

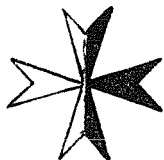


THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE PSM MAGAZINE

VOL. 11 No. 2

SPRING/SUMMER 1982



THE PSM MAGAZINE

Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIIth Malta Philatelic Exhibition — 1977
Bronze Medals at PRAGA' 78; PHILASERDICA '79
Norwex '80
Editor: A. J. Tabone Ass. Editor: Joseph Farrugia

VOL. 11 No. 2

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Sliema, Malta.

STAMP DESIGN

COMMENTS:

Stamp Design is a specialised form of art and not every painter or graphic artist becomes a good stamp designer. What may be excellent in a frame of wall size 100 cm x 65 cm will look very different scaled down to 3 cm x 2 cm. This is a truth that is often forgotten by Postal Administrations, Stamp Design Committees and artists.

Basically the designer of a postage stamp is a miniaturist, although possibly not with the same attention to detail as the miniaturists of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. What the artist has to keep in mind is that the postage stamp he is designing has to convey a certain message and must have natural spaces for the name of the country, value of the stamp and, possibly, a short title inscription. Many good artists are unable to make the crossing, if one may be permitted a pun, into the land of Lilliput.

Admittedly the task of a Stamp Advisory Committee is never an easy one. If, however, the Committee has a realisation that stamps are different from full-size paintings the end product ought to be generally attractive. Unfortunately, it is not only artists who cannot adjust to the smallness of scale, members of Stamp Design Advisory Committees seem to be equally blind.

The relevance of what has been said above may be judged from the 1982 Malta Definitive issue. We have little doubt that the full-size sketches were most attractive, but scaled down to postage-stamp size the result is less than satisfactory. Unless and until stamp designers and Stamp Design Advisory Committees wake up to the fact that a postage stamp is a work of art in miniature we shall continue to have unattractive designs over-crowded with detail and garnish in colour.

COMMITTEE 1982

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Mr. G. Said	Member

SOCIETY'S MONTHLY MEETINGS

**The Society organises an activity for
Members and their Guests on the first Monday
of every month from October to June.**

**Make it a point to attend,
keep the dates free!**

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

ADDRESS by Dr. J.H. Mercieca, President of the Philatelic Society, delivered at the Annual General Meeting at the Catholic Institute on the 11-1-82.

It is indeed with much pleasure, that I welcome you to this 16th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Philatelic Society, in Malta and I thank you very much for your participation at this important annual gathering of our Society. My thoughts also go, to those members, who are not gracing us, with their presence, this evening and also, to our overseas members, who are supporting the Society and who, for obvious reasons, are precluded, from joining us.

At a Society's Annual General Meeting it is customary and also appropriate, to glance in retrospect, at the main positive and negative aspects, in the Society's previous year of life, and to rightfully elate on the former, and possibly find adequate corrective, and remedial measures for the latter, in order, that we could, in good time, prevent these from adversely affecting the life the life, and the smooth running of the Society.

I do not deny the fact that during 1981, the Society also had its ups and downs, as, most naturally, everything existing under the sun does, from time to time, have, but, all in all, I feel that 1981 has been another relatively healthy year in the Society's existence. Our continuing happy relations with the Malta Study Circle of London, with which our Society has very close and friendly ties, and whose scope of existence, is also much akin to ours, have yet continued to be further strengthened, by the arrival and stay amongst us of two prominent, and now all too-well known members, of the Circle. Mr. Alan Bannister and Mr. Graham Smeed, whom we were very happy to re-welcome in our midst during last year.

It is with much pleasure that I state that during 1981, committee meetings, were held more or less regularly, and the attendance of members, was, on the whole, satisfactory, and I avail myself of this opportunity, to thank them all for their co-operation, and for the good work they have put in for the Society in their respective offices, and I assure them, that it has been my great pleasure to work with them all.

At last year's first committee meeting, it was decided to effect a change in the Editorship of our Magazine, and the consequent long change-over, from the old to the new editor was definitely a dull note in last year's happenings, in the Society's life. This not only resulted, in the publication, and distribution to members, of only one, instead of the three numbers of the magazine, usually appearing, during the course of the year, but has also, unfortunately, had a harmful effect, vis-a-vis our relations, with our overseas members, with whom the magazine, serves as the Society's main life-line, and which, I much fear, may eventually mean the loss to the Society, of some of these overseas members, a situation to be regretted.

Now, that this rather unfortunate

situation has been happily solved, I sincerely trust, that during the current year, the publication of the Magazine, will again take its normal course, and we look forward with pleasure, to the usual three numbers, coming out at the stipulated dates.

Something on which I have repeatedly been harping, and which up till now has not been solved, is the fact, that, after 16 years we have not, as yet, succeeded in finding suitable permanent premises, to house the Society. This no doubt, is keeping the Society aback from expanding, and increasing its activities. It is therefore my earnest wish that the new committee, soon to be elected by you, will seriously tackle the matter, and study all possibilities, to arrive at a solution, of this long, outstanding problem.

Cooperation and collaboration between the Postal Administration and our Society, is something, I would very much like to see materializing. It really pains me, to see, that whereas in many countries of the world, there exists regular organized contact and collaboration, between the local Philatelic Societies or Federation and the Postal administration (particularly the Philatelic Section), such is far from being the case obtaining in this country. I may here recall, that some months ago, while at Mr. Godwin Said's waiting room, I picked on a French philatelic journal (which I asked Mr. Said to put aside) and in it I read a report of one of the periodic meetings between officials from the postal administration and the Philatelic Federation.

Some years ago, availing myself of an opportunity that presented itself, at a meeting with the then Postmaster General I did mention and hint at the appropriateness and desirability of such relations,

being established between the two bodies, but unfortunately my suggestions and my proposals have not yielded any favourable result. Surely the Philatelic Section of the Postal Administration stands much to gain from close relations with the Society, whose members have bags of experience and healthy ideas in the different branches of philately in general, and of Maltese Philately in particular.

