



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE PSM MAGAZINE



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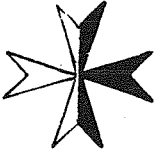
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THE PSM MAGAZINE



Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIth Malta Philatelic – 1977
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NORWEX '80.

Editor: Dr. A. Bonnici

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Editorial

If there is one thing that I have always tried to discourage, is to Collect Postage Stamps of several Countries at once.

Since the past thirty years, every country has started to issue an infinitesimal number of issues, with the consequence that the collector finds himself spending an enormous amount of money, without having something substantial at the end, could in the end if the need arises be converted back into cash.

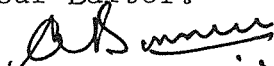
In my opinion there is little pleasure in the accumulation of multitudes of speculative and gimmichy issues, many of which will have very little personal appeal. It is therefore wiser, sooner or later to come to a decision of restricting expenditure to one, two or at the most three countries, to work back to their older issues, to broaden out into postmarks, or plate studies, Postal History, of the particular country of one's choice, and one day have a comprehensive study – In other words to do less but to do it better.

By probing deeper you feel closer to the country, you come to understand its postal and philatelic history along with every other facet of its existence, and soon you find you can write up the pictorial issues really intelligently with background information rather than parroting the catalogue's laconic terminology.

Fortunately for us in Malta, our Society today has Maltese Collectors who have adopted this line of attitude. In the past the best Malta Collection were always the property of foreigners who took up collecting Malta Stamps seriously. Such Philatelic stalwarts were Fred Orme, The Glassco Collection, Cann, Brown, Lady Bignold, Frank, Waren Roggers, Lloyd – Lowles etc. The only Maltese who had such vision as the above mentioned was England.

Today we are fortunate in having in our Society Maltese Philatelists who have specialized and possess Malta collection which compete extremely well with those of our foreign colleagues. We have colleagues who have built up excellent collections of Maltese Postal History, British Used in Malta, Village Postmarks, Air Mails, ½d Yellows, Postman's Numbers, Censored Mail etc. All this augures well for the future, but I wish to see more of you collecting stamps scientifically, which will develop our hobby further.

Your Editor.


Dr. Alfred Bonnici. M.D.

ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL, VALLETTA

by R.E. Martin

One of the first religious buildings erected in Valletta was the Conventual Church of the Order of St. John now known as St. John's Co-Cathedral. It was built between 1573 and 1577 to the designs of the Maltese architect Girolamo Cassar (1520-1586) whose portrait is shown on the 1c3 stamp of the Prominent Maltese People set issued on 12th January 1974 (SG. 511). He is also shown on 2/6 value of IV Centenary of the Foundation of Valletta set (28th March 1966 - SG 370) examining plans of the Cathedral of which an exterior view is shown. The cathedral was consecrated in 1578. It was built at the expense of Grand Master L'Eveque de la Cassiere.

Views of the simple and austere front exterior of the Cathedral are the subject of the king George VI 3d definitive stamps (SG223, 223a, 240 and 240a) as well as the 1954 Royal Visit commemorative stamp (SG 262). The spires shown on the top of the towers had to be removed on account of war damage sustained in the Second World War.

The breath-taking richly decorated interior, largely designed by Mattia Preti (known as "Il Calabrese" 1613-1699), is also of immense interest on account of its historical associations. A view of the interior appears on 5d denomination of the XIII Art Exhibition of the Council of Europe issued 21st March 1970 (SG 432). Preti designed many of the gilded decorations on the interior walls including those of the chapels as well as painting the ceiling which is one of the largest and most significant works of the Italian "Seicento." Other additions were made to the Cathedral at later dates. The floor inside, inlaid with coloured marbles, is composed of about four hundred tombstones bearing the names and escutcheons of

many illustrious families from various European countries.

The immense central nave of the Cathedral is flanked by the chapels of the various "langues" (i.e. Ethnic divisions) of the Order and the monuments to the various Grand-masters in the chapels are truly works of art.

In the oratory, there are lunettes by the French artist Antoine Favray (1706-1798) and on the walls, the "Martyrdom of St. Catherine" by Franciso Potenzano (from Palermo and who died in 1599). It may be of interest that a statue of St. Catherine by Melchiorre Gafa, (which may be seen in the Magnanapoli, Rome), is shown on 2d value of the set issued 1st August 1967 commemorating the III Centenary of his death (SG 385). Behind the altar is one of the most admired masterpiece of Michelangelo da Garavaggio (died 1609) - the "Beheading of St. John;" the subject of 1d value XIII Art Exhibition 1970 (SG 430). There are other paintings including those on the ceiling by Preti as well as a marble head by Pierre Puget (from Chateau Follet, France 1622 - 1692) of St. John, the patron saint of the Order.

The chapels of the various langues are:-

CASTILE and PORTUGAL which contains monuments to Grand Masters Manoel de Vilhena of Massimiliano Soldanis Banzia (from Florence) and to Emmanuel Pinto by Vincenzo Pacetti.

ARAGON - the altarpiece of St. George was painted in Naples by Preti and was sent to Malta as a specimen of his work before took up residence there. There are monuments to Grand Masters Nicholas Cottoner and Ramon Perellos. (Queen Elizabeth 1956 definitive set, 2/6 and 5/- values, SG

279 and 280). The former was probably by Domenico Guidi (1625-1701) and the latter by Guiseppe Mazzuoli (from Siena, 1644 - 1725).

AUVERGNE with paintings by Guiseppe d'Arena (born Rome c 1630). There is an entrance from this chapel to the Presbytery where there is a finely carved statue showing Christ and St. John the Baptist (Q.E. 1956 set £1 value, SG 282) by Guiseppe Mazzuoli. The choirstalls, lectern and pulpit are from the late 16th century; the silver sanctuary lamp is a fine example of Roman art of a century later.

PROVENCE (entered from a small door in the choirstalls) which is of little artistic merit. From this chapel a flight of steps leads to the crypt which contains tombs of Grand Masters of the Order. The ceiling of the crypt was painted by Niccolo Nasoni of Siena; the sarcophagus with the figure of L'Isle Adam is by Antonello Gagini (from Palermo 1478-1563), that of La Vallette is by an unknown sculptor (6d value Great Siege commemorative 7 Sept. 1962 - SG 309).

