

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE PSM MAGAZINE



CHRISTIE'S ROBSON LOWE



A Happy New Year

is assured to all collectors who use our auctions

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T.V. Roberts	French Maritime Mail
Alfred Ostheimer	Bangkok
Edward Hibbert	St. Helena
Charles McKeown	New Zealand
Steuart Palmer	Airmails
Senator the Honourable Henry D. Hicks	Crowned Circles
C.E.D. Enoch	College Stamps
Harry Lacoste Bartrop	New Zealand
Charles Stewart	Thailand
Jack Andrews'	Belgium
Admiral George C. Dyer	Great Britain Used Abroad, Straits and Hong Kong
Walter Brauning	German States classics
The Corsini archive of Renaissance Correspondence & archive material from the National Postal Museum	

As a result of a world tour by members of our team, an extensive range of sales is planned for the opening months of 1985.

Suitable material can always be accepted for inclusion
in auction

WE SELL YOUR STAMPS WHERE THEY SELL BEST

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47 DUKE STREET
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THE PSM MAGAZINE



Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84,
Silver-Bronze AUSIPEX '84.
Editor: Dr. A. Bonnici. Ass. Editor: J. Farrugia

Vol. 13 No. 3

December 1984

The Philatelic Society
congratulates
the Department of Posts and its Employees
on the occasion of the Centenary of the
Statutory Establishment of the Malta Post Office
1885 - 1985.



As promised in the August Issue, the December Issue is being devoted to the 1st Malta Queen Victoria Definitive Issued on the 1st January 1885, a date which commemorates the Centenary of our Post Office, as it was one hundred years ago on the 1st January 1885, that the General Post Office was transferred from Imperial Control to Local Control.

Prior to this date British Stamps were used to frank letters going overseas. In 1883 it was agreed that full administration of the Malta Post Office should be controlled internally, and so it was considered appropriate that once this became a fact the Malta Post Office should have its own Definitive Issue.

On the 31st July 1883, Messrs De La Rue wrote to the Crown Agents referring to their recent interview, where it was desired that the ½d Malta Postage stamp should be changed to Green in Accordance with the regulations of the International Postal Convention. Messrs De La Rue submitted a specimen one in yellow and one in green for comparison reproduced on Page 30. This was later adopted as the colour for the ½d Green in the Definitive Set.

In the official correspondence which I am reproducing in its original form, between the Malta Post Master, Roger Duke - The Chief Secretary Sir Walter Hely Hutchenson C.M.G. - The Crown Agents - and Messrs De La Rue, we have a mine of information, regarding the estimates of stamps and postal stationery required, the cost of dies, engravings, artist's drawings, etc, in fact all the information which makes our hobby so interesting and stimulating.

The transfer was scheduled to take effect on the 1st July 1884, but was postponed to a later date the 1st January 1885, as Messrs De La Rue could not produce the entire supply

of 21/1884, the 1st supply of 688 sheets of the ½d, 1072 sheets of the 1d, and 2128 sheets of the 2½d and 26304 1d Single Post Cards were supplied on the 20th June 1884, while the rest including 1017 sheets of the 2d, 680 sheets of the 4d and 250 sheets of the 1/- together with Postal Stationery were supplied on the 5th July 1884.

This postponement of the opening of the Post Office necessitated on the 27th August 1884 the 30th printing of the ½d yellow to bridge the gap up to December 1884. The Victoria period is an interesting and fascinating period and I will leave you now to delve into the Official Correspondence.

My thanks go to the late Mr. Rigo de Rigi who in 1972 spent 3 days with me delving in the records of Messrs De La Rue in the vaults of the London General Post Office. He later supplied me with photostats. Thanks also must go to our friend Mr. Robbie Lowe who is a pillar of encouragement, and who organised at very short notice the reproduction of the colour separations.

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AWARDS IN AUSIPEX '84

Mr. Godwin Said - Malta Postal History -
Large Vermeil Medal
P.S.M. Magazine - Silver Bronze Medal
Messrs Eman. Said - Franco-Maltese Postal
Relations from Their Origins to 1870. -
Silver Bronze Medal

Photoset and printed by:
ABC Stationers and Printers Ltd.

NOTICE.

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

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

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

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

ROGER DUKE,

H. M. Postmaster.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

Valletta, 8th December 1884

Official Correspondence between The Malta Post Master, Roger Duke - The Chief Secretary - The Crown Agents - and Messrs De La Rue, which led to the issue of the 1st Definitive Malta Queen Victoria issue on 1st January 1885.

Post Master - Roger Duke, to Chief Secretary.

General Post Office,
Valletta 6th Sept. 1883

Sir,

I think it right to annex for the information of H. E. the Governor particulars of the sale of postage stamps of the United Kingdom at this Office during the financial year ended in March last as a guide to the Island Government in regard to the approximate quantities of the several denominations of stamps which will have to be provided for use after the Transfer. To these quantities must be added say 10000 stamps of each denomination for distribution among the countries of the General Postal Union, through the International Bureau at Berne, and for sale to collectors; and in estimating the $\frac{1}{2}$ stamps required, it will be necessary to add together the sales of Imperial and Island $\frac{1}{2}$ stamps respectively.

I am inclined to doubt any present necessity for the issue of $\frac{3}{4}$ stamps, these having hitherto been sold chiefly to be sent as remittances, so that the denominations required would be $\frac{1}{2}$, 1^d, 2^d, 2^d, 4^d, 5^d, 6^d, and 7^d together with registration envelopes of two sizes, 1^o (single) and 2^o (copy) Post-Cards, and $\frac{1}{2}$ ^o and 1^o newspaper wrappers. I presume that the new Malta postage stamps would be ordered

through the Crown Agents for the Colonies; and so I was verbally informed by the Crown Agents in London last year that their manufacturer, Messrs De La Rue, made a considerable reduction in the price when 500 sheets or upwards were printed, viz

For less than 500 sheets -	1/4 p.	1000 stamps
For 500 sheets or upwards	10	" "

there might be some advantage, apart from the saving in dies, in not issuing 5^o or 6^o stamps in the first instance; but in estimating the quantities required, to add to the 2^{1/2} stamps to be ordered, double the computed sale of 5^o stamps, and to add to the 2^o and 4^o stamps respectively the amount of the computed sale of 6^o stamps. It need scarcely be added that even 10 p. 100 is a much higher charge than the cost of printing stamps, in still larger quantities at the Inland Revenue.

I may add that it is desirable that the new stamps should not too nearly resemble those of the United Kingdom and that the colour of each denomination should differ from that of the corresponding Imperial stamp. If in the new stamp the Royal effigy could be projected upon the eight pointed Maltese Cross, a distinction would be effected which might not

perhaps be wholly unpopular in the Islands
& I have to.

(size) Roger Justice

Stamps

$\frac{1}{2}$ ² Imperial	86,400
$\frac{1}{2}$ ² Island	69,780
	156,180
1 ¹	243,600
2 ²	43,800
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d	474,000
4 ^d	19,500
5 ^d	9,600
6 ^d	15,000
7 ^d	12,500
5 ^f	560

Post Cards

1 ¹ (single)	26,400
2 ² (Reply)	2,400

Registration Envelopes

Size G	8,640
Size H	1,476

P.S. I have just been informed
that it has been decided to have
certain stamps of uniform colour
throughout the Postal Union i.e.
the $\frac{1}{2}$ ² green $\frac{1}{2}$ ¹ pink and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ² blue

(size) R.D.

Three copies
forward
to
19.0

Sir Honorable

Walter Kelly Hutchinson C.M.G.

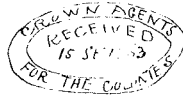
to. to. to.

Chief Secretary to Crown Agents.

149 Malta.

N^o 10,455
w.c.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Valletta 8th Sept. 1863



Gentlemen,

I am desired by His Excellency the Governor to transmit copy of a letter from the Postmaster of Malta in regard to the approximate quantities of the several denominations of stamps to be provided for use after the transfer of the Post Office to the control of this Government.

2. I am to request you to be so good as to favour me with an estimate of the cost of the Postage Stamps, Registration Envelopes, Post-cards and Newspaper wrappers as described by the Postmaster, as well as with a design for the stamps.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
Walter Hely Hutchinson
Chief Secretary to Govt

To the Crown Agents
for the Colonies

Malta.

Stamps

1883.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Crown Agents to Messrs De La Rue.

DOWNING STREET, LONDON.

17th September 1883.

