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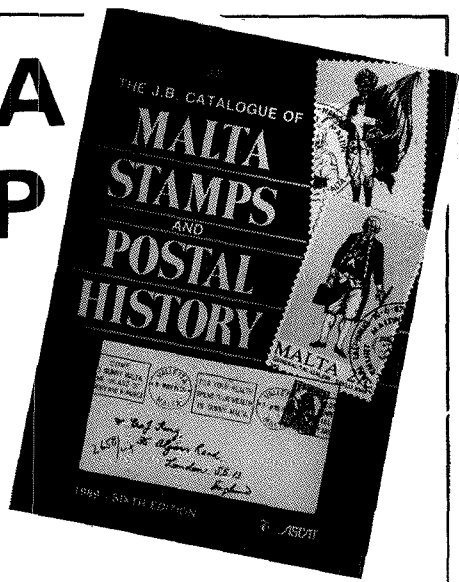
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THE PSM MAGAZINE



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APPRECIATION: Mr Vincent Mercieca

By Dr John Mercieca

The untimely and unexpected demise of Vincent Mercieca has shocked and plunged in deep sorrow not only the members of his dear family, whom he loved so much, but also a wide circle of acquaintances and friends. Foremost among them are the officials and members of the Philatelic Society of Malta of which he was one of the main pillars and to whose welfare and advancement he has so willingly and generously contributed and devoted much of his spare time.

After being a live-wire committee member of my Society for a number of years he was in 1984 to hold the post of Treasurer and in this office, which he still occupied at the time of his death, he was highly admired and respected by everyone. His devotion to duty and the thoroughness and meticulousness with which he handled any task entrusted to him, even if this entailed much personal sacrifice and self-denial, were much appreciated.

The gentle smile which invariably radiated on his serene face, his charming and attractive personality, his uncommon calm and his persuasive attitude when dealing with people, whether in business circles or in other spheres of Society in which he was involved, were all qualities which endeared him to one and all who came in contact with him. They thus further widened the large circle of local and overseas friends by whom he was held in the highest esteem.

Apart from the heavy bereavement and the irreparable loss sustained by his family with his demise, my Society will also badly feel the shattering blow by which it has been struck. Apart from the loss of a steadfast member, a most efficient and hard-working official and a charming friend, the void he has left behind will not be at all easy to fill up.

Sadly enough Vincent does no longer belong to this world, but yet his sweet memory, his pleasant personality and endearing ways, will for yet many more years to come be fondly remembered and cherished by all who knew him. His high sense of duty in all he undertook to do will serve as a shining example and a living model to those who will eventually be called upon to take over and carry on the good work in the different offices which were entrusted to him.

May the good God in His unbounded mercy grant eternal rest unto his dear soul and to his bereaved and sorrowful wife and children, his disconsolate mother and dear brother and other relatives, the calm and confidence so necessary to face the future.



Finding a Treasure Trove of Information

Part 5 (continuation)

by Paul and Barbara Kayfetz

CORONATION 1937 COMMEMORATIVE

Artist's Dies

½d (Photo No. 95) – In a wrapper labeled “Malta – 1/2d Original Stamp Die” in a style of labeling attributable to the printer in a steel plate 5mm thick, 86mm wide, and 50mm high. It contains a reverse engraved image of this entire value. The die is prepared for recess printing. It is plated with what appears to be nickel. The image is centered in the plate. The numerals “67” appear in the lower left-hand corner of the plate reading when the plate is turned on its side so these are in the upper left-hand corner. There is a dimple indented in the center of the right side of the plate 12mm from the edge of the image. A similar dimple appears near the center of the opposite side of the die.

The image is defaced with fine vertical hairlines approximately one millimeter apart. These stop neatly at the borders of the stamp. These flat dies were cancelled by being coated with an acid resist into which fine lines were ruled on a ruling machine. A coating of acid then scored the die wherever the resist had been cut away.

1 – 1/2d – A similar artist's die exist for this value differing only in being labeled with the number “68”.

2 – 1/2d – A die similar in all respects exists but for its number, which is “69”.

These dies were probably created through transfer of the basic stamp design from a master transfer roller. The country name and denominations would then have been added.

Transfer Rollers

(Photo No. 96) – Transfer rollers exist for each of the values. Each contains a right-reading image of the respective artist's dies. Each bears on one side a punched label carrying the respective numbers “67”, “68” and “69”. Each also bears the stamp date “8.3.37”. Each roller is 69mm in diameter with a 27mm opening in the center, a small flange surrounding the center on each side, and a width of the impression face of 24.5mm.

The defacing with neat, slightly, wider spaced vertical lines would have been done as described above but with the lines cut on a geometric lathe.

Printing Plates

The plates are of 2mm thick copper coated with what appears to be chromium. They are somewhat similar to the printing plate described above for the shilling values of the 1930 issue. The printing face is 304mm wide and 640mm in height. At the bottom is a flange bent to the back at 90-degrees which is 16mm in length on the face perpendicular to the printing face. This flange contains 3 wide notches for attachment. A similar flange bent back approximately 30-degrees from the plane of the printing face at the other end (top) of the plate is some 23mm wide and contains a similar set of 3 wide notches.

The **Malta Study Circle Handbook** at page 287 states, "The plate numbers recorded are A1 (left-hand pane) and B1 (right-hand pane) for the 1/2d and 1 - 1/2d value and 1 or nil for the 2 - 1/d stamp. It is possible that Plate B1 for the 1 - 1/2d value was used only for the August 1937 printing." An examination of the plates indicates that significant corrections are necessary regarding this information.

1/2d - The panes are not side-by-side, but rather one on top of the other. Each pane contains 10 rows of 6 stamps. Pane "B1" is above "A1". A gutter of 27mm height separates the two panes. The plate number is centered below the bottom row, stamp 5 in each case with a separation of 7mm between the bottom of the stamp and the top of the plate designation. There is a registration dot punched into the plate at the center of a registration cross at the mid point of each of the four edges of each of the two panes. This registration dot is 6mm from the edge of the image in each case. Below the bottom pane at a distance of 20mm from the bottom row of stamps is an engine-turned design with scalloped edges which is 16mm in height and extends the full width of the plate. There are six rows of overlapping ovoid shapes in this design with central crosses inside each shape. Hand stamped in the center of this design is a number "2125 - 1".

1 - 1/2d - This plate is identical in all respects to that described above but for its number inscribed in the ribbon of engine turning, which is "2126 - 1". The fact that one pane appears above the other on the same plate suggests that it is improbable that the Study Circle Handbook's surmise is correct regarding the use of Plate "B1" only for the August 1937 printing. It would seem unlikely that a partial sheet of paper could be used in the press with the longer plate without creating inking and mechanical problems.

2 - 1/2d - This plate differs from the above two in aspects that are quite noteworthy. First, it contains only one pane. This pane is laid out exactly as one of the two panes on the previously-described plates for this issue. Registration dots and crosses appear in the same positions mid-way along each edge. Below the 5th stamp in the bottom row is the plate numeral "1". The width of the plate is 305mm and the height of the printing area is 372mm. There is a similar 90-degree flange to that described above and a similar angled flange, however, it is only angled at 2 or 3 degrees from the printing surface. In addition to the mounting notches on this slightly-angled flange there are large oval bold holes at each corner of the flange. These show signs of significant wear from the turning or a large-headed bolt in each. This suggests that there was provision for bolting of this plate mid-way along the printing surface at what would be the mid-point of the longer plates. This plate contains the engine work border across the bottom as described for the lower values. Within this border is the designation "2127 - 1".

It should be noted that the Malta Study Circle Handbook states that the plate numbers for this issue appear in the bottom margin below the second stamp in from the left or right corner. In fact, on the plates examined these numbers appear only below the second stamp in from the right corner.

GEORGE V REVENUE STAMPS

(Photo No. 97) - Artist's dies for the L1 and L5 unappropriated

revenue stamps are present. Each is on a steel block 12.5mm thick, 33mm wide and 50mm high. The image is reversed in raised relief centered within the block. Each block contains a 2mm hole bored some 3mm deep in the top end of the block.

L1 – The typographic plates for this issue contain 2 panes each with 6 rows of 10 stamps. The plate is 2mm thick steel at the base with a 2 to 3mm raised printing area. The die has been cast as a unit and then plated with a silverish metal (nickel?). A continuous Jubilee Line surrounds each pane. It has been broken, with sawn cuts, into segments approximately 22mm in length but varying randomly. The plate numbers “1”, reversed out of a solid circle, appears twice in the top margin of the top pane and twice in the bottom margin of the bottom pane. The plate number is immediately inward of the division between the corner stamp and next stamp in each case. There is a registration device molded at the top center of the top pane and at the bottom center of the bottom pane. This is the standard horizontal bar with a short central upright followed by a hole bored through the plate.

The entire plate is a 268mm wide and 562mm high. The gutter, which is blank, between the two panes is 36mm high. The side margins are 12mm wide and top and bottom margins approximately 16mm wide. There are numerous holes bored at regular intervals around the margin in the flange for the mounting of the plate. The date “26/5/25” is molded in relief in the upper margin from hand-punched numerals in the mold.

L5 – This plate is identical in all respects to that described above except that its date is “28/5/25”.

“Contracts” Overprint Plate

This plate contains the word “Contracts” 120 times in positions corresponding to the imprint area of the revenue stamps whose plates are described above. This plate contains 24 sticks of molded copper type, each containing five repetitions of the word. These pieces have been tacked in their appropriate positions on a mahogany board. This board was fabricated of three pieces held together with splints. The board is 277mm and 561mm high. It is 18mm thick.

“Stocks and Shares” Overprint Plate

This plate is identical in all respects to the “Contracts” plate described above but for the different wording.

POSTAL STATIONERY

King George V 1 – 1/2d Postcard (1927)

(Photo No. 98) – Ten individual pieces of typographic printing plates exist for this postcard. Each piece contains both the complete inscription and the stamp for the Malta Study Circle Type 8 imprint. Each stamp and inscription has been defaced with horizontal scribed lines. Each piece is 114mm long and 30mm high. The type has a base thickness of 2 to 3mm on a plate of steel with copper molded printing areas elevated approximately 1mm above the base plate.

The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 350 describes an example of this

card with the spacing between "Carte" and "Postale" increased by 1mm, and with the "E" of "POSTALE" 1mm closer to the stamp. The Handbook speculates that this could have been an earlier printing. Interestingly, one of the 10 pieces of type is different in its appearance from the others with the copper printing area covering more of the surface of the steel plate. This one plate contains the different spacing described by the Malta Study Circle. This would suggest that this is a replacement piece of type made from a mold which was formed from a new typesetting with slightly different letter spacing from that of the original. Rather than from a subsequent printing with altered plates, the different spacing came from one position in a ten-up sheet layout after one of the pieces of the type was replaced. (See Photo No. 100; the different spacing is contained in the type piece which is the second down in the left-hand column.)

King George V Postcard Inscription Without Stamp

(Photo No. 99) – These five pieces of type contain the postcard inscription of the Malta Study Circle Type 8. However, they are cut off immediately at the end of the word "Postale" and do not contain the stamp. Their size is 90mm long and 30mm high. These plates all contain the normal (closer) word spacing between the "E" of "CARTE" and "E" of "POSTALE". Horizontal scribing defaces each piece.

King George V 1d Postcard "Postage and Revenue" Stamp Plates

These five pieces are similar in composition to those described above. Their steel backings are 29mm wide and 38mm high. The stamp has even margins at top, bottom and left side of each piece but has been sawn off immediately adjacent to the right-hand side of the image. This would facilitate proper placement in conjunction with the postcard imprint dies described in the section immediately above. When these dies are juxtaposed touching the ends of the imprint dies the spacing is the same as on the complete Study Circle Type 8 postcard image (as shown in Photo No. 100). The pieces of type have been defaced with horizontal scratches.

No card of this type was issued; this may have been prepared but halted upon a late decision.

King George V 1/2d Postcard (1927)

(Photo No. 101) – There are four pieces each of the postcard imprint and the stamp design contained in Malta Study Circle Type 7. Each piece is generally as described above. The postcard imprint pieces are 79mm wide and 30mm high. The stamp imprint pieces are 28mm wide and 32mm high. The stamp is centered within each. There are holes drilled at each corner of each to allow them to be fastened to a backboard with small tacks. Similar holes appear on all of the pieces described above. The standard defacing scribing appears on each piece.

King George V Newspaper Wrapper Stamp Printing Plate 1/2d (as contained in Malta Study Circle Type 17)

(Photo No. 102) – These are steel pieces with a base some 2 to 3mm thick and a raised printing area an additional 2mm thick. They contain a copper molded printing area with what appears to be nickel plating on its surface. These have been defaced with four vertical scratches on each piece. Each piece

is the same width as the stamp and is 45mm high. The four corners have been cut off at 45-degree angles. There is a 3mm screw hole for a fastening screw bored in the center of the top and bottom flanges.

It should be noted that this type could also have been used for the stamp imprint in the Malta Study Circle Type 6 Postcard.