FRANCE. The altar piece is a fine painting by Preti, the two paintings by G.F. Rennie, the lunettes by Lucas Killian and the white marble monument to the Prince of Orange was sculptured by Jean-Jacques Pradier.

ITALY. Preti also painted the altarpiece; on the wall is the beautiful St. Jerome (8d value XIII Art Exhibition March 1970 - SG 434) by Caravaggio. The bust of Grand Master Carafa is by Alessandro Algardi from Bologna (1602 - 1654).

GERMANY. In this chapel there are paintings by the Maltese artist Stefano Erardi (c1630 - c1753).

There is no English chapel as, following the dissolution of the monasteries in England, King Henry VIII forbade any of his knights to join the Order of St. John.

As well as the chapels of the Order there is the Chapel to the Blessed Sacrament where there is the

“Madonna Damascena” by Andrea del Brescianino (born c1485). This Madonna was executed as an act of thanksgiving after the great siege, and was the subject for the 2d value of the 1962 commemorative set (SG 307). Behind the silver gates is the altar with the venerated “Madonna di Carafa.”

The Malta Post Office issued four sets of stamps (March 1977, January 1978, January 1979 and January 1980) depicting the 17th century Flemish tapestries which were specially commissioned for the Church of St. John by Ramon Perellos y Roccafull on the election as Grand Master in 1697. They were woven in Brussels by the firm of Jose de Vos. There are in all fifteen large panels, measuring nearly seven hundred square metres, woven in full colour, alternating fourteen smaller panels ‘en grisaille.’ Thirteen of the large tapestries were woven on cartoons made from the paintings by Reubens (1577 - 1640). Five of these show scenes from the life of Christ, six depict Allegories, the other two feature the “Annunciation” and the “Four Evangelists.” Another large tapestry, showing the “Last Supper” was woven on a cartoon made from a painting by Nicholas Poussin (1594 - 1665); the fourteen small panels and a portrait of the grand master were woven after a painting by Preti.

The bronze bust of Christ in the tympanum of the Cathedral is by Alessandro Algardi. Inside the main sacristy are paintings by Francesco Curia (from Naples 1538 - c1610), Preti, Antoine Favray (1706 - 1798), Perez d'Aleccio (c1547 - 1600), an altarpiece by Stefano Pieri (1542 - 1629) and “St. George” by Potenzano (from Palermo, died 1599).

Acknowledgements - The Malta Stamp (G.P.O. Malta); Malta (Malta Government Tourist Board); The Story of Malta and her stamps - James A. Mackay.



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THE MALTA STAMP (Part 2) by A. Fenech

No. 21

(February 1977) – Leaflet Part 2. – 6 pages (greyish brown, white) Featuring the Flemish Tapestries by Peter Paul Rubens – Set One in the series.

Details of the four tapestries shown on the four stamps in the set.

No. 22

(April 1977) – Leaflet – 6 pages (greenish blue, white). The World Telecommunication Day Set of 4 stamps is featured. A brief survey of the I.T.U. of which Malta became a member in 1965.

No. 23

(June 1977) – Leaflet – 6 pages (chestnut, white) Europa 1977 set of stamps is featured. Description of the two localities featured on the stamps.

No. 24

(August 1977) – Leaflet – 6 pages (deep dull green, white) Featuring of the Maltese Worker set to be issued on the 12th October 1977.

Details of the stamps and what they symbolise.

No. 25

(October 1977) – Leaflet – 6 pages (bronze, white) Details of the 1977 Christmas set of stamps. The story of the Christmas Crib since the times of St. Francis of Assisi.

No. 26

(December 1977) – Leaflet – 6 pages (dull myrtle, white) Featuring the second set of four stamps in the Flemish Tapestries series.

Description of each Tapestry reproducing scenes from the Life of Christ. The 1978 Stamp Issue Programme.

No. 27

(February 1978) – Leaflet – 8 pages (sepia, white) The Albrecht Durer set of stamps featured. A short life history of Albrecht Durer (1471 – 1528) being the 450th anniversary of

his death.

Special and Commemorative postmarks used during 1977.

No. 28

(March 1978) – Leaflet – 8 pages (slate grey, white). Europa 1978 set of stamps featured. Description and historical illustration of the Monuments shown on the two stamps in the set.

List of all the New Machine Cancellation Slogans used in 1977 and example of each slogan together with the period that each was used.

No. 29

(April 1978) – Leaflet – 6 pages (bistre, white). Reproduction of the souvenir sheet, larger than the actual size, of the 1978 World Cup Set and technical details of the set.

A brief note on the F.I.F.A. Cup and the enthusiasm of local football fans in this competition.

No. 30

(August 1978) – Leaflet – 6 pages (orange, white). Besides the stamps in the 1978 Airmail Set, the commemorative postmark is also reproduced, larger than the actual size. Features of stamps to be released.

No. 31

(October 1978) – Leaflet – 6 pages (Turquoise, white). Features of the 1978 Christmas set. Description of the illustrations depicted on the stamps. Full 1979 Stamp Issue Programme.

No. 32

(December 1978) – Leaflet – 6 pages (blue, white). Featuring the third set of four stamps in the Flemish Tapestries series. They form part of the series of 15 "Triumphs."

No. 33

(March 1979) – Leaflet – 8 pages (grey, white) End of Military Facilities Agreement Set featured. A

brief outline of events leading to the End of the Military Facilities with Britain.

The special and commemorative postmarks used during 1978 are listed and illustrated in this bulletin.

No. 34

(April 1979) – Leaflet – 8 pages (maroon, white) Featuring the Europa 1979 Set with the theme "History of Postal and Telecommunication Service." Description of the illustrations on the stamps. The new Machine Cancellation Slogans used in 1978 are listed and illustrated in this bulletin.

No. 35

(May 1979) – Leaflet – 6 pages (mauve, white) The International Year of the Child 1979 Set is featured. A brief report on the programme of The Malta National Commission for the International Year of the Child.

