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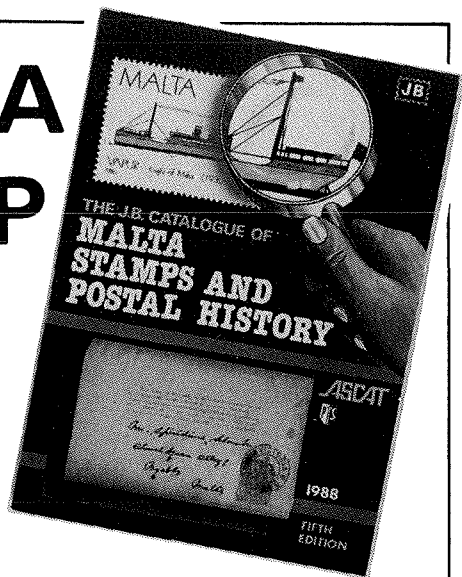
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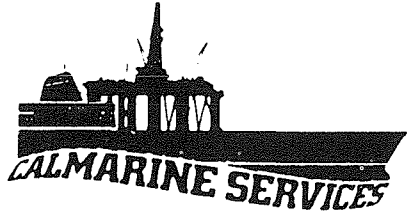
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# THE PSM MAGAZINE



Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84 & AUSIPEX '84  
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*Dr. John Mercieca, D.D.S., D.Sc. (Honoris Causa)*

## **Dr. JOHN H. MERCIECA D.Sc.(Honoris Causa), D.D.S.**

Born in Floriana, Dr. John H. Mercieca received his secondary education at the Lyceum, from where he matriculated in 1930 as a student of the University and in 1937 graduated as one of the seven students who had completed the First Course of Dental Surgery every held at the University of Malta, being placed first in order of merit.

After a period of housemanship at the Government Dental Clinic attached to the Council Civil Hospital, Dr. Mercieca set himself in private practice, but, in 1940, at the outbreak of hostilities in Malta, he volunteered to take charge of the Dental Clinic set up in the Attard-Lija-Balzan district, to care for the needs of the hundreds of refugees who had flocked to the centre of the island, from the Cottonera and outlying districts, which post he held until June 1941 when he joined the Army Dental Corps in the rank of Lieutenant. A year later he was promoted to the rank of Captain and was attached to the 161 Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. Early in 1942 he underwent a Course in General Anaesthesia, under the Senior Anaesthetist Major Buckley at the 90 General Hospital (Mtarfa) where he served for nearly a year. In 1946 he was demobilised, when his age group was due, going back to the private practice of his profession.

In 1938, Dr. Mercieca was appointed Examiner in Oral Medicine and Surgery at the University of Malta, in which post he uninterruptedly served for 40 successive years up to 1978, when he retired at his own request.

Between 1942 and 1945 he was elected as one of the two representatives in the interests of the Dental Profession, on the Faculty Board of Medicine and Surgery and in 1945 was elected a Member of the Special Board of Dental Surgery. In 1954, when the Faculty of Dental Surgery was for the first time, created at the University, Dr. Mercieca was elected a member and continued to be regularly elected up to 1978.

From 1944 to 1959, Dr. Mercieca was yearly elected a Member of the Medical Board at the Department of Health and in 1959, when the Medical Council was created, he was elected a Member and has ever since been re-elected every three years to the present day. From 1968 to 1977, when it stopped functioning, Dr. Mercieca was also elected, every 3 years, as a Member of the Advisory and Executive Board at the Department of Health.

Dr. Mercieca is a Founder Member of the Dental Association of Malta, which was set up in 1944, having served as its Secretary for 13 years, between 1948 and 1961. In 1949 he represented the Association at the Annual Meeting of the British Dental Association, held at Scarborough as an official representative. In 1961, following the retirement of the late Prof. E. Lapira, he was elected President, to which office he was regularly, re-elected biennially up to 1981, when the Council of the Dental Association of Malta elected him Honorary Life President to serve with full voting powers on the Council. Between 1951 and 1960 Dr. Mercieca held the post of National Treasurer of the Federation Dentaire Internationale.

Dr. Mercieca was a Founder Member of the Malta Federation of Professional Bodies, serving for a number of years as a Member of the Council and in the office of Vice-President in 1980 – 81.

Having always had Philately so much to his heart since his early boy-hood days and having belonged to two previous Philatelic Societies, which had a very short span of life, naturally enough, Dr. Mercieca, has taken and is still taking a keen interest in the continued active and healthy state of this present Malta Philatelic Society, founded in 1966, and of which he is a Founder Member and its President for 17 consecutive years since 1971. He is also a Member of the Malta Study Circle of London.

In 1958, Dr. Mercieca, was appointed a Member of the Stamp Design Advisory Board at the Department of Posts, on which he regularly served up to 1973. In 1987 he was again re-appointed and is still serving.

Dr. Mercieca is highly interested in and is a keen student of foreign languages and apart from his national tongue and English, he speaks fluently Italian, French and German and has a good working knowledge of the Spanish and Russian languages, which he can also read and write. When in 1962 the German-Maltese Circle was founded he was one of its Founder Members and between 1967 and 1970 its Vice-President.

On the occasion of the joint celebrations held by the University of Malta and the Dental Association of Malta, between the 6th and the 11th October 1987, to commemorate the Graduation of the seven students in the First Course of Dental Surgery 1937, the Council of The University of Malta approved the resolution passed by the Senate recommending that the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) be conferred on Dr. John H. Mercieca and ordered that this distinction be conferred on him, on 10th October 1987 during the Fiftieth Anniversary of the first graduates in the Course of Dental Surgery 1937.

Our Philatelic Society extends to Dr. J.H. Mercieca our warmest congratulations.

# Disinfection

Part 12

by Dr. A. Bonnici

Diary of the Plague Epidemic of 1813; continuation.



## NOTIFICAZIONE.

**L** Rapporto Medico Civile, Militare, e di Marina fatto in questa giornata è stato favorevole per non essere accaduto alcun caso in tutta la popolazione dell'Isola che merita essere rimarcato.

Il Ragazzo Borg annunciato jeri, continua col suo incomodo, e dipiù gli si compare oggi il segno pestilenziale nell'Inguine destro. Il resto della famiglia, e li due Greci stanno bene.

Grasia figlia di Gio: Battista Piseoi Sagrestano della Chiesa di San Rocco dell'età di anni 18, già trasportata sin dagli 8 corrente in Forte Manuel unitamente all'intera sua famiglia consistente in 8 persone, per essersi allora trovata alquanto febbricitante: in oggi porta un'alterazione nel sistema glandolare di una natura prava; la medesima si lea avere comunicazione, e pernottare in casa di Maria Agius morta li 6 corrente.

Giovanni Haiman seguita sempre nella sua fissazione, e non dà verun segno sospettoso.

Paolo Rocchi annunciato jeri continua nella sua indisposizione, ed essendosi osservato, non dà alcun segno sospettoso.

Il Comitato si fa carico dell'importante oggetto che lo riguarda, insiste al Pubblico, acciò continua le precauzioni, mentre si tratta di un morbo di maligno carattere, e che è molto insidioso, e compareisce quando meno si aspetta.

Malta, Comitato di Salute, 15 Maggio 1813:

J. THOMAS, Presidente.

J. GASTA MILLER Seg.<sup>o</sup>





**S**UA ECCELLENZA il Regio Civile Commissionario ad oggetto che coll' esecuzione ( la quale gli è sommamente a cuore ) delle misure di precauzione suggerite dal Comitato di Salute si ottenga il bramato intento, senza che ne risultino altre inconvenienze, ha ordinate, ed ordina quanto segue.

1. Che niuno ardisca buttare o riporre immondezze innanzi alle porte, o case altrui, e nemmeno ne' cantoni de' diversi quartieri, di questa Città sotto la pena d'once otto da cedere in quanto alla metà in vantaggio di chi animato dal dovuto zelo pel pubblico ben generale metterà in chiaro la contravvenzione ancorchè sarà Ufficiale della Polizia, o delle Corti di Giustizia.

2. Che neppure innanzi alla propria Porta, o Casa si possa da alcuno buttar nelle pubbliche strade letame, straccj, erbe, acqua sporca od alcun' altra sorta d'immondezza, ma chi per difetto di altri mezzi è stato nella necessità di ciò praticare per lo passato affie di far regnare nelle proprie stanze la possibile pulitezza, debba ooniamente le acque sporche buttarle nelle cloache, e le altre immondezze farle giornalmente cogliere in una cuffa, che farà riporre vicino alla sua porta della strada dalla parte di dentro acciocchè passando i carri che saranno a ciò destinati, e che avvertiranno del loro passaggio col suono del Campanello, di cui anderan fermati, possano alla richiesta de' rispettivi abitanti vuotar nelle case l'immondezza, che troverassi come sopra raccolta, restituendone tosto le cuffe sudette; e chi contraverà alla disposizione contenuta nel presente articolo pagherà toties quoties la multa d'once quattro che cederà per metà a chi metterà in chiaro la contravvenzione nella maniera sopradetta.

3. Che qualunque abitante s'intenda avere sotto la sua particolare protezione la pulitezza di quella parte di strada, che è d'innanzi alla sua Casa fino alla metà della stessa Strada, e possa insistere presso alla Polizia acciocchè i vicini sieno non solamente impediti dal fare cosa alcuna tendente al pregiudizio di tale pulitezza, ma pur costretti a fare tutto ciò che vaglia a contribuire al mantenimento della medesima, alla qual cosa gli abitanti delle Parti inferiori delle Case saranno certamente instruiti dall'esempio degli abitanti delle Parti Superiori e principali delle medesime. E qui Sua Eccellenza in vece d'imporre per chi trascura un dovere tanto intimamente connesso colla salute pubblica, alcuna speciale pena, la quale potrà sempre per altro ne' rispettivi casi essere arbitrata dal Magistrato di Polizia, si contenta di rammentare, che la cooperazione soltanto di tutti gli abitanti può e deve assicurare il pieno adempimento di così salutare misura, e l'ottenimento del bene che deve ooniamamente risultarne.

Segreteria del Governo 15 Maggio 1813.

D' Ordine di S. E. il Regio Civile Commissionario

F. LAING  
Segretario, Pubblico,



**SUA ECCELLENZA** il Regio Civile Commissario conoscendo essere parte essenziale della sua maggiore vigilanza alla felicità di questa Popolazione l'istruire ciascun individuo di tutto ciò che può condurre a tener lontano il terribile flagello di cui è minacciata quest'Isola e dei mezzi di estinguere ogni suo germe, qualora (che Iddio noi voglia) fosse introdotto, ha creduto essere utile pubblicare le seguenti osservazioni fatte in occasione dell'ultimo contagio di Messina, acciò ogni individuo conosca le fatali conseguenze che possono derivare, o da un'anticipata confidenza della cessazione di questo morbo pestifero, o dall'abbandontare la peste, la quale infelicemente è di già comparsa tra di noi. Quantunque il progresso della stessa sia forse arrestato, è necessario continuare ancora nell'osservanza delle prescritte restrizioni prima che si possa assicurare essere noi esenti e salvi da una sì orrida infermità.

**A** di 30. Maggio, 1743. giorno del parto di Messina una *Tartana Genovese*, con bandiera napoletana, comandata da un padrone Genovese, ebbero Giandom. Rozzo, quantunque quando si mise sotto la protezione napoletana, egi avesse preso il nome di Aniello Bara. Il carico consisteva in lana, grano, tabacco, ed in alcune pezze di tela, caricate da vari porti della Marea che a quell'epoca erano infetti, o che erano state qualche tempo prima infetti di peste. Il padrone prevedendo che non sarebbe stato ammesso in Messina, se direttamente dalla Marea si fosse il portato; profondamente toccò a Missilugli nel golfo di Lepanto, dirimpetto Cefalonia, e là per alcune pezze di tela, caricate da vari porti della Marea che a quell'epoca erano infetti, o che erano state qualche tempo prima infetti di peste. Il padrone prevedendo che non sarebbe stato ammesso in Messina, se direttamente dalla Marea si fosse il portato; profondamente toccò a Missilugli nel golfo di Lepanto, dirimpetto Cefalonia, e là per alcune pezze di tela, caricate da vari porti della Marea che a quell'epoca erano infette della Marea, e d'eseguirlo morto uno o due dei suoi marinari a bordo, dalla peste. Ed ad ammenerlo il bastimento alla quarantena in Lazzaretto, dove colle solite formalità, egli incominciò a depositare la lana, ed il grano. Tuttavia secondo tutte le umane apparenze, l'infezione non sarebbe mai stata introdotta nella città, se ciò non fosse stato effettuato per mezzo di un pescatore, il quale in processo di tempo essendo vicino a morire disseposse il fatale secreto. Questi confessò che subito dopo l'arrivo del padrone egli trovò mezzo di avere da lui in tempo di notte alcune balle di Tabacco, coperte con casavaccio infetto, ed alcuni pezzi di tela, che egli di soppiatto trasportò nella sua casa, in una parte della città chiamata *Pizzillari*, dove poi fatto la malattia da prima apparve. Per tal modo il trasportarsi a terra quegli oggetti infetti fu causa di tutte quelle conseguenze fatali che avremmo. Io fo menzione di tanto in giustificazione dei magistrati che presero, in vero, tutte le misure più vigorose e prudenti nel Lazzaretto per la preservazione della salute pubblica; ed i quali in adempimento del loro Ufficio, in seguito coraggiosamente sacrificarono la loro vita, dedicandosi in certo modo, ad una morte evidente, ma egliano furono traditi dalle loro guardie adiacenti, nelle quali com'erano.

La morte del padrone succeduta nell'04 di Marzo, diede il primo allarme, ma essendo seguita il 27 da una di quei marittimi con tutti i sintomi di un male pestifero, la contenzione divenne generale. Sopra di che, in un Consiglio pubblico, si determinò che le mercanzie sbarcate nel lazzeretto, insieme col bastimento fossero immediatamente abbruciate, e che il restante dell'equipaggio fosse riunito nel luogo più proprio del lazzeretto, sotto una forte guardia. Tutto questo fu puntualmente eseguito, e colle più rigorose precauzioni, coll'intervento della principale nobiltà.

Queste misure molto contribuirono a calmare le menti e le apprensioni del popolo. E siccome il rimanesse dell'equipaggio continuava a godere perfetta salute, la tranquillità divenne tosto generale; e la sicurezza comune fu sì grande che dopo essere spirati il 30 giorni, l'Arcivescovo stabilì il dì 14 Maggio per cantare un *Te Deum* nella cattedrale, in ringraziamento della felice liberazione, dal più terribile dei giustizi divini. Ma non era appena la chiesa ripiena di devoti, non erano appena i Senatori arrivati alle loro sedie, che un Medico si accese a loro colla terribile notizia che alcuni de' suoi ammalati avevano manifesti sintomi molto rassomiglianti alla peste; avvertendoli di porre immediatamente sotto custodia ciascuno, finchè egli non si fosse convinto che le sue apprensioni erano mal fondate. Essendosi sparsa questa voce per tutta la Chiesa, si grande fu l'infestazione del popolo sotto il Medico, che con gran difficoltà potè questi salvarsi ed andar a ricoverarsi in un convento.