King George V 3d Registered Envelope

(Photo No. 103) – A working embossing die for the stamp image with value surround and “Malta Registration” wording as contained in Malta Study Circle Type 22 was found in an area of the storage attic removed from that containing the philatelic materials. This die was in its storage cannister in an area of the Museum storage containing various dies for the seals of different governmental offices. It has been placed by the authors with the philatelic materials.

The die is a steel round some 11mm thick. It tapers slightly inward from the bottom of its base toward the printing surface. Raised above the printing surface an additional 1 to 2mm is the embossing die with a reversed image and the area which is to carry ink in raised relief. Within the sunken image of the head details of the facial features are engraved. The die appears to be coated with nickel. On its back it contains the engraved inscription “D. 1”. There is a 2mm diameter hole bored 1/8th inches thick in the top edge of the die. The die was wrapped in a tissue which contained the hand-printed inscription “8 Malta”. This was then contained within a soldered steel cylinder 46mm high and 53mm in diameter with a neatly fabricated press-on lid and a soft felt lining in the top of the lid.

Other Die

(Photo No. 104) – The George V 1 – 1/2d value of the 1926 “Postage” type is present on a steel block 24mm thick and precisely the size of the stamp. The image of the stamp is in a thin copper coating on the plate in a reversed format. There is no description on the piece. The retired printer indicates it is an intermediate step in producing the dies used to print the dies in Photo No. 104.

WHY ARE THE PLATES AND DIES IN MALTA?

The presence of these plates and dies in Malta was initially a mystery. The normal procedure of colonies whose postal affairs were handled by the Crown Agents was that all such material remained in London. The printing was done by security printing firms under scrupulously close supervision of government auditors. When an issue was superseded the colonial government requested the destruction of its dies and plates. Acquiescence of the Crown Agents was obtained, instructions were conveyed to the custodian of the plates and dies, and formal written certification documenting the destruction sent to the colonial government.

Inquiries in Malta regarding the history of these plates and dies were inconclusive. Mr. John A. Galea, Secretary to the Postmaster General, was unable to find any record or officials who knew how or why they had arrived in Malta. The original post office records of the era were destroyed in a direct bomb hit upon port office headquarters in Valletta during WW2.

Dr. J.H. Mercieca was interviewed. He had served on the Malta Stamp Advisory Committee during the Sixties and Seventies. He had not known of the existence of the plates and dies in the attic. He did not know how they got from

London to Malta. Dr. Mercieca did recall seeing, as a lad of eleven, several of the Melita plates in a display at the Malta Museum at the Auberge d'Italie, during the 1925 Wembley Exhibition. This implies that the plates were sent to Malta from London on more than one occasion since many sets of post-1925 plates were present in the attic.

Dr. Bonnici, Mr. Said, Dr. Albert Ganado, and other Malta philatelic experts were interviewed. None knew the background history of the plates and dies found in the attic.

The authors searched the De La Rue Archives in London for any relevant correspondence during the period 1900 to 1940. This yielded an explanation of the presence of the various materials and plates in Malta.

On 30 October 1925 the Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue:

“I have to inform you that in connection with the destruction of certain obsolete dies and plates we have been requested by the Government of Johore and Malta to arrange for the attached list dies and plates to be forwarded to the Colonial Governments and I have to request you to furnish us with your observations on this proposal.”

LIST OF OBSOLETE DIES AND PLATES ETC.

Description	Duty
<i>JOHORE</i>	
Postage & Revenue Stamps	1891 & 1895 Key Plate
1 Overprint Form Kemahkotan	
<i>MALTA</i>	
Postage & Revenue Stamps	1/4d, 1/2d, 1d, 2d, 2-1/2d, 3d, 6d,
Unified design 1912	1/- (Chg'd 191? written in pencil)
- do - Nyasa Type	2/-, 5/- (1919 written in pencil)
- do - Single working Surface (King's head)	2d (Jan 1921 written in pencil)
Postage Stamps View & Pictorial designs.	4-1/2d (Aug 1920 written in pencil)
Single working copper Plate.	5d (July 1917 written in pencil) 2/6d (Aug 1920 written in pencil) (? 1898 written in pencil)
Postage & Revenue Stamps.	4d (Feb 1918 written in pencil)
View & Pictorial designs.	10/- (June 1921 written in pencil)
Single working Copper plate.	

○ The De La Rue response was less than enthusiastic:

“We have made a careful search of our records, and can find no exact precedent for the suggestions now put forward. The accepted principle has been for such dies and plates to be destroyed in the presence of your Officers.

“In the case of Johore, we see no reason for refusing to accede to the request as the plates represent the effigies of deceased Sultans, and as the Government desires to add these to their records for Museum purposes.

“With regard to the Malta Plates, these include one bearing the portrait of H.M. The King, and also pictorial designs which are not necessarily obsolete, and we, therefore, respectfully suggest that the Crown Agents for

the Colonies should be satisfied that the Government of Malta is justified in asking for a departure from the accepted principle.”

As to Johore on 23 January 1926 the Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue instructing them to arrange with the Crown Agents’ “Chief Inspector for these plates to be suitably packed for despatch.”

In regard to Malta, the next correspondence appearing in the files is a letter to the Crown Agents from De La Rue of 22 February 1926”

“We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter and enclosure of the 11th February with further reference to the request of the Government of Malta for certain stamp dies and plates to be forwarded to them, and have noted the assurance that these obsolete dies and plates will be kept in Malta for historical and Museum purposes only.

“Arrangements will be made with your Chief Inspector for packing, etc., as requested.”

A further set of stamps was discussed in a Crown Agents’ letter to De La Rue of 19 May 1926

“I have to inform you that we have been requested by the Government of Malta to arrange for the plates, dies, etc., used in the printing of the stamps symbolising Malta under Self-Government and lately in use, to be despatched to the Director of the Museum, Malta for preservation in the Museum. At the same time we are authorised by the Government to assure you on their behalf that these plates will be in no way be used for the manufacture of stamps.

“In these circumstances I have to request that you will arrange for these to be suitably packed and delivered to our Chief Inspector for despatch to Malta”.

On the 25th of May 1925 De La Rue acknowledged this letter, noting the assurance of the intended use, and indicated it was obeying the instruction.

On 21 June 1926 the Crown Agents wrote with reference to their letter of 19 May, that the Government of Malta had informed them of a decision to discontinue the issue and use of the L1 postage and revenue stamp. The Crown Agents requested the existing die and plate of this stamp be suitably packed and delivered to the Chief Inspector for despatch to Malta with the other dies and plates referred to in the letter of the 19th May. On 23 June the printer acknowledged that it was following this instruction.

There is then a considerable gap until a letter from the Crown Agents (2 February 1938) to De La Rue stating:

“The Government of Malta has requested us to forward to them if there is no objection, the obsolete 2d embossed registration envelope die, King George V head, which is required for the Museum Department for historical and museum purposes only. We shall be glad to know whether you have any objection to this proposal.” (A pencil notation on this letter reads: “Had set in fact defaced 4 or 5 yrs. ago.”)

In response, De La Rue wrote on 5 February 1938:

“We find on reference to our records, that on a previous occasion, a Malta printing plate was cancelled and presented to the Government of Malta. In

view of this we have no objection to forwarding the die now required, on condition that we are permitted to suitably deface it, and that it will be used for the Museum Department for historical and Museum purposes only."

On 21 February 1938, in response, the Crown Agents instructed that the die be forwarded through the Chief Inspector after it was suitably defaced.

On 29 July 1938 the Crown Agents wrote indicating that the Government of Malta also desired that the original dies and printing plates of the L1 and L5 denomination of the Malta revenue stamps and two overprinting plates or formes, and one 3d embossing die registration envelope should also be forwarded for exhibition purposes to the local museum.

On 2 August 1938 De La Rue indicated its compliance.

Obviously, there must have been similar correspondence with Waterlow regarding those plates which had been used by that printer. This correspondence was not presently available.

GENERAL IMPLICATIONS

The dies and plates will provide a wealth of further information when analyzed by experts on the various Malta issues. Yet, this is only a small part of their value.

All students of philately will find information in these materials which transcends the borders of Malta. Light is shed upon the practices of two of the major security printers during several major eras. The keyplate and coronation issues are common in their configurations to innumerable other countries. Since the plates and dies of those countries were destroyed as the issues were no longer being printed, and any which were not thus contemporaneously destroyed suffered the effects of the London blitz, this find should have general appeal to students of most British colonial stamps.

THE FUTURE OF THE PLATES AND DIES

Discussions have been initiated between responsible officials in the Malta ministries which operate the museums and the postal operations. A hoped-for result of these discussions is the transfer to, and preservation of the plates and dies in, a postal museum where they might be viewed by many and studied by philatelists under more salubrious circumstances than the storage attic. These materials could provide the nucleus for a postal museum which has been desired for some time by Maltese philatelists and their overseas colleagues.

TO BE DONE

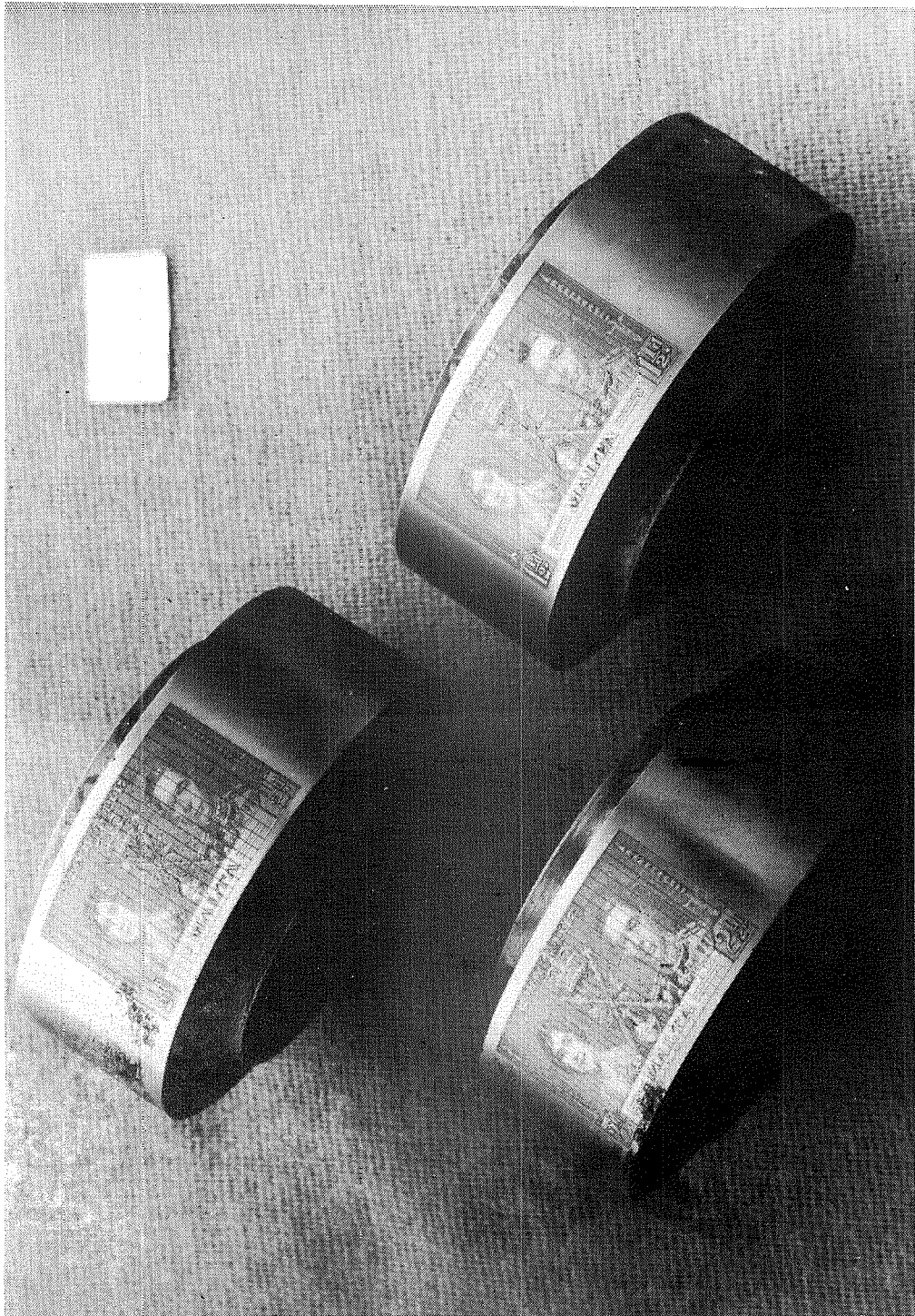
More specialized and leisurely study of the plates and dies by many others will yield information and findings not contained in this article. Additionally, it is hoped that its circulation might bring forth information about the history of the plates coming to Malta and what occurred with them in Malta from individuals with direct knowledge.

One of the joys of philately is that nothing is complete and there are no bounds. . . .