Malta.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of the 31st July last, with which you submitted to us a $\frac{1}{2}$ Malta Postage Stamp of the colour established by the International Postal Convention for that duty, I now forward for your information a letter we have received from the Colonial Government covering a copy of a report furnished by the Postmaster of Malta, giving the quantities of Postage Stamps, Post Cards, and Registration Envelopes which it is estimated will be required after the transfer of the Post Office to the Island Government, and have to request that you will

No. 70455 - 8 Sept. 1883
International Postal
Convention

furnish us with designs, an estimate of the cost of the necessary dies, Key plate and over-print formes together with that of producing the articles enumerated in the correspondence.

Your estimate should also embrace the price to be charged for over-print plates for producing a series of Revenue Stamps from the Postage Key Plate, and of the cost of printing.

In selecting the colours of the Stamps, you will of course adopt for the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ duties, those established by the International Postal Convention.

One copy of the Appendix to your letter above-quoted, is herewith returned.

Mess^{rs} De La Rue & Co.

110 Bunhill Row

J. J. E. C.

Sirs, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant

W. H. Murray

Sept^r 26th 83.

Sent^r,

Malta.

We herewith beg to return the correspondence from the Government of Malta, covered by your letter of the 17th inst., and to enclose three designs which we have prepared for Postage Stamps, together with one for the proposed Registration Envelope Stamp, and two for the proposed 1st Single and Reply International Post-cards.

It appears from the correspondence that in the first instance at least the Postage Stamps are to be limited to the following six rates, $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d, 1^d, 2^d, 2½^d, 4^d, 7½^d. A printing plate is in existence here for the $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d stamps, so that it becomes necessary to provide only, for producing five denominations. The design marked A is for a key-stamp, the duty being inserted by a second or over-printing. The two other designs, viz. those for the 1^d and 2½^d stamps, are for stamps printed in one operation like the $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d duty. It appears to us that considering the quantity of stamps which is used annually of these two denominations, it would be cheaper to provide for them a full-sized printing plate rather than that they should be produced by the somewhat expensive process of being printed and overprinted from small plates. The other duties, being used in but small quantities, might, however, well be produced by that system. As requested;

The Crown Agents for the Colonies,
Downing Street, S. W.

we have in all three designs introduced the Maltese cross as an element of ornament, but it must be understood that the designs are simply hand drawings, and but they roughly represent the effect of finished engravings.

Our prices would be as under:-

The Key die and the 1^d and 2^d dies £50 each

Printing plate of 240 multiples struck from the 1^d and from the 2^d die £85 each.

• A printing plate of 120 multiples struck from the Key die £42. 10. 0.

Each printing plate of 60 multiples for overprinting the duty in the Key stamps £12.

• A printing plate for overprinting the words "Revenue" £12.

1^d or 2^d Postage Stamps printed from the full sized form - When a ream or more than a ream of any duty are supplied at a time 10^d per thousand.

When less than a ream d^o 5^d d^o

For overprinting the stamps with the word "Revenue", an additional charge of 3^d per thousand would have to be made.

Stamps printed from the Key plate and overprinted with the duty - When a ream or more than a ream of any duty are supplied at a time 5^d per thousand
When less than a ream d^o 3^d d^o

The cost of overprinting the word "Revenue" on these stamps would be 4^d per thousand.

We should here remark that the Postage Stamps are printed in singly fugitive inks, and that

such inks are not suitable for Revenue Stamps provided those stamps have to be cancelled by writing inks, and the only safe ink to employ for stamps which have to be so cancelled is our doubly fugitive purple, the properties of which are fully explained in the pamphlet we herewith beg to enclose.

The prices quoted above would have to be augmented by 3^d. per thousand should the stamps be required printed in doubly fugitive ink.

On the appendix hereto we give a Scheme of the colours which we should propose for the Maltese Postage Stamps. The specimen of the 1/2^d. stamp is printed from its proper plate. For the other colours, we give specimens of the Antigua 1/2^d. Postage Stamps.

With regard to the Registration Envelopes, we presume that the stamp for denoting the Registration Fee is to be of the value of 2^d., and we have prepared our design accordingly. The cost of the necessary hardened steel die for impressing these stamps would be £.38, and the following Scale of Prices would obtain for the Envelopes themselves:

(2 size Registration Envelopes	34/	per thousand
H " " " "	67/6	" "

In designing the Post Cards we have followed the regulations laid down by the International Postal Convention and we have assumed that the Reply Card is to be of the 1^o. rate, making for both sides a total duty of 2^d.. The price of the little printing plate by which the small annual quantity

of 1st International Reply Post Cards would be printed by hand would be £3, and the price of the cards as under:-

When 1000 are ordered at a time	48/-
" 2,000 " " "	42/6
" 3,000 " " "	40/9

Of the 1st International Single Post Cards it appears that some 26,000 are used annually, so that it would be well to make a half size printing plate and print them by machine. The cost of such a plate would be £15 and of the cards in lots of not less than 25,000, 8/6 per thousand

We remark that in Mr. Roger Duke's letter allusion is made to Newspaper Wrappers of the rates of 2^d and 1^d, but they are not referred to in the Appendix to that letter, so that we are hardly in a position to estimate for the supply of the Wrappers in question, seeing that we have nothing before us to show the probable annual consumption. It would be important for these particulars to be given, large quantities being produced in a different manner to small quantities; and in view of the fact that the supplies for the Postal Service of Malta have hitherto been drawn from the London General Post Office, we have been very anxious to arrive at the cheapest mode of production for the proposed new Stamps, Cards and Envelopes. It is, however, impossible, even working on the most economical method, ^{that} the comparatively small quantities which

are required of each article should not cost considerably more than they have hitherto done, seeing the enormous scale upon which the manufactures are conducted by us for the home Government.

We trust to hear in due course that our designs meet with approval.

We are, Gent^l,
Your obed^t. servants

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
MALTA (MALTE)

POST  CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
MALTA (MALTE)

POST  CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

THE ANNEXED CARD IS INTENDED
FOR THE ANSWER.
LA CARTE CI-JOINTE EST DESTINÉE
À LA RÉPONSE.

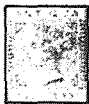
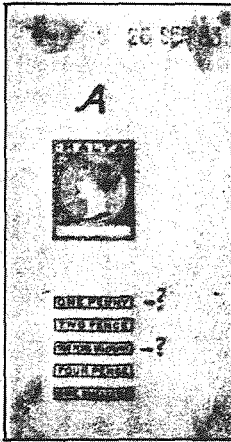
20 SEP 05



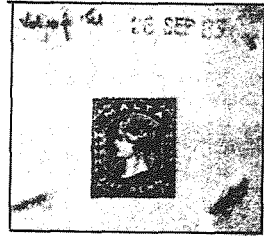
*Specimen
to
10/10/15*

Sept. 26. 83.

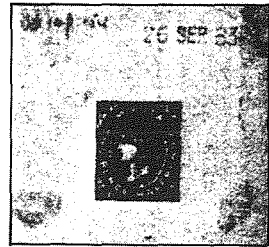
*Malta Postage Stamps
Proposed Scheme of Colours.*



*Colours established by the International
Postal Convention for these two duties*



*Colours established by the International Postal
Convention for this duty.*



*It is not proposed to create stamps of these
two duties at present.*

*It is not proposed to create stamps of this
duty at present.*

N^o 12484.

166

Gentlemen,



Chief Secretary's Office,
Valletta 29th May 1884.

In reply to your letter of 23rd instant, I am desired by His Excellency the Governor to state that the quantities of the various stamps &c required is stated in the accompanying list, and that the colours are to be as recommended in Mess^{rs} De La Rue in their letter of the 26th September last

hence of colours
herewith

I am to request that instalments of each kind of stamps may be sent to Malta by the end of June. The Post Office is to be handed over in July, and we should be in possession of a supply of stamps before that date.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen

Your obedient servant
(S^d) Walter Hely Hutchinson,
Chief Secretary to Govt.

To the Crown Agents for the Colonies,
London.

Denomination	Quantity required
$\frac{1}{2}$ d	160,000
1 d	250,000
2 d	60,000
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	500,000
4 d	40,000
$\frac{1}{2}$ p	15,000
Single P. Cards	25,000
Double d.	3,000
Reg ^d Env ^o G	9,000
D ^o D ^o H	2,000

True Copy
W. Hely Hutchinson
29th May 1884

Crown Agents to Messrs De La Rue.

Malta
Req²¹ 1884 Stamps
ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.
J. H. H. H. H.

Very pressing

DOWNING STREET, LONDON.

