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# THE PSM MAGAZINE

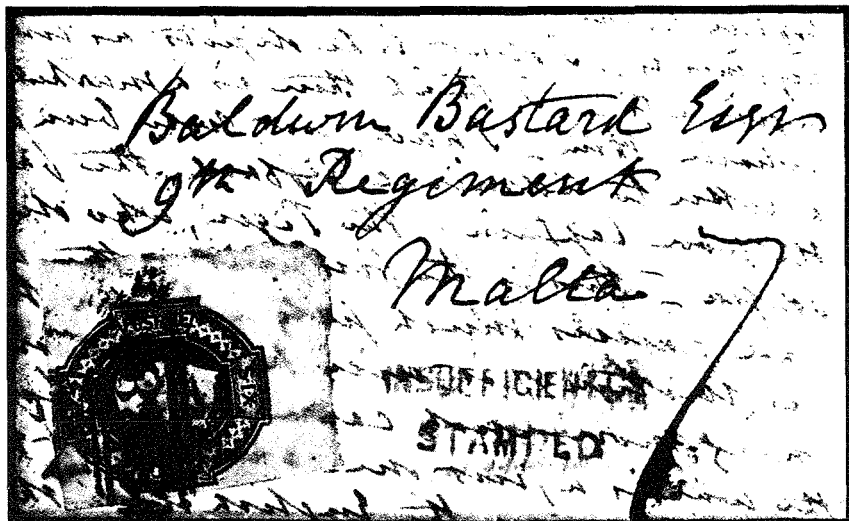


Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIth Malta Philatelic-1977  
Bronze Medals at PRAGA '78; PHILASERDICA '79  
NORWEX '80, Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84  
Editor: Dr. A. Bonnici, Ass. Editor: J. Farrugia  
Photoset and Printed by ABC Press Ltd.

Vol. 13 No. 2

August 1984

## WHY NOT SIXPENCE?



1854 cover from Winchester College to Malta. It is stamped with a corner copy of the 6d. embossed first printing used during the first few weeks of use.

It is written by B. Barton who was at Winchester College, possibly a cleric. On the first page he says "I hope and pray that this odious war from which no one can get any good except the French Emperor, who may soon cease - its a just war, I believe but it is not less calamitous." On the second page he refers to the Czar of Russia and "I suspect some changes in the ministry are announced today and which show the predominance of the Whigs in the Cabinet whenever they have the upper hand, there is . . . to this government and mis-fortune. Lord John Rupert the President of the Council - and Sir George Gray Colonial Secretary - they will both of them have top opportunities of doing mischief and I shall be greatly surprised, if they do not avail themselves of this." Then on the third page he says "I have just been writing a letter to Admiral Gifford, the father of the poor Captain of the Tiger, who died at Odessa." This was the British Warship which was captured by the Russians in action off Odessa.

Because of the Crimean War the addressee was in Malta. The Handstamp in Red "INSUFFICIENTLY STAMPED" is something of a mystery, as the packet rate to Malta at this time was certainly 6d. Any comments?

(Published by courtesy of Messrs. Robson Lowe)

I am pleased to announce to our readers, (at the sake of being accused of blowing my own trumpet) that for the first time our Journal has been awarded a Silver-Bronze Medal at an International Exhibition under the F.I.P. regulations, that is Espana '84. This indeed was very encouraging, as it is definite proof that our efforts are not in vain. I intend to keep up this high standard, and indeed improve as my sights are on a Gold.

Congratulations go also to Mr. G. Said who was awarded a Vermeil Medal for his outstanding Postal History Section. I would indeed like to see more of you participate in these International Competitions as there are now quite a number of our members having collections of international standard. The more experienced members of our Society would very willingly give advice on presentation, mounting etc to those that desire this extra help.

Our monthly meetings have this scope in mind, to give you all a chance to meet, discuss, approach the experts, and see how our foreign colleagues go about collecting Malta, arrange their material, and specialise.

During the past three months we were glad to welcome amongst us a small group of the Malta Study Circle UK, and Mr Alan Banister, who gave us his usual interesting talk/display. Our get-together at the Marsa Sports Club, proved to be a success and thanks must go to Mr H. Wood for organising it.

Summer is now with us and our warm climate is not conducive to stamp collecting. It is holiday time, and most probably most of you are enjoying your summer holiday in Gozo or in our summer resorts, or having a trip overseas. To these lucky ones I wish an enjoyable time.

The Editor

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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

**Awards at Espana '84**

Silver-Bronze, PSM Magazine

Gold, Dr. A. Bonnici

½d yellow Queen Victoria

Vermeil, Mr. G. Said

Postal History of Malta

# Disinfection

## Part 5

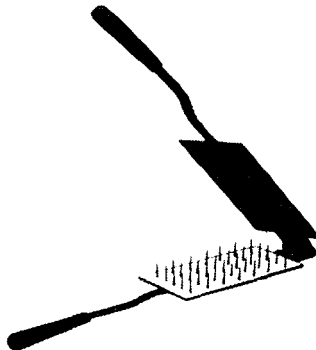


By Dr. A. Bonnici

Slitting of letters for fumigation purposes was not only done in Malta but also extensively used in the Lazzarettos of France and Italy and quarantine establishments.

Austrian and German Contumaz stations used to perforate the letters with punch holes using a rastel. That is why these stations were called "Rastelamts".


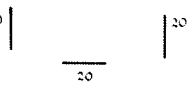

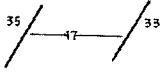
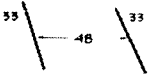

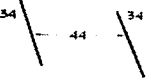
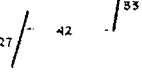
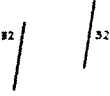
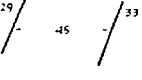
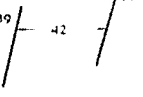
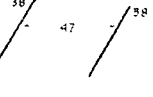
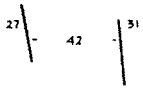
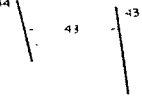
*Signor  
Simone Tagliapferro  
Odesa*



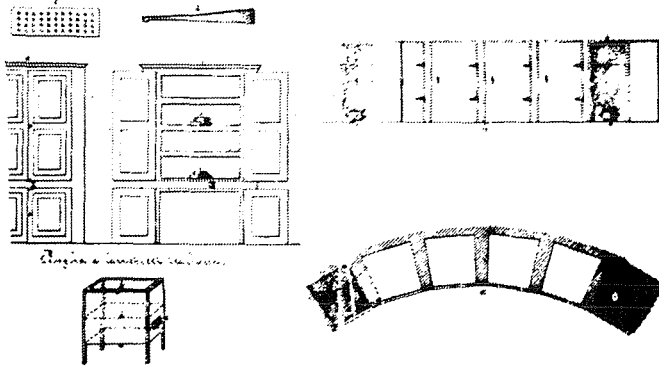
So far we have no evidence that this method was used in Malta.