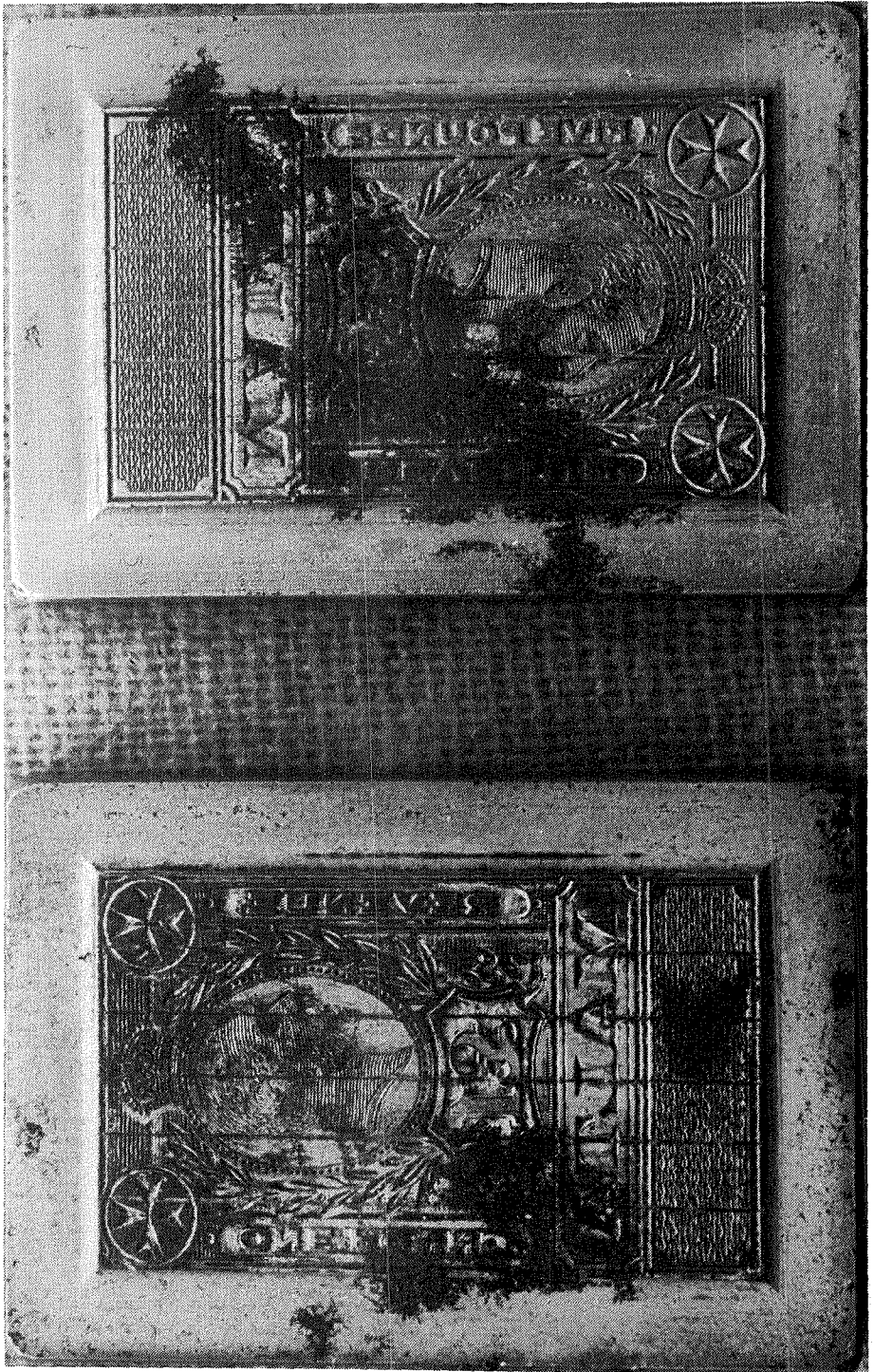


brother
Mr. Crawford's Stamp Die

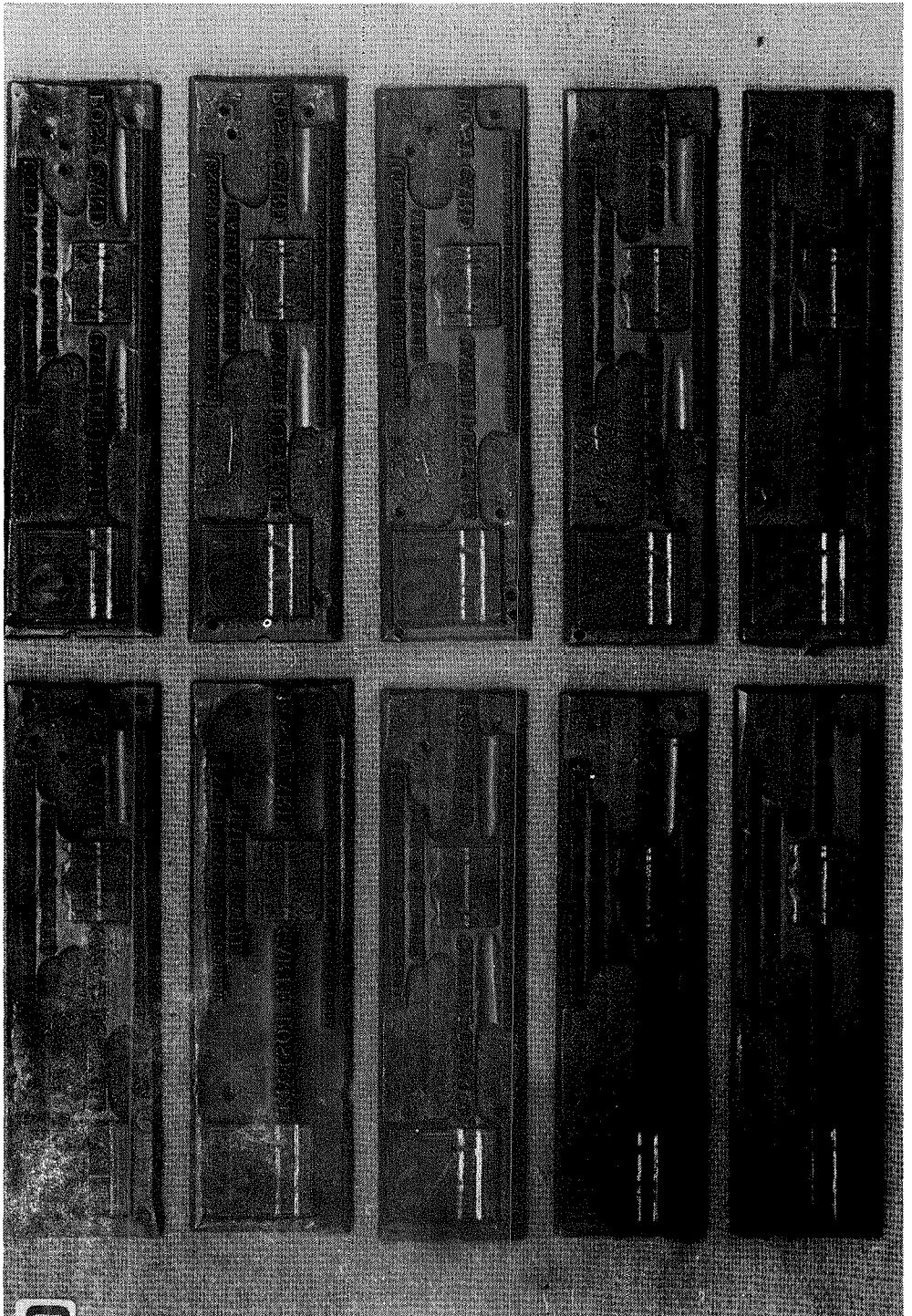




(Photo No 96)