Però troppo presto, si vide chiaramente che questo Medico aveva detta la verità. Egli continuò ad affermare contro l'opinione del rimanente corpo de' Medici, li quali erano di sentimenti contrari, e per fatti troppo ostinatamente in quelli si mantenevano. Per tal modo il male, che aveva incominciato a quel tempo, a manifestarsi si manteneva. Fu considerato solamente come epidemico, e come prodotto dall'interpeccato dell'aria, la quale in realtà aveva cagionato certe epidemie ed anche casi mortali durante l'inverno precedente, in molte parti dell'Italia e della Sicilia. Questa circostanza, unita al naturale amore di quei medici verso la loro patria, all'orrore che loro proveniva dal solo nome di peste, alla buona opinione che egli manteneva del loro Lazzaretto, e dalle onorabili procedure del loro magistrato, contribuì a fortificarli nella loro prima opinione essere quella solamente una malattia comune: e tanto più si confermarono nella loro opinione quanto che per molti giorni, non si accorse esservi contagiosa l'infermità a quelli che curavano gli ammalati, o nella loro propria casa o negli Spediali; e più ancora poiché le donne erano in qualche maniera, sole attaccate.

Queste circostanze insieme unite crebbero a stabilire quella falsa ed erronea opinione. E per fatto sarebbe prevedibile in qualche maniera plausibile, qualora poco tempo prima, non si fosse accettata l'esistenza della peste nel loro Lazzaretto si vicino alla città, circostanza la quale sola doveva essere sufficiente a convincerli che la malattia era veramente peste. In conseguenza sembra molto difficile a concepirsi, come abbia potuto prevalere una sì generale falsa persuasione, non essere il morbo pestiferato. I Messinesi però sensibili del giudizio del ciclo contro di loro, tentarono di placare l'ira Divina, con religiose esortazioni, e col far comuni processioni per vari giorni insieme, alle quali tutte le classi del popolo assistettero, e particolarmente, come era molto naturale, quelli che erano infermi. Per le quali cose, si veleno che da principio era cresciuto tanto male, non solamente aggiunse forza per questo continue commercio, ma si dilatò per ogni angolo della città, finchè a che tompo come una contagione generale di materie combustibili e di fuoco devastatore.

Nell'15 all'11 di Maggio, e si a 490 persone del più basso rango, assistevano Medici, che furono tutti uccisi dal similia della malattia fatale sotto perseguitare della loro istruzione, e ad un tale grado, che in un Consiglio tenuto al Palazzo del Governatore il 21 Maggio, non meno di 25 medici fecero una formale dichiarazione, che quella infermità non era peste. Per tal principio si frugò, la mortalità essendo accresciuta a più di 100 persone al giorno, il Governatore si determinò di prendere quelle medesime precauzioni che sono state osservate tutti tempi della peste, ed in conseguenza alcuni pubblici proclami per regolamento, si pubblicarono necessariamente; quando un terrore presto preso tutto ad una volta il popolo, e si uccise un gran numero abbattono, eccetto dal venato e dai Magistrati di Spediali. I quali si mant, loro certo nel loro dolore, e solamente un numero di ogni maggior sopravvenne.

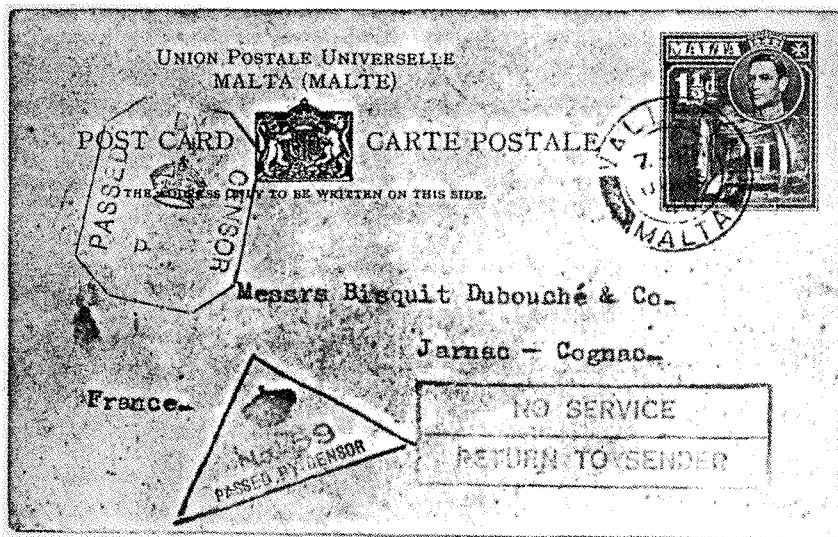
La fatale mortalità non cessò che circa venti giorni, cioè dall'12 di Giugno fino al principio di Luglio, quando questa cessò in certa maniera tutto ad una volta; cessando pubblicamente dal non esservi più veduto più materia da leggersi; poiché a quel tempo non rimaneva che quelli che si erano diligentemente chiusi nelle case, e quelli che si erano dalla malattia istantaneamente. Quando, essendo insufficienti a fare fuoco per il campo morto, si uccise tutto che rimase fu quello di abbruciarli. Alla fine di Giugno, il Governatore permise a circa 100 soldati, coperti con cannaeci impeciati, ed armati di lunghi pali con uncini di ferro di andare insieme li corpi morti, tanto quelli che erano nelle strade come quelli che erano rimasti nelle loro case. Ciò fatto, in varie parti della città furono abbruciate condole, umioni e donne, ricchi e poveri: Operazione che per vari giorni successivi cagionò una fetore che non si potrebbe descrivere, né concepire.

Ogni uomo il quale è informato dell'Istoria di Malta si è certo che la peste si è sviluppata in questa Isola per ben quattro volte dal 1519, fino al 1775. Nel leggere gli storici di Malta, si in questa Isola per ben quattro volte questa infermità, ogni uno resta convinto che il beneficio e la sicurezza comune derivò dall'anticipare i ripari e le precauzioni, e la rovina pubblica da una falsa confidenza, e dal procrastinare nei necessari rimedi.

Questa estratta questa narrativa da un celebre scrittore sulla peste, che trascrisse le medesime parole da un testimone oculare del fatto che descrive.

# History in a Postcard

by Dr. Giovanni Bonello



On June 8, 1940, a Maltese businessman addressed a postcard to Messrs Bisquit Dubouche, the world famous producers of Bisquit Cognac in the French region from which that brandy takes its name.

That postcard never reached its destination.

Many things were then happening in Europe. Two days before, Hitler had launched his second major offensive against France. The Nazi armies were over-running, with lightning speed, the South-East of France, bypassing the Maginot line close to the Swiss border. The German arm entered Paris on June 14.

Only two days after the card was posted, Italy declared war on the Allies. Malta found itself in the thick of the Second World War. The postcard to the Cognac producers was returned undelivered to the sender with a handstamp, which, as far as I am aware, has not yet been recorded: NO SERVICE/RETURN TO SENDER. Malta had suspended Air Mail service to Italy that very same day.

The postcard bears another cachet which, I believe is also unrecorded: an octagonal censorship handstamp similar to CS-OC, but with the inscription PASSED BY CENSOR running inside the margin, instead of the usual PASSED in the centre of the cachet.

*Details:* On a King George VI 1½d postal card (type 11) dated and post-marked June 8, 1940:

- 1) Rectangular cachet 59×17mm in violet: NO SERVICE/RETURN TO SENDER on two lines;
- 2) Triangular censorship cachet CS-T2 No. 59 PASSED BY CENSOR in violet;
- 3) Octagonal cachet 34×27mm, PASSED BY CENSOR, with royal crown and P, in blue.

# Finding a Treasure Trove of Information

by Paul and Barbara Kayfetz

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## INTRODUCTION

Many philatelists, the authors included, spend countless hours indirectly piecing together bits of information about the printing plates and processes which were used for various stamp issues. The process is painstaking and slow. It involves the assembly of stamps into larger units which, along with marginal bits, allow inferences to be drawn about the plates. Sometimes preparatory items, such as essays, die proofs, colour trials, plate proofs, or printer's record items provide additional clues. Those of us who savour digging into dusty archives find correspondence and invoices which provide additional data.

The results of this indirect research, when compiled in one work, can be impressive. The *Malta Study Circle Handbook* is an example. It is considered a model of philatelic writing regarding a single country.

## BACKGROUND

The authors, luckily, have been afforded the chance-of-a-lifetime opportunity to explore an original resource. This was a storage attic containing most of the printing plates, artists' original engraved dies, and transfer rollers for the Malta stamps printed between 1899 and 1937.

During a stay in Malta in 1985 the authors investigated a sentence in the *Handbook* mentioning that the printing plate for one of the Melita stamps was in the possession of the Malta National Museum.

## Initial Visit

Malta Study Circle members Frank Gray steered us to the Malta Archeological Museum in Valletta. This museum occupies the magnificent old Auberge de Provence of the Knights of Malta. There the Director of Museums, Father Marius J. Zerafa, confirmed that there were several boxes "of old copper plates" in a storage attic. Unfortunately, the attic was not accessible because the key was no longer available.

Father Zerafa was most cordial. We discussed his pleasant visit as a student to our home area of San Francisco. We explained the potential significance of original printing plates to the philatelic world. Father Zerafa consented to one of his art restorer's forcing the attic door lock for us.

We ducked through the curved doorway, wound up four turns in a pitch-dark, cramped circular staircase, went through another locked door, and entered a dark storeroom. Opening wooden shutters in the two-foot thick walls revealed a storeroom lined with pottery and artifact-filled wooden shelves. In one corner were sixteen boxes filled with philatelic hardware.



*Paul at work*

## Interim Efforts

We sent copies of our hurried photos to Frank Gray in London for him to share with members of the Malta Study Circle. During the next two years we urged local philatelists in Malta to examine and "write up" the material in the attic. Dr. Alfred Bonnici did not receive any response to his written inquiries to the government minister then-in-charge.

We then initiated our own arrangements to spend two weeks in Malta, with large-format photographic equipment, to systematically record and describe the items in the attic. Father Zerafa was extremely accommodating; Dr. Bonnici provided advice and encouragement.

Enroute to Malta we met with Mr. Robson Lowe in London. He spent considerable time providing advice, some obtained directly from technical people at De La Rue regarding the proper handling and cleaning of printing plates and dies.

## Second Visit

When we arrived in Malta Father Zerafa provided full and gracious cooperation. The lock at the bottom of the stairs was again forced. We were offered working space in the Directors' Conference Room, but decided to do the photography and measuring in the storage attic by window light. This avoided carrying of hundreds of pounds of delicate plates up and down several sets of stairs.

Seven days were spent organizing, logging, cleaning, photographing, measuring and describing the materials. Dr. Bonnici provided hospitality, encouragement and information. Mr. Godwin Said provided daily encouragement, good coffee, information, and assistance in contacting members of the postal administration.

All philatelic items in the attic were listed and photographed. The description that follows is an attempt to share the information gleaned. Not all of the photographs are reproduced here. Any needed by philatelists will be made available at cost upon request.

The opportunity to examine the actual printing plates and dies allowed information to be obtained which is impossible to glean from the normal philatelic study of the printed stamps. Where such information supplements that contained in the *Malta Study Circle Handbook*, it is set out in italics in the following section.

## DETAILS OF PLATES AND RELATED PREPARATORY ITEMS

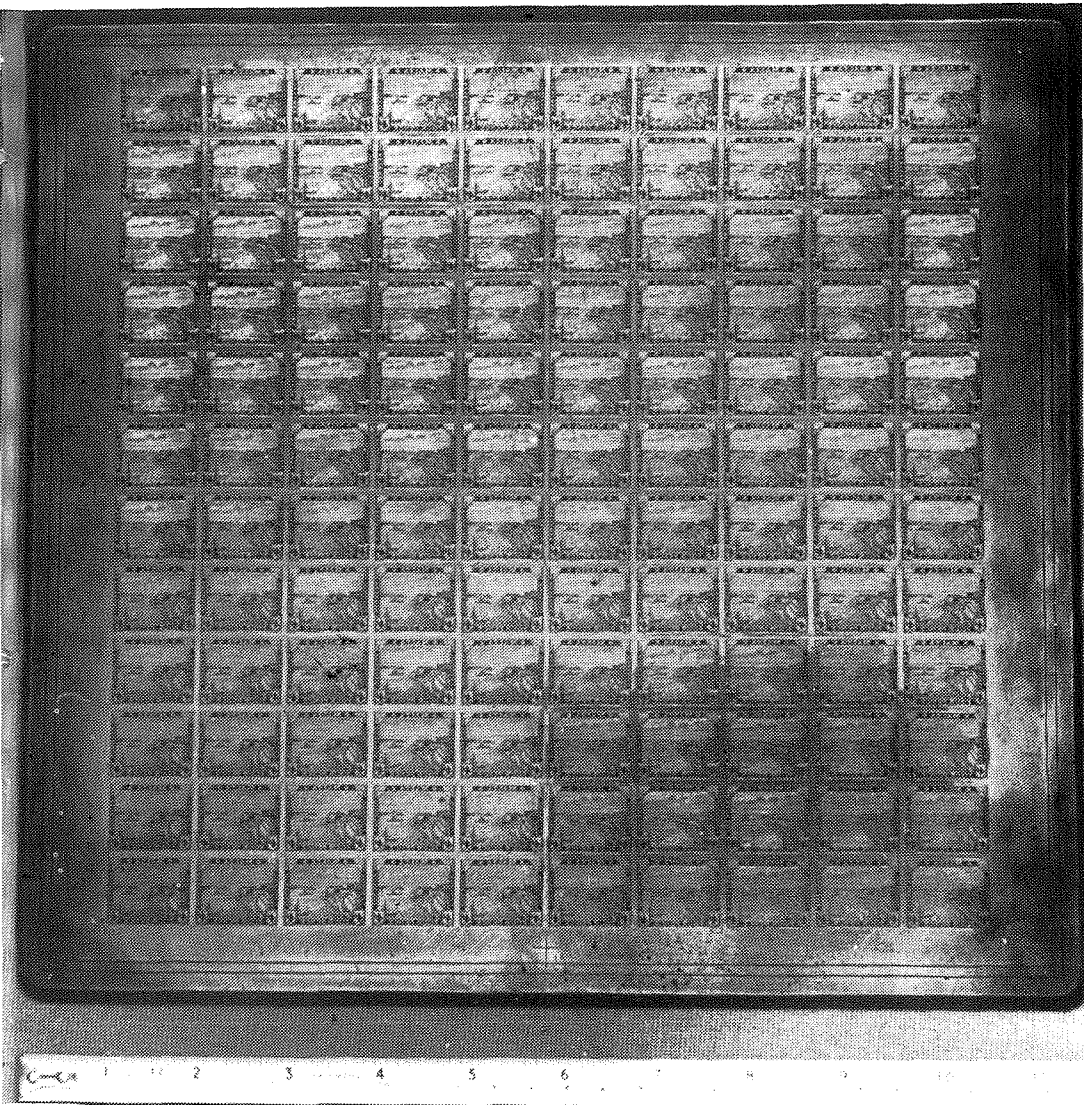
Printing plates contain an image which is reversed left-to-right from the finished sheet of stamps. All descriptions of positions and measurements herein are in terms of the printed sheets rather than the plates.



