

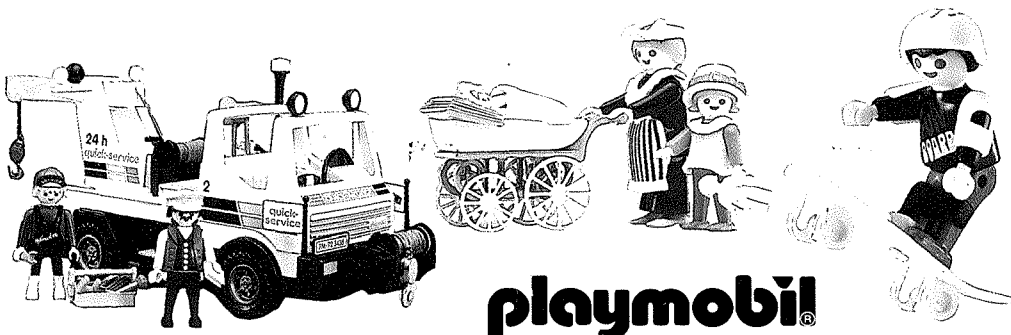


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THE PSM JOURNAL

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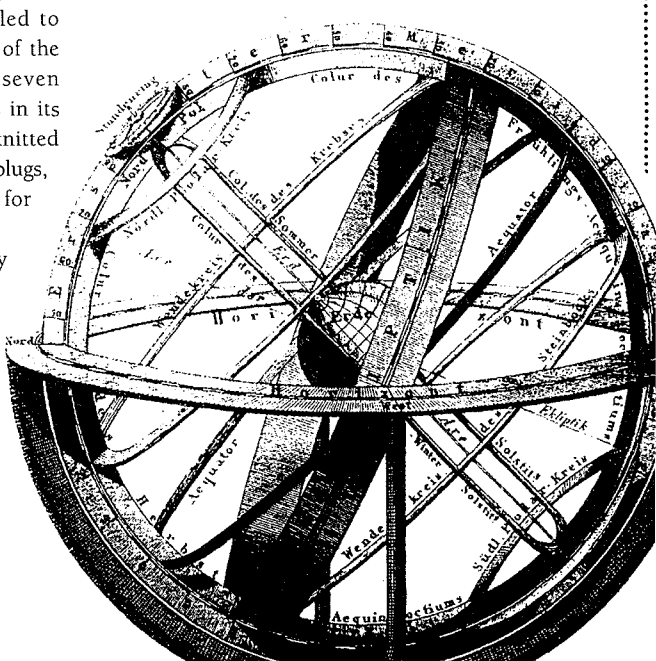
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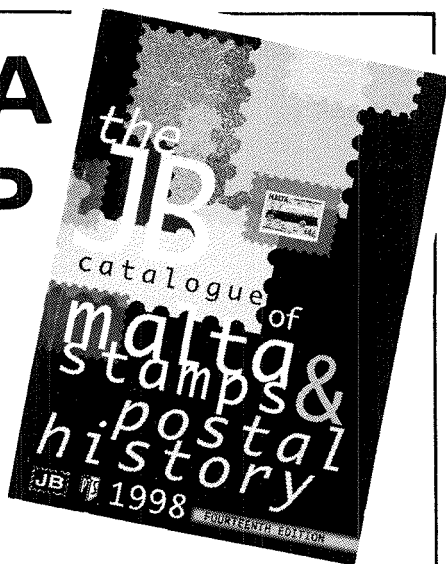
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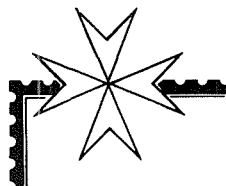
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Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84 & AUSIPEX '84
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Silver STOCKHOLMIA '86
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August-December, 1998

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ANNUAL VISIT TO GOZO

In order to stimulate further philatelic interest in our sister island, your Committee led by Dr J Mercieca, has for the past years organised an annual philatelic exhibition in Gozo spread over two days. This year, being the 200th anniversary of the French Capitulation, on the 29th October 1798, your Committee thought that it would be appropriate if we gave this event Postal History prominence, and consequently, it was decided that Dr A Bonnici would exhibit his collection of French Occupation Postal History material in connection with the French Occupation of Gozo. This exhibit included original letters by Sir John Hamilton, Sir Alexander John Ball, and all the letters as listed in the Malta Study Handbook of Archpriest Cassar.

The exhibition, ably organised on the initiative of Mr Anthony Fenech, our hard-working Committee member, took place at the Banca Giuratale on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November 1998. Other displays were presented by Mr A Fenech (Malta Postal History), Mr J Micallef (Malta Philatelic Material with a Spanish Connection), Mr H Wood (Early Photographic Postcards of Gozo), and Mr J Buttigieg (Collection of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta).

We were particularly honoured by the visit of the Hon. Minister, Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, who showed keen interest in the exhibits.

Our thanks go to Mr John Cremona, Private Secretary to the Hon. Minister G. Debono, and the officials of the Banca Giuratale for their help in making this exhibition a success.



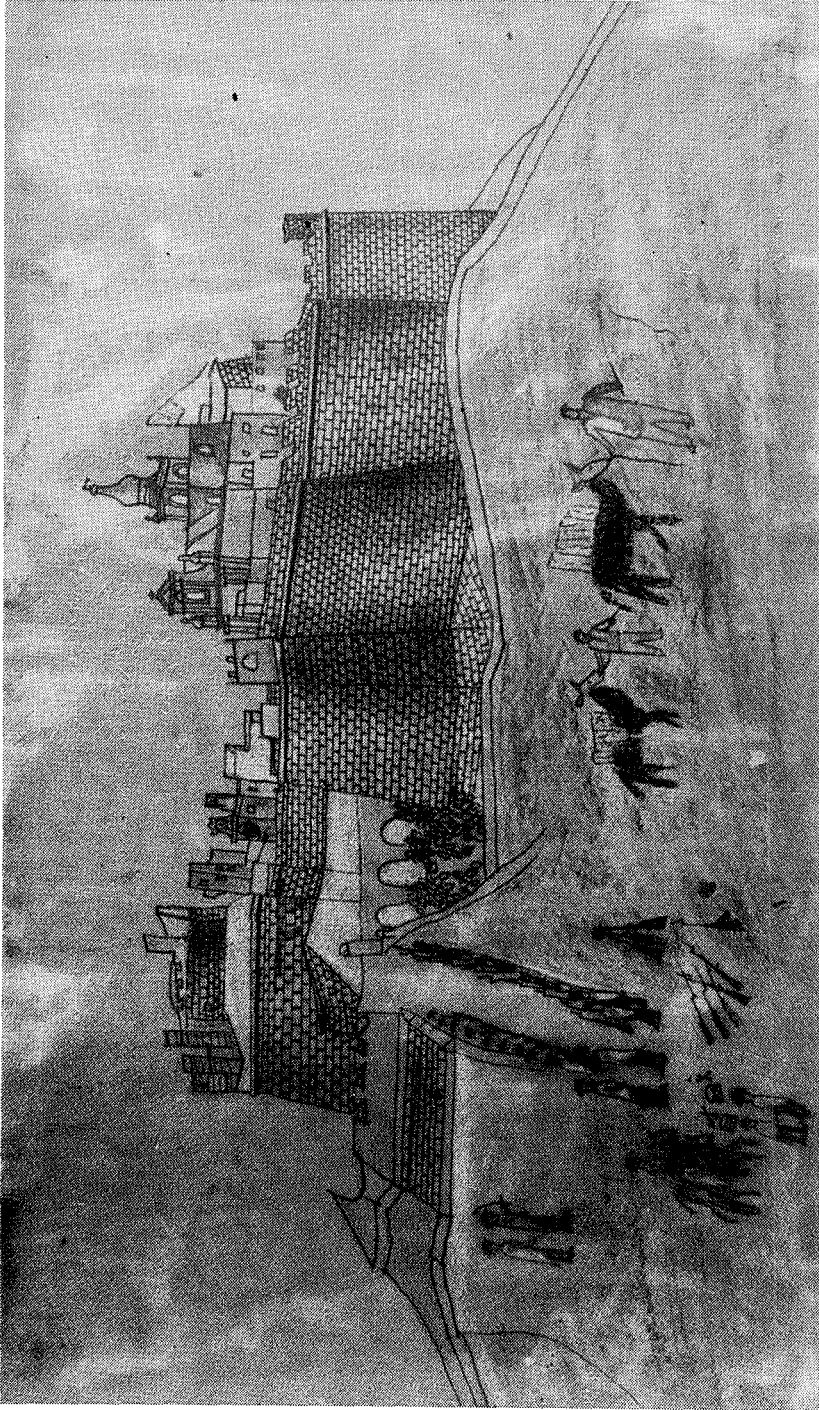
(Left to Right) Mr H Wood, Dr J Mercieca, The Hon. Minister Mrs G Debono, Dr A Bonnici, Mr T Camilleri, Mr J Micallef, Mr J Buttigieg