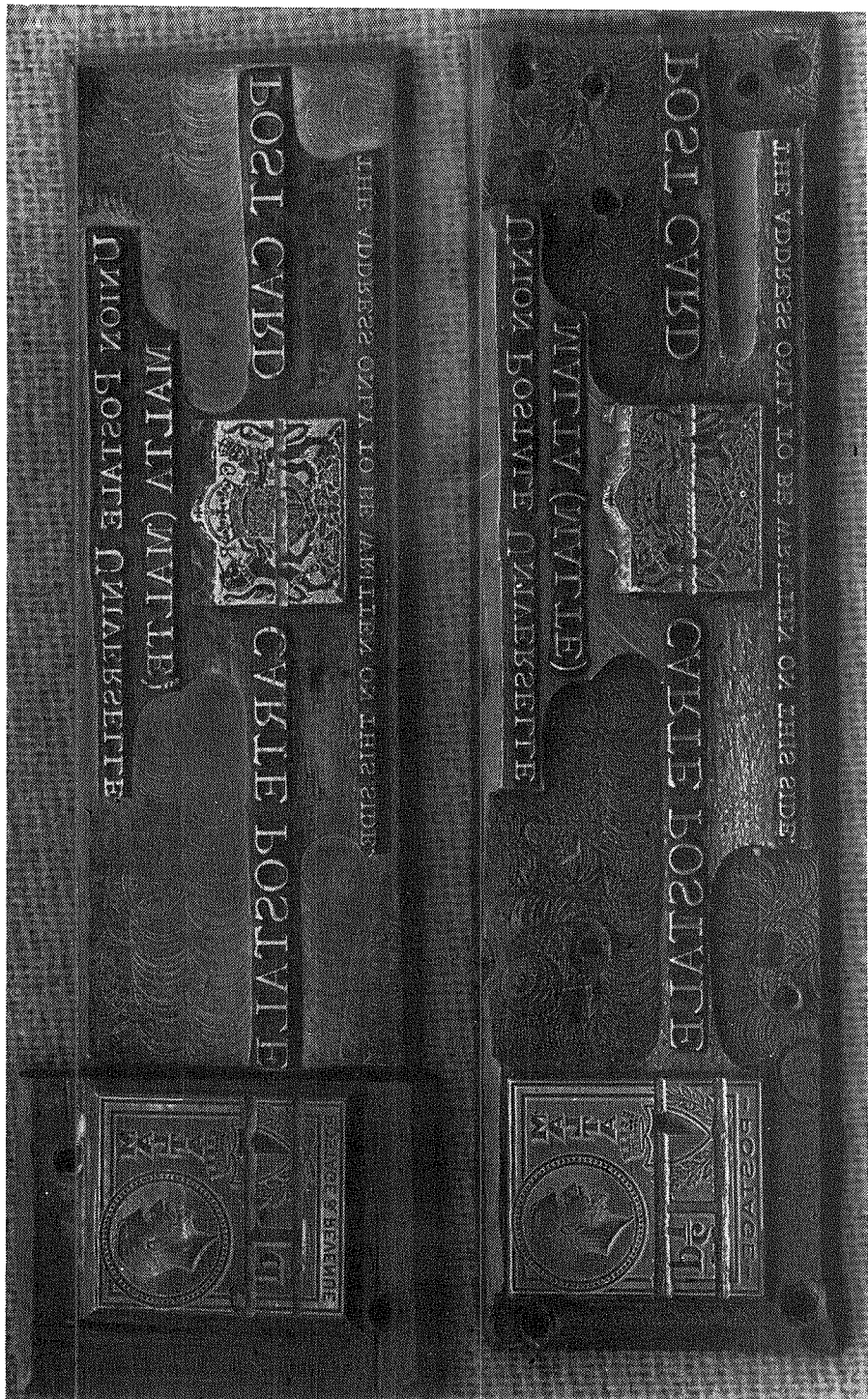
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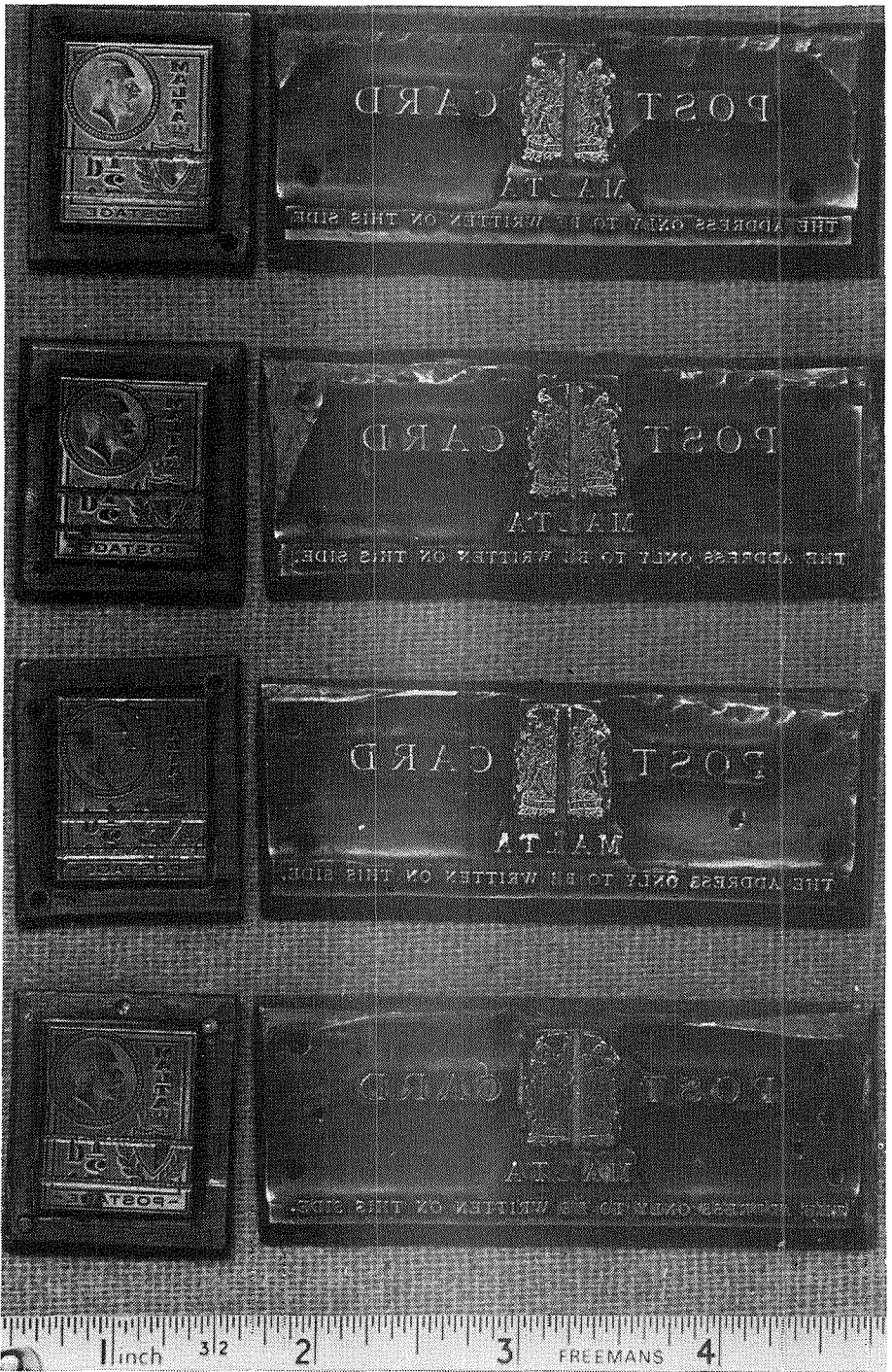
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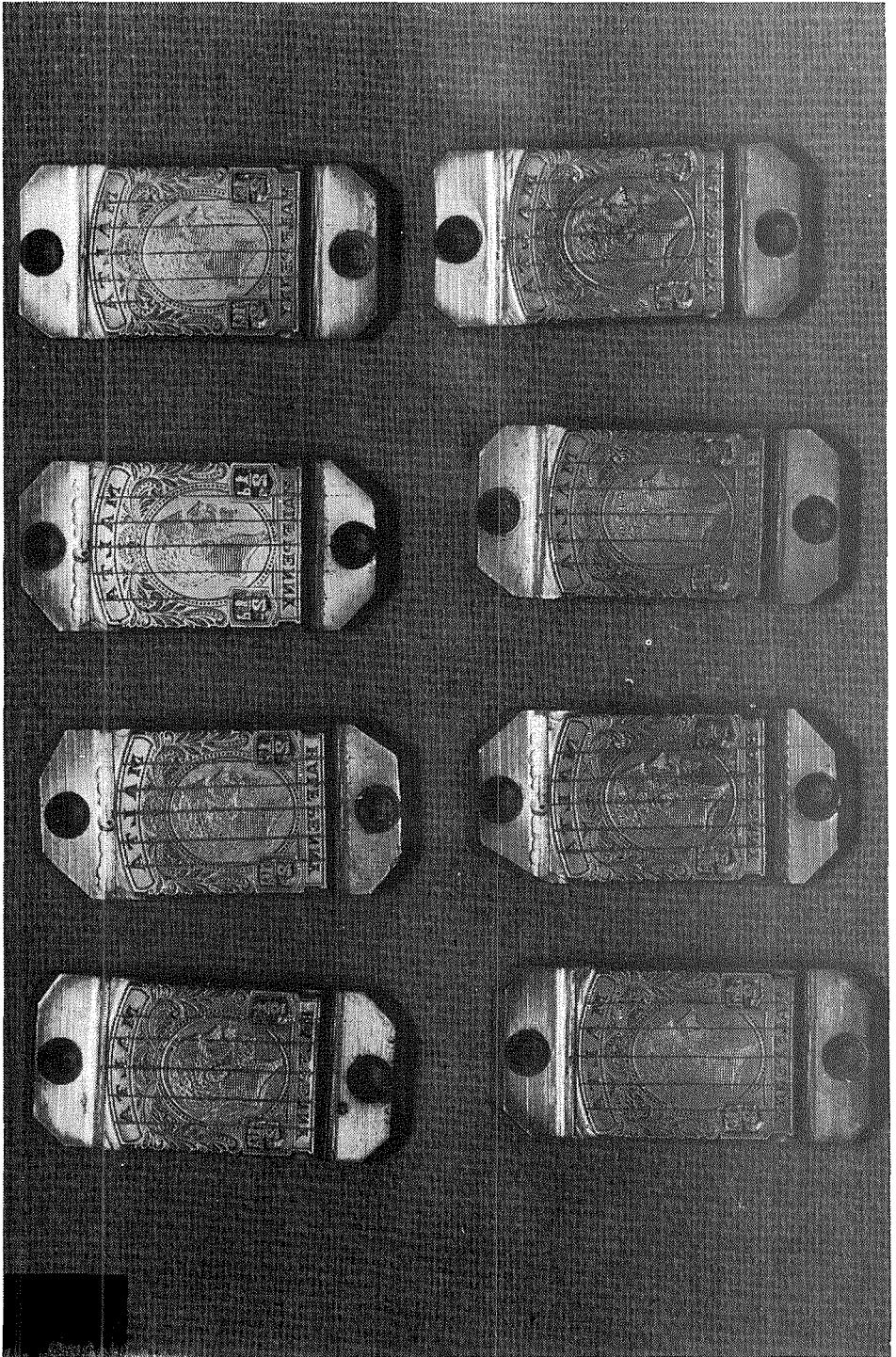
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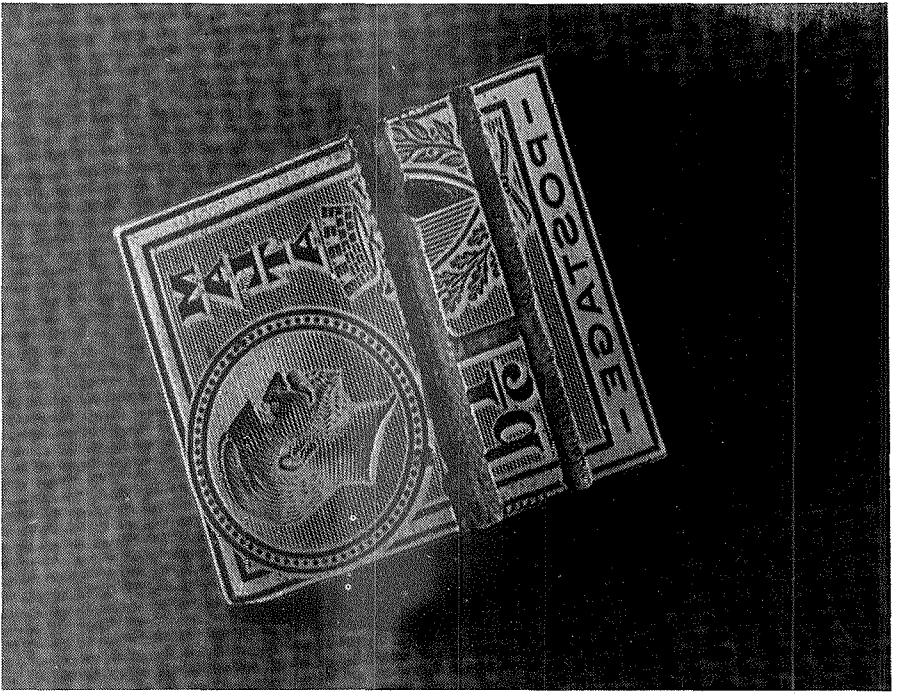
(Photo No. 100)



(Photo No 101)



(Photo No 102)



(Photo No 104)



(Photo No 103)

MORE ON CENSORSHIP IN WORLD WAR ONE

By Dr. Giovanni Bonello LL.D.

Great Britain entered the First World War on August 4, 1914, when its ultimatum to Germany expired the previous midnight. On August 3, 1914, on the eve of Britain's entry in the conflict, Government Notice No 124 was published in Malta to institute and regulate censorship.

A number of other Government Notices and Regulations consolidated, amended or repealed the official enactments which were periodically published to regulate censorship. The English text of these enactments is reproduced as an Appendix to this article.

The various Notices etc., refer to a Censor, a Press Censor, a Postal Censor, a Senior Censor and a Military Censor. It is not always clear whether these designate different functions in the same officer, or different officers.

The first rules dealt with the enforcement of censorship, the ban on military matters in communications, publications in and outside Malta, printed and telegraphic communications. These were later supplemented by various other orders relating to the importation of newspapers from hostile and neutral countries, picture postcards, shipping documents, telegraphic messages, etc.

The highly comprehensive **Malta Defence Regulations 1916** had special sections on censorship, including the powers of the Senior Censor.

The various enactments give some indication on how the process of censorship was set in motion. The Press Censorship office was first situated at the Garrison Library, Piazza Regina; later at Castille, and finally at 28, Second Floor, Strada Britannica, Valletta. All communications intended for publication abroad had to be submitted there. Mail and cable communications subject to censorship had to be handed in direct to the post or telegraph administration.

Special rules were introduced for "picture postcards and other pictorial representations of local subjects". These could not be sold, exhibited or detained for sale without the previous permission of the Press Censor. A duplicate specimen of any set of postcards had to be approved and stamped with the censor's mark.

The handstamps used for censorship purposes on mail and other material attracted the special attention of the Malta Defence Regulations 1916. The last part of Regulation 31 made it a criminal offence for any person who, without lawful authority, used or attempted to obtain any stamp or similar pattern used by the Censor or by his assistants or by his staff, or for any person to use any imitation of the stamp used by the Censor.

Hitherto all handstamps recorded seem to have been those which **permitted** transmission or publication ("Passed by Censor"). I believe that a special handstamp existed which **prohibited** transmission or publication. I am publishing this handstamp "Censored". (Fig. 1)

CENSORSHIP RE-INTRODUCED

The censorship regulations had a chequered history. Introduced in 1914 and enforced for the duration of the War, they were "cancelled" on February 20, 1919. But on the outbreak of the *Sette Giugno* riots of 1919, two Government Notices warned the public that all printed matter had to be submitted to the Press Censor before publication; that Regulation 31 of the Malta Defence Regulations (the one relating to censorship) was still in operation and that the censorship withdrawn on the 3rd February 1919 (sic) had been re-established.

Censorship was further reasserted on September 11, 1919, two months after the riots,

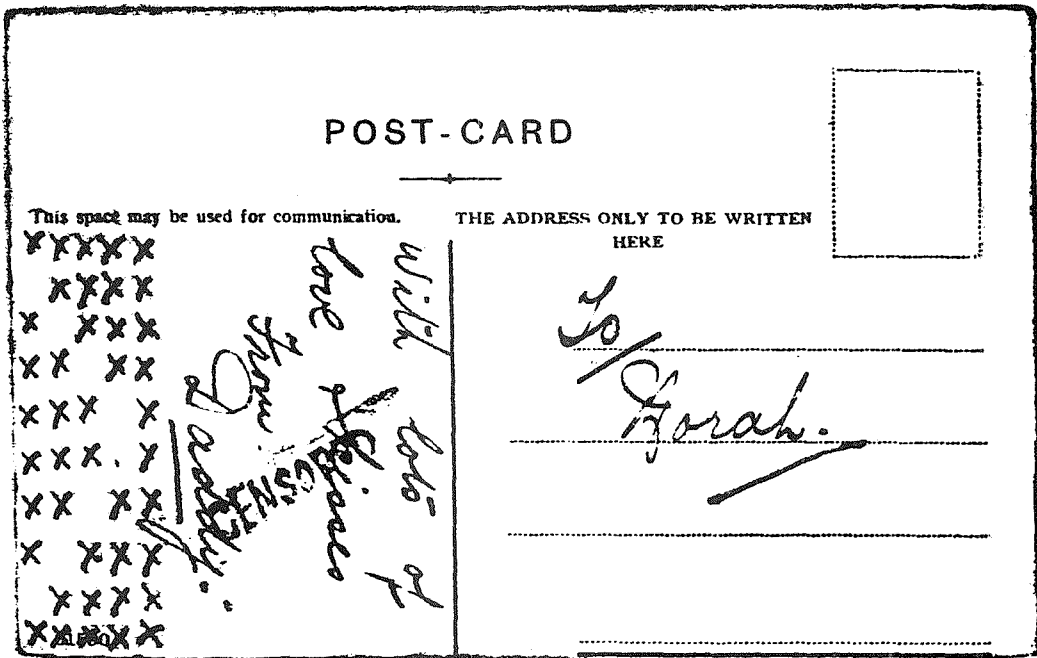


FIG.1 Postcard showing Valletta Customs House on the picture side and the handstamp "CENSORED" in red (25mm) on the back. This card was probably objected to as the patten of 'love' crosses under the message could have concealed a code. The faint handstamp has been retouched in this illustration.

although a relative calm had replaced the tension of those bloodstained days.