*Barbara at work*

## THE 1899 – 1922 PICTORIALS

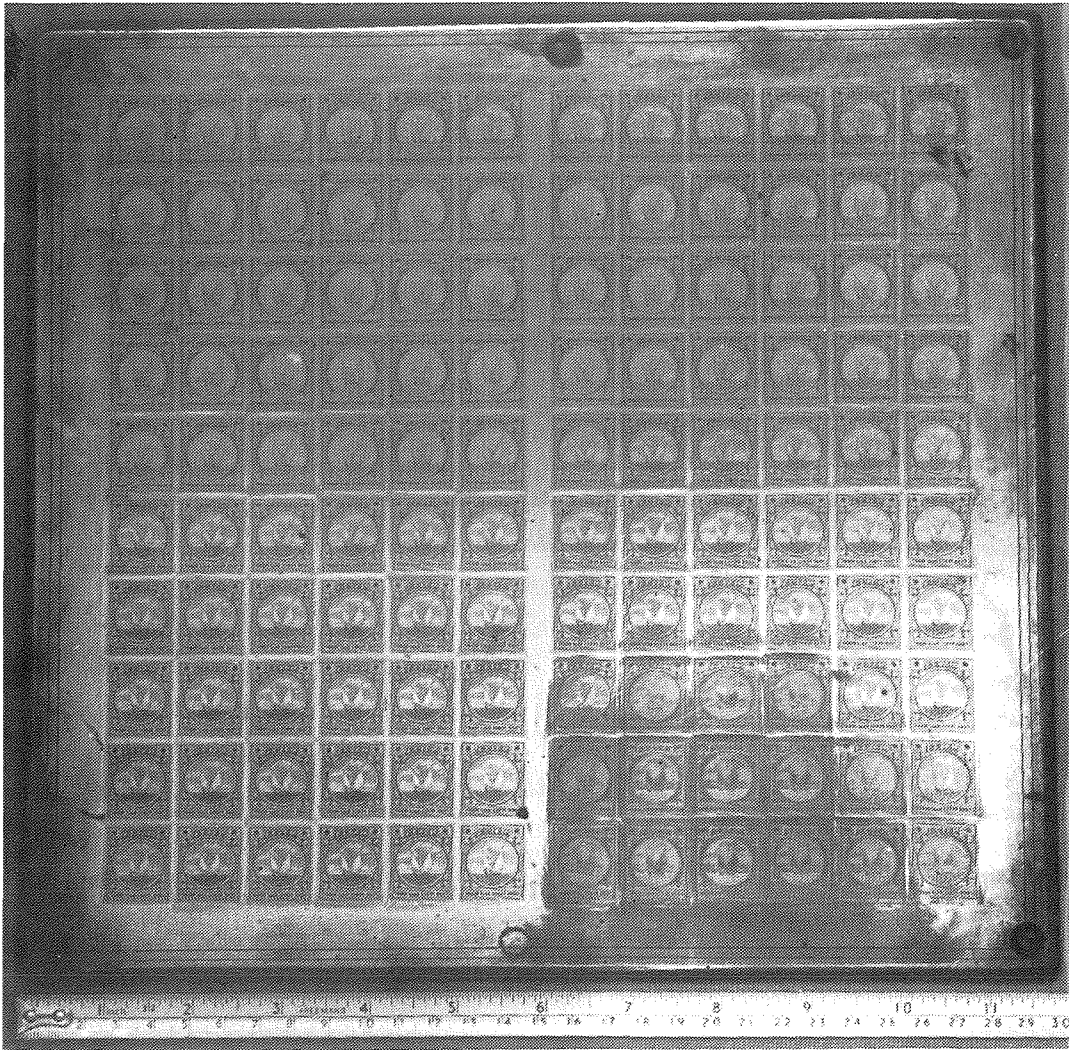
Each of these plates contains the entire design since the stamps were printed in one color. They are of the recess (also termed engraved or intaglio) method, in which ink is pressed into grooves of varying depths. The ink is wiped off the surface and moist paper pressed against the plate. Each is described below.



4d (Photo No. 1) – The tagboard cover sheet for this plate is labeled: “Malta/4d/120 set/Single Working”. The plate consists of a single sheet of 120 stamps in 12 horizontal rows of 10 stamps each. There is no separation into panes.

The plate is steel which has been coated with copper. The plate is 5mm thick, 295mm wide, and 287mm high. The corners are rounded with an approximate radius of 5mm and the edges on the face side of the plate are uniformly, smoothly rounded.

Two continuous lines 3mm apart surround the sheet. The distance from the nearest of these to the stamp image is 7mm at the top, 15.5mm at the sides, and 10mm at the bottom. There are registration crosses at the mid-points of top,





bottom and sides with the crossbar 6mm from the stamp image. The upright portion of the registration cross overlaps the continuous border lines at the top and crosses the inner border line at the bottom of the sheet.

*The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 133 states that this issue was presumably printed in two panes of sixty stamps, one pane above the other. The plate, however, contains an unbroken sheet of 120 stamps rather than two panes of sixty.*

4-½d (Photo No. 2) – The coverboard for this plate has noted on it in blue crayon: “Malta/4-½d/120 Set”. The plate contains two panes of 60 stamps each, side-by-side, each pane containing 10 rows of 6 stamps.

The plate is of copper-coated steel similar to the 4d plate. However, the thickness and dimensions are different. The thickness is 2.5mm; the width is 300mm and the height 290mm. The corners are rounded and the edges bevelled similarly to the 4d plate.

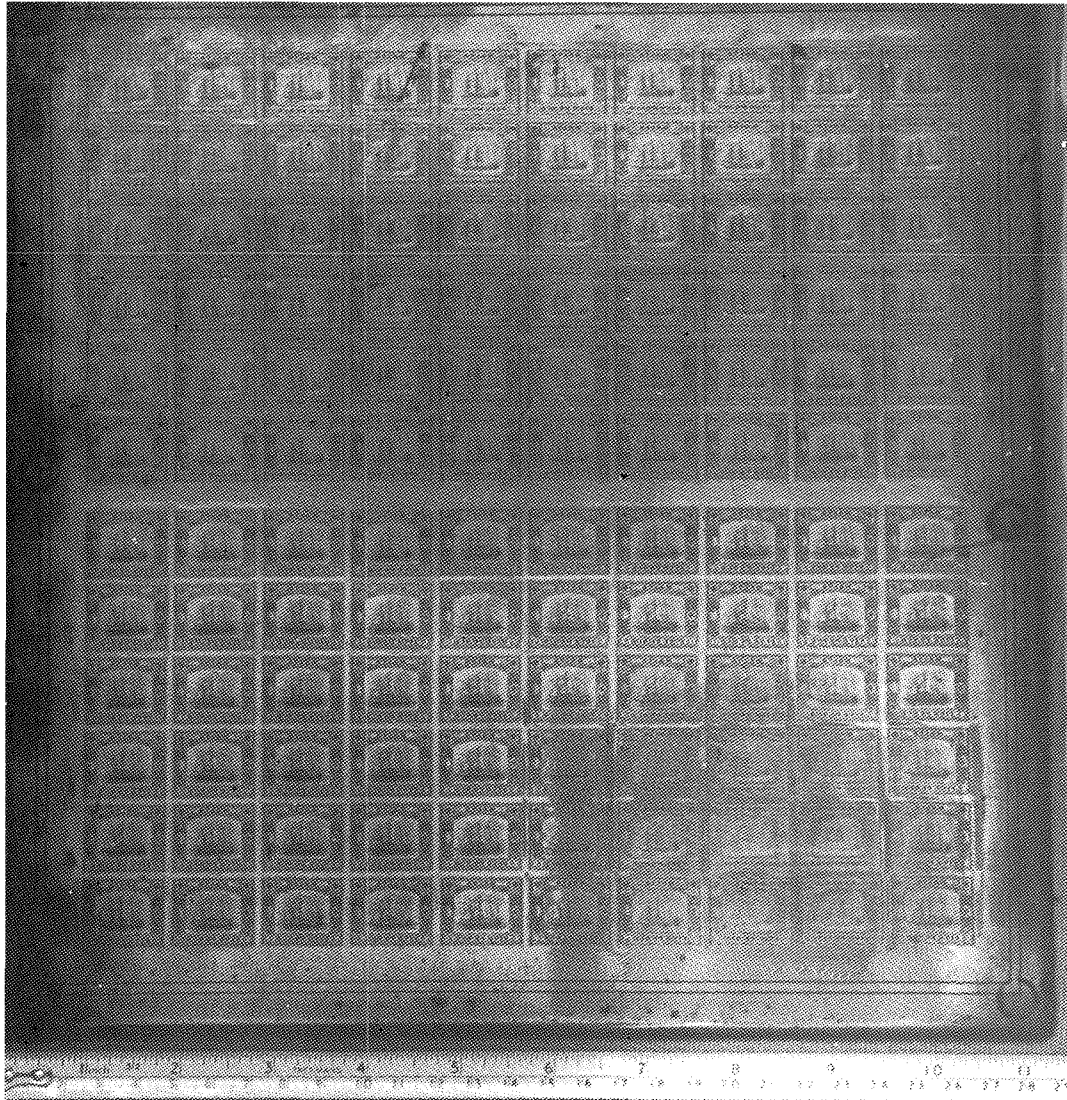
There is a continuous double rule 3mm apart around the sheet of two panes. The distance between the image and the nearest rule is 14mm on all sides. The width of the vertical gutter between the panes is 8mm.

There is a single registration T in the top margin located above the first stamp in the right-hand pane. The T is inverted with the horizontal bar 6mm above this stamp and with the vertical stem of the inverted T 5mm to the right of an imaginary extension of the left-hand edge of this stamp. Similar registration marks are at the mid-point down the outer sides of each pane with the horizontal bar also 6mm from the image of the stamps. At the bottom there is a single registration T in a position below the first stamp in the bottom row of the right-hand pane with spacing corresponding to that of the mark in the top margin.

*The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 134 discusses “signs of a rivet” in the extreme left-hand corner of a block of this issue. There are no rivets or holes for rivets. Rather, there are three circles, each 8mm in diameter, that appear in both the top and bottom margins of this plate. These appear to be from holes that were bored in the original steel plate, and then filled with some material before the plate was given its final smoothing. The plugs appear to be of steel of the same type as the plate itself. The copper coating on the steel appears to have been applied after these plugs were inserted and smoothed along with the plate. The plugs can be seen because of a hairline crack in the copper plating which has developed corrosion. The plug near the upper left corner is centered 14mm to the left of the upper left-hand stamp on the sheet of 12mm above the top of this stamp. It overlaps the corner of the continuous pair of border lines. The center plug in the top margin is the same distance above the top row of stamps and is above the right-hand upper corner stamp in the left-hand pane with its center 4mm in from the right-hand edge of that stamp. The upper right-hand plug is in a position which corresponds to that of the upper left-hand plug. In the bottom margin, the two corner plugs are in positions that correspond to those in the top margin. The center plug in the bottom margin is below the first stamp in the bottom row of the right-hand pane at the same distance below the stamp as the other plugs and with its center 4mm to the right of the left-hand edge of that stamp.*

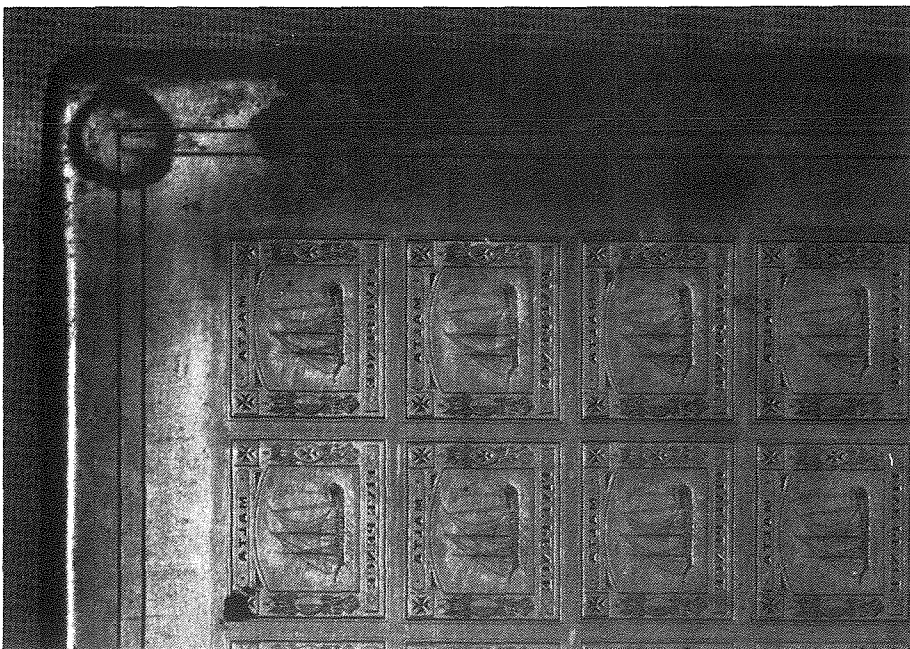
5d (Photo No. 3) – This plate is identical in nature and dimensions to the 4-½d plate described above.

However, since this design has a horizontal format whereas the 4-½d is vertical the layout results in two panes of 60, with one above the other, each consisting of six rows of 10 stamps. When the plate is rotated 90-degrees (to the same orientation as the 4-½d plate) there are plugs in the same positions. However, in relation to the design of the 5d, these are now in the side margins.