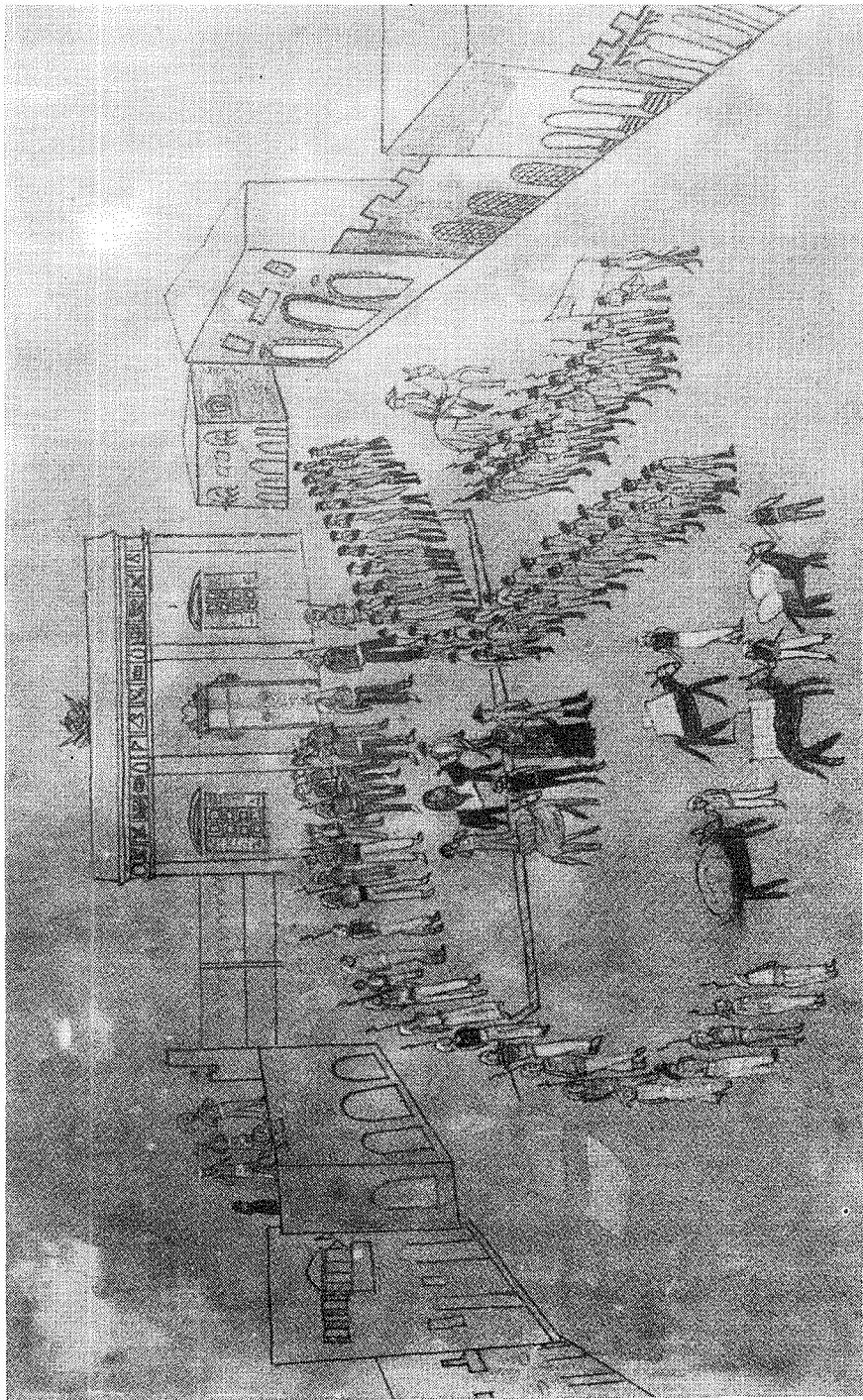
*(Above) Mr A Fenech,
Dr A Bonnici, Mr H
Wood, The Hon.
Minister Mrs G
Debono, Dr J
Mercieca*



*(Left) Dr A Bonnici
explaining the
various exhibits to
the Hon. Minister,
Mrs G Debono*



*French soldiers surrendering their arms to the Gozitans outside the Castello
(Courtesy J. Tabone, Heritage N° 75)*



*French Garrison capitulating to the British Officers at It-Tokk, Rabat
(Courtesy J. Cremona, Heritage N° 75)*

MISSENT MAIL

by Hadrian Wood

A letter I received from the UK recently took ten days to reach me. It was backstamped at Lisbon so obviously had been missent to Portugal, which explains the reason for the delay.

The fact that the letter took so long didn't bother me. It wasn't urgent, so the time factor did not matter. My only regret was that the Portuguese Postal Authorities failed to apply a MISSENT TO PORTUGAL handstamp (be it in English, Portuguese or bi-lingual) as is done in some countries. Had it been cancelled in this way the cover would have found a place in my collection.



My interest in "missent" handstamps on mail to Malta was stimulated by two letters, received within a few days over eight years ago, which showed MISSENT TO BANGKOK and MISSENT TO MALAYSIA. Though a few more letters have most definitely gone astray prior to reaching me since, none of these received another MISSENT TO ... cancellation.

It was only with the help of friends, both philatelic and non-philatelic, who pass on their "missent" mail to me, that I have been able to build a reasonable collection of these interesting instructional markings.

The most common appears to be MISSENT TO MANILA. But my collection also includes such unlikely places as BANGKOK, BERMUDA,

BELIZE, BRUNEI, JAKARTA and even as far away as ADELAIDE in South Australia.

By air mail
Par avion

Missa



MISSSENT TO MANILA

MISS'ENT TO MANILA

The Immaculate Conception,
Musketeers,

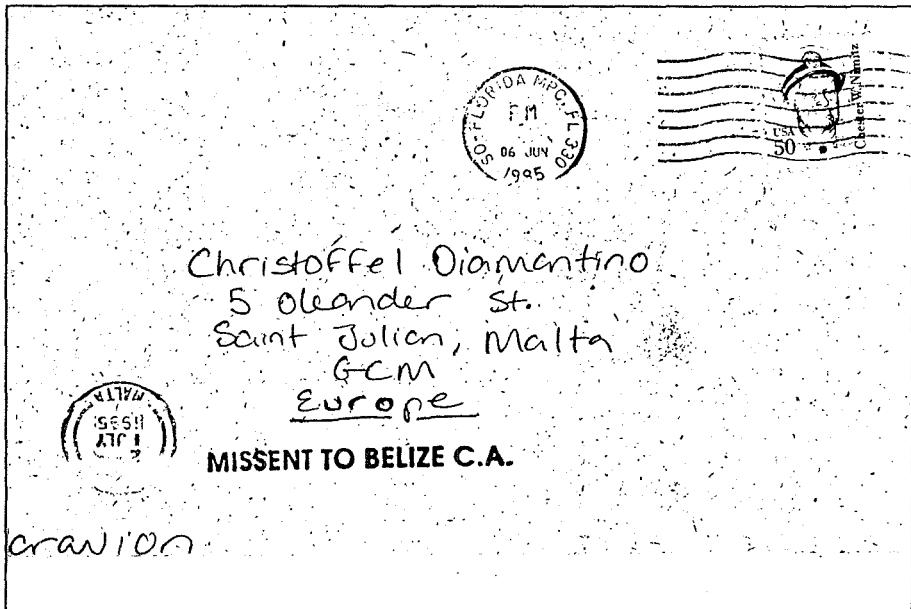
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St. Vincent Street,

Stemma

Malta G.C.

Handwritten signature and scribbles



II CONGRESO
CONFEDERACION
EUROPEA
INMOBILIARIA
MADRID
12-11-1921
28

MADRID
12-11-1921
28

PRIMER CONGRESO
CONFEDERACION
EUROPEA
INMOBILIARIA
MADRID
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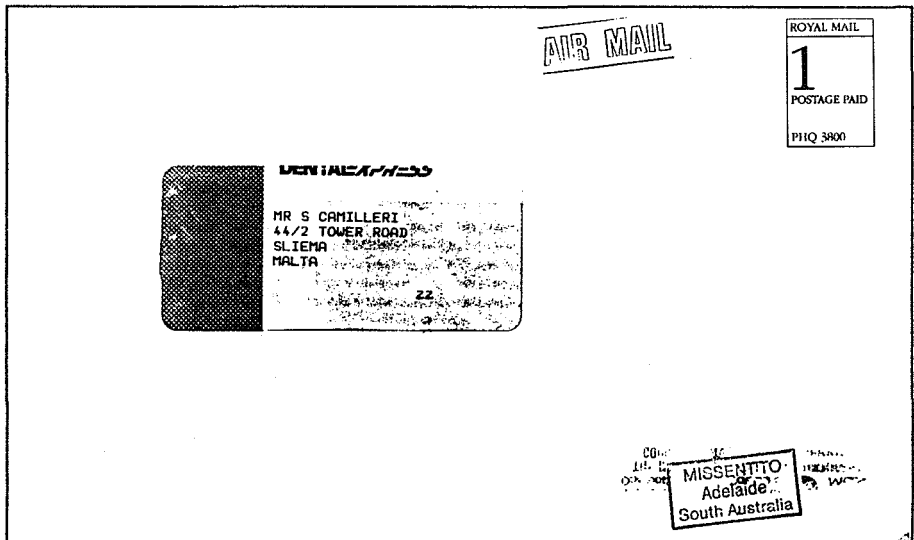


P. S. M. MAGAZINE
IMA VASSALI STREET
LA VALLETTA
MALTA

MISSENTTO
JAKARTA SOEKARNO HATTA

Besides former British colonies, countries in Asia appear to be the most conscientious with regard to applying this handstamp. Not so, it seems, in most other countries. With the exception of the United Kingdom, Malta, Cyprus and Gibraltar, I am not aware of any countries in Europe that currently make use of such markings.