The I.Y.C. (1979) Emblem.

No. 36

(August 1979) – Leaflet – 6 pages (turquoise blue, white) Marine Life Set to be released on the 10th October 1979 featured. Features and life history of the four marine creatures depicted on the stamps.

No. 37

(October 1979) – Leaflet – 6 pages (chocolate, white) Featuring Christmas 1979 set.

Description of the illustrations on the Christmas 1979 stamps.

No. 38

(December 1979) – Leaflet – 6 pages (slate purple, white) The fourth and final set of stamps in the Flemish Tapestries series featured on this Leaflet.

Description of the illustrations depicted on the stamps and Miniature Sheet.

Details of The Restoration of Monuments set to be released in February.

No. 39

(February 1980) – Leaflet – 8 pages. (ultramarine, white) Restoration of Monuments Set reproduced. Description of the Monuments illustrated on the stamps. Illustrating and Listing all the Special and Commemorative Postmarks used during 1979.

No. 40

(April 1980) – Leaflet – 8 pages (slate grey, white) This bulletin features two issues: Centenary of the Birth of Dun Gorg Preca and Europa 1980 (Ruzar Briffa and Mikiel Anton Vassalli) Short biographies of the three personalities. Listing and illustrating all the new Machine Cancellation Slogans used in 1979 and the Central Main Room, Castille Hall, Valletta.

No. 41

(September 1980) – Leaflet – 6 pages (brown, white) Featuring the 1980 Christmas Set to be released on the 7th October. Relevant details of the seventeenth set of Christmas stamps issued by The Malta Post Office.

No. 42

(November 1980) – Leaflet – 6 pages (mustard, white) The stamps commemorating the 1980 Chess Olympiads held in Malta are featured.

A brief history of the Chess Olympiads since their inception in 1880.

No. 43

(December 1980) – Leaflet – 6 pages (cobalt, white) Featuring the Birds Set of stamps issued on the 20th January, 1981. A detailed description and general features of each bird in the set.

No. 44

(March 1981) – Leaflet – 8 pages (slate, white) Europa 1981 set with the theme "Folklore" is featured. Folkloristic evaluation of each stamp. WIPA 1981 International Stamp Ex-

hibition Commemorative Postal Card is previewed.

Listing, with illustrations, all the Special and Commemorative Postmarks used in 1980.

No. 45

(May 1981) - Leaflet - 6 pages (purple, white) The XXV International Fair of Malta Set of stamps features. Reproduction of the Emblem of the Fair and details showing how the Trade Fair developed into an International Fair.

No. 46

(June 1981) - Leaflet - 8 pages (slate grey, white) The stamps commemorating the International Year of Disabled Persons - 1981 - are featured.

I.Y.D.P. Emblem is reproduced.

Objectives of marking the International Year of Disabled Persons with the theme "Full Participation and Equality."

Listing with illustrations the New Machine Cancellation Slogans used in 1980 at The Central Mail Room.

No. 47

(September 1981) - Leaflet - 6 pages (grey, white) The World Food Day Set is featured. Contribution of F.A.O. (hence the reproduction of the F.A.O. Emblem) towards ensuring food supplies to those who need them, since its foundation on 16th October, 1945.

No. 48

(October 1981) - Leaflet - 8 pages (blue, white) The 1981 Definitive Postage Set is featured. Reproduction of all the 16 stamps in the set and the commemorative postmark to be used on the first day of issue. Description of the illustrations showing the kinds of work in which the Maltese people have been engaged since prehistoric times.

No. 49

(November 1981) - Leaflet - 6 pages (sage green, white) Featuring

the Christmas 1981 Issue. Description of the illustrations on the stamps. Maximum Card No. 1 to be issued on the 18th November 1981 is also reproduced on the bulletin.

No. 50

(December 1981) - Leaflet - 8 pages (grey-blue, white) Printed by Interprint Limited, Marsa, Malta. Featuring the Ship Building and Ship Repairing Set. Survey of Ship repairing and Ship building in Malta since 1530. Listing the Definitive and all the commemorative sets in 1981. The full 1982 Stamp Programme.

No. 51

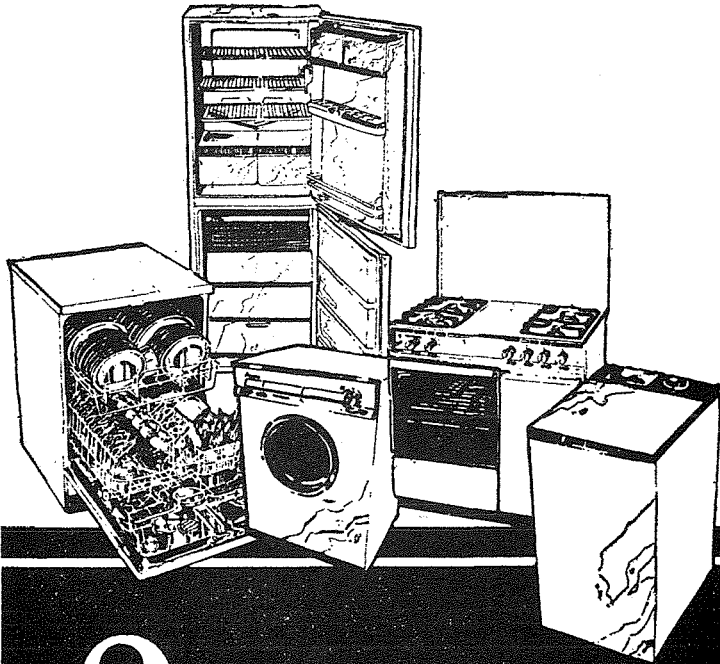
(February 1982) - Leaflet - 8 pages (sepia, white) The "Elderly" Postage Set is featured. Description of the illustrations on the stamps and details of the World Assembly on Aging. Listing and illustrating all the Special and Commemorative Postmarks used in 1981.

No. 52

(April 1982) - Leaflet - 8 pages (reddish brown, white) Featuring Europa 1982 Set with the theme "Historic Events". Brief description of the events featured on the stamps. Philexfrance 1982 International Philatelic Exhibition Commemorative Postal Card to be on sale from 11 to 21 June (relevant details). Listing with illustrations all the Machine Cancellation Slogans used in 1981.