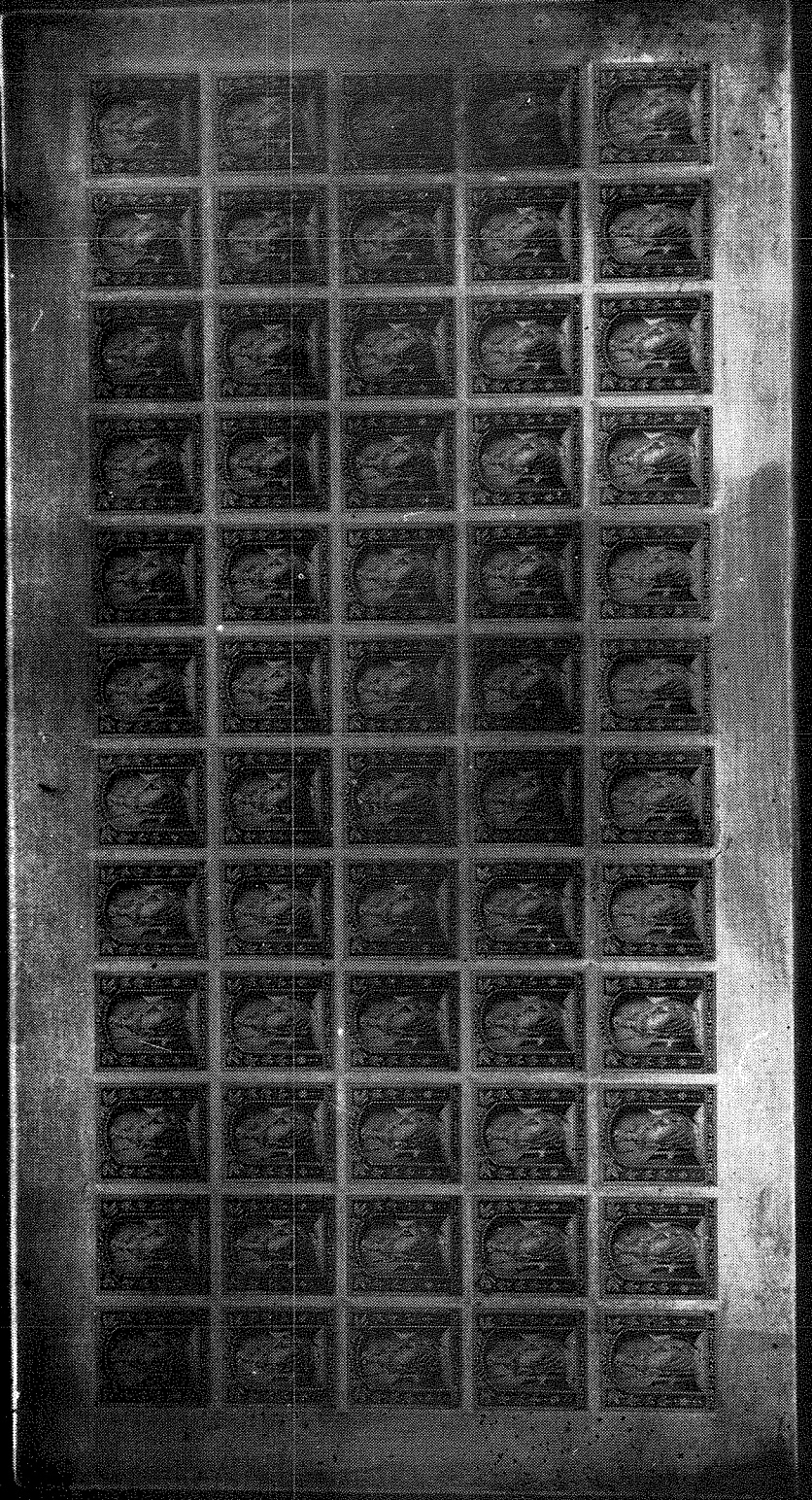
These plugs are larger than on the  $4 - \frac{1}{2}d$  plate; they are 10mm in diameter (rather than 8mm). Again, the 90-degree rotation of the stamp design results in registration marks centered above the middle of the top row in the upper pane and the middle of the bottom row in the lower pane. The side registration marks are on the outside of the end stamps in the bottom row of the top pane. They are the same distance from the edges of the stamps and above the edge of the stamp atop the gutter margin as described for the  $4 - \frac{1}{2}d$  value. The double rule, however, is only 10mm from the outer stamps.

The plugged holes, according to Mr. Robson Lowe, may have been where screws held the plates down to a mounting surface. These holes were gradually, becoming larger, and sometimes were plugged before redrilling. These circles may be plugs which are a different size on the  $4 - \frac{1}{2}d$  and 5d plates because the 5d had been redrilled larger due to greater wear. (See Photos 2A and 3A for some magnifications enlargements of the two plate corners.)



2/6 (Photo No. 4) – The coverboard for this plate reads: “Malta 2/6/60 Set”. (The back of this protective board contains handwritten notes regarding details of specimens of a St. Kitts P&R with requisition number 1245, a signature of E.M. Sanders (?), the date 17/6/00 and the notification that one specimen is for DLR.)

This plate contains 60 images in five horizontal rows of 12 stamps. The plate is the same copper-coated steel as those described above. It is 3mm in thickness, measuring 392mm wide and 215mm high.



*The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 16 indicates that there are no reports of any marginal markings on the plate. That is correct except that there are registration "T" devices centered on each side of the sheet. These marks are 6mm from the crossbar of the T to the image of the stamps. At top and bottom the marks are centred between the sixth and seventh stamps in the respective rows, and at each side they are centered along side the end stamps in the third row.*

10/- "Postage" (Photo No. 5) – The coverboard for this plate reads: "Malta/10/- Postage/60 Set/Single Working".

(It is interesting to note that the back of the coverboard accompanying this plate contains a sticker which reads:

\_\_\_\_\_ Reqn. \_\_\_\_\_ Stamps  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sheets of \_\_\_\_\_ Set.  
Duty \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Crown Agents' Inspector

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This confirms the fact that the dark blue markings on these cover sheets came from the printer.)

Implicit in the repetition of the word "Malta" on the coverboards is their London source; were they not in proximity to plates of other countries this labelling would be unnecessary.

This plate is identical in size, layout, and markings to the 2/6 plate described above.

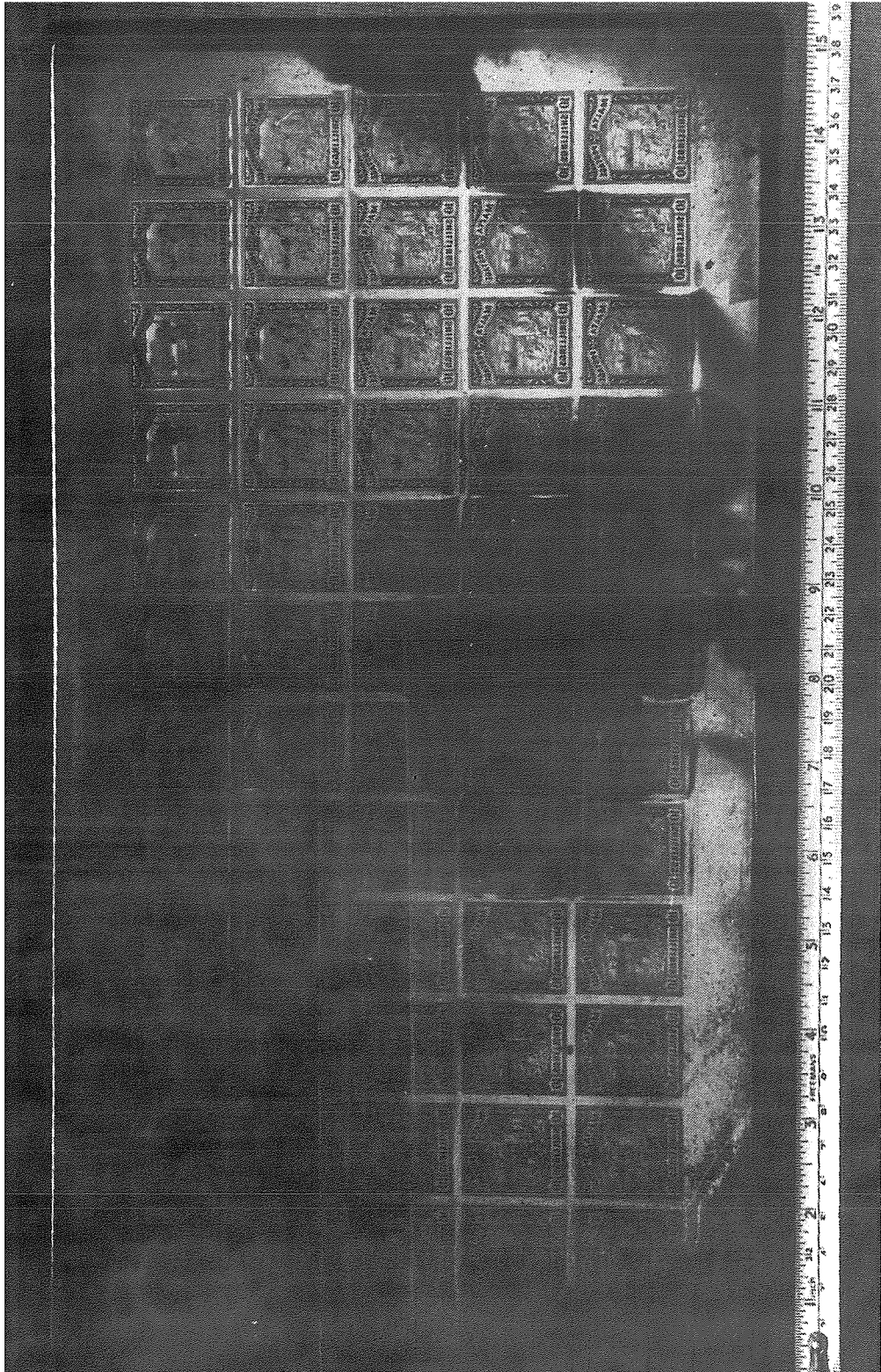
*The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 137 indicates that it is not known whether any markings appear other than a registration cross in the top margin. This plate, with crosses centered in each border, confirms an observation (earlier made by the author of this article from individual marginal copies of this issue) that there are registration marks in all four margins.*

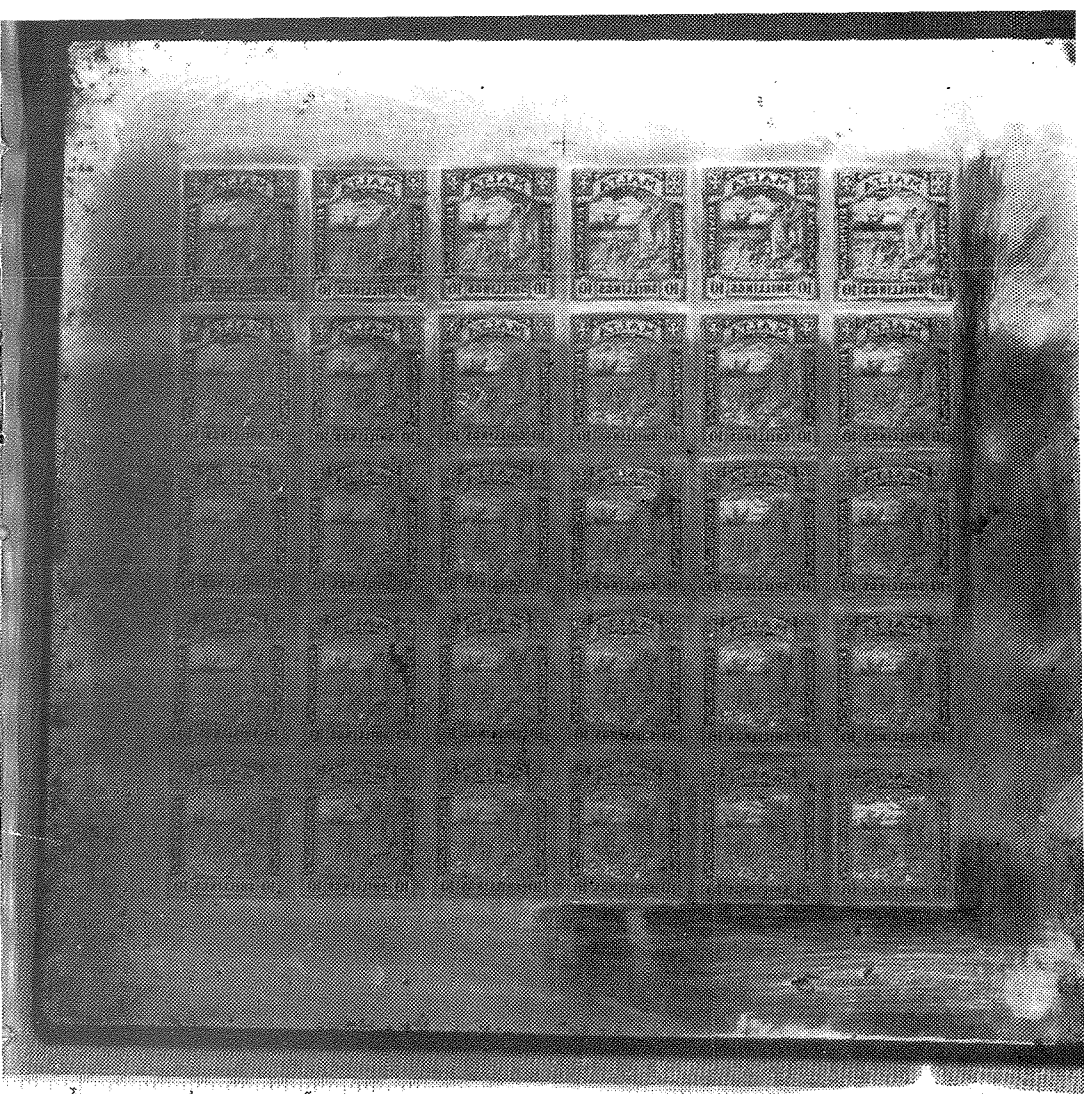
10/- "Postage & Revenue" (Photo No. 6) – The coverboard reads, "Malta/10/- Postage & Revenue/30 Set".

Thirty stamps are arranged in five rows of six on this plate. The plate is steel with a silver-grey nickel plating on the image surface.

The plate is 5mm thick and 232 × 232mms in height and width.