It was only in October 25, 1921, three years after the War ended, that official censorship was finally abolished.

The Circular and Triangular censorship cachets (CS-C and CS-T) have been extensively studied and recorded on incoming and outgoing mail. I here propose to record another two uses which, as far as I am aware, have not been noted before. Besides certifying mail, the same handstamps were used in the prior censorship of publications in Malta, and on pictorial illustrations which were sent abroad for publication.

1. THE LOCAL PRESS

In accordance with war regulations, articles for the local press had to be submitted to the government Censor for approval. In practice, these were submitted in galley proof form. The proofs were then examined by the Censors and stamped with the same circular or triangular cachets which were used to certify mail.

The items I have seen went through the hand of Censors No 1086 and 1087 (circular) and No 4158, 4159 and 4264 (triangular).

As these numbers have not been recorded on letters, it is reasonable to assume that to these particular Censors was entrusted the task of vetting articles which were to appear in the local press (Fig. 2, 3,4)

The Press Censor quite often pencilled out important parts of the original article. Permission to publish only came with the red-inked or blue-pencilled note "as amended".

del 1849 ha potuto continuare a ~~gover-~~
~~narci~~ per oltre 30 anni; a causa delle no-
stre discordie la Costituzione del 1887
venne mutilata e resa quasi nulla ed a
causa della nostra disunione, se non si
metterà tosto riparo, finiremo col perdere
di nuovo quel poco che abbiamo, invece di
accrescerlo e migliorarlo come è necessario
nell'interesse del paese.

Sarebbe quindi una pazzia la nostra se
invece di cercare di raccoglierci tutti come
fratelli sotto un solo vessillo, quello del
Partito Nazionalista che ci ha sempre
condotti alla vittoria, dovessimo scegliere
di continuare a tenerci divisi e sparpaglia-
ti, ciascuno seguendo una bandiera per sè
e combattendoci l'un l'altro come nemici:
noi segneremo con ciò la nostra condanna
e daremo alle Autorità Imperiali un'altro
pretesto per negarci le franchigie che do-
mandiamo e per governarci non più da
nomini pratici ma da ragazzi inesperti.

Riflettano dunque bene gli elettivi prima
di andare alle urne, dove tra giorni saran-
no chiamati, alle conseguenze del loro atto
nella scelta tra i due programmi che sono
loro sottomessi, il programma della discor-
dia di Monsignor Panzavecchia e quello
dell'unione del Partito Nazionalista, e non
vogliamo aggiungere altra follia alle tante
già in questi ultimi anni pur troppo com-
messe contro i nostri più insistenti avver-
timenti.

Per parte nostra il nostro dovere l'ab-
biamo compiuto e lo stiamo compiendo e
compiremo fino alla fine, e quindi riget-
tiamo da noi ogni responsabilità di qual-
unque errore di giudizio che l'elettorato
potrà essere indotto a commettere contro i
migliori interessi del paese.

F. AZZOPARDI P.L.

As amended

FIG.2 A galley proof of an article due to appear in MALTA on March 9, 1915, written by Francesco Azzopardi, a leading politician and sometime leader of the Partito Nazionale. Passed by Censor 1087 with some words obliterated.

CAUCHI, M.D.

istano 500c. c.

na, devono essere pulite ed ermeticamen
ughero oppure a smeriglio.

ecente è bene agginngere 20 a 25 gramm
nno di acido Borico e, nello stesso temp

a carta da visita col nome dell'interessao
riina (esame chimico e microscopio)

a Farmacia Cumbo.

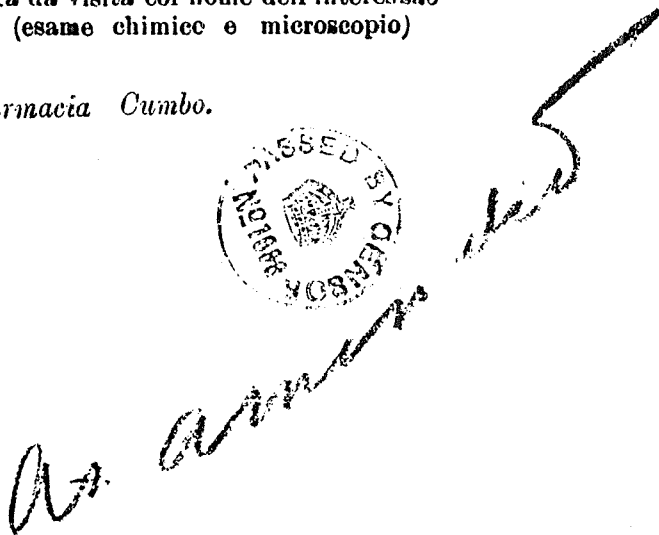


FIG. 3 Corner of two pages of proof, IL PATRIOTA, May 1, 1915, with substantial cuts by Censor 1088.

Although Germany accepted the armistice on November 11, 1918, the censorship marks on mail only disappeared in July 1919. In the press galley proofs they appear as late as August 7, 1920, owing to the reintroduction of press censorship after the *Sette Giugno* riots (Fig. 5).

Material intended for publication in the overseas press also went through the mail certified by the Press Censor. I am publishing a registered letter to the Daily Telegraph in London, passed by Press Censor No 4158 (Fig. 6).

2. ILLUSTRATIONS SENT OVERSEAS

The same censorship that regulated mail, applied perhaps even more forcefully, to photographs sent overseas during World War One.

The Censors who vetted local publications were entrusted with approving, or objecting to, photographs which were to be sent abroad. Thus, in the Circular Series, I have seen No 1087 and 1088, and in the Triangular series, No 4159, stamping the back of photos destined to be sent abroad (Fig.7).

Some photographs did not get through the Censor, and were returned with a red-pencilled "objected to" prominently scrawled on the back. But the criteria to allow or disallow transmission seem to have varied considerably. One photo of the Grand Harbour showing some warships was objected to, but an identical copy got through with a circular "passed by censor".

Governo sono realmente quelle esposte dall' on. Azzopardi, esse non serviranno certo a cementare la lealtà e l'affetto del Popolo Maltese per la Corona Britannica.

In attesa di una cortese e sollecita risposta, ho l'onore di professarmi di V.E.

Devmo.,

Avv. ENRICO MIZZI.

P.S.—Annetto alla presente il numero di ieri sera del *Malta e sua Dipendenza* (No. 10,225 del 24 Settembre 1917), nel quale è riprodotta in pagina, la suddetta corrispondenza dell' onor. Azzopardi.

E. M.

* *

Ecco ora la risposta del Governo alla suddetta lettera dell'Avv. E. Mizzi:—

No. 2312/17

Lieut.-Governor's Office,
Malta, 28th September 1917.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th September 1917, addressed to His Excellency, drawing attention to a letter which was published in the *Malta* newspaper of the 24th instant, over the signature of the Honourable F. Azzopardi, L.P., and to state in reply that the Government can accept no responsibility for the views expressed by that gentleman in his private capacity.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. O. F. ROBERTSON,

Lieut.-Governor

and Chief Secretary to Govt.

ENRICO MIZZI, Esq.

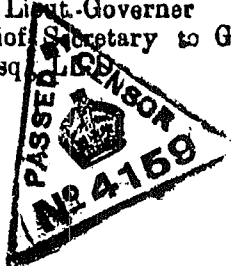


FIG.4 Correspondence between Enrico Mizzi and the Lieutenant Governor, September 1917, passed for publication by Censor 4159.

che potrebbe ferire. I sardi hanno una parlata che è considerata come lingua dai glottologi ma non o'è persona al mondo, oredo, che abbia mai pensato, malgrado i suoi molti pregi, di considerarla come tale praticamente, insegnandola nelle scuole, facendola servire da strumento letterario o scientifico. Ora il Governo sarà anche in bona fede e ignorerà questi precedenti. L'Inghilterra è sempre quella nazione cavalleresca che ha affrontato volontariamente gli orrori d'una lunga guerra per difendere il piccolo Belgio ed è quindi al disopra d'ogni sospetto. Ma abbiamo nel nostro seno—non una vipera, no!—un foglio, e, dico foglio di proposito, che giornale può anche sapere d'onesto, che ha così sempre teneramente difeso i nostri interessi (interesse: che brutta parola, no?) ~~che il paese, messo e spronato da tanto disinteressato amore, s'è visto trascinato nella prima decade del settimo mese, dall'anno primo della Pace con la Germania, a murargli un monumento, un'opera che veramente a conti fatti, costerà un po' troppo cara, ma l'amore di un popolo, con tutte le passioni, non è sempre consigliere di modestia.~~ Ora, questo giornale dice una cosa: noi dobbiamo, naturalmente pendere dalle sue labbra, no? Invertiamo, per comodo di argomento soltanto, i casi. Se un nemico mi additasse una via come la più sicura, io, a costo di non arrivarci, piglierei correndo la via opposta. Questa per me è mero senso comune. Per la massa che, pur ha sempre fama di possedere buon senso a pezzi e consigli dei nemici che nome hanno?

Malta; un'eccezione?

UNO DEI TANTI.

FIG.5 Galley proof of an article for MALTA, approved for publication with heavy deletions by Censor 4264, long after the end of the war; August 7, 1920.

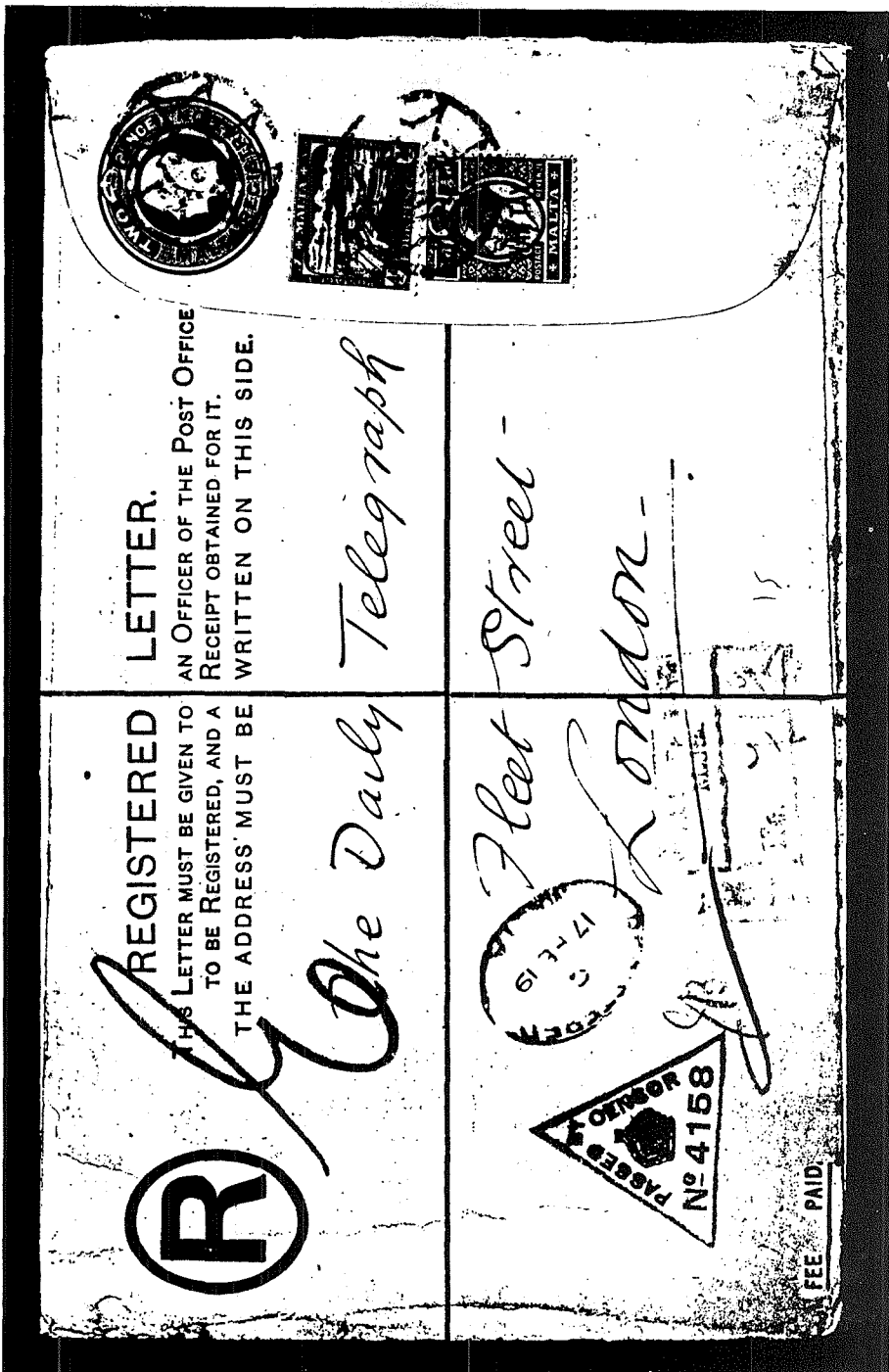


FIG.6 Press material sent to the DAILY TELEGRAPH in UK on February 17, 1919, passed for mail transmission by Censor 4158.