It is difficult to determine the real cause for the delay of a letter when no explanatory marking is applied. Occasionally, as in the case of the above letter via Portugal, the reason can be detected by the country's receiving mark. But more often than not, no transit marks are applied prior to redirecting missent mail to the proper place of destination. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for the local post office to be unjustly blamed for the delay when this happens.



ITALIAN FASCISM AND THE MAIL IN MALTA

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

The advent of Fascism in Italy disturbed profoundly the unstable political equilibrium prevailing in Malta. On October 28, 1922, Benito Mussolini led his "March on Rome". Italy became a fascist state and Maltese politics took a nasty turn.

Previous Italian governments had steadfastly shown a benign interest in Malta. Inevitably, the geographical closeness between the two countries, the dominant use of Italian as a written language and the cultural links which history had forged over many centuries, kept our island well anchored to the Italian sphere of interests. This notwithstanding, in Italy there was no important movement towards annexation, nor, in Malta, towards unification.

In fact, diplomatic relations between Italy and Britain generally veered between the correct and the cordial. Malta rarely, and then only marginally, turned into a bone of contention between our colonial ruler and our territorial neighbour.

Of course, Maltese politics had, long before the emergence of Fascism, been bedevilled by the phenomenon of *italianità*. The local anti-colonialist, nationalist movement resented the imposition of a process of anglicisation, devised and directed by British imperial policy. They saw this as an illegitimate attempt on our cultural integrity, as a conspiracy to divest Malta of its historical identity.

The best protection against this 'denationalisation' the populist leaders could think of, was standing firm by Malta's *italianità*. We were not a third-world country where Britain could transplant its language, culture and institutions onto a pre-existing void. Our Island had an ancient cultural heritage of its won, heavily scorched by Italian radiations. If Malta no longer identified with Italian models, anglicisation would, the nationalists believed, debase the island into another obscure colonised territory.

Italianità, in the pre-fascist age, had virtually no interest at all in political unification with Italy. If there were any who aspired to change sovereignty, they were few, insignificant and emarginated.

The dramatic appearance of Fascism in Italy revolutionised all that. Mussolini harboured badly-disguised imperialist and expansionist manias; he nursed a grudge against history which, in his view, had treated shabbily the grandeur of Italy. He felt a moral imperative to do something about these territories which he believed should have been part of the mainland, but which the evil designs of rapacious powers had subtracted from its confines. Malta fell squarely into Mussolini's line of vision.

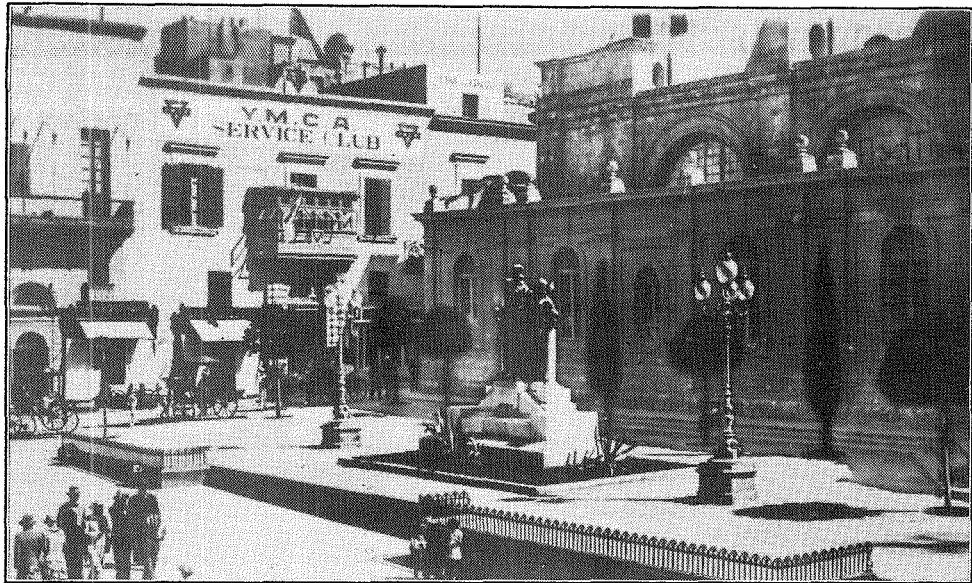
At the Maltese end, a turbulent presence like the Duce's could not go unnoticed. Although mainstream *italianità* preserved its eminently cultural dimension, the veneration or the rejection Mussolini inevitably inspired, started blurring the old political divides. For some, probably a small minority, Italy no longer represented solely an anchor of national identity in the shifting sands of colonialism. It was now perceived as a powerful magnet towards unification. A Maltese *enosis* conscience started to take shape and an indistinct dose of *irredentismo* wormed its way into Maltese politics. The extreme fringes of the nationalist movement were no longer pure of heart.

Fascist Italy beefed up its crusade of propaganda and infiltration. The new pride which Mussolini instilled in Italians living overseas inspired successive waves of activism. Italian schools and *Casa del Fascio* opened up everywhere, aimed principally at strengthening the ties within the expatriate Italian communities. But Italian Cultural Institutes and the Dante Alighieri homes were directed at beaming Italian influence onto the local populations.

Malta was not spared. A secondary level Umberto Primo Italian school operated in Palazzo Caraffa, Old Bakery Street, Valletta in 1930, followed by the *Casa del Fascio* that started functioning from St Lucia Street, Valletta in 1924 and to which most of the Italian expatriates and about 30 Maltese adhered.

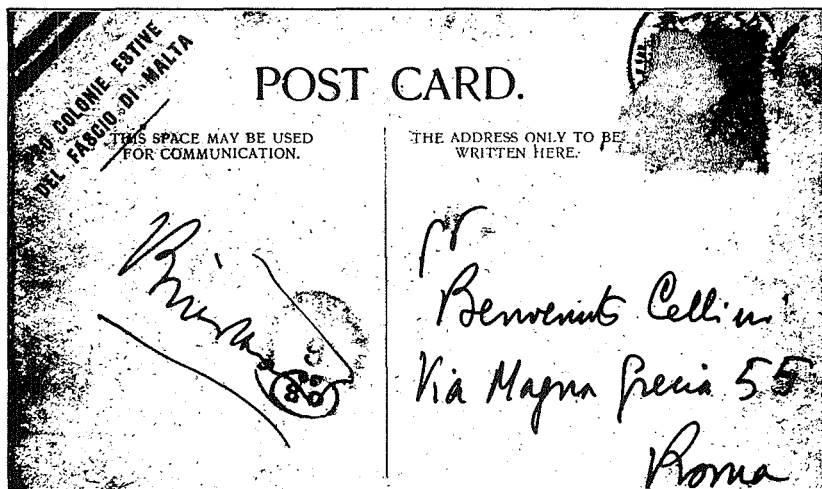
The *Istituto di Cultura Italiana* opened its doors in 1932, as a substitute to the suppressed *Casa del Fascio*. The world-wide *Società Dante Alighieri* for the dissemination of the Italian language, founded in Malta just before the first world war, seems to have been unimportant in the political struggles of the inter-war period. Even the Italian air-carrier serving Malta, the *Ala Littoria*, of clear fascist connotation, did not escape suspicion of being a cog in the Italian propaganda and espionage machine.

Inevitably the postal services played some part in the political barrage directed at, or from, Malta. The scope of this preliminary study is to identify postal material intimately connected with that power struggle. I do not believe this investigation has been carried out before, and most of the material is here published for the first time.



The primary group refers to the *Fascio di Malta* organisation. Fig.1 (above) is a 1920s postcard, showing, on the stairwell turret at the centre, the inscription “*Casa del Fascio*”, next door to the YMCA Services Club in St Lucia Street, Valletta. The Great Siege monument by Antonio Sciortino, had just been inaugurated.