*The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 137 surmises it is possible that registration crosses exist in the bottom and right-hand margins in addition to those that were known to be centered at the top and left-hand margin. This plate confirms that this is a correct assumption. The only marginal markings are registration crosses centered with the bar parallel to the stamp at a distance of 6mm from the nearest image. The registration crosses are between the third and fourth stamps in the respective top and bottom rows and centered opposite the end stamps in the third row. A fine hairline continues the component of the registration cross that is perpendicular to the edge of the plate all the way out to the edge of the plate on each side.*



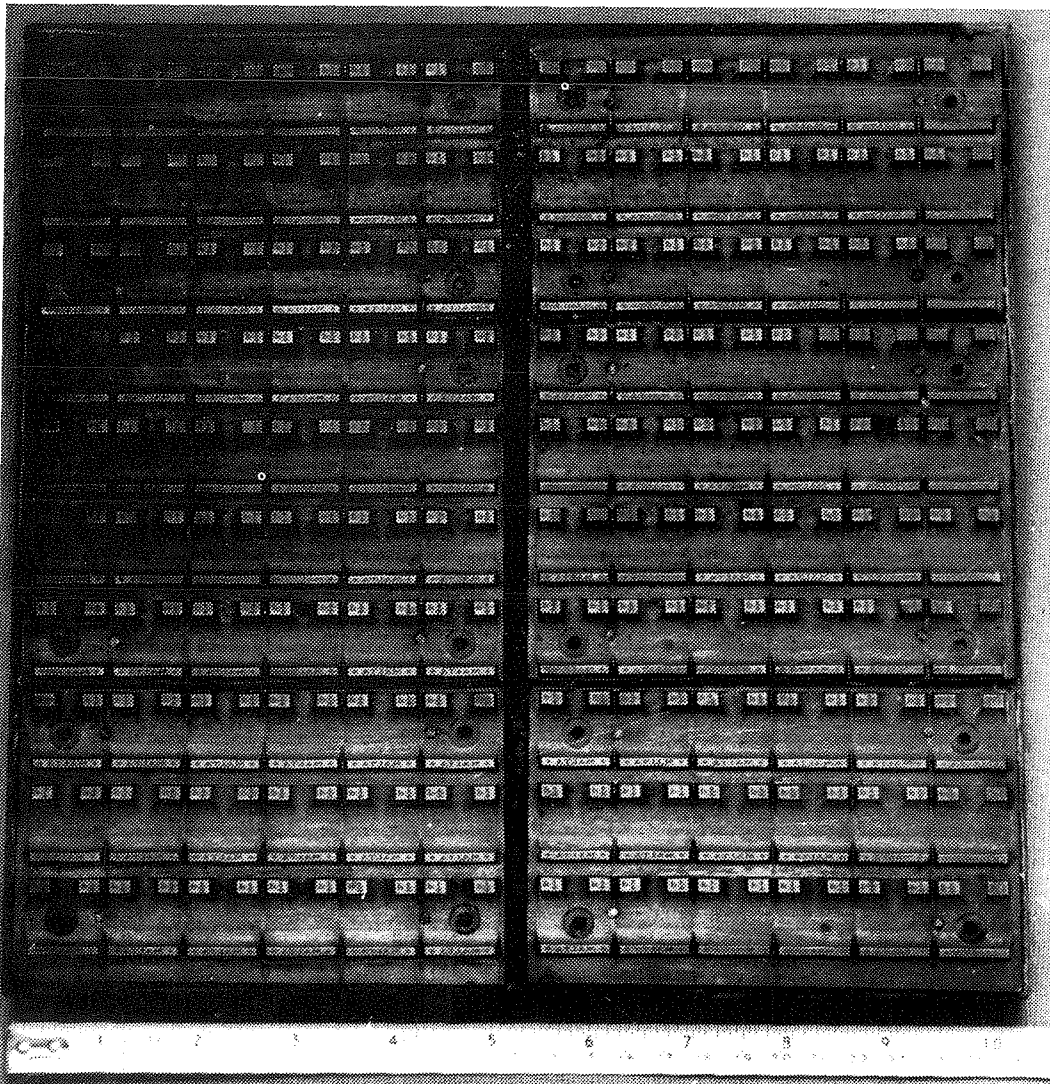


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## KING GEORGE DEFINITIVES 1914 – 1922

The plates for  $\frac{1}{4}$ d through 1/- values are duty plates with the country name and values only. The new 1921 2d is the complete stamp. The 2/- and 5/- are the frame with country name and value since the vignettes was used for many countries. These plates are of the relief (also termed typographic) method of printing in which the ink is carried on raised portions of the plate. Paper is pressed against the inked plate, transferring the image wherever the plate was raised and containing uncoloured areas elsewhere. The raised areas are of uniform height so that normally an even depth of ink is transferred. This is

distinguished from the recess process of the previous issues, in which the depth of the plate grooves vary, enabling more intense colour to be deposited where desired by increasing the depth of the corresponding part of the engraved image.

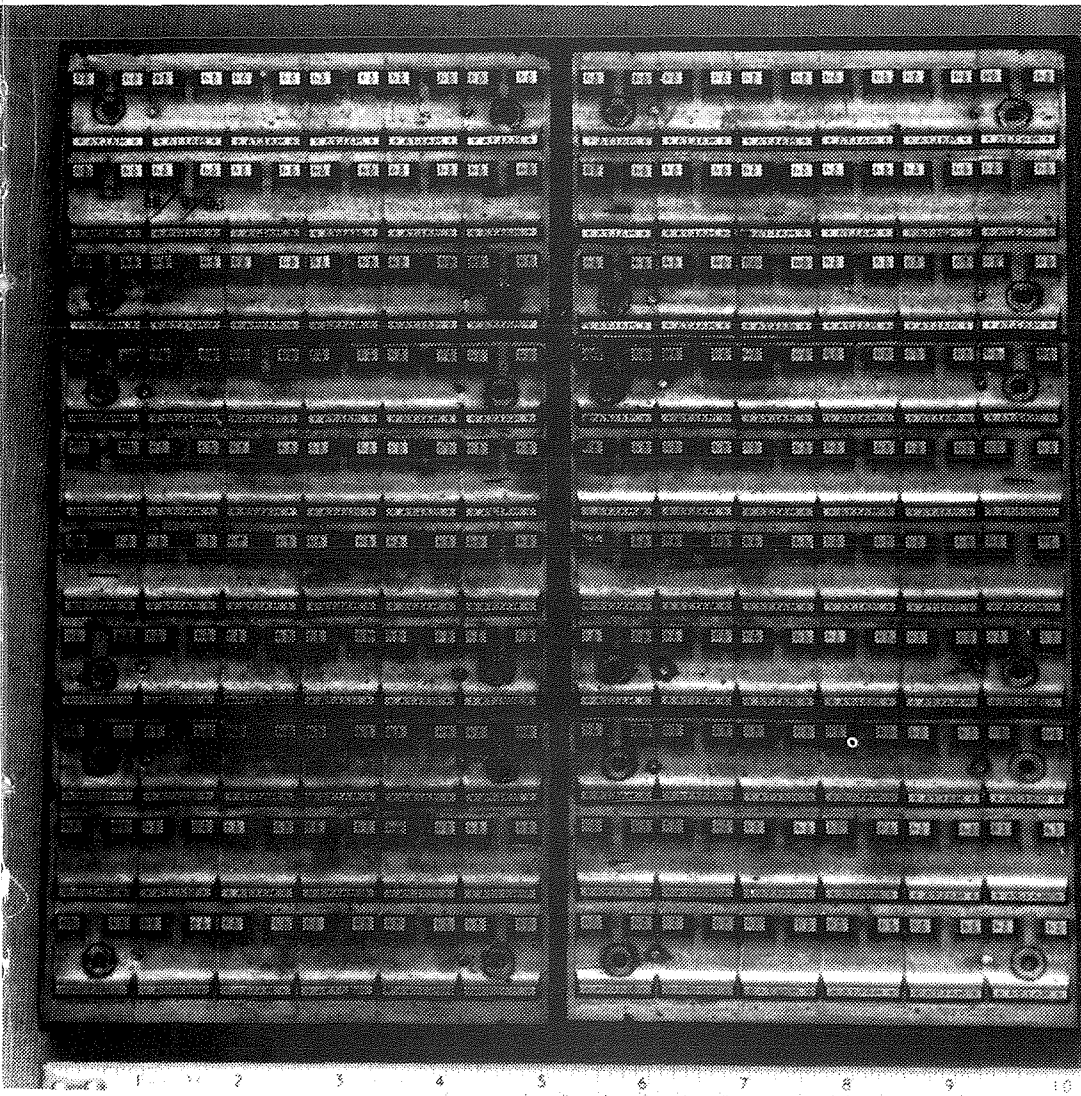


7

$\frac{1}{4}$ d (Photo No. 7) — This duty plate is molded relief plate of copper with a base approximately 2 to 3mm in thickness and with the type protruding an additional 2 to 3mm above this base. There are 120 images in two panes of 60 each. Each pane consists of 10 rows of 6 stamps. The panes are side-by-side. The plate is formed of six pieces of molded copper (containing variously 18 or 24 images) attached to an 18mm thick mahogany board. The plate is 257mm

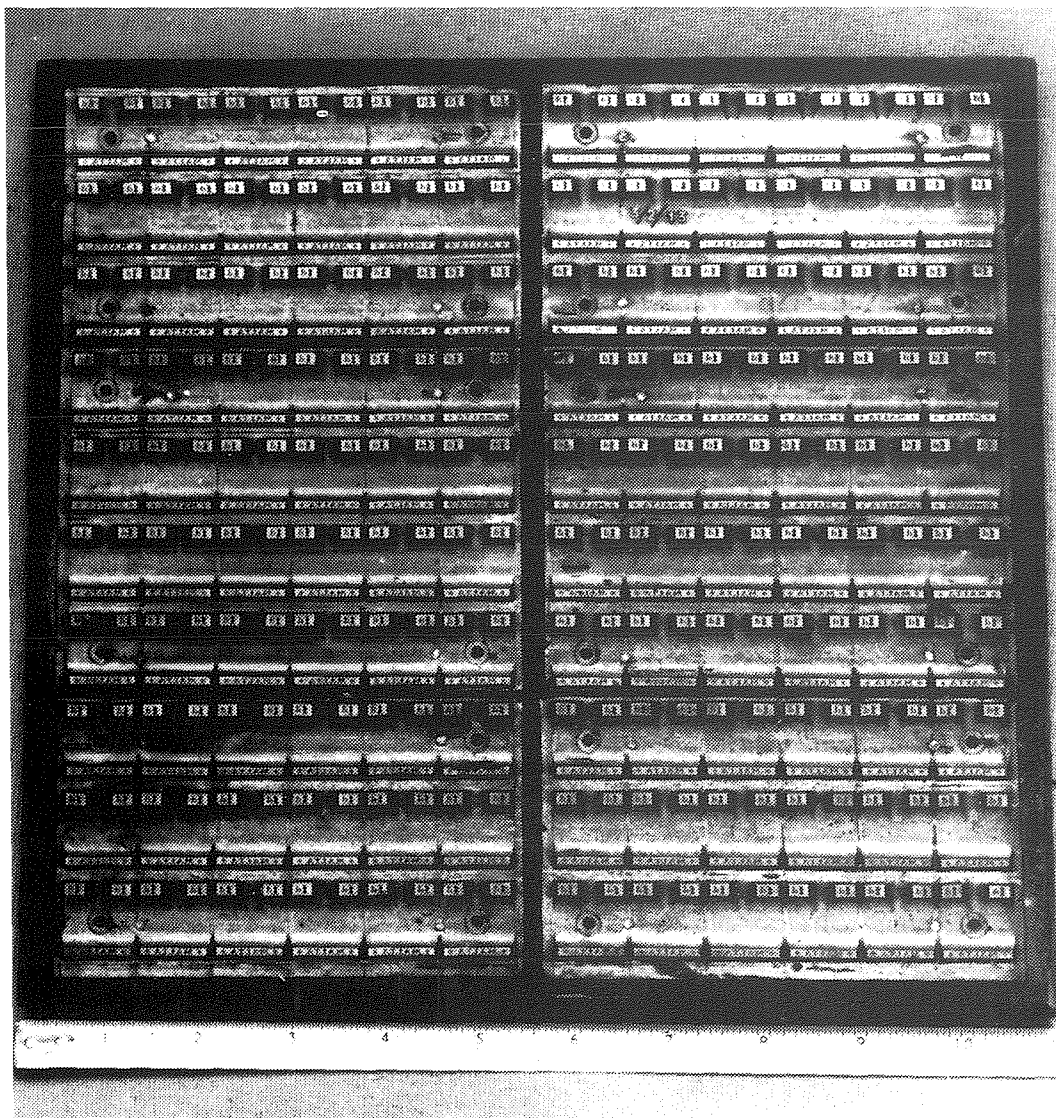


wide overall and 252mm high. The mahogany border extends 2 to 3mm beyond the edges of the plate. The edge of the mahogany board contains the inscription: "Cyprus 4 Piastres". One of the pieces of type contains the date "22/2/13" in raised numerals from hand-punching of the mold. (This implies the six blocks of type came from separate molds.)



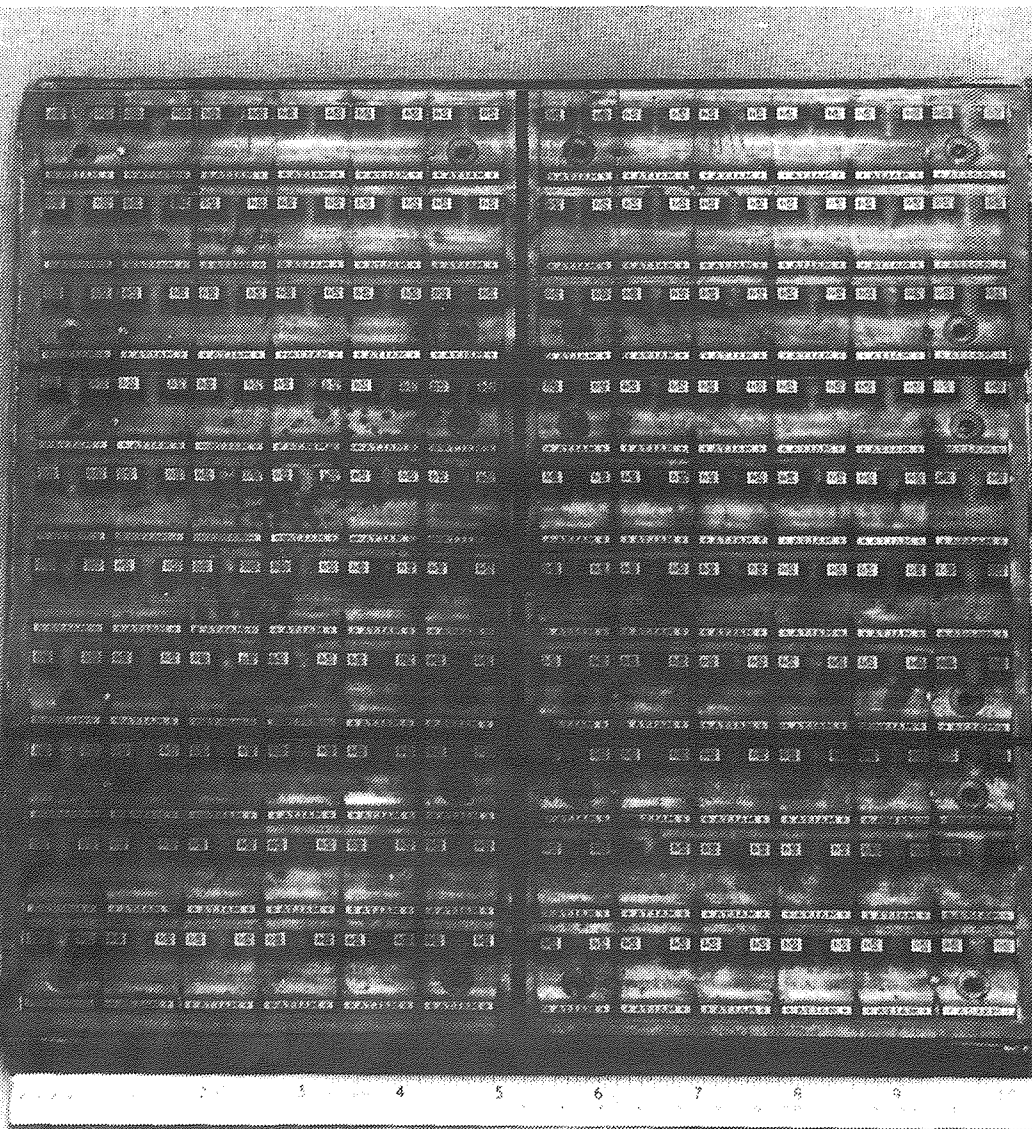
8

½d (Photo No. 8) – This plate is generally similar to the ¼d described above. It contains a date molded in positive relief in one of the segments of cast type; this reads: "12/1/13". The edge of the mahogany board contains the inscription: "3s Gambia".