Now, my dear friends and members, I turn my words to you and I thank you all for the valuable and unstinting support, you have been giving the Society, particularly during the year under review, which, no doubt is a source of much encouragement to those, whom you yourselves have entrusted with the management of the Society. It is an undeniable fact, that in every sphere, there is always more scope for advancement, and I therefore, appeal to you to increase yet more, the interest you already have in the welfare of our Society. Make it a point to attend all throughout the year, the monthly meetings, which the Society organises specifically for you, and NOT, for the four walls, and the empty chairs, of the big hall wherein we meet.

Please do realise, and appreciate, that each and every one of you, is a cog, in the big wheel of our Society and even if you do not happen to be a member of the committee, do come enthusiastically forward with your suggestions and ideas, as to how best we could improve the life of our Society, and possibly introduce innovations, so as to make our meetings, and our activities yet more worthwhile, attractive, and of a higher standard. Always do your utmost to diffuse the name of the Society amongst your stamp friends, and do encourage and try to per-

suade them, to join us, that our Society, may grow even bigger and stronger, and yet more truly representative, of the hundred of philatelists in Malta. From a long personal experience, I know only too well, how difficult, and how hard it could be, to prevail on some stamp collectors, who, for reasons of their own, are contented to pursue their hobby in strict seclusion and isolation, and absolutely shun joining a Society. I must admit, however, to have, in the end, succeeded in persuading a few of these "isolationists" or "seclusionists" (term them how you will), to join the fold. So do not get discouraged in this respect.

Before bringing to a close, this address of mine, I would like to express my, and your deep gratitude and thanks, to the Director of the Catholic Institute, as also to the good Franciscan nuns in the past, have again throughout 1981, most willingly and most helpfully, provided the Society, with suitable accom-

modation, for its committee and may I herefore, in my own, and in your name, assure them of our appreciation, and thanks for their kind cooperation and help.

And finally, to conclude these words of mine, I want to thank you, most sincerely, for having giving me the opportunity to serve you, the Society and my lifelong favourite hobby, in the highest office of President for the last ten consecutive years. It has, no doubt, been quite an experience o me and I do hereby affirms, that I have always done my utmost, to hold high, the name and the interests of our Society. I thank you for the confidence you have shown in me, for your consideration and your continued support and may I finally assure you, that meeting you, and being with you, is one of the things I do thoroughly enjoy, and always, very much, look forward to.

Thank you for listening to me.

STAMPS & STAMP EXCHANGES

G. ROGERIO MENDS, Caixa Postal 1686, 90000 Porto Alegre-RS, Brasil. Interested exchanging stamps of Brazil for mint sets of Malta, both recent and old issues, basis catalogue.

T. SAWICKI, PL-01582 Warszawa, Filarecka St. 3/3, Poland wants exchange partner for mint new issues topics etc., of Malta for same of Poland. May also be contacted PL- 00950 Warsaw. Skrytka 520.

MARTIN KORTE Charlottenstr. 3, D-3300 Braunschweig, West Germany, would like to establish contact with young Maltese stamp collectors (up to 25 years of age) for exchange arrangements young German collectors. Write to above address giving age, address, exchange interests/bassi and languages used.



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THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

J. J. Emmenegger

IN recent months a number of articles have appeared in the European philatelic press about the stamps of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. On the one side some contributors view these stamps as merely another attempt to squeeze naive collectors. Others, on the contrary, think that the Order of Malta must be considered as an independent country with the full right of issuing its own stamps and that these merit inclusion in collections. In this article we would like to give the results of the research we have carried out.

A SPOT OF HISTORY

The Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta was founded in the early years of the 11th century by some merchants from Amalfi. These erected a church and a hospice in Jerusalem to house pilgrims visiting the Holy City. At the time of the Crusades the "religious" character was transformed into that of a "Military - Hospital'er" body. Later on the Order moved on to Acre and from there transferred to Cyprus where it remained until 1310. In that year the Order captured Rhodes and there established its headquarters until it was driven out by the Ottoman Turks in 1523.

In 1530 the Emperor Charles V granted Malta in fief to the Order. That year saw the commencement of a new era for the

Knights. Following the successful defence of Malta by the Knights and by the Maltese in 1565 the Order expanded its fleet and exercised an important role. In 1798, however, Napoleon occupied Malta and drove the Order away from the Island. After the Treaty of Paris confirmed Malta as a British possession, the Order established itself at the Palazzo di Malta in Rome. Later on the Order began to be recognised internationally as an independent and sovereign state (with a title similar to that of the Vatican) and enjoyed extra-territorial right for its property situated in Rome.

This international status is recognised by at least thirty-four countries (amongst which there are the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Malta etc.). It maintains

diplomatic relations with a number of countries in Europe, South America, Africa and Asia. It has "Observer status" with the Council of Europe, with UNESCO and with international organisations in Geneva.

Its principal activities (financed partly through the sale of postage stamps!) consist mainly in programmes of humanitarian assistance. These include the construction, and financial assistance for the running, of hospitals; setting-up and administration of dispensaries, medical research centres and blood banks; donation of ambulances, mobile hospitals, equipment to meet natural disasters etc. Its social and other assistance programmes are recognised by the entire world.

THE ORDER OF MALTA AS A POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

The Order of Malta began issuing postage stamps in 1966. Until 1975 these stamps had no postal validity and were utilised for affixing on correspondence carried by the Order's couriers. These stamps, however, acquired postal validity in 1975. Stamps of this period are found in mint condition or on First Day Cover. From December 1968, and generally once a year thereafter, be-

gan issuing a souvenir sheet for Christmas. Every sheet issued is numbered. The Order's postal administration also issues "Express" and "Postage Due" stamps. It has also started to issue maximum cards and postal cards with imprinted stamps. The first maximum cards were put on sale on the 16th October, 1981. If one judges from the success of similar cards issued by the Azores, Gibraltar, Madeira, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland, then their success is assured.

BI-LATERAL POSTAL AGREEMENTS

On the 4th March 1975 a bilateral postal agreement was signed between the Order and the Maltese Postal Administration. In terms of this agreement all mail bearing the Order's stamps and addressed to a resident of Malta via the Order's bureau in Rome was accepted for distribution to the addressee by the Malta Post Office. From 1975 therefore all the Order's issues become valid for postage. Other bilateral postal agreements were entered into in 1978 (with Liberia) in 1979 (with El Salvador, the Argentine and the Phillipines) and in 1980 (with

Uruguay.