PATTERN RELATIONSHIP AND MEASUREMENTS (in millimeters) OF SLITS FOUND ON LETTERS WITHOUT AND WITH DISINFECTION CACHETS APPLIED AT MALTA

LEGEND WITH INITIAL P. COLLECTION OF D. PATTON LEGEND WITH INITIAL M. COLLECTION OF K.F. MEYER  
 TYPE A - DISINFECTION CACHET 25mm  
 TYPE B - DISINFECTION CACHET 26mm

<p>P MALTA 1823</p> 	<p>P MALTA 1823</p> 
<p>P MALTA 1838</p> <p>LEFT HAND FOLD OF COVER SLIT ALL THE WAY</p> 	<p>M SYNA-VIA MALTA-NIZZA di NARE-PIEDMONT TYPE A 1838</p> 
<p>M ATHENS VIA PIRAEUS-MALTA-LIVORNO TYPE B 1839</p> 	<p>M CORFU-MALTA 1840 TYPE B Front</p> 
<p>M ATHENS-VIA PIRAEUS-MALTA-MARSEILLE-LONDON TYPE A 1841</p> 	<p>M ATHENS (PIRAEUS ON BACK)-MALTA 1842 TYPE B</p> 
<p>P MALTA 1842 1846 1847</p> 	<p>M BEIRUT-SMYRNA-MALTA-LIVORNO TYPE A 1843</p> 
<p>M CONSTANTINOPLE-VIA LIVORNO-GENOA TYPE A 1844</p> 	<p>M ATHENS-VIA MALTA-MARSEILLE-PARIS TYPE A 1845</p> 
<p>M ALEXANDRIA-MALTA-LIVORNO 1846 TYPE A</p> 	<p>M MAURITIUS VIA TRINCOMALEE-ALEXANDRIA-MARSEILLE PAQ ANGOULOME-BRUSSELS TYPE A 1846</p> 

<p>P MALTA 1824</p> <p>20     20</p>	<p>M 1838 CORFU - VAPORE IN GLESE - MALTA NO CACMET</p> <p>27   — 50 —   28</p>
<p>M 1839 CORFU - MALTA TYPE A</p> <p>35 / — 45 — \ 35</p>	<p>M 1840 AT-ENS, Posto-Montebello-Muramys TYPE A 1840 VIA PIRAEUS - MALTA - MARSEILLE PARIS - BREST</p> <p>34 / — 45 — \ 34</p>
<p>P MALTA 1840 1842 1845</p> <p>30     32</p>	<p>M 1841 ALEXANDRIA - VIA MALTA - MARSEILLE TYPE A</p> <p>31   — 44 —   31</p>
<p>M 1842 MALTA - LEGHORN TYPE B</p> <p>31 / — 43 — \ 30</p>	<p>M 1842 CONSTANTINOPLE - VIA MALTA - PARIS TYPE B</p> <p>32 / — 45 — \ 32</p>
<p>M TYPE A 1843 CONSTANTINOPLE - VIA MALTA - LEGHORN</p> <p>35 / — 45 — \ 31</p>	<p>M TYPE A 1844 PIRAEUS - MALTA - MARSEILLE - EDINBOROUGH</p> <p>33 / — 45 — \ 28</p>
<p>M 1845 CONSTANTINOPLE - MALTA - LIVORNO TYPE B</p> <p>31 / — 44 — \ 32</p>	<p>M TYPE A 1846 CONSTANTINOPLE - MALTA - LIVORNO - GENOVA</p> <p>29 / — 43 — \ 32</p>
<p>M 1847 ALEXANDRIA - MALTA TYPE A</p> <p>34 / — 45 — \ 30</p>	<p>P MALTA 1849</p> <p>22   — 20 —   20</p>
<p>M 1861 CONSTANTINOPLE - BRISTOL - ZOSTOFFNE - MALTA</p> <p>28 / — 48 — \ 28</p>	<p>M TYPE A 1850 GENOVA - AMMIRACLIATO - MALTA - CORFU</p> <p>19 / — 65 — \ 18</p>

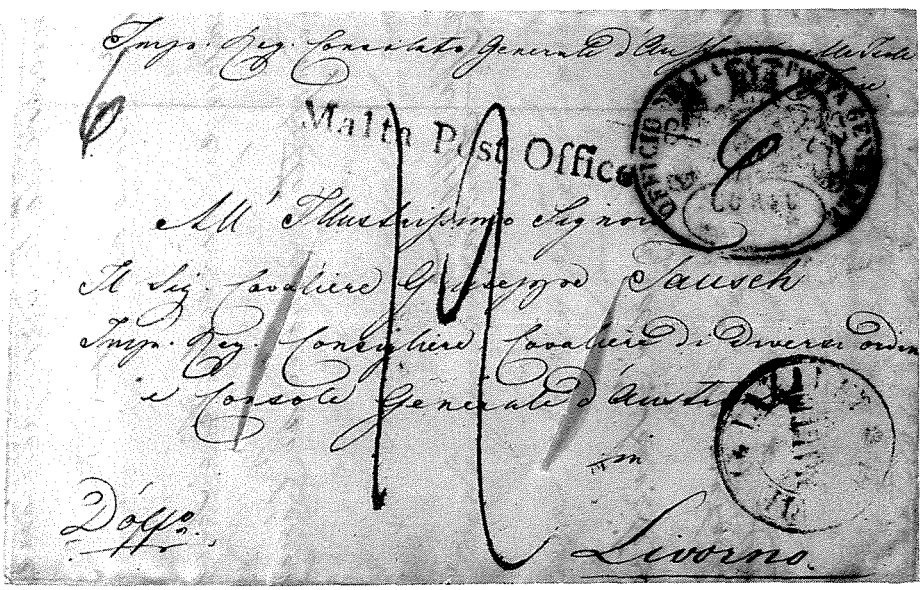


Chamber for the fumigation of mails in Malta.

The slitting of Letters in Malta was obviously not done to set pattern or mould. The incisions varied accordingly to the skill of the workers, as 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."

From a study of a random sample of letters it results that in 1823 and again in 1849 three small slits at sides and bottom of the letters or cover were customarily made. Later on, in the 1840's, and until 1866 the slits became larger were generally two and vertical in the centre of the cover. Occasionally they are at an angle, on rare occasions, they are small (1850) and spaced widely.

An uncommon variation is one large slit in the side fold or folds of the letter, sometimes on covers in the late 1830's. Slitting became infrequent after 1845, though letters were still disinfected and marked with special cachets which will be described in a later issue.





The Knights lost Malta in 1798, when Napoleon Bonaparte on his way to Egypt, captured the Island and turned it into a French base for the support for his army fighting in the East. This change gave hope to many and despair to others. It swept away many of the old regulations, whilst it introduced new measures and provisions. The Quarantine service was in no way relaxed. In one of his earliest decrees, Napoleon ordered that “Les lois de la santé à Malte ne seront ni plus ni moins rigoureuses que les lois de la santé de Marseille.” (1)

Soon after his occupation of Malta, Napoleon ordered the Commissioners of Health, whom he styled Magistrates of Health, to report, together with other High Officials of the Local Government to General Berthier at noon of the 26 Prairial (14th June 1798) for the purpose of expressing their loyalty to the French Republic and to receive instructions about their office. (2)

On the 18th June, Napoleon issued a schedule of official tariffs. Article 10 of the list empowers the Magistrates of Health to establish and collect fees from vessels and passengers arriving in Malta. (2)

Napoleon was not satisfied with the location of the Lazzaretto on Manoel Island because on the 16th June he gave orders to the General Officer Commanding the Malta division to the Commissioner of the Civil Government and to the Commission of the Maritime troops to meet together and find a place for the erection of a new Lazzaretto. The selected site had to measure at least 3200 metres long and of the same width, so that it could accommodate at least 600 soldiers plus quarters for officers together with a garden for the relaxation of officers. No doubt Napoleon had in mind the isolation of infected soldiers in Malta before their return from the Egyptian campaign to their home in France. He also directed that meanwhile ships and passengers should continue to undergo their period of quarantine at the old Lazzaretto. (2)

The rising of the Maltese against the French suspended all the schemes for the erection of a new Lazzaretto. General Vaubois, the French Governor of Malta had other matters of a pressing nature to deal with, and because of the blockade of the Island by the British fleet, there was little risk of the introduction of the contagious disease from abroad, the prevalent disease was malnutrition. (3)

Since the French had retreated behind the fortified bastions the Lazzaretto was not available for patients, hence it fell more or less in disuse during the two years of the French occupation of Malta.

Finding himself unoccupied Mathew Pulis, who was in charge of fumigation at the Lazzaretto, became involved in a conspiracy of the insurgents to seize the city of Valletta by surprise. he was shot with other patriots in the Palace Square at dawn on the 29th January 1799. (4, 5.)

1. Information to Commanders of Vessels entering the port of Malta, Health Office, Malta. 5 August 1801.
2. Correspondence de Napoleon I, publiée par ordre de l'Empereur Napoleon III, Paris 1859.
3. Robert, Dr - Mémoire sur la Topographie Physique et Médicale de Malte, P. Didot. L' Aire, Paris An XI. (1802).
4. Mifsud A. - Origine della Sovranità Inglese su Malta, Malta 1907.
5. Professor Joseph Galea, The Lazzaretto of Malta.

