

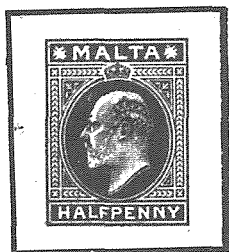
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Malta)

THE PSM MAGAZINE

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THE PSM MAGAZINE



Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84 & AUSIPEX '84
Silver-Bronze ISRAPIL '85 & PHILTEMA '85
Editor: Dr. A. Bonnici, Asst. Editor: V. Mercieca
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Vol. 15 No. 2

August 1986

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1986



*Mr. G. Said, Mr. H. Wood, Mr. V. Mercieca, Mr. J. Buttigieg, Mr. J. Fenech, Mr. C. Bonavia,
Dr. A. Bonnici, Dr. J. Mercieca, Dr. A. Ganado.
(Missing from photo Mr. M. Dimech)*

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WE SHALL KEEP MARCHING ON:-

1986 has been a memorable year; it has been a land-mark for our Society, being our 20th Anniversary. We now look forward to the future, our sights are set on the 25th Anniversary.

The celebrations started on the 7th March – “our birthday,” with Dr. Giovanni Bonello giving a very interesting talk, and display on “Early Charge Marks of Malta,” followed by a reception at our new comfortable meeting place in Floriana. The lecture given by Dr. Bonello was printed in the Special Anniversary 56 page edition of the March Issue of the PSM Magazine, which was published a month earlier to coincide with our anniversary.

Special commemorative stationery consisting of a commemorative cover, with a limited numbered edition, signed by the President Dr. A.J. Mercieca, and the Secretary Dr. A. Ganado, and a Maximum card were issued. The cover bearing the Melita figure, and the Maximum Card the £1 Melita stamp, designed by the late Chev. R. Caruana Dingli. Both had on them also the specially designed 20th Anniversary emblem, page 7.

The post office quite appropriately issued a special commemorative hand stamp which was available at the G.P.O. Counter on the 7th March 1986.

The May meeting was devoted to the Xth International Vote a Stamp Referendum and a report is featured on page 8 later on. From the 19th to the 23rd, a special Philatelic study week, the first to be held in Malta was held. This proved to be a tremendous success. On the 19th May, Dr. Giovanni Bonello lectured on “Disinfection of Postal Correspondence,” and displayed some remarkable items.

On the 20th May Mr. Cecil Diamantino lectured on “Malta Maritime Mail” displaying some of the items from his extensive collection. A report of this lecture is being published on page 14.

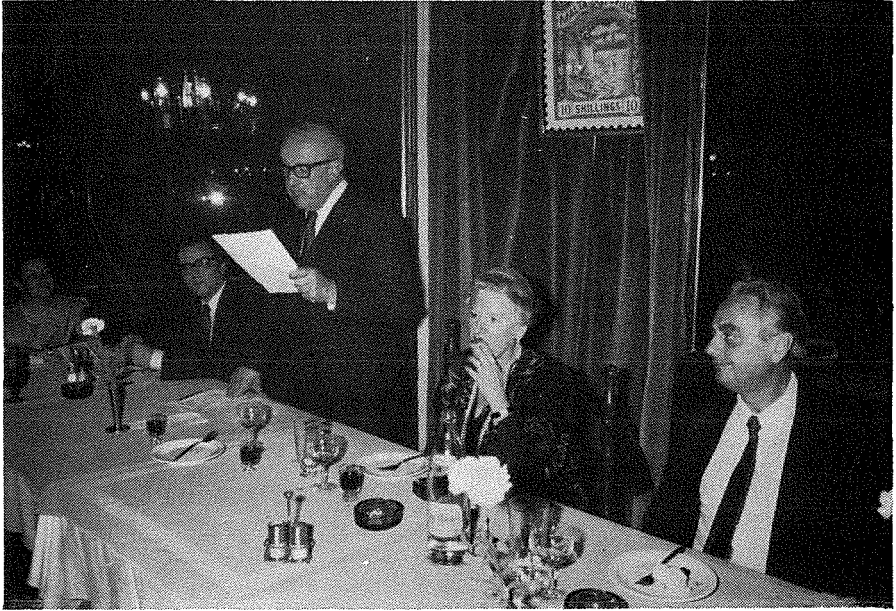
On the 22nd May Dr. Albert Ganado delighted us all with his usual high class research type of lecture on the “History of the Post Office, and its establishment from the early days of British rule until the G.P.O. was set up in 1885”. This lecture will be published in the December Issue of the P.S.M. Magazine, as space does not allow us to reproduce it this time.

On the 23rd May, Mr. Arthur Moyles, and Mr. Frank Gray, lectured. Mr. Moyles talked on early mail from Brighton to London, displaying part of his collection, and Mr. Frank Gray spoke on the King Edward VII (1902 – 1910) issue, displaying part of his collection, which among several other items were a considerable number of die proofs.

The celebration came to an end on Saturday the 24th May when we all gathered at the Bologna Restaurant, Valletta for a sumptuous dinner (page 5), for which occasion a special commemorative Menu Card was issued (page 30).

After the dinner Dr. J.H. Mercieca delivered a speech to mark the occasion thanking us all (Page 3). Immediately after this speech Dr. Albert Ganado pointed out that although Dr. J.H. Mercieca had showered praise on us all, he had failed to mention the tremendous dedication that Dr. Mercieca had shown during the past 20 years, and he felt that it should be acknowledged, because without the steady leadership of Dr. Mercieca, we would not have been celebrating to-day.

Speech delivered by Dr. J.M. Mercieca, President of the Philatelic Society (Malta) on Saturday 24th May 1986, after the Dinner given at the Bologna Restaurant, Valletta, on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Foundation of the Philatelic Society of Malta on the 7th March 1966.



When in 1966, a Dutch-born settler in Malta, by the name of Louis Frank, and a few of his friends got together and decided to form a Philatelic Society, which eventually came into being on the 7th March 1966, surely enough it never then crossed their minds that they were, in fact laying the foundation of a society which, with the passing of years would have continued to grow from strength to strength to attain the stature we see it in to-day, and still more that it would, twenty years thence, be befittingly celebrating the 20th Anniversary of its foundation, as we have done this year.

In fact we have every good reason to rejoice at reaching the 20th Anniversary of the foundation of this Philatelic Society for, since after the Second World War, there had been two previous unsuccessful attempts at having a Philatelic Society established in Malta – the first. The “Malta Philatelic Society” – in 1945, which used to meet at the British Institute, but which did not live to see its first birthday, and the second – the “Malta Philatelic Association” – in 1952, which held regular meetings at the Anglo-Maltese League in Valletta and had a bigger membership and was far better organised than its predecessor, but which, in spite of every effort to save it from disbandment, ceased functioning after a short life of barely two and half years, due to complete lack of interest.

As one or two of the founder members, here with us this evening may still very well remember, this present Society, had also its serious teething troubles and was after its second year of life gravely threatened with the same fate as its previous two predecessors, but was luckily saved from this predicament by the dogged determination, the perseverance and the keen interest in its continued existence then shown by a handful of founder members who kept up attending its very scantily-attended sessions. Once this storm had been weathered and this near crisis averted as circumstances within the Society changed, it was then steered on to a new course leading to the right road of continued and sustained progress, which has luckily been kept up to this very day and which it is my sincere augury that it will, in the future continue to follow.

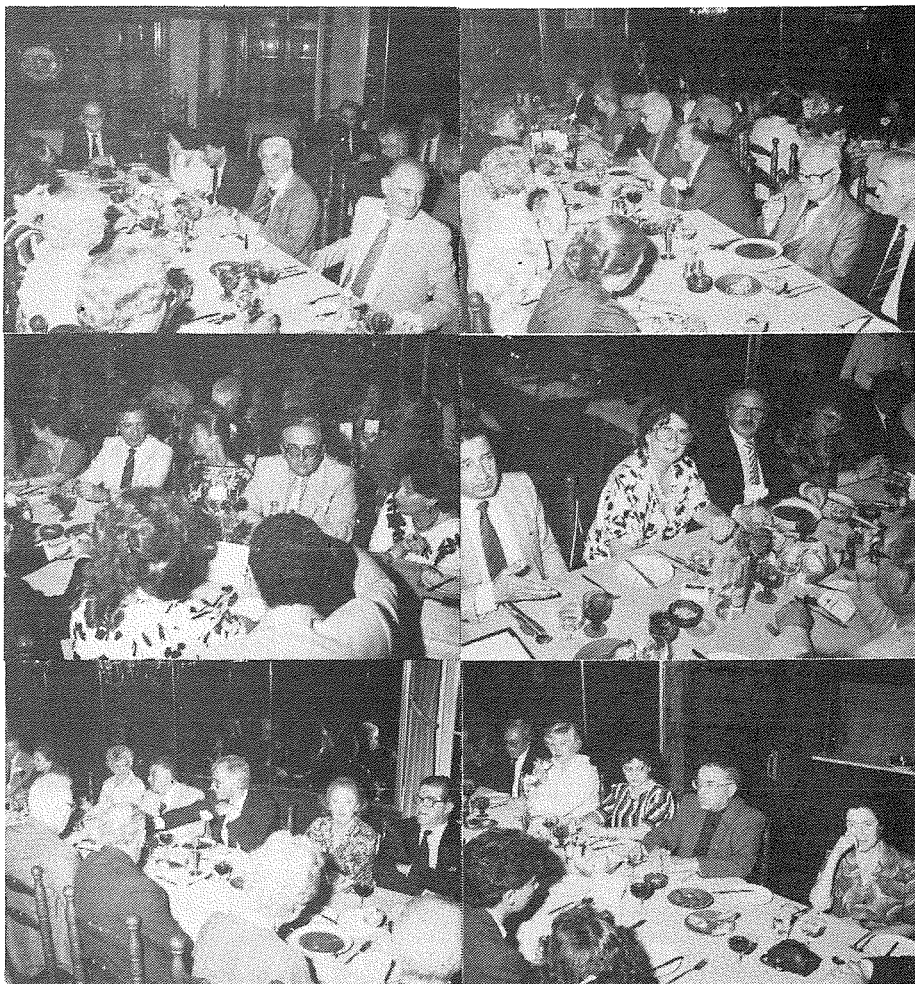
Thus we find, that as the years went by, the name of the society continued to spread, not only all over Malta, but also abroad and to-day we are indeed proud to count amongst our ever-increasing membership, Philatelists from more than 20 countries of the world, including the U.K., West Germany, U.S.A., Australia etc. and from many of whom we have had the pleasure of receiving the most superlative expressions of appreciation of the activities and work of the Society, which no doubt have a very salutary effect in spurring us to yet further improvements, where these were found to be necessary and feasible.