The agreement with Malta lapsed in March 1978 although some negotiations for its renewal are understood to have taken place. It is only fair to point out that the agreement with the Argentine specifically excludes registered correspondence. The Order initialled a bilateral postal convention providing for the acceptance for delivery to addressees in Italy of correspondence posted at the Order's Headquarters and franked with the Order's stamps. Mail addressed to countries with which the Order has postal agreements would also be accepted for transmission franked only with the Order's stamps. This agreement has been signed by the President of the Republic and awaits publica-

tion in the Official Gazette. It is evident that when this agreement becomes effective the stamps of the Order will be on a par with those of the Vatican and San Marino and will attract even more collectors.

In order to check the validity of the claim that the Order's postage stamps are just that I asked a friend of mine in Rome to send me some items of mail from the Order's Postal Bureau. He managed to produce a registered letter from the Order to Uruguay with a backstamp to the latter country. Irrefutable evidence of postal use! The Order is seen as a new "country" to collect. In collecting, of course, one satisfies his own personal choice!

The Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Ordore of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta

Father Augustine Serafini
Monk of the Community of Our Lady
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

S.M.O.M. Checklist

The numbers given are from Scott, unless otherwise noted.

CYPRUS

- 133 Kolossi Castle
- 133 Queen's Window, St. Hillarion Castle
- 178 St. Hilarion
- 218
- 250 St. John Comandaria Wine, Knight and Kolossi Castle
- 496 Kolossi (Europa)

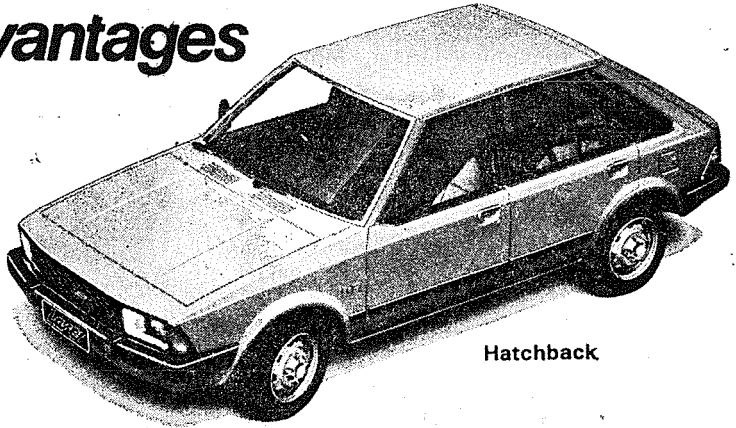
FRANCE

- 797 Maltese Cross and Leprosarium

FRENCH WEST AFRICA

Two Cars, One Name Many Advantages

FORD LASER



Hatchback

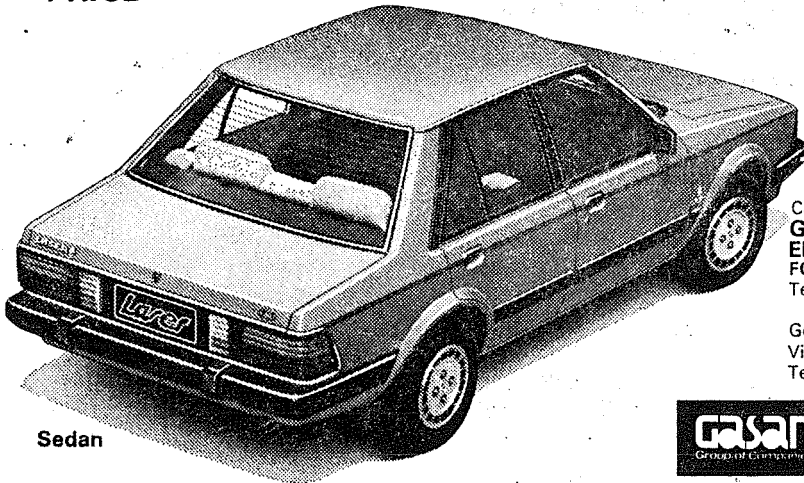
- ✓ OUTSTANDING
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ECONOMY
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HANDLING
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- 74 Maltese Cross, Ambulance work of the Order, Anti-Leprosy Campaign
- GABON
C128 Official visit of the Grand Master of S.M.O.M. to Gabon
- GERMANY
1006 Johanniter-Orden, Maltese Cross
- HONDURAS
C365-8 St. John Ambulance, Hospital, Leprosarium, Cross.
- ITALIAN AEGEAN ISLANDS
60 Arms and Cross of Rhodes
63
65
C20-25 Zeppelin over Rhodes
C44-47 Stag of Rhodes and palace
- JERSEY BAILIWICK
147 Maltese Cross, St. John Parish
175-178 British St. John Ambulance Association Centenary, Knights, ambulances, medieval galley.
455 Knights definitive 4m
514-17 School of Anatomy and Surgery, 300th Anniversary, Grand Master N. Cotoner, Fra' Giuseppe Zammit
518-20 Knights' armour, suits of armour of the Grand Masters
522-33 400th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church of St. John, the Tapestries
547-48 Europa, Grand Master N. Cotoner monument
--- Tapestries, Grand Master Perellos
--- Restoration of Monuments, 6c Vilhena Palace built by Grand Master Manuel de Vilhena, 8c Citadel of Victoria, 2c For of St. Elmo
558 1979 Europa, sailing vessel of the order called *Speronara*
- MONACO
481 Medieval leper, Maltese Cross
- RHODES
15-23 Galley of the Knights, tomb of a Knight, kneeling Knight
64-68 View of Rhodes
69-79 Map of Rhodes
74-80 Stag and Maltese Crosses
B1-18 Surcharged definitives as above
BE1-2 Stag and Maltese Crosses
E1-4 do.
J1-9 Maltese Cross
Q1-11 Maltese Cross, galley, castle
- RUSSIA
98 Tsar Paul I, de facto Grand Master 1798-1891
- SOMALIA
195-6 Maltese Cross and Somali scenes. Commemorate the Convention S.M.O.M. and Somalia concerning the care of lepers, 11 Nov. 1953
C37-8
- PSAIN
B108M-N The Battle of Lepanto
1690-2 Battle of Lepanto, Fourth Centenary

Issue of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Numbers given are those of Emmanuel Said, Valletta, Malta.

