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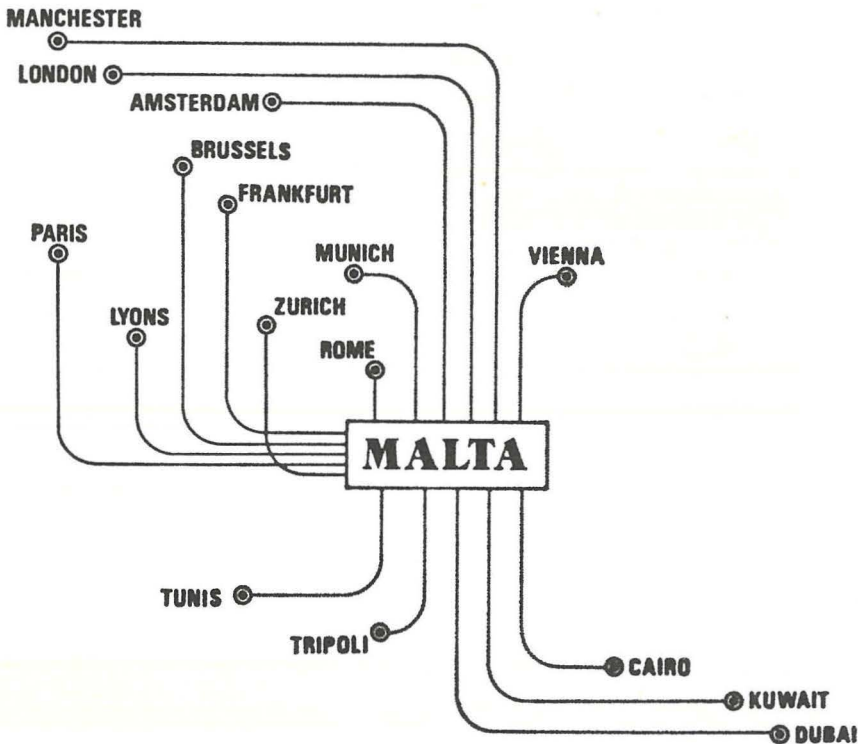
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE PSM MAGAZINE

VOL. 11 No. 1

Spring/Summer 1981

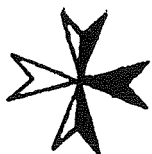
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# THE PSM MAGAZINE

Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIth Malta Philatelic Exhibition — 1977

Bronze Medals at PRAGA' 78; PHILASERDICA '79

Norwex '80

Editor: A. J. Tabone    Ass. Editor: Joseph Farrugia

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*VOL. II No. 1*

*SPRING/SUMMER 1981*

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Cover design Chev. Emvin Cremona

*Address all correspondence*

The Editor, Albert J. Tabone  
The P.S.M. Magazine  
29 Windsor Terrace  
Sliema, Malta.

## COMMENT

It is said that every cloud has a silver lining. This is certainly true of the way in which the world recession, a cause of worry to countless millions, has affected the stamp-collector, especially the one of modest means.

On occasion this column berated the spiralling stamp prices which put even the relatively common stamps beyond the pockets of the ordinary collector. From 1973 onwards we had the phenomenon of the "philatelic investor" snapping up quantities of stamps at prices greater than those warranted by their scarcity. This worked to the detriment of the genuine collector whose main interest is in the stamp itself and not in its investment potential.

The recession has had the effect of separating the wheat from the chaff and some so-called investors found themselves with burnt fingers. With a levelling-off, or even a cut-back, in stamp prices the collector has come back in his own. The period of price consolidation through which we are now passing can only benefit the collector and, indeed, the stamp trade itself which is harmed by the volatility of the investor.

We have never said, and are not now saying, that the prices of certain stamps should not reflect their true scarcity value. Nor do we think that the philatelist is totally unconcerned with the monetary appreciation of his collection. Obviously the scarcity of a particular stamp from a popular collecting country will affect the price that the collector will have to pay for it. Equally obviously the most ardent stamp collector will not turn up his nose at the monetary appreciation of his collection, to him, however, such appreciation is by way of being a bonus and cannot serve as a basis for true collecting.

While prices have become more realistic, the same cannot be said of the stamp-issuing policies of a large number of postal administrations. Gimmicks, such as values for which there is no real postal need, small sheetlets, gutter strips, commemorative booklets etc. proliferate. Of course the collector is free

to collect what he chooses, but he would be better served, and the prestige of stamp-collecting enhanced, if administrations were to eschew such methods of skinning philatelists.

We think that the interests of philately are best served by sobriety, both in issues and in pricing.

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*EDITORIAL NOTE: The Editor wishes to apologise to subscribers and members of the Society for the delay in this issue and promises regular issues for the future.*

## **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.

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## SOCIETY NEWS

The annual general meeting of the Philatelic Society was held on Monday 5th January, 1981 at the Catholic Institute.

Dr. J.H. Mercieca, in his presidential address, spoke about the work of the Society and appealed to members to take an active part as possible in philatelic events. He stressed that the Society was as strong and influential as its members wanted it to be and expressed the hope that every single member would do his utmost to strengthen the Society.