No. 53

(May 1982) - Leaflet - 6 pages (pale-lilac, white) Reproduction of the souvenir World Cup Sheet and postmark. A brief history of the World Cup with a list of all the World Cup Winners and Host Countries. Sale of the Philexfrance 1982 International Philatelic Exhibition Commemorative Postal Card.



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MALTA – A DIARY

January – August 1982

by J. Farrugia

- 29 - 1 - 82 "Shipbuilding and Shiprepairing" set issued to-day. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail, on the first day of issue.
- 29 - 1 - 82 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, the P.M.G. notified that two designs for the Europa 1984 stamp issue, selected for submission to the Posts Commission of the European Conference of Postal and Telecomms. Administration (CEPT) are those submitted by Mr. Norbert Attard, B.E.&A., A&C.E., and Mr. Carmel Conti under the noms-de-plume "M.T.X." and "Huckleberry" respectively. The twenty-six designs entered in the competition were exhibited at the G.P.O. on the 1st and 2nd February, 1982 from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
- 5 - 2 - 82 A new endorsement reading: "Found Reposted In This Condition" started being used to-day in the Sorting Room of the G.P.O.
- 16 - 2 - 82 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, the P.M.G. notified that the set of four designs bearing the nom-de-plume "Gemini/III/", submitted by Mr. Richard J. Caruana, has been selected for reproduction on the postage set commemorating the 1982 F.I.F.A. World Cup. Mr. Harry Borg and Mr. Tony Bugeja were placed second and third respectively. The 109 designs which participated in the competition were exhibited at the G.P.O. from 8.00 a.m., to 5.00 p.m. on the 17th., 18th. and 19th. February, 1982.
- 22 - 2 - 82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Neqsin Mis-Smiegh – Neqsin Mill-Hbieb", meaning "Short of Hearing – Short of Friends," was used, on and off, from the 22nd. to the 27th February, 1982, at the Central Mail Room.
- 16 - 3 - 82 "Elderly" postage set issued to-day. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.
- 3 - 4 - 82 On the occasion of the first flight Malta/Hamburg/Cologne by Air Malta to-day, Saturday, the 3rd. April, 1982, the Malta Post Office used at the Philatelic Bureau, two special hand postmarks indicating the date of the respective first flight and place of destination. All those interested in obtaining the special postmarks could have handed over at the Philatelic Bureau, their addressed covers with the appropriate postage affixed thereon, not later than noon of Thursday, 1st. April, 1982. The covers were flown on the first flight and back stamped on arrival at Hamburg and Cologne.
- 12 - 4 - 82 The P.M.G. notified that a temporary Branch Post Office be opened at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, from Monday, 12th April to Friday, 16th April, 1982, on the occasion of the holding of the VI United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine. The hours of business of the temporary Branch Post Office were: 9.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. The following business was transacted:
- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery
 - (b) registration of letters
 - (c) issue and payment of money and postal orders
 - (d) posting of parcels
- Postal articles posted at this temporary Branch Post Office, were postmarked with a date-stamp inscribed with the following words: "VI U.N. Seminar – On Palestine – Valletta, Malta."

- 12 - 4 - 82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "25th. Anniversary - 1957 U.P.U. 1982 - Consultative Council - For Postal Studies" was used, on and off, from Monday, 12th. April to Saturday 17th April, 1982, at the Central Mail Room.
- 19 - 4 - 82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jiswa Daqs Djamant - Turn It Off", the first part meaning, "As Precious As A Diamond", is being used, on and off, at the Central Mail Room, as from Monday, 19th April, 1982. The slogan also incorporates two line drawings, one showing a leaking water-tap and the other a boy tampering with a water-tap.
- 29 - 4 - 82 The "Europa 1982" set issued to-day. A special hand postmark, also incorporating the C.E.P.T. emblem, was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.
- 1 - 5 - 82 The P.M.G. notified an agreement had been reached between the Norwegian and the Malta Postal Administrations for the encashment of Norwegian Postcheques in Malta. The new service which came into effect on 1st. May, 1982, enables entitled holders of Norwegian Postcheques to withdraw from local Post Offices and Sub Post Offices any amount in Maltese currency up to a maximum of £M35 on each postcheque presented.
- 6 - 5 - 82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "35th. Anniversary - 1947 U.P.U. 1982 - Executive Council" was used, on and off, from Thursday 6th. May to Wednesday, 12th. May, 1982, at the Central Mail Room.
- 14 - 5 - 82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "World Telecommunication Day - Telecommunications Day - International Cooperation" was used on the 14th., 15th. and 17th., May, 1982, at the Central Mail Room.
- 28 - 5 - 82 In to-day's Govt. gazette it was notified that approval had been given for the issue of a call for applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at the Nadur Sub-Post Office in Gozo. Applications were to be received by the P.M.G. up to 1.00 p.m. of Friday, 25th June, 1982.
- 2 - 6 - 82 A machine stamp cancelling slogan marking World Environment Day, was used from the 2nd. to the 5th. June, 1982, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan reads as follows: "Jum Dinji Ta' l-Ambjent - 5 ta' Gunju" meaning "World Environment Day - 5th. June." The logo of the Environment Protection Centre of the Ministry of Health is also incorporated in the slogan.
- 11 - 6 - 82 "1982 F.I.F.A. World Cup" postage set issued to-day. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail, on the first day of issue.
- 11 - 6 - 82 In to-day's Govt. Gazette it was announced that sealed quotations from Security Printers were to be received up to 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 23rd. June, 1982, for the printing and supply of a set of four postage stamps and a maximum card featuring Maltese ships.
- 11 - 6 - 82 The P.M.G. notified that a commemorative postal card was to be issued on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office in "Philexfrance 82" International Philatelic Exhibition which was to be held from the 11th. to the 21st. June, 1982, at the National Centre for Industrial Techniques (CNIT), Paris, France. The Europa 1982 stamps and an appropriate motif are printed in

multicolour on the postal card. The postal card was available for sale at 38 cents from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O., from the 11th. to the 21st. June, 1982, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

The postal card was available for sale both in mint condition and with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-stamp inscribed "Post Office Malta - 11-21.VI.82 - Philexfrance 82" and incorporating the Emblem of Malta and the Postal Horn. The postal card could have been sent through the post. In the case where the stamps on the postal card were cancelled with the special hand-stamp mentioned above, it could have been sent through the post at no extra charge provided it was posted during the period 11th. to 21st. June, 1982. Postal cards cancelled with the "Philexfrance 82" special hand-stamp, posted after the 21st. June, 1982, should have the proper postage affixed thereon additionally. The stamp or stamps covering the postage are cancelled with the normal metal hand-postmark. Orders for "Philexfrance 82" postal cards could have been placed at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. up to the 9th. June, 1982.