1-9	1966	Various subjects
10-12	1967	Langue Flags
19-22	1967	St. John the Baptist I
23-26	1968	Historical Seats of the Order I
27-32	1968	Ships
33-35	1968	Christmas
36-40	1969	Military Uniforms I
41-46	1969	Grand Masters I
47-49	1969	Christmas
50-55	1970	Hospital Assistance
55-61	1970	Ancient Coins I
62-64	1970	Christmas
65-69	1971	Military Uniforms II
70	1971	Battle of Lepanto
71-73	1971	U.N. High Commission for Refugees
74-76	1971	Christmas

LEBANON

52 Knights' Castle, Tripoli (Anatolia)

61

73

79

87

94

123

179-80

C12

C20

C24

C28

C33

LIBYA

B14 Knights' Castle, Tripoli

J41-44

MALTA

192 Fort St. Angelo

192A

193 Verdala Palace

193A

195 Citadel, Gozo

195A

196 De l'Isle Adam, Grand Master

196A

197 St. John's Church

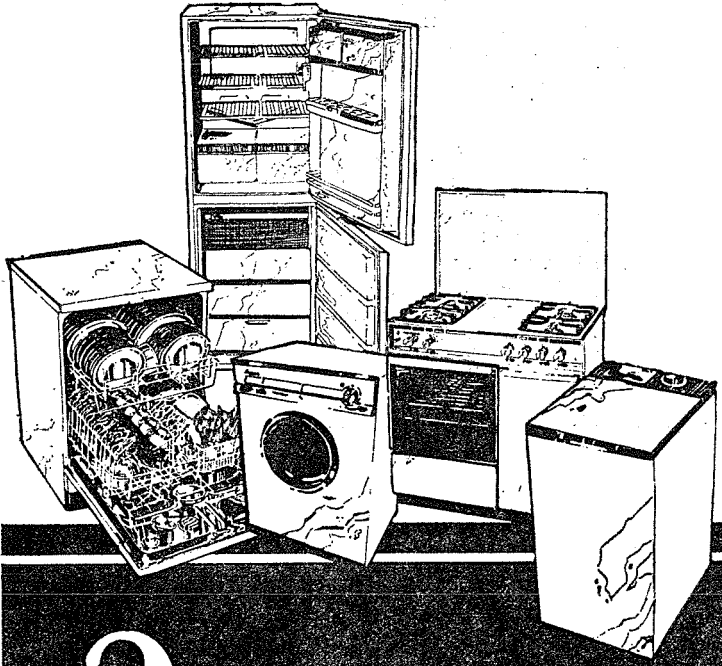
197A

199 Antonio Manoel de Vilhena, Grand Master, statue

204 Palace Square

246 Great Siege Monument

247 Grand Master Wignacourt Aqueduct



Zoppas

Fridges · Washing Machines
Dishwashers · Cookers

NIZZI

the household name

B'KARA, COSPICUA, FLORIANA, GZIRA, HAMRUN, PAOLA, RABAT, SLIEMA, VALLETTA.

248 Victory Church
 259 Grand Master Cotoner Monument
 260 Grand Master Perellos
 287-90 Great Siege of 1565, Madonna Damascena, La Valette, Assault on Fort St. Elmo
 296 Victory Church (def.)
 300-2 European Congress of Catholic Physicians, Grand Master Cotoner and hospitals
 318 Knights of St. John, definitive 4p
 319 SMOM Navy, def. 4½p
 319A Fortifications, def. 5p
 324 Hall of the Knights, def. ½
 334-40 Fourth centenary of the Great Siege, Knights in battle, ships, mural, arms and medal of Grand Master La Valette
 348-52 Fourth Centenary of the foundation of Valletta
 374 Auberge Castile
 387-90 Fourth centenary of the death of La Valette
 403 Malta University Bicenennial, Grand Master Manuel Pinto de Fonseca
 409-16 Knights of Malta art exhibit
 445 Coin, Grand Master's barge
 446 Coin, Great Siege Monument
 77-79 1972 10th Anniversary of Grand Master Majona
 80-83 1972 Ancient Castles
 84 1972 Christmas
 85 1973 St. John the Baptist II
 86-90 1973 Leprosy
 91-93 1973 Christmas
 94-99 1974 Grand Mastres II
 100-103 1974 Four Cardinal Virtues
 104-106 1974 Christmas
 107-109 1975 Blood Bank
 110-12 1975 Holy Year
 113-15 1975 Christmas
 116-18 1976 Seats of the Order II
 139 1976 Christmas
 140-45 1978 Grand Masters III
 146 1978 John the Baptist IV
 147-52 1978 Coinage II
 153 1978 Christmas
 154-58 1979 Coats of Arms I (high values)
 159-60 1979 Church of St. John, Siena I
 161-65 1979 Uniforms III
 166-170 1979 Coats of Arms I (low values)
 171-72 1979 Christmas
 173-77 1980 Coats of Arms II (high values)
 178-79 1980 Church of St. John, Siena II
 SPECIAL DELIVERY
 EX1 1975 Dolphins

EX2 1975 Dolphins

EX3 1976 Dolphins

POSTAGES DUES

PD1-01 1976 Overprints

PD11-16 1976 Maltese Crosses

MINIATURE SHEETS: One sheet was issued for each Christmas issue and one additional for the Holy Year 1975.

Partial list of rulers and famous persons, members of National Associations of the S.M.O.M., who are on stamps or most likely to appear on stamps.

