

Great Britain Stamps Used in Malta

by Anthony Fenech

Continued Part 7 (concluded)

A Notice "Discontinuance of Use at Malta of Postage Stamps of The United Kingdom" was released by Roger Duke, H.M. Postmaster, at The General Post Office, Valletta, on the 8th December 1884. This Notice was reproduced on Page 15, of the last issue of The P.S.M. Magazine. In fact Great Britain stamps ceased to be used in Malta, after December 31st, 1884, when all postal matters of the Island passed under the control of the local authorities. It was stressed in this Notice that all letters bearing "Imperial stamps" posted after the 31st December, 1884, will be treated as unpaid and charged on delivery. However, a piece is known dated 1 JA 85 showing GB 2½d with Malta 1885 ½d green and 1d rose.¹

However, on some occasions after 1884, postage stamps of the United Kingdom did not prove "useless" for the prepayment of postage on correspondence posted in Malta or Gozo. In fact some Great Britain stamps may be found bearing cancellations of The Malta Post Office. These British stamps fall mainly under two categories – Maritime and Military Mail.

Mail posted on "High Seas" or on board ships at the Grand Harbour was franked with Great Britain or other foreign stamps from countries such as Algeria, Austria, Egypt, France, Gibraltar, Italy, the Italian Levant and Colonies, and Turkey, which were cancelled with a Malta or Valletta or G.P.O. handstamp. Besides, until the 1930s, the straight line handstamp PAQUEBOT was also applied on the Cover or Postcard to identify its being posted on board the ships. Great Britain stamps² such as:

Queen Victoria	1887 – 92	2½ purple/blue Jubilee Issue; 5d dull purple and blue (Duty Plate 1);
King Edward VII	1902	½d dull blue green Wmk Imperial Crown; ½d pale yellowish green Wmk Imperial Crown; 1d scarlet Wmk Imperial Crown;
King George V	1912	1d bright red (scarlet) Wmk Imperial Crown; ½d green Wmk Royal Cypher; 1d vermilion (pale rose-red) Wmk Royal Cypher 'Simple' 1d scarlet Wmk Royal Cypher 'Multiple' 1½d red-brown Wmk Royal Cypher 2d orange-yellow and bright orange Die I Wmk Royal Cypher

are known cancelled by any of the following Valletta cancellations:

- The single ring VALLETTA (C.O.)/MALTA with time and date in one line – diameter 29mm;
- The single oval VALLETTA/MALTA (Both types) with time and date in one line and measuring 32mm × 24mm;
- The Double ring VALLETTA/MALTA with Maltese crosses as spacers, time above date at centre and diameter 30mm;
- The single ring with arched MALTA and code letters A to R and diameter 20mm;
- The single ring with arched MALTA, with code letters but diameter 22mm;
- The single ring with arched MALTA, no code letters, diameter 24mm;
- The Maltese Cross in single ring with G.P.O., in the inner circle with no date – diameter 27mm;
- The Bar Cancellation with MALTA in between five horizontal bars;
- The Bar Cancellation with the central bar across MALTA.