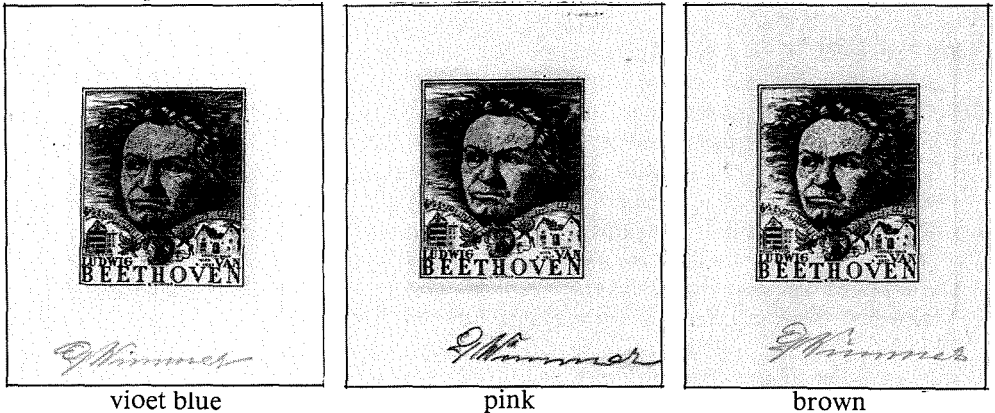
# Beethoven on Stamps

(continued)

By Miss Marcelle Bartolo

The Yemen Arab Republic commemorated the 200th. birth anniversary by issuing a set of six stamps and two miniature sheets. These show various known and unknown portraits like the Neidl stippled engraving of 1800 and the portrait of Beethoven's mother by an unknown artist. Other values show Beethoven being introduced to Mozart and playing the piano at an aristocratic meeting. The 1st. not-so-small miniature sheet portrays Bonn in Beethoven's time and a view of Vienna from the Belvedere. The 2nd. miniature sheet additionally shows a painting of Franz Schubert at a private soiree in Vienna. Tabs in the 1st. miniature-sheet show an anonymous 19th. century Beethoven portrait, the Broadwood piano and the last page of the Moonlight sonata.

Ajman and Fujeira issued sets mostly showing fantasy portraits. The Oman set, while depicting noted Beethoven portraits, also shows two neglected ones. These are the crayon drawing of 1814 by Louis Letronne and the full reproduction of the Stieler 1819-20 painting in oils. This last is shown only on this stamp, others only depicting a detail of this painting.



violet blue

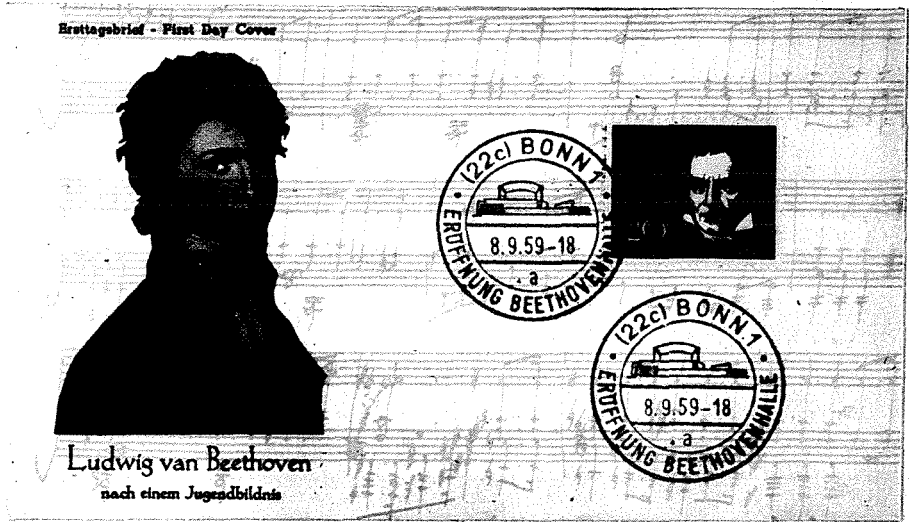
pink

brown

Interesting items of the post-World War years are the essays commissioned by the Austrian postal authorities for a Beethoven stamp, later rejected. Their design consists mainly of a freely based portrait on the 1818 pencil sketch by Kloeber. On the left is the composer's birthplace and to the right, the Heiligenstadt residence erroneously stated as the "Eroicahaus". Also incorporated in the design are the famous bars of the "Eroica" Symphony. The main shades of these essays, signed by the artist Wimmer, are violet blue, mauve, green and grey.

Another interesting item is the special sheet issued on the occasion of the opening in 1959 of the Beethoven-Hall in Bonn. This sheet portrays Beethoven together with other composers Handel, Spohr, Haydn and Mendelssohn and also incorporates a sketch for the final movement of the Ninth Symphony. (fig. a)

In 1969, Burundi issued a miniature sheet commemorating the International Week of Letter Writing. This sheet shows anonymous portraits of Beethoven and Galileo. It should be particularly noted that these two great men have no connection between them whatsoever.



(fig. a)

Two stamps depicting composers were issued by El Salvador in 1971 to honour the 2nd. International Music Festival held in that country. The 50 cent stamp shows a Beethoven portrait based on the Schimon and Stieler paintings together with his signature. Also forming part of the design is scribbled notation to be found in Beethoven's notebooks. This consists of the sketch for the opening bars of the "Great Fugue" and is a good example of a late Beethoven manuscript. These same stamps were overprinted in red in 1973 to honour the 3rd. Music Festival.

In 1972 a commemorative stamp was issued for the 12th. Eastern Uruguay Choral Festival. This shows a music sheet from the soprano part of the Gloria from the Missa Solemnis, and the first-day handstamp also shows the opening notes. Remaining in 1972, a set of four maximum cards showing portraits and the Birthplace in Bonn was issued by Albania while the State of Ajman emitted a set of eight stamps showing previously mentioned paintings.

In the Dahomey issue of 1974, one of the airmail stamps portraying famous composers shows Beethoven. The portrait is based on the 19th. century painting by Jager and included in the design, are the first bars of the Moonlight sonata. Also in 1974, Niger issued a commemorative stamp for the 150th. anniversary of the Ninth Symphony. The stamp had a roughly based portrait on the Kloeber drawing and an allegory to the "Ode to Joy".

In 1977, nine countries issued commemoratives for Beethoven's 150th. Death Anniversary. Some of these showed noted paintings while others were quite original. A good example of this originality is the set of eight stamps and miniature sheet of the Maldives which shows quite a few designs not seen on other stamps, except for the Heiligtstadt residence. The 2 larees stamps shows an 1800 portrait of Beethoven by Boech together with a photographic reproduction of the manuscript of the Moonlight sonata. The 3 larees stamp

LUDWIG  
van  
BEETHOVEN  
1770-1827



*Die* WERKE DES MEISTERS  
FÜHREN DEN MENSCHEN ZU  
SEINER SEELE UND IN DIE  
ZONEN DER UNSTERBLICHKEIT

PH

(special handstamp commemorating 150th Death Anniversary of Beethoven)

allegedly shows the famous meeting of Beethoven and Goethe at Teplitz in 1812; the view of Teplitz is taken from an unknown engraving. The 4 larees stamp shows a portrait loosely based on the three 1815 Maehler paintings and the string instruments given to Beethoven by Prince Lichnowsky in 1800. These were the Guarnerius 1718 and Amati 1690 violins by Vincenzo Ruger and the Guarnerius cello of 1675. The 25 larees stamp has, in addition to the Danhauser oil sketch of Beethoven's hands, another of the composer's prized possessions; this is the inscribed gold medal sent to him by Louis XVIII of France in 1820. Other possessions more useful than prized were the Master's ear trumpets shown on the 5 rupees stamp together with a portrait based on the chalk drawing made by Stephen Decker in 1824. To our knowledge, this is the last portrait of Beethoven before he died and is not authentically reproduced on any stamp. The miniature sheet, in addition to Hoechle's drawing of the Master's study, also shows a reproduction of Beethoven's death mask taken by Danhauser the following morning. Even depicted is the obelisk which now stands on Beethoven's grave in the Central Cemetery.

