

Journal of

THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c.

Head Office: 67 Republic Street Valletta Malta • PO Box 584 Valletta VLT 1000 Malta
Tel: +356 25581117 • Fax: +356 25581151 • e-mail: mail@lombardmalta.com • www.lombardmalta.com • SWIFT Code: LBMAMTMT
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2020 Committee

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Journal Editor:**

Chev. Dr. A. Bonnici MD, MA(Melit) FRPSL, ASPS, KM, UOM
34 "Casa Bonnici", Sir Augustus Bartolo Street, Ta' Xbiex,
XBX 1093, Malta.
(Tel: 2133 8437, 9949 5066), alfbonnici@gmail.com

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ncutajar@optusnet.com.au
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paulbondin@singermedical.com.au

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COSMOPOLITAN BUTTERFLY

PAINTED LADY

Vladimir Kachan, Belarus



In the Maltese Islands, there are about 40 species of butterflies. Some of the butterfly species are migratory, others reside in the Islands and the status of some of them is threatened. The Painted Lady is the butterfly which often migrates in large numbers (**Photo 1**). The most cosmopolitan of all butterflies, the Painted Lady occurs practically worldwide. Almost all of Europe, Asia, North America, Africa, Australia, Central America, and numerous island groups in the Caribbean, Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans are home to this species, at least for part of the year. There are no populations in South America south of Venezuela or in the polar regions, although the species occasionally flies north of the Arctic Circle. The Painted Lady is sometimes called the Cosmopolite or Cosmopolitan because of this wide distribution.



(Photo 1 - Stamp of Malta 1986 with tab and butterfly Painted Lady)

The aptly named Painted Lady wears splashes and dots of colors on her wings. The adult butterfly's wings are orange and brown on the upper side (**Photo 2**). The leading edge of the forewing appears black with a prominent white bar and smaller white spots. The underside of the wings is markedly duller, in shades of brown and gray. When the butterfly sits at rest with wings folded together, four small eyespots are noticeable



(Photo 2 - Imperforated stamp of Hungary 1969 with butterfly Painted Lady)



(Photo 3 - Imperforated pair stamps of Tunisia 1994 with life cycle of butterfly Painted Lady)

on the hindwing. The Painted Lady's mottled colors look much like military camouflage, and provide effective cover from potential predators. Painted ladies reach 5-6 centimeters in width, smaller than some other brush-footed butterflies.

Painted Ladies live about a year, from egg to death. Females lay about 500 eggs, each egg singly laid on a plant that the caterpillar will eat when it hatches (**Photo 3**). Adults live for about 10 to 24 days

after emerging from their cocoons. In warm climates producing up to 6 generations in a year.

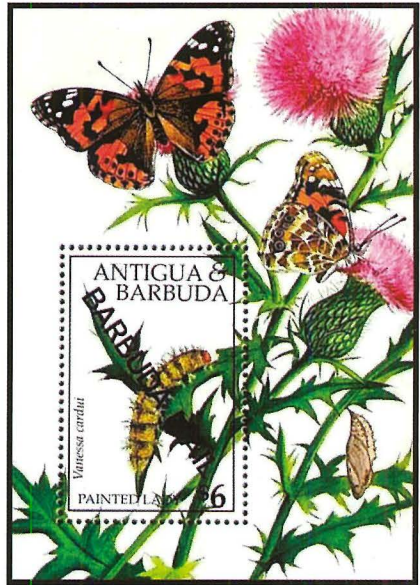
The Painted Lady was one of the first butterflies that were described by the famous Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus in 1758 and named *Vanessa cardui* (**Photo 4**). The scientific name *cardui* comes from the Latin *carduus*, which means “thistle”, because this plant is a favorite food of caterpillars and adult butterflies. Painted Lady butterflies feed on many different plants. Adults eat nectar from flowers, such as aster, cosmos, blazing star, iron



(Photo 4 - Stamp of Malta 2002 with butterfly *Vanessa cardui*)

weed, joe-pye, red clover, button bush, privet, milkweeds, and thistles. Caterpillars eat the leaves from plants such as thistles, dwarf nettle, lupine, fiddleneck, and many different members of the daisy family. Caterpillars of the Painted Lady feed on a large variety of plants (**Photo 5**), but they have a preference for thistle and thus they contribute to the destruction of many common weeds.

From the ecological standpoint, the Painted Lady butterfly is a generalist, highly tolerant of different habitats. It can be found in heavily wooded areas, as well as open areas, such as waste areas, roadsides, farmers’ fields, and areas where thistles abound (**Photo 6**). Painted Ladies live in areas with wide open areas of plants such as fields and meadows. They can also be found in suburban, agricultural, swamp, bog, marsh, tundra, taiga, desert or dune, chaparral, forest, rainforest, scrub forest, and mountain habitats as well.



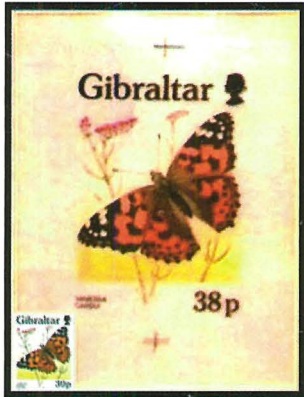
(Photo 5 - S/s of Barbuda 1991 with caterpillar of Painted Lady)



(Photo 6 - Stationery card of Belarus 2007 with butterfly *Vanessa cardui* and thistle)

These butterflies can adjust to living in pretty much any habitat. Extreme migration looks like a difficult lifestyle choice for a butterfly, but the Painted Lady neatly solves the problem of too-cold European winters and too-dry African summers. To do so, it needs strength, but also supreme adaptability: its caterpillar's ability to feed on a wide variety of foodplants has made it the world's most cosmopolitan butterfly.

Some years, when southern populations reach large numbers or weather conditions are right, painted ladies will migrate north and expand their range temporarily. These migrations sometimes occur in phenomenal numbers, filling the skies with butterflies.



(Photo 7 - Artwork and normal stamp of Gibraltar 1997 with butterfly Painted Lady)

The adults that reach the colder areas will not survive the winter, however. These medium-sized butterflies can cover a lot of ground, up to 100 miles per day during their migration. A Painted Lady is capable of reaching a speed of nearly 30 miles per hour. Painted Ladies reach northern areas well ahead of some of their more famous migrating cousins, like monarch butterflies. And because they get such an early start to their spring travel, migrating painted ladies will feed on spring annuals. Every year, Painted Lady butterflies (**Photo 7**) make huge migrations from Africa to Europe and back again. They also do this in North America, from Mexico to northern United States and Canada and back again. The migrations can be up to 15000 km long. In the spring, they begin moving north as the temperatures become too warm in Africa or Mexico.

Along the way, they mate and reproduce. Since most adult butterflies do not live more than a month, it is not just one generation of butterfly that makes this migration. Instead, it is their offspring and their offsprings' offspring that make the journey. Millions of butterflies can make this journey, though some years there are far less. They reach the northern parts of Europe and North America during the summer, when temperatures are just right for the butterflies. They continue to reproduce, and then they start flying back south in late summer and fall, when temperatures become too cold in the north.



(Photo 8 - Proof of Maldivian Islands 1993 with flying butterfly Painted Lady)

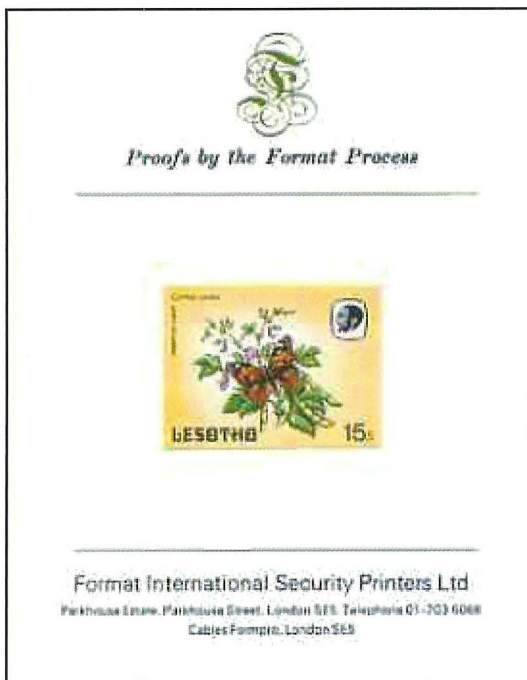
In 1948 a mass invasion of the butterfly into the British Isles was recorded and there was a case in the Mediterranean Sea where a motor vessel had an accident because of the Painted Lady! The clouds of migrating butterflies covered the wheelhouse and the helmsman lost his bearings and put the ship on an underwater rock formation. Radar records revealed that Painted Ladies fly at an average altitude of over 500 metres on their southbound trip and can clock up speeds

of 30 mph by selecting favourable conditions **(Photo 8)**. This species undertakes a phenomenal 9,000-mile (14,000 km) round trip from tropical Africa to the Arctic Circle—almost double the length of the famous migrations undertaken by Monarch butterflies in North America. The extent of the annual journey undertaken by the Painted Lady butterfly is astonishing. This tiny creature, weighing less than a gram, with a brain the size of a pinhead and no opportunity to learn from older, experienced individuals, undertakes an epic intercontinental migration in order to find plants for its caterpillars to eat.

