore si è compiaciuto incaricare il Principale Segretario di Governo (nel cui ufficio si allestiscono e si chiudono detti sacchi] dell' esecuzione di certe mi-

sure che Sua Eccellenza ha stimato necessario di prescrivere ad oggetto di adempiere le Istruzioni del Governo di Sua Maestà sul proposito.
a' di 26 Marzo 1832.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Sua Eccellenza il Luogotenente Governatore, avendo preso in considerazione i Regolamenti per l'Ufficio della Posta di quest' Isola come trovansi ora stabiliti si è compiaciuto di disporre ed ordinare quanto segue :

1. A contare dal dì 25 Dicembre corrente in appresso, non sarà esatto nessun dritto sopra lettere impostate per l' estero. Le Valigie a norma delle opportunità, saranno bensì formate nell' Ufficio della Posta, e da quello incaminate, come per l' addietro.

2. Nel caso di rimanenza in Porto di qualunque bastimento dopo la chiusa della notificata Valigia, l'Ufficio dell'Intendente della Polizia di Marina è autorizzato a ricevere lettere da chiunque, e quelle mettere a bordo dello stesso bastimento nell' atto della partenza. Quando il bastimento fosse in quarantina le lettere si riceveranno nell'Ufficio della Quarantina, e saranno messe a bordo nella stessa guisa.

3. Le lettere che capitano nell'Ufficio della Posta dirette ad individui residenti nell' estero saranno spedite al loro destino senza spesa alcuna.

4. Il Soprintendente all'Ufficio della Posta è autorizzato di esentare dai dritti di posta le lettere dirette a Consoli Esteri in questa Isola, quando quelle racchiudessero solamente altre lettere per individui non residenti in questa Isola. Ma sarà necessario, nel chiedere tale esenzione, che le stesse lettere e le loro inchieste venissero mostrate al Soprintendente alla Posta.

a' di 24 Dicembre 1833.

NOTIFICAZIONE.

Sua Eccellenza il Governatore si compiace di ordinare, che dal dì 1. Gennaio 1840, i dritti di Posta da essere esatti per conto del Governo di Malta su tutte le lettere che si consegnano dall' Ufficio della Posta dell' Isola, saranno regolati uniformemente alla seguente scala :

Su lettere non eccedenti $\frac{1}{4}$ oncia	1. Denaro
superiori a $\frac{1}{4}$ oncia, e non eccedenti	1. oncia 2. —
1. „ „ „ „	2. „ 4. —
2. once „ „ „	3. once 6. —
3. „ „ „ „	4. „ 8. —

e così progredendo proporzionatamente.

a' di 24 Dicembre 1839.

MALTA – A DIARY

August - December, 1995

by J. Farrugia

4.8.95

In today's Govt. Gazette the PMG notified that a set of Christmas postage stamps will be issued in 1995. This set will consist of four stamps featuring a different design. The selection of the four designs will be made after a public competition open to Maltese citizens. The artwork of the stamps should feature Xmas in Malta, preferably in its religious, festive and social aspect.

1.9.95

The Malta Post Office was represented by one of its authorised Philatelic Agents at the 'Riccione 1995' Stamp Fair which was held in Riccione, Italy, from September 1 to 3, 1995. To commemorate the occasion, a special hand-stamp inscribed: 'Riccione 95 – 1 - 3 Sept. – Malta Post Office' and including an appropriate motif, was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room, from 7.30am to 12.30pm and from 7.30am to 6.00pm respectively, from September 1 to 2, 1995.

An identical hand stamp was used from September 1 to 3, 1995 at the exhibition stand at Riccione.



1 - 3 SEPTEMBER 1995
MALTA POST OFFICE

1.9.95

The Malta Post Office was represented by one of its authorised Philatelic Agents at the 'Singpex' Stamp Fair which was held in Singapore from September 1 to 10, 1995.

To commemorate the occasion a special hand-stamp inscribed: 'Singapore 95 – 1 - 10 Sept. – Malta Post Office' and including an appropriate motif, was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room, from 7.30am to 12.30pm and from 7.30am to 6.00pm respectively, from September 1 to 2, 4 to 7, and 9, 1995.

An identical handstamp was used from September 1 to 10, 1995, at the Exhibition stand in Singapore.