It would surely not be at all out of place, to mention in this context, that the spread of the Society's name overseas, was largely promoted by the Society's publication, which started as a modest stencilled trial number of the Newsletter in 1966 and kept on steadily improving, to reach the high standard, both as to its elegant presentation and production as well as to the high level of its contents, we find in it to-day, as has amply been attested by the many laudatory letters, we have time and again, been receiving from several of our local and overseas members. And here I must very much thank the editors, who from time to time during these 20 years have been responsible for the publication of the Newsletter, and later the P.S.M. Magazine, but in a very special way the present editor, my friend Dr. Alfred Bonnici under whose editorship the P.S.M. Magazine has made truly gigantic strides forward and risen to new heights in the class of Philatelic literature, thus showering much credit on him as also on the Society to whom it belongs.

The Annual "Vote a stamp Referendum and Contest" which this year has reached its tenth edition has undoubtedly been yet another means of spreading the Society's name overseas. The finely-produced, colour voting-forms travel throughout the world carrying the Society's name with them. The organization of this referendum has during the last three or four years been almost entirely in the hands of my namesake, the hard-working committee member Mr Vincent Mercieca whom I to-day heartily thank for his contribution and good work.

And now that I have got around, expressing my appreciation of the good work put in by members, to enhance the Society's prestige and aggrandisement, and thank them for it, I definitely cannot allow this opportunity to slip by, without thanking as well, the other stalwarts who are veritable cogs in the Society's wheel and on whose collaboration the smooth running of the Society has so much depended and still depends.

I therefore start by thanking Dr. Albert Ganado, who at a great personal sacrifice has so efficiently and ungrudgingly carried out the onerous duties of secretary all through these 20 years of the Society's existence. Mr. Tony Fenech



another founder member who, as Exchange Superintendent, has during the past 15 years ably organised the Stamp Exchange Packets of the Society; Mr. Godwin Said, who ever since the Society has been granted F.I.P. Membership has carried out with much credit the duties of Commissioner for F.I.P. Exhibitions; Mr Geoffrey Porsella Flores who so professionally and meticulously carried out for 3 years the duties of Treasurer, which office has now passed in the hands of the hard-working and promising young Mr Mario Dimech, whom I also very much thank; Mr. Carmel Bonavia for his valid contribution in the preparation of the commemorative stationery and the hand-stamp issued for the 20th "Anniversary celebrations"; Mr. Hadrian Wood for his liaison work between the Society and the Malta Study Circle of London and Mr. Cecil Diamantino and Mr. Joseph Buttigieg who have always been found most helpful in connection with stencilling photocopying and other ancillary office work connected with the Society's correspondence. Last but not by any means least, I also thank Mr. Joseph Farrugia who for a number of years served

as Asst. Editor of the P.S.M. Magazine and was also responsible for its mailing both to local as also to overseas members.

My thanks go also to all members who by continued support and their attendance at our activities and meetings have been a source of encouragement to us. May they keep it up and possibly yet improve further.

As it was the case ten years ago when we invited the P.M.G. and Mrs. Borg to be our guest at the Xth Ann. Dinner, we have again this year invited the present P.M.G. and Mrs. Costa to be our distinguished guests at this evening's dinner, but much to our regret they were unable to accept to join us, as they are currently away from Malta.

Here I would like to thank the Malta Postal Administration for acceding to our request to have a special handstamp to commemorate the 20th Anniversary, put in use on the 7th March 1986 and which I am glad to say was much liked and admired.

As I have done on past occasions my Society to-day pledges full support to the Postal Administration of Malta and shall, at all times, be most willing and ready to cooperate and advise on matters pertaining to Philately, if and when needed.

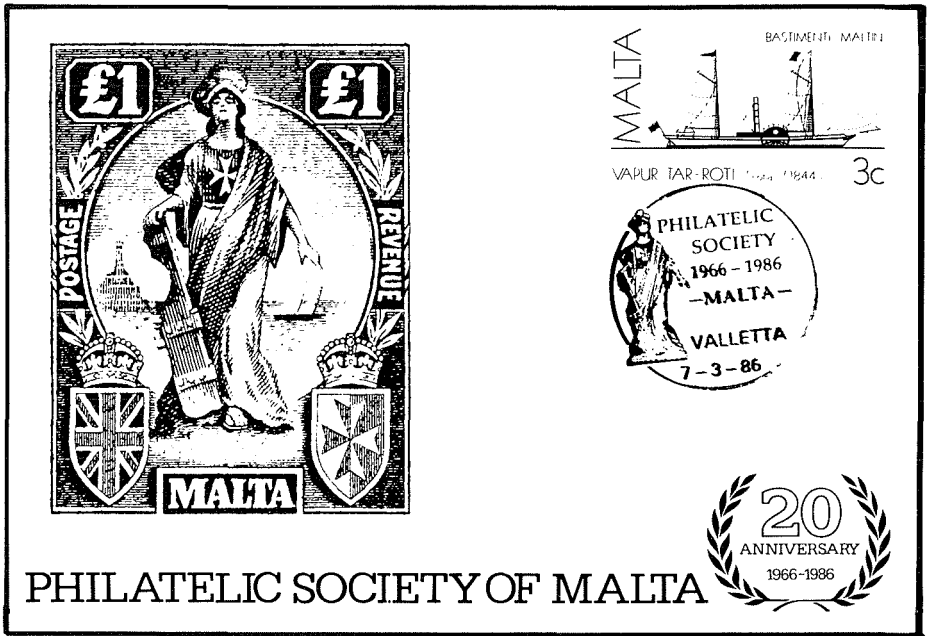
I must also express my and my Society's gratitude and thanks to the Director of the Catholic Institute for having provided suitable accomodation during almost all of the Society's twenty years of existance.

You are surely aware that following the promulgation of Act XXII of 1978 our Society had to drop the word "Malta" from its name. This has all along been a matter of concern to me and to the committee. I am now pleased to be able to inform you that lately, following contacts I had with the Authorities concerned, I asked the Secretary to apply for the granting permission to be allowed to re-use the word "Malta" in the Society's name, which request was acceded to the satisfaction of us all.

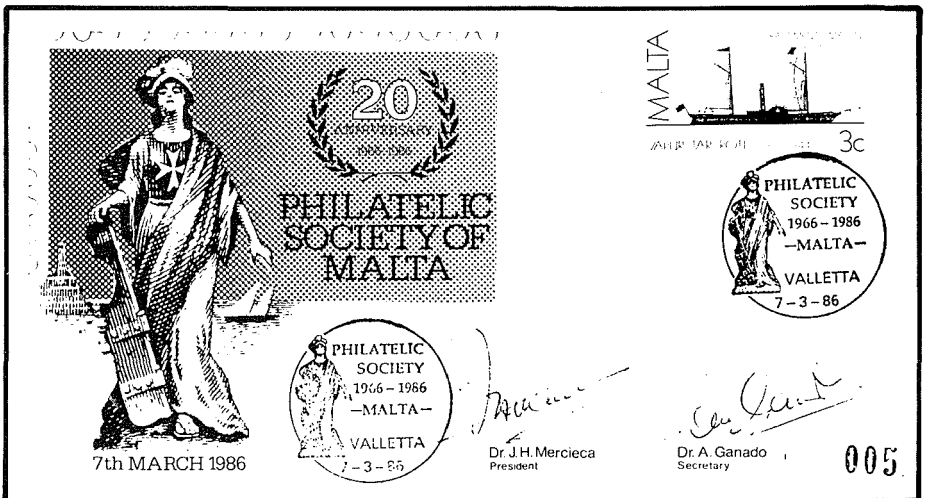
No better proof of the pleasant and happy relation existing between our Society and the Malta Study Circle of London, could be forthcoming than the very presence amongst us, of three of the Circle's prominent members – Mrs Harrow, Mr. Arthur Mayles, and Mr. Frank Gray the latter two having travelled all the way from England to join us at this memorable and joyful occasion. All three are also members of our Philatelic Society. In this connection I would very much like to thank Mr. Conyers Rulter, the chairman of the M.S.G. for his nicely worded letter of congratulations on the Society's 20th Anniversary of its foundation, which he addressed to me as the Society's President. And so I am indeed glad, to be able to state, that during these twenty years of my Society's life, the pleasant relations and the friendly and fraternal ties, existing between the Malta Philatelic Society and the Malta Study Circle of London, have kept on steadily improving to reach the truly high level we find them in to-day, which I do sincerely trust, will all along not only continue to be so maintained but yet still further strengthened.

And to conclude. May the splendid collaboration and esprit de corps, which have guided us, and seen us successfully through these first twenty eventful years of this Society's life, which we have so befittingly and enthusiastically been celebrating, since the 7th March of this year, and which we are bringing to the conclusion, with the evening's sumptuous dinner, be to us an inspiration and an incentive to consolidate what has so far been attained, and a

stimulus to yet further achievements and may the same determination, and interest in maintaining high the name of this Society continue to be our guiding light in future, that we may keep this Society alive, and healthy for yet many more years to come.



Commemorative Card



Commemorative Envelope

Tenth International Vote a Stamp Referendum 1986

by Dr. J. Mercieca

The counting of votes received in connection with the "Xth International Vote a Stamp Referendum and Contest" took place at the monthly meeting of the Philatelic Society (Malta), held at the Sports Centre, Floriana on Monday 5th May 1986.

In addition to those received locally, votes were received from several overseas countries including the U.K., West Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Hong Kong, the U.S.A., Australia etc.

The Stamps voted for were the 24 Stamps from the 8 sets issued by the Postal Administration of Malta in the year 1985.

The 8c + 2c of the Christmas set, designed by Mr. John Bonnici, emerged an easy first with no less than 40% of the total number of votes received. The second place with 6.63% of the votes received was secured by the 23c stamp of the old Maltese Ships set, designed by Mr. Norbert Attard, while the 2c + 1c stamp of the Christmas set, designed by Mr. John Bonnici was placed third with 5.27% of the votes received.