- 14 - 6 - 82 On the occasion of the VIth. meeting of the Inter-Governmental Council for the Co-ordination of Information among Non-Aligned Countries which was held in Malta on the 15th. and 16th. June, 1982, a machine stamp cancelling slogan was used at the Central Mail Room, from the 14th. to 18th. June, 1982.

The slogan read as follows:

"VI Meeting - Inter-Govt. Council - Co-Ordination Of - Information - Non-Aligned Countries."

- 2 - 7 - 82 In to-day's Govt. Gazette by means of Notice No. 305, it was notified that a temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened from 6.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at the International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from Saturday 10th. July to Saturday, 24th. July, 1982, for the transaction of the following business:

- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery
- (b) registration of letters
- (c) issue and payment of money and postal orders
- (d) posting of parcels and other postal articles

Postal articles posted at this temporary Branch Post Office were to be postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed as follows:

"XXVI" International Fair - Of Malta - Naxxar."

- 9 - 7 - 82 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, by means of Notice No. 350, the P.M.G. notified Govt. Notice No. 305, which was published in the Govt. Gazette of Friday, 2nd July, 1982 was hereby cancelled.

- 13 - 7 - 82 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, the P.M.G. notified that a temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 5.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. at the July Trade Fair, which was to be held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, from Friday, 16th. July to Sunday, 25th. July, 1982, for the transaction of the following business:

- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery
- (b) registration of letters
- (c) issue and payment of money and postal orders
- (d) posting of parcels and other postal articles.

Postal articles posted at this temporary Branch Post Office were to be postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed as follows:

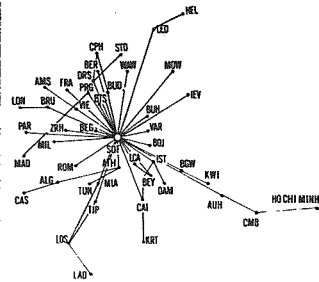
"Fiera Kummerċjali Ta' Lulju - Valletta - Malta," meaning "July Commercial Fair - Valletta - Malta."

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POSTAGE ENVELOPES

Taken from Chambers Journal of November 28, 1857 No 204.

M. Piron tells us that the idea of a post-paid envelope originated early in the reign of Louis XIV. with M. de Velayr, who in 1658 established (with royal approbation) a private penny-post, placing boxes at the corners of streets for the reception of letters wrapped up in envelopes, which were to be bought at offices established for that purpose. M de Velayr also caused to be printed certain forms of billets or notes, applicable to the ordinary business among the inhabitants of great towns, with blanks, which were to be filled up by the pen with such special matter as

might complete the writer's object. Pelisson, Madame de Sevigne's friend, and the object of the bonmot that 'he abused the privilege which men have of being ugly', was amused at this kind of skeleton correspondence; and under the affected name of Pisandre, he filled up and addressed one of these forms to be celebrated Mademoiselle de Scuderi in her pseudonyme of Sappho. This strange Billet-doux is still extant; one of the oldest, we presume of penny-post letters, and a curious example of a prepaying envelope.

-
- 23 - 7 - 82 In to-day's Govt. Gazette the P.M.G. asked for applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at the Nadur Sub-Post Office in Gozo. Applications were to be received by the P.M.G. up to 1.00 p.m. of Monday, 23rd August, 1982.
- 6 - 8 - 82 In to-day's Govt. Gazette it was notified that the Overseas Parcel Post (Rates of Postage) Regulations of 1978, were revoked by new regulations, which came into effect on the 9th. August, 1982. The new rates of charges, surface mail and airmail effected the following countries: United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, U.S.A., Australia, Libya and the Fed. Rep. of Germany.
- 28 - 8 - 82 The Malta Post Office participated in the "XXXIVa Fiera Del Francobollo" which was held at Riccione, Italy, from the 28th. August to the 30th. August, 1982. To commemorate the occasion a special handstamp inscribed: "Malta Postal Administration - XXXIVa Fiera Del Francobollo - Riccione", and incorporating a line drawing of an old Maltese ship, was used at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O., from the 28th. to the 30th. August, 1982. An identical handstamp was used during the same period at the Malta Post Office Stand, Riccione.

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THE MALTA STAMP ALBUM

The following was printed in the Edinburgh Chambers' Journal No. 280, new series of Saturday, May 12, 1849 under the heading

Ocean Penny Postage

Our friends in America are awaking up to this subject. They are determined not only to have penny postage from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but also across the Atlantic to the old world; and all to be established by the United States. So the question will soon be, whether Uncle John Bull or Brother Jonathan shall carry letters across the Atlantic for a penny a-piece. Jonathan can do this, and would do it, if the world should challenge him to do 'something smart'. But uncle John ought to do it before anyone else in the world. He owes it to the colonies which he has planted all over the globe – to the millions of his children which he has sent out to live in the islands of all the oceans and seas far and near, and who want to write home every week. That is the ocean penny postage the world wants: not a penny postage across the Atlantic, from Liverpool to Boston, but a penny postage across all oceans and seas. Brother Jonathan is smart for his age undoubtedly, and would do a great thing for the world if you should once 'raise his dander' in the right direction. But we fear his purse is not long enough, nor his