3rd June 1884

Gentlemen,

Referring to our letter of the 11th January last, I transmit herewith a requisition (in original to be returned) for Postage Stamps Post Cards and Registered letter envelopes which are urgently required by the Government of Malta, and have to request that the order may be immediately put in hand, and that we may be informed of the quantities of each article demanded which

Messrs De La Rue & Co
110 Bunhill Row
E. C.

J. H. H. H. H.

shipment in sufficient time
to reach Malta by the end of
the present month.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant

J. W. De La Rue

Messrs De La Rue to Crown Agents.

Immediate.

June 4th 84.

Gentlemen,

Malta.

We herewith return the Requisition
covered by your letter of yesterday, for Postage
Stamps, Post cards, and Registered Envelopes,
which are required by the Government of Malta.
We beg to say that not a moment shall be lost
in executing this Requisition, and we will get
ready a good supply of the ½^d, 1^d and 2½^d
Postage Stamps, together with some of the
Single Post cards in time to reach Malta by
the end of this month. This is the utmost
that can be done. The Requisition to complete
will take from six to eight weeks from now.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies,
Downing Street,
S. W.

We are, Gentlemen,
Your obedt. servants.

Crown Agents to Messrs De La Rue.

Malta

Immediate

Reqⁿ: 21. Stamps

1884

ALL COMMUNICATIONS

TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

DOWNING STREET, LONDON.

18th June 1884

Gentlemen,

Malta

With reference to your letter of the 4th inst., relative to the supply of Postage Stamps, Post Cards and Registered Envelopes for the Government of Malta, I have now to request that you will have prepared and handed over to our Inspector in sufficient time to be delivered ^{here} on the 21st inst.; for transmission by post, such quantities of the $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d, 1^d and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d postage stamps and single Post Cards, as you may consider will

meet

Messrs De La Rue & Co.

110 Bunhill Row,

L. C.

J. P.

QUEEN VICTORIA REGISTERED ENVELOPES 2d

In the MALTA GOV GAZETTE No. 3063, of Wednesday 31st December 1884, Supplement, section 17, we find the foll notice. "Postal Packets may be Registered, and for each letter or packet so registered a fee of TWO pence shall be paid in addition to any rate payable under this Ordinance."

The first printings of these Postal Registered Packets were contracted out to Mc Corquodale who printed the envelope., while De La Rue applied the Embossed Value Medallion, and then invoiced the completed work to the Crown Agents. These Reg Envelopes came in Two sizes (G. 152 x 96mm), and (H 202 x 127mm). Because of the printing of these envelopes in two separete operations, there is a variation in colour between the Value Medallion, and the Instructional text. A simple way to identify the work of either printer is to look at the sealing flap pattern; The Mc Corquodale is triangular (fig 1) whereas the De La Rue is rounded (fig 2).

There are 17 printings of the "G" size, total 283,130 plus 100 Specimen; and 13 printings of the "H" size, total 34,925 plus 100 Specimen.

The Original drawing of the Embossed Medallion in Blue on thin paper dated 26Sep83 is illustrated in Page 14 of the Official Correspondence. A Die Proof in Vermilion is also known to exist. The First supply was invoiced on 5 JULY 1884 (p. 40)

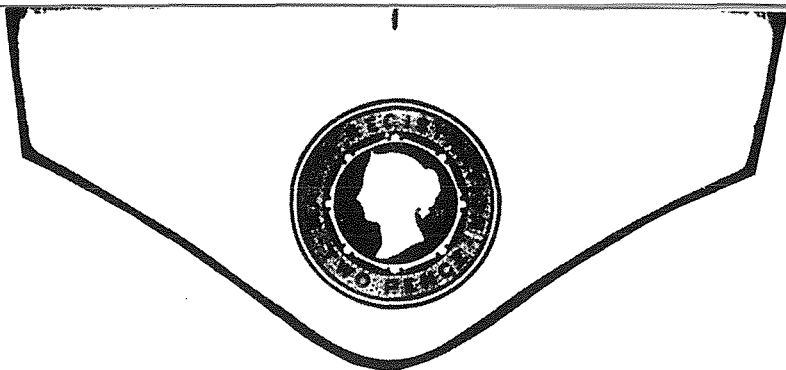


fig. 1



fig. 2

QUEEN VICTORIA POST CARDS & REPLY CARDS 139 x 89mm

Post Cards and Reply Cards were designed by Messrs De La Rue (p. 14); "Following the regulations laid down by the International Postal Convention, assuming that the reply card is to be of the 1d rate, making for both sides a total duty of 2d" (p. 12)

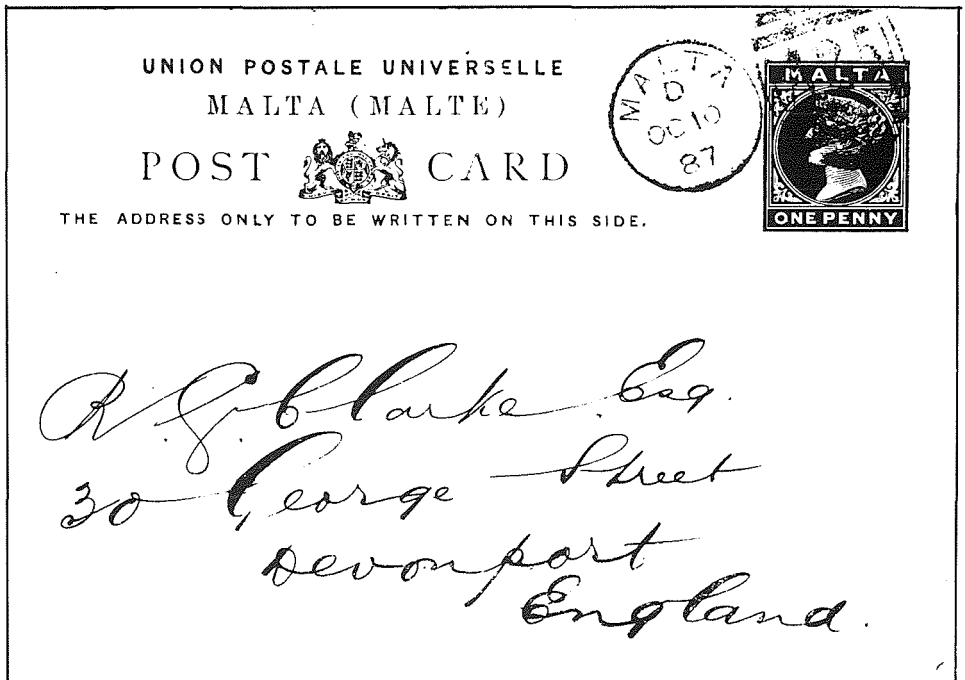
PROOFS. Original Artist's sketch for 1d postcard dated 19 Jan 83, and an essay with registered pencil sketches of the key plate 1d dated 26 Sep 83 exist.

PRINTINGS. Sixteen printings of the 1d single card are recorded. The invoiced total quantities are 903,528 plus 100 overprinted Specimen. There were Seven Printings of the 1d + 1d reply cards, totaling 22,002 plus 100 overprinted Specimen. The earlier printings are Carmine on soft white card, later reprints are varying from shades of Carmine. The Card ranges in colour from Pale to Dark Brown Buff.

On the 14th Jan 1901 Queen Victoria ½d Single Postcard and ½d + ½d reply cards were issued (121 x 79mm) in Green on Buff card.

PROOFS. A proof of the ½d Key plate Post Card endorsed "Appd M.W.C. 30.6.00" is known.

PRINTINGS. Only one printing of each type of ½d card is recorded. The Invoiced No. printed of the ½d single was 48,696 plus 722 Specimen; and ½d + ½d reply cards 3144 plus 722 Specimen.



POST CARD
MALTA



Mobile Signore
Spino dei Marchesi De Piro
E. Alford

1901 J4
POST CARD
MALTA



THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

SPECIMEN

THE ANNEXED CARD
IS INTENDED FOR
THE ANSWER.

These wrappers were Invoiced on the 15th July 1885 a rather late supply because of the fact that the original request was for the ½d stamp to be impressed from the existing adhesive of the same value, but Messrs De La Rue did not want to print from that die as the engraving was "too fine to reproduce well on coarse wrapper paper." Designs were submitted for the ½d green and 1d carmine key plate designs, completely hand painted on proof paper wrappers, dated 2nd Oct 1883, but were rejected by the Postal Authorities as they lacked the Maltese Cross, so a modified design of a ½d green incorporating the demand (dated 4th May 85), was submitted and accepted on 9th May 1885. The 1d wrapper was never produced.