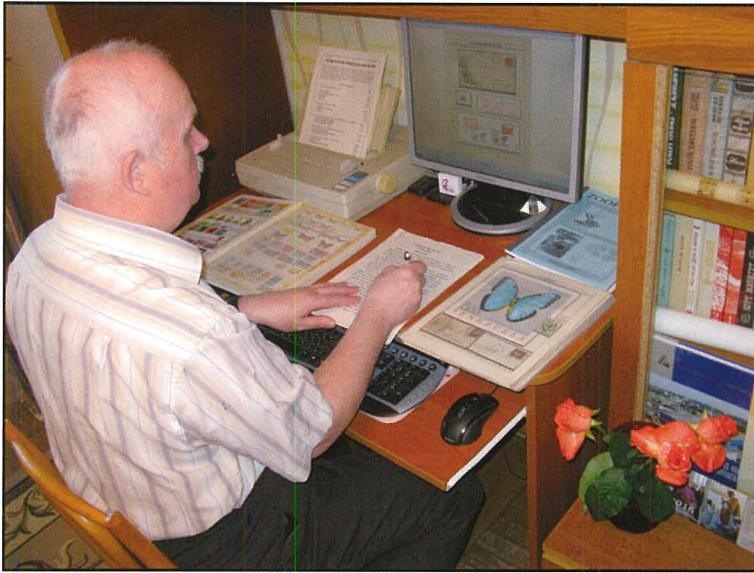
Painted Ladies pollinate the plants and flowers in their habitat. Painted Ladies have been recorded feeding from more than 100 plant species, so they can have a big effect on many plant species. Painted Lady butterflies pollinate plants when they feed on the nectar **(Photo 9)**. Some of these plants may be plants that humans use, so by pollinating them, the butterflies help the plants reproduce, which is helpful to humans. Butterflies are also an important species to study, since changes in butterfly populations can show that there are changes in the ecosystem. If the number of butterflies decreases, scientists will know to look for bad changes in the ecosystem, such as pollution or habitat loss.

Butterflies are the most beautiful creations of nature, the top of its artistic mastery, undoubted masterpieces of evolution. Collect postage stamps with butterflies!

Author always glad to help for philatelists in creation or improve of philatelic exhibit on butterflies and moths. My address for letters is the next: Vladimir Kachan, street Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus, e-mail: vladimirkachan@mail.ru



(Photo 9 - Proof of Lesotho stamp 1984 - butterfly Painted Lady pollinate flowers)



COLORFUL BUTTERFLY PEACOCK

Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

The European peacock with scientific name *Inachis io* is exquisite colorful butterfly among the many diversity of butterfly species in the worldwide and recorded from the island of Malta (fig. 1).

The Peacock Butterfly is easily recognisable because it has a large ‘eye spot’ on each of its four wings (fig. 2). Each eye spot is situated on the outer edge of each wing and all have bright blue markings inside. The eye spots have other colours inside them such as black, cream, orange and white. The eye spots look similar to the eye spots that can be seen on the tail of a Peacock. This is why this butterfly is called the ‘Peacock Butterfly’.

The main colour of the wings of the Peacock Butterfly is a brownish red colour with black markings. The tips of the wings are bordered with a light brown



Figure 1 – Stamp of Malta 2000 with butterfly *Inachis io*



Figure 2 – Pair stamps of Great Britain 1981 with color error

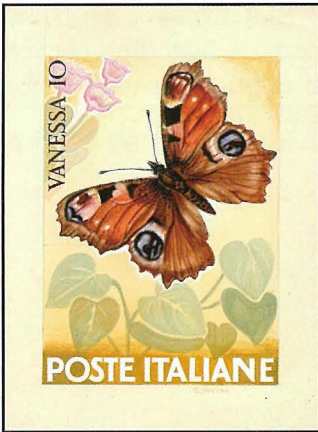


Figure 3 – Design 1960 from Italian painter Giovanni Savini



Figure 5 – Artwork of North Korea 1962

Butterflies only fly during the day and sleep at night. Peacock Butterflies can be seen on flowery banks, roadside verges, in gardens, meadows, woods, orchards and in the countryside (fig. 6).

Sometimes a Peacock Butterfly likes to bask in the sun and it can often be found sun-bathing on the ground with its wings open. When the sun vanishes behind a cloud, the Peacock Butterfly closes its wings and then opens them again when the sun comes back out (fig. 7).

The Peacock Butterfly is most probably the longest-lived butterfly in Europe. It can live up to eleven months although it spends five to six months in

colour (fig. 3). The Peacock Butterfly rests with its wings closed together in an upright position over its body. This position reveals the underside of the wings which is a dark brown colour. The dark underside acts as a good camouflage for the Peacock Butterfly when it rests or sleeps in dark places (fig. 4).



Figure 4 – Entire postal of USSR 1983

This species widespread in Europe and temperate areas of Asia (fig. 5), and Japan. The Peacock Butterfly is quite a small butterfly and it has a wingspan of about six centimetres. Peacock

Butterflies only fly during the day and sleep at night.

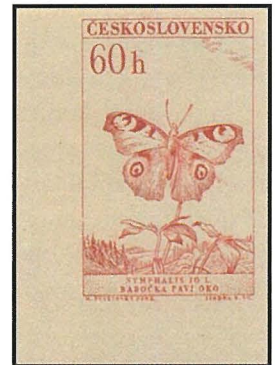


Figure 6 – Proof of Czechoslovakia 1961



Figure 7 – Meter mark of Germany 1988

hibernation. Hibernation is the period when the Peacock Butterfly has a long sleep over winter. In the weeks leading up to hibernation, peacock butterflies convert some of their blood sugar into glycerol to act as a kind of anti-freeze in anticipation of the forthcoming cold period. Then the peacock finds a safe place with relatively constant temperatures and shelter from the cold winds, such as a hole in a tree or inside a shed. Here the butterfly will fold its wings and sleep, its dull underside helping it to disappear in the darkness. Peacock Butterflies start to go into hibernation around the beginning of September to avoid the cold winter months. They hibernate in large groups in hollow trees, crevices in walls and in unheated buildings like sheds, barns and lofts.

Peacock Butterflies are one of the first species of butterflies to be first seen in spring. They are commonly seen in parks and gardens where there are lots of flowers (fig. 8).

Peacock Butterflies often lay their eggs on nettle leaves. A shiny black caterpillar with lots of white spots all over its body emerges from each egg and each caterpillar has long black spines running along the sides and the top of its



Figure 10 – Artwork of Tanzania 1995

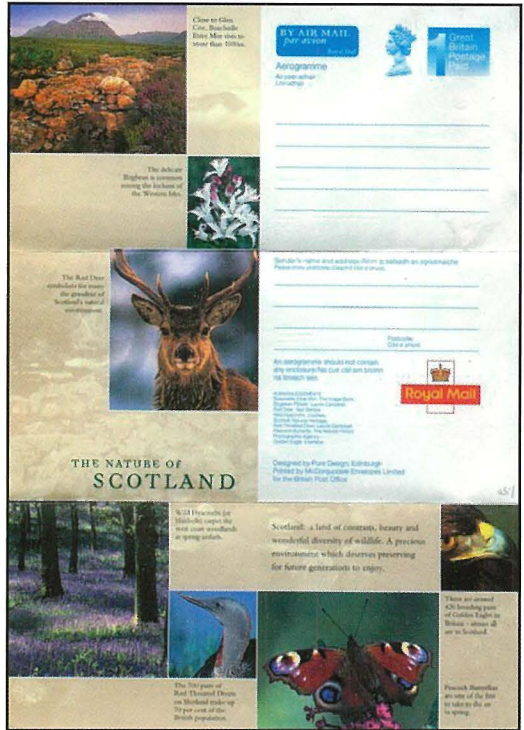


Figure 8 – Aerogramme of Great Britain 1997



Figure 9 – Booklet of Estonia 2014

body. The caterpillar forms a chrysalis by spinning a silk case around itself. Inside the chrysalis the caterpillar transforms itself into a beautiful Peacock Butterfly (fig. 9). The adult butterflies drink nectar (fig. 10) from a wide variety of flowering plants, including buddleia, willows, dandelions, wild marjoram, danewort, hemp agrimony, and clover; they also utilize tree sap and rotten fruit.

The peacock butterfly is a gloriously vibrant addition to the spring scene (**fig. 11**). To us the colourful eye-spots on its upper-wings, obviously reminiscent of a peacock, are simply beautiful but to the butterfly they are its primary means of defence. If a Peacock Butterfly feels threatened by a predator, like a bird, the Peacock Butterfly opens its wings and rubs the surface of its wings together to make a rasping or hissing sound. This threatening, hissing sound usually startles a bird momentarily. Also the sudden appearance of the eye spots on the Peacock Butterfly's wings can startle a bird. The bird thinks for a moment that the Peacock Butterfly is a larger animal because the spots on the wings look like eyes of an animal. When the bird is startled, the Peacock Butterfly tries to make a quick escape. If the Peacock Butterfly isn't fast enough, the bird looks at the wings again and then starts to attack them. The eye spots on the wings help to divert the attack away from the Peacock Butterfly's vulnerable body. A Peacock Butterfly is still able to fly even if chunks have been pecked out of its wings.



Figure 11 - Germany not accepted artist's design 1962 with butterfly Peacock

While hibernating in dark wintering areas, the peacock butterfly frequently encounters rodent predators such as small mice. Against these predators, however, the visual display of eyespots is ineffective due to the darkness of the environment. Instead, these rodent predators show a much stronger adverse reaction to the butterfly when it is producing its auditory hissing signal (**fig. 12**). This indicates that for rodent predators, it is the auditory signal produced by the butterfly that serves as a deterrent.

I hope that my article with interesting facts about butterflies and illustrated by different types of philatelic materials will be stimulate interest of philatelists in philatelic Lepidoptera.