ships numerous enough, to establish a universal ocean penny postage. This is Uncle John Bull's mission, and we must all put him up to its fulfilment. All his children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, at home and abroad, must tug at his skirts in their most winning way, and with filial faith and hope smiling in their eyes, meet him by the wayside, and fireside, and in all accessible moods and conditions, with this question – 'Uncle John, when will you give us an ocean penny postage?' Don't be discouraged if he poh pohs at it at first, and buttons up his pockets, and talks about hard times, and all that. Keep at him steadily for a year in this way, and, like all other good-natured uncles, he will give in. Then what a jubilee there will be in thousands and tens of thousands of homes separated from each other by a thousand leagues or more of sea! Oh, Uncle John! the world would forgive you for all the unpleasant accidents you have occasioned in opportioning so much of this globe to the members of your family, if you would but give to mankind an ocean penny postage. – Burritt's Christian Citizen.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Malta Stamp – News Sheet Nos. 1, 2, and 3
The Malta Stamp – Leaflets Nos. 4 – 53 Malta, The Philatelic Bureau, General Post Office.
Said Malta Catalogue 1982 – Malta, Emmanuel Said Publishers.
Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part I British Commonwealth 1982 Edition – Great Britain, Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd.

Reports on the working of Government Departments – Malta, Central Office of Statistics, (Printing Division).
The Philatelic Society magazine – Malta, The Philatelic Society
Malta Government Gazettes (Various L.N.'s) – Malta, C.O.S. Printing Division.
This Study Paper was written by Anthony Fenech – August 1982.

Detailed Information about New Issues

The Elderly Issue

Date of Issue	16th. March 1982
Values	8c and 30c
Stamp Size	47mm x 29mm
Art Designer	Raymond Pitre
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.85 x 13.6
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colour:

The colour of this set was produced by the four colour process.

Designs:

Congratulations to Raymond Pitre for again giving us another beautiful set of stamps, dedicated to the elderly.

The 8c stamp features an old man, with "Has-Serh" as background. (The buttons of his waistcoat should have been on the other side).

The 30c stamp depicts an old woman with "Haz-Zmien" as background. "Has-Serh" was formerly a maternity Wing of the Royal Naval Hospital, which was recently converted, by Government, into a comfortable home for the elderly. Extensive modernisation works have been carried out in recent years at "Haz-Zmien", another Government hospital for the elderly. Throughout 1982, many national and international activities are being held, the objective being the gradual elimination of the problems, identified with aging in the world population. Foremost amongst these activities will be the World Assembly on Aging, being held in Vienna, Austria,

from the 26th. July to 6th. August, 1982.

The question of the elderly was introduced by Malta in the United Nations as far back as 1969 during the 24th. session of the General Assembly. Malta was pleased and honoured when the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging elected Professor Anthony Debono of Malta as its Chairman.

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. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, on both Panes, of the two values.

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

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has forty stamps made up of five rows of eight stamps. In the bottom right hand corner of Panes A, of both values, parts of cutting lines could still be seen. Both values are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:

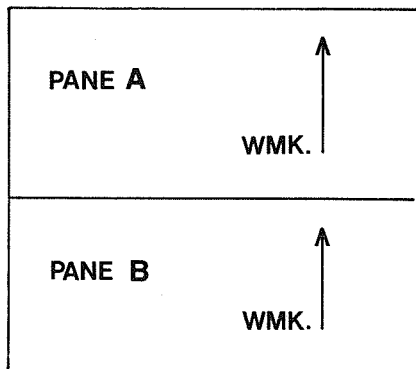
These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

8c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

30c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

Perforation of Margins:

The left hand margin of Panes A and B of both values, is imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins, of the same Panes and values are fully perforated.



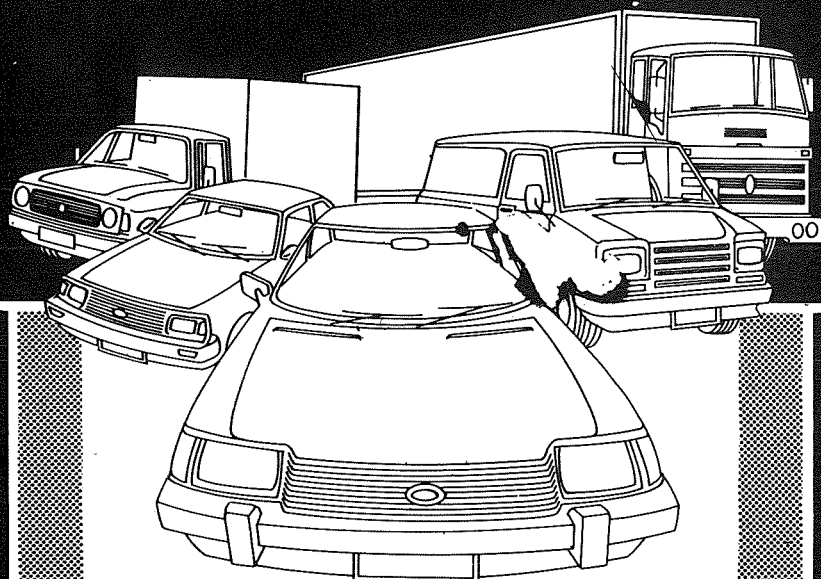
From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheet of both values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left, with perforator running from left to right. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is also upright.

Imprint Blocks:

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm and printed in black. An Imprint block of four will also include the colour checks. If it has a small horizontal line in the corner, you will know that it is part of a Pane A. A special hand-stamp, incorporating a line drawing of an elderly woman, as used for cancellation, on the first day of issue. A total of £M34,358 worth of stamps were sold by 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue.

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Europa Issue

Date of Issue	29th April 1982
Values	8c and 30c
Stamp Size	47mm x 29mm
Art Designer	Frank Portelli
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.9 x 13.6
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

Multicolours were used for the production of this set, with the two top colours of the colour checks being common for both values.

Designs

Frank Portelli has designed two very attractive stamps for this Europa issue. Having a size of 47mm x 29mm, one can see the difference in the result, between the work of the same artist, to when he was restricted by such a small stamp as that of the recent Definitive issue.