PRINTINGS. Two printings are recorded totaling 100,550 plus 105 Specimen.

When opened out the wrapper measures 125 x 300mm.

This Wrapper may only be used for Newspapers, or for such documents as are allowed to be sent at the Book-rate of postage, and must not enclose any letter or communication of the nature of a letter (whether separate or otherwise). If this rule be infringed, the packet will be charged as a letter.



This Wrapper may only be used for Newspapers, or for such documents as are allowed to be sent at the Book-rate of postage, and must not enclose any letter or communication of the nature of a letter (whether separate or otherwise). If this rule be infringed, the packet will be charged as a letter.

AMMINISTRAZIONE DEL PATRIOTA

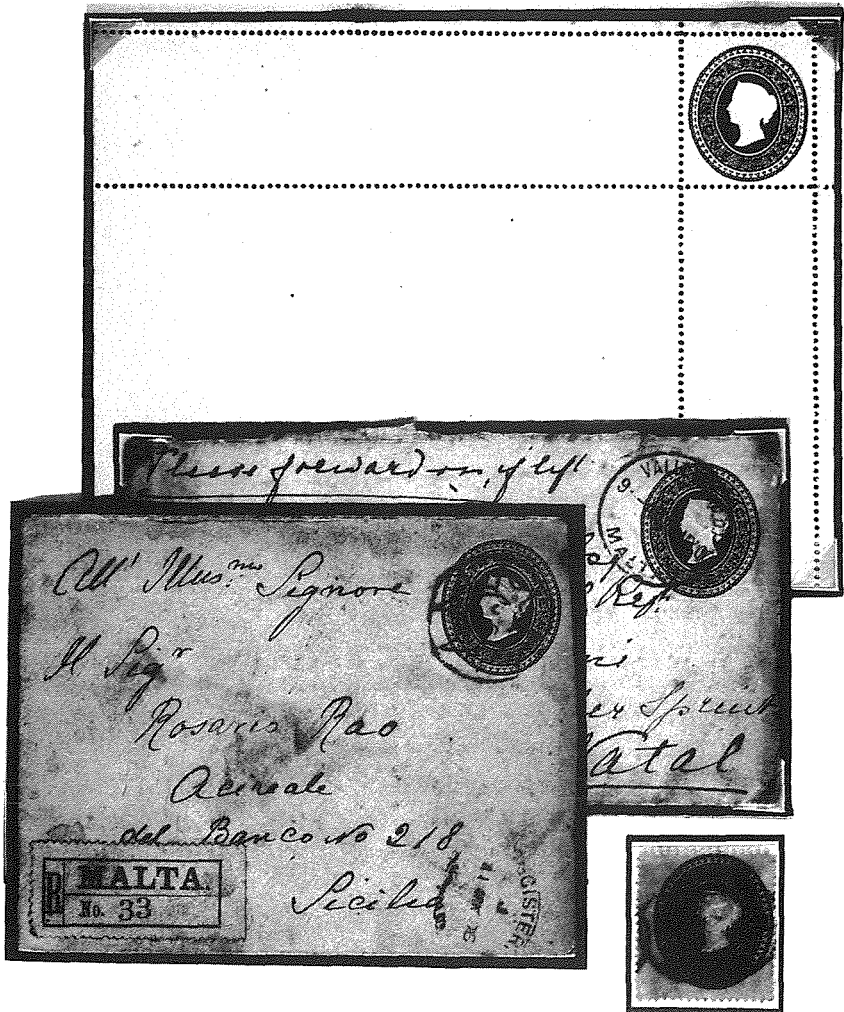
Signor Trassio Thèoghildi
TRIPOLI DI BARBERIA



QUEEN VICTORIA POST PAID ENVELOPES

POST PAID ENVELOPES with an embossed ONE PENNY stamp design, were printed by Messrs De La Rue, and issued on 1st May 1900. A hand painted oval to the embossed head in red and lake is known dated July 12/99. There were three sizes. (120 x 94mm); (140 x 78mm); (158 x 123mm) and were sold either singly, or in packets of 24 in accordance with the following tariff: 1...1¼d; 2...2¼d; 3...3¾d; 4...4¾d; 6...6¾d; 9...8¾d; 12...1s1d; 24...2s2d; but as these envelopes were never widely accepted by the public, they were sold at face value from the 1st Sep 1904. Later, another regulation allowed the cutting and use of the stamp design.

“It is hereby notified that on and after the 10th instant (10 Oct 1906) embossed or impressed stamps cut out of envelopes, postcards, or wrappers may be used in payment of both local and foreign postage. However cut outs from Registered envelopes could only be used for Registered Mail.



ARTIST'S DRAWINGS - KEY and DIE PROOFS.

The design for the 1885 Queen Victoria Definitive Issue were designed by J.F. Joubert de la Ferte, and Printed by Messrs De La Rue & Co.

The design of the head for the ½d., known as the "First General Colonial," having a diadem with a "Cross, fleus de lys and shamrock" was prepared in March 1859, and used by various colonies. Malta accepted it for its first ½d yellow (1860 - 1884) and later used it for this issue.

In July 1862 Joubert produced the head, described as "ball, thistle, ball, shamrock" diadem which was used for the remaining Malta denominations, as well as by other colonies.

Because the Definitive Issue consisted mainly of Queen Victoria's head, it became popularly known among collectors as the Victoria "HEADS" set, so the plate of the 1860-84 ½d yellow stamp was issued to print the ½d Green, and a Key plate used for the 2d, 4d, and 1/-, with new individual designs for the 1d and 2½d values (page 29).

All six were engraved and printed from electrotype plates on paper with single Crown CA watermark and perforated 14 Comb. This original Artist's hand drawing dated 26 Sep 83 of the Key Plate design marked A was eventually used for the 2d, 4d and 1/- values, and the other original artist's proof, both in deep Magenta also dated 26 Sep 83 (page 29) show the profound key plate design, with a blank area for the denominations. Beneath are five denomination inscriptions "ONE PENNY", "TWO PENCE HALF-PENNY," and "ONE SHILLING". One proof also shows the Maltese Cross design and is initialled EER, which was introduced as "an element of ornament." (Letter of 20 Sep 83 Messrs De La Rue to Crown Agents).

The Artist's drawing marked A has a question mark next to "ONE PENNY" and "TWO PENCE HALFPENNY" whilst the other has these two crossed out. The main reason being that the original idea must have been to have this design for all values, but since separate designs were desired for the "ONE PENNY" and "TWO PENCE HALFPENNY" (page 29) these values were crossed out and independent designs for these two values submitted (page 29).

DIE PROOFS

The KEY PLATE for the 2d, 4d, 1/- are in black on glazed cards and have been recorded with the following inscriptions:

1. Key-plate designs without value, cut down to about 1mm margin.
2. A similar proof but dated 6/3/84 on reverse and another dated 8/3/84.
3. On glazed card: marked "BEFORE HARDENING" dated 18 FEB 84.
4. On glazed card: marked "AFTER HARDENING" dated 19 FEB 84.
5. On glazed card: marked "AFTER STRIKING" dated 11 MAR 84.
(initialled G.M.)

DIE PROOFS of 1d.

1. 1d in black on glazed card cut down to size of stamp.
2. 1d in black on glazed card without the value.

3. 1d, in black on glazed card Unmarked.
4. 1d, in black on glazed card dated 5 MARCH. "AFTER HARDENING" and initialled "G.N." or "G.M."
5. 1d in black on glazed card dated 11 MAR 84 "AFTER STRIKING".
6. The 1d and 2½d die proofs in black on glazed card with 1 to 1.5mm margins exist mounted on the same card, struck on the 12th March 1884 respectively. It is also known in black on glazed card dated on reverse "7.3.84".

DIE PROOFS of 2½d.

