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THE PSM MAGAZINE



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 Editor: Dr. A. Bonnici, Ass. Editor: J. Farrugia
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Vol. 13 No. 1

April 1984

The 2.5cm hand stamp (MLC - 1d)

By Dr. A. Bonnici

G.P.O. Proof Book 23rd. June, 1855

213

Vol 12

To what Place	Date when sent	Stamps
Malta "23886"	1855	

After the discovery of the Jun 15, 1856 entire reproduced as item 2 page 1, which was 2½ months earlier than the 1st Sept 1856 quoted in the Malta Study Hand Book, I visited the BPO archives in London, and a morning spent going through all the volumes there, was rewarded by discovering another hand stamp one year two months earlier than the one quoted in the Hand Book, it is dated 23 June 1855.

The 1st Sept 1856 one quoted in the Hand Book is in page 143 of Vol 8, whereas the one of 23 June 1855 is in page 213 of Vol 12. Most probably what happened is that the G.P.O. must have come across the 1855 impression sheet later, and so bound it with other material of 1855 in Vol 12.

The Malta Study researcher naturally did not go beyond Vol 8 in his research, thinking that anything beyond Vol 8 should have a later date.

Earliest recorded date so far is 17th July, 1855.

Editorial

No doubt the star item in this issue is the description by Dr. Giovanni Bonello LL.D., of the unrecorded "Embossed Disinfection Impressions", applied at the back of entires, after disinfection, a philatelic item, which none of us was aware of.

When such items are discovered and are published in the P.S.M. Magazine, I feel that I am not wasting my time, and that the publication of the P.S.M. Magazine is more than justified. I am sure that there must be a vast amount of unrecorded Philatelic Material, lying dormant in the Public Library, Government Archives, the Religious Monasteries, and private homes. Our Island is steeped in history, having had intimate associations with the greatest nation of the day, whose armies being stationed here, must of necessity corresponded with their families. So keep a watchful eye for philatelic material. Your committee is always very willing to give you an opinion and advise.

Our Society is moving ahead. Our membership is increasing, and our monthly meetings have quite a good attendance.

The December meeting has now been devoted to the *Vote a Stamp* yearly event, which is attracting international participation.

The Annual General Meeting was held as usual in January, with the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and for the first time your Editor submitting their annual reports. The 1984 Committee was elected.

During the February meeting we were entertained to a splendid Lecture cum display on Maltese Cartography by Dr. Albert Ganado, whilst the March meeting was highlighted by the excellent Lecture - display by our youngest female member, Miss Bartolo, the subject being "Beethoven depicted by stamps".

Committee

1984

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Mr. H. Wood	Member and Liaison
	Officer with Malta Study Circle
Mr. G. Said	Member

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PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RATES

(per annum)

Local members - Lm1.50
Foreign Members - 7 United States Dollars
9 Canadian Dollars
7 Australian Dollars
4 Sterling Pounds
10,000 Italian Lire
50 French Francs
17 German Marks
14 Swiss Francs

Great Britain Stamps Used in Malta

Continued Part 3

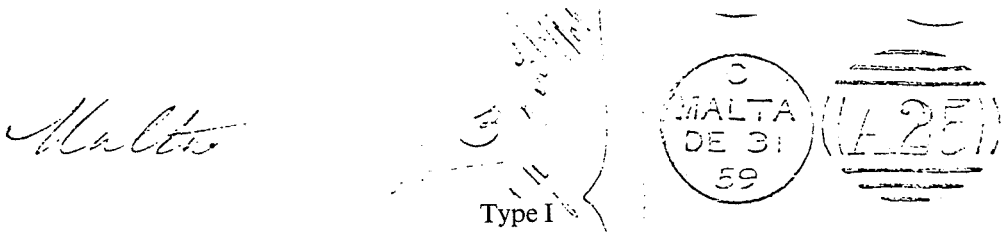
By Anthony Fenech

The A 25 Circular Duplex Obliterator

As has been detailed in my previous articles in Vol. 12 Nos. 2 and 4 of the P.S.M. Magazine, the use of the "Wavy Grid" as well as of the "M" cancellations, necessitated a date mark on the back of the entire or letter. There was a vast increase of business at The Malta Post Office, so it was considered necessary that in the near future the canceller and dater be incorporated in one handstamp, thus saving valuable time. In February 1859, a new duplex type was introduced, consisting of postmark and obliteration combined...dated MALTA and "A 25" double stamp.

The duplex obliterator thus introduced, consisted of a circular date stamp and a circular barred obliterator, containing the "A 25" cancellation, both in the horizontal oval, and vertical oval type, which is being examined in this article, as well as in subsequent series.

A strike of the combined date-mark with the obliterator "A 25" is recorded in the General Post Office Proof Book, in London, the entry being dated 2nd February 1859. Lieut. Gatt of the Royal Malta Artillery, on "The Post Office and Stamps of Malta" (1) gives the earliest date of use as the 16th of that month, though The Handbook (2) compiled by The Malta Study Circle, records February 13th as the earliest date of its use. An entire to Catania, franked with 6d lilac, cancelled with this duplex canceller (C MALTA FE 26 59) was sold at Auction last year, in The André Bollen Collection by Heinrich Kohler and later featured on the front page of The Study Paper No. 35 (1983) - "G.B. Used in Malta" (3) and captioned 'very early use of "A 25" duplex handstamp, 24 days after its strike in the G.P.O. London Proof Book - 2nd February, 1859.



The "A 25" circular type has three bars above and below the numbers "A 25" and two curved lines on either side. The date mark is 20mm in diameter and is in four lines with MALTA in a straight line. It was always struck in black. The date-mark of Type I is found with the Code Letters "A", "B" and "C". "O" has been recorded, but the examples I have seen appear to be reversed "C". That with Code "C" appears first and was used exclusively until at least the 25th October 1859. (4) Then "A" appeared (earliest date recorded...12th November 1859). Code letter "C" was dropped for a time, when "A" was used exclusively until about May, 1861, when "B" along with "C" again put in an

Malta

Vol 11/67



Type II

Vol 2(2)152.