After the full results of the Referendum were announced to the Meeting by Dr. John Mercieca, the Society's President, all the ballot papers of those who had voted for the winning stamp were placed in a big box and Mr. John Burtin, a director of the Royal Stamp Co of London, who happened to be in Malta at the time and was present at the Meeting was called to draw the names of the four lucky winners of the prizes offered.

The big prize went to Mr. Anton Farrugia of 36, Sannat Road Victoria Gozo, who won 2 free Flight Tickets, kindly donated by the National Airline Air Malta, to and from any city presently being served by the Airline, and the three consolation prizes, each consisting of a De Luxe Stamp Stockbook, kindly donated by Messrs E. Said, Stamp Dealer Malta, went to each of the following:

Mr. Joseph Azzopardi of Mosta, Malta.

Mrs. A.M. Rowe of Oxted, Surrey, U.K.

Signor Francesco Graziano of San Marcellino, Italy.

Bringing the Meeting to its close Dr. Mercieca, thanked the National Airline – Air Malta and the Malta Hilton for again this year donating the Big Prize, Messrs Emanuel Said for donating the 3 De Luxe Stockbooks and six firms who had advertised on the elegantly printed voting brochure, without whose support this could not have been realized.

Last, but by no means, least the President thanked Mr. Vincent Mercieca who was the official responsible for the organization of the Referendum and who had done all the spade work connected therewith.

Disinfection

Part 9

by Dr. A. Bonnici

Letters and other Documents written on Wood during the Plague Epidemic of Malta in 1813.

The plague bacillus "Bacillus Pestis" was discovered independently by Kitasto and Yersin during the epidemic at Hong Kong in 1894 (1) and the Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for India in 1905 established that infection was by means of the bites of fleas transmitting the bacilli from infected rodents. eg. rats. (2).

Up till 1905 it was believed that plague was a "Contagious" disease, conveyed from a sick person to another by touching the patients body, or his belongings or by the handling of infected material.

Government Notice of the 12th May 1813 (fig. 1) is a typical example of the precautions and necessary measures which the Government advised should be adopted. Among the precautions we find that "Papers to be Smoked, the necessary Composition for this purpose will be Sold at a fixed price, at No 47. Strada San Giovanni". In past issues it was pointed out how correspondence was disinfected by immersion in vinegar etc. (P.S.M. vol 12 no 3 pg 7) b) slitting P.S.M. vol 13 no 2 pg 3c), and by exposing the letters held by tongs to a flame of charcoal. (fig. 2)

A notice issued by the Magistrate of Police on the 26th July 1813 on the order of H.E. the King's Civil Commissioner again drew attention to the hazards from susceptible articles, including Paper (3).

A further "Order" of the 28th August 1813, by the Inspector General of the Urban Volunteer Guard enjoined the people to search for bits of PAPERS, among coffee beans and other items of food and to burn them after picking them up with pincers from these foodstuffs. (4).

From the above orders and precautions it can be seen that great importance was given to paper as a means of passing on infection, and so a Unique System of writing letters and other documents on wood was developed in Malta in 1813 during the Great Plague epidemic.

This method as far as I know has not been used in Malta prior to 1813 and never used in any other part of the world.

Fig 3 is the first part of a business letter written to Sig. Abriamo Attard on Board in Marsamxett in 1813 confirming this practice.

"We have received to day your 'Tavoletta' table in the form of a letter from which we note your arrival here etc" (5).

Dr. Victor Captur, M.D. FACC. has shown me a tablet in the form of a receipt (fig. 4)

Dated August 15, 1813, given out by the Rev. Salvator Dimech. This tablet is 10 by 9 cm in size and 2.5 mm thick. It is of a deep - brown colour and is broken in two parts by a vertical fracture that runs at about its middle. The fragments are held together by a piece of paper pasted on the back of the tablet and bearing a short manuscript note in Italian which states "Specimen of a receipt made out in Malta at the time of the Plague of 1813. (6).

The Rev. Filippo Calleja of Zebbug wrote his last will and testament before



ADVERTISEMENT.

MANY of the Inhabitants who may be desirous of taking every precaution against the scourge of Plague, are unacquainted with the necessary measures which should be adopted.

To such, the following essential ones are pointed out:

To remain shut up in their Houses, or, being obliged to go out, to avoid touching any Person, or thing that can convey Infection.

To employ a Person who is not admitted into the House, to purchase the necessaries of Life.

To have a Tub of Water at the door into which Meat and Vegetables are to be thrown and well immersed, previously to being touched by the Family.

Money to be passed through strong Vinegar, Bread if received hot, to remain untouched till it is cold.

Papers to be Smoked; the necessary Composition for this purpose will be Sold at Fix'd Price, at No. 47, Strada S. Giovanni.

Linen to be washed in the House, and such as may already have been given out, to be received in Water, and remain therein at least 12 hours before it is touched.

Particular regard should be paid to cleanness, both in Persons, and Houses.

A plain, wholesome Diet is recommended, Pork, and Salt Food, should be avoided.

The Chief of every Family who wishes to adopt these Precautions must announce his intention to his Dependants, who not consenting to conform thereto, under the apprehension of the rigorous punishments prescribed for the violation of the Quarantine Laws, shall be allowed to quit the House.

Board of Health, 12th MAY, 1813.

J. CAST-MILLER, Secretary.

J. THOMAS, President.

AVVISO.

SICCOME diversi degli Abitanti che possono essere desiderosi di usare ogni possibile precauzione per evitare il progresso del Contagio della Peste, ignorino le proprie misure da usarsi; vengono a questi indicate le seguenti, che sono molto essenziali.

Di rimanere chiusi nelle loro Case, oppure essendo obbligati di uscire, di non toccare alcuna persona, od altre cose che potessero comunicare l'infezione.

D'impiegare una persona, che non si ammette nella Casa, per comprare le cose necessarie pel vitto.

Di tenere nella Porta un recipiente con acqua in cui la carne e li vegetabili debbano gettarsi e ben immergersi, prima di esser toccati dalla famiglia.

Il Danaro debba passarsi da Vinegar forte.

Il Pane ricevendosi caldo non debbasi toccare prima di raffreddarsi.

Le carte devonsi profumare, per cui, la necessaria composizione si vende a prezzo fisso in Strada S. Giovanni No. 47.

La Biancheria devesi lavare nella Casa, e quella tale che sarà di già data fuori, da ricevervi nell'acqua, e da lasciarsi colà almeno per dodici ore prima di toccarsi.

Debba ogni Individuo avere una cura particolare di tener la massima pulizia tanto nella propria persona, quanto nella rispettiva casa.

Un alimento sano si raccomanda, e debbasi evitare il mangiare carne di Porco, e roba salata.

Ogni Capo di famiglia che vorrà usare queste precauzioni dovrà annunziare la propria intenzione a' suoi dipendenti, i quali non volendo conformarvisi, e temendo le rigorose pene prescritte per li violatori delle leggi della Quarantena potranno lasciare il servizio.

Comitato di Salute 12 Maggio 1813.

J. THOMAS Presidente.

J. CAST-MILLER Segretario.

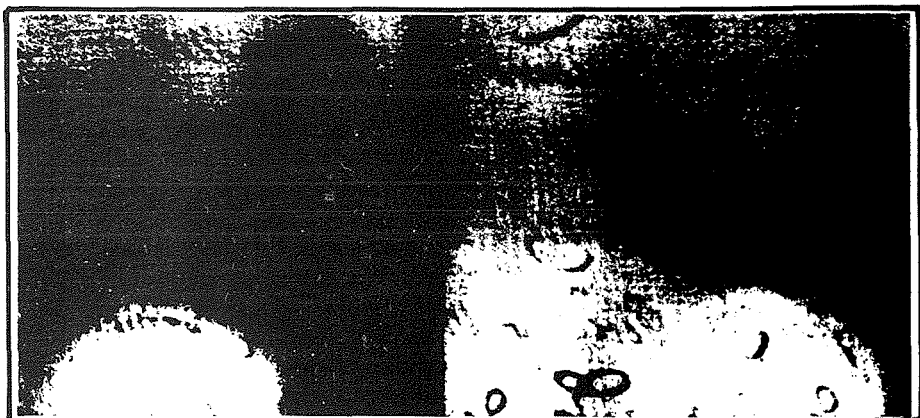


Fig 2,

Marsamusetta Sig.^o Abramo Abbadi
 Malta li 7. Luglio 1813

e Abramo ricevuto quest'oggi le vostre tavolette in forma di
 lettera dalla quale osserviamo il oro arrivò qui, in quanto alla
 soddisfazione che ci domandate a dirvi il suo parere Sen-
 ti 25 giorni consumate nel porto s.^o Paolo dovranuo essere
 compresi nella stalla del oro Contratto come lo pretendono
 il oro Sig.^o Capiti in quanto nella spotiamo vedere mandando
 il oro Sig.^o Capiti in quanto nella spotiamo vedere mandando
 il oro Sig.^o Capiti in quanto nella spotiamo vedere mandando

Fig 3.

Il 25 Agosto 1813.
 La Sig.^o Anna Menicello, pagò
 scudi 50000 a gli. sono e un.
 al luogo di un luogo di un luogo
 50000 - - - - - 50000
 faccenda di un luogo di un luogo
 di un luogo di un luogo di un luogo

Fig 4.

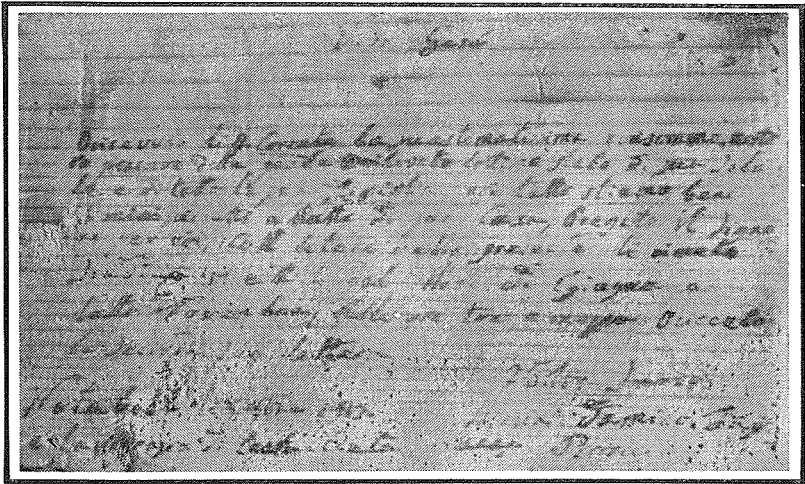


Fig 5.

he died on September 9th 1813 on a wooden board.