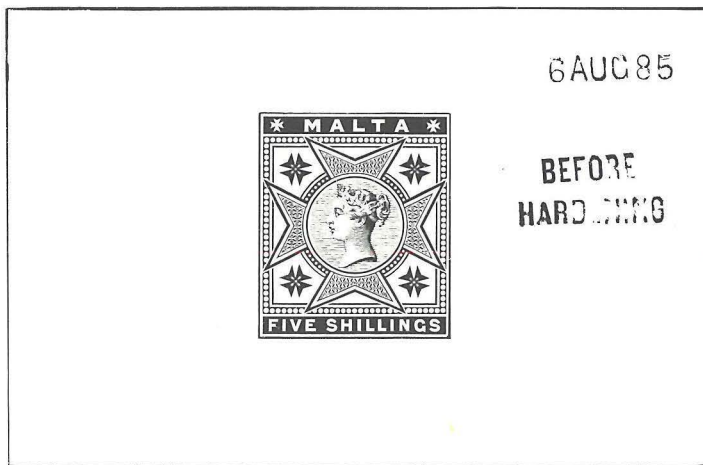
1. 2½d in black on glazed card dated 18 FEB 84 "BEFORE HARDENING"
2. 2½d in black on glazed card dated 19 FEB 84 "AFTER HARDENING"
3. 2½d in black on glazed card dated 11 MAR 84 "AFTER STRIKING" and initialled.
4. 2½d in black on glazed card dated on reverse 12/3/84.

1886 - 5/- Essays

1. Artist's hand-painted essay in carmine with Q.V. head, letter and details touched up in Chinese white, drawn on tracing paper (66 x 80mm) dated "27 MAR 85". Not accepted. (page 32)
2. A similar essay but in the issued design, drawn on tracing paper (75 x 100mm) dated in manuscript "MAY 4th 85" and marked "Vol. 14 fol. 53." (page 32)

DIE PROOFS

1. Black on glazed card; marked "BEFORE HARDENING" dated 6 AUG 85
2. Black on glazed card cut down to 2mm margins.
3. Black on glazed card cut down to stamp size and marked on reverse "19.8.85 120 leads".





18 FEB 84

BEFORE HARDENING



18 FEB 84

BEFORE HARDENING



Hand Stamps Used in the Victoria Period:

In 1885 the only Post Office was the Valleta G.P.O. and the single 20mm ring with arched MALTA having code letters A to R was used on internal mail. This ring handstamp was also used combined with the A25 killer.

The mail was delivered by contractors to the villages where it was placed in the notice board of the Police Station for eventual collection.

Later on in 1885 Two Post Offices were opened in Gozo. One at Rabato whose name was in 1887 changed to Victoria, and the other at Migiarrro. I find it rather odd that the authorities opened up two Post Offices in Gozo when there was only one in the whole of Malta. The population in Gozo during this period was very much smaller than that in Malta.

Branch Offices were opened later in Malta as follows:-

Cospicua - opened in 1890

Sliema - opened in 1895.

Notabile - opened in 1897.

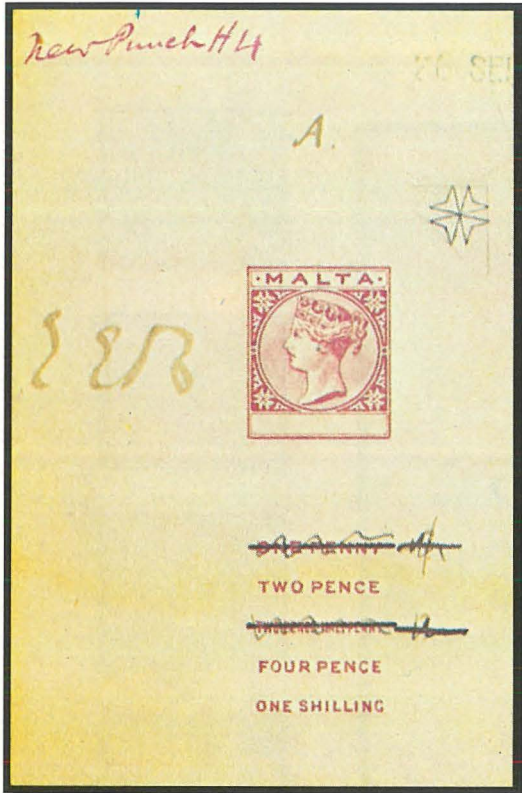
Birchircara - opened in 1898 - closed in 1899.

Mellieha - opened in 1902 - closed in 1903.

The system of employing mail contractors to carry local mail was ended in 1893. On the 10th July 1900 a series of circular datestamps were provided for cancelling mail from 28 of the villages.



Strikes in G P O London Proof Book



Hand painted Artist's drawings.

Malta Postage Stamps.
Existing and proposed colours.

Proposed, colour being that established by the International Postal Convention for this duty.



Existing colour.



The Issued Set.

Imperforate Block of Four.



Imperforate Pair on Cover.

Artist's hand painted drawings.



The issued Stamp.

(Invoiced on 23 Sep 1885)

Queen Victoria
1st January 1885
Code Lettering A to P

A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L



M



O



P



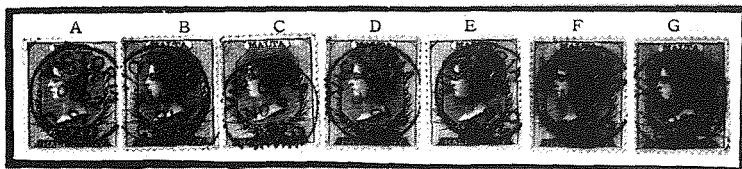
EVERY MEMBER SHOULD TRY AND ENROL A NEW MEMBER.

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Immediate payment will be appreciated. Send remittance to:**

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



RABATO - GOZO (1885)



VICTORIA - GOZO (1885)



MIGIARRO - GOZO (1885)

SLIEMA (1895)



NOTABILE (1897)

BIRCHIRCARA (1898)



COSPICUA (1890)



MELLEHA (1902)

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RATES (per annum)

Local members - Lm1.50

Foreign Members - 7 United States Dollars

9 Canadian Dollars

10 Australian Dollars

4 Sterling Pounds

10,000 Italian Lire

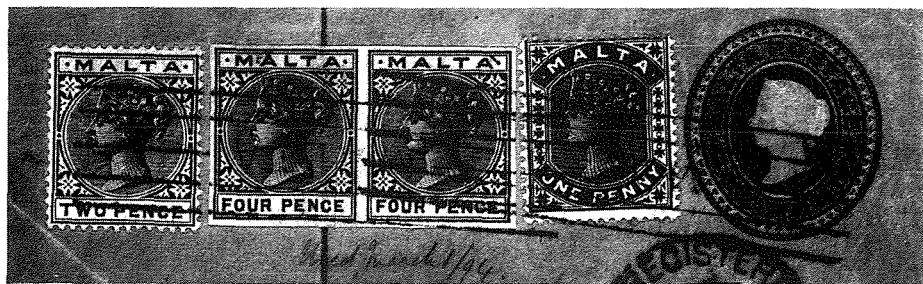
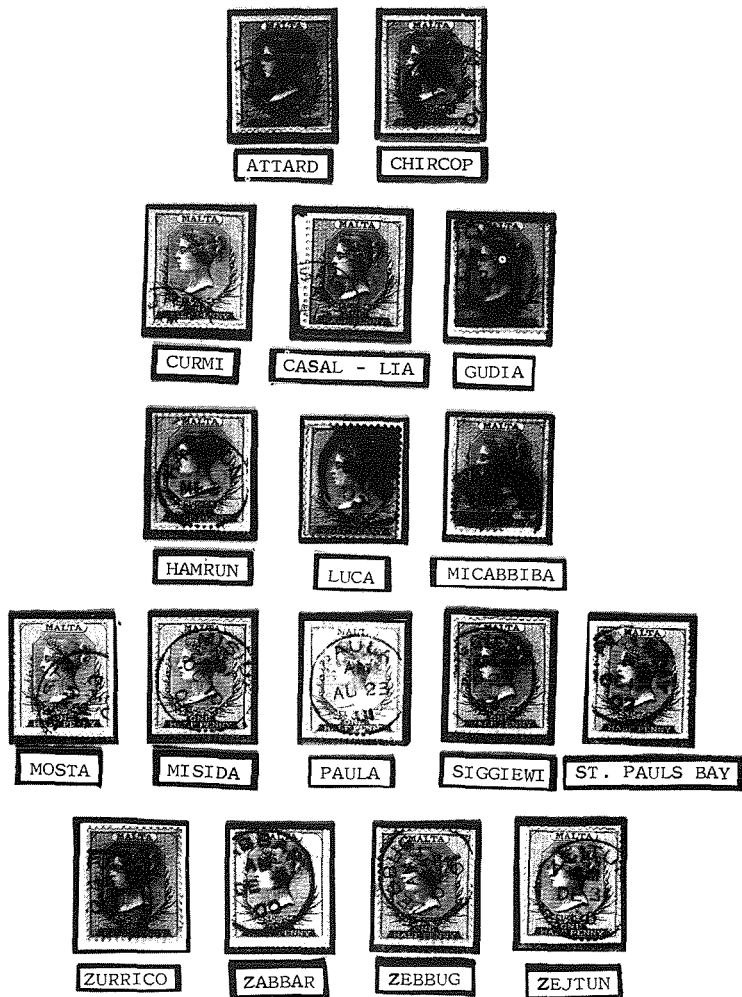
50 French Francs

17 German Marks

14 Swiss Francs

Queen Victoria

On the 10th July 1900, Twenty Eight nrv series c.d.s. were issued.