To what Place

Date when sent

Stamps

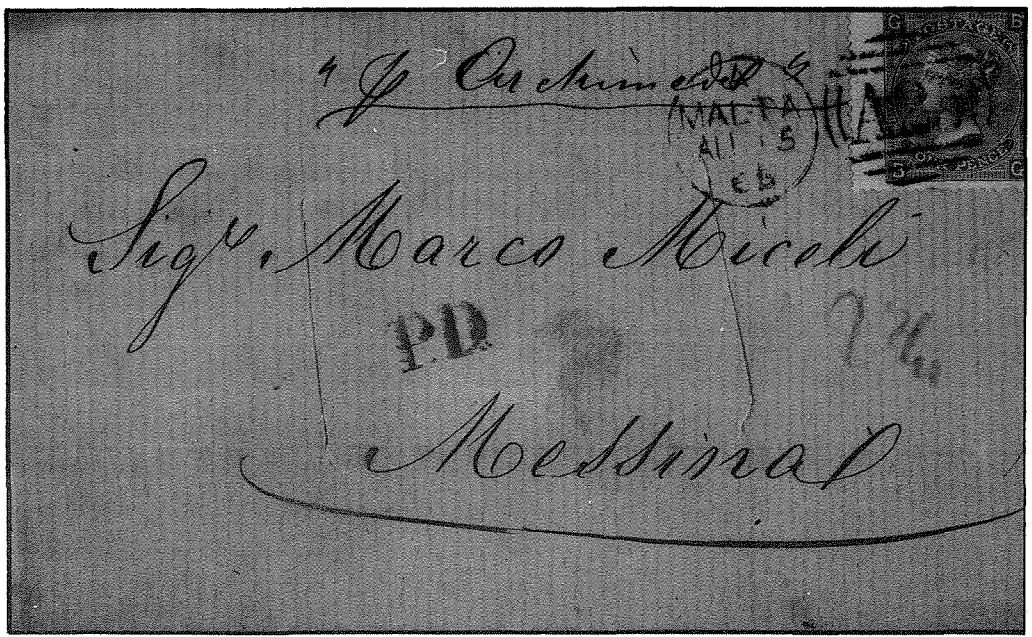
Malta
No 71068
400

Nov-18th
1861



Type III

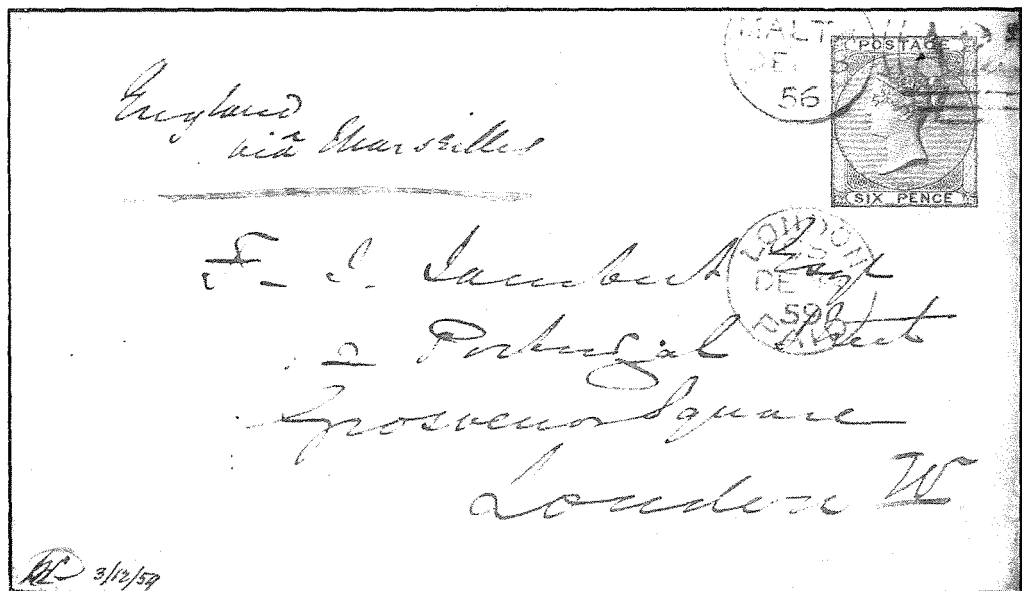
appearance and the three codes, probably to indicate different times during the day, were used until October 1861 (5) when Type II came into use. Type I is not much seen after 1862. It was used concurrently with Types II and III in September 1868, and December 1873. Finally it was brought again into use temporarily in August and September 1876.



Type II



Type III



Type I (Error in the date)

Between September 30th and September 3rd 1859, there is an interesting error in the date of the postmark, as well as, all letters posted in Malta, during this period were postmarked 1856 in error, the "9" of the year being inverted making it read "56". Many philatelic covers exist with this date error, some of them having the arrival London mark struck in red on the front to make the error stand out more evidently.

Type "A 25" duplex handstamp is shown in the G.P.O. London Proof Book in Vol. 8 (2) Page 181, and dated October 11th, 1861.

The date-mark of Type II is half a mm. wider in diameter, with the 'M' of Malta, a little further from the outer ring. The obliterator, which measures 21 x 20mm has a few features which distinguish it from that of Type I. The size of the letter "A" is distinctly smaller in Type II and the figure "5" has a shorter and more sloping neck, so that the top of the "5" appears to be much further away from the top of the "2".

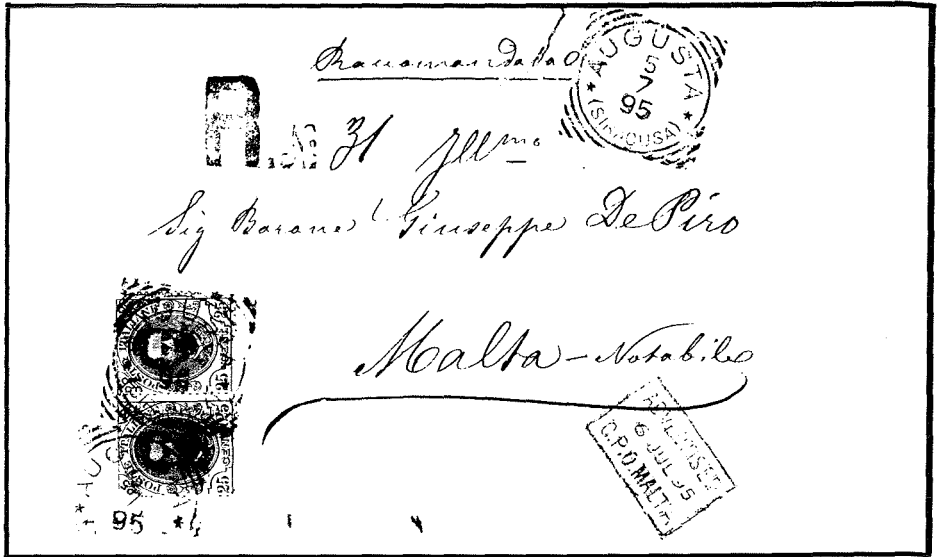
The second type of the "A 25" duplex canceller was brought into use on the first few days of November 1861. It appears to have been used alone up to the beginning of 1864, and thereafter for a considerable period along with Type III. It remained in use until 1881 (latest date recorded...29th September) when it was superseded by the vertical oval types. It is found with the Code letters "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E". Code letter "D" did not appear before 4th December, 1874. Code letter 'E' is very rare; in fact the two examples known are on:

- (i) a Cover franked with a Malta ½d yellow buff (14 x 12½) and is dated 19th October 1878, and
- (ii) on a G.B. 2½d, plate 17, blue dated 29th April 1880.

It is worth mentioning here that a certified copy of an 1862 1d Rose-red from Reserve Plate 16 is found used in Malta with this Type II "A 25" cancellation. It was customary for Perkins Bacon & Co., to construct a small number reserve plates during some plate manufacturing sequences and these would be stored for use should a sudden demand for new plates occur. (6) This copy from Reserve Plate 16 which was cancelled by the "A 25" duplex Type II canceller is lettered "OE" clearly showing the smaller Alphabet 2 lettering and high positioning of the letters in the corner squares which was a characteristic of the plate on nearly all letterings.

Type III is very similar to Type I, almost indistinguishable from it. However, the obliterator part is 22 x 20mm. The G.P.O. London Proof Book features it in Vol. 8 (2) on Page 182, with the despatch date shown as November 18th, 1861. This type is not seen much until 1864. It is found used until 1868, with Code letters "A", "B", and "C". It is seen used during the summer of 1876 and in the following years until the end of 1880, when the first of the Oval Duplex was despatched from London to Malta.

1. Gibbons Stamp Weekly; Vol. IX Page 429.
2. The Malta Study Circle, Malta - The Stamps and Postal History 1567-1960 Handbook, compiled by The Malta Study Circle, Edited by R.E. Martin. pp. 66-68.
3. Malta Study Circle, Study Paper 35 (1983) originally written by R.G.W. Malim, revised and edited by R.E. Martin. Front Page.
4. Malta Postmarks on British Stamps by Bertram McGowan - The British Philatelist Vol. XXIII No. 2 - April 1930.
5. *ibid.*
6. The Postal Markings of Malta 1857-1902 by Major F. Orme T.D. - Postal History Society Bulletin No. 80 (May/June 1955).