AUSTRIA

Karl I

Empress Zita

BELGIUM

Leopold I

Leopold II

Albert I

Leopold III

Baudouin

Queen Fabiola

Cardinal Mrecier

Prince Albert of Liege

FRANCE

Giscard d'Estaing, Valery

GERMANY

Adenauer, Konrad von

Prince Felix

MONACO

Rainer III, Honorary Chairman,

International Committee for Leprosy

Princess Grace

PORTUGAL

Carlos

Manuel II

SPAIN

Alfonso XIII

Queen Victoria Eugenia

Joan Carlos I, Professed Cross

HUNGARY

Horthy, Admiral Baron Nicholas

ITALY

Victor Emmanuel III

Humbert II (as Prince)

LICHTENSTEIN

Johann II

Franz I

Princess Elsa

Franz Josef II

Princess Georgina

Johann Adam

Countess Kinsky

LUXEMBOURG

Grand Duchess Charlotte

Grand Duke Jean

Princess Josephine-Charlotte

of Honour

Queen Sofia

Franco, Francisco

UNITED STATES

Farley, James A.

VATICAN

Leo XIII

Pius XII

John XXIII

Paul VI

John Paul I

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A note on "Postal History"

IN the first article of the list of rules for Postal History Collections issued by the International Federation for Philately* a postal history collection is defined as "one on the study and classification of postal and philatelic items which are directly relevant to the methods, routing and conditions of despatch of postal communications . . . or to the organisation to this end of postal services . . .".

In discussing the arrangement and presentation of a postal history collection we must assume that the preliminary study is adequate and emphasise ways of demonstrating its adequacy in the presentation of the material. The first article of the official rules defines very broadly the criteria by which this material should be judged before being allowed into the collection and most collectors would accept this definition. There is much more doubt whether the term "classification" used covers adequately the essential arrangement and writing-up. The article might suggest that any assembly of envelopes constitutes a postal history collection providing that they have passed through the post and so can be said to be relevant to "methods . . . of despatch", etc. Indeed there are people who do accept such an assembly as a postal history collection particularly if the covers date from a period before the introduction of adhesive stamps.

On the other hand those for whom the word "history" has meaning outside any possible, narrower philatelic sense will affirm that, for example, an assembly of souvenirs, a photograph, a page from a diary, a signet ring, all in a display case is in no sense a history or biography of their owner. The writing or displaying of history demands a narration which links the isolated facts or items together in an understandable

and relevant sequence, proper selection of the material so that each element in the narration gets appropriate emphasis, and, usually, explanation and interpretation of the various elements. It is the task of the writing-up to achieve this.

Well-designed stamps may be sufficiently attractive to the eye for their display to generate interest without a word of written explanation. This is very unlikely to be true of postal history material. Here, writing-up is essential to understanding and to be meaningful it often has to be quite extensive. It is a great challenge to the skill of the collector. He must say enough to explain, but not so much that those likely to be interested are discouraged from reading. Obviously some audiences are likely to be more interested than others and more disposed to enjoy a slightly longer text. Before he starts to consider his writing-up the collector has to decide whether the text is largely for his own eyes alone, or for those of fellow specialists, or to excite the general interest of members in his local stamp club. It is generally agreed that it more important to choose the right words and endeavour to master a clear style than simply to be brief. Condensation makes telegrams difficult to read; a very condensed style in writing-up may inhibit rapid comprehension.

Almost everything which has been

said earlier about arrangement and writing-up applies to the presentation of a postal history collection with at least one important addition, "narration". Stamps and postal stationery can always be arranged in date sequence without there being any justification of this arrangement in the text. The historian, however, must try, whenever possible, to emphasise the connection between a particular exhibit and the items which follow it; he must develop a story line explaining not only

"why", but also "why at this particular moment".

Because so much of the material for a postal history collection is likely to be on cover or to consist of items of similar size, e.g. small maps, it will be difficult to introduce variety into the layout of the material and where possible recourse will be had to arranging envelopes in groups, so that they eclipse one another without important postal markings being obscured.

A postal history collection is likely to be even bulkier than one which includes postal stationery so the use of guards to ensure that albums keep their shape will be necessary.

*This is the organisation more generally known as the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (or simply, "F.I.P.").

Note: This article is extracted from a series of articles by "A. Dehn" which appeared in a supplement to the "Philatelic Magazine".

MALTA "POSTAGE DUE HANDSTAMPS"

by Dr. J.H. Mercieca

The interest handstruck markings, known as "Delivery Charge Marks", indicating the amount charged by the Malta Post Office, for delivery of mail from overseas, were used in the early 19th century. The earliest recorded marking to date being a 4 Tari on the 29th. August 1816. These marks were originally struck in Maltese currency and consist of the month and day, followed by the amount.

Sept.: 25. T: 4

It appears that "delivery charges" were, 2 Tari for a single letter and 4 Tari for a double letter.

In 1820 an extra 10 Grani was added if the letter was disinfected.

Oct.: 14: T: 4:10. (10 grani extra charge)

Late in 1825 sterling replaced Maltese currency and new rates introduced.

15 Dec: S, d 25 Mar. Free

These strikes seem to have been used until the late 1840's, the latest so far recorded being a "1d on the 27th. Jan. 1848.

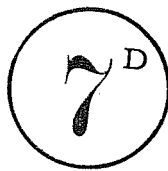
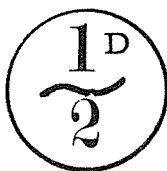
Between 1829 and 1836 a strike in an oval (horizontal) frame with the words "ONE PENNY FOR DELIVERY" is found on local mail.

This handstamp on mail originating Malta Lazzaretto, charge, seems to have only



been used from, or passing through, the and was obviously a disinfection.

The earliest "Postage Due" handstamps, indicating the amount due on unpaid or underpaid mail: were issued in September 1867. These consist of a value in a circular frame.



The first batch of their circular framed "postage due handstamps" were introduced on the 15th September 1867 and comprised the following values:— 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1s/- and 1s./4d. Additional values in the same series, consisting of the ½ 1d, 1½, 2½, 3d, 7d, 10d, and 1s 3d denominations were issued in 1896 and 1897.