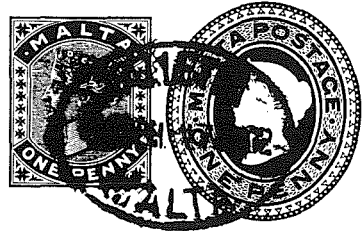


4d imperforate pair on strip.

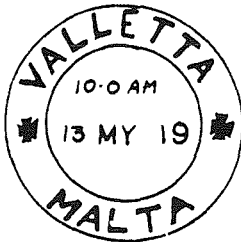
Other Hand Stamps Used:



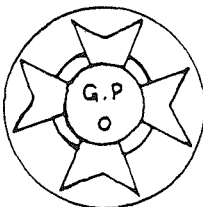
Single ring with "VALLETTA (C.O.) / MALTA" with time and date in one line. Diameter 29mm, used between 1897 and 1902.



Single oval "VALLETTA/MALTA" with time and date in one line, introduced in 1906; 32mm by 24mm.



Double ring "VALLETTA/MALTA" with Maltese Crosses as spacers, time above date at centre. Diameter 30mm. Used from 1909 to 1921.



Maltese Cross in single ring with G.P.O. in the inner circle with no date. Diameter 27mm. Used from 1894 to 1922.

— MALTA —

Bar cancellation with MALTA in between five horizontal bars.

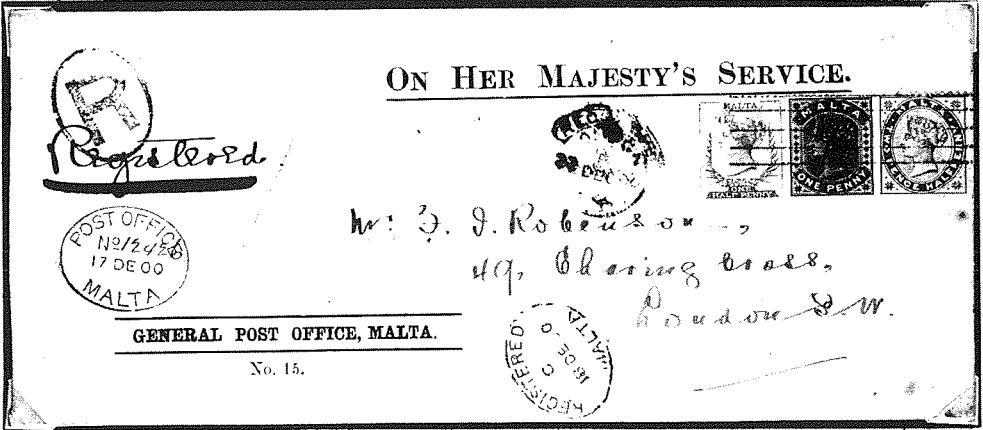
— MALTA —

Similar to above but central bar across MALTA.

Registered letter to RUSSIA 10th Mr. 1897
Five "BAR" Obliterator with the Central bar crossing
MALTA



Different Colour Adhesive Official G.P.O. Malta. No 15 Envelope addressed to London by Registered Post Leaving Malta on 18th Dec. arriving London 22nd Dec.



FIVE BAR obliterator with MALTA within the "horizontal bars."

HALF PENNY GREEN

It is impossible to reproduce all the 21 Invoices so only Invoices up to supply No. 37 issued on the 18th July 1890 are being reproduced. However a Table giving all the information contained in all the 21 printings is being reproduced, which I am sure readers will find interesting.

SUPPLY No.	Folio No.	ORDER QTY.	INVOICE DATE	INVOICE QTY		REQ. No.
				Sheets	Stamps	
1 (29)	M72	160,000 Stamps	23.6.84 (+100 optd "SPECIMEN")	688	165,120	(CA) 21/1884
(30)	M92	200 shts	27.8.84	YELLOW		
2 (31)	M157	250 Shts	6.5.85	255	61,200	12/1885
3 (32)	M216	500 Shts	17.12.85	505	(121,200)	58/1885
4 (33)	M250	1,000 Shts	22.4.86	1,010	(242,400)	11/1886
5 (34)	N28	700 Shts	31.12.86	720	(172,800)	69/1886
6 (35)	N134	1,000 Shts	3.3.88	1,020	(244,800)	1/1888
7 (36)	N251	1,300 Shts	29.4.89	1,315	(315,600)	16/1889
8 (37)	O100	1,300 Shts	18.7.90	1,312	(314,880)	30/1890
9 (38)	O221	312,000 Stps	7.8.91	1,310	(314,400)	49/1891
10 (39)	P22	1,300 Shts	15.6.92	1,320	(316,800)	34/1892
11 (40)	P198	1,300 Shts	15.9.93	1,296	(311,040)	47/1893
12 (41)	Q41	1,300 Shts	13.11.94	1,310	(314,400)	72/1894
13 (42)	Q179	720,000 Stps	18.11.95	3,050	(732,000)	58/95
14 (43)	R69	3,000 Shts	2.3.97	3,025	(726,600)	92/96
15 (44)	R230	480,000 Stps	7.3.98	2,015	(483,600)	95/1897
16 (45)	S130	2,000 Shts	12.4.99	2,025	(486,000)	18/99
17 (46)	S196	1,000 Shts 9,000 Shts)	3.10.99	10,160	(2,438,400)	66/1899
18 (47)	S209	2,000 Shts 480,000 Stps)	2.11.99	2,045	(490,800)	84/99
19 (48)	S288	480,000 Stps	12.5.00	2,042	(490,080)	18/1900
20 (49)	T214	720,000 Stps	18.11.01	3,000	720,000	100/1901
21 (50)	U109	1,000 Shts	5.11.02	1,012	(242,880)	101/02
				40,435	(9,704,400)	

The Philatelic Society wishes all our members
a Happy Christmas
and
a Prosperous 1985.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Malta Postage Dies and Plates, Post Cards, and Registered Envelopes, Embossing Die.

Taking 2 transfers from the original Colonial Queen's head Die highly finishing these transfers equal to the original die and engraving thereon the approved designs and lettering "Malta one Penny" and "Malta two pence halfpenny."

Taking a transfer as above and engraving thereon the word "Malta" and the approved design for the Postage Key Die.

Making from the above 1d and 2½d dies 2 Printing Plates of 240 Multiples.

Making from the above Key Die and Key Plates of 120 Multiples.

Making 3 overprint Plates of 60 Multiple each duties 2d, 4d, 1/-.

Making 2 Printing Plates for the Malta 1d International Single cards.

Making 2 Printing Plates for the Malta 1d International Reply Cards.

Taking a transfer from the original Colonial embossing Queen's Head and engraving upon the die thus obtained the approved design and lettering "Malta Registration Two Pence".

Striking from the die a punch from which to obtain the working die and highly finishing the working die equal to the original.

@	£50	100		
			50	
	85	170		
			42	10
	12	36		
			15	
			3	
			38	
			454	10

SUPPLIES:

Page 72, June 20, 1884

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Malta Postage Stamp and Post Cards.

688 Sheets of 240 Duty	½d = Stamp	165.120		
specimen	½d	100		
1072 sheets of 240 Duty	1d	257.280		
Specimen	1d	100		
2128 sheets of 240 Duty	2½d	510.720		
specimen	2½d	100		
Total Stamps		<u>933420</u>	@ th	10d
26304 1d Single Post Cards			@ per th	
100specimen				
<u>26404</u>			@ th	8/6
2 cases lined with tin				

	38	17	10
	11	4	5
		18	0
	50	0	3

Page 77, July 5, 1884 Continuation of the first supply of 20 June 1884

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Malta Postage stamps, Post Cards and Registered Envelopes

1017 sheets Duty 2d Postage.