In the Dominican issue of seven stamps and a miniature sheet, only one drawing has been previously mentioned, that by Neidl in 1800. Other portraits consist of a copper engraving of Haydn made by Mansfield in 1781, an anonymous engraving of Henriette Sontag - solo soprano in the original Ninth Symphony, an 1800 stippled engraving of Maria Casentini - first ballerina in the original "Creations of Prometheus", and an imaginative drawing of Beethoven in the valley of Nussdorf from a coloured lithograph. The other stamps show a detail portraying the Duke of Wellington as engraved on the title page of "The Battle of Vittoria" - an orchestral work - and Scene IV from Act I of the opera "Fidelio".

On the other hand, the Togo issue shows only two different designs:- the lithograph drawing of Beethoven's head taken a day after his death by Joseph Danhauser and a silhouette of the Trinity Church of the Minorities in Vienna; the church where Beethoven's funeral service was held.

St. Thomas and Prince Islands also commemorated the 150th. Death Anniversary with a set of 3 stamps. Though one of the banned issues of the FIP, this set is worthy to be in any Beethoven collection on account of the clearness of the portrait reproductions. The Gabon stamp shows a sculptured Beethoven bust by Eugene Lacaque and a sheet of unidentified music.

Some countries, however issued their commemorative sets a year later, that is in 1978. A fine example of this stupidity was provided by the Grenada issue. The only recognizable designs are those of the Hungarian violinist d'Aranyi, the Broadwood piano superimposed on a page from the Pastoral sonata and the Stieler portrait with notation from the same sonata, depicted on the stamp from the miniature sheet. The other values contain spurious portraits and a mass of musical instruments.

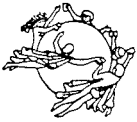
Another such issue is the Comoro Islands miniature sheet. Showing the Stieler painting, it also contains unidentified music and a decorated scroll. The miniature sheet of 1980 can also be called fantastic inasmuch as it links the commemorations of the Voyager space flights to a purely imaginative drawing of Beethoven.

In 1979, the great Master was also portrayed on one of a set of seven local stamps from the Berners Islands and for the International Year of the Disabled in 1981, we find two stamps from Guyana and Maldives depicting him as the deaf person he became.

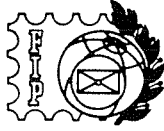
All the original paintings of Beethoven together with his musical instruments and most manuscripts can now be seen at the Beethovenhaus in Bonn except for the Stieler 1819-20 oil painting, which is in the possession of the Hinrichsen family - the owners of C.P. Peters music publishing firm, and the 1824 chalk drawing by Decker - now in the National Library in Vienna.

#### REFERENCES:-

- 1 Beethoven Checklist published by the Philatelic Music Circle, 1978.
2. "The Baton" - magazine of P.M.C.
3. Ludwig Van Beethoven: Authentic Portraits and Sculptures on Stamps by William Sherwood.
4. Musical Notations on Stamps by Jacques Posell.



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE PHILATÉLIE

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
STAMP DEALERS' ASSOCIATIONS

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TIMBRES-POSTE

## Press release for immediate publication

Translation from French

### International Round Table on Philately: UPU — FIP — IFSDA — ASCAT

A Round Table under the patronage of the most important international organizations in philately was held on Friday, 11 November 1983, in Zürich. It was chaired by Mr M. Gharbi, Assistant Director-General at the UPU International Bureau and was attended by the following delegation:

**For the FIP — Fédération Internationale de Philatélie**

L. Dvoracek, Chairman; F.W. Blecher, Director of the Executive Committee and P. Vollmeier, Secretary-General.

**For the IFSDA — International Federation of Stamp Dealers' Associations**

A. Schiltcette, Chairman; J. Esteba, Vice-Chairman; J. Ehrlich, Vice-Chairman and M. Berry, Secretary-General.

**For the UPU — Universal Postal Union**

M. Gharbi, Assistant Director-General at the International Bureau and Ch. Baumann, Head of the Principal Postage Stamp Division, Swiss PTT Directorate-General.

**For the ASCAT — International Association of Stamp Catalogue Publishers**

M. Hertsch, Chairman; A.D. Kroo, Secretary-General; J. Varga and H. Hohenester, members of the Executive Council.

During this Round Table a great many important matters concerning world philately were considered in a friendly and constructive atmosphere and some important resolutions were passed.

**Year of issue on stamps.** It was confirmed that the proposal previously put forward by ASCAT on printing the year of issue on all commemorative or charity postage stamps will be officially submitted by the Belgian Post Office to the preparatory meeting for the 1984 Hamburg UPU Congress to be held by the CEPT in December at Strasbourg.

**Code of ethics in philately.** The FIP, IFSDA and ASCAT delegates unanimously affirmed the need for joint action to stem the flow of patently speculative high-value new issues which are damaging to philately. This action will be coordinated shortly by the three major philatelic organizations on the basis of a code of ethics submitted by ASCAT and sent to the UPU.

According to Mr Baumann, the Swiss postal administration will support the initiative of the code of ethics submitted and proposes to add a supplementary point No 8: «The denominations of the postage stamps issued shall correspond to the current postage rates». Mr Gharbi, Assistant Director-General at the International Bureau, confirmed the interest of his organization for this initiative and said that UPU is going to act on 2 fronts:

- 1) the UPU experts sent on missions to developing countries would be made aware of the ideas in the code of ethics with a view to directing their activities the direction advocated;
- 2) at the UPU Congress in Hamburg, a study on philately was proposed. If it was accepted, the reporting country would use the code of ethics which would be communicated to it by the International Bureau.

It would thus be possible to bring the ASCAT code of ethics, once it had been adopted, possibly in an amended form, to the attention of all the postal administrations of UPU member countries.

FIP, IFSDA and ASCAT mentioned on that occasion the usefulness of recommending that all Governments without exception should give new issues a prepayment validity unlimited in time and should place a limit on the face value of the stamps. Mr Baumann, the representative of the Swiss Post Office, said in this connection that all the philatelic values issued should always correspond to the postage rates in force.

**Customs and charges on stamps.** Mr Gharbi confirmed a UPU move which will certainly bring pleasure to philatelists throughout the world. At a meeting of experts to be held in Paris next 5 to 9 December, the Universal Postal Union will ask for the UNESCO agreements signed in Florence to be applied to postage stamps so that the latter are considered to be «articles having a cultural value» and, consequently, exempt from any customs duty on import.



**Postal automation.** Mr Gharbi, in reply to various questions, confirmed that the UPU did not consider self-sticking labels to be real postage stamps, but classified them among other methods of prepayment with the definition of «franking impressions». As such, samples sent by administrations are not distributed to the postal administrations of Union member countries. Mr Baumann, the representative of the Swiss PTT, felt that, although this new form of prepayment could not be ignored as it facilitated the dispatch of mail, his administration tended to limit the installation of FRAMA machines to strictly necessary requirements. He agreed that the spread of such mechanization might harm philately in that it made possible to produce labels in unlimited values and in unverifiable varieties.

ASCAT confirmed in this connection the recommendation made to its members: «Machine impressions cannot be ignored. However, they will not be catalogued with other postage stamps, but in a separate section. Only the basic impression will be catalogued and subtypes and varieties will be ignored. Nor will catalogues include the various nominal values».

**FIP – IFSDA relations.** The two major world philatelic organizations FIP and IFSDA agreed on the need for closer cooperation, particularly as regards dealers' participation in major international exhibitions. FIP and IFSDA will each appoint a delegate to coordinate the various moves to obtain better results for the benefit of Philately.

**FIP exhibitions.** The FIP confirmed that it had no objection to collections belonging to dealers being exhibited as soon as the necessary conditions were met. IFSDA also obtained confirmation that qualified dealers might also be on Juries.

Mr Gharbi, Chairman of the Round Table, closed the meeting, stressing the concrete and beneficial aspect of the results obtained as well as the frank and constructive manner in which all the organizations present had pursued the discussions, thereby making it possible to close that philatelic «summit» with remarkable success.