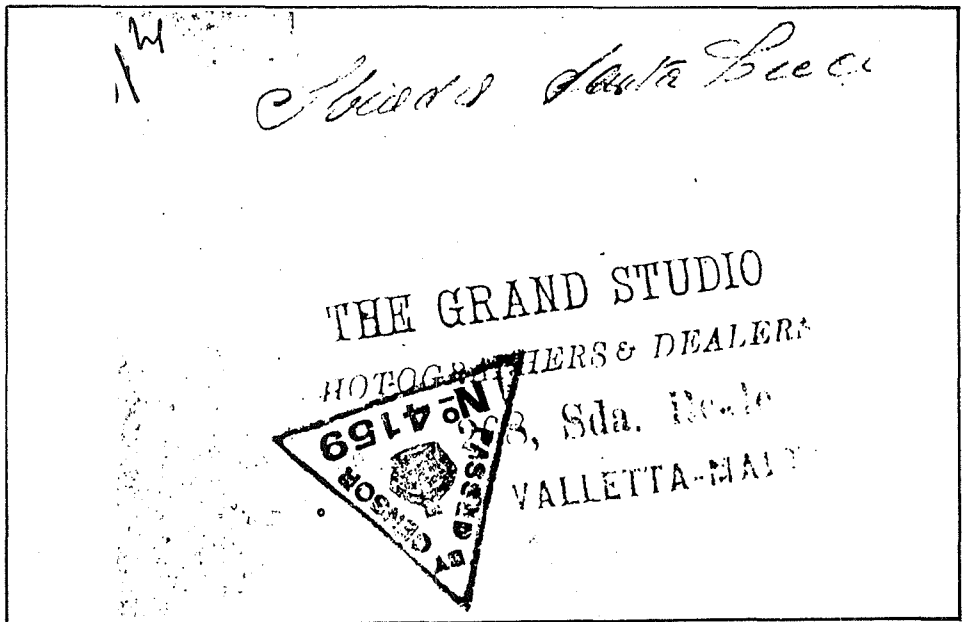
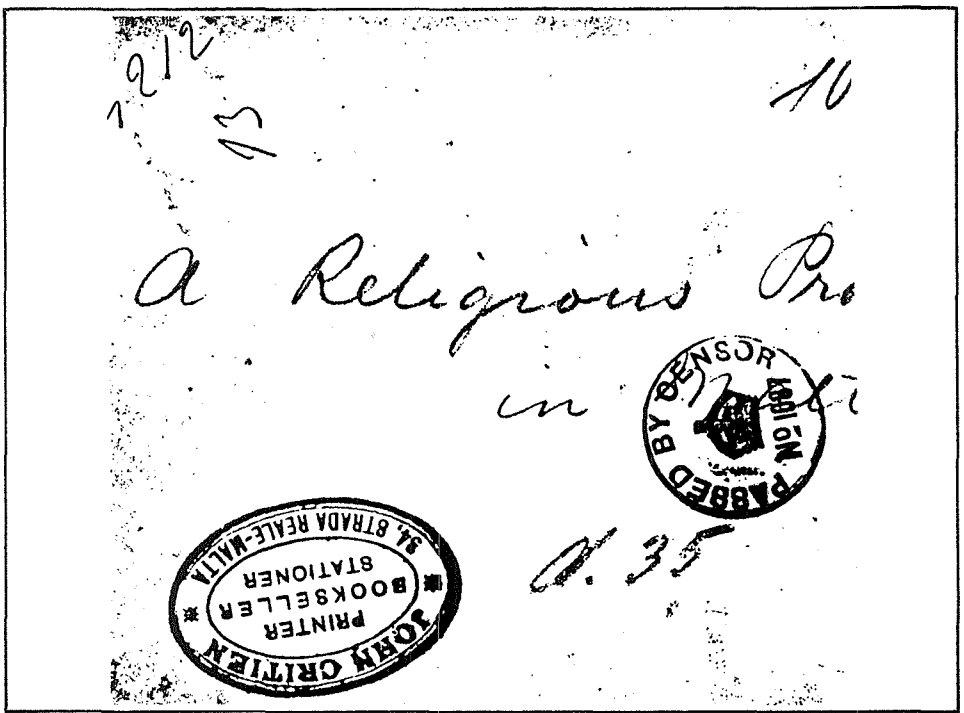


FIG.7 Backs of two photographs with Malta views, sent abroad for printing as postcards, passed by Censors 1087 and 4159 respectively.

APPENDIX

1914

G.N. No 124

IN exercise of the powers vested in him by Her late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October 1896, and otherwise, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following rules with regard to the exercise of censorship.

1. *Enforcement of censorship.*

Until further notice, all letters, packets and messages received or despatched by post and telegraph in or from Malta and its dependencies will be subject to censorship.

2. *No military matter to be discussed in communications.*

In view of the danger that unauthorized persons, and persons actuated by motives hostile to British interests, may obtain access to information contained in private communications from persons in Malta and may utilize such information to the detriment of British interests, all persons are strictly enjoined to refrain from mentioning in any of their correspondence or messages any information regarding the National defences more especially anything relating to the plans of the Naval and Military Commanders and the strength, composition, movements, organization and spirit of His Majesty's naval and military forces.

3. *Publications outside Malta.*

Communications intended for publication in the press elsewhere than in Malta are to be submitted to the press censor at the Garrison Library, Piazza Regina, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., instead of being handed in direct to the post or telegraph Administration. If approved by the censor, they will be transmitted by him to the postal or telegraphic authorities for despatch. Those intended for transmission by post must be stamped before submission, and those by telegraph will, if approved, be passed by the press censor to the telegraph authorities who will notify the sender. The latter will then pay the cost of the message to the telegraph authorities.

4. *Publications in Malta.*

No newspaper, book, pamphlet or other publication is to be published in Malta and its dependencies without previous permission being obtained from the press censor. Information regarding the rules to be observed in this connection is obtainable on application to the press censor.

5. *Postal communications.*

Letters or packets posted for despatch from, or received for delivery in, Malta, are only accepted by the postal authorities on the condition that they are liable to destruction or detention, or delay in transmission at the discretion of the censor and without notice to the sender or the addressee and without any claim lying against the postal or censorship authorities either for refund of the postage paid on them, or on any other grounds on account of such destruction, detention or delay.

6. *Telegraphic communications
(cable and radio-telegraphic).*

Messages written in code, cipher or in any language other than English and French will not be accepted for despatch.

Messages for despatch from, and delivery in, Malta, are only accepted on condition that they are liable, without notification to the sender or addressee, to

be delayed in transmission, paraphrased or suppressed altogether, at the discretion of the censor, and that no refund of money paid for the message will be made on account of such delay, paraphrasing or suppression.

Once a message has been handed in for transmission no alterations will be allowed to be made in it by anyone except the censorship staff.

August 3, 1914.

G.N. No 173

WITH reference to Government Notice No. 124 of the 3rd August 1914, it is hereby notified that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following additional rules respecting the exercise of censorship.

IMPORTATION OF NEWSPAPERS.

The introduction into Malta, through any channel whatsoever, of newspapers originating from hostile or neutral countries is prohibited, except as hereunder —

(a) Editors of local newspapers may import such foreign newspapers as are above referred to up to a limit of two different papers or periodicals at the choice of each editor;

(b) Each issue of either paper or periodical imported must be in duplicate and must be received through the post. One copy of each issue will be delivered to the local editor concerned, after being passed by the press censor and the other copy will be retained by the censor.

Periodicals and newspapers not having a political character may be imported as heretofore, subject to the censorship.

Further information may be obtained on application to the press censor at the Garrison Library, Piazza Regina, during office hours.

September 2, 1914.

1915

G.N. No 87

WHEREAS doubts appear to exist regarding the interpretation of paragraph 4, "Publications in Malta", of the Censorship Rules published by Government Notice No. 124 of the 3rd August 1914, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct it to be notified that the publications referred to in the paragraph abovementioned include picture postcards and any other pictorial representation of local subjects, and that the sale, exhibition for sale, or detention for sale, of any such postcards or other representations, without the previous permission of the Press Censor, shall be treated as a breach of the Censorship Rules recited above.

A duplicate specimen of any set of postcards approved by the Censor shall be stamped with the Censor's mark. One copy of the specimen shall be returned to the owner and shall be evidence of the Censor's approval of the relative set of postcards. The other copy shall be kept by the Censor.

April 10, 1915.

By Command,

LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

The Palace, Valletta.

H. A. BYATT,
Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

It is notified, for general information, that, in order to obviate delays in the removal of goods from wharves and warehouses by reason of the late delivery of shipping documents, the following arrangements have been made, viz:

If "Shipping Documents" sent through the post are enclosed in envelopes marked "SHIPPING DOCUMENTS" by means of a rubber stamp and not by handwriting, the Postal Censor's Department will endeavour to deal with such envelopes with special expedition.

The only Documents which may be included in an envelope marked as above, are the following: Bills of lading (with or without drafts), invoices, specifications, manifests, parcels receipts, certificates of origin, destination, inspection, weight or analysis, insurance policies or certificates, schedules of instructions, subject to the information contained in such schedules being limited to an identification of the other documents enclosed in the envelope, and to the instructions being limited to ordinary instructions as to the delivery of such other documents as against acceptances or cash.

The enclosure of any letters or documents other than those above specified in an envelope marked as above is forbidden, and it is essential that this direction should be strictly obeyed.

August 14, 1916.

G.N. No 38

Repealed by G.N. 179 of 1916

IN exercise of the powers vested in him by Her late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October 1896, and otherwise, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following rules with regard to the exercise of censorship.

Government Notices No. 124 of the 3rd August, No. 173 of the 2nd September, 1914 and No. 87 of the 10th April 1915 are repealed.

1. *Enforcement of censorship.*

Until further notice all letters, packets and telegraphic messages received in or despatched from, or in transit through, these Islands, will be subject to censorship.

The Censorship staff will be sworn to secrecy.

2. *No military matter to be discussed in communications.*

In view of the danger that unauthorized persons, and persons actuated by motives hostile to British interests, may obtain access to information contained in private communications from persons in Malta and may utilize such information to the detriment of British interests, all persons are strictly enjoined to refrain from mentioning in any of their correspondence or messages any information regarding the National defences more especially anything relating to the plans of the Naval and Military Commanders and the strength, composition, movements, organization and spirit of His Majesty's naval and military forces.

3. *Publications in Malta.*

No newspaper, book, pamphlet or other publication is to be published in Malta and its dependencies without previous permission being obtained from the press censor. Information regarding the rules to be observed in this connection is obtainable on application to the press censor.

The publications referred to in the next preced-

ing paragraph include picture postcards and any other pictorial representation of local subjects. The sale, exhibition for sale, or detention for sale, of any such postcards or other representations, without the previous permission of the Press-Censor, shall be treated as a breach of the Censorship Rules recited above.

A duplicate specimen of any set of postcards approved by the Censor shall be stamped with the Censor's mark. One copy of the specimen shall be returned to the owner and shall be evidence of the Censor's approval of the relative set of postcards. The other copy shall be kept by the Censor.

4. *Publications outside Malta.*

Communications intended for publication in the press elsewhere than in Malta are to be submitted to the press censor at the Castille, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., instead of being handed in direct to the post or telegraph Administration. If approved by the censor, they will be transmitted by him to the postal or telegraphic authorities for despatch. Those intended for transmission by post must be stamped before submission, and those by telegraph will, if approved, be passed by the press censor to the telegraphic authorities.

5. *Postal communications.*

Letters, packets and parcels posted for despatch from, or received for delivery in, Malta, are only accepted by the postal authorities on the condition that they are liable to destruction or detention, or delay in transmission at the discretion of the censor and without notice to the sender or to the addressee and without any claim lying against the postal or censorship authorities either for refund of the postage paid on them, or on any other grounds on account of such destruction, detention or delay.

6. *Telegraphic communications (cable and radio-telegraphic).*

Messages written in code, cipher or in any language other than English and French will not be accepted for despatch.

Messages for despatch from, and delivery in, Malta, are only accepted on condition that they are liable, without notification to the sender or addressee, to be delayed in transmission, paraphrased or suppressed altogether, at the discretion of the censor, and that no refund of money paid for the message will be made on account of such delay, paraphrasing or suppression.

Once a message has been handed in for transmission no alterations will be allowed to be made in it by anyone except the censorship staff.

March 28, 1916.

[No.

IT is notified that, in exercise of the powers vested in the Governor by Ordinance No. XX of 1914 (The Malta Defence Ordinance, 1914), His Excellency has been pleased to direct that telephone messages tendered for transmission from Malta to Gozo, or *vice versa*, shall be subject to censorship, and that no message shall be accepted for transmission unless it has been drawn up in the English language.