A series of Maltese postcards were overprinted in the Italian colours, red and green, on the top left hand corner, to be sold to raise funds for “*The Summer Colonies of the Fascio of Malta*”. Fig. 2 (below) shows one such card,



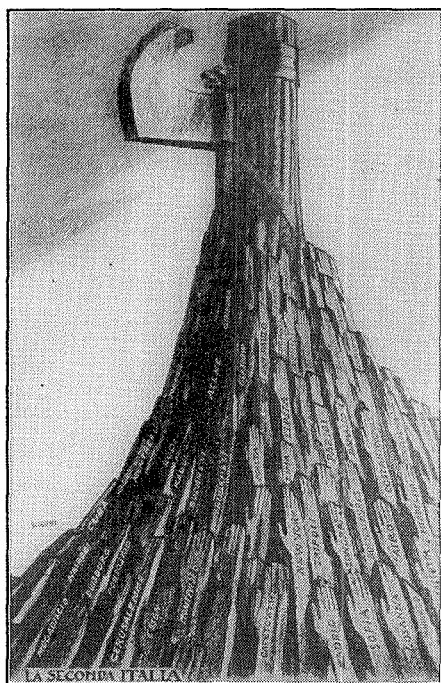
postally used but with stamp removed. It is signed "Biscottini". Umberto Biscottini was the Secretary for Propaganda for the fascist regime, and the dark genius behind the campaign for fascist infiltration in Malta. He later played a sinister role in the sacrifice and execution of Carmelo Borg Pisani.



On the occasion of the "First Congress of Italian Fascists overseas" in 1925, a special handstamp was issued for the Malta participants (Fig. 3, above). This shows the fascist axe surrounded by the circular imprint *Fascio Italiano di Malta*.

The picture side of this postcard (Fig. 4, right), has a symbolical mountain made up of hands raised in the fascist salute, each representing an overseas territory in which a *Fascio* was functioning. The most central is the 'Malta' hand.

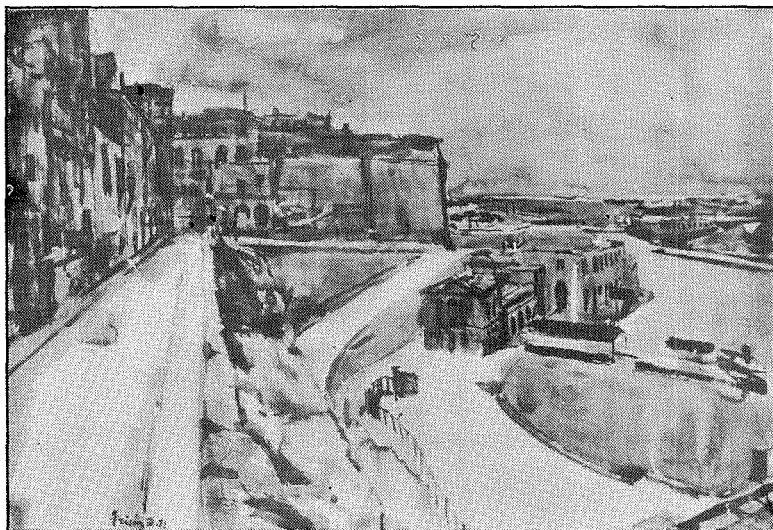
Enrico Mizzi was the leader of the integralist wing of the Nationalist Party. Although like some other exponents of *italianità* he may have been in sympathy with the fascists, it is doubtful whether he



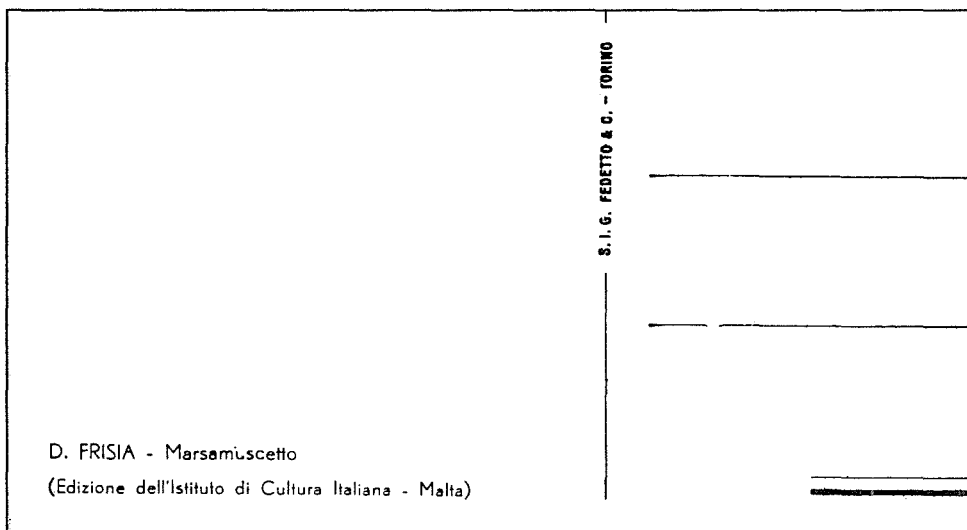
subscribed to their anti-democratic ethos; almost certainly he did not see a change of flag as the ultimate political solution. This rare postcard (Fig. 5, right) shows the front page of an Italian supplement, *L'Italia Coloniale*, dated October 1924, with a portrait of, and an article by, Mizzi. Called "Malta and the defence of Italianità", the new fascist institutions are referred to in it with a certain admiration.

One of the focal points of the Italian propaganda drive was the Umberto Primo school in Old Bakery Street, Valletta. A scarce postcard (Fig. 6, below) records a gathering of Italian fascists in the auditorium of the school. In the front seat is the Italian Consul General – probably Marquis Ferrante, *persona non grata* to the British intelligence services for his alleged role in coordinating the fascist espionage ring in our Islands. In 1936, he was hurriedly withdrawn from active service in Malta. Curiously, at the end of the hall in which this inherently anti-British activity was held, hangs a Union Jack.



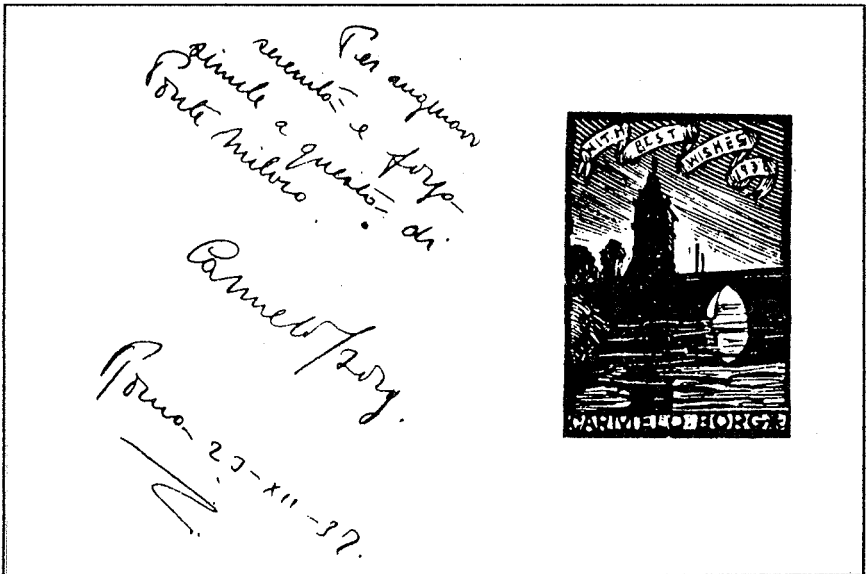


The *Istituto di Cultura Italiana* distinguished itself by making available locally the most dazzling display of Italian performing talent. In 1932 three promising Italian artists, Raffaele de Grada, Enrico Paolucci and Donato Frisia were sent to Malta on a painting expedition. A set of postcards showing six of their Malta views was printed in Turin as a special edition of the Italian Cultural Institute of Malta (Fig. 7, above and below). I have seen very few of these sets around.



When the war broke out in June 1940, a "Comitato d'Azione Maltese" was formed in Rome by Umberto Biscottini. All those Maltese who had been trapped in Italy by the sudden outbreak of hostilities were invited or coerced into participating. Fig. 8 (right) shows a postcard of the monument of the *Sette Giugno* anti-British riots, described as "The Monument to the fallen of the 1919 Revolution". This card was printed in Milan during the War, and was published by this "Action Committee".

That same war brought to a tragic end the life of the art-student Carmelo Borg Pisani, who was persuaded by Biscottini to cross over from Italy to Malta by submarine on a suicidal espionage mission. Borg Pisani was soon captured, tried and hanged for high treason. Fig. 9 (below)





CARMELO BORG PISANI

eroe e martire dell'Irredentismo maltese, ucciso a Senglea (Malta) nel 1915, pittore, membro del Direttorio del fascio di Malta, volontario di guerra, combattente in Grecia e nel Mediterraneo, catturato dagli inglesi durante una rischiosissima missione di guerra, cui si era offerto volontariamente, condannato e morto, affronta il plotone di esecuzione al grido di "Viva l'Italia!"

reproduces a postcard, hand engraved by that same young artist, sent to a friend in Malta when on a scholarship in Rome, while Fig. 10 (left) is a postcard printed in Milan by Rizzoli, with the traitor/martyr in a fascist army uniform. The legend speaks of Borg Pisani's execution by firing squad, while in reality he died on November 28, 1942, by hanging. A reflection on the sad state of the Italian intelligence services during the war. This postcard was published by the now phantomatic *Fascio di Malta*.