The Author is ready to help for philatelists in creating of philatelic exhibits on butterflies and moths. His address: Vladimir Kachan, street Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus, E-mail: vladimirkachan@mail.ru



Figure 12 - Souvenir sheet of Gambia 2003

A LOCKED ‘MAP LETTER’¹

Joseph Schirò

A cartographic curio which has a lot of philatelic interest has recently appeared on the market and is now in the collection of the author. The letter is written on the back of a *carte à bordure* map of Malta which was produced by one of the Brocktorffs, probably by Federico Brocktorff (1811-1877 or later).²

The earliest known *carte à bordure* or *carte à figures* map of Malta which was produced for the visitor market was issued by Luigi Brocktorff (1814-1857) in 1843. It was a detailed lithographic map of Malta, titled *Map of Malta and its Dependencies*, printed in black ink surrounded by 13 vignettes illustrating views and costumed figures (Fig. 1).³

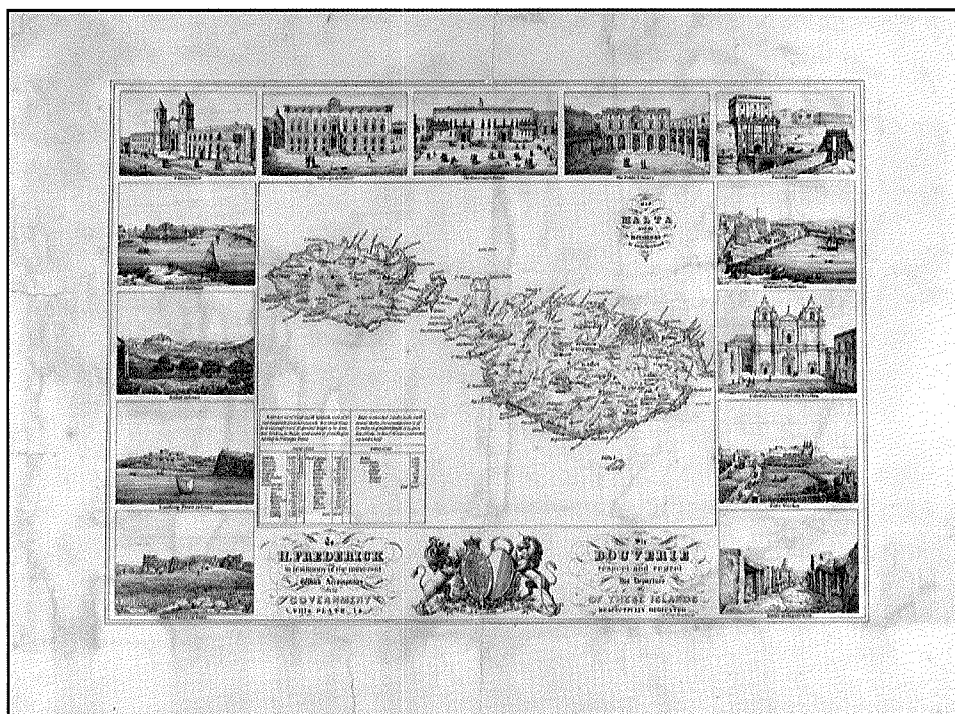


Fig. 1 Brocktorff, Luigi, *Map of Malta and its Dependencies*, 1843. AGMMC. MUŽA⁴

The map seems to have sold well as in 1847 Luigi Brocktorff issued another map of Malta, but this time the map was flanked by 15 vignettes and he had decided to introduce colour, by printing the scale bar and the road network in red ink (Fig. 2).⁵ This particular exemplar being shown, has been cut into 18 sections and glued on to linen to make it easier to fold and carry while touring the Maltese archipelago.

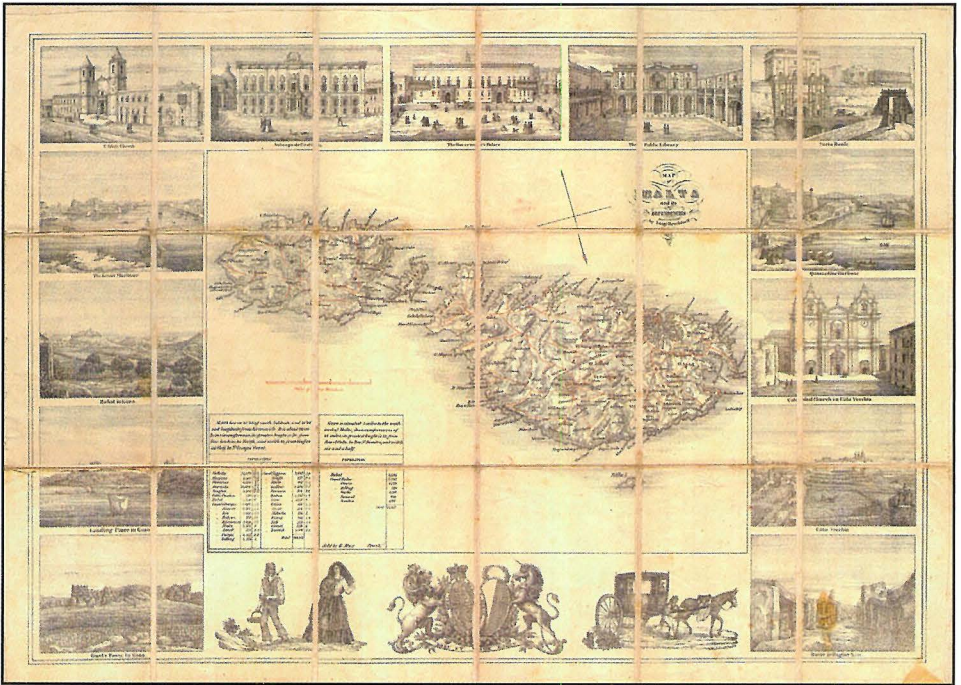


Fig. 2 Brocktorff, Luigi, *Map of Malta and its Dependencies*, 1847. AGMMC. MUŽA

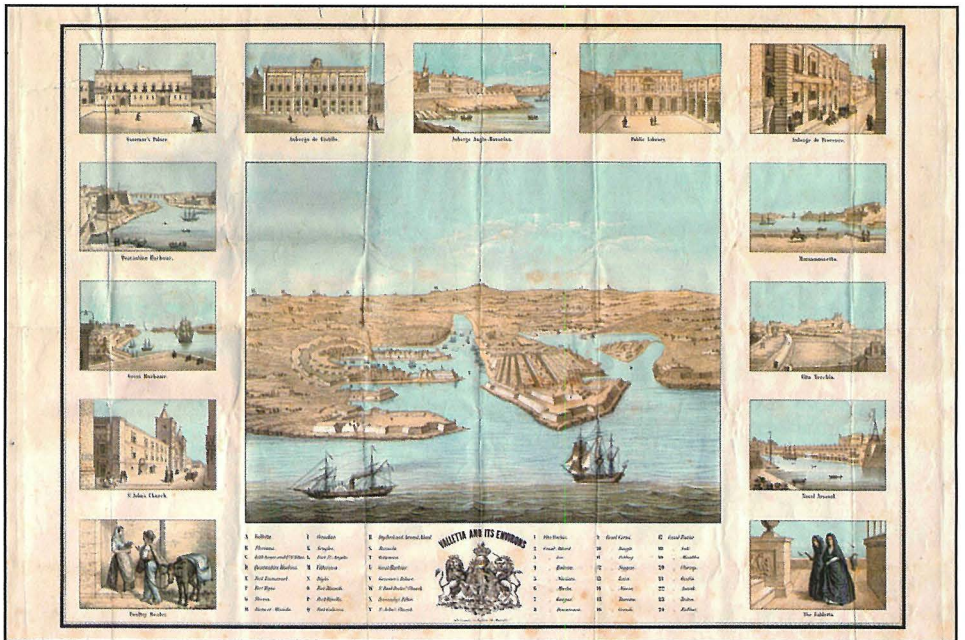


Fig. 3 Brocktorff, Federico *Valletta and its Environs*, 1854. Joseph Schirò Collection

A newly-discovered imprint

The map being described, titled *Valletta and its Environs*, is possibly the first *carte à bordure* bird's-eye view of Valletta which was issued in full colour to render it even more attractive to tourists (Fig. 3).⁶ A legend had also been added with number- and letter-keys on each side of the Arms of England. It also has an interesting imprint found at the centre below the Arms of England which reads: *Lith-Canquoin, Rue Napoléon, 18, Marseille.*

This is a discovery as it has never been seen before on any of the Brocktorffs' work.⁷ Why was the map printed in Marseille when the Brocktorffs had a very busy and successful lithographic press in Malta? Since the *terminus post quem* of the map is 1858, a search in the records of all the departures from Malta was done in the Malta maritime gazette, *Lloyd Maltese*, before 1858 to check if any of the Brocktorffs travelled to Marseille. On 9 December 1854, an entry was found for 'F. Brocktorff' who had left Malta for Marseille on board the ship *Lycargue*.⁸ Possibly Federico had gone to Marseille to perfect his techniques on chromolithography at the Conquoin lithographic printing establishment and a short run of this chromolithographed map was printed at the Conquoin press. He must have brought the lithographic stones with him when he came back to Malta as there are copies of the same map without the Conquoin imprint, meaning that they must have been printed at the Brocktorff press in Malta. Since it has no date and no maker on the map, it can now be dated to 1854 and be attributed to Federico Brocktorff.

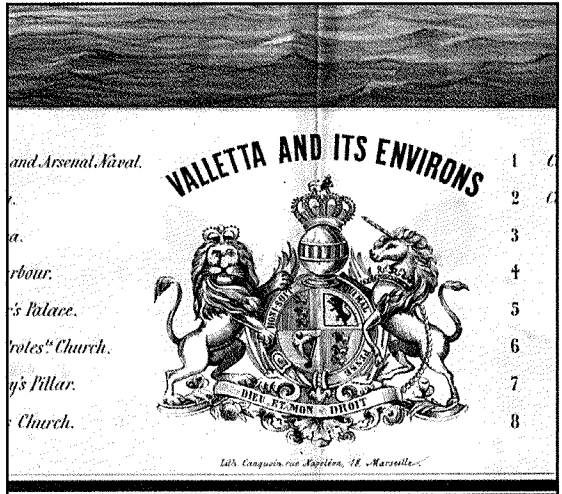


Fig. 4 Close-up of imprint showing *Lith-Canquoin, Rue Napoléon, 18, Marseille*

After 1866, Federico Brocktorff, issued two other chromolithographed bird's-eye views of Valletta (Fig. 4).⁹ with completely new vignettes including the one at the top right corner showing the newly-built Royal Theatre which was inaugurated in 1866 (Fig. 5).