"Historic Events" is the theme chosen by CEPT for this year's issue. This is the twelfth set in the series of Europa issues, and as usual it is printed in small Panes of ten stamps. Both values are of the horizontal format and each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. The first spaces of the top two rows are used for description purposes. The first space of the top row, in both values, is used for "Europa '82", the CEPT symbol and two coloured lines whilst the first space of the second row is used for the different description of the stamp of each value. The value of a whole Pane of stamps is

seen in the middle of the top margin and printed in black.

The two stamps record memorable periods in the history of the Maltese islands.

The 8c stamp depicts the redemption of the Maltese Islands by the inhabitants from their Sicilian viceroy in 1428.

The 30c stamp features the declaration of Rights drawn by the Maltese on 15th. June 1802, by which they solemnly acknowledged the King of Great Britain as their only Lord and Sovereign, and at the same time asserting their fundamental rights, freedoms and privileges.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs, 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin of each Pane, next to the last stamp of the top row. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all panes of both values.

Each Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of six Panes of ten stamps, A to F, instead of the usual nine Panes, A to I.

Plate/Pane Numbers:

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane of both values.

8c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4.

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

Perforation of Margins:

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

C WMK. ↑	F WMK. ↑
B WMK. ↑	E WMK. ↑
A WMK. ↑	D WMK. ↑

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left, the perforator running from left to right. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is also upright.

Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will not include the colour checks.

A special handstamp, incorporating the CEPT emblem, was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. £M257,908 worth of stamps were bought up to 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to Friday 19th. November, 1982, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

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World Cup Issue

Date of Issue	11th June 1982
Values	3c, 12c and 15c
Stamp Size	33mm x 27mm
Designer	Richard J. Caruana
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.75 x 13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

The colours used for this set are:

3c – purple, yellow, red and blue.

12c – blue-grey, yellow, red and blue.

15c – olive-green, yellow, red and blue.

Designs

Richard J. Caruana has again given us a very beautiful set, to commemorate the World Cup 1982. The design is simple, and very cleverly, he made an effective use of the World Cup emblem, as part of the three different actions depicted in each value.

The 3c value shows a player about to dribble a ball. The 12c stamp depicts a goalkeeper making a save, whilst the 15c value shows a player heading a ball.

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 the 3c and 15c values, the colours from top to bottom, correspond to the col-

ours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of the two values. In the 12c value, if the colour checks from top to bottom were to be numbered as 1, 2, 3 and 4, they will correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right as 1, 3, 2 and 4. This can be seen in all three Panes of the 12c value.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in blue.

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. All three stamps are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

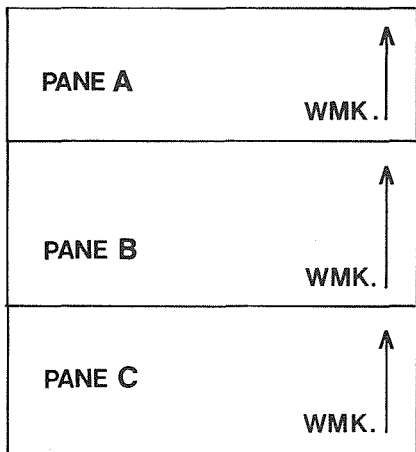
3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

12c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

15c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

Perforation of Margins:

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



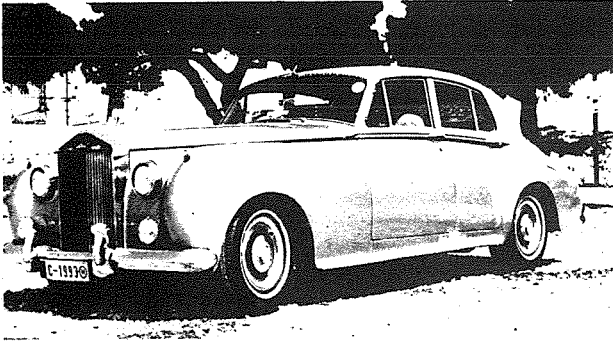
From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left, with perforator running from left to right. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is also upright.

Imprint Blocks:

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in blue. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp incorporating a drawing of the World Cup and of a football, was used for the cancellation of mail on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to Monday, 11th. October 1982, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

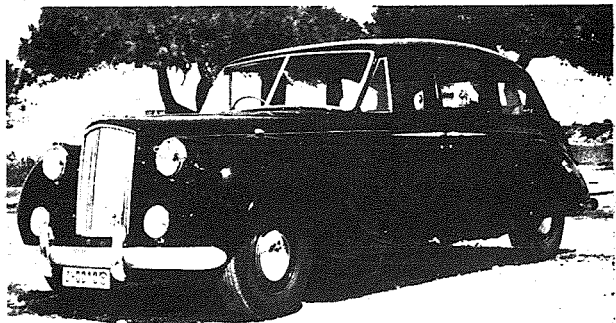
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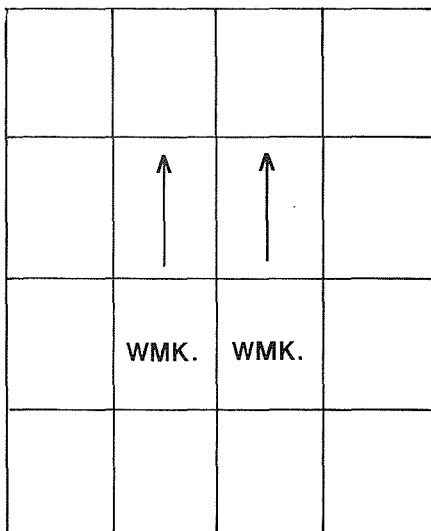
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Souvenir Miniature Sheet

With this set a souvenir miniature sheet was also issued. The size of this miniature sheet, which has a burnt-sienna background, is 124.5mm x 90mm. The Printed Sheet of this miniature sheet, consisted of sixteen souvenir sheets, made up of four rows of four. The perforation of the stamps is the same as on the normal Panes, i.e. 13.75 x 13.9. The watermark is opposite to that on all Panes of all values, i.e. sideways instead of upright. So individual stamps cut from miniature sheets can still be picked out from other individual stamps cut from normal Panes, by means of the watermark.