Finally, a postal curio. *Ala Littoria*, the Italian air passenger company, accused of military spying, issued a large handstamp for mail carried from Italy to Malta. Fig. 11 (below) shows this cachet in red on newspaper post. The very word *Littoria* had a fascist connotation; the

dictator's ace which Fascism adopted as its symbol.

no 1937 — Anno XV

Trasporto per via Aerea

EDIZIONE DEL MATTINO

a mezzo Ala Littoria S.A.

ELLA SE

Avv. S. Mierob
83, Strada Mercanti
Valletta.

PREZZO DELLE INSEZIONI per mese, d'altro
biletta Commerciale (pagina di testo 4, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100).
Pag. 1. Materassi, 2. Nazione, 3. Sport, 4. 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100.
Pagamento anticipato. Tasse governative in più.
Tutto al Filiale, negli uffici che a suo giro.
Il "Corriere", gestisce anche la

La prossima visita del Duce in Libia

Necessaria della poesia

Fervida attesa dei musulmani

Roma 26 febbraio.

Chi può non essersi fermato un istante, interessato e commosso, leg-

(Except for Fig. 9, all the other illustrations come from the author's collection)

MSC MEMBERS' ORGANISED VISIT TO MALTA

(October 1998)

by Hadrian Wood

While on holiday in Malta last year (1997), Bryan Hobbs hinted at the possibility of an organised visit to the Island by U.K. members of the Malta Study Circle. Feelers put out in the MSC Newsletter produced a positive response, and Bryan immediately started working in earnest towards this goal.

Circle members in Italy, led by Lorenzo Mantegna, also initially showed an interest in joining the U.K. group, but this eventually fizzled out to just one person, Dr. Cruciani Luciano.



Malta Study Circle members being shown around the Parcel Sorting Room during their visit to the Central Mail Room in Marsa

The first organised MSC visit to the island had taken place during the first week of May in 1983. A second visit to mark the Centenary of the Malta Post Office followed two years later. Both visits were considered successful, so why had such a long period of time elapsed for a third visit to materialise? Something like this usually requires the initiative of one person and Bryan, who had taken part in both previous visits, provided the inspiration and started the ball rolling.

As soon as it became known that Circle members would be arriving during the third week of October, Philatelic Society members were quick to show their approval by offering to help in the preparations. An organising sub-committee made up of Dr. Alfred Bonnici, Dr. John Mercieca and myself was to work on Bryan's proposals and suggestions, and to be responsible for organising events. A five-day programme beginning on Thursday 15th was agreed on. This would include a joint meeting and display by Circle and Philatelic Society members, a visit to the Central Mail Room followed by a visit to the Maritime Museum, a celebration dinner for members and wives of both philatelic organisations, and a day's visit to Gozo.

The highlight of Thursday evening's 'joint meeting', which took place at Hotel Cavalieri in St. Julian's, was an interesting talk and outstanding display of Grand Masters' letters given by Dr. Bonnici. This was followed by displays from U.K. members showing a variety of unusual and interesting covers from their collections.

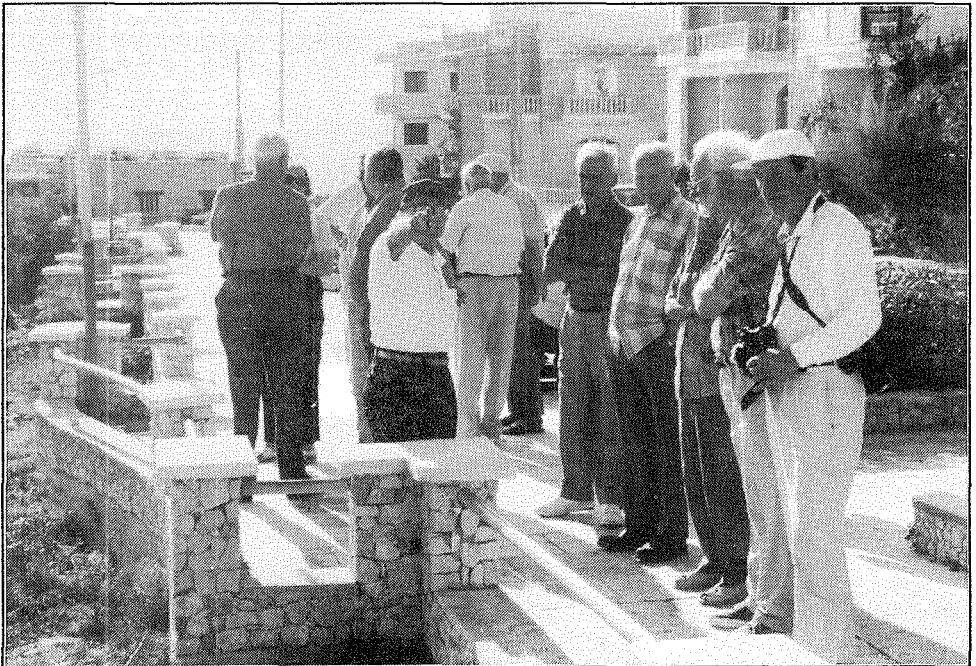
Friday began with a morning visit to the new Central Mail Room in Marsa. On arrival we were warmly welcomed by P.R.O. Tony Barbaro Sent who guided us around the building, treated us to drinks and presented each and every member with a Souvenir Post Office Year Pack containing all the stamps issued during 1997. We were later shown and allowed to examine old postal registers which bore impressions of early postal markings. Maltapost Chairman Alfred Sladden then addressed Circle members and made reference to the need of a Postal Museum, which Maltapost intended to open in the not too distant future. Members expressed their gratitude to Mr Sladden, Mr Barbaro Sent and other Maltapost officials for making their visit such an interesting and memorable one.

Lunch at the Marsa Sports Club, which followed the Central Mail Room visit, must have brought back nostalgic memories to one or two of the visitors who had done military duty on the island during their younger days. The rest of the afternoon was then dedicated to a visit to the Maritime Museum, where an exhibition commemorating the second centenary of the French Blockade was on view.

Once again Hotel Cavalieri became the venue for an excellent dinner given in honour of members and wives of both philatelic organisations. The highlight of this enjoyable Saturday evening must surely be the emotional welcoming speech given from the heart to the visiting Circle members by long serving Philatelic Society President Dr. Mercieca. This was followed by a witty and amusing speech by Graham Pound on behalf of the visitors, who also made reference to a return visit by Maltese Circle members to the U.K. in the year 2000.

Monday morning saw members boarding the coach to Cirkewwa for our day trip to Gozo. A bus journey to the church of Ta' Pinu was followed by visits to the Inland Sea in Dwejra, Xlendi Bay, Qbajjar in Marsalforn, and later to the village of Qala to enjoy a magnificent view of Comino Island.

It would be difficult to pinpoint which of these events our visitors enjoyed most, as everything seemed to go quite well. However, if I were to make a choice, I would pick the Gozo visit. Excellent weather, coupled by a relaxed lunch in pleasant surroundings by the sea, may sway Circle members to remember this day most favourably.



Malta Study Circle members admiring a view of Comino Island from the village of Qala during their visit to Gozo

MALTA – A DIARY

January – December 1996

by J. Farrugia

10.01.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Science and Technology Week – 15-21 January 1996" was used, on and off, from January 10 to 20, at the Central Mail Room.

11.01.96

Posta Ltd notified that the Sub-Post Office at 78 George Borg Olivier Street, Mellieha, would be closed between Monday 15 and Saturday 27, both dates inclusive.

01.02.96

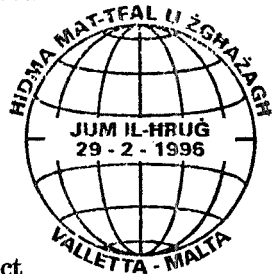
The Branch Post Office at 75, Old Bakery Street, Valletta, closed down for business with effect from today.

09.02.96

The eighth in the series of Year Packs was issued today. The Year Pack incorporating all the stamps issued in 1995, features the Birgufest and the outer cover depicts Vittoriosa Church illuminated for the occasion. Postcard N° 1 showing 'L-Arlogg tal-Lira', the 14c stamp in the set 'Maltese Clocks' was given free of charge to all those who bought this Year Pack. The Postcards were sold separately over the Philatelic Counters and were used on the first day with the February 9, 1996, date stamp.

29.02.96

The "Child and Youth Welfare" postage stamp set, issued today. A special hand postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

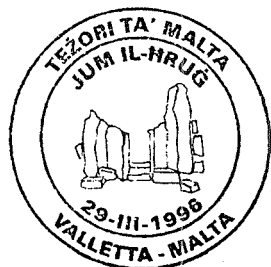


09.03.96

The Birzebbugia Sub-Post Office closed down with effect from today.

18.03.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "2nd International – Symposium– The Pharmacist in Health – Promotion and Disease – Prevention – 21st to 23rd March 1996 Malta" was used from March 18 to 23, 1996, at the Central Mail Room.