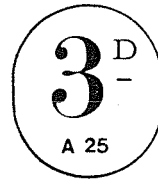
The first ½d handstamp, introduced in 1896 was replaced in 1897 by another type of ½d for the reason that the first ½d issued, could be

confused, or looked like a 1s 2d (**one shilling and twopence**), though there was no letter "s" for shilling above the "1" of ½d.

It is to be noted, that there is no record, so far, that the **10d and 1s 3d denominations have ever been used.**

Unframed values, similar to the type used in the U.K. also exist for the 2d and 6d values. The 6d was withdrawn with the introduction of the circular framed handstamps in 1867, which also included the 6d denominations. However, since no circular-framed handstamp was ever issued for the 2d, this handstamp was kept in use concurrently with the circular framed series.

An unusual type of handstamp for the 1d and 3d denomination only, in a vertical oval frame with an 'A 25' beneath the value tablet, appeared on underpaid mail during the latter part of the 19th century. The 1d appears to have been used on local underpaid mail and the 3d did the same service on mail coming in from overseas. Both these handstamps were withdrawn in 1896 with the introduction of the corresponding new values in the circular frame series.



According to Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia of British Europe stamps, these two oval handstamps were used "in red ink" as postage paid marks during a local shortage of the corresponding 1d and 3d Great Britain stamps, which at the time were in current use in Malta.

Handstamps in U.P.U. centimes

In 1896 a small circular frames handstamp for 5 centimes was received in Malta. Duplex tax marks in centimes are known for other values. These markings in international currency **were used exclusively on outgoing mail.**

The duplex has been found both with and



without the figure "2" above and in between the two circles.

Box-framed handstamps.

DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT NEW ISSUES

by Joseph Farrugia

EUROPA 1981 ISSUE

Date of Issue	28th. April 1981
Values	8c and 30c.
Stamp Size	27mm x 33mm.
Art Designer	Harry Borg
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14 x 13.75
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointed sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

The colour of these stamps was produced by the four colour process.

Designs:

This is the eleventh set in the series of Europa issues. The theme for this year chosen by C.E.P.T. is "folklore".

The 8c stamp features a horse race on the occasion of a local "festa". Traditional horse racing has long been a favourite sport, with races taking place on the road instead of on a race track. Such races are held on "festas" like "Imnarja" and "St. Rocco's Day", at Rabat, Malta, and "St. John's Day" at Xewkija, Gozo. The "Imnarja" races can be traced back to the 15th century. The prizes distributed in most of these races are called "pal-ji", consisting of strips of fine damask of various shades, about two metres in length and half a metre wide.

The 30c stamp depicts the greasy pole, known as the "gostra". This is another popular event which takes place at several seaside towns and

villages during summer "festas". During the festivities of "Il-Vittoria" held in September each year, the "gostra" is always included in the official programme.

The "gostra" consists of a long tapernig pole, placed at an incline from the head of a barge, with a small flag fixed at the end. The pole is covered with grease and soap to make it slippery, the aim being to make it very difficult for the competitors to run up the pole and seize the flag. At first there would be several unsuccessful attempts, with the competitors tumbling down into the water, and then renew the attempt, until the winner succeeds in getting hold of the flag, on his way down into the sea.

This year's Europa issue is again printed in small Panes of ten stamps. Both values are of the vertical format. Each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. The first and second spaces of the top row are used for description purposes, including the C.E.P.T. symbol, "Europa 1981" and the

name of the sport depicted by the stamp. The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the middle of the top margin and printed in Black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs, 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin of each Pane, next to the last stamp of the bottom 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. After looking at quite a number of Panes from the back, I would say that two different kinds of paper were used for the printing of this set.

Each Printed Sheet, of each value, consisted of nine Panes of ten stamps, "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 & includ. 11 x 4.

30c = 1A x 4 up to & includ. 11 x 4.

Perforation of Margins

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

The Printed Sheet of each

"A" WMK.	"B" WMK.	"C" WMK.
"D" WMK.	"E" WMK.	"F" WMK.
"G" WMK.	"H" WMK.	"I" WMK.

each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left, the perforator running from top to bottom. 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 sideways.

Imprint Blocks

The imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black.

A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed "L-Ewwel Jum Tal-~~H~~rug — Malta", the name of the respective locality and the date "28.4.81". The CEPT emblem is also incorporated in the postmark. This set will remain on sale up to Monday 28th. December, 1981, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

A total of £M326,276 worth of stamps was sold up to 12.45 p.m. on the first days of issue of this set.

XXV INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF MALTA ISSUE

Date of Issue	12th. June 1981.
Values	4c and 25c.
Stamp Size	24.8 x 26.43mm.
Art Designer	Anthony De Giovanni.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 x 13.5.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointed sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

The colours used for the production of these stamps are: 4c value, red, yellow, blue and black.

25c value, orange, green, burdeaux and black.

The main objectives of the International Fair of Malta are the promotion of exports, the establishment of international contacts and the increase of domestic trade. The Fair is held annually in the beautiful gardens of Palazzo Parisio, Naxxar, from the 1st. to 15th. July. This marks the 25th. edition of this event.

With the expansion of Maltese industry, the outlook of the Fair has changed from an original display of imported goods, to that of a mixed display of locally manufactured and imported goods, with an increasing representation of Malta made products.

Over forty countries have at one time or another taken part in this Fair, including the Government of Malta, through a number of its Ministries.

The International Fair of Malta is affiliated with the Union des Faires Internationales, and is the Island's shop window, displaying amongst other things, a varied choice of products testifying to the skill of the Maltese worker and industrialist, towards export promotion of locally produced goods. It also gives the ever increasing number of foreign visitors, buyers, as well as others the opportunity to see Maltese products and discuss purchases on the spot.

The stamps have a face value of 4c and 25c, and are designed by Anthony De Giovanni. The theme of the design is a beautiful and simple one, the numerals "25" (being the 25th. edition of the fair) with the Malta Trade Fair emblem.

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 all Panes of both 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 four Panes, A, B, C and D. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten. Both values are of the vertical format.

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

4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1S x 4, 1D x 4.
25c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.

The top margin of Panes A and B is imperforate. The top margin of Panes C and D is fully perforated. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of Panes, A, B, C and D are also fully perforated. In some A Panes of the 4c value, some registration lines were seen in the top left hand corner.