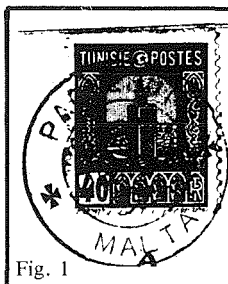


Fig. 1

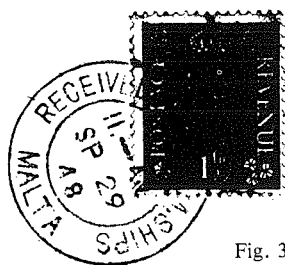


Fig. 3

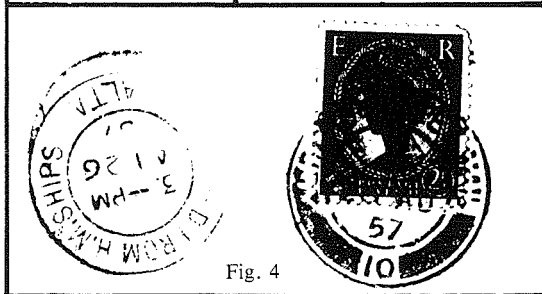


Fig. 4

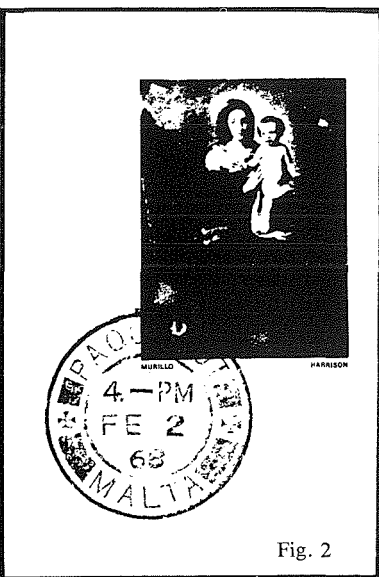
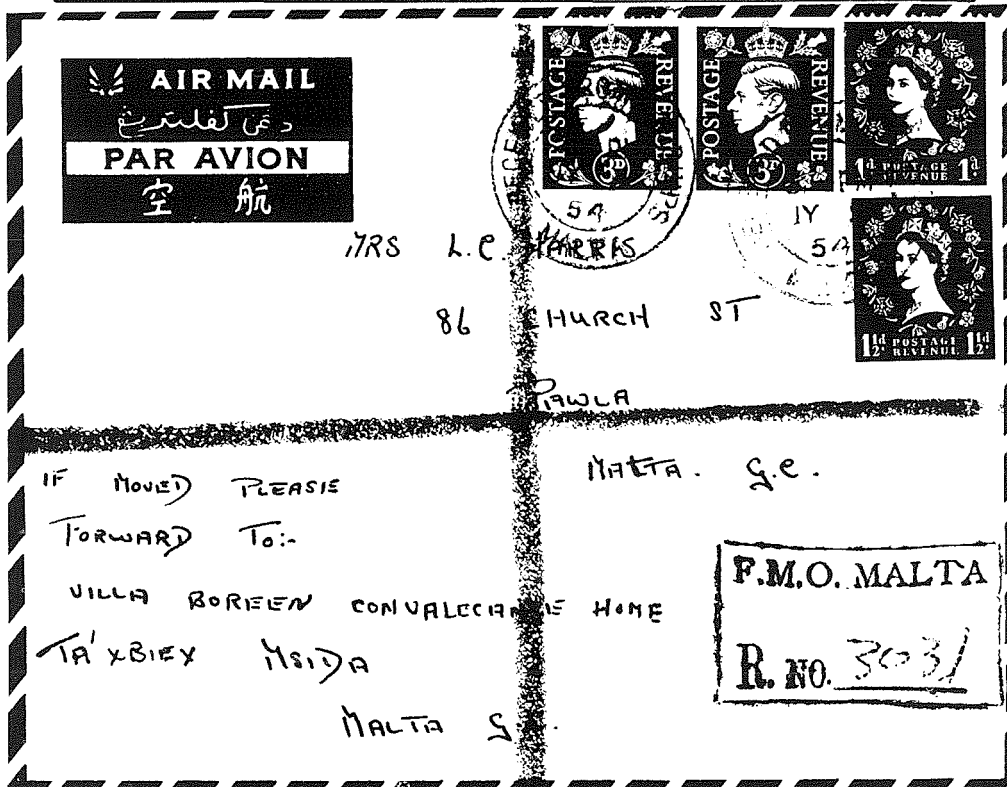


Fig. 2



A Registered Cover from HMS Forth in Msida Creek, having G. VI & Q.E. II Definitives, cancelled by RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS MALTA (9 JY 54) and Naval Registration cachet F.M.O. Malta in violet.

After the 1930s, until very recently, Great Britain stamps, mostly King George VI Definitives, as well as Queen Elizabeth, Wildings and Machins, and other foreign stamps are known cancelled with PAQUEBOT, MALTA circular date stamps. Two types of this canceller are known, one with Maltese crosses, used in the 1930 (Fig. 1), and the other with Maltese crosses and killer blocks used after 1936. (Fig. 2)

Military Mail from the H.M. Forces in Malta, was dealt mostly by the Army, Naval or Forces Post Offices, and mainly received their cancellations. Occasionally, such mail was handled by the Malta Post Office, and the Great Britain stamps would of course, be cancelled by The Malta Post Office cancellers.

In 1931, two cancellers inscribed "RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS/MALTA, with time and date slugs³ were used at the G.P.O., Valletta, to cancel Malta as well as Great Britain stamps on mail from the Fleet Mail Office, at St. Angelo, and which had not been cancelled previously or on mail that had been received from H.M. Ships. (Fig. 3) Letters from British naval personnel, bearing Great Britain stamps, may be found with strikes of these handstamps, if not previously cancelled by the British Fleet Mail 10 double ring circular date stamp. (Fig. 4)

One finds of course, odd occasions when Great Britain stamps or postal stationery did inadvertently pass through The Malta Post Office, but very often such items were noticed and consequently not cancelled, but taxed accordingly.

In the P.S.M. Magazine, Vol. 12 No. 4, a full list of Great Britain stamps known to exist with the "M" Cancellation was given. In this final instalment of the Great Britain Stamps used in Malta series, I thought it would be fitting to give a complete list of Great Britain Stamps known obliterated with the various types of the A 25 series. Here's the complete List which I had contributed to Said's Great Britain Used in Malta Section, as published in Said's Catalogue of MALTA – Postage Stamps and Postal History in 1982.⁴ The following Great Britain stamps are known to exist with the "A 25" cancellation:

- 1870 – 79 ½d rose-red (Plates 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 19, 20)
- 1880 ½d deep green Wmk Imperial Crown
- 1880 ½d pale green Wmk Imperial Crown
- 1884 ½d slate blue Wmk Imperial Crown
- 1841 1d red-brown (Imperforate)
- 1854 1d red-brown Die I (blued paper) Wmk Small crown Perf. 16 Plates 1, 8.
- 1855 1d red-brown Die II (blued paper) Wmk Large crown Perf. 14
- 1857 1d rose-red Wmk Large Crown Perf 14
- 1861 1d rose-red Alphabet IV Plates 50, 51
- 1862 1d rose-red Alphabet II Reserve Plate 16
- 1864 – 79 1d rose-red (Plate Numbers 71 – 224, with the exception of Plates Nos. 75, 77, 126, 128, 211; whilst Plates 112, 133, 221 to 224 are very rare).
- 1880 1d venetian red
- 1881 1d lilac/pale lilac (14 dots)
- 1881 1d lilac/shades (16 dots)
- 1887 – 79 1½d lake-red (Plates I, 3)
- 1880 1½d venetian red
- 1884 1½d lilac

- 1841 2d blue (Imperforate)
 1855 2d blue Wmk. Large Crown Plate 5 Perf. 14
 1858 – 69 2d blue (Plates 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15)
 1880 2d pale rose
 1880 2d deep rose
 1884 2d lilac
 1875 2½d rosy mauve (blued paper) Plates 1 and 2
 1875 – 76 2½d rosy mauve (Plates 1, 2, 3)
 2½d rosy mauve (error of lettering LH-FL for LH-HL – Plate 2)
 1876 – 79 2½d rosy mauve (Plates 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)
 1880 – 81 2½ blue (Plates 17, 18, 19, 20)
 1881 2½d blue (Plates 21, 22, 23, 25)
 1884 2½d lilac
 1862 3d carmine-rose (Plates 2 and 3)
 1865 3d rose Plate 4
 1867 – 73 3d rose (Plates 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
 1873 – 76 3d rose (Plates 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20)
 1881 3d rose (Plates 20, 21)
 1883 3d lilac (3d on 3d)
 1884 3d lilac
 1857 4d rose/rose-carmine
 1857 4d rose/rose-carmine with thick glazed paper
 1862 4d red (Plates 3 and 4)
 1865 – 73 4d vermilion (Plates 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)
 1876 4d vermilion (Plate 15)
 1877 4d sage-green (Plates 15, 16)
 1880 4d grey-brown (Wmk. Large Garter Plate 17)
 1880 4d grey-brown (Wmk. Crown Plates 17, 18)
 1884 4d dull green
 1880 5d indigo
 1884 5d dull green
 1854 6d violet (Embossed)
 1856 6d lilac (Plates 3 and 4)
 1862 6d lilac
 1865 – 67 6d lilac (Wmk. Emblems Plates 5 and 6)
 1865 – 67 6d lilac (Wmk. error – three roses and shamrock) Plate 6
 1867 6d lilac Wmk. Spray Plate 6
 1867 – 70 6d violet (Plates 6, 8 and 9)
 1872 – 73 6d buff (Plates 11, 12)
 1872 6d chestnut Plate 11
 1873 6d grey (Plate 12)
 1873 – 80 6d grey (Plates 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)
 1881 – 82 6d grey (Plates 17, 18)
 1883 6d lilac (6d on 6d)
 1884 6d dull green
 1876 8d orange
 1862 9d straw (Plate 2)
 1862 9d bistre (Plate 2)
 1865 9d straw (Wmk. emblems; Plate 4)
 1867 9d straw (Wmk. spray; Plate 4)
 1883 9d dull green
 1867 10d red-brown (Plate 1)
 1847 1/- (Embossed)
 1856 1/- green
 1856 1/- green (thick paper)
 1862 1/- green
 1862 1/- green “K” Variety in lower left corner in white circle (stamp KD)
 1865 1/- green Wmk. emblems (Plate 4)
 1865 1/- green Wmk. Error (three roses and shamrock) Plate 4
 1867 – 73 1/- green (Plates 4, 5, 6, 7)

- 1873-77 1/- green (Plates 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 – large coloured letters in the corner)
 1880 1/- orange-brown (Wmk. spray; Plate 13)
 1881 1/- orange-brown (Wmk. Crown; Plates 13, 14)
 1884 1/- dull green
 1867 2/- blue (dull, deep or pale blue; Plate 1)
 1867 2/- cobalt (Plate 1)
 1867 2/- milky blue (Plate 1)
 1880 2/- brown (Plate 1)
 1867-74 5/- rose or pale rose (Plates 1 and 2)
 1882 5/- rose or pale rose (blued paper)
 1882 5/- rose (white paper) (Plate 4)
 1883-84 5/- rose (blued paper)
 1883-84 5/- rose (white paper)
 1878 10/- grey-green (white paper Wmk. Malt. Cross)

POSTAL FISCALS

- 1871 1d purple Wmk. Anchor
 1881 1d purple Wmk. Orb

References:

- (1) M.S.C. Study Paper 35 – 1983 “GB Used in Malta” Page 35 – 8.
- (2) My contribution to Said Catalogue – Malta Stamp Catalogue 1982; MALTA – Postage Stamps and Postal History pp. 249, 250.
- (3) The M.S.C. MALTA – The Stamps and Postal History 1576 – 1960 Handbook, compiled by the Malta Study Circle, Edited by R.E. Martin, p. 188.
- (4) Said 1982 Catalogue of Malta – Postage Stamps and Postal History pp. 245 – 249 from an original list drawn up by the author.