680 4d

1697 sheets of 60 = stamps 101,820

100 each specimen 200

102,020 stamps

@ th 2/1

	10	12	6
--	----	----	---

250 sheets of 60 Duty 1/- = 15,000 specimen 100					
	<u>15,100 stamps</u>	@ per th	3/1	2	6 6
3000 1d Reply Post Cards 100 Specimen					
<u>3100 Post Cards</u>		@ per th	40/9	6	7 3
9100 2d Reg. Envelopes G size 100 specimen					
<u>9200 envelopes</u>		@ per th	34/-	15	12 9
1950 2d Key Envelopes H size 100 specimen					
<u>2050 Envelopes</u>		@ per th	67/6	6	18 4
Case lined with Tin					12 6
					42 9 10
<hr/>					
Page 157, May 6, 1885					
The Crown Agents for the Colonies. Malta Postage Stamps, Post Cards and Reg. Envelopes					
<u>255 sheets of 240 duty ½d Postage = 61200 stamps</u>		@ per th	1/4	4	1 7
503 sheets Duty 1d Postage					
512 sheets Duty 2½d Postage					
<u>1015 sheets of 240 = 243,600 stamps</u>		@ per th	10d	10	3
500 sheets Duty 4d Postage					
501 sheets Duty 1/- Postage					
<u>1001 sheets of 120 = 120,120 stamps</u>		@ per th	12	10	10 3
24,720 Int. Post Cards Duty 1d		@ per th	5/6	10	10 1
2700 G size Key Envelopes Duty 2d			34/-	4	11 9
2 Cases lined with tin					17 6
					40 14 2
<hr/>					
Page 176, July 15, 1885					
The Crown Agents for the Colonies. Malta Newswrappers Making and Printing Plate for the ½d Malta Newspaper Wrappers 50,000 ½d Newspaper Wrappers 106 specimen					12
<u>50,106</u>		@ per th	6/6	16	5 8
Case lined with tin					15 6
					29 1 2

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Malta 5/- Postage and Plate

Taking a transfer from the small Queen's head highly finishing this transfer equal to the original engraving thereon the approved design lettering "Malta Five shillings".

Making from the above die on electro plate of 120 Multiples.

125 sheets of 120 Multiple 5/- Malta Postage stamps = 1,500 stamps @ per th 3/-
 106 stamps specimen
 Case

50		
50		
2	5	0
		4
		2 6
<hr/>		
102	7	10

Page 221, December 17, 1885

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Malta Postage stamps Post Cards and Reg. Env.

505 sheets Duty 1/2d Postage

510 sheets Duty 1d

1020 sheets Duty 2 1/2d

2038 sheets of 240 = 488,400 stamps @ per th 10d

500 sheets of 60 Duty 2d Postage = 30,000 stamps 2/1

24,720 1d Post Cards @ per th 8/6

2675 2d G Reg. Env. 34/-

1275 2d H Reg. Env. 67/6

2 Cases lined with tin

20	7	
3	2	6
10	10	1
4	10	1
4	6	
	17	6
<hr/>		
43	14	

Page 250, April 22, 1886

1010 sheets Duty 1/2d Postage

1020 sheets Duty 1d Postage

1530 sheets Duty 2 1/2d Postage

3560 sheets of 240 = 854,400 stamps @ per th 10

1014 sheets of 60 duty 2d Postage = 60840 stamps @ per th 2/1

125 sheets of 120 Duty 5/- Postage = 1500 stamps @ per th 3/-

73200 1d Post Cards 8/3

12550 2d G Reg. Envelopes 34/-

2,500 2d H Reg. Envelopes 6/6

4 cases lined with tin

35	12	
6	6	9
2	5	
31	2	2
21	6	8
8	8	9
2	8	
<hr/>		
107	9	4

Page 28, December 31, 1886

720 sheets Duty 1/2d Postage

3060 sheets Duty 2 1/2d Postage

3780 sheets of 240 = 907,200 stamps @ per th 10d

412 sheets of 240 Duty 1d Postage = 98,880 stamps 1/4

24720 1d Post cards 8/6

20,050 2d G Reg. Envelopes 34/-

3750 2d H Reg. Envelopes 6/6

5 Cases

37	16	
6	11	10
10	18	1
34	1	8
12	13	1
2	12	6
<hr/>		
104	13	2

1020 sheets Duty ½d postage
1010 sheets Duty 1d postage
2520 sheets Duty 2½d
4550 sheets of 240 = 1,092,000 stamps
500 sheets of 120 Duty 4d postage = 60,000 stamps

@ per th

10d
2/1

45 10
6 5

51 15 0

Page 251, April 29, 1889

1315 sheets duty ½d
1325 sheets duty 1d
3050 sheets duty 2½d
5690 sheets of 240 = 365,600 stamps
510 sheets 120 duty 2d = 61,200 stamps
2525 1d Post Cards
25600 2d Reg. Env.
4 cases

@ per th

10d

56 18

@ per th

2/1

6 7 6

@ per th

5/6

10 14 2

@ per th

25/-

32

2 12 6

108 12 2

Private Day Book "O"
Page 100, July 18, 1890

1312 sheets Duty ½d
1320 sheets duty 1d
3065 sheets 2½d
5697 sheets of 240 = 1,367,250
500 sheets Duty 4d
500 sheets duty 1/-
1000 sheets of 120 = 120,000
25 200 1d Post Cards
3000 1d Reply Cards
25,500 G, 2d Reg. Env.
4 Cases

@ per th

10d

56 19 4

@ per th

2/1

12 10

@ per th

8/6

10 14 2

@ per th

40/9

6 2 3

@ per th

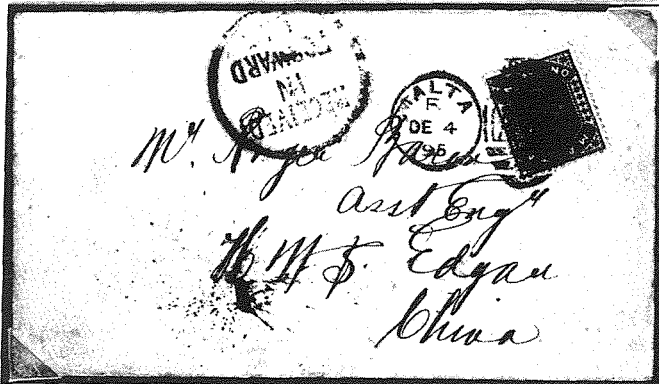
25/-

31 17 6

2 7 6

120 10 9

INTERESTING QUEEN VICTORIA COVERS

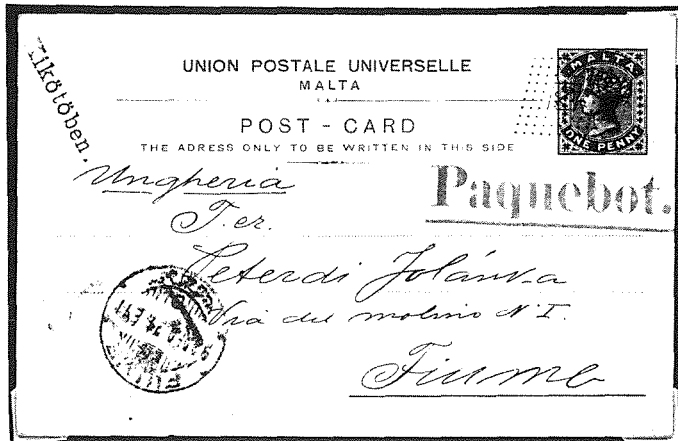


Cover to "H.M.S. EDGAR" in CHINA (1895)



Complete set used on Cover.