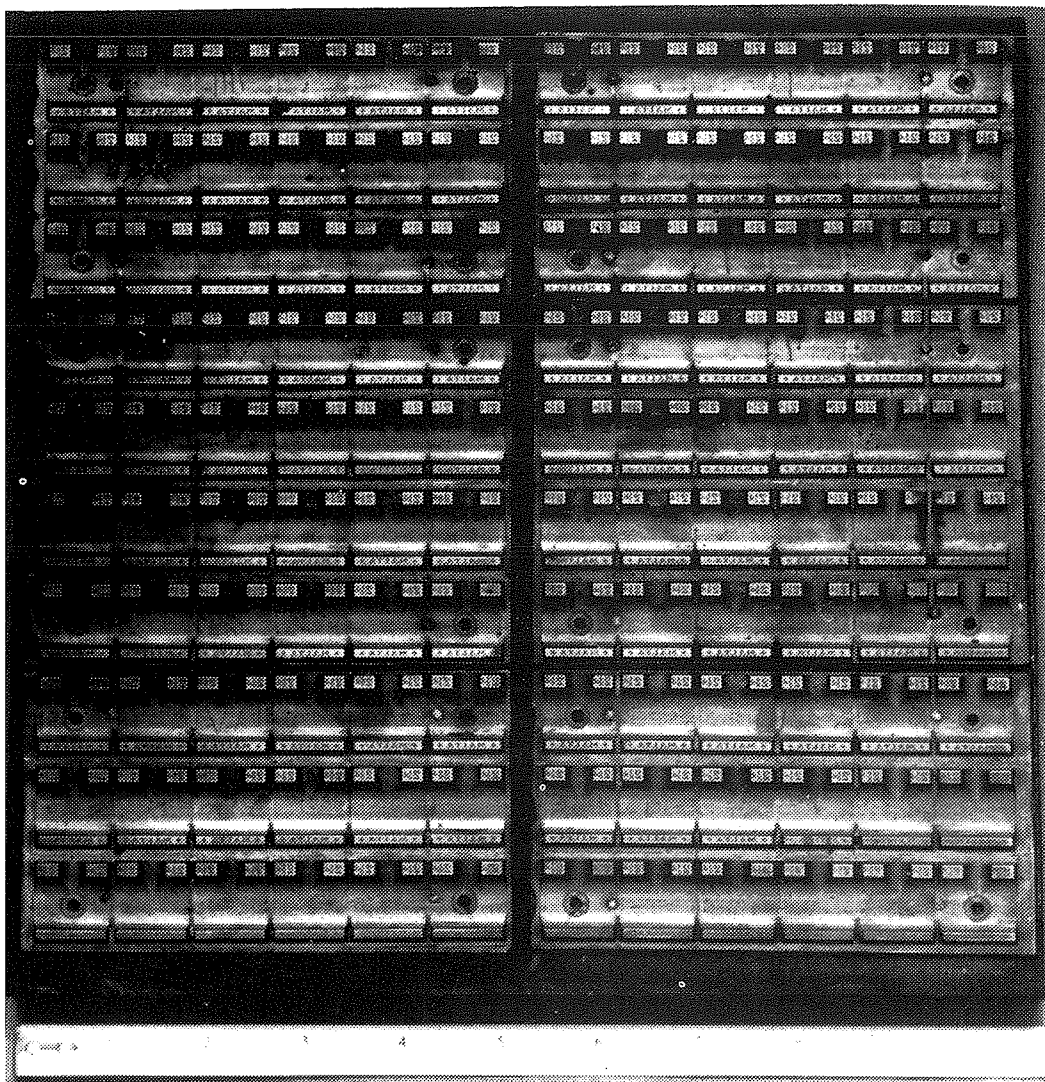
9

1d (Photo No. 9) – This is similar to the 1/2d, and contains the date “3/2/13” molded into one of its segments. The board contains the inscription: “Cayman Ids 1/2d”.



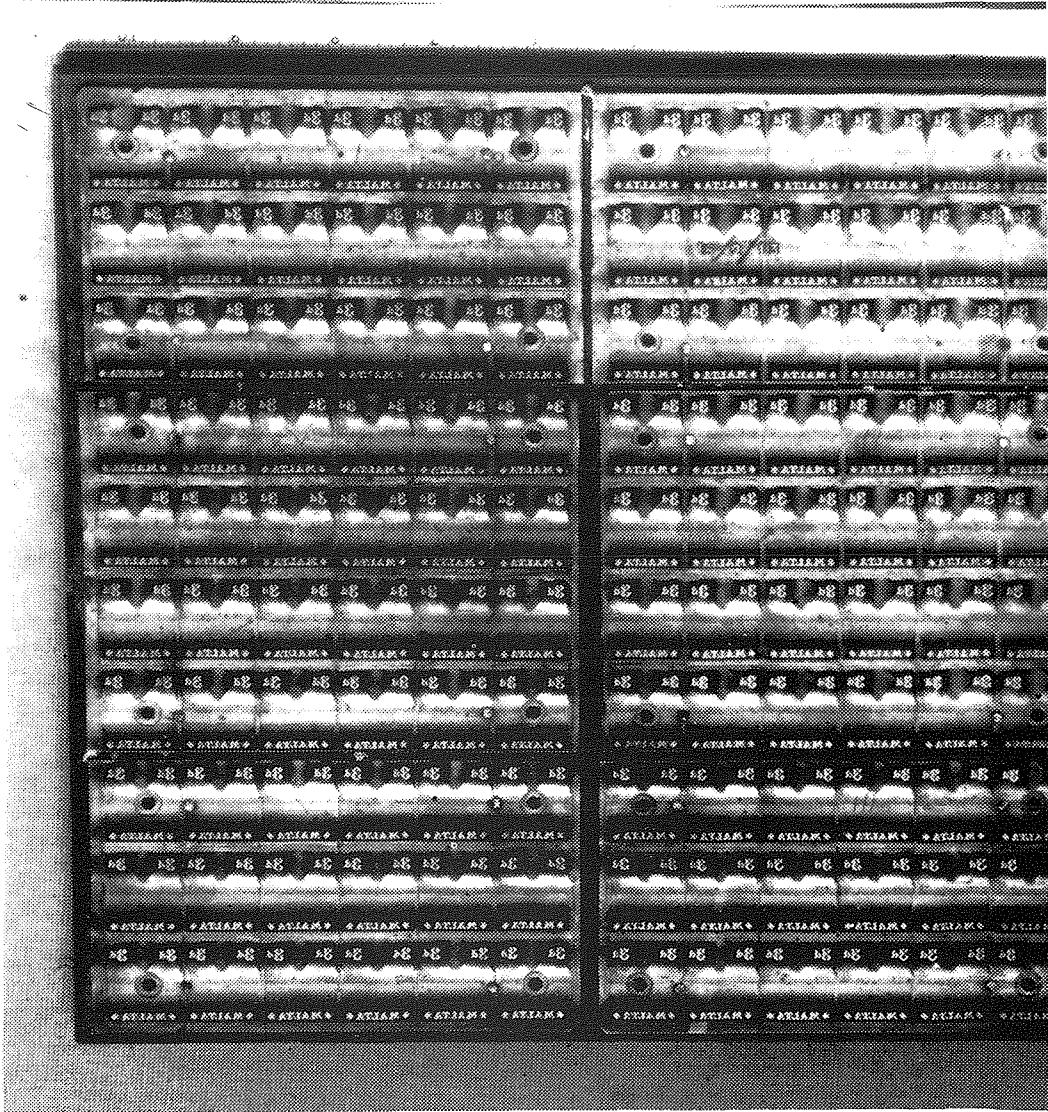
10

2d (Photo No. 10) – This plate is similar to the ½d & 1d. The date moulded in positive relief is “22/2/13”. The board on which it is mounted contains the inscription: “2d Cayman Islands”.



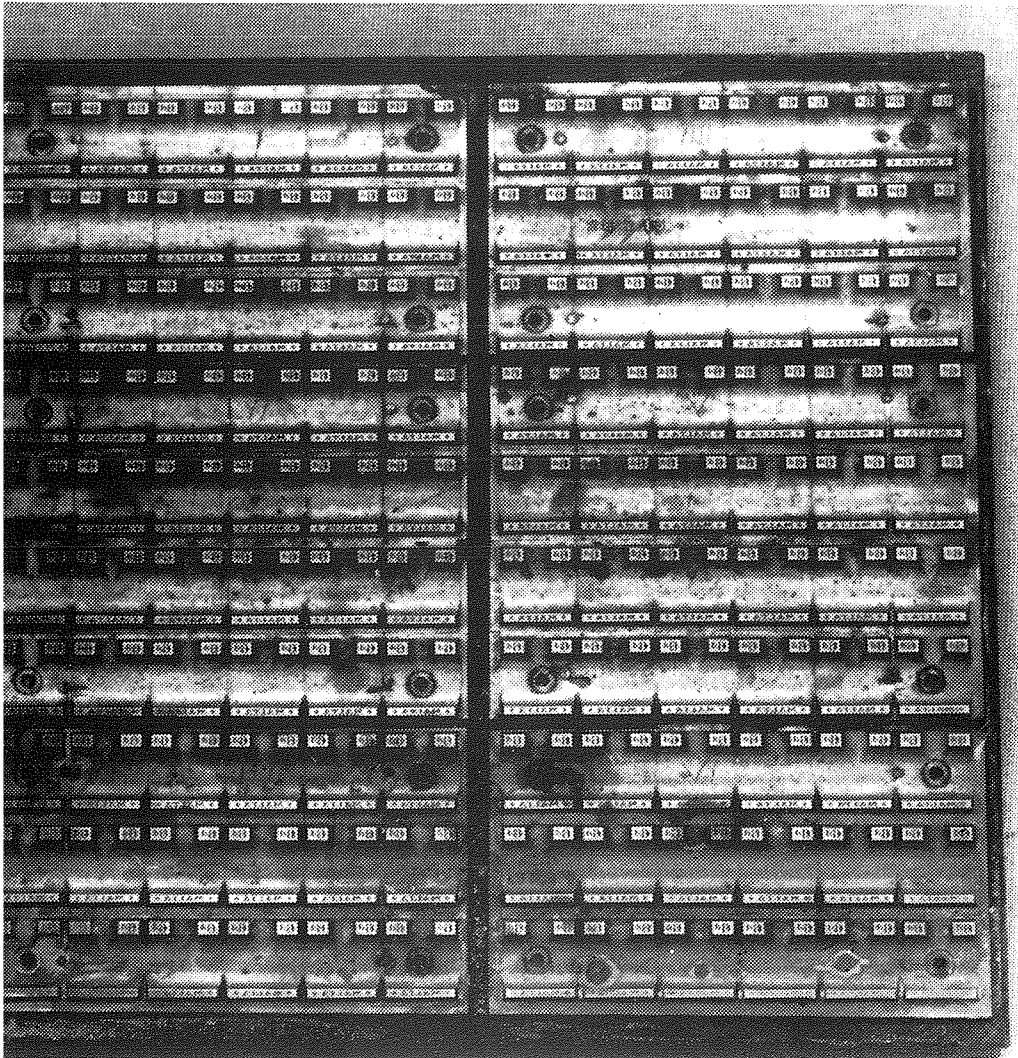
11

2-½d (Photo No. 11) – This plate contains the date: “4/2/13”. The mounting board reads: “2s Gambia”.



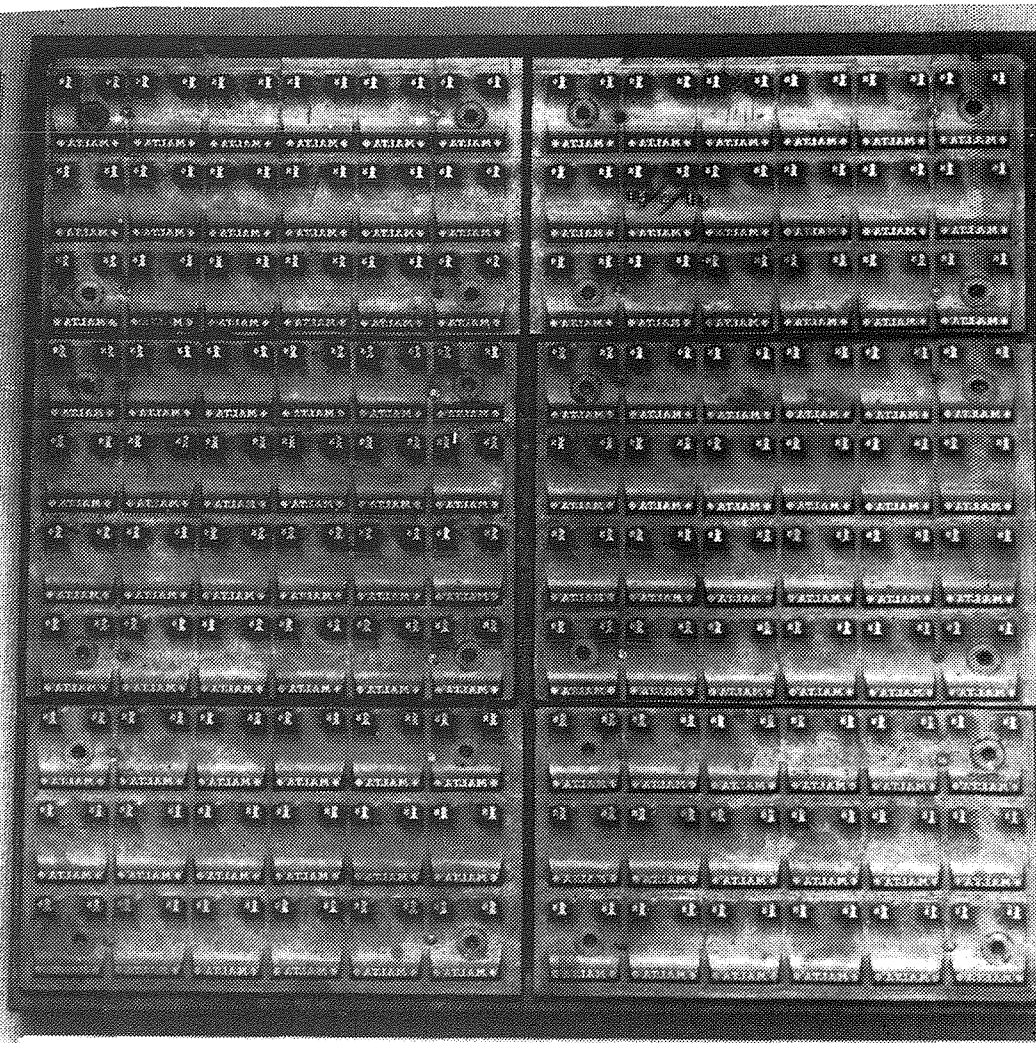
12

3d (Photo No. 12) – This plate contains the date: “18/2/13”. Its mounting board reads: “Cayman Ilds 60”.