PANE "A" WMK.	PANE "B" WMK.
PANE "C" WMK.	PANE "D" WMK.

From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in individual stamps. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to Monday 28th. December, 1981, un-

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS ISSUE

Date of Issue	17th. July 1981.
Values	3c and 35c.
Stamp Size	26.5 x 35mm.
Art Designer	Antoine Camilleri.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.4 x 13.5.
Watermark	Printex Limited Malta. sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

The colour of this set was produced by the four colour process, plus the colours "lilac" and "light brown" for the frames of the 3c and 35c value stamps respectively.

Designs:

To mark 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons, chosen by the United Nations General Assembly, the Malta Postal Administration issued two special stamps. The two stamps were beautifully designed by artist, Antoine Camilleri. The 35c value stamp shows a handicapped child playing with other children and the 3c value stamp depicts a disabled person in a wheelchair painting by mouth. The stamps also reproduce the official I.Y.D.P. emblem, representing two people holding hands in solidarity and support of each other in a position of equality. The emblem symbolizes equality, hope and support. The theme of I.Y.D.P. is "Full Participation and Equality". In Malta, steady progress has been sustained to alleviate the lot of the less fortunate members of the Maltese community. The provision of sheltered workshops, joint projects with voluntary organisations, plus recent legislation has greatly improved the

economic situation of the handicapped. Through these measures several handicapped persons lead near normal lives and others earn a living by their own abilities. Maintaining and broadening the good work done so far, should result in enabling the handicapped to live in dignity as useful members of the society.

Colours 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 for Pane numbers, from left to right on all Panes of both 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 three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. Both values are of the vertical format.

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

3c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.

35c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.

Perforation of Margins

The top margin of Panes A, B and C, is imperforate. The bottom, left hand and right hand margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. In Pane A of the 3c value, re-

gistration lines were seen in the top left hand corner.

PANE	PANE	PANE
"A"	"B"	"C"
WMK.	WMK.	WMK.

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

Imprint Blocks

WORLD FOOD DAY ISSUE

Date of Issue	16th. October 1981.
Values	8c and 23c.
Stamp Size	27mm x 33mm.
Art Designer	Richard Caruana.
Printers	Maltese Crosses pointed
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.9 x 13.75
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointed sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

8c Sienna, grey, ochre and black.
23c Khaki, blue, ochre and black.

Designs:

To mark the first World Food Day, is also incorporated in the design. Congratulations to Richard Caruana, the designer of this set, who succeeded in producing such a beautiful, simple and effective set.

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 right to left, on all Panes, of both values.

Cumulative totals of progressive

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special hand-stamp was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue. A total of £M41,564 worth of stamps were sold from the G.P.O. and Branch Post Offices up to 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to Monday, 28th. December, 1981, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

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

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

Plate/Pane Numbers

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

8c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.
23c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

Perforation of Margins

The top margin of Panes A, B and C, is imperforate. The bottom, left hand and right hand margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. In Pane C of both values, re-

gistration lines were seen in the top right hand corner.

PANE	PANE	PANE
"A"	"B"	"C"
WMK.	WMK.	WMK.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left.

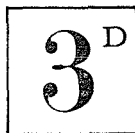
Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is sideways.

Imprint Blocks.

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

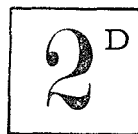
A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. The postmark also incorporates a line drawing of an ear of corn in a flask symbolizing the contribution made by Science towards greater food production. Up to 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue, sales totalled £M31,925 from the G.P.O. and Branch Post Offices. This set will remain on sale up to Thursday, 25th. February, 1982.

In 1923 the circular-type handstamps were **with-drawn** and replaced by a series of 14 denominations in box frame. The values in box frame comprised the ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 4½, 5d, 6d, 7d 8d 9d and 1/-.



These box-frame handstamps were replaced by postage due adhesives on the **16th April 1925** when the provisional set of 10 denominations, printed by the Governmental Printing Office, in Valletta, was issued.

Subsequent to the issue of the postage-due adhesives, these box-framed handstamps, struck in red ink, were used for some time, as **accounting marks.**

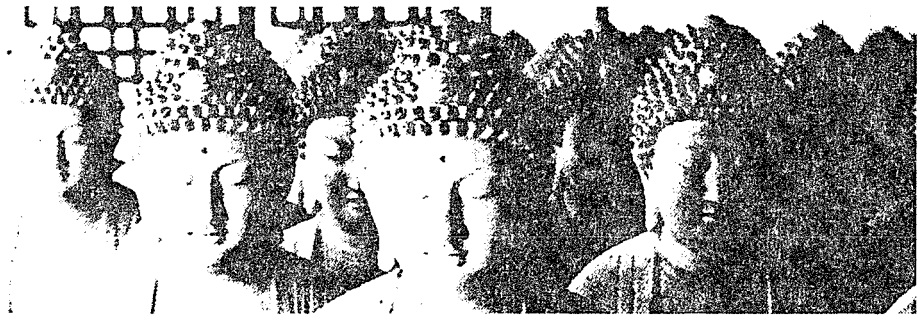


NOTE:— *This article is based on information supplied by Mr. Hadrian Wood.*

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MALTA = A DIARY

January - June 1981

- 2 — 1 — 81 "Postage Paid" hand-stamps of the 5c denomination were used at all Branch Post Offices in Malta and at the Branch Post Office, Mgarr, Gozo, as from Friday, 2nd. January, 1981. The hand-stamps, besides the c3 denomination and the date, have inscribed thereon "Postage Paid" and the name of the respective locality.
- The "Postage Paid" hand-stamps of the 25c denomination, currently in use at the said Branch Post Offices, were withdrawn from use at the close of business on Wednesday, 31st. December, 1980.
- 5 — 1 — 81 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Next Stamp Issue — Birds Set — 20 January 1981" was used, on and off, during the period 5th. to 19th. January, 1981, at the Central Mail Room.
- 7 — 1 — 81 The P.M.G. notified that, to mark the 150th. birth anniversary of Heinrich von Stephen, founder of the Universal Postal Union, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Heinrich Von Stephen — 1831-1981", was used at the Central Mail Room on the 7th. January, 1981. The slogan also incorporates the emblem of the U.P.U.
- 9 — 1 — 81 Applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Sliema were issued again in the Govt. Gazette of the 9th. January, 1981. This notice has appeared four times already, the first time being in March 1979.
- 9 — 1 — 81 The 4m stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.
- 20 — 1 — 81 "Birds" set issued to-day. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail, on the first day of issue.
- 27 — 1 — 81 The 1c and 2c stamps of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set were reprinted by Printex Limited. These stamps were available for sale from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.
- 30 — 1 — 81 In the Govt. Gazette of to-day's date, it was announced that the opening of a new Sub-Post Office at Marsascala has been approved. Applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at this

locally were to be received by the Postmaster General up to 5.00 p.m. of Monday, 2nd. March, 1981.