The locked 'map letter'

The 'map letter' was folded once horizontally, then gate folded, turned 90 degrees and gate folded again to finally form a locked letter of 11 x 18cm.

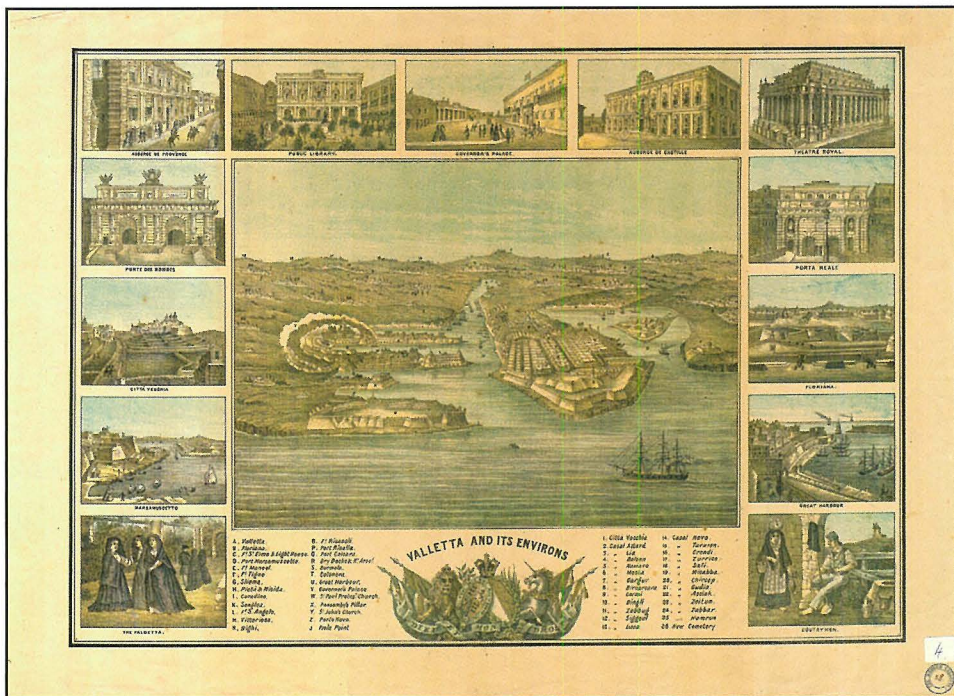


Fig. 5 Brocktorff, Federico Valletta and its Environs, post 1866. MUŽA Collection

It was then locked with red sealing wax and probably stamped with the signet ring of the sender carrying the coat of arms of the Barnard family which consists of the motto *BEAR AND FORBEAR* encircling a statant bear (Figs. 6, 7).

Inside the ‘map letter’ there was the following very short note written in pencil:

A few flowers from Malta. / The best things I can get here. / I have [been] tucking into grapes at / 1½^d p.[er] lb. Very hot but very / pleasant.

GEB

Malta 13th Sept^r.

In the letter packet he had put some flowers which he might have picked from the wild. The stains left by the flowers can still be seen on the writing and on the left hand side, which are mirror image stains, since the map was folded over (Fig. 8).

Given that the letter was sealed with the Barnard coat of arms, another search in the records of the *Lloyd Maltese*, showed that a ‘G. Barnard’ had arrived in Malta on Monday 13 September, 1858 on the P.O. *Salsette* from Southampton to Malta.¹⁰ This means that he had bought the Brocktorff map, had written the short letter in pencil, and inserted the flowers inside the map on the very same day of his arrival. He stayed in Malta for 17 days and departed again for Gibraltar and Southampton on Wednesday 29 September¹¹ on the same steamer which had proceeded with its

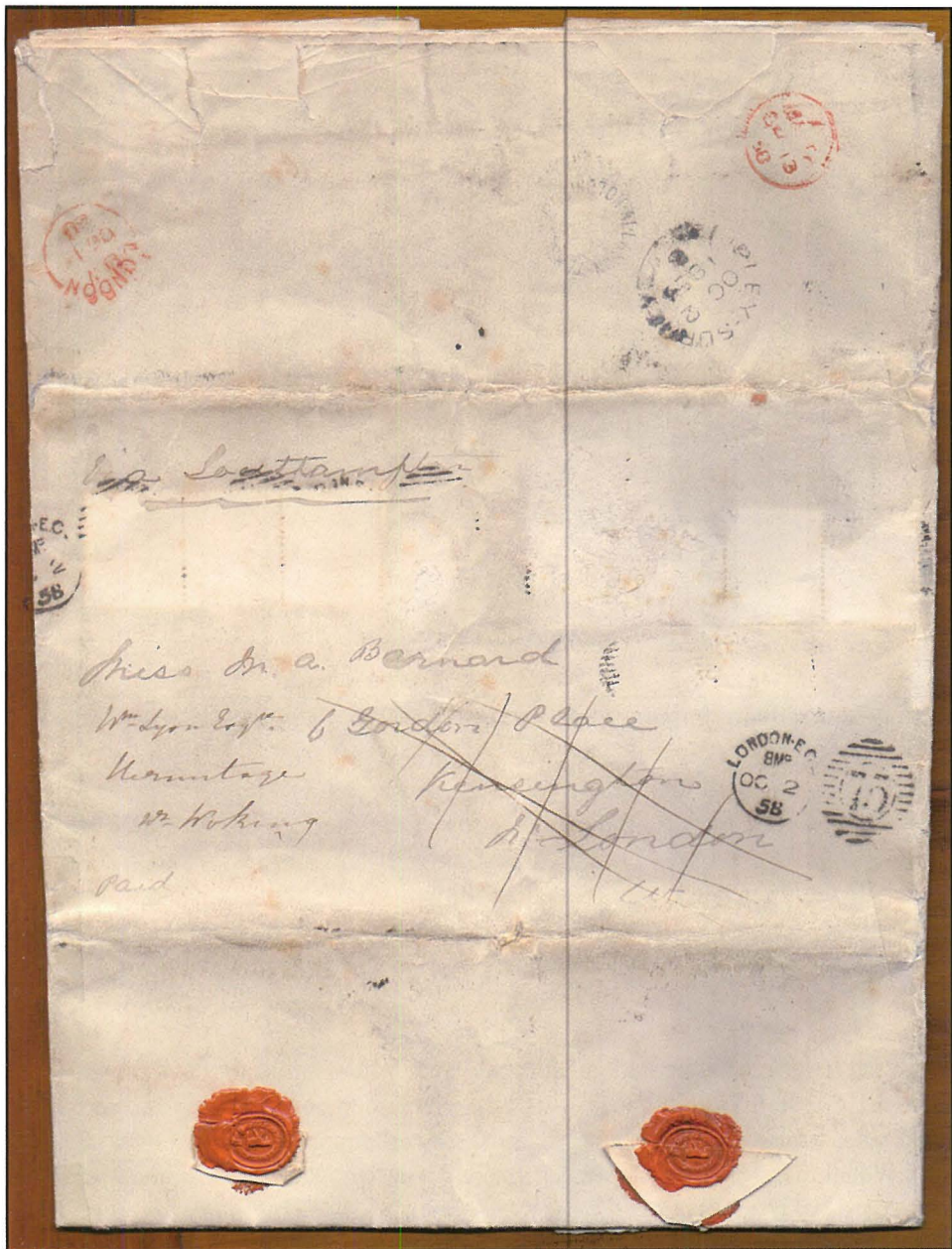


Fig. 6 Map letter locked with two wax seals with the coat of arms of the Barnard family



Fig. 7 Close-up of wax seal showing the the motto
BEAR AND FORBEAR

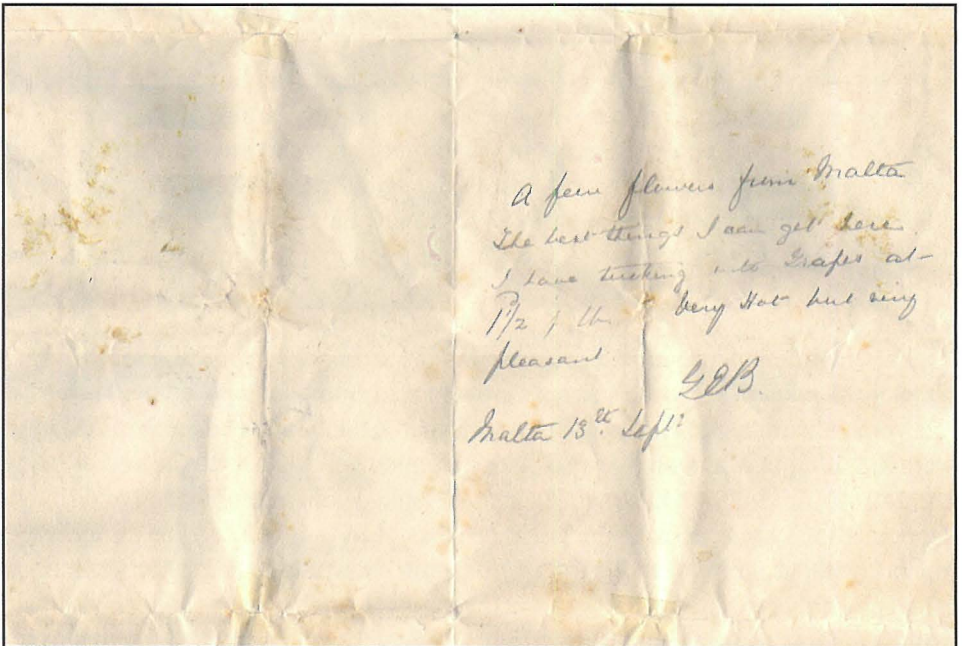


Fig. 8 The short letter handwritten in pencil and signed GEB.