In my opinion this difference in watermark came about, because printing paper of the same size was used for both the printing of the normal Panes as well as the miniature sheets. Another reason was to make the best and most economical use of the printing paper provided.

This can be verified in this way, but first we must remember that when printing paper is supplied by Government to the printers, it would be already watermarked. By taking a look at the Printed Sheet of the normal Panes, and measuring one Pane as supplied from the Counters of Post Offices, we see that the Printed Sheet consisting of the three Panes, measures about 355mm x 490mm, remembering also that the space between two Panes is always the size of a normal stamp, thus allowing the perforator to take the whole Printed Sheet. Allowing for side wastages, we can say that the medium sized paper was used, i.e. the 16.5 ins x 21 ins. or 420mm x 534mm approximately. We know that the size of a miniature sheet is 125mm x 90mm, and working it out, it will be found, that no better use could have been made of the printing paper provided, except by printing the miniature sheets as shown in diagram above. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, the miniature sheets are not seen the right way up, but sideways standing on their shorter side, which means that the stamps in the miniature sheets, are also seen standing on their shorter side. As the watermark of the printing paper is



still upright, as it was in the case of the normal Panes, it will become sideways as far as the miniature sheets and the stamps in them are concerned, hence the difference in watermark between stamps from normal Panes and stamps from miniature sheets.

There are no Pane numbers or any other markings on the miniature sheets, so it is not possible to say which position each souvenir sheet held, in the Printed Sheet.

October – Monthly Meeting Dr. J.H. Mercieca

Mr Doug Ward's visit to the Society

•ON Wednesday, 20th October, Mr Doug Ward, the Treasurer of the Malta Study Circle of London, who was at the time on holiday in Malta, gave a very interesting and informative talk at a well-attended meeting of the Philatelic Society, at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, on Malta Airmails, and Postage Due Handstamps and also displayed some fine and out-of-the-way items hard to come by these days from his collection of these two philatelic specialities.

Mr Ward was introduced to the meeting by Dr. J.H. Mercieca, the Society's President, who said that though this was Mr. Ward's first visit to the Society, yet he had already been to Malta on previous occasions and had already quite a number of friends locally.

In his introduction Mr. Ward touched on periods of the history of Malta which had a connection with the subjects he was going to talk about, from which it was not at all difficult for the audience to assess his good knowledge of the subject.

During the course of the meeting Mr. Ward displayed a good number of interesting covers and pieces bearing a variety of postage due handstamps which were used from the year 1867 up to 1925, as well as many early flown covers sent from Malta to different European Countries and other parts of the world.

In bringing to its conclusion a very interesting and happy meeting Dr. Mercieca thanked Mr. Ward for his very interesting and instructive talk. He assured him that it was always a pleasure, both for him as well as for the Society, to welcome members of the Malta Study Circle of London, as, apart from the fact that it is always a treat for our members to be given the opportunity to view the fine material displayed by our friends from the Malta Study Circle, both Societies had quite a lot in common in that the

local Society, though broadly speaking, it catered for all branches of philately yet the accent was definitely on Malta Stamps and postal History.

Finally, Dr. Mercieca wished Mr. and Mrs Ward, a happy Sojourn on our island and looked forward with much pleasure to Mr. Ward's next visit to the Society.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Have you paid your 1982 membership dues! If Not, an immediate payment would be appreciated by the Treasurer.

VOTE-A-STAMP 1982 WINNERS:

1st prize: Rev. Father Patrick Abela, O.C., Malta.

2nd prize: William Tejjer, New Jersey, U.S.A.

3rd prize: Mr. Ciappara, St. Venera, Malta.

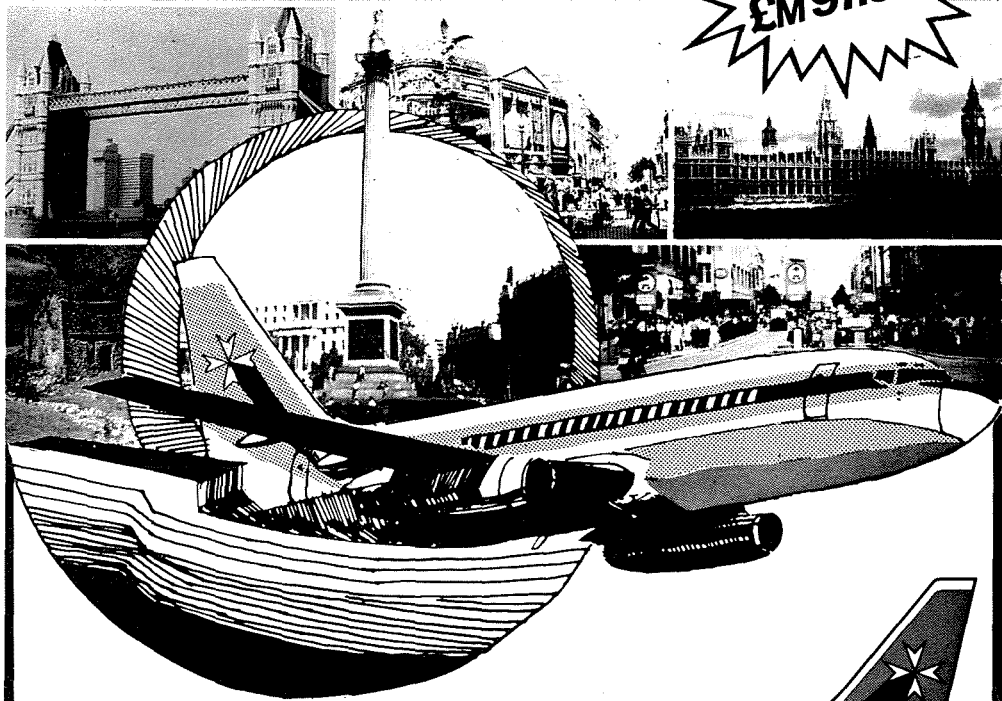
4th prize: Miss Josephine Cusine, Lyons, France.

A detailed report will appear in the next issue.

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