March 30, 1916.

By Command,

LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

The Palace, Valletta, E. BONAVIA,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

THE MALTA DEFENCE REGULATIONS, 1916.

Omissis

Power of Senior Censor to require the furnishing of certain particulars with regard to certain letters etc.

30. The Senior Censor may require any person who receives letters, telegrams or other postal packets for delivery or forwarding to other persons for whom they are intended to furnish in writing the following particulars :—

(a) the name and address of every person for whom any letter, telegram or postal packet is received, or who has requested that letters, telegrams or other postal packets received may be delivered or forwarded to him;

(b) any instructions that may have been received as to the delivery or forwarding of letters, telegrams or other postal packets;

(c) in the case of every letter or other postal packet received, the place from which the letter or postal packet comes and the date of posting (as shown by the post-mark) and the date of receipt, and, if registered, the date and office of registration and the number of the registered packet;

(d) in the case of every letter or other postal packet delivered, the date of the delivery and the name and address of the person to whom it is delivered;

(e) in the case of every letter or other postal packet forwarded, the name and address to which, and the date on which it is forwarded;

and no such person shall deliver a letter, telegram or other postal packet to any person until that person has signed a receipt for the same.

The Senior Censor may also require any such person as aforesaid to keep a register and enter in it the above particulars. The books so kept and all postal packets received as aforesaid by any such person, and any instructions as to the delivery or forwarding of postal packets so received shall, at all reasonable times, be open to inspection by the Senior Censor or any person duly authorized by him to that effect.

If any person contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this regulation or any order given under the same, he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

Nothing in this regulation shall apply to postal packets addressed to any office where any newspaper or periodical is published, being postal packets in reply to advertisements appearing in such newspaper or periodical.

Censorship.

31. Until further notice, all letters, packets, newspapers, postcards and telegraphic messages received in or despatched from, or in transit through or within these Islands, shall be subject to censorship.

The Censorship staff will be sworn to secrecy.

In view of the danger that unauthorized persons, and persons actuated by motives hostile to British interests, may obtain access to information contained in private communications from persons in these Islands and may utilize such information to the detriment of British interests, all persons are strictly enjoined to refrain from mentioning in any of their correspondence or messages any information regarding the national defences more especially anything relating to the plans of the Naval and Military Commanders and the strength, composition, movements, organization and spirit of His Majesty's naval or military forces or any military or naval action, incident or casualty unless such have been published.

No newspaper, book, pamphlet or other publication is to be published in these Islands without previous permission being obtained from the press censor. Information regarding the rules to be observed in this connection can be obtained on application to the press censor.

The publications referred to in the next preceding paragraph include picture postcards and also any other pictorial representation of local subjects. The sale, exhibition for sale, or detention for sale, of any such postcards or other representations, without the previous permission of the press censor, shall be treated as an offence against these regulations.

A duplicate specimen of any set of postcards approved by the Censor shall be stamped with the Censor's mark. One copy of the specimen shall be returned to the owner and shall be evidence of the Censor's approval of the relative set of postcards. The other copy shall be kept by the Censor.

Communications intended for publication in the press elsewhere than in these Islands are to be submitted to the press censor at the Castile, instead of being handed in direct to the post or telegraph Administration. If approved by the Censor, they will be transmitted by him to the postal or telegraphic authorities for despatch. Those intended for transmission by post must be stamped before submission, and those by telegraph will, if approved, be passed by the press censor to the telegraphic authorities.

Letters, packets and parcels posted for despatch from, or received for delivery in these Islands are only accepted by the postal authorities on the condition that they are liable to destruction or detention, or delay in transmission at the discretion of the Censor and without notice to the sender or to the addressee and without any claim lying against the postal or censorship authorities either for refund of the postage paid on them, or on any other grounds on account of such destruction, detention or delay.

Messages written in code, cipher or in any language other than English, French and Italian for Italian territory will not be accepted for despatch.

messages for despatch from, or delivery in, these Islands, are only accepted on condition that they are liable, without notification to the sender or addressee, to be delayed in transmission, paraphrased or suppressed altogether, at the discretion of the Censor, and that no refund of money paid for the message will be made on account of such delay, paraphrasing or suppression.

Once a message has been handed in for transmission, no alterations will be allowed to be made in it by anyone except the censorship staff.

Telephone messages tendered for transmission from Malta to Gozo or vice-versa shall be subject to censorship, and no message shall be accepted for transmission unless it has been drawn up in the English language.

Any person who contravenes, or attempts to defeat, all or any of the provisions of this regulation, and any person who advises, or helps any other person or persons, whether in or out of these Islands, to contravene or attempt to defeat all or any of the provisions of this regulation, shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

Any person who, without lawful authority, uses any stamp of similar pattern to that used by the Censor or by his assistants, or by his staff, and any person who uses a stamp in colourable imitation of, or purporting to be, that used by the Censor, or by his assistants or by his staff, and any person who, without lawful authority, obtains or attempts to obtain such stamp shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

Prohibition against non-postal communications to or from these Islands.

32. No person shall, without lawful authority, transmit (otherwise than through the post) or convey, to or from these Islands, or receive or have in his possession for such transmission or conveyance, any letter or printed matter or written message for any other person, and if any person contravenes this provision, he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

This regulation shall not apply to "shipowners' letters," that is to say, letters of the owners, charterers or consignees of vessels inward bound, and of the owners, consignees or shippers of goods on board those vessels, nor to any other class of letters or written messages that may be for the time being exempted by order of the Governor, but all such letters must be delivered to any officer appointed to act as a Military Censor of postal correspondence when such officer or the competent naval or military authority requires this to be done, and if any person, when so directed, fails to do so, or any person who prevents or attempts to prevent this being done, he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

Prevention of conveyance of letters etc. out of or into these Islands.

33. Any person landing or embarking in these Islands or being on board any ship in the water of these islands, or any person who by reason of his occupation or habits has special opportunities of communicating with the crews and passengers of vessels, shall, on being required to do so by any naval or military officer or any soldier or

sailor appointed for the purpose or any police or customs officer, make a declaration as to whether or not he is carrying or conveying any letters or other written messages intended to be transmitted by post or otherwise delivered to any other person, and, if so required, shall produce to such officer, soldier or sailor any such letters or messages, and any such officer, soldier or sailor may search any such person and any luggage with a view to ascertaining whether such person, or the person to whom the luggage belongs, is carrying or conveying any such letters or messages.

Any person who knowingly makes any false declaration under this regulation, or, on being required to produce any such letter or messages as aforesaid and in the manner aforesaid, refuses or neglects to do so, or in any other way contravenes this regulation, shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

The said officer, soldier or sailor will transmit any written or printed matter or messages produced to him or found on search, to an officer appointed to act as Military Censor of postal correspondence.

1919

G.N. No 91

IN exercise of the powers vested in the Governor by Her Late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October, 1896, as amended by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st March, 1916, His Excellency has been pleased to direct that Regulation No. 31a of the Malta Defence Regulations, 1916, be cancelled.

February 20, 1919.

By Command,

LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

The Palace, Valletta, W. C. F. ROBERTSON,
Lieutenant-Governor
and Chief Secretary to Government.

G.N. No 234

IN exercise of the powers conferred in the Governor by Her Late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October 1896, as amended by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st March 1916, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to direct that, with a view to ensure the public safety and the defence of these Islands, all printed matter must be submitted to the Press Censor before publication.

June 9, 1919.

G.N. No 236

IT is hereby notified for general information that Regulation No. 31 of "The Malta Defence Regulations 1916" relating to censorship, is still in operation and that the censorship of press articles and other printed or written matter dealing with politics which was withdrawn on the 3rd February, 1919, has been re-established.

Persons concerned are warned that any publication in contravention of Regulation No. 31 of The Malta Defence Regulations, 1916, shall be dealt with as an offence against those Regulations.

June 9, 1919.

IN exercise of the powers conferred on the Governor by Her Late Majesty's Order in Council of the 26th October 1896 as amended by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st March 1916, His Excellency has been pleased to make the following amendments to "The Malta Defence Regulations, 1916" to have effect as from midnight on the 15th September 1919, viz:--

1. Regulation 30 is cancelled.
2. Regulation 31 is cancelled and the following Regulation is substituted therefor, viz:--

"Until further notice no newspaper, book, pamphlet or other publication is to be published in these Islands without previous permission being obtained from the Press Censor. Communications intended for publication in the Press elsewhere than in these Islands are to be submitted to the Press Censor instead of being handed in direct to the Post Office or Telegraph administration. If approved by the Press Censor, they will be transmitted by him to the Postal or Telegraphic Authorities for despatch. Those intended for transmission by post must be stamped before submission, and those by telegraph will, if approved, be passed by the Press Censor to the Telegraphic Authorities.

"Once a message has been handed in for transmission, no alterations will be allowed to be made in it by anyone except the Censorship Staff.

"Any person who contravenes, or attempts to defeat, all or any of the provisions of this regulation, and any person who advises, or helps any other person or persons, whether in or out of these Islands, to contravene or attempt to defeat all or any of the provisions of this regulation, shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

"Any person who, without lawful authority, uses any stamp of similar pattern to that used by the Censor or by his assistants, or by his staff, and any person who uses a stamp in colourable imitation of, or purporting to be, that used by the Censor, or by his assistants or by his staff, and any person who, without lawful authority, obtains or attempts to obtain such stamp shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations."

September 11, 1919.

G.N. No 370

WITH reference to Government Notice No. 369 of the 11th September 1919, it is notified that the Office of the Press Censor has been transferred to No. 28 Strada Eritannica, Valletta (2nd floor).

Information regarding the rules to be observed in connection with the Press Censorship can be obtained on application to the Press Censor at the above address.

September 11, 1919.

1921

G.N. No 315

WHEREAS by virtue of His Majesty's Orders in Council of the 26th day of October 1896, the 28th day of August 1914 and 21st day of March 1916 or by some one or more of them, certain Regulations for securing the public safety and the Defence of Malta and the Dependencies were duly made and are now in force;

And whereas it is no longer necessary that all the said Regulations should be in force;

Notice is hereby given that the said Regulations and except those the numbers and marginal titles whereof are set out in the Schedule hereto are hereby repealed and cease to be in force on the date of this notice.

And notice is further given that one of the Regulations which continue in force has been and is amended as shown in the second column of the Schedule hereto and shall from the date of this notice be read and have effect as so amended.

SCHEDULE.

No. of Regulation.	Marginal Title and Amendments.
1.	Directions as to non-interference with persons and property.
3a.	Powers as to economising and maintaining supply of food.
3b.	Powers to require information in respect to any article of commerce.
3c.	Power to hold enquiries as to articles.
3d.	Spread of false reports as to food supplies.
20.	Landing or embarking at ports of these Islands without passport prohibited.
20a.	Measures to prevent the landing or embarking of stowaways.
20b.	Seamen's Certificate of Nationality.
25.	Prohibition against tampering with telegraphic apparatus, etc.
28.	Prohibition against possession of wireless telegraphic apparatus, etc.
41-46 inclusive.	Prohibition against manufacturing, etc., firearms, explosives, etc., without permission.—Suspicious possession of explosives, etc. Duty to register sales, etc., of explosives, etc.—Prohibition against selling etc., explosives, etc., to unauthorized persons.—Prohibition against the possession of firearms, explosives, etc.—Prohibition of importation of arms, etc.
58 A (c).	Prohibition against supplying intoxicants to members of His Majesty's or allied forces, with an amendment omitting the words "or Allied" and the words "either with or without any such intent as aforesaid"
60.	Prohibition against unauthorised use of naval, military or police uniforms, decorations, medals and badges.
62.	Damage to Government property and incitement to sedition, disaffection or treason.
63.	Obstruction of officers, etc. in performance of duties.
68-73 inclusive.	False passports, etc.—Duty to deliver passports found to the Police, etc.—Assisting prisoners of war or interned persons to escape.—Duty of compliance with orders.—Aiding and abetting, etc.—Duty of disclosing contraventions of regulations.
78-85 inclusive.	Powers of arrest and to take photographs and finger prints.—Trial of offences.—Saving of other powers.—Notices of orders.—Provisions as to permits.—Appointment of the competent naval or military authority.—Short title.—Transitory provisions.

October 25, 1921.

Christmas 1988 Issue Independence 1964 - 1989 Issue

X
Y

By J. Farrugia

Issue	X	Y
Date of Issue	5-11-88	28-1-89
Values	3c+1c, 10c+2c, 25c+3c	2c, 3c, 4c, 10c, 12c, 25c
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm	25c= 44mm x 31mm Other Values= 26.5mm x 35mm
Designer	Ray Gauci	Frank Portelli
Printers	Printex Limited	Same
Process	Lithography	Same
Perforation	14 x 13.9	25c= 13.9 x 14 Other Values= 13.5 x 13.6
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Sideways All Values
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	Same
Gum	P.V.A.	Same

Colours:

Issue X was produced, using four different colours for each value and issue Y using the same four colours for all values.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of each value, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, on all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. It is of interest to note here that the printed progressive totals of columns of stamps in the 12c value are only half of the true value. This error was noticed in Panes A, B and C of this value. These progressive totals are printed in blue in issue X and in red in issue 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 stamps are of the vertical format.