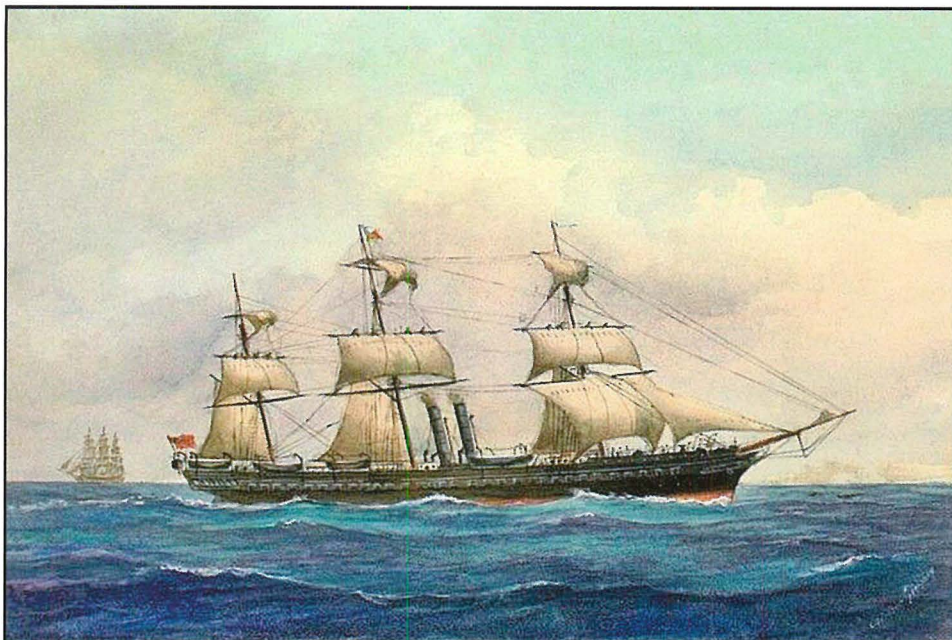


Fig. 9 The screw steamer *Salsette*. Watercolour drawn by Charles Dickson Gregory (c.1871-1947)

journey, after its stop in Malta, to Alexandria and was on its way back to England (Fig. 9).¹²

It would not be preposterous to assume that Barnard had bought the map from the English bookseller G. Muir who operated at the very centre of Valletta at 247 Strada Reale, now Republic Street, and who, very conveniently and strategically, shared the building with the Island Post Office and the British Packet Office (Fig. 10). On the Luigi Brocktorff map of 1847, shown above (fig. 2), there is a note on the map which says that it was sold by G. Muir and that the price was 2 shillings.

The philatelic aspect

The 'map letter' was sent via Southampton to London. Unfortunately, from a philatelist's point of view, the stamps were removed from the 'map letter'. The postal rate via Southampton to Great Britain was 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce at the time. British stamps were first used in Malta on overseas mail in September 1857, with the values being 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1s. This 'map letter' was franked with a combination of different denomination stamps to make up 2s., since it has been weighed at 1.7637 ounces (50 grams), without the flowers. High magnification showed that the stamps affixed in Malta probably consisted of a row of 4 at the top right, with 3 stamps below. It is likely that the top row consisted of a strip of three 4d. stamps, and a single 6d. stamp to the left. Below there might have been a strip of three 2d. stamps to make up the 2s.rate.

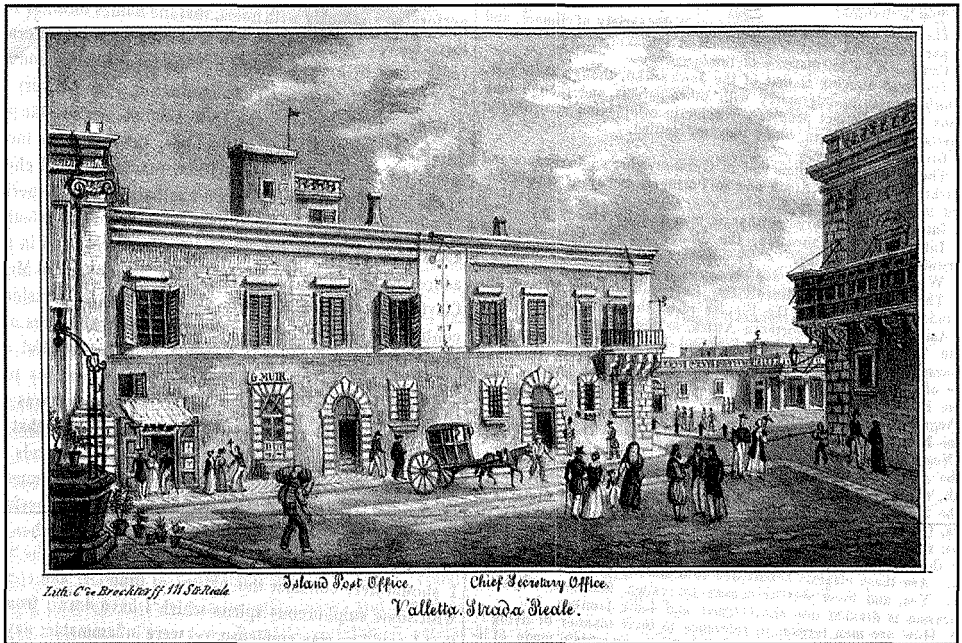


Fig. 10 Lithograph by Charles de Brocktorff which appeared in *The Mediterranean Magazine*, 26 November 1842. Courtesy of the National Library of Malta

The stamps would have been cancelled with an “M” in bars handstamp. One can just make out at the left of the top row, and also at the right, the bars of the “M” in bars cancellation which would have “tied” the stamps to the cover. Similarly on the second row.

It was normal practice at the Malta Post Office to make up frankings with a number of stamps rather than simply use two 1s. values.

To the left of the cover would have been a strip of four 1d. stamps for the redirection, cancelled by the London EC 75 duplex (a full example of that handstamp can be seen at the bottom right of the cover), which one can also partially see at the left of the stamps, as well as a trace at the right. The cancellation date was 2 October 1858.¹³

The ‘map letter’ had been addressed to:

Miss M. A. Barnard
 6 Gordon Place
 Kensington
 N[ea] London
 UK

However, the person to whom it was delivered, was not found at the written address because it was crossed out and the new name and address of:

W[illia]^m Lyon Esq.

Hermitage

W[es]t Woking

were added. Underneath the new address, there is written in pencil 'Paid'.

We find a second cancellation stamp on the back for Ripley, Surrey showing the same date '2 October' when the 'map letter' was redirected. Lying on the main road from London to Portsmouth, Ripley was the post town for the whole area including Woking from 1813 to 1865. Near the cancellation stamp is another round blind stamp 'ALLASON TERRACE KENSINGTON'.

The dramatis personae

Intrigued by who could be the *dramatis personae* of this 'map letter', research was first conducted on the Barnard family without achieving real concrete results, until attention was concentrated on the Lyon family¹⁴ where the scene suddenly moved to faraway Valparaiso in Chile. From the study of the Lyon family, it was established that the sender was George Edward Barnard who was born on 27 February 1836.¹⁵ He was the son of William Barnard (1801-1848), a silversmith,¹⁶ who had married Martha née Lyon on 24 October 1832. He had a younger brother William, born 9 September 1833 and a younger sister, Mary Anne born on 9 April 1838. The letter was addressed to his sister Mary Anne Barnard, then only 20 years old.¹⁷

William Lyon, to whom the 'map letter' was forwarded to, was Martha Lyon's brother, George Edward's uncle from his mother's side. William Lyon was born on 30 September 1813. In 1827 he sailed together with his brother George for Chile. After being wrecked off Monte Video, he arrived at Valparaiso, where he remained in business with his brother George until 1845, when he returned to continue his business in England. In 1851 he retired and settled at the Hermitage, Woking, Surrey. He became one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Surrey. In 1861 he moved to Jersey, and in 1872 to South Norwood, near London, where he died, on 16 January 1892.¹⁸

His brother George however remained in Valparaiso and his business in commercial trade and shipping grew so much that the Lyon family became very influential. On behalf of the Chilean government, his firm, Messrs Lyon Brothers, had sent a letter on 14 June 1852 from Valparaiso to Perkins, Bacon & co. containing the first order of postage stamps, the Colon issues of Chile, with the aim of speeding up the postal system in Chile, making it the third country in America to implement advanced payment for postal services.¹⁹

The map had been carefully opened from the seals with scissors not to ruin it when it finally reached its destination in Woking. Who knows through how many hands this map must have passed over the years, but it is so extraordinary that it somehow managed to find its way back to Malta.²⁰