 Latest news: we have learnt that the CEPT countries have accepted the proposal on the year of issue on stamps: this proposal will be officially submitted to the UPU Congress in Hamburg. 

### **Code of ethics to be proposed to the member postal administrations of the UPU**

1. The member postal administrations of the Union shall, in principle, confine their issues to subjects having a connection with their country or with international personalities and events.  
They shall avoid any commemoration not concerning them directly.
2. Administrations shall themselves monitor the way in which their stamps are issued in order to avoid any abusive commercial speculation.
3. They shall also make arrangements for the stamps to be on sale for an appropriate period and for them to be valid for prepayment for a sufficient period which shall be left to the appreciation of each administration.
4. They shall avoid issuing high-value commemorative or charity stamps.
5. They shall avoid the joint production of perforated and imperforate stamps for one and the same issue, except when the imperforate stamps concern philatelic tributes.
6. They shall avoid issuing miniature sheets of stamps bigger than the usual size of existing albums or which, because of their excessively large size, cause dispatching problems.
7. Postal administrations which assign their stamp production and/or sales to Government or private Philatelic Agencies shall maintain total control of all operations so that points 1 to 6 are always complied with.
8. The denominations of the postage stamps issued shall correspond to the current postage rates.

**EVERY MEMBER SHOULD TRY AND ENROL A NEW MEMBER.**

**Have you paid the past and 1984 Membership dues?  
Immediate payment will be appreciated. Send remittance to:**

**Mr. J. Porsella Flores  
69, Palm Street,  
Paola.**

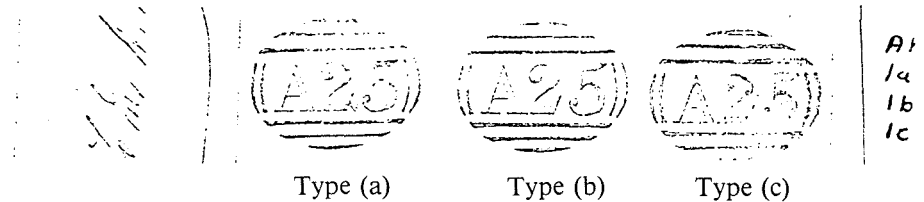
# Great Britain Stamps Used in Malta

Continued Part 4

By Anthony Fenech

## The A 25 Single Horizontal Oval Handstamps

Three such cancellers are recorded in the General Post Office Proof Book (Vol. 8 (2) - Page 156), the entry being dated 2nd February 1859.



The above types 'a', 'b' and 'c' as shown on the Impression Proof Book at the General Post Office, London (22½ mm x 17 mm) have identical features and are indistinguishable.



fig. (b)

Initially, these cancellers appear to have been used as general purpose cancellers (1) at the Sorting Room, (fig. b) along with other circular datestamps or the duplex "A 25" cancellers.

From April 1870 and up to the end of 1882, these single horizontal oval handstamps were assigned a very important duty, namely to cancel stamps on registered covers and entires. The earliest date recorded being the 5th April. On such covers, one finds this handstamp in conjunction with a registered datestamp inscribed "REGISTERED / MALTA" with code letters A, B, or C and date.



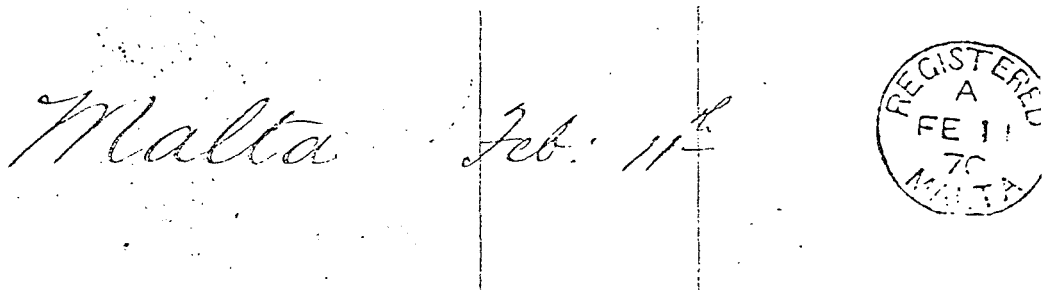


fig. (c)

This 23 mm single Registration datestamp was sent to Malta some time in 1870; in fact its strike is recorded in the General Post Office Proof Book in London (Vol. 22 page 76) and dated February 11th, 1870. It has been noted on Covers and entires always applied in red (except on one occasion when it was struck in black and dated 10 FE 79). (2) This handstamp had to be used together with the single "A 25" horizontal oval, as it was necessary to record the DATE of despatch of the registered letters. (This was one of the requirements to be fulfilled in the despatch of registered mails - Sir Rowland Hill's letter to the Packet Agents - 5th February 1855).

The single horizontal oval cancellers were normally struck in black. However, a strike in red on a registered cover of 1882 is referred to in the "Cann" Sale Catalogue (3) thus:

"Lot No. 102 - 2½d blue and 1881 1d lilac (pair) on Registered Cover to Liverpool, tied by "A 25" strikes in red. . . . . (See photo on page 13)."

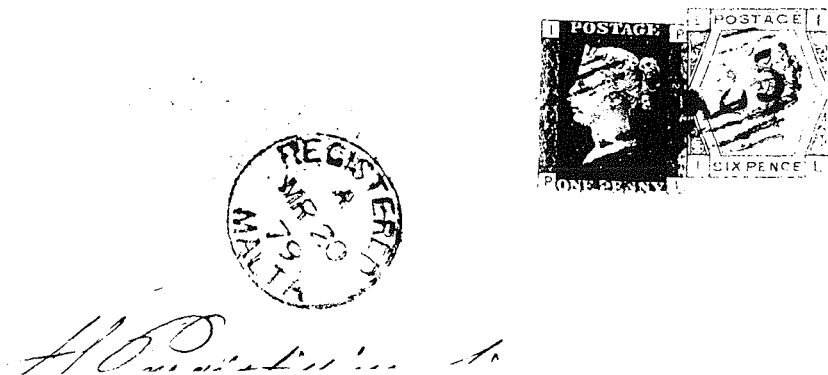


fig. (d)

The strikes of these cancellers on stamps or covers are not usually clear; as seen on the above entire (fig. d) sometimes signs of bad wear or of not having been cleaned for quite some time are shown.

MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER  
REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT

REGISTERED.

OF THE POST OFFICE  
OBTAINED FOR IT.



Handwritten numbers '14' and '20' are visible above the address. The address is written in cursive: 'Messrs Stanley Gibbons & Co', '25 Abchurch Lane', 'London'. A circular postmark is partially visible on the left side of the address.

fig. (e)



fig. (f)

Type 'd' 19½ mm x 17 mm

The fourth type 'd' (fig. e and f) appears in the years 1879-82. It is quite distinctive from the other three. It is about 2 mm narrower (19½ mm x 17 mm) with the 'A' of 'A 25' visibly smaller than the '25'. Its strikes are poor and sometimes smudgy. I think that it was introduced on the Counter Registered Mail as a subsidiary handstamp. Strikes from this handstamp were at one time thought to be forgeries, but this handstamp is known genuinely used on quite a few registered covers.