The duties, obligations and remunerations of Sub-Postmasters were also listed.

- 6 — 3 — 81 The 8m stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited.

The stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

- 12 — 3 — 81 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Hotel Catering And Tourism — International Exhibition 12-18.3.81" was used from the 12th. to the 18th. March, 1981, at the Central Mail Room.

- 17 — 3 — 81 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, approval had been given to open a Sub Post Office at Fgura. Applications for the post at this locality were to be received by the P.M.G. up to 5.00 p.m. of Monday, 20th. April, 1981.

- 17 — 3 — 81 The P.M.G. notified that with effect from Wednesday, 18th. March, 1981, the Sub Post Office at St. Paul's Bay was going to be transferred to No. 40F, St. Paul's Street, St. Paul's Bay.

- 27 — 3 — 81 In to-day's Govt. Gazette, by means of notice No. 179, the Prime Minister approved the appointment of Mr. Saviour Psaila as Head 1, to do the duty as Postmaster General with effect from 16th. March, 1981.

- 10 — 4 — 81 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Next Stamp Issue — Europa '81 Set — 28 April 1981" was used on and off, during the period 10th. April to 27th. April 1981, at the Central Mail Room.

- 28 — 4 — 81 "Europa 1981" set issued to-day, a special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue. The C.E.P.T. emblem is also incorporated in the postmark.

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- 14 — 5 — 81 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "World Telecommunication Day — Telecommunications And Health" was used on the 14th., 15th. and 16th. May, 1981, at the Central Mail Room.

- 22 — 5 — 81 A commemorative postal card was issued on the occasion of the participation of the Malta Post Office in the WIPA 1981

International Stamp Exhibition which was held from the 22nd. to the 31st. May, 1981, in Vienna, Austria. The Europa 1981 stamps and an appropriate motif are printed in multicolour on the postal card. The card was available for sale at 38c from the Philatelic Counter, G.P.O., from the 22nd. to the 31st. May, 1981, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

The postal cards were available for sale both in mint condition and with the stamps cancelled with a special hand-stamp inscribed, "Post Office Malta — 22-31.V.81 — WIPA 1981" 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 that it was posted after the 31st. May, 1981, 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 the WIPA 1981 postal cards could have been placed at the Philatelic Counter G.P.O. up to the 19th. May 1981.

- 25 — 5 — 81 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Next Stamp Issue — XXV International Fair — Of Malta Set — 12th. June 1981", was used on and off, during the period 25th. May to 11th. June, 1981, at the Central Mail Room.
- 12 — 6 — 81 "XXV International Fair of Malta" set, issued to-day. A special hand postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.
- 25 — 6 — 8 Six new metal hand date-stamps were put in use at the B.P.O. Sliema, on Thursday, 25th. June 1981. The new hand date-stamps are inscribed "Sliema — Malta".

The six-date-stamps which were replaced were withdrawn from use at the close of business on Wednesday, 24th. June 1981.

FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

IN spite of the general economic recession many postal administrations seem to have entered into 1982 with the same mentality prevalent in earlier and better years. To some administration the stamp collector appears to be a creature sent into the world to be fleeced. These are strong words but the unremitting spate of special and omnibus issues, whether maxi or mini, leaves one with no other choice.

Last year we had one royal event commemorated by a large number of countries, including North Korea which has no use for royalty and no discernible connection with the British Royal Family. This year we shall be celebrating the Princess of Wales's 21st birthday, Lord Baden Powell, the Year of the Elderly, the World Cup and, possibly, the birth of a royal baby. With every special issue the poor collector is told that if he misses out he will be losing opportunity of a lifetime. When it comes to the total cost of every such issue the selling blurbs become very coy.

There are few postal administrations not too obviously obsessed with milking the collector dry. Those few who still think of the collector as someone worth cultivating and who follow reasonably sober issuing policies are the ones whose stamps are likely to have a more lasting value. In Europe, for example, the postal administrations which have not resorted to gimmickry includes Andorra, Cyprus (both failings, particularly with regard to Greek & Turkish) the Faroes, Greenland, Iceland, Malta and Switzerland. These countries do have their number of issues per year, but their sins are still venial ones.

Some other countries have clambered on the band-wagon of gutter-

pairs, special booklets, innumerable maximum cards, special size sheetlets for each issue and so on ad infinitum. These countries are aided and abetted by dealers eager to make a quick killing and always ready to move on to other and better things.

In the non-European area the countries with a sober issuing policy, although not above an occasional gimmick, include the Antarctic Territories (Australian, British, French and New Zealand), Ascension Island, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling), Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau Islands and Tristan da Cunha. The South African homeland, if one forgets the political odour, have so far managed to keep their noses clean philatelically.

Every collector is free to collect whatever pleases him and if he finds it interesting to collect colourful labels no one can gainsay him. However, it is always advisable to devote some of one's energies to collecting stamps and postal material of a country whose stamps are really used for the actual pre-payment of mail and which does have to resort to gimmicks to entice collectors. One hopes that when the exuberance of certain administrations is exhausted they will again start to tread the path of philatelic sobriety.

PHILATELIC BUREAU

Department of Posts
Auberge d'Italie
Valletta — Malta
(Tel. 24421)

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Maltese ships

Issue date:
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13 November