29.03.96

The "Treasures of Malta – Prehistoric Art" postage set

of four stamps designed by Harry Borg, was issued today. A special hand postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail, on the first day of issue.

23.04.96

Between April 22 and 26, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Conference of Peripheral – Maritime Regions – Mgarr Hotel, Gozo, Malta – 25-26 April, 1996" was used at the Central Mail Room.

24.04.96

The "Europa 1996" postage stamp set issued today. A special handstamp was used for cancelling philatelic mail on the first day of issue. This year's theme was 'Famous Maltese Women'.



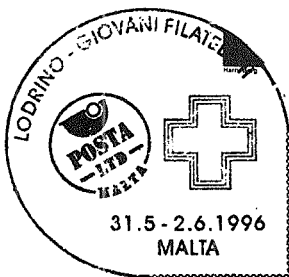
25.04.96

A Temporary Branch Post Office was set up at Mgarr Hotel, Gozo, for the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions on April 25 and 26, 1996. Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed as follows: "Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, Mgarr Hotel, Gozo, Malta – 25-26 April 1996".

04.05.96

A commemorating Postal Card was issued on the occasion of the participation of Posta Ltd in the Espamer 1996 Aviacion y espacio (Air and Space Philately) at Seville, Spain, from May 4 to 12, 1996.

The card has imprinted thereon the two stamps of the Europa 1996 postage stamp set and the logo of the exhibition. The postmark was also used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO between May 4 and 12, concurrently with that used at the Malta Post Office at Seville Espamer 1996.



31.05.96

A special hand-stamp inscribed: "Lodrino 1996 – Giovani Filatelisti – 31st May – 2nd June 1996" was used at Lodrino, Italy and at the GPO, Valletta. On Sunday the hand-stamp was used at Lodrino only.

05.06.96

The "Commemorations 1996" postage stamp set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



17.06.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan was used at the Central Mail Room to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Ghaqda Muzikali San Gejtanu, Hamrun. The slogan reading: "Ghaqda Muzikali – San Gejtanu – Hamrun – 1906-1996" and motif, was used from June 17 to 22, 1996.

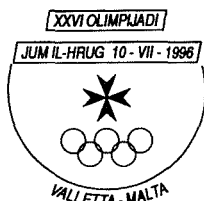
24.06.96

Between June 24 and 27, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "111 Anniversary of – The Institute of – Internal Auditors – Malta Chapter – 27th June 1996" was used at the Central Mail Room.

29.06.96

A Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from Saturday June 29 to Sunday July 14. Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed as follows: "39th International Fair of Malta – Naxxar – Malta".

39th
INTERNATIONAL
FAIR OF MALTA
29 JUN 1996
NAXXAR
MALTA



10.07.96

The "Olympics 1996" postage stamp set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue. An identical handstamp was used at the International Fair of Malta Temporary Branch Post Office at Naxxar.

A Maximum Card depicting the 14c stamp of the "Olympics 1996" set was issued today and was sold for 15c, the proceeds from the sale of the Maximum Card go towards financing the Malta Olympic Committee funds.

15.07.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "35th Anniversary – President's Award" was used between July 15 and 18, at the Central Mail Room.

05.08.96

Tarxien Sub-Post Office, in Market Square, Tarxien, was closed for business between August 5 and 17, 1996, both days inclusive.

09.08.96

Posta Ltd notified that a Postage Design Competition was to be held to select the most appropriate design for the issue of Christmas 1996 postage stamp set. The closing date for submitting the designs was 1.00pm on Tuesday, September 3 1996. Cash prizes of Lm500 for the selected complete design, Lm150 for the design placed second and Lm100 for the design placed third were also announced.

16.08.96

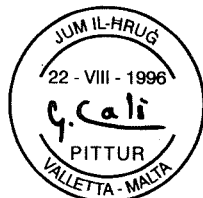
The Ghaxaq Sub-Post Office in St Mary Street, Ghaxaq, was to close down for business from Friday August 16 to Monday September 2, 1996, both days inclusive.

19.08.96

The Mgarr Sub-Post Office at 6, Jubilee Esplanade, Mgarr, was to close down for business from August 12 to 19, 1996, both days inclusive.

22.08.96

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



30.08.96

Posta Limited used a special cancelling handstamp inscribed: "Riccione '96 - Posta Ltd. Malta - 30.VIII - 1.IX-1996" at the Philatelic Counter in the Auberge d'Italie, Valletta on Friday and Saturday from 8.00am to 1.00pm. An identical handstamp which was supposed to have been used at the Exhibition Stand at Riccione was not used at all.

02.09.96

Posta Ltd notified that the Dingli Sub-Post Office at 6, Frenç Abela Square, Dingli, was to close down for business from Monday 19 to Saturday 24 August, 1996, both days inclusive.

30.08.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "75 Anniversarju - Inkurunazzjoni - Marija Bambina - Senglea 1921-1996" was used from September 2 to 7, 1996, at the Central Mail Room.

17.09.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Paul Nani - Muzicista - 1906-1986" was used by Posta Ltd at the Central Mail Room between Tuesday 17 to Friday 20 September 1996.

23.09.96

From Monday 23 to Friday 27 September, 1996, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "European Regional Conference - World Animal - Health Organisation - Malta 1996" was used at the Central Mail Room.



26.09.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "UHM - Inharsu - 1 Quddiem - Bi 30 Sena - Esperjenza" and logo, was used between Thursday September 26 and Wednesday October 2, 1996, at the Central Mail Room.

26.09.96

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

27.09.96

Posta Ltd has temporarily transferred the bulk posting section of the Central Mail Room to the Auberge d'Italie, in Merchants Street, Valletta. With immediate effect bulk mail is being accepted only in Merchants Street and at the Victoria Branch Post Office. Hours of business are: Valletta, Auberge d'Italie, Mondays to Saturdays from 7.30am to 6.30pm and 127-129 Republic Street, Victoria, Mondays to Saturdays from 7.30am to 5.20pm.

02.10.96

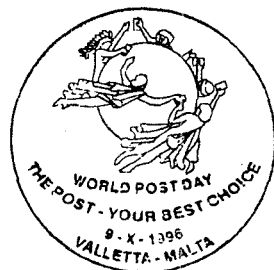
A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "30th Anniversary - Hobbies Society - Malta" was used between October 2 and 5 at the Central Mail Room.

07.10.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Health and Safety Week - European Health - and - Safety Week - 7-13 October 1996" was used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, from October 7 to 13, 1996.

09.10.96

A special hand-postmark commemorating UPU Day 1996, 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 - 9-10-96 - Valletta - Malta".



12.10.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan was used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, between October 12 and 19, 1996. The slogan incorporating a logo is inscribed: "125 Sena - Nicolò Isouard - Mosta - 1871-1996".

12.10.96

A new slogan cancellation started to be used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, reading: "CMR - Malta - Time - Month - Year - And Seven Wavy Lines" plus slogan appeared in black and also in red ink.

18.10.96

Posta Ltd notified that local designers were being invited to take part in a postage stamp design competition organised by the Ministry of Information and Communications of South Korea. The subjects are "World Book and Copyright Day" and "The Kwangu Biennale". Cash prizes are being offered as well as other 'special prizes' by sponsors.



07.11.96

The "Christmas 1996" postage stamp set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.

12.11.96

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "1991-1996 - Is-Socjeta Maltija - Tas-Salib I-Ahmar - Hames Anniversarju - Malta Red Cross Society - Fifth Anniversary" was used from Novembr 12 to 15,

1996, at the Central Mail Room.

30.11.96

A special hand-postmark was used to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the shrine dedicated to our Lady de la Soledad which was brought to Malta from Spain. The postmark is inscribed as follows: "350 Sena Migja Xbiha Tal-Madonna Minn Spanja - N.S. De La Soledad - 30-XI-1996 - Valletta - Malta". The postmark was used at the philatelic counter of the GPO and at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.



20.12.96

Posta Ltd issued the ninth in the Year Pack series containing the thirty stamps issued during 1996.

The 1996 Year Pack features scenes of Mdina on the outer cover and consists of a description colour folder in English, French, German and Italian. It costs Lm5.50 including Value Added Tax.

A Postcard which may also be bought separately, is included, depicting the 14c stamp of the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Giuseppe Cali set, (Postcard N° 2).

Information contributed by Mr Anthony Fenech



**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE?
IF NOT, PLEASE PAY IMMEDIATELY TO THE
TREASURER,**

MR J. BUTTIGIEG, MIRIAM HOUSE, ZERAFÁ STREET, MARSA, HMR14



TREASURES OF MALTA – MALTESE CLOCKS – X CHRISTMAS 1995 – Y

by J. Farrugia

| | X | Y |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Date of Issue | 5-10-1995 | 15.11.95 |
| Values | 1c, 5c, 14c, 25c | 5c, 5c+2c, 14c+3c, 25c+3c |
| Stamp Size | 31 x 44mm | 61 x 25mm (5c) |
| | | 30 x 35mm (all others) |
| Art Designer | Frank Ancilleri | Harry Borg |
| Printers | Printex Ltd | Printex Ltd |
| Process | Lithography | Lithography |
| Perforation | 14 x 13.9 | 13.6 x 13.4 (5c) |
| | | 13.8 x 13.6 (all others) |
| Watermark | Malt. Crosses Upright | 5c (Sideways) |
| | | All others (Upright) |
| Paper | Chalk Surfaced | Chalk Surfaced |
| Gum | PVA | PVA |

Colours

These two sets were printed in the four colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets in issues X and Y were printed in the following order: Black-Cyan-Magenta-Yellow.