“The tablet measures about 26.5 by 19.5 cm and is 1.3 cm thick. It has a smooth surface and rounded edges. The writing is on both sides but no longer cypherable. Fortunately six months after the testator’s death a transcript on paper was made.”

The original tablet together with the transcript are to-day preserved at the Government National Archives in Valletta. There are no other documents written on wood at the Government National Archives but on the back of the envelope containing the board of the testament of the Rev. Calleja there is a manuscript note to the effect that “The Baron possesses several receipts and bills written on wood during the plague of Malta 1813 – 14 (7). Dr. Paul Cassar (BMA 5th August 61.) states that only one of these has been traced. It measures about 17.5 × 10.5 cm and is 1.3 cm thick. The author was a Baroness married into the Inguanez family. It was written in Italian. (fig 5).

“Jesus for ever.

On the 2nd Instant I received with the greatest of pleasure, your most esteemed letter, from which I learn the very good health enjoyed by yourself and by all your family. We are all well. Give my regards to every one at home. Pray God for us. With the bearer of this letter I am sending you 31 Scudi and 6 tari for the months of June to the end of November. At 5.30pm I received your second letter. I thank you for so much kindness.

Notabile 5th Oct 1813.

Your servant.

Maria Damico Inguanez Bonnici. (8).

Dr. Cassar also states that “The name of the same Baroness appears on another tablet a receipt for 100 scudi” dated 2nd Dec 1813 in the possession of the descendant of the Inguanez family of Mdina” (9).

At the National Museum Valletta there is another small tablet. It is of a dark colour and measures 17 × 12.5 cm and 6 cm thick. Dr. Paul Cassar described this tablet stating “Both surfaces are written on, but the script on the

back is not discernable as the words have become indistinct owing to the Spreading and fading of the ink The obverse is dated September 19th 1813 and the wording authorizes a certain Mrs Lorenza Xiberras to christen the baby daughter of Mrs Rosa and Francesco de Albanese (11).

Dr. Albert Ganado and Dr Paul Cassar described two other known tablets which are dated 21st August 1813 and 10 Nov 1813 respectively. They are of an irregular oblong shape and written in Italian. "The first one measures 135 – 140 mm in height and 85 – 88 mm in width and 3 mm in thickness. The second one is 71 – 80 mm, 110 – 114 mm, and 3 mm. the wood is of a light brown colour and shows well marked graining of a dark hue. It has been identified as being white soft wood. (12).

"Received of Mr. Ignatis Cauchi twenty scudi that is eight scudi for the annual censo of St Ludovicus (St Louis); two scudi for the High Mass in honour of the saint and libera for the dead and the living, ten scudi as a token of gratitude for the refreshment of the religious on the said day. Padre Maestro Lorenzo Ferroni Prior has received the said sum."

The second letter states.

"Received of Mr. Ignatius Cauchi twenty scudi that is eight scudi for the souls of the brethern of the confraternity of St. Ludvicus "King of France" who died during this epidemic.

I have also received one Scudo and three Tari for the Anniversary of all the male and female brethren of the said Confraternity." 13.

Eleven tablets have so far been documented (14). and they are:

- 1) 15 August – receipt (Rev Salvator Dimech) fig 4.
- 2) 21 August Receipt (Fr. Lorenzo Elia Ferroni) Valletta.
- 3) 21 August – Letter (Marchese Vincenzo Testaferrata) Zurrieq.
- 4) 9 September – Testament (Rev Filippo Calleja) Zebbug.
- 5) 19 September – Power of Attorney (Rosa and Francesco de Albanese) Cospicua.
- 6) 23 September – Receipt (Rev Saverino Vassallo.)
- 7) 5 Oct letter (Rec Francesco Borg) Zejtun.
- 8) 5 Oct Letter (Maria Damico Inguanez Bonici) Notabile.
- 9) 29 Oct Bill (Luigi Mifsud).
- 10) 10 Nov Receipt (Fr Lorenzo Elia Ferroni.)
- 11) 2 Dec Receipt (Maria Damico Inguanez Bonici) Notabile.

I believe that this Unique system of writing on wood was only used in Malta. Any further information on this subject from our overseas Members interested in Disinfection would be appreciated.

References

1. & 2. C.H. Browning and T.J. Machio. Text-book Of bacteriology. Pg. 364.
3. Notificazione 26 th July 1813.
4. Giornale di Malta. 8 Sep 1813. Pg 352.
Ordine per la Guardie Urbane 20 Aug 1813.
Paul Cassar and Albert Ganado. Melita Historica. Vol VII No 4 Pg 357.
5. Published by kind permission of Dr. Giovanni Bonello LLD.
6. Published by kind permission of Dr. Victor Captur M.D. FACC.
- 7/8/9/10/11. Published also by Dr. Paul Cassar BMA 5th Aug 61 Pg 378.
- 12/13/14. Melita Historica Vol VII No 4 Pg 358. Dr. Paul Cassar and Dr. Albert Ganado.

Malta maritime mail

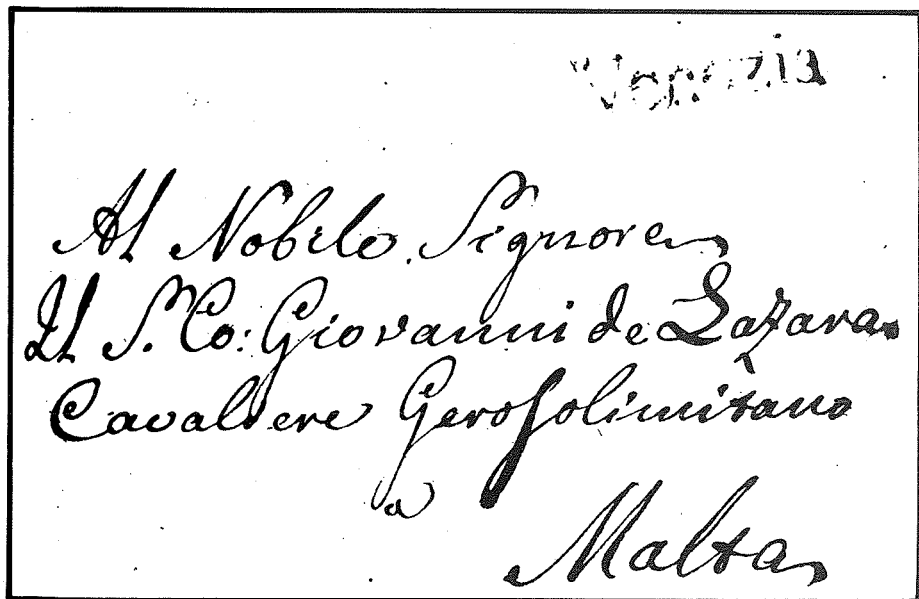
By Mr. C. Diamantino

(A glance at some of the markings and methods used for the carriage of mail by sea up to 1860 – taken from a talk given to the Philatelic Society (Malta) by Cecil Diamantino)

The earliest recorded maritime markings appear during the last decade of the Knights' rule. Prior to that, some letters showed picturesque manuscripts inscriptions such as "Che Dio Aiuti", "Che Dio Guardi", "Iddio accompagni a Salvamento", all wishing "God Speed" and a safe passage for the vessel. Of course none of these old letters bear any postmark and they were probably entrusted directly to the captains of the merchantships who delivered them more often than not to each addressee personally.

The VOYE DE MER/APR MARSEILLE (1757) is the earliest of the known handstruck marks, that is, marks which were used specifically to indicate despatch, arrival or transit by sea. Correspondence with Italy followed some years later after the establishment of direct sea connections with that country and Sicily. Letters from Malta to Venice (1787–88) received the oval fringed cachet LETTERE DA MARE/VENEZIA, and there are straight-line markings on incoming letters showing GENOVA (1771) and VENEZIA (1790) which appear to correspond with other maritime markings of that country. (Fig 1, 1a)

On 18 June, 1798, very soon after the French occupied the island, they decreed that a Post Office would be set up in the City of Valletta. Although one of its purposes was to organise the receipt and despatch of mail by sea, the service only lasted a few weeks and the only marking known during its short period of service was a strike on the 24 June, 1798 with the name MALTE in a frame of curved lines split at both ends, known as the "loaf of bread".