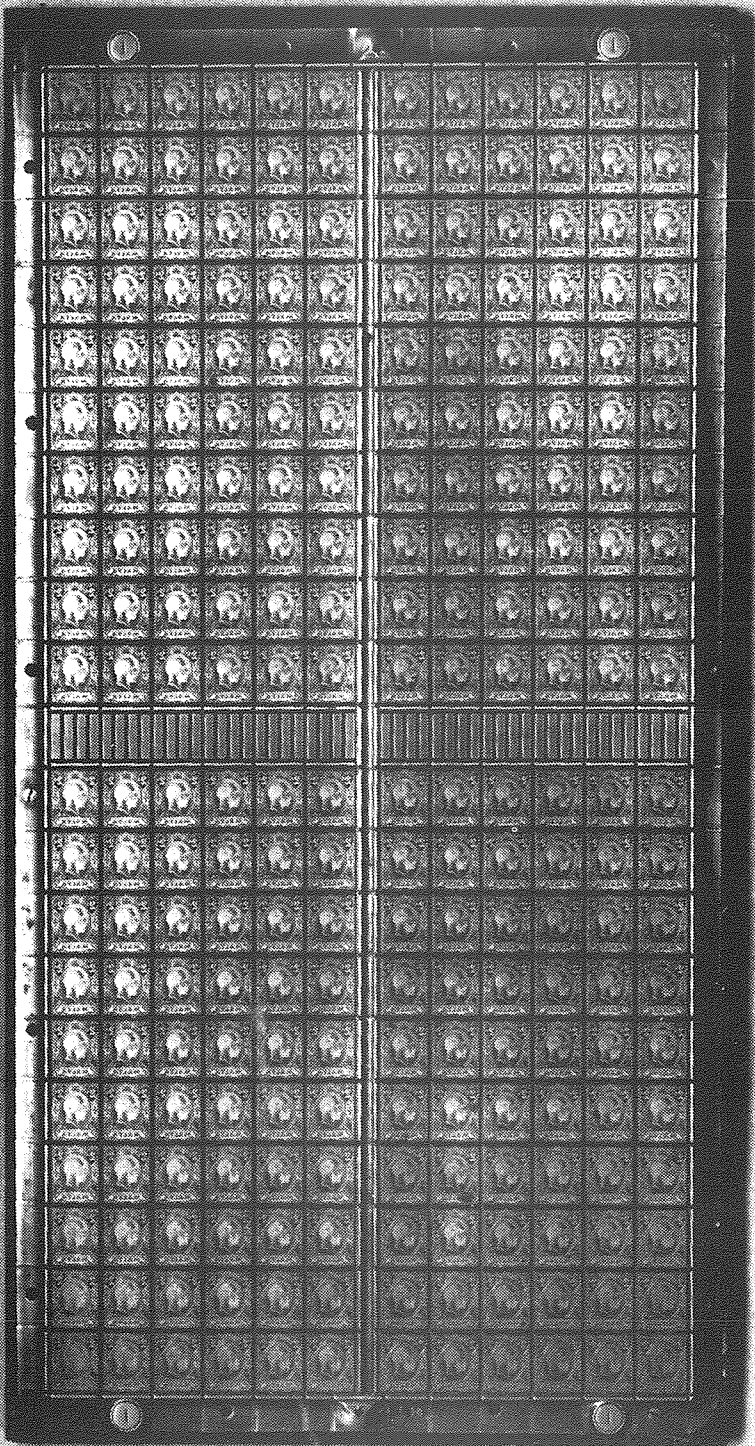
13

6d (Photo No. 13) – This plate contains the date: “28/2/13”. Its board reads: “4d Gambia”.



1/- (Photo No. 14) – This plate contains the date “13/2/13”. Its board reads: “1s 6d Gambia”.

It is noted that all these forms are made of pieces of molded type containing 18 stamps at the top and bottom of each pane, with 24 in the middle. It would be interesting to look for repeating varieties with this pattern.





2d (1921 new design – (Photo No. 15) – This relief plate contains 240 images in four panes of 60 each. Each pane has ten rows of six stamps. The vertical gutter is 10.5mm from stamp image to stamp image. The horizontal gutter is 25.5mm high from stamp image to stamp image. The plate number “1” appears centered above the second stamp in from the corner at each end of top and bottom margins.

There are pillars, which are four vertical stripes in each stamp size space in the horizontal gutter margin. The pillars serve to prevent paper sag in a large open area. Such sag can cause slurred image. A secondary benefit is the elimination of blank areas which might have been used improperly.

There is a Jubilee Line around each pane. (The name reflects the first appearance of this device during the 1887 year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee on a printing of the Great Britain 1d of 1881.)

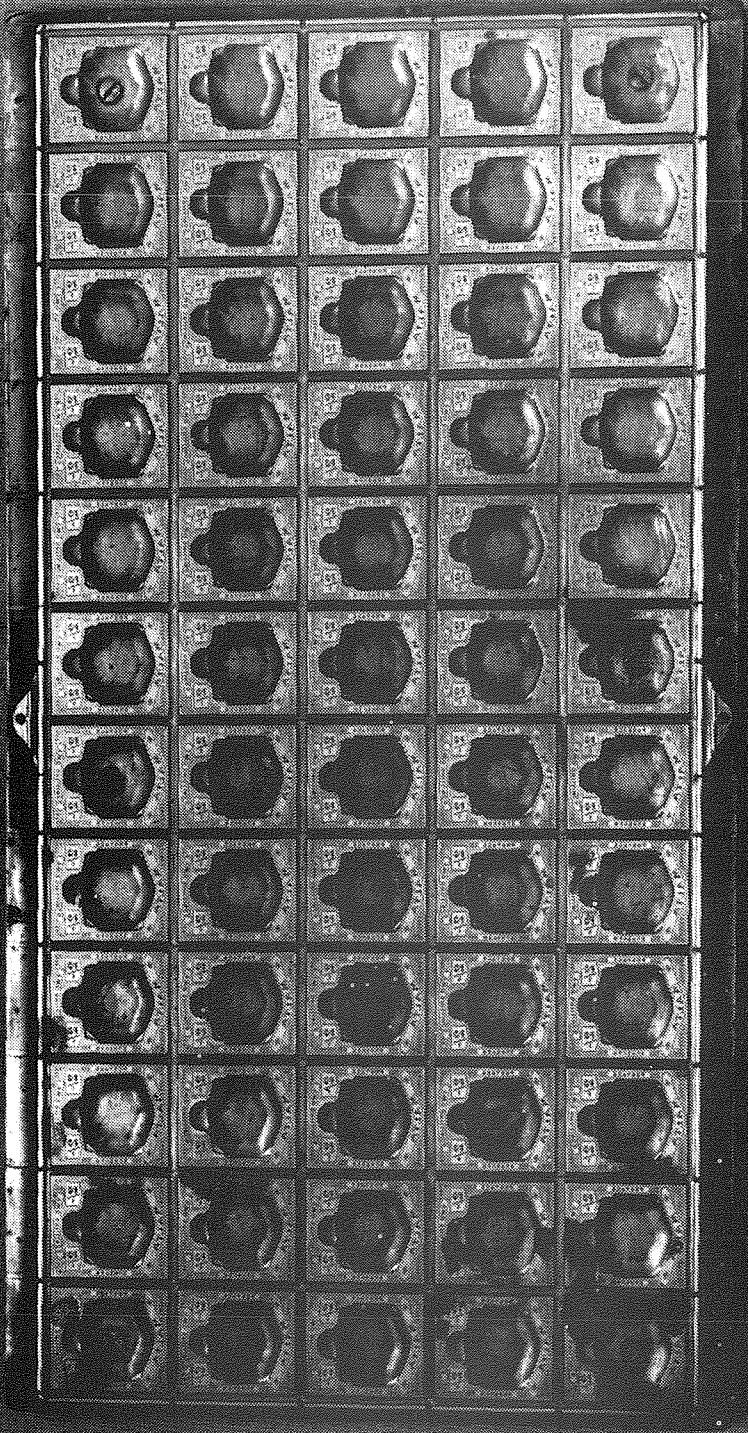
The Jubilee Lines are broken into lengths coextensive with the sides of adjoining stamps. These segments, which are of irregular and occasionally changing lengths on issues of some countries, are sometimes described as pieces of type variously inserted into a printing form. This is not the case with these Malta plates. Rather, the line is a continuous ridge cast completely around each pane. The breaks have been created one-by-one through the handsawing of gaps in the cast line.

The primary purpose served by the lines was an improvement in the quality of the printed image. Slur, caused by movement between paper and the plate, was reduced at the edges of the pane. An additional benefit was the reduction of plate wear at the edge of the pane where the inking roller first rode up onto the image. The Jubilee Lines absorbed this impact. To some degree the lines filled blank paper otherwise available to forgers.

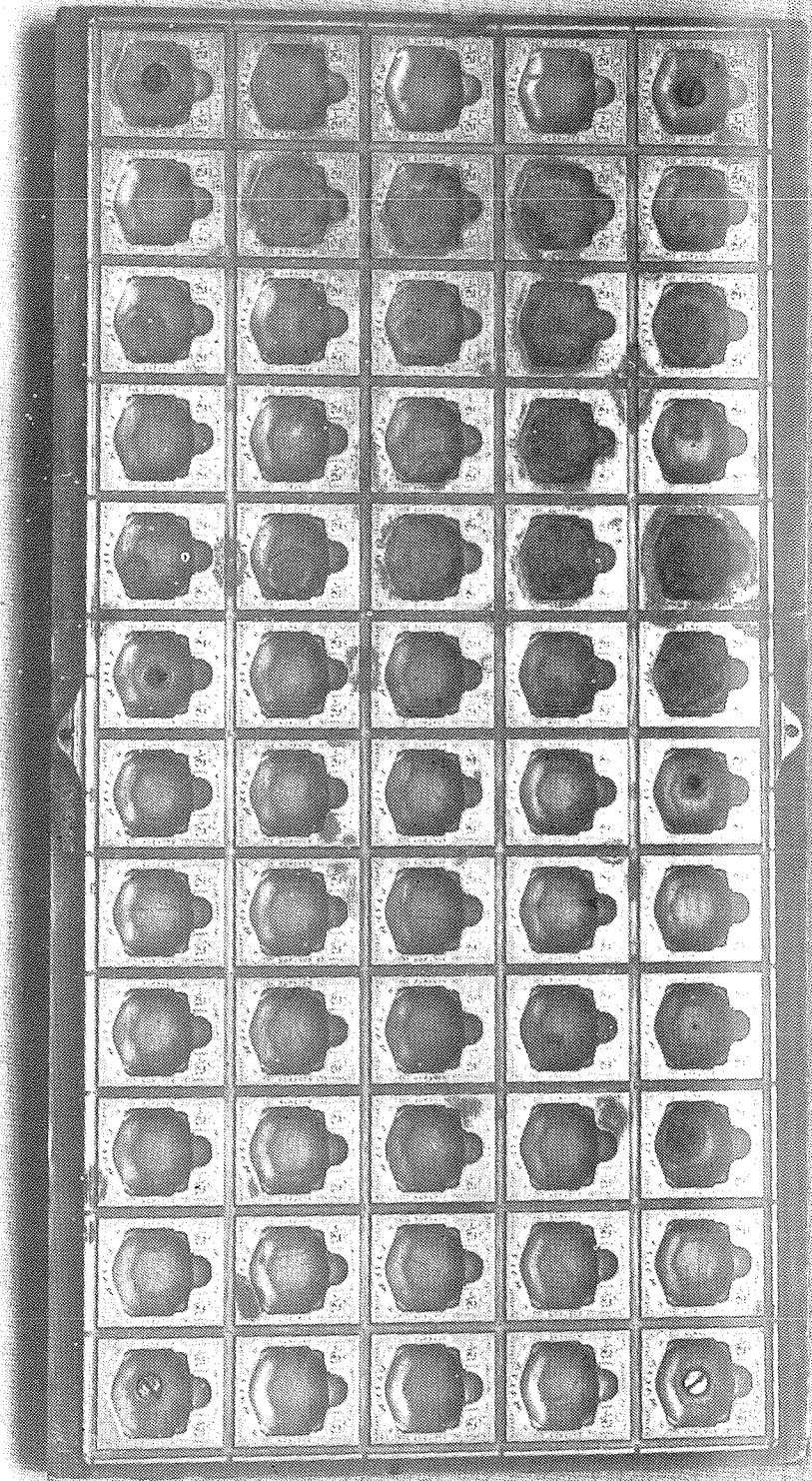
The breaks in the lines allowed trapped air to escape. Otherwise, cockling and fluttering of the paper caused image slurring.

The thin plate is a copper casing with a thin flange around it. The thickness of the portion containing the type is 4 to 5mm. At the edges the flange is reduced to 1 to 2mm in thickness. From the outer edge of the Jubilee Line at each side the flange is 11mm wide. At top and bottom it extends 14mm from the Jubilee Line. The plate is mounted on a mahogany board 18mm thick and 4mm wider than the plate at the sides, and 7 and 5mm wider than the plate at top and bottom respectively. There are holes in the flange at approximately 50 to 100mm random intervals with screws near each corner and near the centers of each side holding the copper plate onto the mahogany. There is a date cast as part of the flange (from numbers hand-punched into the mold) which reads “23/11/20”. It can be seen that this is struck over an earlier date which had been punched in the mold; the earlier date read “23/2/20”.

*The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 167 indicates that there is a horizontal line with a dot beneath it in the bottom margin below the vertical gutter margin. It goes on to indicate that the dot is punctured by a small hole. There is a horizontal line below the Jubilee Line which would be to the right of the vertical gutter in the printed image. The dot below it consists of a molded shape which has a hole drilled all the way through it the full thickness of the plate. There is a similar configuration at the top of the plate over the other Jubilee Line bordering the vertical gutter margin.*



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50



2/- (Photo No. 16) – This plate contains 60 images in five horizontal rows of 12. The border plate is available, but not the vignette portrait plate, which was common to several countries. The border plate contains the value and the word “Malta”.

The plate’s physical configuration and description is generally the same as that given above for the 2d value. The registration line with tiny central dot is cast so that it is centered between the sixth and seventh stamps in the top and bottom rows with the line 3mm from the Jubilee Line. The hole drilled below the registration line is in metal which is less high than that of the 2d and therefore might not leave an impression on the finished stamp. The flanges are less wide than on the 2d, having 3mm of width at the sides and 9mm at top and bottom. Therefore, the plate is affixed to its 18mm thick mahogany backing with screws through the hollowed vignette area in each corner stamp of the sheet. The mahogany conforms precisely to the size of the copper plate. The date cast in the flange at the bottom of the plate is “3/3/13”.