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

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the bottom margin only, in all Panes, of all values, printed in black, in issues X and Y. It would be of interest to note here that Panes of the 5c value of issue X have a thick black line across the bottom margin of Panes A and B. The reason for this was to obliterate the original values of progressive columns of stamps, which by mistake were printed double the actual values. These can still be seen by looking at the black line using a magnifying glass. The correct values seen above the thick black line, were printed later.

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

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of each of the three values 5c+2c, 14c+3c and 25c+3c consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All three stamps are of the vertical format. The Printed Sheet of the 5c value consisted of only Pane A. This Pane has fifty

stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. The 5c stamp is of the horizontal format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A and B, of all values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual printing registration mark was printed at each corner of the printed sheet and may have been seen at each end of the top and bottom margins, of Panes A and B respectively, of each value, unless they were eliminated during the cutting of the Printed Sheet into Panes. In the top margin of each Pane, of all values, above the fifth and sixth stamps, can be seen the words 'Tezori Maltin' meaning 'Maltese Treasures'.

Issue Y – The left hand margins of Panes A and B, in the 5c+2c, 14c+3c and 25c+3c values are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 5c value, the top margin of Pane A is imperforate. The usual printing registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet in the 5c value but only at each end of the right side of the Printed Sheet in each of the other three values. In all values this printing mark was too far out on the Printed Sheet to be still seen on the Panes when cutting was done.

Plate/Pane Numbers

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

Issue X – 1c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 25c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

Issue Y – 5c = 1A x 4
 5c+2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 14c + 3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 25c+3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure (a) for all values of issue X and the

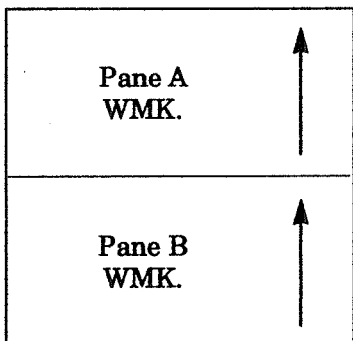


Fig. (a)

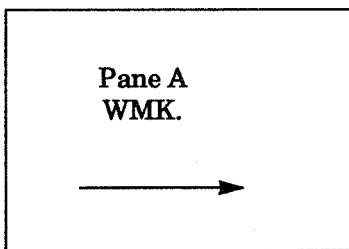


Fig. (b)

three values 5c+2c, 14c+3c and 25c+3c of issue Y but as shown in figure (b) for the 5c value of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values of issues X and Y would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is

sideways in the 5c value of issue Y and upright in the other three values of issue Y and all values of issue X. Perforator ran from left to right in figure (a) and from top to bottom in figure (b).

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen under the middle stamp, of the bottom row, in Pane A of the 5c value, of issue Y but under the fifth and sixth stamps of the bottom row of Panes A and B in the other three values of issue Y and in all the values of issue X. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, will contain only the Imprint.

A special hand-postmark, incorporating an appropriate motif was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. On the first day of issue sales amounted to Lm20,987 (issue X) and Lm18,051 (issue Y).

Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to October 2 1996 (issue X) and up to March 13 1996 (issue Y).

CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE – X TREASURES OF MALTA – PREHISTORIC ART – Y

by J. Farrugia

| | X | Y |
|---------------|-------------------------|---|
| Date of Issue | 29-2-1996 | 29-3-1996 |
| Values | .5c, 14c, 20c, 25c | .5c, 14c, 20c, 35c |
| Stamp Size | 44 x 31mm | 44 x 31mm (5c, 14c) 31 x 44mm (20c, 35c) |
| Art Designer | Frank Ancilleri | Harry Borg |
| Printers | Printex Ltd | Printex Ltd |
| Process | Lithography | Lithography |
| Perforation | 13.9 x 14 | 13.9 x 14 (5c, 14c) 14 x 13.9 (20c, 35c) |
| Watermark | .Malt. Crosses Sideways | .Sideways (5c, 14c) Upright (20c, 35c) |
| Paper | .Chalk Surfaced | .Chalk Surfaced |
| Gum | .PVA | .PVA |

Colours

These two sets were printed in the four colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets in the issues X and Y were printed in the following order: Black-Cyan-Magenta-Yellow.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter were printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of each value.

They are seen next to the first and last stamps, of the top and bottom rows, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, in all positions.

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

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

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps (5c, 14c) and five rows of ten stamps (20c, 35c). The 5c and 14c stamps are of the horizontal format, whilst the 20c and 35c stamps are of the vertical format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X – The top margins of Panes A and B, of all values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual printing registration mark may be seen at the top and bottom of the left and right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively, in each value, unless they were eliminated during the cutting of Printed Sheets into Panes. Another printing mark, consisting of a circle, 1cm in diameter, enclosing the words 'Posta Ltd' and 'Malta' plus the 'Postal Horn' all printed in black can be seen, in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, in each value, next to the fifth row of stamps. Issue Y – In the 5c and 14c values, the top margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 20c and 35c values, the right hand margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The printing registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet, in all values. If they were not eliminated during the cutting of the printed sheets into Panes, they could be seen at the top and bottom of the left and right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively in the 5c and 14c values, but at each end of the top and bottom margins of Panes A and B respectively in the 20c and 35c values. Another printing mark consisting of a circle, 1cm in diameter, printed in black enclosing the 'Postal Horn' printed in yellow, the words 'Posta Ltd' printed in magenta and the word 'Malta' printed in black, can be seen at each end of the fifth row, of each Pane, in the 5c and 14c values, but at each end of the third or middle row of each Pane in the 20c and 35c values.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These like the colour checks, were printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, in all values of issues X and Y. They are seen above the first and last stamps of the top row and also below the first and last stamps of the bottom row in each Pane.

Issue X – 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 20c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 25c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

Issue Y – 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 20c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 35c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

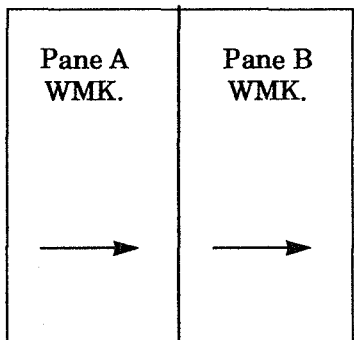


Fig. (a)

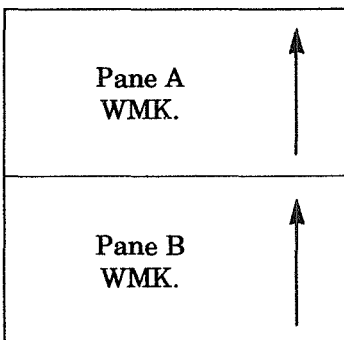


Fig. (b)

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure (a) for all values of issue X and the 5c and 14c values of issue Y but as shown in figure (b) for the 20c and 35c values of issue Y.

Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values of issues X and Y would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in all values of issue X and in the 5c and 14c values of issue Y, but upright in the 20c and 35c values of issue Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom in figure (a) and from right to left in figure (b).

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen under the middle stamp, of the bottom row, in each Pane, of all values of issue X and in each Pane of the 5c and 14c values of issue Y, but under the fifth and sixth stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of the 20c and 35c values of issue Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, will contain only the Imprint.

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

Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to February 20 1997 (issue X) and up to March 25 1997 (issue Y).

On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm25,429 (issue X) and Lm27,089 (issue Y).

EUROPA 1996 ISSUE

by J. Farrugia

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Date of Issue | April 24, 1996 |
| Values | 14c and 30c |
| Stamp Size | 31 x 44mm |
| Art Designer | Catherine Cavallo |
| Printers | Printex Limited |
| Process | Lithography |
| Perforation | 14 x 13.9 |
| Watermark | Maltese Crosses Upright |
| 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 for each value, (plus the solid colour 'gold'). The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow. Both stamps are of the vertical format.

A Pane of ten stamps of each value, is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. In the first space, of the top row, of both values, can be seen "Europa '96". In the second space of the top row can be seen the "Inez Trophy", a bronze statuette depicting the Muse of Drama (30c) and the entrance to the Allied Newspapers Ltd in St Paul's Street, Valletta (14c). The value of the whole Pane of stamps is seen in the top margin, above the second and third spaces of the top row, printed in black.