ADV - 1

The above Registered Envelope (R. No. 31) sent by Notary Muscatello of Augusta, Sicily on the 5th July 1895 to Baron Giuseppe De Piro a well known personality, in Notabile (Mdina) - Malta, arrived in Malta on the 6th July 1895. It has the Boxed "ADVERTISED / 6 JULY 95 / G.P.O. Malta" (Adv - 1). This date is the earliest recorded being 8 years 3 months 20 days earlier than what was quoted in the Malta Newsletter Vol. 10 No. 8.

It is also the first recorded on an ENVELOPE and addressed to a CIVILIAN, as the ones recorded are on post-cards, addressed to Military Personnel, mainly to soldiers in the 2nd Battalion the Cameron Highlanders (1903-04) stationed in Mtarfa Barracks located about 2 miles away from Mdina, Rabat, doing garrison duties. The 1st Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders, doing also garrison duties in Malta were here during 1892 - 1895. There is a fresco on top of one of the doors of the main hall of the "Main Guard" opposite the Palace in Valletta, depicting the 2nd Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders while in Malta.

We can easily understand why ADV - 1 on cards addressed to Personnel at Mtarfa was applied, because Mtarfa was too far out for a delivery to take place, so the cards etc were placed at the G.P.O. for collection. This reason does not apply in the case of Baron De Piro living at Mdina.

The only logical conclusion I can arrive at is that most probably Baron De Piro was on holiday (either at his Malta summer residence or abroad) July, August, were and still the hottest months in Malta, and the Maltese did and still do take their holidays during these two months) but the letter being a Registered one, could not be dropped in his letter box, but was placed at the G.P.O. for collection.

The International "Vote a Stamp" Referendum

By Dr. J.H. Mercieca

The Winning Stamp for 1982



For the eighth successive year the Philatelic Society has again in 1983 organised the International "Vote a Stamp" Referendum and Contest in which in addition to many local voters, hundreds of persons from different parts of the world, participated.

The eighteen stamps issued by the Malta Postal Administration during 1982, neatly reproduced in their original colours on the Voting brochure were:- the Docks set of 4 stamps, the International Year of the Elderly and the Europa CEPT pairs, the Espana 82 trio, the Old Maltese Ships set of four and the 3 denominations Christmas set.

The prizes were the same as those allotted last year i.e. the main prize consisting of a week's holiday in Malta, entitling the winner to travel by the National Airline AIRMALTA from any city where this Airline has a connection and a week's accommodation including half-board provided by the luxury class Malta Hilton at St. Julians, and three consolation prizes, each consisting of a deluxe stock-book, kindly donated by Messrs. Said, Stamp Dealers, to be raffled amongst all those participants who cast their vote for the winning stamp.

With a clear 36% of the local number of votes received, the 12 cents stamp (stamp No. 14 on the ballot paper) of the Old Maltese Ships set designed by Norbert Attard, emerged an easy first, followed by the 20 cents stamp of the same set, which with 15% of the votes, was placed second, while in the third place came the 20c + 3c stamp of the Christmas series, designed by Joseph L. Mallia, with 14% of the votes.

As always the case much expectancy and excitement reigned amongst those present in the hall as preparations were being made to draw the name of the winner entitled to receive the main prize, who, this year turned out to be Mrs. Camilleri of Sliema, Malta. Immediately after, the draw for the three names, amongst those who had voted for the winning stamp, was effected and each of the following won one of the three deluxe stock-books:-

Dr. Arthur G. Mercieca of Sliema

Mr. John Gatt Ph.C., of Balzan

Mrs. Margaret Borg, of Birkirkara

Bringing the evening's activities to a close, the President thanked the organizers of the Referendum, particularly Mr. V. Mercieca, who had done all the spade-work connected with the organization of the Referendum, AirMalta and Malta Hilton as well as Messrs. E. Said for their kind donation of the Prizes.

Disinfection

Part 4

By Dr. A. Bonnici



Holy Communion being administered to sick people by means of a long stick.
(Museum of Fine Arts)

Reproduced by kind permission of the Ministry of Culture.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century, when the rule of the Order in Malta was coming to an end, the quarantine service had become a heavy burden on the local exchequer. During the period 1779-1788 (1) it costed 12,532 scudi (one scudo is equivalent to about 8 cents 3 mils) whilst during the same period the capital expenditure amounted to 28,083 scudi; During the same decennium the income derived from the Lazzaretto was 13,117 scudi; it came mostly from fees for the storage and disinfection of cargo and merchandise at the rate of one per cen. of their value. Another source of revenue derived from the lease of lands on Manoel Island. On the 18 July 1782, the lands were leased by the Government of the Order to one Maximilian Laferla, for 200 scudi a year. The lease was renewed at the same rent on the 15th August 1798. (2) From the above one can come to the conclusion that the Lazzaretto was more or less self-supporting as regards current expenditure. The extent of the quarantine charge on the local revenue may be measured from the vote for the Castellania or Court of Justice, which for the same period amounted to 2,227 scudi. (3) The Order always maintained the quarantine service in a state of efficiency; a complete record was kept of every ship subject to quarantine restrictions. (4)

In the archives of the Council of the Order one often meets with records relating to the management of the Lazzaretto and to matters of quarantine, as

well as measures authorized by the Council following advice by the Commissioners of Health, such as quarantine restrictions for the passengers and periods of quarantine for ships arriving from the Levant. (5)

In 1785 extra precautionary measures were adopted to prevent the spread of plague from an infected French ship that had arrived in Malta. In the same year assistance was sent to the inhabitants of Lampedusa where an epidemic of plague was raging, and precautionary measures were taken concurrently with the dispatch of assistance. (6)

The Knights were always very particular as regard the upkeep of the Lazzaretto. Owing to strict quarantine regulations, passengers and visitors in Malta very often had to remain isolated for the quarantine period, and the authorities provided suitable accommodation with comforts and amenities. The English traveller, P. Brydone, who visited Malta in 1770, has recorded the manner in which ships coming from clean ports were received by the port authorities of Malta. "The entry into the port", he says "is very narrow and is commanded by a strong castle on either side. We were hailed from each of them and obliged to give a strict account of ourselves: and on our arrival at the side of the quay we were visited by an officer from the health-office and obliged to give oath with regard to the circumstances of our voyage. He behaved in the cruelest manner and immediately sent us Mr. Rutter, the English Consul, for whom we had letters of recommendation(7)".

Dr. Paul Cassar in Medical History of Malta besides quoting the above gives us more details as to the proceeds followed from the description given by another visitor in 1777. "Every passenger was carefully interviewed under oath and if he gave any false information he was *hanged* on the spot on a gallows that was kept ready for the purpose". (That is why the area opposite Manoel Island beneath the Marsamxett bastions near the "baths of St. Rocco", and the foreshore of the Hotel Excelsior is known as "taħt il-forka", meaning underneath the gallows. In Vol. 12 No. 3 this place is indicated by "Quarantine Medical Officers" where the interviews referred to were conducted. Up till some time ago the place was marked by a cross, but this was removed when the road was widened.) The man from the "quarantine office had brought some things with him", he says. "We were, all hands, men and women and children, soldiers and sailors, ordered down into the hold when the hatches were closed. Then our friend from the shore took a match and ignited certain ingredients which soon began to smoke and every chink and corner was filled; one of the children going into fits and all of us half-suffocated. We made a rush, got upon deck and were kept coughing and sneezing all the evening. I never wish to be disinfected again". (8)

All letters and papers during this period were given a bath of vinegar. (9)

There were no lazarettos in England and ships proceeding to Great Britain from Turkish ports were obliged by an act of the British Parliament to perform quarantine at Malta and other Mediterranean ports before they were allowed to land their cargo in any part of Great Britain or Ireland. (10)

A marble tablet bearing the date 10th October 1797 fixed on one of the walls of "Il-Palazz" on Manoel Island, commemorates the gratitude of Captain Charles Christian De Holck, commanding His Danish Majesty's ship "Sarpfen", who was treated with much respect and generosity whilst undergoing quarantine at the Lazzaretto.