29.9.95

With reference to the notice which was published in the Govt. Gazette of August 1, 1995, the PMG notifies that the designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Fanali' by Mr H Borg was placed first. The set of designs submitted under the nom-de-plume 'Journey' by Mr T Bugeja and under the nom-de-plume 'Noel' by Mr J Grima have both been placed second. The four designs of

this set will be reproduced on the 'Christmas 1995' postage stamp set.



5.10.95

The 'Treasures of Malta – Maltese Clocks' postage stamp set issued today. A special hand postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



9.10.95

A special hand-postmark commemorating UPU Day 1995, was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room. The postmark is inscribed as follows: 'World Post Day – The Post – Your Best Choice – 9-X-1995 – Valletta – Malta'.

12.10.95

As from today a 21mm circular date-stamp, 'BALZAN – MALTA', followed by block of seven wavy lines measuring approximately 50mm x 23mm overall, started being used at the Balzan BPO.

23.10.95

As from today a 21mm double ring machine 'Postage Paid – Gozo' in red, started being used at the Victoria BPO, Gozo.

24.10.95

At the Victoria Branch Post Office, Gozo, a 21mm double ring machine date-stamp, 'Victoria - Gozo', followed by a Malta Cross amid seven horizontal bars, started being used as from today.

27.10.95

A special hand-postmark was used on the occasion of the 11th Malta Book Fair at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room on October 27, 1995. The postmark is inscribed: '11th Malta Book Fair – 27-29 October 1995 – 27-X-1995 – Valletta - Malta'.



1.11.95

A Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the Mediterranean Conference Centre from November 1 to 4, 1995, for the transaction of the following business:

- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery
- (b) registration of postal articles (local and foreign)

- (c) sales and encashment of Postal and Money Orders
- (d) encashment of Postcheques
- (e) EMS Datapost Service

Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed as follows: 'Ind Inter-Parliamentary - (C.S.C.M.) - Mediterranean Conference Centre - Valletta - Malta'.

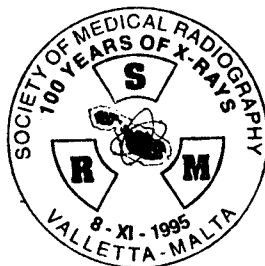


6.11.95

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: 'FAO Regional Seminar - Agricultural Technical Training Institutions - St. Paul's Bay - 6 - 10 November 1995' was used from November 6 to 10, 1995, at the Central Mail Room.

8.11.95

A special hand-postmark was used to commemorate the 100 years of X-Rays. The hand-postmark is inscribed as follows: 'Society of Medical Radiography - 100 Years of X-Rays - (S.R.M.) - 8-XI-1995 - Valletta - Malta' and was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room.



15.11.95

The 'Christmas 1995' postage stamp set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.

28.11.95

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: 'Third Maltese Medical School Conference 29-XI - 1.XII.1995' was used from November 28 to December 1, 1995, at the Central Mail Room.



4.12.95

A machine stamp cancelling slogan was used at the Central Mail Room to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Lily Band, Mqabba. The slogan reading: '50 Sena Banda Lily Mqabba - 1945 - 1995' was used from December 4 to 7, 1995.

Note: Information contributed by Mr Anthony Fenech

HISTORY OF TELECOMMS. & ELECTRICITY ISSUE

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	June 15, 1995
Values	2c, 5c, 9c, 14c, 20c
Stamp Size	27mm x 33mm
Art Designer	Maurice Tanti Burlò
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	14 x 13.75
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	PVA

Colours

This issue was printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan-Magenta-Yellow-Black) process colours. The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta and Yellow.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter were printed in four different places on the margins, of each Pane, of each value. These are seen next to the first and last stamps, of the top and bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in all Panes, of all values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in the bottom margin only, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values.

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. All values are of the vertical format.

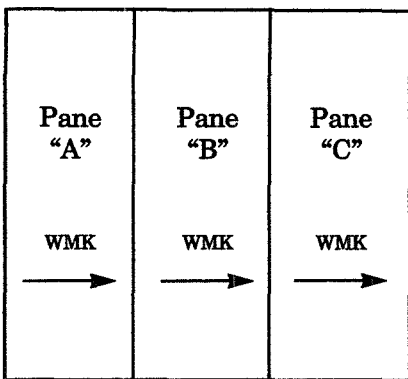
Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes A, B and C of all values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. Other printing marks were seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet and they may have been seen at each end of the left hand margin of Panes A and at each end of the right hand margin of Panes C, of all values.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These like the colour checks, are printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of each value. They are seen above the first and last stamps of the top row and also under the first and last stamps of the bottom row.