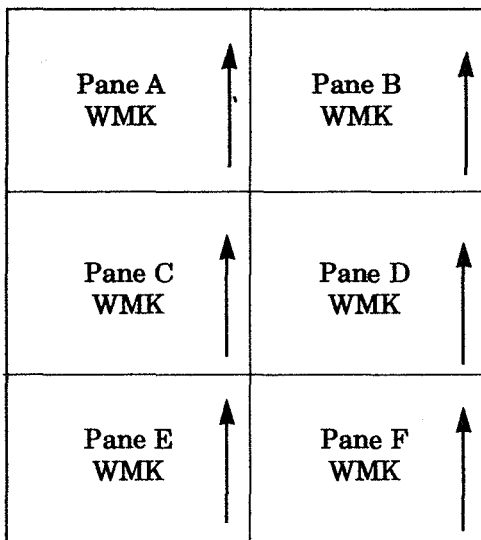
Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in four different positions on the margins of each Pane, of both values. The first two positions are next to the first and last spaces of the top row, and the other two positions are next to the first and last spaces of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in all positions, in all Panes, of both values. Another printing mark is seen in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, next to the first and last stamps of the middle row. It consists of a circle 1 cm in diameter, enclosing the 'Postal Horn' and the words "Posta Ltd - Malta", all printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of six Panes of ten stamps, A to F.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These like the colour checks are seen in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of both values. The first two positions are above the first and last spaces of the top row, and the other two positions are below the first and last stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values.

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 14c = | 1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4 |
| 30c = | 1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4 |



Perforation of Margins

The right hand margins of Panes B, D and F are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, plus the four margins of Panes A, C and E are all perforated.

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 both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in both values is upright. Perforator ran from right to left.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen below the third stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, from each value, can include the Imprint, the colour checks, the Pane numbers and also the 1cm diameter circle mentioned earlier.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set was withdrawn from sale on April 23, 1997, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

First day sales amounted to Lm50,474.

COMMEMORATIONS 1996 – X OLYMPICS 1996 – Y

by J. Farrugia

| | X | Y |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Date of Issue | 5-6-1996 | 10.7.1996 |
| Values | 5c, 5c, 14c, 44c | 2c, 5c, 14c, 25c |
| Stamp Size | 31 x 44mm | 44 x 31mm |
| Art Designer | Damian Borg Nicolas | Luciano Micallef |
| Printers | Printex Ltd | Printex Ltd |
| Process | Lithography | Lithography |
| Perforation | 14 x 13.9 | 13.9 x 14 |
| Watermark | Malt. Crosses Upright | Malt. Crosses Sideways |
| Paper | Chalk Surfaced | Chalk Surfaced |
| Gum | PVA | PVA |

Colours

These two sets were printed in the four colour process using the standard

CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets in the X issue and the 5c and 14c values in the Y issue were printed in the following order: Black-Cyan-Magenta-Yellow. The 2c and 25c in the Y issue were printed in the following order: Yellow-Cyan-Magenta-Black.

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

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

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

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

Perforation of Margins

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A and B, of all values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual printing registration mark may be seen at each end of the top and bottom margins of Panes A and B respectively, of each value, unless they were eliminated during the cutting of Printed Sheets into Panes. Another printing mark, consisting of a circle, 1cm in diameter, enclosing the words 'Posta Ltd' and 'Malta' plus the 'Postal Horn' can be seen, in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, in each value, next to the middle row of stamps. The circle and 'Malta' are printed in black, 'Posta Ltd' in Magenta and the 'Postal Horn' in yellow.

Issue Y – The top margins of Panes A and B, of all values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The printing registration mark may be seen at the top and bottom, of the left and right hand margins, of Panes A and B respectively, of each value, unless they were eliminated during the cutting of Printed Sheets into Panes. Another printing mark, as described in issue X, including colours, can be seen in the left and right hand margins, of each Pane, in each value, next to the fifth row of stamps.

Plate/Pane Numbers

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

Issue X – 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

Issue Y – 2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

14c = 1Ax4, 1B x 4
 5c = 1Ax4, 1B x 4
 44c = 1Ax4, 1B x 4

5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 25c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

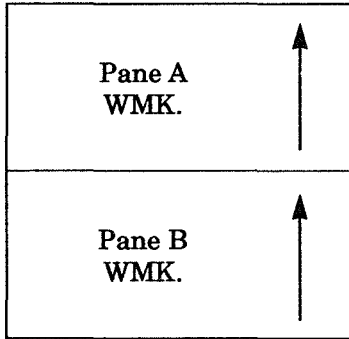


Fig. (a)

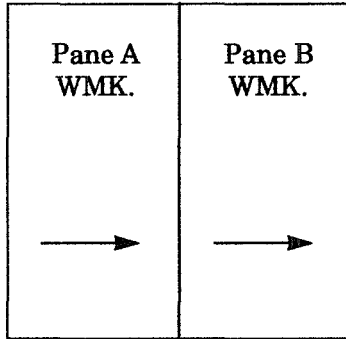


Fig.(b)

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure (a) for all values of issue X and as shown in figure (b) for all values of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps

of all values of issue X and Y would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is upright in all values of issue X and sideways in all values of issue Y. Perforator ran from left to right in figure (a) and from top to bottom in figure (b).

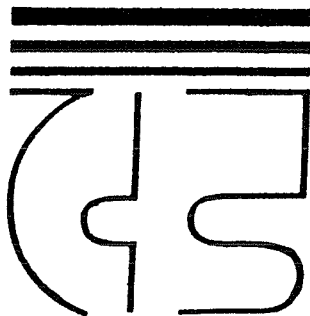
Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen below the fifth and sixth stamp, of the bottom row, in each Pane, of all values of issue X, but below the middle stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of all values of issue Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, will contain only the Imprint.

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

On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm17,948 (issue X) and Lm15,905 (issue Y).

These two sets were withdrawn from sale on May 21, 1997 (issue X) and July 9, 1997 (issue Y) unless stocks were previously exhausted.



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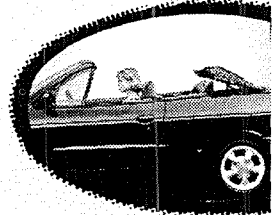
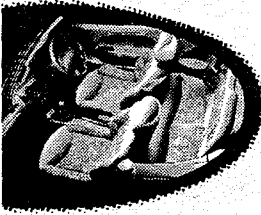
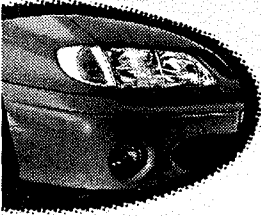
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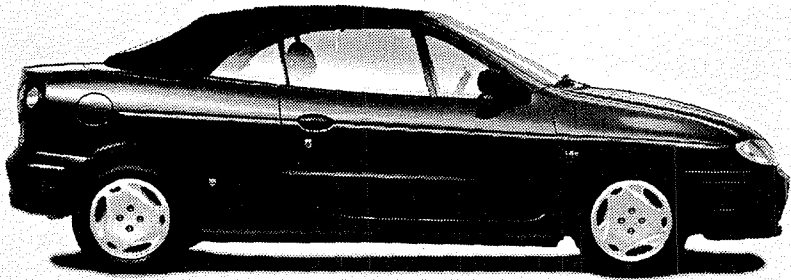
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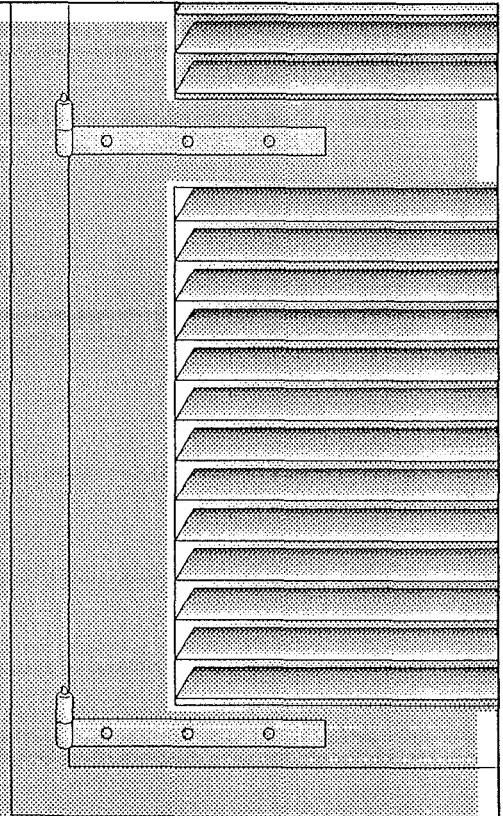
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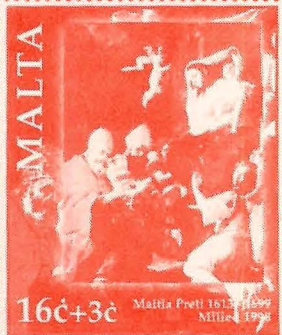
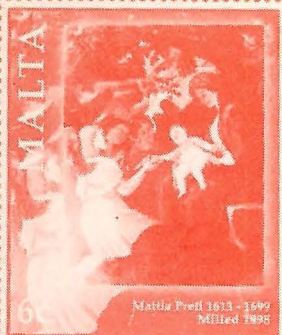
● General Jobbing

Christmas 1998

● Issued on
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● To be withdrawn on
17th November 1999

● Designed by the
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