The quarantine establishment was never allowed to fall in a state of disrepair; improvements and repairs were effected from time to time in accordance with the prevailing needs. In 1783, under Grand Master De Rohan, extensive repairs were carried out at the Barriera Quarantine Station in the Grand Harbour (Photo published in Vol. 12 No. 2) to prevent people from encroaching over the quarantine boundaries. (11)

The first indication that letters were disinfected by slitting is found on a report of ten hand written sheets and two blank ones at the end, sent to Malta from Messina on the 18 Feb 1744 by Dr. Pietro Polacco, a plague expert from Venice, who was sent to Messina where a plague epidemic broke out that year. After carrying out the necessary precautions, he wrote a detailed report on the various steps he had taken to stamp out the plague. A copy was sent to Malta, and it is incised by eight slits, four on each side, each slit being oblique in direction and about 4.5 cms in length. The back of the last sheet has a brownish discoloration, most marked along its lines of folding. (12) Although there is no concrete proof that these marks were applied in Malta, one presumes that they were done here, the receiving end. Another printed booklet of 60 pages was also disinfected and has two horizontal slits that traverse its whole thickness from front to back. The title of the booklet is "Trattato di rimedi contro la peste". It was written by a Signor Elvezio, physician to His Royal Highness the Duke of Orleans, and published in Venice in 1743.

Dr. Paul Cassar has a document of 1749 which provides definite proof of the prevalence of the practice of slitting in Malta at that time. Among other provisions relating to quarantine matters there is the following ruling: "Letters brought by ships with a clean bill of health but hailing from suspected places are to be incised by a scalpel to ascertain that they contain no susceptible goods such as objects of wool, silk and thread and to ensure that the perfume penetrates inside them. The letters are then to be placed in the perfuming store."

J. Houel the French traveller in 1787, saw it applied at the Quarantine station at the Barriera on the wharf of Valletta. "The letters were seized with a pair of pincers and struck with two blows from a chisel so that they were cut in two places from one side to another. They were then placed inside a stove and fumigated for half an hour over burning straw and aromatic herbs." (13)

1. Bilancio Decennale del Comun Tesoro, Malta 1789.
2. Acts of Notary Grilliet, 1789, Malta.
3. Guze Galea, The Quarantine Service and the Lazzarettos of Malta (1967).
4. Archives of the Order, Ms 6532 Malta Public Library
5. Archives of the Order, Vol. 275, 276 Malta Public Library.
6. Guze Galea, The Quarantine Service and the Lazzarettos of Malta (1967).
7. Brydone P.A., Tour through Sicily and Malta, London 1776 p. 333.
8. Shaw C., Malta sixty years ago, London 1875 p. 22.
9. Dessoulavy C.L., "Visitors to Malta from the 15th to the 18th Century" The Sundial, 1940, iii. 105.
10. Howard J., An account of the Principal Lazzarettos in Europe, London, 1789, p. 26.
11. Archives of the Order Vol. 278. Fol 130 - 38. Malta Public Library.
12. Dr. Paul Cassar, The Philatelic Society of Malta, Vol. 3 No. 3 p. 15.
13. Houel J., (1787) Voyages pittoresque, des Isles de Sicile, de Lipari et de Malte, vol. iv, p. 91, Paris.

Three Unrecorded Disinfection Seals

By Dr. G. Bonello



Fig. 1 (LAZ - E1)

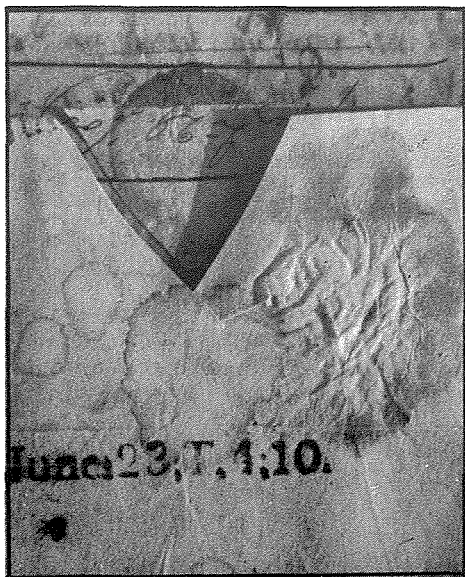


Fig. 2 (LAZ - E2)

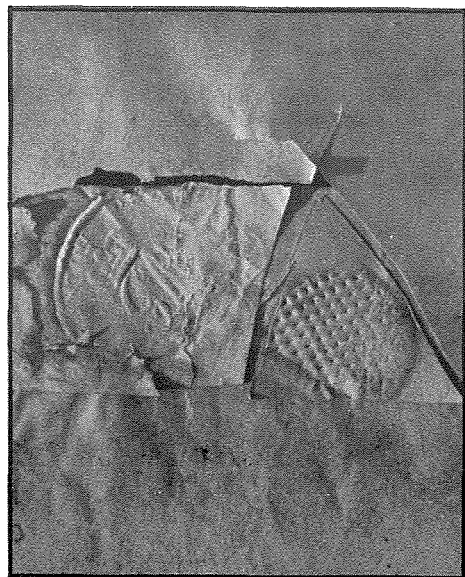


Fig. 3 (LAZ - E3)



Fig. 1A (LAZ - E1 enlarged)



Fig. 2A (LAZ - E2 enlarged)



Fig. 3A (LAZ - E3 enlarged)

Two types of disinfection markings on mail were known to date. In the early period of British occupation, an official seal, on special sealing wax, usually red, was used. This seal served a dual purpose: to close the letter after treatment, and to certify that it had been disinfected. Later, around 1830, these wax seals were replaced by inked handstamps which printed a cachet on the disinfected letter.

A third method, hitherto unrecorded, consisted in embossing in relief the letter itself. After being opened and treated, a gluing wafer was placed between the overlaps at the back of the letter, and an engraved die, presumably metal, was firmly pressed over the paper surface. This produced a raised impression of the engraved die.

I am here illustrating three of these embossed impressions which I propose to identify as follows:

(LAZ = Lazzaretto E = Embossed)

LAZ - E1: On a letter from Alexandria, Egypt, which arrived in Malta on the 10th August, 1821. This shows an upright oval impression (25x22mm) with a fouled anchor, surrounded by the letters SANITA (DI MALTA) (Fig. 1 and 1A).

LAZ - E2 On a letter from Greece which arrived in Malta on the 23rd June, 1823. This shows an upright oval impression (approx. 25 x 22mm) with a fouled anchor of a different design. No legend is visible round the seal. (Fig. 2 and 2A).

LAZ - E3 On a letter from Greece which arrived in Malta on the 2nd August, 1827. This shows a horizontal oval impression (32 x 26mm) with a crown and the Royal Cypher "G.R." surrounded by the inscription quARANTINE OFFice (malta?) Fig. 3 and 3A).