On the 17th Dec 1880 the oval registered postmark was dispatched from London to Malta to replace the ring Registered cancellor. The new Registered cancellor in Red began to be used in Malta in early 1881 having the same function as the previous one. fig. (g)

It is worth noting that the Great Britain High Values used contemporarily are obliterated by these four types of the 'A 25' horizontal oval handstamp. Among these one finds:

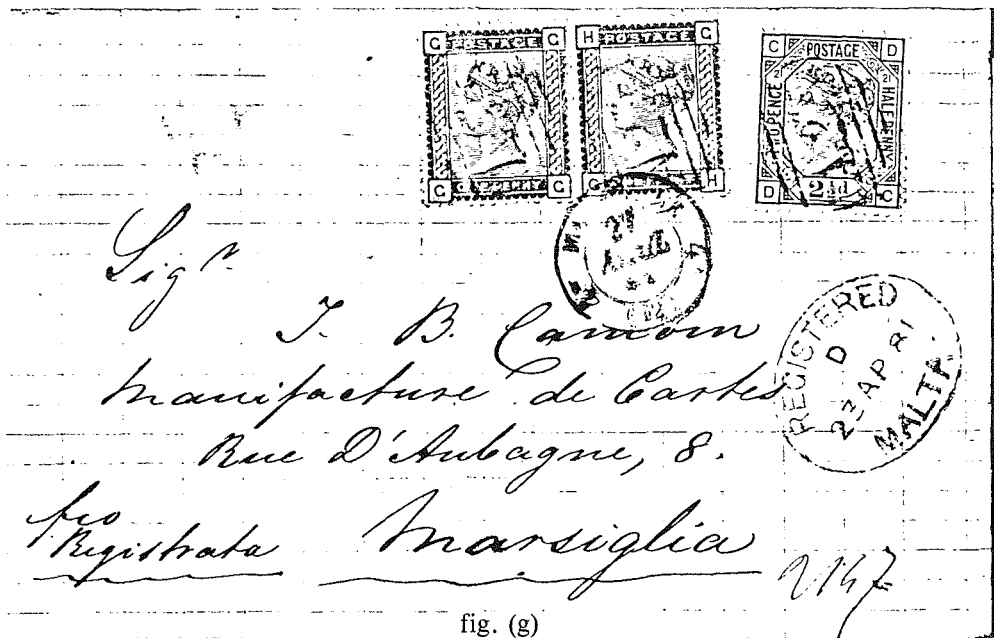


fig. (g)

- 1876 - 4d sage green;
- 1872/73 - 6d chestnut and buff and later the 6d buff and grey;
- 1876 - 8d orange;
- 1876 - 10d red-brown;
- 1873-80 - 1/- green;
- 1880 - 1/- orange-brown;
- 1867 - 2/- milky blue or cobalt;
- 1880 - 2/- brown;
- 1867-74 - 5/- rose (on white and blue papers);
- 1878 - 10/- grey-green.

This does not exclude several lower denominations, even the ½d struck with the 'A 25' single horizontal oval handstamp. As a matter of fact a 1880 (AU 19) Registered Cover to Livorno is known franked with ½d (Plate 8) and 4d (Plate 16) and cancelled with this type of 'A 25' cancellation. (4) The use of the lower values on Registered envelopes gives rise to many strips (of three, four, or more), as well as to blocks (of four, six, and even more), nicely cancelled with the 'A 25' single horizontal oval handstamps. The inclusion of these strips and blocks in one's G.B. Used in Malta Collection render it most fascinating.

1. Malta - The Stamps and Postal History 1567 - 1960 Handbook, p.33.
2. The Malta Study Circle. M.S.C. Study Paper No. 46 Malta Registered Edited by John C. Lander in February 1978.
3. Cann Sale Catalogue - Harmers Ltd - June 15, 16th, 1970. pp. 14, 15.
4. 1238 Kohler Auction Catalogue - The André Bollen Collection of Great Britain Used Abroad (Feb 8th, 1983).
5. fig. b, fig. e, fig. g, from the collection of Mr. J.H. Birkett Allan.

# Napoleonic Period

June 1798 - September 1800

By Dr. A. Bonnici

The first of a series of letters by Archpriest Cassar, Head of the Gozitan Government and General Superintendent of the Gozitan forces appeared in Vol. 12 No. 2 of the PSM Magazine.

Sig. Comandante

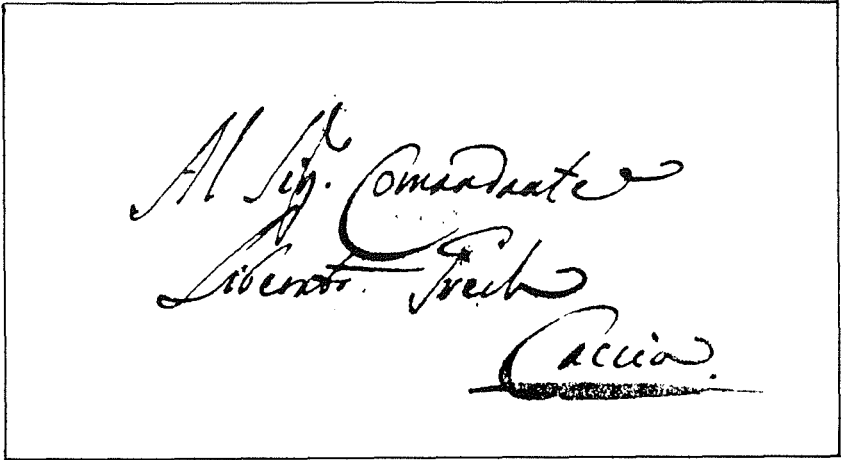
Dear

Rispondo alla vostra lettera; ed, intorno al fatto del Sig. not. Pace soltanto le dirò, che io non ho dato ordine veruno per la sua cattura, ma nel momento che giungavo nei si digi, che con i soldati vostri era condotta sulla montagna adducendo p<sup>o</sup> motivo di tale cattura, che la lettera presentata dallo stesso not. Pace non era quell'istessa, che aveva ricevuto da Clemente; Io nulla ordinai alla vostra gente soltanto gli digi, che era arbitrario

delli Comendanti loro disfraturo al detto  
not.º Paves contro cui io nulla fu detto  
ho di sospetto. Ordinej si alla vostra gente  
se gli sarà possibile di catturare il fio:  
Andreo Sulliano ed all' avv. Luigi Paves  
figlio di detto notaro avendo questi ma:  
nifesti rivoluzionari, ed è agej buono di  
metterli in prigione nella Torre D'Azeg, per  
non comunicare la loro cattiva intenzione  
con altri; Ed io sempre al solito mi  
presterò.

Li 12. 8600 1798.

App. Vostro Ser.  
Avv. J. Capra



Al. Sup. Comandante  
Liberato Grech  
Caccia.

Commander,

I am replying to your letter; and regarding the case of Notary Pace. I only tell you that I have given no order for his arrest, but at the time when I was dining I was told that among your soldiers he had been taken on the mount, bringing as reason for such arrest that the letter presented by the same Notary Pace was not the same one which he had received from Clement. I gave no orders to your men, I told them only it was at their Commanders' discretion to deal with the said Notary Pace against whom till now I have no suspicions. I did order your men if possible to arrest Gio Andrea Pullicino and advocate Luigi Pace, son of the said notary, as they are overt revolutionaries, and it is a very good thing to put them in prison in Garzes Tower, so that they may not communicate their evil intention to others. And I always as usual profess myself

12 October 1798

Your affectionate servant  
Archpriest S. Cassar

To the Commander,

Liberato Grech,  
Caccia.

# MALTA – A DIARY

January - April 1984

By J. Farrugia

25- 1-84 The Airmail postage set which was issued on the 3rd October, 1978, was withdrawn from sale, at the close of business on the 25th January 1984.

26- 1-84 A new Airmail set issued to-day, consisting of seven stamps featuring seven different types of aircraft which operated or are still operating from and to Malta for the conveyance of passengers, freight and mail. A special handstamp was used on the first day of issue.



31- 1-84 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, a call for applications was issued, for the post of Sub-Postmaster, at Zebbug, Malta. Applications were to be received by 5.00 p.m. of Friday, 2nd March, 1984. The usual duties and obligations of Sub-Postmasters were also listed.

14- 3-84 A machine stamp cancelling slogan, marking Consumer's Rights World Day, was used at the Central Mail Room, on Wednesday and Thursday, 14th and 15th March, 1984. The slogan reads: "15 ta' Marzu 1984 - Jum Dinji Għad-Drittijiet Tal-Konsumatur" meaning: "15 March 1984 - Consumer's Right World Day."

