

Great Britain Stamps Used in Malta


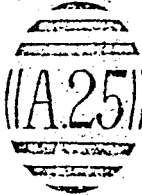
By Anthony Fenech

Continued Part 6

The A25 Single Vertical Oval Handstamps

The last type of A25 cancellers used in Malta on Great Britain, on Foreign, as well as on Malta stamps, is an upright single obliterator, size 18×25mm (Type One) and size 18.5×25mm (Type Two), with three bars above and below the numbers and with two curved lines on either side. It is worth mentioning that there is a full stop separating the "A" from the "25" on both cancellers which were despatched from London to Malta on the 1st January 1883.

122 122

To what place	Date when sent	Stamps
<i>Malta</i>	Type One 18×25 mm	
	Type Two 18.5×25 mm	

1. 1. 83

These cancellers were sent to the Central Office, Malta, purposely to cancel the stamps on registered letters. A duplex handstamp was no longer required since the introduction of the circular registration dater in 1870 and the oval registration dater in 1880.



REGISTERED LETTER

THIS LETTER TO BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT OF



Messieurs

J. Comar & Fils & Co

20, Rue des Fossés St. Jacques
Paris

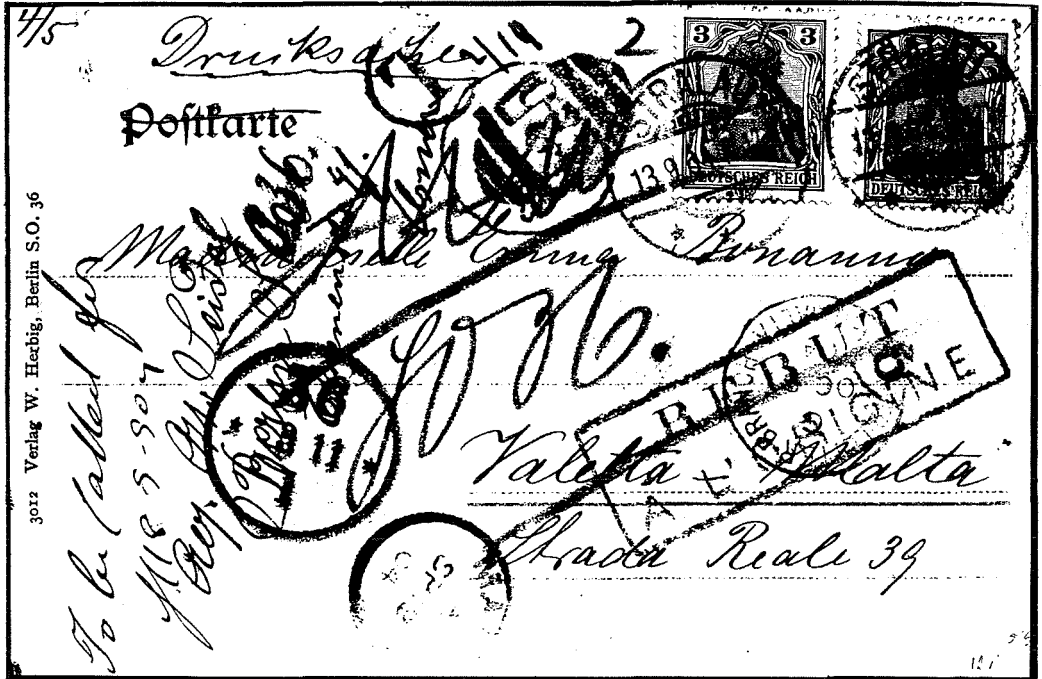
The A25 Single vertical Oval Handstamp used in conjunction with the Oval Registered Coded Dater on a Registered Envelope.

However, we find these A25 Single Vertical Oval obliterations doing other duties in the Mail Room. Mail posted on High Seas franked with foreign stamps is known cancelled by one or both types of this canceller.



Cover franked by Italy 1879 20c orange posted on High Seas is cancelled by the A25 Single Vertical Oval Handstamp at the G.P.O. Mail Room.

Examples are also known of this obliterator cancelling the Postage Due Charge when the letter or postcard had been refused by the addressee and returned to the country of origin, to the sender, if this could be traced.



The charge (Tax) is cancelled at the Returned Letter Branch by the A25 Single Vertical Oval most probably different from the two types above and 'Rebut a l'origine'

'The "A 25" upright single handstamp continued to be used to obliterate stamps issued by the Malta General Post Office, after Great Britain stamps ceased to be legal, in accordance with the Notice reproduced on next page.

We know of only two impressions of the A 25 Single Vertical Oval Handstamps in the G.P.O. Proof books – those found in Vol. 22, Page 122, and dated 1st January 1883 as reproduced on page 12.



Strike of the A25 Single Vertical Oval Handstamp different to Types One and Two shown after the first paragraph of this article.

However, at least two other different cancellers seem to have been used. It is true that the strikes of this obliterator are rarely clear and this makes it somewhat difficult to measure them accurately.¹ It is surprising that no mention of these types of cancellers is made in the "List of Dating Stamps in use in this Office", drawn up by Mr. Gaetano Izzo, a Second Class Clerk, dated 14th January 1887, and kept in the Post Office Records at the General Post Office, Malta.

References:

1. The Malta Study Circle. Malta - The Stamps and Postal History 1576-1960 Handbook compiled by The Malta Study Circle, Edited by R.E. Martin p33 (The "A 25" Handstamps - AK 2 canceller).

NOTICE.

Discontinuance of use at Malta of Postage Stamps of the United Kingdom.

NOTICE is hereby given that, on and from the 1st. January 1885, postage stamps of the United Kingdom will be USELESS for the prepayment of postage on correspondence posted in Malta or Gozo, and that all letters, etc. bearing Imperial Stamps posted after the 31st. December 1884, will be treated as UNPAID and charged on delivery.

Malta postage stamps, to be used on and from the 1st. of January, may be purchased at the General Post Office, Valletta, on and after the 27th of December.

Imperial postage stamps, if unused, clean, and in saleable condition, will be purchased at the General Post Office up to the 24th of December, inclusive, at par; but, between that date and the 31st of December, a charge will be made of the commission indicated at page 16 of the current edition of the Imperial Post Office Guide.

ROGER DUKE,

H. M. Postmaster.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
Valletta, 8th December 1884