Embossed disinfection markings are to be found on other letters of the period, but usually the impression is so faint that it escapes notice.

Two of these Lazzaretto markings relate quite closely to the known red wax seals. LAZ - E1 is similar to LAZ - S1 on page 51 of the Malta Handbook, and LAZ - S3 resembles LAZ - E3 here published. Possibly they were produced by the same dies, but while an impression by a seal on wax can be, and usually is, produced manually, a levered or threaded mechanical press is indispensable to produce embossing on paper.

These Lazzaretto markings should not be confused with other embossed markings on the back of folded letters, normally the sender's seal. It is usually easy to distinguish one from the other. The sender's personal seal is always at the centre of the overlap. The Lazzaretto resealing, generally appears to the left, or right, of the original sender's seal.

Embossed disinfection markings have also been observed on letters passing through various other lazzaretti. Those, however, are "dry" embossing, produced by pressing the letter between a male and a female die, and only served to certify its disinfection. The Maltese markings were produced by only one female die pressed over the letter and a sealing wafer, and served both to reseal the letter and to confirm its disinfection.

Beethoven on Stamps

March Meeting:

Display lecture given by Miss Marcelle Bartolo (*abridged*)

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:-

To many, Ludwig van Beethoven is the greatest composer that ever lived. He succeeded in closing the classical period in music and opening the romantic age in such a way, that he became the leading representative of both periods. His career was of decisive importance both in music and in the world of the arts as a whole, and shows the development from the world of formal classicism to the threshold of high romanticism. His figure overshadows the whole of 19th. century music and his influence on musical writing was unthinkable. He evolved the symphony, piano sonata and string quartet from the many restrictive mannerisms of Mozart's time to the liberated and free-flowing movements, all inter-related to one another. His profound revolutionary spirit, coupled with his extraordinary musical gifts, affected all those who came after him; he all but exhausted the symphonic medium and the younger generation of composers accordingly felt themselves obliged to seek new methods of musical expression, feeling more than a little inhibited by the greatness of his symphonies, sonatas and chamber music. Indeed, in art, he was neither a classicist nor a romanticist but a realist and truth of expression was his constant aim.

Born in Bonn on the 16th December, 1770 of Flemish ancestry. At eight years of age, Ludwig made his debut as a pianist at a concert held in the Academy Hall. In 1792, Beethoven went to Vienna where he was greatly acclaimed and subsequently went on extended concert tours as pianist and composer.

By 1798 the first signs of deafness started to appear and in 1802, Beethoven wrote his famous "Testament of Heiligenstadt". Though during the following years it was increasingly difficult for him to play in public, most of his masterpieces were written when he was virtually stone-deaf. He died on the 27th March, 1827 in his lodgings in Vienna.

This great composer was, and is still being, commemorated on numerous stamps and other philatelic items. The first cinderella to honour him was the Altona local of 1889, while the first stamp depicting him in one of a set of seven, issued on the 24th April, 1922 as part of Austria's Charity Series. This set created a precedent inasmuch as it showed composers on stamps and its postal validity was one of only 28 days. Proceeds from this set were to go into a Fund especially set up to help needy musicians.

For his death centenary in 1927 we find the 8 pfennig German stamp which is part of a set of fourteen, showing portraits of different personages. This stamp shows the authentic 1818-19 portrait in oils of Beethoven as painted by Ferdinand Schimon while the composer was at work on the *Missa Solemnis*. This stamp can also be found imprinted on German postal cards issued during that year. Another postal card showing the Schimon portrait is the commemorative one issued by Austria. This card additionally shows various houses at Baden, Heiligenstadt, Moedling and Nüssdorf together with the



wording of an old poem, reading as follows:-

“Still stands many an old house,
 honoured as his place of work;
 No new will be erected
 which will not re-echo his songs”.

In 1947, the Rhineland Palatinate zone in Germany, issued two stamps also depicting the Master. These show a portrait closely based on the life mask made by Franz Klein in 1812. Though this mask is the one realistic portrayal of the composer, which has come down to us, it is to be noted that no stamps reproduce the authentic life mask as such, all being designer's portraits, closely or freely based. This issue also has various plate varieties and errors like set-offs with paper creases and even gum prints. The total amount of these errors are not more than one sheet.

To commemorate the 125th. Death Anniversary in 1952, stamps with designer's portraits were issued by West Berlin and East Germany. Coincidentally, on Czechoslovakia's issue for the International Prague Music Festival, can also be seen portraits of Beethoven by Karel Svolinsky. The first-day-cover additionally shows the motive of the chorale development of the Ninth Symphony.

In the 1961 Celebrities' Series of West Germany and West Berlin are also two portraits based on the 1823 oil painting made by Ferdinand Waldmüller. These form part of the Famous Germans' sets and the West German stamp of Beethoven was issued in two different shades: dark green and grey-green respectively.

In 1962, Austria issued a definitive set depicting various buildings and the 2 schillings 20 stamp shows the house in Pfarrplatz 2, Heiligenstadt. This residence is the place where Beethoven lived and worked during 1802 and wrote the "Testament of Heiligenstadt".

To celebrate the birth bi-centenary in 1970, about 18 countries recognized by FIP issued commemorative stamps of Beethoven, this apart from the many handstamps and special cancels used for the occasion. Those issued by Greece, India and Niger show designer's portraits with the latter's design including an allegory to the "Ode to Joy". While the Monaco stamp also has a designer's portrait, it additionally shows the first four bars of the Ninth Symphony, whilst on the first-day-cover is the Schimon oil portrait. This latter painting was also the basis for the West German issue.

Surinam also issued a set of designer's portraits and these are based on the Neesen silhouette of 1786 - taken when Beethoven was 15 years old, the 1803 ivory miniature by Christian Horneman, the 1812 bronze bust by Franz Klein, the engraving by Hoefel and the bust by Joseph Danhauser. The 1818 pencil sketch made by August Kloeber is not literally reproduced on stamps but the portraits of the Dahomey issue are closely based on it.

The stamp and miniature sheet of East Germany show portraits freely based on the oil painting of 1819-20 by Joseph Stieler. The first-day-cover also shows the opening of the Fifth Symphony on its handstamp and a fragment from the 1st sketch for the chorale section of the "Ode to Joy". This fragment is also shown on the Mexican stamp together with Beethoven's signature. Other portraits based on the Stieler oil painting can be seen on the Albanian, Bulgarian and Cameroun issues.

Two stamps showing faithful reproductions are those of Czechoslovakia and Russia. The Czech stamp shows the Svolinsky portrait while the Russian one has a painting by Anatoly Kalashnikov, in addition to the first three notes of the Appassionata sonata.

Another authentic reproduction is that of Hungary which shows a statue of Beethoven made by Janos Pasztor, now to be found at Martonvasar in Hungary. This stamp also contains the opening bars of the piano sonatina No. 5.

The Trucial States of the United Arab Emirates also took part in the birth bi-centenary commemorations but erroneously issued their stamps in 1971 instead of 1970. Though most issues of these states are not recognized by the FIP, some of them have really good portrait reproductions which cannot be found on any other philatelic items. A good example of this is the set of six stamps of Ras al Khaima which faithfully reproduce the 1804 portrait by Joseph Maehler, the Neugass oil portrait of 1806, the 1812 bronze bust by Franz Klein, the 1815 Maehler painting in its first version (this exists in 3 versions), and the more realistic Beethoven portrait made by Johann Christoph Heckel. Other previously unmentioned drawings and sculptures can be found in the Sharjah and Dependencies set of five. Having a value of 3 dirhams each, these show the photographic reproduction of the bronze bust by Dietrich of 1821, Beethoven's birthplace in Bonn, a drawing and a facsimile reproduction of the manuscript for the orchestral overture "The Consecration of the House". Most of these stamps can also be found imperforate.