References

- ¹ The term ‘map letter’ is being assigned for want of an exact term. I thank Bernadine Scicluna, curator of the Albert Ganado Malta Map Collection, with whom I discussed this conundrum, until we found the best way to describe the special map being discussed. Letterlocking is the folding and securing of a writing substrate to function as its own envelope.
- ² The founder of the Brocktorff family of artists was Charles Frederick who came to Malta from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany in 1804. His children Federico, Luigi, Giuseppe and Leopoldo were all artists and lithographers.
- ³ See Albert Ganado, Joseph Schirò, Claude Micallef Attard, *The Brocktorff Mapmakers*, Malta, BDL, 2012, 132-135.
- ⁴ Albert Ganado Malta Map Collection. MUŻA is the new National Museum of Art in Malta.
- ⁵ Albert Ganado et al., op.cit, 136-137.
- ⁶ For a full description of the map, see Albert Ganado et al., op.cit, 150-151.
- ⁷ This was confirmed by Dr Albert Ganado, who is a keen collector of Melitensia, including books and manuscripts, maps and prints, portraits, autographs, postcards and philatelic items and who has written extensively on Maltese history, art, legislation, politics and philately.
- ⁸ *Lloyd Maltese*, Anno XIV, No. 4154, 2.
- ⁹ Albert Ganado et al., op.cit, 190-194.
- ¹⁰ *Lloyd Maltese*, 13 September, 1858, 3.
- ¹¹ *Lloyd Maltese*, 29 September, 1858, 3.
- ¹² The *Salsette* was a brand new iron screw steamer built by Tod & MacGregor, Glasgow for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. It was launched on the 30th March 1858. See <http://www.clydeships.co.uk/view.php?ref=22578#v>, accessed on 11 December 2019.
- ¹³ I thank John Birkett Allan for supplying me with his expert philatelic advice, and for freely giving me all the information on the type of stamps used and how they were franked, and to Dr Alfred Bonnici, the President of the Malta Philatelic Society, who kindly forwarded my query to John.
- ¹⁴ I thank Rod Lyon, a member on the Committee of the Malta Map Society, who suggested that I concentrated more on the Lyon family, rather than on the Barnard family.
- ¹⁵ He died on 21st July 1907, at 36 Kingswood Avenue, described as Assistant Manager of the Mercantile Bank of India. Downloaded from the British Newspaper Archive, <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0001652/19070723/078/0009> from the Globe, published 23 July 1907.
- ¹⁶ The Barnards were a family of silversmiths in London. Trading as Edward Barnard and Sons, they are known for having created the Lily font, a large silver gilt baptismal font commissioned especially for the occasion of the christening of Victoria, Princess Royal, in 1841 and still used in the christening services of members of the British Royal family.
- ¹⁷ Andrews Ross, *The Lyons of Cossins and Wester Ogil Cadets of Glamis*, Edinburgh, George Waterston & Sons, 1901, 85.
- ¹⁸ Andrews Ross, op.cit, 91.
- ¹⁹ https://www.mhnv.gob.cl/articles-23334_archivo_01. ‘Nota sobre los orígenes de la Familia Lyon en Chile’. accessed 30/10/2019.
- ²⁰ It has recently been discovered that the map was bought on eBay UK in 2013 by a Maltese collector. Unfortunately he did not keep a record of the seller in England.

MALTA POSTAL BOXES

Dr A Bonnici

Origin of Pillar and wall letter boxes

The Malta Post Office Notice of 8th June 1853 mentions, inter alia, that boxes for the reception of letters and newspapers would be sited at the Post Office in Valletta and at Chief Police Stations throughout the Island. The boxes at police stations were only wooden receptacles inside the stations where there was also a glazed frame where letters for delivery were displayed.

The Government of Malta in 1860 decided to erect letter boxes in different parts of Valletta. The Post Office Guide of 1862 contains information regarding the location of the boxes in Valletta, Floriana and Sliema; boxes were at the following Chief Police Stations:-

Asciak (1)	Gudia (7)	Senglea
Attard	Lia	Siggieui (14)
Balzan	Luca (8)	St. Julian's
Birchirchara (2)	Micabbiba (9)	Tarxien
Chircop (3)	Misida (10)	Vittoriosa
Cospicua	Musta (11)	Zabbar
Crendi (4)	Naxaro (12)	Zebbug
Curmi (5)	Paola (13)	Zeitun (15)
Gargur (6)	Safi	Zurrico (16)

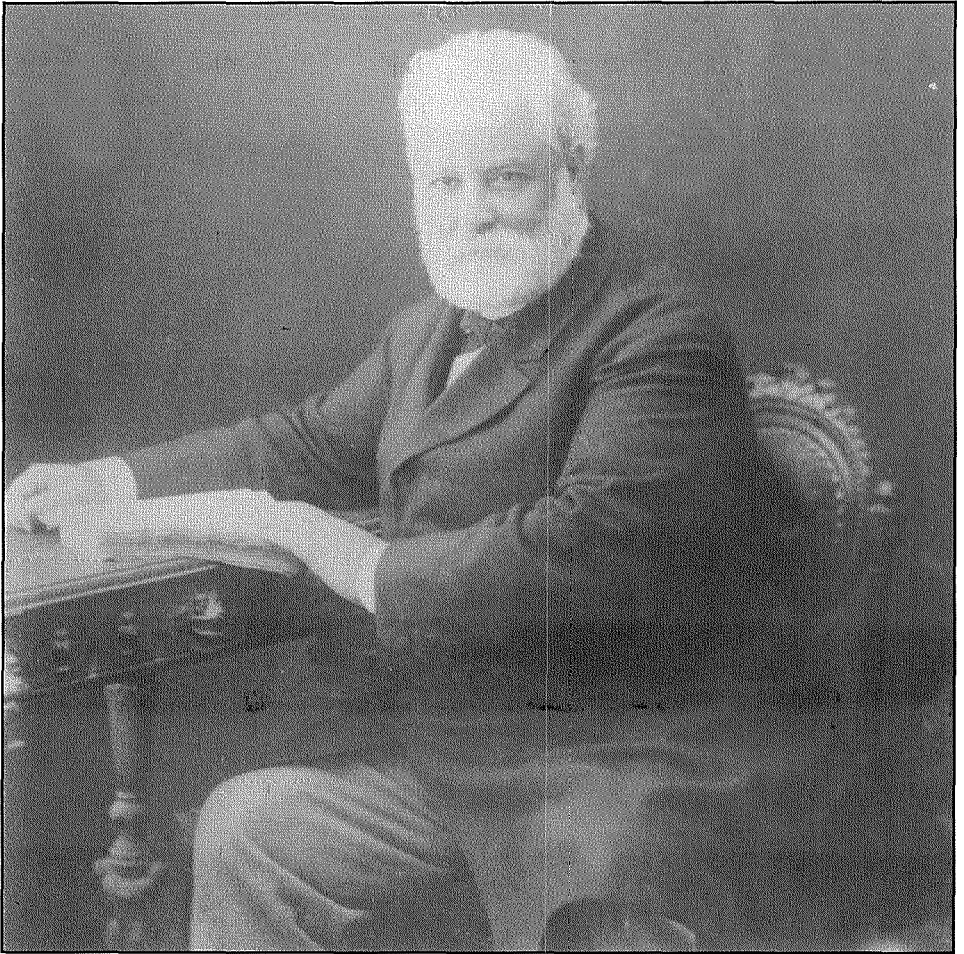
These villages have been renamed thus:-

(1) Ħal Ġhaxaq	(7) Gudja	(12) Naxxar
(2) Birkirkara	(8) Ħal Luqa	(13) Paola
(3) Ħal Kirkop	(9) Mqabba	(14) Siggiewi
(4) Qrendi	(10) Msida	(15) Żejtun
(5) Ħal Qormi	(11) Mosta	(16) Żurrieq
(6) Ġhargħur		

Letter boxes were also installed at Gozo and their locations are thought to be Caccia, Garbo, Ghain Slielem, Nadur, and Sannat. Xeuchia is the present name of Caccia. (For more details see Malta study paper No 12.)

Malta Government Gazette No 2061, of 16 November 1860, among postal information also mentions the provision of the first Pillar and wall letter boxes in various places at Valletta, Floriana, Cospicua, Senglea, and Vittoriosa.

Draft new detailed information inscriptions, for wall and pillar letter boxes were drafted on the 21 March 1887. Before collecting and delivery detailed information was drafted, timing between each box was done.



The Hon Ferdinand Inglott

1.1.81 - 31.3.92. Post Master General

Courtesy of Malta Postal Museum

DEFACING MALTA POSTAL PILLAR BOX, AND HOW THEY WERE SAVED

Dr A. Bonnici



Fig.1 Workers obliterating heraldic symbol

Courtesy of Mr Anthony Camilleri

Way back in March 1974, I received a phone call from our late colleague Mr Tony Fenech, who told me that he had just been informed, that Government workers were sanding off, postal inscriptions on the red Postal Pillar boxes in Valletta, Fig 1,2,3, and that instructions had been given to sand off all British Period postal inscriptions on all Postal boxes including the Queen Victoria ones, and others, which were installed in the wall next to Police Stations in the villages. Fig. 4., Fig.5, Fig 6.

At that time I was a Member of Parliament (1962-1978), and immediately rang up The Hon Minister, Mr Wistin Abela, and told him that what the Labour Government of the day was doing was a repetition, of what Napoleon in 1798 had done, when he ordered to destroy all heraldic symbols on buildings belonging to the Order of St John, which he had just expelled from Malta, and repeated by Governor Maitland in 1818, on the instructions of the Colonial Office to destroy the remaining Order's heraldic symbols, that were not destroyed by the French, history condemning both events later.



Fig.2 E.II.R (Elisabeth II Regina)



Fig.3 Pillar box with obliteration



Fig.4 V.R. (Victoria Regina)



Fig.5 V.R. wall letterbox at Attard Police Station

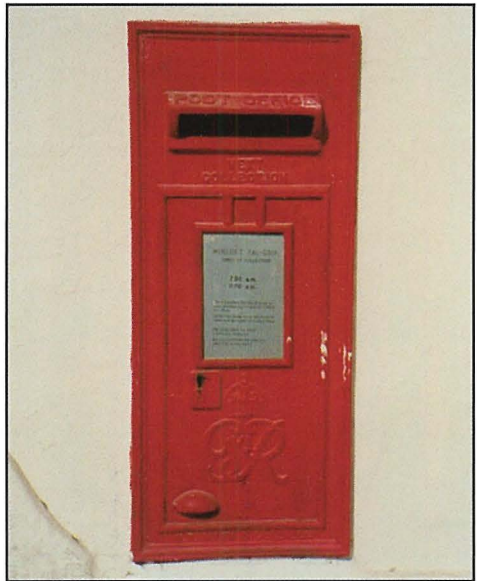


Fig.6 G.R. (George Rex)

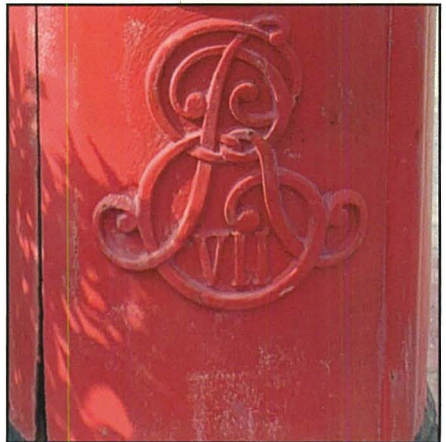
Fred he told me, I fully understand, but the "Order to sand off inscriptions" came from upstairs, meaning the Prime Minister - The Hon Dom Mintoff. I am not promising you anything, but I will see what I can do. I knew that he had a big job on his hands, and very much doubted whether he was indeed brave enough to confront Mintoff on this issue, and stop the decision.