Queen Victoria
 Universal Postal Union, Malta Card addressed to FIUME



Adhesive Cancelled by the Diamond and Anchor Ship obliteration PAQUEBOT



MESSRS EMMANUEL SAID

and

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1885 - 1985



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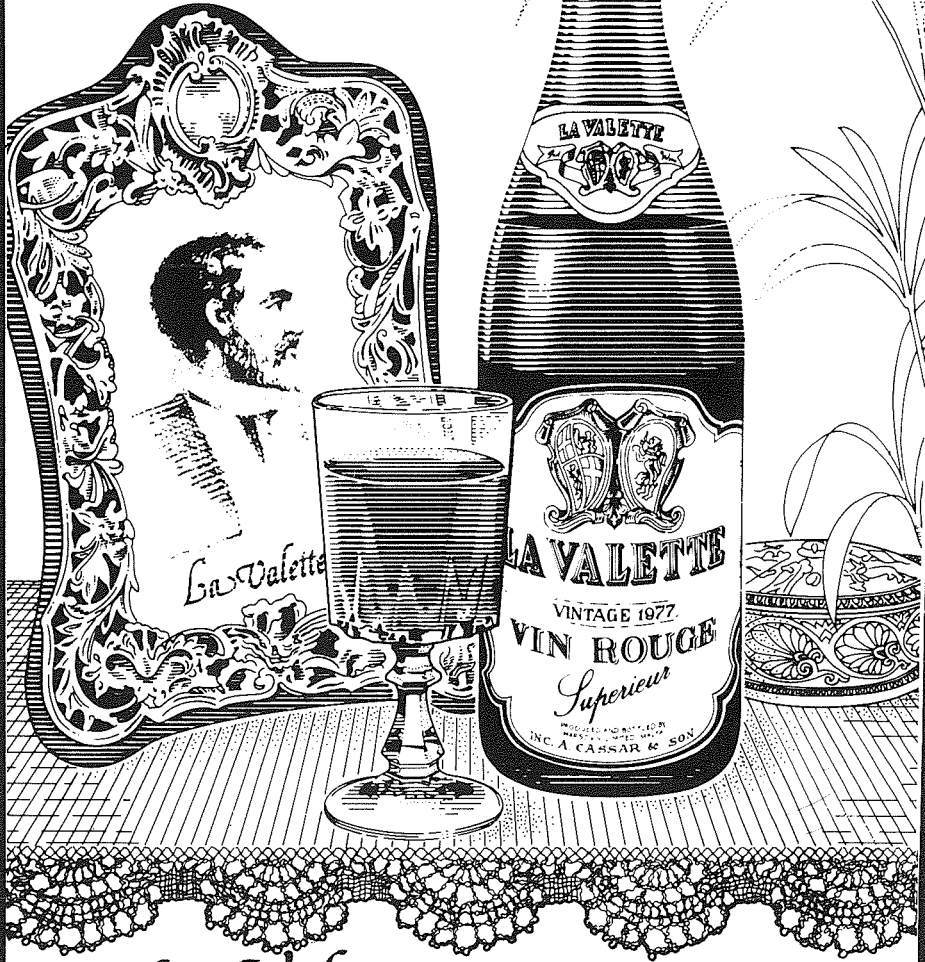
on the occasion of the

Centenary of the Establishment of the

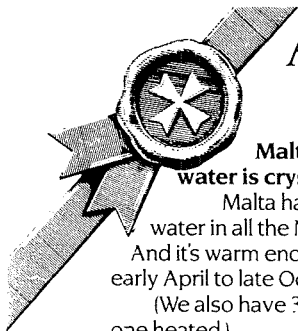
Malta Post Office

1885 - 1985

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Distinguished
by Taste.*



La Valette superior red wine



A sparkling hotel set in the centre of a sapphire sea. Just part of our Blue Ribbon Package.

Malta where the water is crystal clear.

Malta has the cleanest water in all the Mediterranean. And it's warm enough to swim from early April to late October. (We also have 3 pools, the largest one heated.)

Malta where the service is warm and sincere.

Malta is known for its warmth. Warm sunshine. Warm hospitality. Warm people. Our hotel reflects this Maltese trait in every facet.



Malta where you discover the unexpected.

Discover the good taste of Maltese wines. Discover the fun of the frequent "Festas" with bands, bunting and unusual street stalls. Discover the wonder of far yesterday in the Medieval Citadel, Mdina.

Malta the ultimate reward for a job well done.

We have 30 acres of private grounds ending right on the blue Mediterranean. Our 8 Auberges Restaurant caters

to all European tastes.

The Taverna del Cavaliere, Falcon Bar, Beachcomber Poolside, and Water's Edge Fish Barbecue, are worthy of the Knights of Malta.



(There's nothing wrong with our modern Maltese nights, either.)

Malta where value is part of the package.

There are many free activities included in our Blue Ribbon Package. Tennis and mini-golf, pool chairs and services, casino entrance fees, a welcome drink, just to mention a few.

Memorable meetings in Malta.



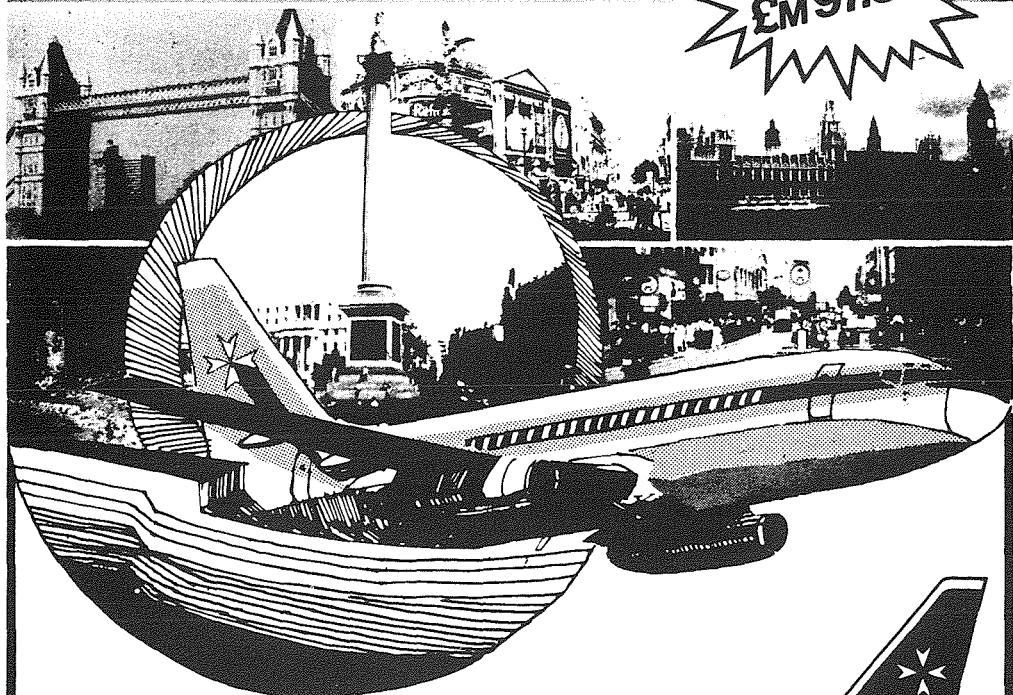
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congratulate

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on the occasion of the

Centenary of the Establishment of the

Malta Post Office

1885 - 1985

DELTA HOMECENTRES

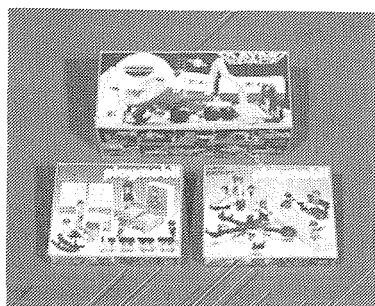
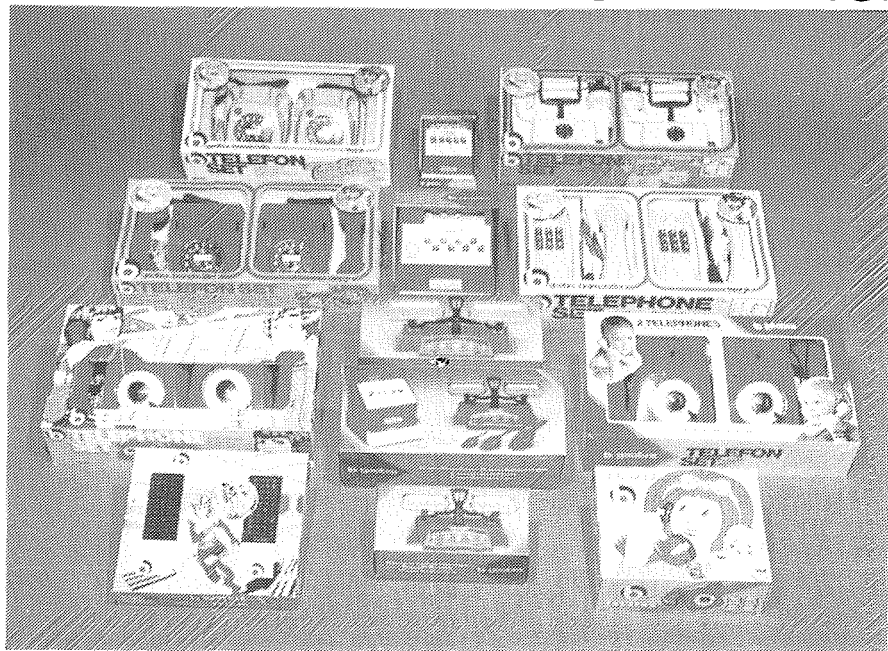
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	Zoppas Domestic & Catering	THORN GAS	OCEAN Freezers
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