2c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
5c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
9c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
14c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
20c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in the figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of all values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in all values. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen below the middle or third stamp, of the bottom row, in each Pane, of all values,

printed in black. An Imprint Block of six would contain the Imprint, the Colour Checks and the Plate/Pane numbers.

A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

This set remained on sale up to June 19, 1996 unless stocks were previously exhausted.

Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm20,356.

EUROPEAN NATURE CONSERVATION YEAR ISSUE

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	.....	July 26, 1995
Values	.....	.5c, 14c, 44c
Stamp Size	.....	.44mm x 31mm
Art Designer	.....	.Maurice Tanti Burlò
Printers	.....	.Printex Limited
Process	.....	.Lithography
Perforation	.....	.14 x 13.9
Watermark	.....	.Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	.....	.Chalk Surfaced
Gum	.....	.PVA

Colours

This issue was printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan-Magenta-Yellow-Black) process colours, plus the solid colour 'gold'. The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Gold.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter were printed in four different places on the margins, of each Pane, of each value. These are seen next to the first and last stamps, of the top and bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom of those at each end of the top row, follow the sequence: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black and Gold while those at each end of

the bottom row follow the sequence: Gold, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in the bottom margin only, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values. It is of interest to note here, that in the top margin, above the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th stamp of the top row, of each Pane, of all values, the following description of the stamps can be seen:

European Nature Year '95 — Rubble Walls (5c Value)

European Nature Year '95 — Maltese Wall Lizard (14c Value)

European Nature Year '95 — Aleppo Pine (44c Value)

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All values are of the horizontal format.

Perforation of Margins

The top margin of Panes A, of all values is imperforate. The other three margins of Panes A, and the four margins of Pane B of all values, are perforated. Other printing marks were seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet and they may have been seen at each end of the top margin of Panes A and at each end of the bottom margin of Panes B, of all values.

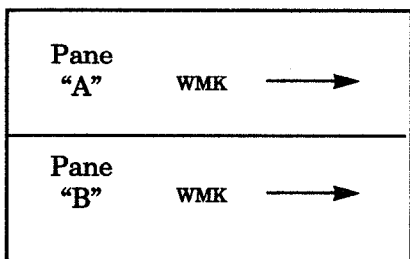
Plate/Pane Numbers

These like the colour checks were printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of each value. They are seen above the first and last stamps of the top row and also below the first and last stamps of the bottom row. The colour from left to right, of all Pane numbers, follow the order: Gold, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black.

5c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5

14c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5

44c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of all values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in all values. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

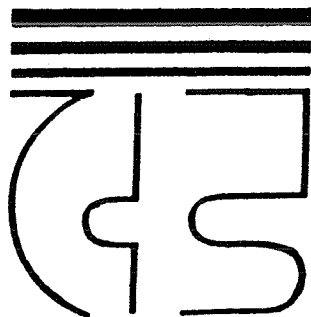
Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen under the 5th and 6th stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane, of all values, printed in Black. An Imprint Block of four will contain only the Imprint.

A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

This set remained on sale up to July 24, 1996 unless stocks were exhausted previously.

Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm26,911.



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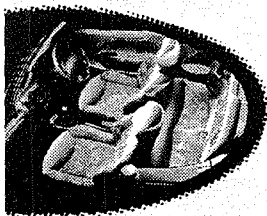
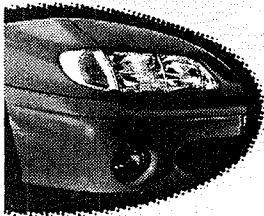
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A.O.H. 370897, 312168, 313185. Contact: John M Calleja.