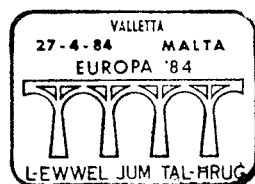
26- 3-84 On the occasion of the 31st. March Festivities, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Magħqudin Fil-Helsien - 31 Ta' Marzu - Il-Jum Nazzjonali - 1979-1984" was used from the 26th to the 30th March, 1984, at the Central Mail Room. The wording of the slogan means: "United in Freedom - 31 March - National Day - 1979-1984."

30- 3-84 A new metal hand date-stamp was put in use at the Luqa Airport Branch post Office, as from Friday, 30th March, 1984. The hand date-stamp is inscribed, "Luqa Airport - Malta."



The Hand date-stamp which was replaced, was withdrawn from use at the close of business on Thursday, 29th March, 1984.

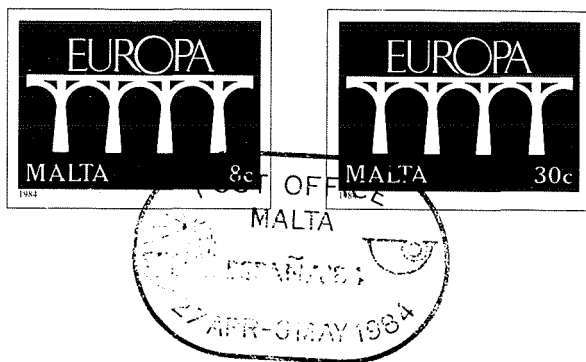
27- 4-84 The "Europa 1984" set, issued to-day. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



27- 4-84 The P.M.G. notified that a commemorative postal card was going to be issued on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office in the "España 84" World Stamp Exhibition which was to be

# POSTAL CARD

MALTA  
POST  
OFFICE



held in Madrid from the 27th April to the 6th May, 1984. The Europa 1984 stamps and the logo of the “Espana 84” World Stamp Exhibition is printed in multi-colour on the postal card. The postal card was available for sale at 38c from the G.P.O. and from all B.P.O.s and S.P.O.s during the period from the 27th April to 6th May, 1984, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

The postal card was available for sale with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-postmark inscribed “Espana '84 - Post Office Malta - 27 Apr - 6 May 1984” and incorporating a line drawing of the Emblem of Malta and the Postal Horn. The postal card was available for sale in mint condition. In the case where the stamps on the postal card are cancelled with the hand-postmark mentioned above, it could have been sent through the post at no extra charge provided that it was posted during the period from the 27th April to 6th May, 1984.

Postal cards cancelled with the “Espana 84” hand-postmark posted after the 6th May, 1984 should have additional stamps affixed thereon to cover postage. These stamps would be cancelled with the normal metal hand-postmark.

On the 27th April, 1984, the imprinted stamps on the postal card, could have been cancelled with the first day of issue postmark of the Europa 1984 stamps.

## Detailed Information about:-

**Commemorations 1983 issue**----- X

**Monsignor Giuseppe De Piro issue**----- Y

**Christmas 1983 issue**----- Z

Due to the shortage of space and also not to fall behind in the information about new issues, I am including all the technical details of three consecutive issues in one article. Each issue in the article will be denoted by the letters X, Y, and Z, as shown above, to save repetition and space.



Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of issue	14-7-83	1-9-83	6-9-83
Values	3c, 7c, 13c, 20c.	3c.	2c + 1c, 8c + 2c 20c + 3c
Stamp Size	43mm x 21.5mm	27mm x 33mm	29mm x 47mm
Art Designer	Donald Friggieri	Esprit Barthet	Norbert Attard
Printers	Printex Ltd.	same	same
Process	Lithography	same	same
Perforation	13.4 x 13.7	14 x 13.8	13.6 x 13.8
Watermark	Maltese Crosses sideways	same	same
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same	same

### Colours:

All three issues were printed in multicolour, using five different colours for each value in issue X, four in issue Y and six in issue Z.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin, next the last stamps of the two bottom rows in issue X, but next to the last stamp of the bottom row in issues Y and Z.

The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left in issues X and Y, but from left to right in issue Z. This holds for all Panes, of all values, of the three issues.

Cumulative totals of progressive coloums of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value, of each of the three issues consisted of:

Issue X - three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps made up of four rows of ten stamps.

Issue Y - three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps.

Issue Z - three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps made up of eight rows of five stamps.

Stamps of issue X are of the horizontal format whilst those of issues Y and Z are of the vertical format.

### Plate/Pane Numbers:

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

Issue X      3c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
                   7c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
                   13c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
                   20c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.

Issue Y      3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

Issue Z      2c + 1c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.  
                   8c + 2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.  
                   20c + 3c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

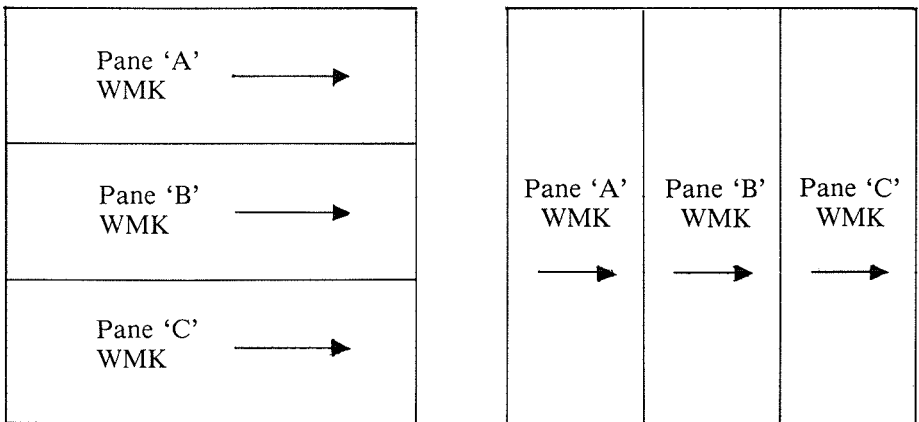
### Perforations of Margins:

Issue X - The top margin of Pane A of all four values, is imperforate, whilst the top margins of Panes B and C are fully perforated. The left hand, bottom and right hand margins of Panes A, B and C are also fully perforated.

Issues Y and Z - The top margins of Panes A, B and C of all values, of both issues, are imperforate, whilst the left hand, right hand and bottom margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

### Registration Markings:

A small part of a registration line can be seen in the middle of the top margin, near the edge, in Pane B only, of issue Y.



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on top left, for issue X, and as shown on top right, for issues Y and Z. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps of all three issues is sideways. Perforator ran from top to bottom in all cases.

### Imprint Blocks:

“Printex Limited Malta” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of the three issues. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of Philatelic mail, on the first day of each of the three issues.

With issue Z, Maximum Card No.3 was also issued. It reproduces the design featured on the 8c + 2c stamp. The Maximum Card was available for sale at 5c. The 8c + 2c stamp could have been affixed on the image side of the Maximum Card and cancelled with the Xmas. first day of issue postmark.

# Detailed Information about:-

40th. Anniversary of the Foundation of the G.W.U. ----- X

Maltese Ships Second Issue ----- Y

Airmail 1984 Issue ----- Z

Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of Issue	5-10-83	7-11-83	26-1-84
Values	3c, 8c, 27c.	2c, 12c, 13c, 20c.	7c, 8c, 16c, 23c, 27c, 38c, 75c.
Stamp Size	47mm x 29mm	same	same
Designer	Frank Portelli	Norbert Attard	Richard J. Caruana
Printers	Printex Ltd.	same	same
Process	Lithography	same	same
Perforation	13.8 x 13.6	13.8 x 13.6	13.9 x 13.7
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	same	same
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same	same

## Colours:

Printed in multicolour using five different colours for each value in issue X, six in issue Y and five in issue Z.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in issues X and Z, but next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows of issue Y. This was so in all Panes, of all values, of the three issues. Colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, in issue X, but from right to left in issues Y and Z, except in the 7c value of issue Z, in which they are from left to right.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, in all Panes of the three issues X, Y and Z.

The Printed Sheet of each value, of each of the three issues, consisted of three 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.