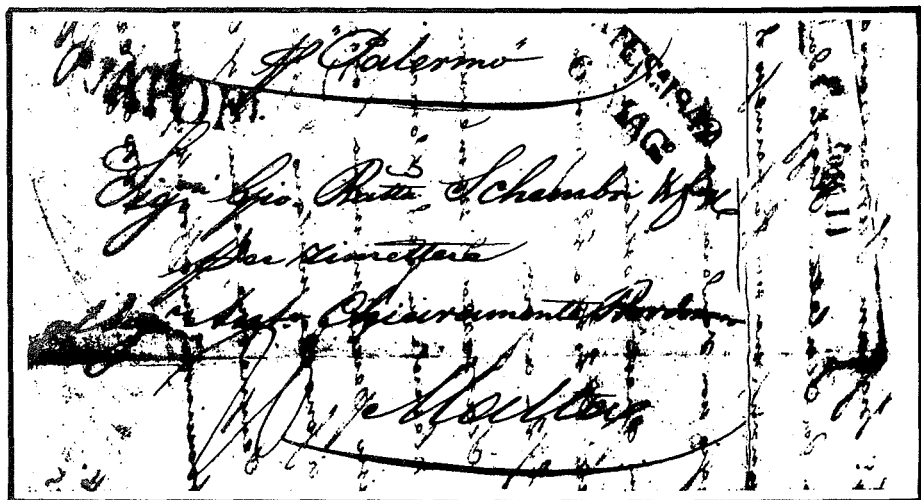


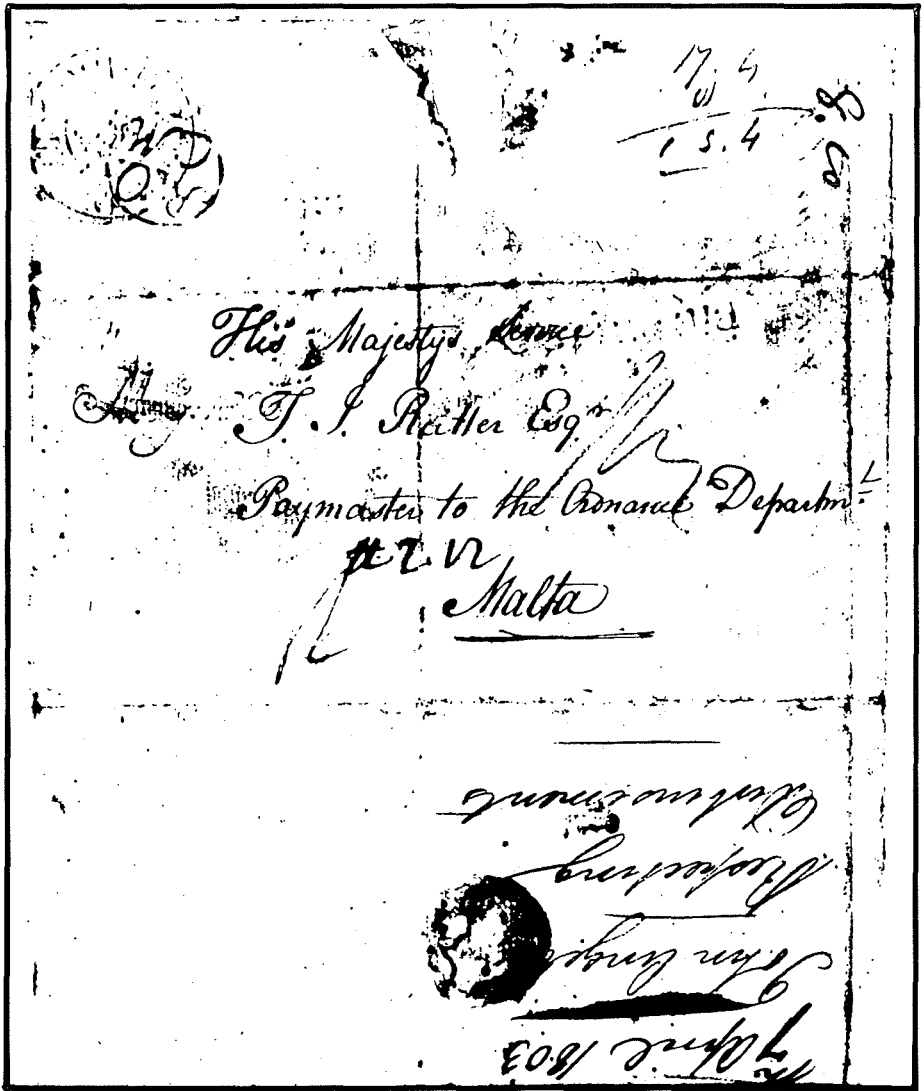
Fig 1a

Some maritime marks appear on mail during the early English period (1800–1806). One is an 1802 letter to Scotland which bears the PORTSMOUTH ship letter entry mark and was carried either by private ship or naval vessel. Another is an incoming letter (1803) sent on “His Majesty’s Service” addressed to the Paymaster to the Ordinance Department, Malta. The letter travelled via Naples and was struck there with the red circular maritime handstamp, inscribed R.O.C.M. (Regi Offici Corrieri Marittimi). Fig 2,3

Following the establishment of a packet agency in 1806 letters carried by Post Office packets from Malta to Falmouth were sometimes struck on arrival and while the earliest “packet letter” mark with an office-name is connected with Falmouth in 1806, the earliest so far recorded for Malta is five years later (1811). Outgoing packet mail was stamped with the name MALTA in cursive letters in a curved frame. Later, in 1826, the Hunter and Ross company attempted to set-up a first packet-boat service between Malta and Genoa, but the service was abandoned because, it would seem, it did not prove viable.

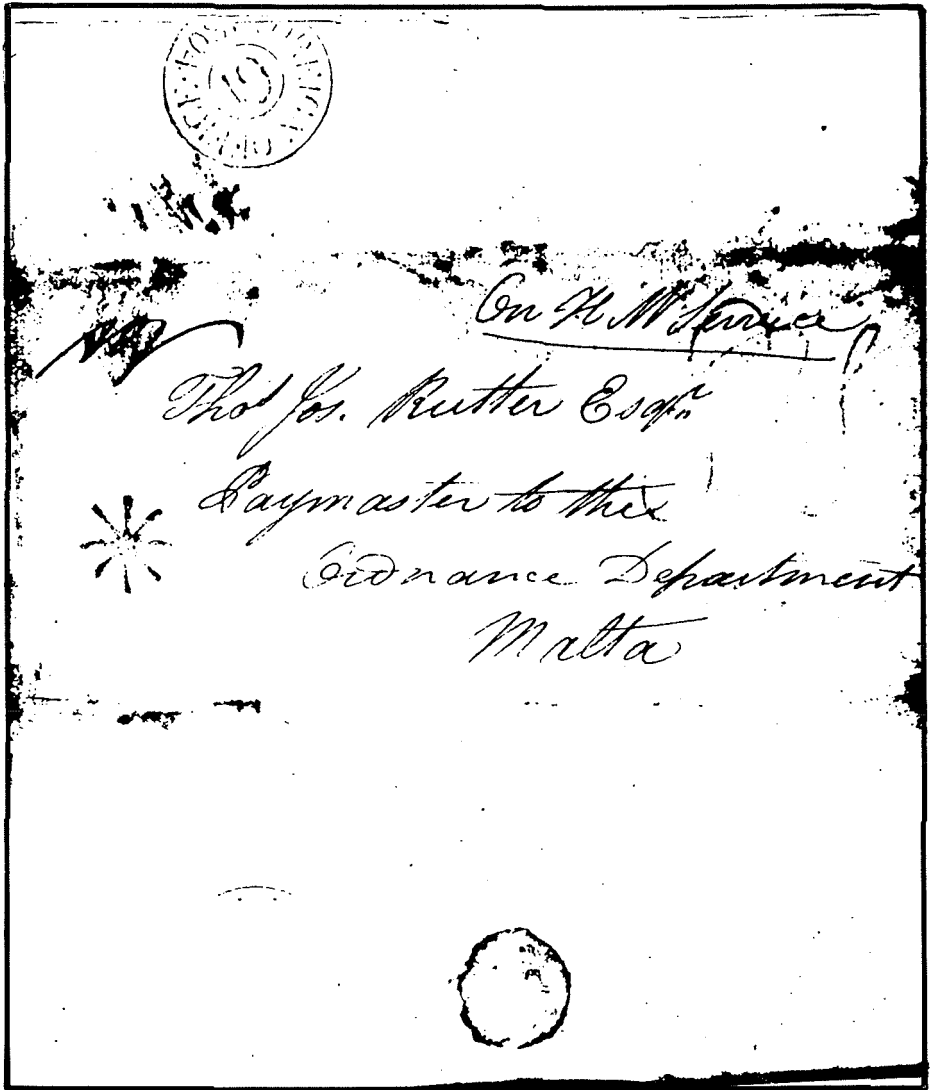
Between 1837 and the early 1840’s a series of packet boats came into service in the Mediterranean linking Malta with several ports and providing frequent services, thus putting an end to the problem of communications with Europe, Egypt and the Orient. The introduction in 1837 of French postal packet-boats in the Mediterranean linked Malta, three times monthly, with Marseilles, the Italian ports, Syria, Smyrne, Dardanelles and Constantinople as well as Alexandria via Syria. The P&O followed in 1840 linking Malta once a month directly with Southampton, Gibraltar and Alexandria on the Mediterranean sector of the Bombay & Australia Line. In the 1840’s the Neapolitan Line provided a service between Naples and Malta three times monthly. These provided packet-boats however did not have a monopoly over the carriage of mail which, as before, could be transported by commercial vessels. Although this was a slower route, it was less expensive. Fig 4

There is, undoubtedly, an important distinction to be made between a packet letter and a private letter. A packet letter is of course a letter carried by



Letter from the Office of Ordinance London (7 Apr 1803) to T.J. Rutter Esq. Paymaster to the Ordnance Department, Malta showing on reverse R.O.C.M. in circle (Regi Offici Corrieri Marittimi) struck in red at Naples. The letter is marked His Majesty's Service and shows circular handstamp FOREIGN OFFICE, various m/s rates including Tari 2 Grani 12.

(fig. 2)



On His Majesty's Service letter (27 Sep 1803) showing circular FOREIGN OFFICE/1804 handstamp, m/s rate 8/8 and a star with eight radiating lines struck in red.

(fig. 3)



(fig. 4)

“packet boat” (corresponding to the French “paquebot” and Italian “pacchetti a vapore”). Such boats were under Post Office control and although they were often privately owned they *had a contract* for the regular conveyance of mail. Letters carried by vessels which had *no agreement* for the regular conveyance of mails are termed “ship letters”. The Postal Office was not restricted to using just packet boats. It could, in much the same way as the ordinary individual, also use commercial boats with which it had no contract. Ship letters can be further distinguished between –

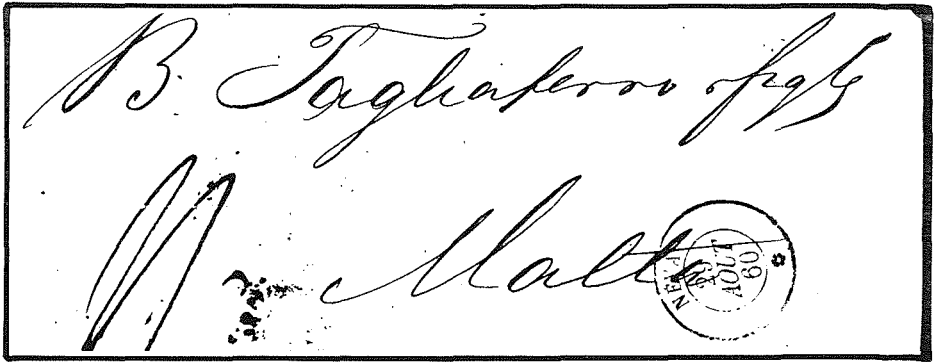
1. those letters entrusted to a vessel by the postal office at the port of departure or transit, and
2. letters entrusted to a vessel directly by an individual.

The first type includes those letters posted at the office of the port of departure (or brought to that office from other inland offices). Such letters, which usually showed the marking of the office at the port of departure, often had a manuscript request written by the sender, either general e.g. per via di mare, or specific, indicating the name (and often the nationality) of the selected ship, the departure date of which as well as the destination were known to the sender.