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of the 25c value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. This value is of the horizontal format. The printed Sheet of all the other values consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. All values are of the vertical format.

Plate/Pane numbers:

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. It is of interest to mention here that the first 1A (blue) in Pane A of the 25c value, of issue Y, is missing.

Issue X	3c + 1c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	10c + 2c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	25c + 3c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
Issue Y	2c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
	3c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
	4c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
	10c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
	12c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
	25c =	1A x 3, 1B x 4

Perforation of Margins:

Issue X – The left hand margin of Panes A of all values is imperforate, whilst the other three margins are fully perforated. All four margins of Panes B, of all values, are all fully perforated. Registration marks in the form of a circle in an ellipse crossed by two lines at right angles, or parts of them, were seen in the top and bottom of the left hand margin of all Panes A, and in the top of the right hand margin of all Panes B.

Issue Y – The top margin of Pane A of the 25c value is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of this Pane plus the four margins of Pane B of this value are all fully perforated. The top margins of Panes A, B and C of all other values are imperforate, whilst all other margins of these same Panes are fully perforated.

Registration marks as in issue X, were seen in the top of the left and right hand margins of Pane A and in the bottom of the left hand margin of Pane B of the 25c value. The same marks were seen in the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and in the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes C, of all other values.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as show in fig. (a) for issue X and in fig. (b) (25c value), and in fig. (c), (all other values) for issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is upright in issue X and sideways in issue Y. Perforator ran from left to right in issue X and from top to bottom in all values of issue Y.

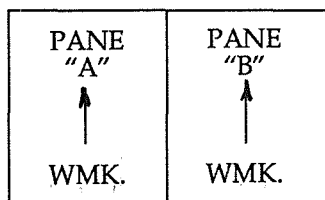


Fig (a)

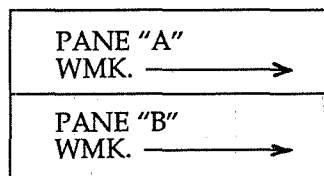


Fig (b)

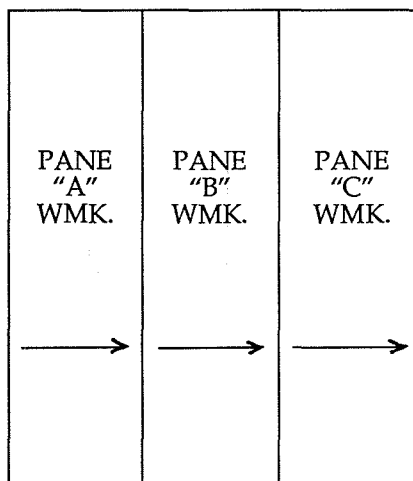


Fig (c)

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in Issues X and Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in blue in issue X and printed in red in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in issues X and Y.

Special hand postmarks were used on the first day of issue. By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm20,443 (Issue X) and Lm33,267 (Issue Y)

Stamps of these two issues were to remain for sale up to Monday, 3rd April, 1989 (Issue X) and up to Monday, 8th January, 1990 (Issue Y), unless stocks are previously exhausted.

MALTA — A DIARY

By J. Farrugia

September - December, 1988

9-9-88

In today's Govt. Gazette a call for applications was issued for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Marsalforn, Gozo. Applications were to be received up to noon of Monday, 10th October, 1988.

14-9-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Challenge of Peace — Naples — Malta — 14-21 September, 1988" was used, on and off, during the period 14th to 21st September, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

17-9-88

The "XXIV Olympiad 1988" set issued today. A special hand postmark was used on its first day of issue. (Fig.1)

19-9-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "World Maritime — Day — 22 September 1988" was used, on and off, during the period 19th - 22nd September, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

19-9-88

E.M.S. Datapost — an expedited mail service — was introduced by the Maltese Post Office on the 19th September, 1988, for the transmission of postal articles between Malta and Germany.

The main features of the E.M.S. Datapost can be seen on the date "2-5-88" of this diary.

24-9-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "World Tourism Day 27 September 1988", was used, on and off, during the period 24th to 27th September, 1988, at the Central Mail Room. The logo of the World Tourism Day is also incorporated in the slogan.

27-9-88

The P.M.G. notified that a Branch Post Office was to be opened at 467A Main Street, St. Paul's Bay at 10.00am on Tuesday, 27th September, 1988. The hours of business and the business to be transacted at this Branch Post Office shall be those laid down in the VIth Schedule to the Inland Post Regulations, 1985. With effect from the 27th September, 1988, postal articles posted in street letter-boxes in the area served by the St. Paul's Bay, Branch Post Office were to be postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed: "St. Paul's Bay — Malta". (Fig 2.)

Post Office Private Delivery Boxes are available and may be rented on application. The telephone number at this Branch Post Office is 476244.

6-10-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "World Post Day — 9 October — The Post — Always and Everywhere" was used on the 6th, 7th and 8th October, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

7-10-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Inauguration of The — IMO International — Maritime Law Institute — Malta 8 October 1988" was used on the 7th and 8th October, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

12-10-88

The P.M.G. notified that the Sub-Post Offices at "Vinvic", By the Chruuch Street, Xaghra, Gozo, and 17, December 13th Street, Nadur, Gozo, were to close down with effect from Wednesday, 12th October, 1988.

13-10-88

The P.M.G. notified that Branch Post Offices were to be opened at Racecourse Street, Xaghra, Gozo and at North Street, Nadur Gozo, on Thursday, 13th October, 1988 at 9.00am and at

10.00am respectively. The hours of business and the business to be transacted at these Branch Post Offices shall be those laid down in the VIth Schedule to the Inland Post Regulations, 1985. With effect from the 13th October, 1988, postal articles posted in street letter-boxes in the areas served by the Xaghra and Nadur Branch Post Offices were to be postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed "Xaghra — Gozo" and "Nadur - Gozo" respectively (Fig. 3, 4).

Post Office Private Delivery Boxes are available and may be rented on application. The telephone numbers of the Xaghra and Nadur Branch Post Offices are 553915 and 552385 respectively.

17-10-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Spanish — Maltese — Philatelic Exhibition — 20- 22nd October, 1988" was used, on and off, during the period 17th - 22nd October, 1988, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan also incorporates the logo of the Spanish — Maltese Cultural Circle.

18-10-88

The P.M.G. notified that a commemorative postal card was to be issued on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office at the Holland Europa 88/Filacept International Philatelic Exhibition which was held at The Hague, Holland, from the 18th to the 23rd October 1988.

The card has imprinted thereon the two stamps of the Europa 1988 postage set and an appropriate motif. The price of the card was to be 45c and it was available for sale from the G.P.O. and from all Branch and Sub-Post Offices, from the 18th to the 22nd October, 1988, unless stocks were previously exhausted. The card could have been purchased in mint condition or with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-postmark inscribed: "Post Office Malta 18-23.x.88 — Filacept Holland Europa 88" (Fig. 5). This postmark was also used at the stand of the Malta Post Office, at the Holland Europa 88/Filacept International Philatelic Exhibition. The card cancelled with the special postmark, could have been sent through the post at no extra charge provided it was posted during the period 18-23 October, 1988. Cards cancelled with the "Filacept" hand-postmark posted after the 23rd October, 1988, must have additional stamps affixed thereon to cover the required postage. Such stamps would be cancelled with the normal metal hand-postmark.

20-10-88

A special hand-postmark was used on the occasion of the Spanish-Maltese Philatelic Exhibition which was held from the 20th to the 22nd October, 1988. The postmark is inscribed as follows: "Ghaqda Kulturali — Spanjola — Maltija — Wirja Filatelika — Valletta - Malta — 20-22.x.88". The wording means: "Cultural Circle — Spanish - Maltese — Philatelic Exhibition — Valletta - Malta — 20-22.x.88" (Fig. 6).

The postmark which also incorporates the logo of the Spanish - Maltese Cultural Circle, was used on the 20th, 21st and 22nd October, 1988, at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. from 8.00am to 12.45pm and at the Central Mail Room from 8.00am to 6.00pm.

1-11-88

To mark the European Cultural Heritage Day, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jum Il-Wirt Kulturali — Ewropew — 3 Ta' Novembru 1988" was used on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd November, 1988, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan means: "Cultural Heritage Day — European — 3rd November 1988".

4-11-88

It was notified in to-day's Govt. Gazette that the current Registration Envelopes, in three different sizes, with the new emblem of the Republic of Malta affixed on the old emblem were available from the G.P.O., B.P.O.s and Sub-Post Offices.

5-11-88

The "Christmas 1988" set, issued today. A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue. (Fig. 7).

11-11-88

In to-day's Govt. Gazette the P.M.G. invites applications for the appointment of a sole agent for the promotion of sale of Malta stamps in Australia New Zealand. Applications were to be submitted by not later than 10.00am of Friday, 30th December, 1988.

14-11-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "60 Sena Mit-Twaqqif — Tax-Xirka Ta' — L-Isem Imqaddes ta' Alla — 1928-1988" was used from the 14th to the 19th November, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan means: "60th Anniversary — Of the Society of — The Holy Name of God".

21-11-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jum Dinji Ta' Ghoti — Tad-Demm — Aghti D-Demm — Aghti l-Hajja" was used from the 21st to the 25th November, 1988 at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan means: "World Day of Donation — Of Blood — Give Blood — Give Life".

21-11-88

The PMG notified that a temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the Mediterranean Conference Centre Valletta from Monday 21st November to Saturday 26th November 1988, from 8.30am to 1.30pm for the transaction of the following business:

a. Sale of stamps and postal stationery; b. Registration of Postal Articles; c. Issue and encashment of Postal Orders and Money Orders; d. Encashment of Post Cheques; e. Posting of letters and Printed Matter.

Postal articles posted at this temporary branch post office was to be postmarked by a datestamp inscribed "FIAPA – Malta '88 - Valletta" (Fig. 8)

28-11-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "World Aids Day — 1 December 1988 — Join The — World Wide Effort" was used from the 28th November to the 1st December, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

1-12-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Ghinu T-Tfal Fil-Bzonn — Uzaw il-Bolli Tal-Milied" was used, on and off, during the period 1st December to 24th December, 1988, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan means: "Help Children in Need — Use Christmas Issue Stamps". A line drawing of a Christmas motif is also incorporated in the slogan.

1-12-88

The PMG notified that E.M.S. Datapost started operating to and from Italy and Ireland with effect from 1st December, 1988.

5-12-88

The P.M.G. notified that registration envelopes in three different sizes – 'G' (small), 'H' (medium) and 'K' (large) bearing the new emblem of the Republic of Malta and with the old emblem obliterated were available for sale at the G.P.O., B.P.O.s and Sub-Post Offices as from Monday, 5th December, 1988.

15-12-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "35th London International Boat Show 5-15.1.89" was used, on and off, during the period 15th December, 1988 to 15th January, 1989, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan also incorporates a motif relating to the central theme at the 35th London International Boat Show.

16-12-88

In to-day's Govt. Gazette a call for applications was issued for Sub-Postmasters at Siggiewi and Mgarr, Malta. Applications were to be received by noon of Monday, 16th January, 1989.

26-12-88

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "1 Jan '89 — Jum Il-Paci — Peace Lab Malta" was used, on and off, from the 26th to the 31st December, 1983, at the Central Mail Room.



Fig. 1

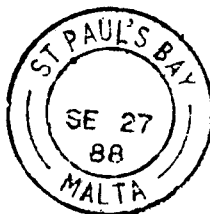


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

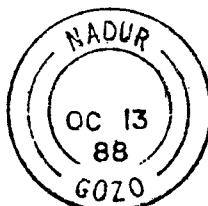


Fig. 4

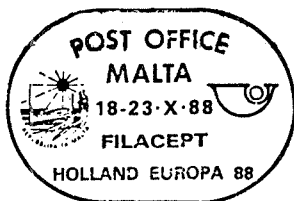


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

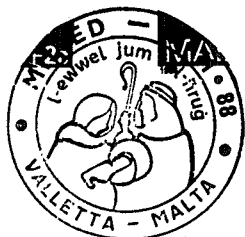


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

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July 1987



During its 14 years of flying life, AirMalta has been a major contributor to the development of the Maltese economy, providing direct scheduled links with London, Rome, Catania, Frankfurt, Munich, Amsterdam, Zurich, Paris, Lyons, Cairo and Tripoli, apart from other numerous European airports served on charter basis.

AirMalta operates a fleet of 9 Boeing aircraft.
An Airbus 320 will join the fleet in mid-1990.

In conjunction with its subsidiary and associated companies, AirMalta takes pride in being one of the major employers on the island.

Pre-tax profits for fiscal year 1986/87 totalled Lm3.56 million (U.S. \$10,146,000), as a result of which the company's reserves increased by 42.6 percent over the previous year.

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EUROPA 1989



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