(to be continued)

their exclusion (e.g. are too difficult, should have read are NOT too difficult, it is likely should have read it is unlikely etc) gave the opposite impression to what Mr. Wood wanted to convey. Consequently I am reproducing the correct version.

Postmen's Handstamps

By Hadrian Wood

A stamp collector's first introduction to Postal History has often been the result of acquiring an interest in Postmen's Handstamps. The reason for this is mainly due to the fact that many of these handstruck markings are not too difficult to acquire. Any collection of pre-war picture postcards, either locally used, or incoming to Malta, is bound to produce a number of Postmen's Handstamps. Whereas in previous years these same markings were generally ignored, the inclusion of a section on this subject in Said's catalogue in recent years has understandably aroused considerable interest among collectors.

Once having acquired a number of these handstamps, usually without initial outlay, a collector is then tempted to start a collection, often with the result of "discovering" other interesting markings whilst doing so; thus, inducing him to take a keener interest in other aspects of Postal History.

It now seems almost certain that Postmen's Handstamps were introduced in Malta in the year 1889, and for the first few years were used ONLY on mail to Valletta and Cospicua. (Postman's Handstamp '13' has been recorded on a cover to Sliema in 1888, but it is unlikely that these handstamps originated within the Sliema area prior to the opening of a Branch Post Office there in 1895).

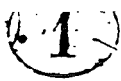
The first series of Postmen's Handstamps comprised of numbers '1' to '24'. A second series, '25' to '30', in a completely different style, followed in 1905. The third series, '27' to '50', was issued in 1913 and it is interesting to note that it was with the introduction of this series that Postmen's Handstamps first appeared on mail to the 'Casals', or villages.

A fourth series, with numbers up to '61', also included, and thus replaced, several of the numbered handstamps issued in the first, second and third series. The only 'new' numbers in the fifth series were '62' and '63'. Other numbers in this series had been issued previously and, like the re-issue in the fourth series, were used to replace Postmen's Handstamps bearing the same number which had either become too worn, damaged or lost.

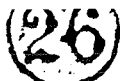
The sixth and final series, '64' to '74', was issued in the late 1920s. In this series, '67' has never been recorded in use and is the only number in the whole sequence of '1' to '74' of which not a single example, in any series, is known to exist.

Finally, we find a few Postmen's Handstamps which are unique in style and cannot be classified as belonging to any series in particular. These include '12', '38', '49' and '63'.

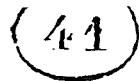
The impression one gets in trying to 'complete' a collection of Postmen's Handstamps is that those used on mail to towns and large villages are reasonably common, whilst the ones applied on mail to the Casals, or small villages, are usually scarce. Some very scarce indeed for obvious reasons. However, exceptions exist in both cases.



1st. Series



2nd. Series



3rd. Series



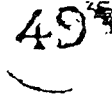
4th. Series



5th. Series



6th. Series



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Detailed Information about:-

EUROPA 1983 Issue

By J. Farrugia

Date of Issue.....	5th. May, 1983
Values.....	8c and 30c
Stamp Size.....	47mm x 29mm
Art Designer.....	8c - Tony Bugeja 30c - Richard J. Caruana
Printers.....	Printex Limited
Process.....	Lithography
Perforation.....	13.85 x 13.6
Watermark.....	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
Paper.....	Chalk Surfaced
Gum.....	P.V.A.

Colours:-

8c - Beige, Blue, Green and Black.
30c - Blue, Yellow, Brown and Black.

Designs:-

This is the thirteenth set in the Europa series issued by the Malta Post Office. The theme chosen by C.E.P.T. for 1983 is "great works of the human genius".

The 8c stamp depicts the Ggantija Megalithic Temples in Gozo.

The 30c stamp features Fort St. Angelo which overlooks the Grand Harbour.

As usual this set is printed in small Panes of ten stamps. Both values are of the horizontal format and each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. In the first space of the top row, in both values, a silhouette of Fort St. Angelo as well as the C.E.P.T. emblem, can be seen. The first space of the second row consists of a different and less detailed drawing of Ggantija Temples and "Europa 83". The background of both spaces is white, which is different from that of the actual stamps.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the middle of the top margin and 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, on all Panes, of both values.

The Printed Sheet of each value, consists 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 x 4 up to and including 1F x 4.

30c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4.

Perforation of Margins:-

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

PANE "C" ↑ WMK	PANE "F" ↑ WMK
PANE "B" ↑ WMK	PANE "E" ↑ WMK
PANE "A" ↑ WMK	PANE "D" ↑ WMK

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.

Imprint Blocks:-

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last 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, including the C.E.P.T. emblem, was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. Up to 12.45p.m. Lm166,527 worth of stamps had been sold on the first day of issue. This set was to remain on sale up to Thursday 15th December, 1983, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

The Europa 1983 stamps and an appropriate motif were printed in multicolour on a commemorative postal card, issued on the occasion of Malta's participation in "Tembal 1983" International Exhibition which was held in Basle, Switzerland, from the 21st to the 29th May, 1983.

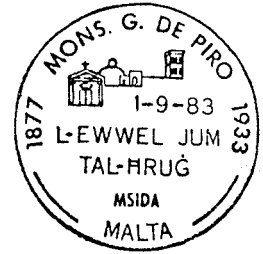
More information about this postal card may be found in "Malta - A Diary" of the 21st. May, 1983.

MALTA – A DIARY

September - December 1983

By J. Farrugia

- 1- 9-83 “Monsignor Giuseppe De Piro” commemorative stamp issued to-day. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.
- 6- 9-83 “Xmas 1983” set issued to-day. A special hand-postmark was issued for cancellation of philatelic mail, on the first day of issue. Maximum Card No. 3, reproducing the design featured on the 8c + 2c stamp was also issued to-day. The size of the Maximun Card is 105mm x146mm.
- 23- 9-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: “World Tourism Day - 27th September, 1983” was used on working days during the period 23rd. - 27th September, 1983, at the Central Mail Room, Castille. The Logo of the World Tourism Organisation is also incorporated in the slogan.
- 29- 9-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: “World Maritime Day - 29 September 1983 - Maritime - Telecommunications” was used on Thursday, 29th September, 1983, at the Central Mail Room.
- 3-10-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: “Ghinu T-Tfal Fil-Bzonn -Uzaw Il-Bolli Tal-Milied” was used on and off, during the period from the 3rd October to 24th December, 1983, at the Central Mail Room. A line drawing of a burning candle is also incorporated in the slogan.
- 5-10-83 “40th. Anniversary Of The G.W.U.” set issued to-day. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.
- 7-10-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: “Foundations Of First - Malta University - Course Of Dental Surgery - 1933-1983” was used on the 7th and 8th October, 1983, at the Central Mail Room.
- 9-10-83 A special hand-postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. from 8.00a.m. to 12.00 noon on Sunday, 9th October, 1983, to mark the Universal Postal Union Day.
The hand-postmark which



incorporates the emblem of the Universal Postal Union, is inscribed:

“14th. U.P.U. Day - 9.10.83 - The Post. The World’s Biggest Communications Network - Valletta - Malta”.

14-10-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: “U.N. - F.A.O.-World Food-Programme-20th. Anniversary- 1963-1983” was used from the 14th to 20th October, 1983, at the Central Mail Room.