## Plate/Pane Numbers:

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

Issue X -	3c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
	8c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
	27c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
Issue Y -	2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
	12c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
	13c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
	20c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

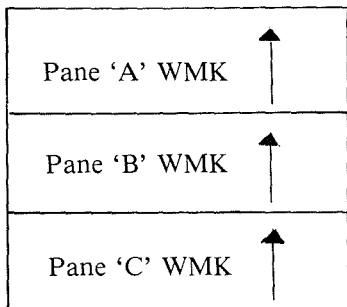
Issue Z - 7c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
 8c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
 16c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
 23c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
 27c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
 38c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.  
 75c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.

### Perforation of Margins:

The left hand margins of Panes, A, B and C, of each value, of all the three issues X, Y and Z are imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

### Registration Marks:

These were only seen in issue X. A registration and cutting mark is seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in Pane A, of all three values. In Panes B of all values, a small horizontal line is seen in the left hand margin next to the first stamp of the middle row. In Panes C of all values, two horizontal lines one shorter than the other are seen at the top of the right hand margin.



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of all values, of all three issues, X, Y and Z, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left.

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

Perforator ran from left to right.

### Imprint Blocks:

“Printex Limited Malta” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of the three issues. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation, on the first day of issue, of each of the three sets.

Issue X - A friend of mine noticed that the special handstamp which was being used at the sorting room in Valletta was faulty. It was used between 8.00 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. when the fault was noticed and the handstamp withdrawn. Some 30 or 35 covers had been stamped by then. The fault was in the word “HRUĠ” which was being printed “HRUC” i.e. the last letter being a C instead of a G.

Issue Y - On the first day of issue Y, Maximum Card No. 4 was also issued. It reproduces the brig shown on the 13c stamp. This card was available for sale either with the 13c stamp affixed on the image side and cancelled with the special hand postmark, or without a stamp.

Issue Z - The Airmail postage set which was issued on the 3rd October, 1978, was withdrawn from sale, at the close of business on the 25th January, 1984, the previous day of issue Z.

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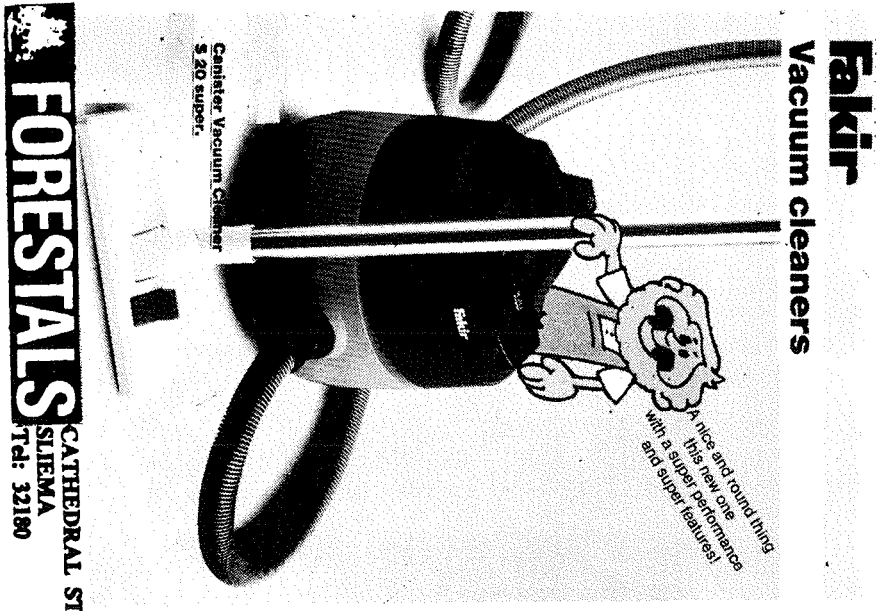
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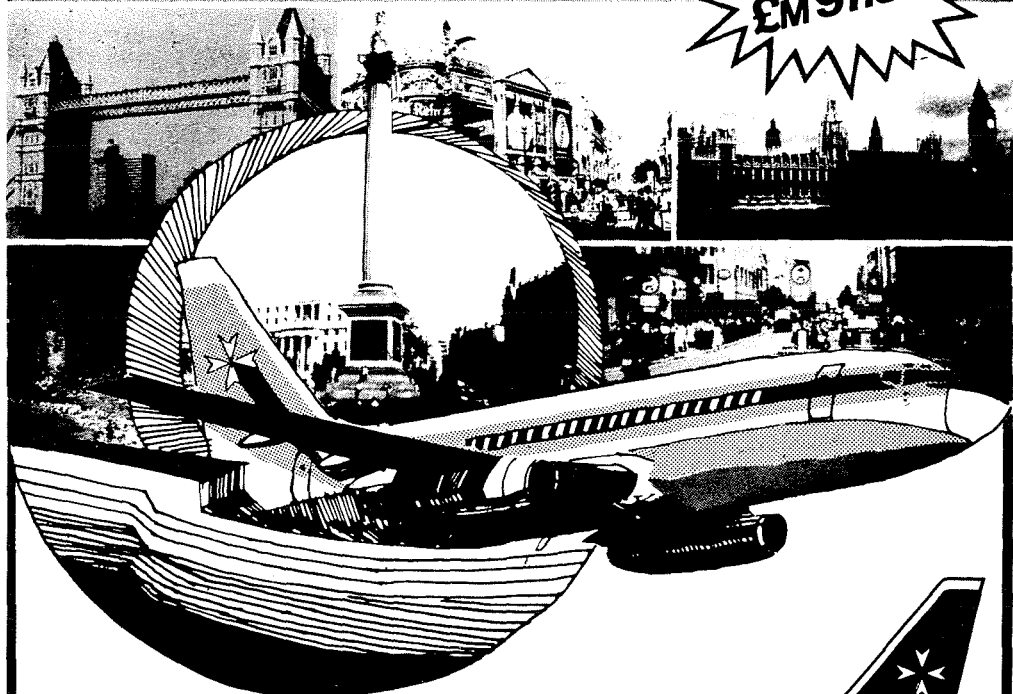
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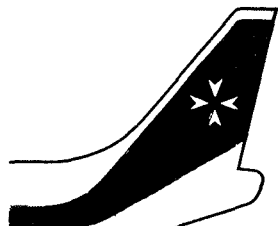


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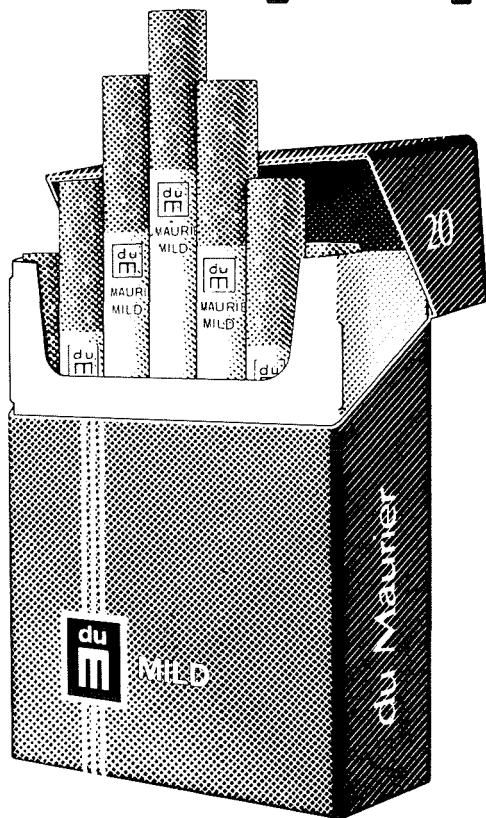
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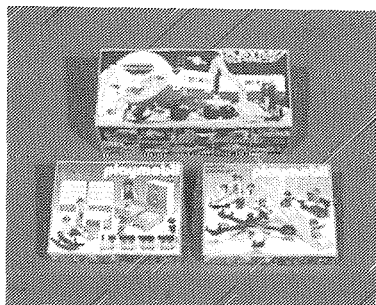
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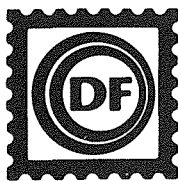
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