Mégane

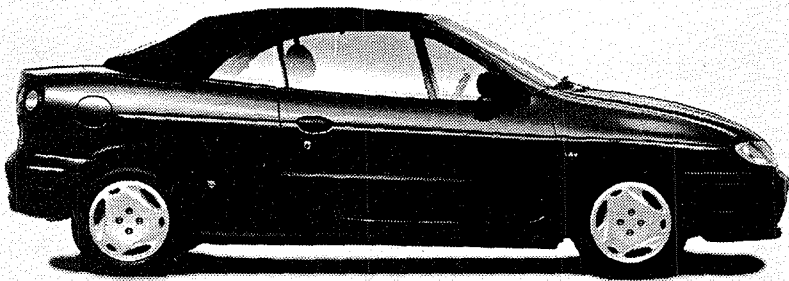
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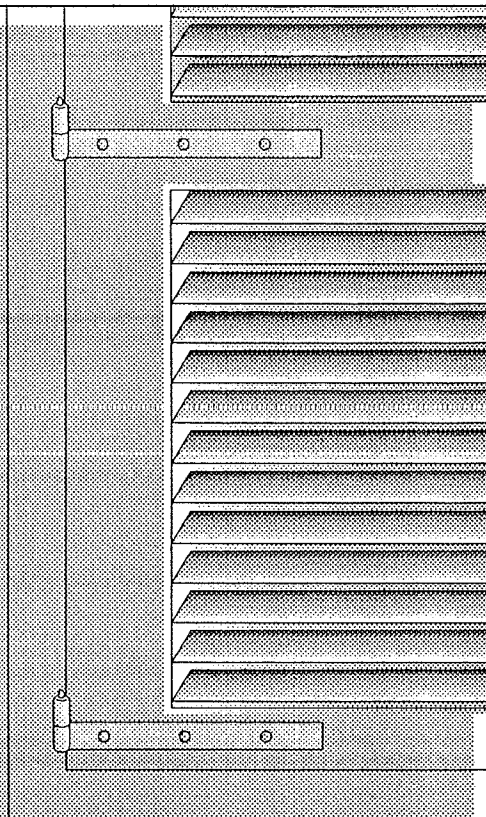
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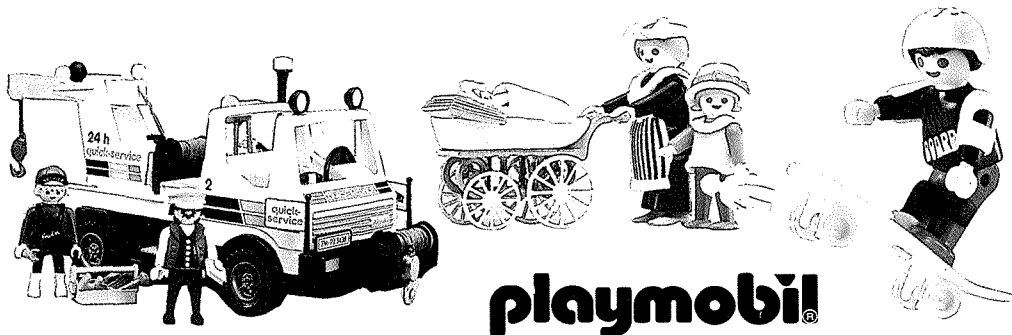
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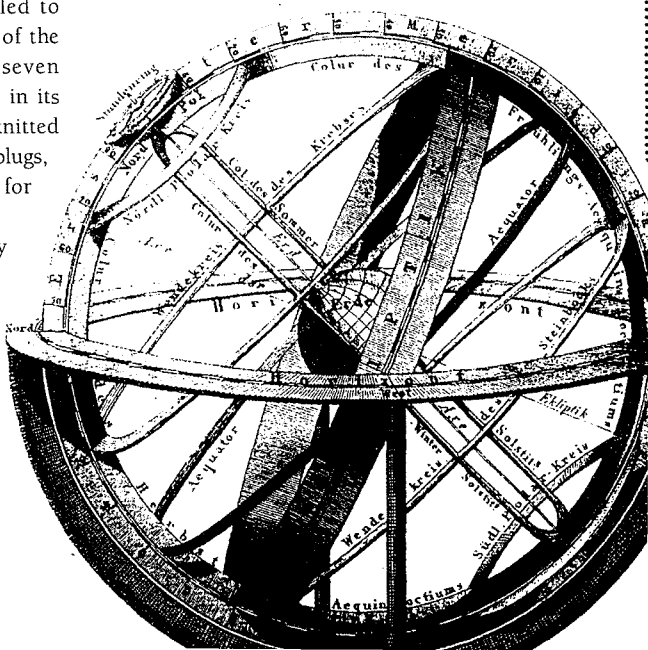
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