17-10-83 The Acting Postmaster General notified that a stamp cancelling machine was used at the Mosta Branch Post Office as from Monday, 17th October, 1983.

The town die of the postmark of this stamp cancelling machine is inscribed “Mosta - Malta”.



17-10-83 The Acting Postmaster General directed that a Temporary Branch Post Office be opened at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, on the 17th., 18th and 19th October, 1983, on the occasion of the holding of the 2nd. Deep Offshore Technology International Conference and Exhibition.

The Temporary Branch Post Office was open from 9.00a.m. to 12.30p.m. The following business was transacted:-

- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery
- (b) registration of letters
- (c) issue and payment of money and postal orders
- (d) payment of postal cheques

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

“2nd. Deep Offshore Technology - International Conference And Exhibition - Valletta - Malta.



21-10-83 A machine cancelling slogan reading: “60 Years Of Guiding In Malta - 1923-1983” was used during the period 21st to 29th October, 1983, at The Central Mail Room. The emblem of the Malta Girl Guides Association is also incorporated in the slogan.

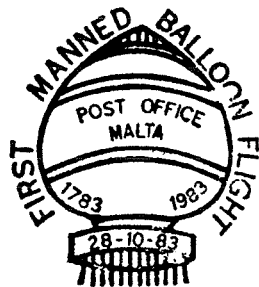
25-10-83 In to-day’s Govt. Gazette the notice for the opening of a Sub-Post Office at Sliema appeared again. Applications were to be received by 5.00p.m. of Friday 25th November, 1983. Including to-day, this notice has now appeared seven times, the first being in March, 1979.

25-10-83 Also in to-day’s Govt. Gazette, another notice was issued for the opening of a Sub-Post Office at Fgura. Applications for the post at this locality were to be received by 5.00p.m. of Friday 25th November, 1983. This is the third notice for this locality, the other two being on 21st July, 1981 and 17th March, 1981.

28-10-83 A special hand-postmark was used on Friday 28th October, 1983, to

commemorate the 200 Anniversary of the First Manned Balloon Flight. The postmark is inscribed:-

“First Manned Balloon Flight - Post Office - Malta - 1783-1983”, was used on Friday 28th October, 1983 at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. Valletta, from 8.00a.m. to 1.15p.m. and at the Central Mail Room from 8.00a.m. to 6.30p.m.



An identical postmark was in use on the same day at the Malta Post Office stand in Dusseldorf, West Germany.

- 28-10-83 A call for application for the Sub-Postmaster at the Nadur Sub-Post Office in Gozo, was again issued in to-day's Govt. Gazette. Applications were to be received up to 5.00p.m. of Friday 2nd December, 1983.

- 28-10-83 The Malta Post Office participated in Philatelia 1983 International Stamp Exhibition which was held in Dusseldorf, West Germany, from the 28th. to 30th October, 1983.

For the occasion, a special handstamp inscribed:- “Philatelia 1983 - Dusseldorf - Malta Postal Administration” and incorporating the “Philatelia 1983” logo was used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. Valletta, from the 28th to 30th October, 1983, as follows:-



Friday 28th. - from 8.00a.m. to 1.15p.m.

Saturday 29th. - from 8.00a.m. to 1.15p.m.

Sunday 30th. - from 8.00a.m. to 12.00 noon.

An identical postmark was used during the same period at the Malta Post Office stand in Dusseldorf, West Germany.

- 1-11-83 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, quotations were being asked from Security Printers for the printing and supply of:

(a) aerogrammes

(b) Europa 1984 postage set of two stamps.

- 17-11-83 “Maltese Ships” second set issued to-day. A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue.

Maximum Card No. 4, reproducing the design featured on the 13c stamp was also issued to-day.



- 28-11-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: “International Trade Trophy Phoenicia - Malta - 1974-1983” was used during the period 28th November - 3rd December, 1983, at the Central Mail Room.

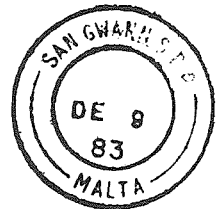
3-12-83 A special hand-postmark was used on Saturday 3rd December, 1983, to mark the 10th. Anniversary of the International Trade Trophy Phoenicia in Malta. The postmark is inscribed:-
 “International Trade Trophy Phoenicia - Valletta - Malta - 3 Dec 83”
 The logo of the International Trade Trophy Phoenicia is also incorporated in the postmark. The postmark was used at the G.P.O. from 8.00a.m. to 1.15p.m. and at the Central Mail Room, from 8.00a.m. to 6.30p.m.



9-12-83 The Acting Postmaster General notified that on Friday 9th December, 1983, a new metal hand-postmark was put in use at each of the undermentioned Post Offices:-

Post Office
 Parcel Post Office
 Mosta Branch Post Office
 San Gwann Sub-Post Office

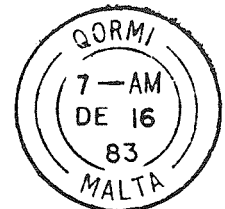
Inscription on Hand-Postmark
 Parcel Post Service - Malta
 Mosta - Malta
 San Gwann S.P.O. - Malta



The three metal hand date-stamps which were replaced were from use at the close of business on Thursday, 8th. December, 1983.

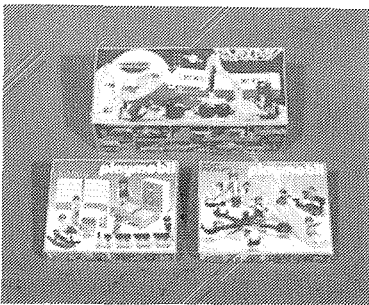
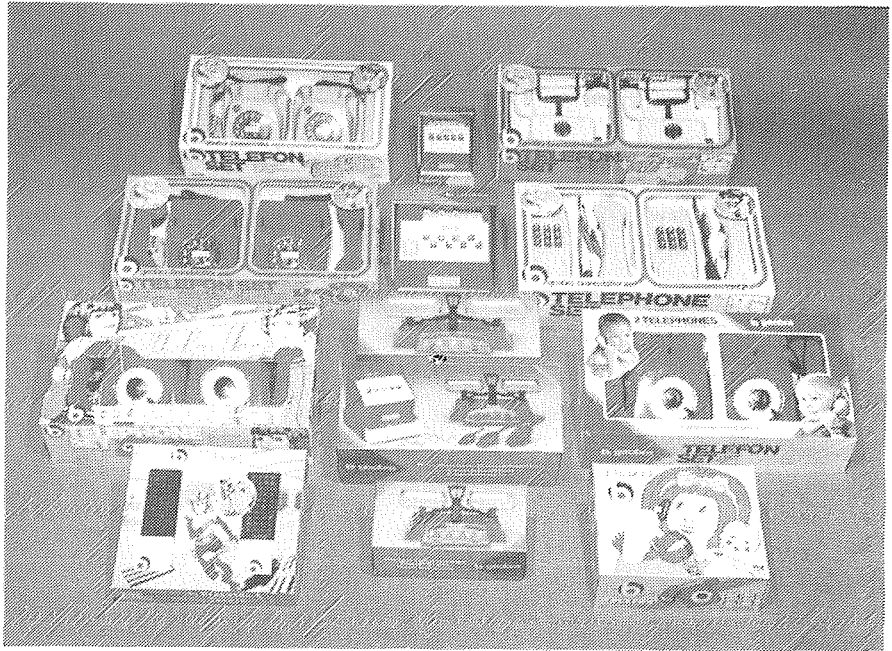
12-12-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: “75 Years Of Scouting In Malta - 1908-1983” was used, on and off, during the period 12th. - 21st December, 1983, at the Central Mail Room. The emblem of the local Scout Association is also incorporated in the slogan.