The second type relates to those letters which were posted on board. These are possibly the more interesting of the maritime items. Such letters, consigned directly by a private individual to a ship (quite frequently there was a post box on board) do not show the cancellation of the postal office of departure. If the particular shipping line had a postal official on board, the letter and any relevant stamps were cancelled by such official; if it did not have such an official but formed part of a shipping line which regularly carried mail, the letter and stamps were marked or cancelled at the next office where the letters were delivered or temporarily taken off board.

One other way, which is a kind of in-between method of despatch, occurred when a person presented a letter at the postal office, paid the rate for private ship letters, and subsequently personally delivered the letter to the ship. In this case the office of departure would mark the item with the particular strike intended for this purpose, while the letter would be cancelled at the office of arrival or port of call.

The Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1843 had made provision for the collection of mail which was posted on board ship either prior to departure or



(fig. 5)

during the voyage "... a letter box shall be placed against the mainmast of each packet, or in the most conspicuous place, to receive such letters as the public may wish to deposit in it between the closing of the mails and the departure of the vessel, entrusted with their conveyance. The moveable box shall be immediately carried to the postmaster who shall open it and take out the letters and directly return it to the agent who brought it." Prior to 1856 however there was no distinctive mark to identify mail that landed at Malta from the moveable boxes. Subsequently a mark was applied to denote the origin of these letters.

Intense development of the French and English packets in the Mediterranean took place in the middle decades of the 19th Century. The years between 1851 and 1866 are probably best known for the flourish of date stamps carrying the names of different French paquebot vessels. This period of 15 years started with the introduction of the Mediterranean Lines by the future Compagnie des Messageries Imperiales. The British Peninsular and Orient packets did not, regrettably, use the same picturesque datestamps. Fig 5

It often happened that the sender only paid for part of the letter's journey and would leave the balance of the rate to be paid for by the receiver. Various postal arrangements between countries and the system of paying only part of the rate, quite often creates an abundance of rates on an item which makes it very difficult to distinguish between the rates of one country and another. Normally the sender would pay only those rates applicable to the country of despatch and transport by sea leaving to the receiver the rates applicable to the country of arrival.

One of the most fascinating aspects of maritime mail is tracing the progress of a cover from its origin to its destination. One needs to look at its characteristics, that is to look at any cancellations or markings other than just the specific maritime markings. A mute cover, or one in which it is not possible to read or deduce these factors and the dates associated with them, is often less interesting and is a major reason why a cover is usually more collectible than a maritime strike on stamp or on piece. On a cover, it is possible that the combination of markings, read together, may indicate the route taken by the boat, where it originated, places of transit, which shipping line has carried it. A maritime marking or cancellation gathers much of its meaning when it is combined with offices of despatch, transit, rates, arrival date marks which, in combination alone, tell the history of the postal system that moved it across its journey.

Swedish Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations

by Godwin Said

The following article concerning letter rates to Malta is reproduced from a book published in a limited edition of 200 numbered copies. Further details are available from E. Said Stamp Dealers at 43 Zachary Street, Valletta.

Quote:

“The rates to Malta were published in the Swedish official tables under “Ionian Islands and Malta” during the skilling period and under separate heading after that.

There were a number of routes by which mail could be sent to Malta, primarily through Germany, France or England. There were several variations for mail through Germany, including via Trieste, via Milan, via Genoa or via Brindisi. From Italy, France and England, the mail had, of course, to proceed by ship to Malta.

Letters to Malta are very scarce. There is only one known in the skilling period, with one each of the 4, 6 and 24 skilling stamps making the 34sk rate via France. During the later period only three covers are believed to exist having the 85, 76 and 59 öre rates.

When England joined the UPU Malta, as an English possession, also became member as of 1 July 1875



34 skilling rate to Malta via France. 1 July 1855 – 30 June 1858.



59 öre letter rate to Malta via Germany and Italy. 1 April 1869 – 15 December 1872.

Period	1/7/55 to 30/6/58	1/7/58 to 29/10/62	30/10/62 to 21/9/64	22/9/64 to 30/9/65	1/10/65 to 22/4/67	23/4/67 to 31/3/69	1/4/69 to 15/12/72	16/12/72 to 1/7/75
Letter Rates	51 sk ¹ 34 sk ² 24 sk ²	153 öre ⁵ 146 öre ⁶ 102 öre ⁷	153 öre ⁵ 108 öre ¹⁰ 102 öre ¹¹	128 öre ⁵ 102 öre ¹¹ 90 öre ¹⁴	128 öre ⁵ 102 öre ¹¹ 85 öre ¹⁷ 76 öre ¹⁸	102 öre ¹¹ 85 öre ¹⁹ 76 öre ²⁰ 66 öre ¹¹	85 öre ²³ 76 öre ²³ 66 öre ¹¹ 59 öre ²⁴ 56 öre ²⁵	76 öre ²³ 74 öre ³¹ 73 öre ²³ 56 öre ²⁵ 51 öre ²⁵ 20 öre ³²
Printed Matter Rates	8½ sk ³ 6 sk ³	26 öre ³ 25 öre ⁸ 18 öre ⁹	23 öre ¹² 21 öre ¹²	18 öre ¹⁵	18 öre ¹⁵	18 öre ¹⁵ 15 öre ²¹	18 öre ²⁶ 15 öre ²¹ 14 öre ²⁷	18 öre ²⁶ 15 öre ²⁶ 14 öre ²⁷ 13 öre ²⁷ 12 öre ²⁷ 6 öre ³²
Supplemental Registry Fees	12 sk ⁴	35 öre ⁴	69 öre ¹³	71 öre ¹⁶	71 öre ¹⁶ 60 öre ¹⁶	78 öre ²² 60 öre ¹⁶	78 öre ²⁸ 72 öre ²⁸ 42 öre ²⁹ 41 öre ³⁰ 40 öre ³⁰	72 öre ²⁸ 56 öre ²⁸ 41 öre ³⁰ 18 öre ³²

- 1 Via Göteborg and Southampton with double rate progression.
- 2 Via France 34 sk per ½ lod or via Milan and Genoa, 34 sk per lod. A route via Trieste and Corfu was opened on 21/1/56 at 24 sk per lod, increased to 34 sk per lod effective 31/3/56.
- 3 Via Milan and Genoa, 8½ sk per lod; from 1/7/58 – 31/12/58 payable in öre at 3 times the skilling rate; also via Trieste 6 sk per lod effective 21/1/56.
- 4 Via Trieste effective 21/1/56.
- 5 Via Göteborg and England with double rate progression.
- 6 Via Göteborg and England effective 29/4/61 with double rate progression.
- 7 Via France for ½ lod; also via Trieste and Corfu or via Milan and Genoa as sender may request.
- 8 25 öre per lod via Milan and Genoa effective 1/1/59.
- 9 18 öre per lod via Trieste and Corfu.
- 10 Via Prussia and Austria for ½ lod; for ½ – 1lod, 144 öre; for 1 – 1½ lod, 252 öre; for 1½ – 2 lod, 288 öre.
- 11 Via France for ½ lod, 1½ ore or 7½ gr., reduced to 66 öre for 10 gr. effective 1/2/68.
- 12 21 öre per lod via Prussia and Austria, increased to 23 öre per 3 ort on 2/4/63.
- 13 Via Trieste; if via Prussia and Austria the letter rate for a registered letter was 72 öre per lod plus 70 öre per ½ lod instead of the regular letter rate of 108 öre per ½ lod (see note 10) in addition to which there was a supplemental fee of 35 öre per letter. Thus the registry fee for a letter of ½ lod was 142 – 108 + 35 öre = 69 öre.
- 14 Via Prussia and Austria 36 öre per 1½ ore plus 54 öre per 3 ort. Effective 1/5/65.
- 15 The 23 öre rate, see note 12, was reduced to 18 öre (9 öre per 8 ort plus 9 öre per 3 ort) on H 1/5/65.
- 16 Via Prussia and Austria 36 öre per letter (24 öre effective 1/1/67) plus an increase in the letter rate of 36 öre per 1½ ort., effective 1/5/65.
- 17 Via Denmark and England effective 18/12/65.
- 18 Via Prussia and Austria 36 öre per 1½ ort plus 40 öre per 3 ort.
- 19 Via Göteborg or Denmark and England.
- 20 Via Prussia and Austria 36 öre per 7½ gr. plus 40 öre per 15 gr.
- 21 15 öre for 10 gr. via France effective 1/2/68.
- 22 Via Denmark and England.
- 23 Via Göteborg or Denmark and England, reduced to 76 öre on 15/8/70 and to 73 öre on 18/1/75.
- 24 Via North Germany and Italy 18 öre per 10 gr. plus 41 öre per 15 gr.
- 25 56 öre per 15 gr. via North Germany and Brindisi effective 7/11/70, decreased to 51 öre on 1/10/73 (35 öre per 15 gr. plus 16 öre per 10 gr.).
- 26 Via North Germany and Italy, reduced to 15 öre effective 1/10/73.
- 27 Via Göteborg or Denmark and England effective 15/8/70, reduced to 13 öre on 29/5/74 and further reduced to 12 öre on 18/1/75.
- 28 Via Denmark and England, reduced to 72 öre on 1/1/71 and to 56 öre on 18/1/75.
- 29 Via North Germany and Italy 24 öre per letter plus an increase in the letter rate of 18 öre per 10 gr., the latter reduced to 16 öre on 7/11/70 (see note 30).
- 30 Via North Germany and Italy (Brindisi) 24 öre per letter plus an increase in the letter rate of 16 öre per 15 gr. effective 7/11/70, increased to 41 öre per letter effective 20/2/71; from 29/5/74 18 öre per letter plus an increase in the letter rate of 23 öre per 15 gr.
- 31 Via Göteborg or Denmark and England effective 29/5/74.
- 32 UPU rate of 20 öre for 15 gr. (letters), 6 öre for 50 gr. (printed matter) and 18 öre (registry fee) effective 1/7/75.”

MALTA – A DIARY

January – April 1986

by J. Farrugia

7-1-86

It was notified in to-day's Govt. Gazette that the set of designs of the two Europa 1986 stamps submitted by Mr. Maurice Tanti Burlo under the nom-de-plume Odessa has been placed first. The set submitted by Mr. Saviour Dalli under the nom-de-plume Stairway and the set submitted by Mr. Tony Bugeja under the nom-de-plum Wind have been placed second and third respectively. The 57 designs which participated in the competition were exhibited at the G.P.O. from 8am to 5pm on the 8th. and 9th. January, 1986.