Half an hour later, he rang me up, and joyfully told me, that he had spoken with Mintoff, and after some initial difficulty, (knowing Mr Mintoff well, I can imagine

what the initial difficulty was), managed to finally convince The Prime Minister, who had given orders to stop eradicating the postal symbols on all postal pillars & boxes with immediate effect.

In the meantime the ones in Republic Str had been rubbed off, but the rest all over Malta and Gozo were saved.

Thank you Wistin.



King Edward VII
(1901-1910)

Timing to collect and clear Letterboxes

The Postmaster,

Taking as basis the distance from the General Post Office to each Letter Box in Valletta, as ascertained and timed by the Chief Porter, according to the attached Statement, the time for clearing each box for the local mails and Deliveries, will be as stated on the accompanying sheets.

In timing the distance an average of two minutes has been allowed for opening each Letter Box, and counting and noting the correspondence cleared out of the same.

G. J. P. D. O. 19/3/87.

Collection of Valletta Letter Boxes

Left the Post Office at	5 - 50.
Box No 1	6 -
" No 2	6 - 5
" No 3	6 - 10.
" No 4	6 - 15
" No 5	6 - 20
" No 6	6 - 25
arrived at the Post Office	6 - 28.

(The whole tour is therefore complete in 38 minutes)

I will put the total of the 20 min. for the "Hours of collection" of each Box & Pillar, for my information & guidance - St. Augustin
19/3/87 M.C.

Inscriptions on the Wall and Pillar
Letter Boxes, in Valletta, at the Marina,
Sliema and Floriana.

Letter Boxes in Valletta.

Box Cleared

at 9.30 A.M. for Valletta, Three Cities and Villages
" 12.30 P.M. " Valletta, Sliema, Floriana and Goro.
" 3.30 P.M. " Valletta. Also half an hour before
each Foreign Mail is made up till gun fire.

Letters for the early Goro Mail must
be posted at the General Post Office before 6 A.M.

Letter Box at Floriana

Letter Box cleared daily
at 6.30 A.M.

Except on Sundays and Holidays

Letter Boxes at Sliema

Box at Strada Piccola, corner of Prince of Wales Road

Box cleared daily, at 3 P.M. except on
Sundays and Holidays

From 3 P.M. to 7 A.M. Letters should be posted at
the Civil Police Station, Strada Reale.

N.B. The Police Station has since been removed to
Strada Ghar St-Lombi.

Box

K. S. /

Pillar Box, Marina (Valletta)

Hours of Collection

** 9. 30 am - 12. 30 P.M.*

3. 30 P.M.

and 1/2 an hour before the closing of every mail

No Collections on Sundays and other Holy Days

V. (S) R



HOURS OF COLLECTION	
FORENOON	AFTERNOON
9. 30	12. 30
- -	3. 30

**AND HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE CLOSING
OF EVERY FOREIGN MAIL,**

NO GUN-FIRE

**NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS AND
OTHER HOLY DAYS, EXCEPT WHEN
THERE BE A FOREIGN MAIL**

**NO COLLECTION AFTER
GUN-FIRE**

*off. To be returned to me when done with
S. M. S. M.*

21/2/87

Wall Box, Strada Levante (Valletta)

No 2

Hours of Collection

9. 35 A.M. - 12. 35 P.M.

3. 35 P.M.

And 25 Minutes before the closing of every mail

No Collections on Sundays and other Holy Day



POST OFFICE
LETTER BOX

HOURS OF COLLECTION

FORENOON	AFTERNOON
9. 35.	12. 35
- -	3. 35

AND HALF AN HOUR BEFORE
THE CLOSING OF EVERY FOREIGN
MAIL, ~~WHEN~~ GUN-FIRE

NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS
AND OTHER HOLY DAYS, EXCEPT
WHEN THERE BE A FOREIGN MAIL,
NO COLLECTION AFTER GUN-FIRE.

Copy to be returned to me when done with

J. H. G. M.
21/3/07

No 3

Wall Box, Strada I Paolo (Valletta)

Hours of Collection

9.40 A.M. - 12.40 P.M.

3.40 P.M.

and 20 minutes before the closing of every mail

No Collections on Sundays and other Holy Days



POST OFFICE

LETTER BOX

HOURS OF COLLECTION

FORENOON } AFTERNOON

9.40. | 12.40

- - | 3.40

AND HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE CLOSING OF EVERY FOREIGN MAIL, ~~UNTEL~~

~~GUN-FIRE~~

NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS AND OTHER HOLY DAYS, EXCEPT WHEN THERE BE A FOREIGN MAIL

NO COLLECTION AFTER GUN-FIRE

affo to be returned to me when done with

21/3/07 *J. M. ...*

H

Wall Box, Strada Vescovo. (Valletta)

Hours of Collection

9.45 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.

3.45 P.M.

And 15 minutes before the closing of every mail

No Collections on Sundays and other Holy Days.



POST OFFICE
LETTER BOX

HOURS OF COLLECTION

FORENOON | AFTERNOON

9.45. | 12.45

- - | 3.45

AND HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE
CLOSING OF EVERY FOREIGN,
MAIL, ~~UNTIL GUN-FIRE.~~

NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS
AND OTHER HOLY DAYS, EXCEPT
THERE BE A FOREIGN MAIL.

~~NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS
AND OTHER HOLY DAYS, EXCEPT
WHEN THERE BE A FOREIGN MAIL.~~

NO COLLECTION AFTER GUN-FIRE

copy and to be returned to me when done with

21/3/07 N. Hughes M.C.

100
Pillar-Box, Palace Square, (Valletta)

Hours of Collection.

9. 50 A.M. - 12. 50 P.M.

3. 50 P.M.

And 40 minutes before the closing of every mail

No Collections on Sundays and other Holy Days



POST OFFICE

LETTER BOX

HOURS OF COLLECTION

FORENOON | AFTERNOON

9. 50. | 12. 50.

- - | 3. 50.

AND HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE
CLOSING OF EVERY FOREIGN
MAIL, ~~UNTIL GUN-FIRE~~

NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS AND
OTHER HOLY DAYS, EXCEPT WHEN
THERE BE A FOREIGN MAIL.

NO COLLECTION AFTER
GUN-FIRE

App^o and to be returned to me when done with

21/3/87
J. H. H. M. M.

No Le

Wall Post, Made Re 'e. (Valletta)

Hours of Collection

*9. 55 A.M. - 12. 55 P.M.
3. 55 P.M.*

And 5 minutes before the closing of every mail.

No collections on Sundays and other Holy Days.

V  R

**POST OFFICE
LETTER-BOX**

HOURS OF COLLECTION

FORENOON	AFTERNOON
9. 55.	12. 55.
- -	3. 55.

**AND HALF AN HOUR BEFORE
THE CLOSING OF EVERY FOREIGN
MAIL, UNTIL ~~GUN-FIRE~~**

**NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS
AND OTHER HOLY DAYS, EXCEPT
WHEN THERE BE A FOREIGN MAIL.**

**NO COLLECTION AFTER
~~GUN-FIRE~~**

app and to be returned to me when done with

*V. Meyer
21/3/07*

Hub

Floriana Gardens



V  R

POST OFFICE

LETTER BOX

HOURS OF COLLECTION

8. A.M. | 3. 30 P.M

NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS
AND OTHER HOLY DAYS

Memo

Repairing the Floriana Letter Box

Floriana Letter Box

was removed on the 2nd May
and replaced on the 15th " 1886

J. Zammit

Esq. P.O. Valletta 27th May, 1886.

Walking distance to the following Street Boxes, at Sliema

From Maena to Strada Redolfo 7 minutes
" Strada Redolfo to Ghar Ghar 11 " ~~7.30~~
" Strada Ghar Ghar to Maena 4 "
4 July 1907.

N.B. Between 3.30 P.M. and 4. A.M., Letters may be posted at the Police Station, Strada Peale.

N.B. The Police Station has since been removed to Strada Ghar St. Lembi. (Sliema)

(Strada Redolfo) (Sliema)



POST OFFICE

LETTER BOX.

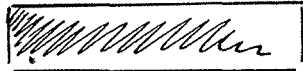
HOURS OF COLLECTION

8. ~~10~~ A.M. 3.30 P.M.

AND ONE HOUR BEFORE THE CLOSING OF THE CONTINENTAL MAILES.

NO COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS AND OTHER HOLYDAYS.

(Strada Ghar Illembi) (Sliema)



Post Office

~~POST OFFICE~~ LETTER BOX.

HOURS OF COLLECTION.

8. 15. am { 3. 45. p.m.

And $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour before the closing
of the Continental mails.

No collection on Sundays and other
Holydays.

REQUISITION FOR REPAIRS &c. (Island Post Office)

Marina Pillar Letter Box.

Box cleared

no 1 - at 9-30 am for Valletta, Three Cities and villages.
 at 12-30 pm. for Valletta Sliema Floriana and Gozo.
 at 3-30 pm for Valletta
 also half an hour, before each foreign mail, is made up till gun fire.

Letters for the early Gozo mail must be posted at the G. P. O. before 6. a.m.