16-12-83 The Acting P.M.G. notified that a new metal hand-date-stamp was put in use at the Qormi Branch Post Office as from Friday 16th December, 1983. The hand date-stamp is inscribed “Qormi - Malta”



26-12-83 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: “1 Jan’84 - Jum Il Paci - Peace Lab - Malta”, was used at the Central Mail Room, from the 26th to the 31st December, 1983. The slogan also incorporates a line drawing symbolizing peace and friendship.

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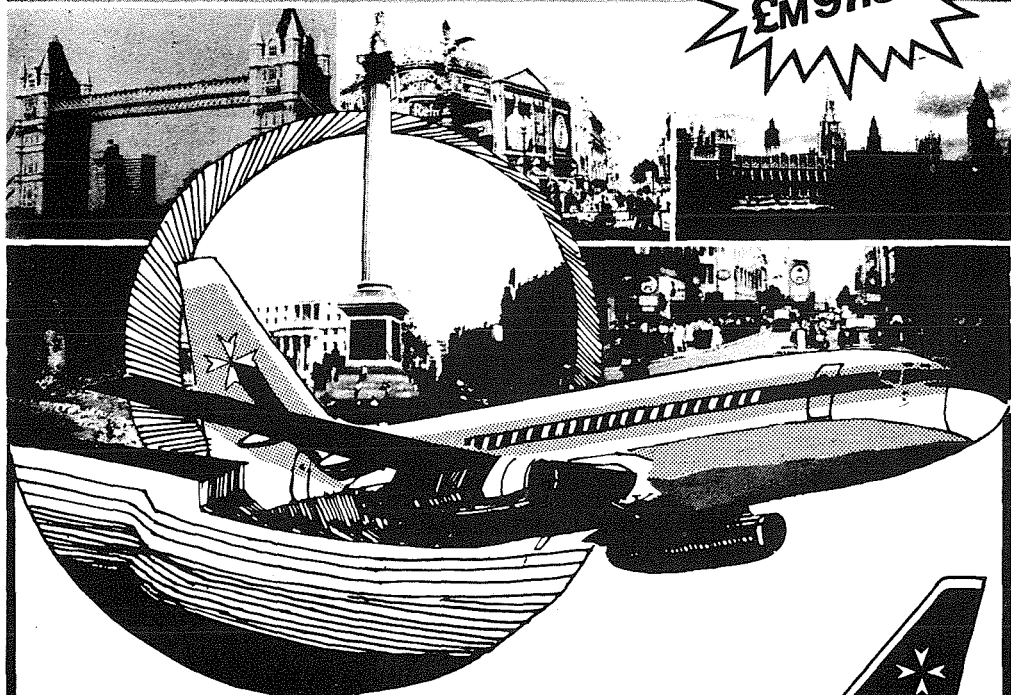
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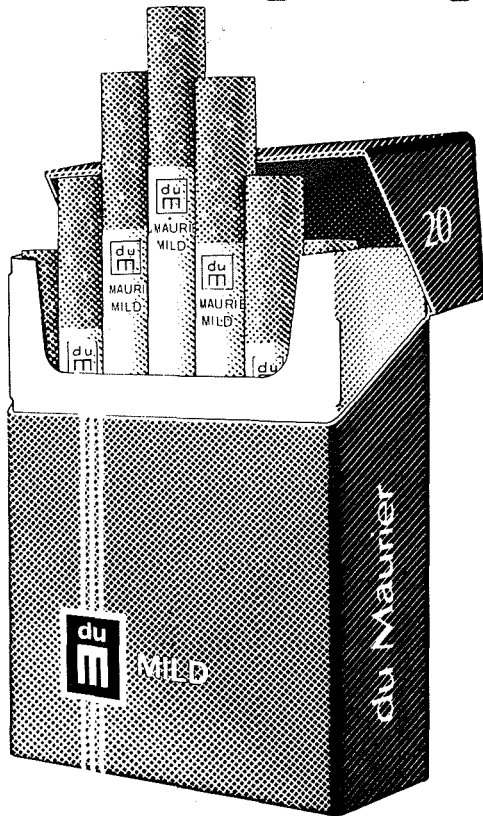
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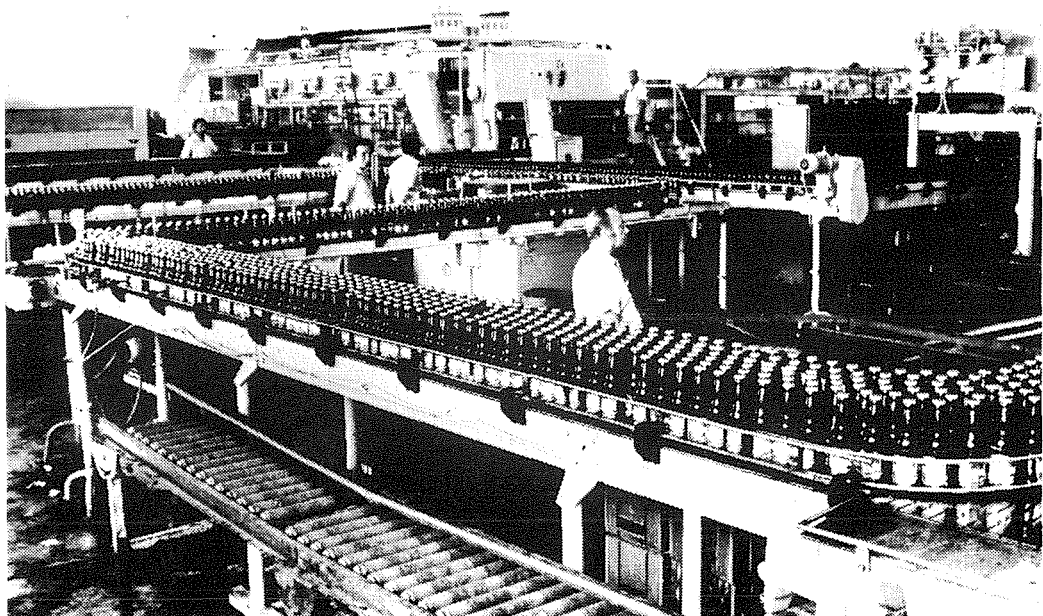
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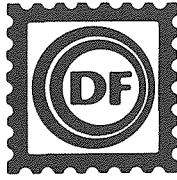
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ESPANA 1984

WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

Maltese Exhibitors have won awards at the World Stamp Exhibition held recently in Madrid.

Dr. Alfred Bonnici won a Gold Medal in the Traditional Philately class whilst Mr. Godwin Said's collection of Malta Postal History earned him a Vermeil Medal.

In the Literature Class, Silver Bronze Medals went to Philatelic Society (Malta) for its Magazine and to Messrs. Emmanuel Said for their publication "Franco-Maltese Postal Relations from Their Origins to 1870."

On the 1st January 1885 the G.P.O. was handed by the Imperial Government to the Council of Government to be controlled locally, and so the Queen Victoria Definitive Set was issued, ½d - 10/- as up till that time we were using British stamps for Overseas Mail. So the 1st January 1985 is a very special date as it marks the Centenary of our G.P.O. and the 1st Definitive Malta Issue.

To commemorate this special event the December Issue will be entirely devoted to Queen Victoria Definitive Issue, and our members possessing special Queen Victoria material are earnestly requested to contact me.