5/- (Photo No. 17) – This plate is identical in virtually all respects to the 2/- plate described above. The only difference is that the date cast into the flange reads “4/3/13”.

# MALTA – A DIARY

January – June 1987

by J. Farrugia

## 16-1-87

In to-day's Govt. Gazette, the Postmaster General notified that the 5c postage stamp of the current Definitive Postage Set, had been reprinted by Printex Limited.

This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. Valletta.

## 19-1-87

A machine stamp cancelling slogan marking the 20th. Anniversary of the Order of Charity – Raoul Follereau Foundation, was used on and off, at the Central Mail Room, during the period 19th. – 24th. January, 1987.

The slogan reads:- “Ordni Tal-Karità – Fundazzjoni Raoul Follereau – 20 Sena Ta' Ghajjnuna – Lill-Morda Bil-Lebbra”.

The slogan means:- “Order of Charity – Foundation Raoul Follereau – 20 Years Of Aid – To The Leprosy Afflicted”.

## 20-1-87

The PMG notified that the Sub-Post Office at 40F, St. Paul's Street, St. Paul's Bay, was closing down with effect from Tuesday, 20th. January, 1987.

## 22-1-87

A new Sub-Post Office was opened at 16, Misraħ Is-Suq, Tarxien, on Thursday, 22nd. January, 1987.

A hand metal date-stamp inscribed with the words “Tarxien S.P.O. – Malta” is used at this Sub-Post Office. (Fig. 1)

The telephone number at this Sub-Post Office is 785357.

## 26-1-87

A set of four stamps commemorating the “25th. Anniversary of the Ornithological Society” was issued to-day. A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue. (Fig. 2)

## 27-1-87

A call for applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Santa Venera was made in to-day's Govt. Gazette. Applications were to be addressed to the PMG by 2nd. March, 1987.

## 6-2-87

In to-day's Govt. Gazette, a notice was issued for applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at St. Paul's Bay. Applications were to be received by the Postmaster General by noon of Friday, 27th. February, 1987.

## 20-2-87

In to-day's Govt. Gazette, a notice was issued for applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Sliema. Applications were to be received by the PMG by noon of Friday, 20th. March, 1987.

## 16-3-87

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- “Royal Malta Artillery – Association – 40th. Anniversary – 1947 – 1987”, was used on and off, at the Central Mail Room, from the 16th. to the 21st. March, 1987.

## 23-3-87

On the occasion of the 31st. March Festivities, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- “Nghozzu L-Helsien – 31 Ta' Marzu, 1979”, was used on and off, during the period between 23rd. and 30th. March, 1987, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan means:- “We Treasure Freedom – 31 March, 1979”.

## 30-3-87

In to-day's Govt. Gazette, a notice was issued for applications, for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Mellieħa. Applications were to be received by the PMG by noon of Thursday, 30th. April, 1987.

**7-4-87**

A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded:- "It-Tilqim – Dritt Ta' Kull Tarbija – Jum Dinji Tas-Sahha 1987", was used, on and off, during the period from the 7th. to 13th. April, 1987, at the Central Mail Room. The Immunization campaign logo used by the World Health Organization is also incorporated in the slogan.

The slogan means:- "Immunization – Right Of All Babies – World Day Of Health 1987".

**7-4-87**

In to-day's Govt. Gazette, a notice was issued for applications, for the post of Sub-Postmasters at,

(a) St. Paul's Bay and

(b) Bugibba/Qawra area.

Applications were to be received by the PMG by noon of Friday, 8th. May, 1987.

**15-4-87**

"Europa 1987" set issued to-day. A special handstamp was used on the first day of issue. (Fig. 3)

**22-5-87**

The Minister of Development of Infrastructure has approved the issue of a call for applications for the post of Sub-Postmasters at:-

(a) Mellicha and

(b) St. Paul's Bay.

Applications were to be received by the PMG up to noon of Tuesday, 30th. June, 1987.

**1-6-87**

A machine stamp cancelling slogan marking World Environment Day was used during the period 1st. to 5th. June, 1987, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan reads:- "Jum Dinji Ta' L-Ambjent – 5 Ta' Gunju".

The slogan means:- "World Environment Day – 5th. June".

**10-6-87**

"Maltese Uniforms" set, issued to-day. A special hand postmark was used on the first day of issue. (Fig. 4)

**16-6-87**

In to-day's Govt. Gazette a call for applications was issued for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Xewkija, Gozo.

Applications were to be received by the PMG up to noon of Friday, 17th. July, 1987.



Fig 1.

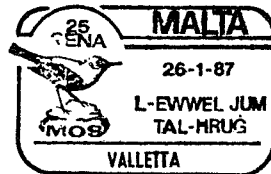


Fig 2.



Fig 3.



Fig 4.

## Detailed Information about:

by J. Farrugia

Maltese Uniforms Issue .....	X
Commemorations 1987 Issue .....	Y
Maltese Ships 5th. Issue .....	Z

Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of Issue	10-6-87	18-8-87	16-10-87
Values	3c, 7c, 10c, 27c	5c, 8c, 23c	2c, 11c, 13c, 20c
Stamp Size	29mm × 47mm	48mm × 39.5mm	47mm × 29mm
Designer	Luciano Micallef	Antoine Camilleri	Norbert Attard
Printers	Printex Limited	same	same
Process	Lithography	same	same
Perforation	13.7 × 13.9	14 × 14	13.9 × 13.6
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	same	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same	same

### Colours:

Issues X, Y and Z were printed in multicolours.

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, Y and Z, except in the 13c value, of issue Z, which are next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows.

Colour checks from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y, but from right to left in issue Z.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, on all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Z, but printed in brown in issue Y.

### Printed Sheets:

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of eight rows of five stamps. All stamps are of the vertical format.

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

Issue Z – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of five rows of eight stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

**Plate/Pane numbers:**

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues, X, Y and Z.

- Issue X – 3c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
- 7c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
- 10c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
- 27c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
- Issue Y – 5c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
- 8c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
- 23c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
- Issue Z – 2c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.
- 11c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.
- 13c = 1A × 6, 1B × 6, 1C × 6.
- 20c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.

**Perforations of Margins:**

Issue X – The top margins of Panes A, B and C, of all values are imperforate. All other margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

Registration marks or parts of them were seen in the bottom left hand corner of Panes A, in the middle of the top margin of Panes B and in the top and bottom of the right hand margins of Panes C, of all values.

Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown Fig. (a), stamps would be seen the right way up. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

Issue Y – The top margins of Panes A and B, of all values are imperforate. All other margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated. Registration marks in the form of “a circle, circumscribed by an eclipse, crossed by two lines” were seen in the top left hand margin of Pane A and the top right hand margin of Pane B, of all values. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown Fig. (b), stamps would be seen the right way up.

Perforator ran from top to bottom.

FIG. (a)

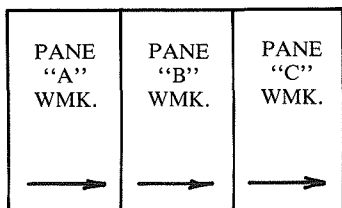


FIG. (b)

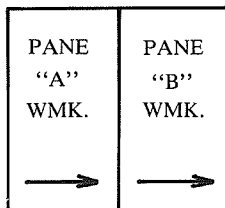
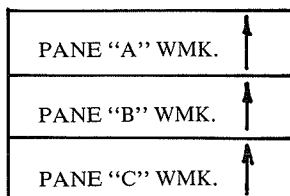


FIG. (c)



Issue Z – The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C of all values are imperforate. All other margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.



Registration marks similar to those of issue Y, or parts of them, were seen at the top of the left and right hand margins of Panes A, as well as at the bottom of the left and right hand margins of Panes C, of all values. Also a small horizontal line, about 4mm long, was seen, in the left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the middle row, in Panes B, of the 2c value only. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, Fig. (c), stamps would be seen the right way up. Perforator ran from left to right.

### Imprint Blocks:

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X, Y and Z. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black in issues X and Z, but printed in brown in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in all issues.

Special hand postmarks, incorporating a portrait of a XVI century soldier (issue X), and a line drawing of a ship’s helm (issue Z), were used on the first day of each of the three issues.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm27,021 (issue X), Lm18,500 (issue Y) and Lm28,683 (issue Z).

Stamps were to remain on sale up to Monday, 23 November 1987 (issue X), up to Monday, 8 February, 1988 (issue Y), and up to Tuesday, 8 March, 1988 (issue Z), unless stocks were previously exhausted.

### Maximum Card No. 8

This card was issued on the first day of issue Z. It depicts the ferry “Ghawdex”, shown on the 13c value of this fifth and final issue featuring Maltese ships.

This stamp could have been affixed on the image side of the maximum card and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark.

### Europa 1987 Issue

Date of Issue	15th. April, 1987.
Values	8c and 35c.
Stamp Size	31mm × 44mm.
Art Designer	Richard England.
Printers	Printex Limited.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14 × 13.9.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

### Colours:

This set was produced in multicolours.

Both stamps are of the vertical format and each Pane of ten stamps is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. In the first space, of the top row, in the 8c value, can be seen the CEPT emblem, 1987, and a black and white design of “The Aquasan Lido”, whilst in the first space, of the second row, of the same value, can be seen a part of the same design in black and white.

In the 35c value, the same pattern is followed, for the same two spaces, but using "The Church of St. Joseph", Manikata.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the top margin, above the middle stamp, printed in black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin of each Pane, next to the last stamp of the top row. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in all Panes, of both values. In the colour checks, I noticed, that the space between the coloured discs, in Panes A and D, of the 8c value, is quite larger than in other Panes of the same value. The same thing was noticed in Pance C only, of the 35c value.

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

### Plate/Pane numbers:

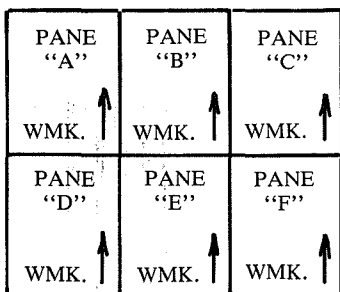
These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane of both values.

$$8c = 1A \times 4 \text{ up to and including } 1F \times 4.$$

$$35c = 1A \times 4 \text{ up to and including } 1F \times 4.$$

### Perforation of Margins:

The right hand margins of Panes C and F, of both values, are imperforate, whilst the right hand margins of Panes A, B, D and E are fully perforated. The top, bottom and left hand margins of all Panes A to F, in both values are also fully perforated.



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown in figure, the perforator running from right to left.

Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values, would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is upright.

### Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the third stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will not include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

It is worded "Europa '87 - L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hruġ - 15-4-87 - Malta" and the name of the respective locality. A sketch of the Aquasan Lido memory screen is also incorporated in the postmark.

This set will remain on sale up to Monday, 9th. November, 1987, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Sales on the first day of issue amounted to Lm115,280.

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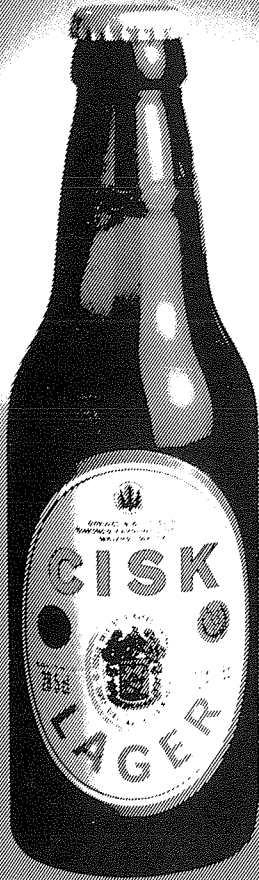
**brand** international Ltd.

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20, Bulebel Industrial Estate, Zejtun-Malta  
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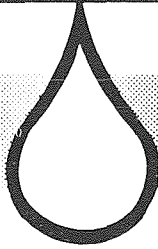
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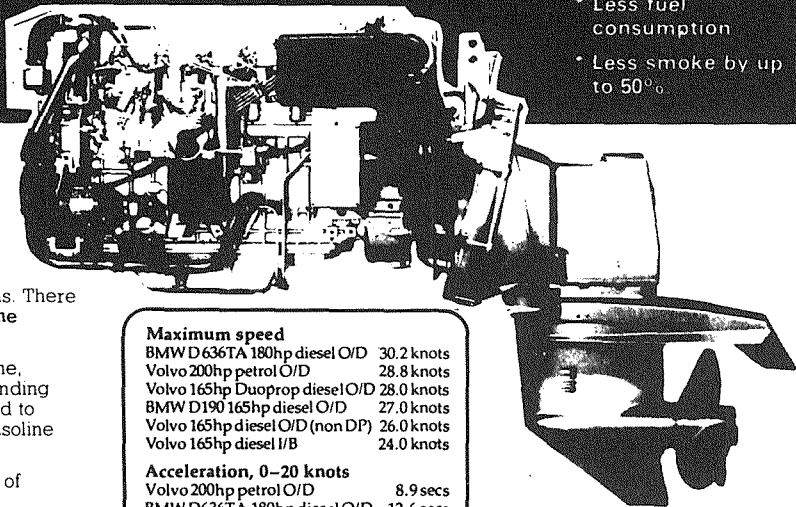
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Last July, a variety of boats were presented to a large number of international journalists and boatbuilders from different countries. Focal point was the new BMW D636TA marine engine which could be tested in 7 boats of different brands. There was one common consensus afterwards - the D636TA outperforms all expectations.

The excellent performance of this new engine, particularly vs. Volvo's Duoprop, was outstanding even on the favourable comparison in regard to smoothness and low noise of BMW's own gasoline engines.

The August, September and October issues of European boating magazines carried very favourable reports on the D636TA. The British 'Motor Boat and Yachting' (August '85), following extensive tests with different engine makes, gave the exciting results shown in the box on right of this brand new turbo charged diesel. The D636TA is suitable for a wide range of craft with single or twin engine installations.

#### Maximum speed

BMW D636TA 180hp diesel O/D	30.2 knots
Volvo 200hp petrol O/D	28.8 knots
Volvo 165hp Duoprop diesel O/D	28.0 knots
BMW D190 165hp diesel O/D	27.0 knots
Volvo 165hp diesel O/D (non DP)	26.0 knots
Volvo 165hp diesel I/B	24.0 knots

#### Acceleration, 0-20 knots

Volvo 200hp petrol O/D	8.9 secs
BMW D636TA 180hp diesel O/D	12.6 secs
Volvo 165hp Duoprop diesel O/D	18.0 secs
BMW D190 165hp diesel O/D	22.3 secs



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**20th ANNIVERSARY OF U.N. RESOLUTION ON THE**  
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DATE OF ISSUE: 18 DECEMBER 1987



Designed by SALVU MALLIA

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