State of Boxes

no 1 Letters scratched

no 2. Letter Box at Strada Levante
 as above

no 2 Slightly damaged

no 3. Letter Box at Strada S. Paolo
 as above

no 3 In good condition

no 4 Letter Box at Strada Vesuvio
 as above

no 4. In good condition

no 5 Pillar L. B. at the Palace square
 as above

no 5 Letters scratched

no 6 Letter Box at Strada Reale
 as above

no 6 In good condition

● Inland Post Runners ●

Antonio Caruana da Valletta, Misida, basal Curm
 Casal Tebbug, una Lira al mese £ 1. 0. 0
 Giovanni Bonnici basal Curmi " 4. 2
 Spiro Zammit basal Tebbug basal Siggini " 8. 4
 Angelo Grima Notabile, Casal Singhi " 8. 0
 Carmelo Lebrej da Valletta basal Tarsina
 e basal Teiten " 15. 0
 Nicola Borg basal Turrico. Casal Circop
 Casal Hal Sapi Casal micabba basal Kindi " 10. 0
 Giuseppe Schembri Casal Naxxar, Casal musta,
 basal Gargur " 8. 0
 Giuseppe Vassallo Casal Berdara basal Poljan
 e basal Lira, " 9. 0

Rec^d from Vin^o Salitro 4. 3
 on 5 March 1886

J. J. M. J. M.

Total wages paid by the contractor per month in 1887

Total Wages paid by the Contractor per month.
£ 5. 4. 8

General Post Office
 June, 1887

Gaet. Piro.
 Clerk.

Inland Mails - Runners



District	Name, Age, & of Runner	Trade or Occupation	Resides at
Murnico, Safi, Chiricop, Micahiba, and Grendi	Nicola Bong, Aged 18, Son of Police Srgt Giuseppe	No trade	Grendi Strada San Rii
Gurmi	Angelo Bonnici, Aged 10, Son of Police Constable Andrea	Goes to School	Gurmi Pietretta die Chiesa, No. 1
Zebbug and Siggieui	Spiridione Yammitt Aged 18, Son of Police Constable John	No Trade	Zebbug Strada San Gu No. 84.

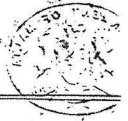


employed by Contractor

Wages paid by Contractor	Remarks
10¢ per month	Carries the letters in his hand. Cannot read, but his brother aged 14, who can read in Italian, accompanies him on his walk, and reads for him the addresses of letters. The area of his walk being very extensive, he is sometimes able to effect the whole delivery by Sun-set, on other occasions he returns any undelivered letters to the Police Station, and takes them again for delivery early on the following morning.
2 d. per working day	Can read in Italian. Unprovided with a pouch. In the delivery carry the letters, &c. in his hand. In the List of Runners furnished by the Contractor Giovanni Bonnicci, appears as the runner employed a boy of 14 years of age, who stated to me, in presence of the Postmaster, that he left the service of runner about 10 months ago. He is now employed in the Water Works Department.
1 9/4 per month	Can read in Italian. Carries, as a rule the letters in his hand. When the correspondence to be delivered is numerous, the Post Office, Leather Pouches.
	The Mail Contractor has given notice, this day that he has re-employed Giovanni Bonnicci, the former runner, brother of Angelo, who appears on the List furnished by him.

1/4/84. *g.f.*

Inland Mails - Runners



District	Name, Age, & of Runner	Trade or Occupation	Resides at				
Birkirkara, Birkon. Lia, Attard, Lunatic Asylum	# Giuseppe Zammit, Aged 14, Son of Police Constable Michele	No Trade	Birkirkara Strada Reale No				
Misida, Gormi, and Zebbug	Antonio Casuana Aged 16, Nicknamed "Manegga", Married	Cicerone at the Catacombs Notable	Zebbug Strada Reale				
Tarnon and Zebbug	Carmelo Liberi, Aged 30, nicknamed "Fal Lebia", Single	Barber	Zebbug Strada Reale 71				
 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> </table> 							

employed by Contractor

Wages paid by Contractor	Remarks
9/4 per Month	Can read in Italian. He is a smart looking man and looks at you full in the face when he speaks to. Carries a bag in his walk, which he provides his own expense.
1/2 per Diem	Carrier of Mails from Valletta only, not a runner. Employs from Valletta to Misida, 15 minutes; from Misida to Gormi 25 minutes; from Gormi to Zebbug 30 minutes. Illiterate.
6d. per Working Day	Carrier of Mails from Valletta. Can read in Italian. Employs from Valletta to Farnion 1 Hour; from Farnion to Zebbug 30 minutes.
<p>#</p>	<p>This man died from cholera on the 13th August, 1887, since which date, Giuseppe Cauchi, ^{his step-son} aged 15, son of the late Filippo, has been employed in his stead, at 5/- per month. Cauchi resides at Zebbug, Strada Reale, No. 24.</p>
	<p>N.B. At Misida, Pietà, Kammion, Lucca, and Farnion, the Deliveries are effected by the Police; the Contractor does not employ any runners for the Deliveries from house to house at these basals.</p>

Inland Mails - Runners



District.	Name, Age, &c. of Runner	Trade or Occupation	Resides at
Notabile, Rabato Sngli, Bongemma, & Boscetto	*Angelo Grima, Aged 15, Son of Police Constable Lorenzo	No Trade	Musta Strada Reale
Zabbar & Marsascala	Carmelo Rondello, Aged 14, Son of Police Constable Paolo	Goes to School	Zabbar Vicolo della Chiesa No. 1.
Naxaro, Gargua, Musta	Angelo Vella, Aged 12, Son of Police Constable Giovanni	Shoemaker	Naxaro Strada Reale
Zjettun, Delimara, Marsascirocco, Ta Site	Giuseppe Zammit, Aged 14, Son of Police Constable Giovanni	Goes to School	Zjettun Strada S. Angelo
Asciak, Rozzibegia, St. George, Gudia	Mose' Agius, Aged 14, Son of Police Sgt Major Gregorio	Goes to School	Asciak 57 Piazza S. Gregorio
/			

employed by Contractor.

Wages paid by Contractor	Remarks.
1 ^d . 4 pr. month	Can read and write in Italian, in English and in Maltese. Carries the letters in his hand, but when numerous, uses the Leather Mail Truck despatched from the General Post office.
8 ^d . pr. month	Can read in Italian and in English. Effects the Delivery in a canvas bag, which he provides at his own expense.
1 ^d . pr. month	Can read in English and in Italian. Effects the Delivery in a bag which he provides at his own expense. Intelligent and smart looking lad.
18 ^d . pr. month	Can read in Italian - Carries the letters of his work in a Bag, which he provides at his own expense
18 ^d . pr. month	Can read in English and in Italian. Carries the letters of his Delivery in a Bag, which he provides at his own expense.
/	<p>7: This lad was discharged on suspicion of dishonesty, on the 10th of July, 1887, in compliance with Postmaster's Minute dated 3/7/87. Pubblio Spiteri, Aged 16, Fruit-seller, son of Carmelo Spiteri, a Mason, was employed in his stead. He resides at Rabato, Strada San Paolo-Lonneo; No. 14.</p>
	<p>10/7/87 G. J.</p>

Circulation of

District	Casal	Mode of Const
		To
1 st	Notabile	Contractor
	Rabato	Court from Valletta
	Dingli	Police from Rabato
2 nd	Zebbug	Court from ^(in former times) Curium
	Siggiewi	Police from Zebbug
3 rd and 4 th	Birchircara	Court from Valletta
	Attard	
	Balzan	Court from Birchircara
	Gargur	Contractor
	Lia	Court fr. Birchircara to Balz
	Musta	Contractor
5 th and 6 th	Naxaro	Police
	Curium	Contractor (in former times)
	Chircop	Police from Curium
	Trendi	Police
	Luca	" "
	Micabiba	" "
	Safi	" "
Zurrico	" "	
7 th	Zeitun	Court fr. Three Cities
	Paola	"
	Tarxien	Police to Paola?
	Asciak	Contractor
	Gudia	"
	Zabbar	"

Island Correspondence

From	Delivery effected by	Remarks
Contractor	Contractor	J. J. J. (13)
Court to G. P. O.	"	do
Police to Rabato	Police (by) ^{Salvatore} _{bag}	do
Contractor	Contractor	J. Zammit (17)
Police to Libbug	"	do
Court to Valletta	contractor	J. Zammit (14)
Police	"	do
"	"	do
"	"	J. Schombert (13)
"	"	J. Zammit (16)
"	"	J. Schombert (13)
Police to Birzebucca	"	do
Contractor	Contractor	J. Donnici (15)
Police to Curioni	"	M. Ang (16)
Police	"	do
"	"	do
"	"	do
"	"	do
Contractor	Contractor	V. De Biquena
"	"	? C. Libreri
Police from Paola?	Police ?	? C. Libreri
Police	Contractor	do
"	"	do
"	"	do

Circulation of Island Correspondence

District	Casal	Mode of Conveyance	
		To	From
	Melleha	Contractor	Contractor
	S ^t . Paul's Bay	"	"
	S ^t . Julians	Police	Police
	Strema	"	"
Delivery effected by		Remarks	
Police		No mail during the winter, the 1 st of Feb?	
Police " and Letter Carrier		S ^t . Julians and Strema would require a daily local Post with two deliveries independent of the S.P.O. delivery.	
Three Cities	Cospicua	Police	Police
	Vittoriosa	"	"
	Senglea	"	"
	Floriana		
Delivery effected by		Remarks	
Police		The Three Cities should have a daily local Post with one delivery independent of the S.P.O. delivery	
"		within S.P.O. delivery	
"			

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- Maltese Festa Series III • 20th Anniversary of the EMS Cooperative • The Stage Commandos & Popular Entertainers • Birth of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi - 150th Anniversary • Malta - Romania Architecture, Palaces • Apiculture in Malta • Christmas



Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c.,
305, Qormi Road, Marsa MTP 1001, Malta

www.maltaphilately.com | info@maltaphilately.com | (+356) 2596 1740