28-1-86

"International Year Of Peace" set, issued to-day. A special hand postmark incorporating the emblem of the International Year Of Peace was used on the first day of issue. (Fig. 1)

14-2-86

A new metal hand date stamp was put in use at the St. Paul's Bay Sub Post Office as from Friday the 14th. February, 1986. It is inscribed "St. Paul's Bay SPO – Malta".

The hand date-stamp which was replaced, was withdrawn from use at the close of business on Thursday the 13th. February, 1986. (Fig. 2)

21-2-86

In to-day's Govt. Gazette the PMG notified that the 1c stamp of the current Definitive Postage Set had been reprinted by Printex Ltd. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the General Post Office, Valletta.

28-2-86

A call for applications was issued in to-day's Govt. Gazzette, for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Zebbug, Malta.

Applications were to be received, up to noon of Thursday, 27th. March, 1986. The duties and obligations of Sub-Postmasters were also issued.

7-3-86

The PMG notified that a special hand postmark was to be used on Friday, 7th. March, 1986, to mark the 20th. anniversary of the foundation of the Philatelic Society. The postmark is inscribed as follows:-

"Philatelic Society – 1966-1986 – Malta – Valletta – 7-3-86". (Fig. 3)

The postmark also incorporates the anniversary celebrations logo featuring a detail from the 1922 Definitive "Melita" stamps. The postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO, Valletta, from 8.00am to 12.45pm and at the Central Mail Room, Castille, from 8.00am to 6.30pm.

18-3-86

The PMG notified that a new hand date-stamp was put in use on Tuesday, 18th. March, 1986, at the Branch Post Office, Mgarr, Gozo. The data-stamp is inscribed:- "Mgarr – Gozo". (Fig. 4)

The old date-stamp which was replaced was withdrawn from use at the close of business on Monday, 17th. March, 1986.

19-3-86

The PMG notified, that a Sub-Post Office shall be opened at 55, Tower Road, Sliema, on Wednesday, 19th. March, 1986.

A hand metal date-stamp inscribed with the words:- "Sliema SPO – Malta" is to be used at this Sub-Post Office. (Fig. 5)

The telephone number at this Sub-Post Office is 332111.

24-3-86

On the occasion of the 31st. March Festivities, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- "Nghozzu L-Helsien – 31 Ta' Marzu, 1979", was used from the 24th. to the 29th. March, 1986, at the Central Mail Room, Castille.

25-3-86

A call for applications was issued in to-day's Govt. Gazette, for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Santa Venera. Applications were to be received, up to noon of Wednesday, 30th. April, 1986.

The duties and obligations of Sub-Postmasters were also issued.

1-4-86

A call for applications was issued in to-day's Govt. Gazette, for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Tarxien. Applications were to be received, up to noon of Monday, 5th. May, 1986.

The duties and obligations of Sub-Postmaster were also issued with the call for applications.

3-4-6

“Europa 1986” set issued to-day. A special hand postmark incorporating a line drawing of a butterfly was used on the first day of issue. (Fig. 6)

5-4-86

A special hand postmark was used on the occasion of the International Conference on Drugs which was held in Malta on the 5th. and 6th. April, 1986. The postmark is inscribed:- “International Conference – Together Against Drugs – Valletta – Malta – 5.4.86”, and also incorporate the logo of the International Conference on Drugs. (Fig. 7)

The postmark was used on Saturday, 5th. April, 1986, at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO, from 8.00am to 12.45pm and at the Central Mail Room, Castille, from 8.00am to 6.30pm.

10-4-86

A special hand-postmark inscribed:- “Malta Post Office – 6th. International Stamp Fair – 10-April 1986 – Essen” was used on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office in the 6th. International Stamp Fair in Essen, West Germany, from the 10th. to the 13th. April, 1986. The postmark, which also incorporates the emblem of the above mentioned exhibition, was used on the 10th., 11th. and 12th. April, 1986, at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO from 8.00am to 12.45p and at the Central Mail Room, Castille from 8.00am to 6.30pm. (Fig. 8)

An identical postmark was used at the Malta Post Office stand at Essen '86.

12-4-86

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:- “Photographic Society (Malta) – 25th. Anniversary – International Exhibition – 12-20 April 1986” was used during the period from 12th. to 19th. April, 1986, at the Central Mail Room, Castille.

18-4-86

The PMG notified that six metal hand date-stamps inscribed:- “Valletta – Malta” which are already in use at the sale of stamps, and Philatelic Counters, GPO, Valletta, shall each include one of the letters, C, D, E, F, G and H, and shall be used at the sale of stamps counters, GPO, Valletta with effect from the 18th. April, 1986.

A new metal hand date-stamp inscribed:- “Valletta – Malta” and including the letter “I” is being put in use at the Philatelic Counter, GPO, Valletta, with effect from the 18th. April, 1986.

28-4-86

On the occasion of the holding of the Interpol 15th. European Regional Conference, a Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the Mediterranean Congress Centre, Valletta, on the 28th., 29 and 30th. April, 1986, from 8.30am to 1.00pm for the transaction of the following business:-

- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery.
- (b) posting of letter packets.
- (c) registration of postal articles.
- (d) issue and encashment of money and postal orders.
- (e) encashment of postcheques.

Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked with a date-stamp inscribed:-

“Interpol 15th. European Regional Conference – 28-30 April 1986 – Valletta – Malta”.

The Interpol logo is also incorporated in the date-stamp. (Fig. 9)



(Fig. 1)



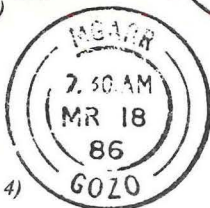
(Fig. 3)



(Fig. 7)



(Fig. 2)



(Fig. 4)



(Fig. 6)



(Fig. 5)



(Fig. 8)



(Fig. 9)

Interesting. G.B. Cover used in Malta & N.Y.

by Dr. A. Bonnici

One shilling and two pence rate to U.S.A.

This attractive G.B. used in Malta Cover was sold at Christie's Robson Lowe British Empire sale on the 26th March 1986.

Posted on the 17th Nov. 1869 to New York, it bears the 1864 1d. Pl 124, 1865 4d. Pl 11 and 1867 6d. Pl 8, all clearly cancelled, showing London Paid and New York arrival c.d.s., the latter overstocked by "2/cents" due h.s.

This cover is apparently underpaid by 3d. The estimate was £125, and was sold for £594.



Detailed Information about:

by J. Farrugia

Maltese Ships (Third issue) X
 International Year of Peace issue Y

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	27 – 11 – 85	28 – 1 – 86
Values	3c, 7c, 15c, 23c.	8c, 11c, 27c.
Stamp Size	47mm × 29mm	8c & 27c = 44mm × 31mm 11c = 43mm × 21.5mm
Designer	Norbert Attard	11c & 27c Tony Bugeja 8c Anthony Agius
Printers	Printex Ltd.	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	13.9 × 13.6	8c & 27c = 13.9 × 14 11c = 13.4 × 13.8
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	PVA	same

Colours:

Issues X and Y were produced using multicolours.

Colour checks in form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows, in each Pane, of each value, of issue X, but next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in issue Y. As for the colour checks of Pane B, of the 11c value of issue Y, nothing can be said for reasons to be stated later on. The colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left on all Panes of all values, in issues X and Y.

Reference Pane numbers, a very interesting point may be mentioned here, about the 27c value of issue Y. In both Panes A and B of this value, the number of colour-checks is four, but the number of Pane numbers is three, i.e. the 1A in Pane A and 1B in Pane B, in the top colour of the colour checks is missing. As far as I know, this is the first time that the number of Pane numbers does not correspond to the number of colour checks.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, in all Panes, printed in Black in issue X, but printed in the top colour of the colour checks, of each value, in issue Y.

Printed Sheets:

Issue X – Each value consisted of Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of five rows of eight stamps. All values are of the horizontal format. Two kinds of paper were used for the printing of this set. I have seen a Creamy coloured paper used for Pane B, of the 23c value, which means that there must also be, Panes A and C of this value on the same Creamy coloured paper. Other values may also have been printed on this same kind of paper. When seen together, the difference is quite evident, because one paper is much whiter than the other.

Issue Y – The 8c and 27c values consisted of Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. The 11c value consisted of Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of four rows of ten stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

Another interesting point, reference Pane B of the 11c value, may be mentioned here. All Panes B of this value have been issued with

the last two columns missing, i.e. eight stamps missing. This means that the right hand margin of Pane B which includes the colour checks, part of the top margin and part of the bottom margin, having the Printer's Imprint, were also missing. Hence as mentioned earlier, nothing can be said about the colour checks of this Pane.

Plate/Pane numbers:

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

Issue X – 3c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5

7c = 1A × 6, 1B × 6, 1C × 6

15c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5

23c = 1A × 6, 1B × 6, 1C × 6

Issue Y – 8c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4

11c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4

27c = 1A × 3, 1B × 3 (should be 1A × 4, 1B × 4)

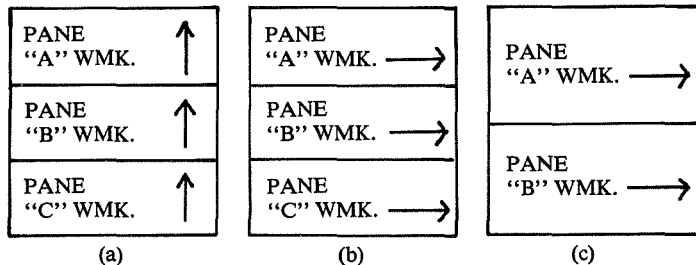
Perforations of Margins:

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C of all values are imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

Parts of printing or cutting marks were seen in the top left hand corner of Panes A and the bottom left hand corner of Panes C of all values. I have also seen smaller marks in the top right hand corner of Pane A and the bottom right hand corner of Pane C in the 23c value only, and noticed that this right hand margin was wider than in the other values, where no such marks were seen.

Issue Y – The top margin of Pane A, of the three values, is imperforate, whilst the left hand, right hand and bottom margins of this same Pane, are all perforated. All four margins of Pane B in the 8c and 27c values, and those of Panes B and C of the 11c value, are also perforated.

A printing or cutting mark was seen only in the top left hand corner of Pane A of the 8c value.



From a study of all details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as follows:

Issue X – All values as in figure (a).

Issue Y – The 11c value as in figure (b) and the 8c and 27c values as in figure (c).

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

Imprint Blocks:

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in Black in issue X, and in the top colour of the colour checks, of each value, in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks, in all values, of both issues, except Pane B of the 11c value, of issue Y, because of reasons mentioned earlier.

Special hand-postmarks incorporating a line drawing of a ship’s helm (issue X) and the emblem of the International Year Of Peace (issue Y), were used on the first day of issue.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm29,271 for issue X and Lm26,056 for issue Y.

Stamps were to remain on sale up to 15th. June, 1986 for issue X and 12th. September, 1986, for issue Y, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Maximum Card No. 6

This Maximum Card was issued with the “Maltese Ships” third issue. It reproduces the steamer “Gleneagles” featured on the 15c value stamp of issue X. This stamp could have been affixed on the image side of the maximum card and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark. The maximum card was available for sale at 5c. The card was also available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau, at 25c, with the 15c stamp affixed on the image side and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark.

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

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 also upright.

PANE “A” ↑ WMK.	PANE “B” ↑ WMK.	PANE “C” ↑ WMK.
PANE “D” ↑ WMK.	PANE “E” ↑ WMK.	PANE “F” ↑ WMK.

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 hand-stamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed:- “Europa 1986 – L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hruġ – 3.4.86 – Malta” and the name of the respective locality. A line drawing of a butterfly is also incorporated in the postmark.

This set will remain on sale up to Tuesday, 25th. November, 1986, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Sales up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue amounted to Lm128,170.

Europa 1986 Issue

Date of issue.....	3rd. April, 1986.
Values	8c and 35c
Stamp Size	31mm × 44mm
Art Designer	Maurice Tanti Burlò
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 using five different colours for each value.

Designs:

The theme chosen by CEPT for this year's Europa stamps is "Protection of Nature and the Environment". This sixteenth set of the Europa series, is being issued in the usual form of small Panes of ten stamps.

The 8c stamps features three of the most common butterflies which breed in the Maltese islands – Vanessa cardui (Painted Lady), Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral) and Polyommatus icarus (Common Blue).

The 35c stamp represents the basic elements which make up our environment – earth, air, fire and water – which exist in harmony with one another, and man's mark on the environment is symbolized by the Neolithic frieze across the islet of Filfla.

Both values 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 both values, the CEPT emblem and "Europa 1986", can be seen, printed in gold on the 8c Panes and in silver on the 35c Panes. In the first space of the second row, the whole space is occupied by the same design of a butterfly, in both values, printed in Black.

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.

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 × 5 up to and including 1F × 5.

35c = 1A × 5 up to and including 1F × 5.

Perforation of Margins:

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

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Parma Ham Wax Seal*

*Fish Soup Maritime Mail or
F.A.O. Vegetable Soup*

*U.P.U. Veal en Croute, or
Peace Year Chicken Jodi, or
Europa Entrecôte Pizzaiola, or
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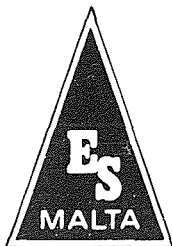
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Durlach bei / Fraulsnube i. Baden

Schlossstrasse 10 II,

MALTA: Registered cover to Durlach, Germany. Dated 17.6.1914 with Queen Victoria 1899 10/- blue-black stamp watermark Crown over CC. Sent by Hammer and Thompson - Malta. Arrival mark Durlach dated 20.6.1914.
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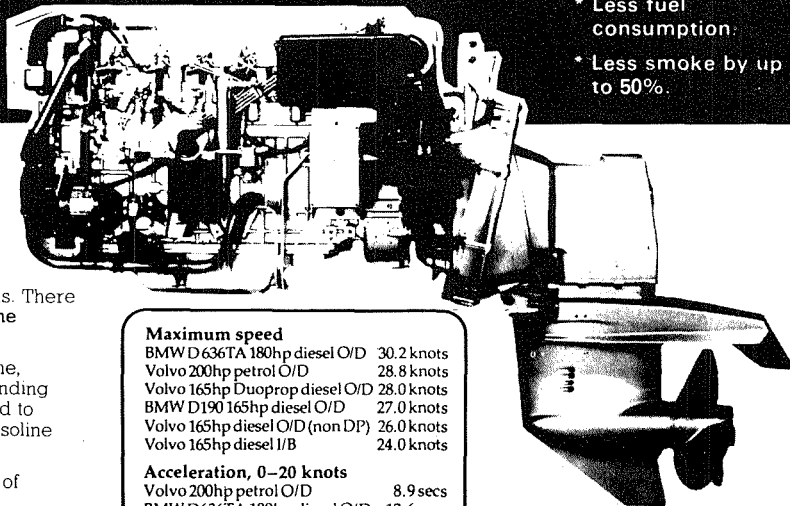
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Volvo 200hp petrol O/D	28.8 knots
Volvo 165hp Duoprop diesel O/D	28.0 knots
BMW D190 165hp diesel O/D	27.0 knots
Volvo 165hp diesel O/D (non DP)	26.0 knots
Volvo 165hp diesel I/B	24.0 knots

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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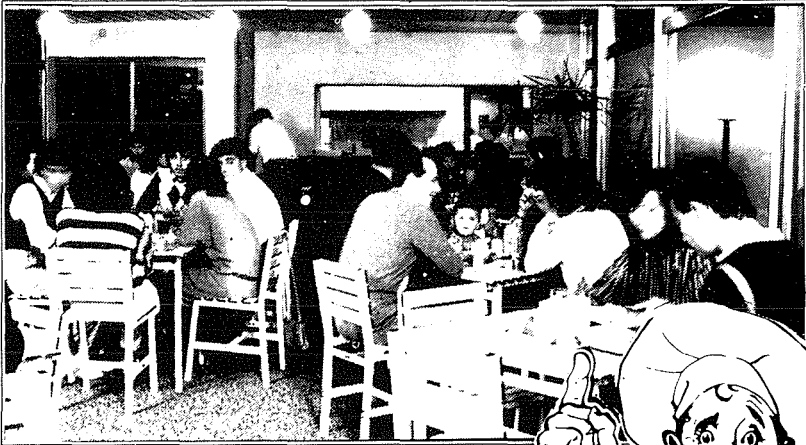
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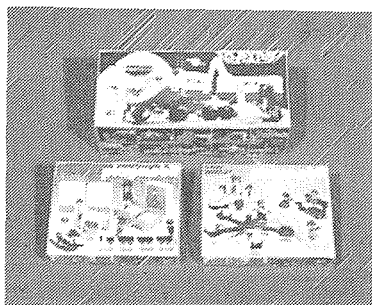
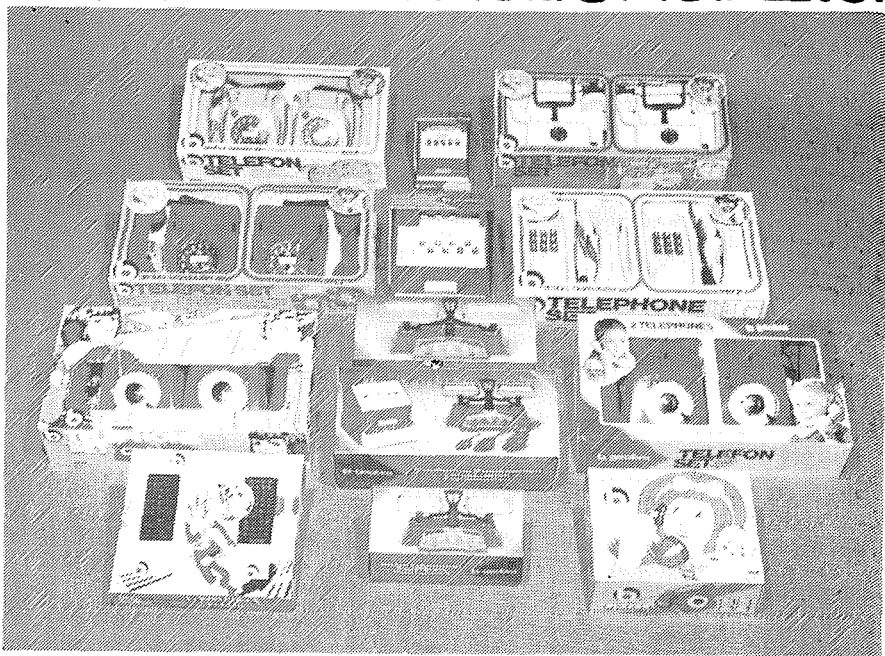
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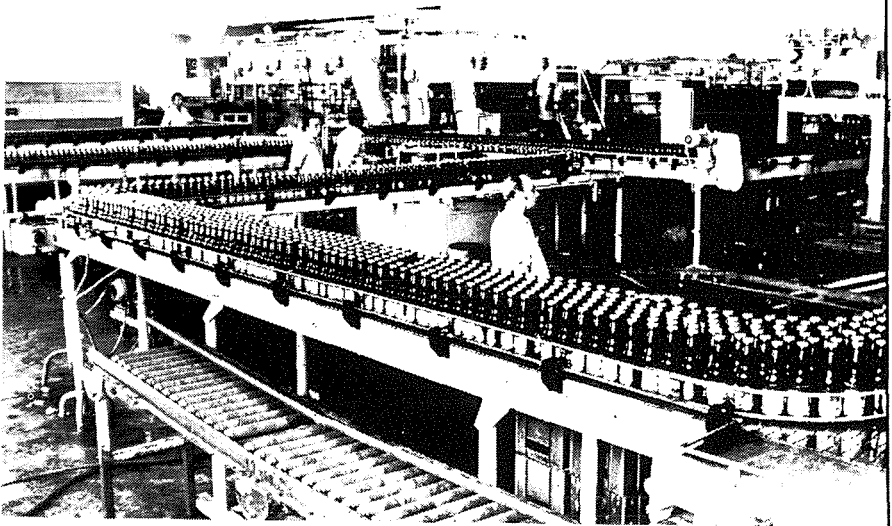
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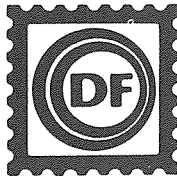
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