The meeting then elected the following to the Committee of the Society for the year 1981:

Dr. J.H. Mercieca	— President
Dr. Alf. Bonnici	— Vice-President
Dr. Albert Ganado	— Hon. Secretary
Mr. Jos. Caruana Grech	— Hon. Treasurer
Mr. A.J. Tabone	— Assistant Secretary and Editor PSM Magazine
Mr. Ant. Fenech	— Assistant Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent
Mr. Vinc. Mercieca	— Public Relations Officer
Mr. J. Farrugia	— Assistant Editor
Mr. Godwin Farrugia	— Member
Lt. Col. W. Attard	— Member

The appointments to the various offices were made at the first meeting of the Committee.

During the first six months of the year the Society held one activity regularly during the first Monday of each month. Although some activities were better attended than others, it is a matter for regret that the President's appeal seems not to have been taken sufficiently to heart by many members.

# THE CLASSICAL STAMPS OF MALTA<sup>(1)</sup>

by MICHAEL LAWSON

## Background to the use of postage stamps in Malta

In 1800 following the surrender of the French the British entered Valletta and they appointed a Civil Commissioner, Captain Alexander Ball R.N., to re-organise the administration of the Island. As one of his tasks he set about improving the postal communications within the Island and the other Mediterranean countries. The result was that the delivery of letters became more regular, and indeed round about 1806 a packet service was established operating between Malta, Gibraltar, Faro, Lisbon and London.

In June 1853 a free internal post, run by the Government, was inaugurated. By March 1858 however it became compulsory for outgoing mail from Malta to be prepaid. Postage stamps had not yet been introduced although of course by now they were some 18 years old in Britain. British stamps therefore were used and these were cancelled in Malta. The M cancellation (that is the oval frame with horizontal lines surrounding a large letter M) was initially used. There is some evidence that this would have been used right through to about 1861 as the very earliest of the first Malta adhesive stamp the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow has been found in use up until about June 1861. The more usual hand stamp is however the A25. I shall, during the course of my talk, go into a little more detail on these postmarks. It would be quite wrong however not to mention the wavy line grid. Little is known definitely about this cancellation, but it is presumed by most researchers that it was used on letters coming from the Crimea.

In 1859 a decision was taken to print stamps specifically for local use in Malta. At the same time a decision was made to impose a local letter rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per half ounce. As Great Britain had no  $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps at that time it was decided to issue a  $\frac{1}{2}$ d postage stamp for local use only and thus was born the famous Malta  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow.

In 1883 the Government under William Gladstone was requested by the local administration in Malta to transfer the International Mail Service to their control. Up to this date control was still really with the British Authorities. This transfer took effect as from the 1st January 1885 and accordingly British stamps were no longer valid for postal purposes from Malta after the 31st December 1884. On the 1st January 1885 Malta's first definitive set was issued although it is still possible to continue using  $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellows on internal

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<sup>(1)</sup> This is the text of a paper read by Mr. Michael Lawson at the Royal Philatelic Society in London on the 8th January, 1981. Before reading out his paper Mr. Lawson tendered his acknowledgements to the Royal for their invitation and his thanks to Messrs G. Said and Bojanowicz for their assistance.

mail. Relatively few however have been used from that date although the reason for this may well be due to the peculiar shortage of the last printings of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow which I shall talk about a little later on.

## My display

I have given much thought to the contents of my talk. Some of you will be Malta enthusiasts with a high degree of knowledge. I hope some however will simply be Philatelists whose chosen interest lies elsewhere and will not wish to hear a technical paper which would perhaps be better aimed at a specialist audience. However the Royal is a Forum for research and knowledge and I will I hope during the course of my talk impart information not generally known or give forth some of my own ideas which will help the specialists in their own researches

I came to the conclusion when preparing for my talk that the subject "The Classical Stamps of Malta" should really be limited to the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow. I have however displayed some sheets of GB used in Malta but have deliberately confined this to stamps on their covers. I have also displayed some of the first definitive set of Malta if only to be able to show what I feel is one of the most beautiful stamps, the 5/-. I will therefore be confining my remarks almost entirely to the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d but ask to be forgiven if I draw your attention to one or two aspects of the GB used and also the later Victorian issues.

## GB Used in Malta

I have already referred in my opening remarks to the wavy line grid and I am sure most of you will have already noticed and spent a little time looking at what I feel is the most important cover relating to Malta that I have been fortunate enough to come across. It is a seaman's letter from a seaman on H.M.S. Viper, based in Malta, countersigned by the Commanding Officer and sent to Chatham. There are only three known covers with the wavy line grid, one being an embossed 1/- and the other a 1d red. It would seem that the cancellation would have been actually used in Malta on correspondence emanating from the Crimea although it is possible that it was also used on correspondence going out to service personnel in the Crimea.



You will see that there are illustrations of the M and A.25 cancellations on cover. Some of these are quite attractive multiples and I would draw your attention to some of the frankings that can be found on them. The forwarding agents would impress their own hand stamp and indeed an attractive collection can be built up of the hand stamps of the various forwarding agents. There is on display a nice strike of the so-called "Keyhole" franking. You will see also a nice strike of the Malta Ship Letter franking. Mail was sometimes conveyed between Malta and Britain by private ships who would affix their own franking. Postage would still have to be prepaid for transport of a letter from the docks to the address in England.

I have shown one or two examples of G.B. used in blocks. These are in fact quite scarce particularly in good condition. Of particular note there is the well known K variety on the 1864 1/-. If you look at the letter K on the top right hand stamp you will see that there is a white circle.

### Foreign Stamps used in Malta

It would be amiss of me not to mention briefly stamps of other countries which would have been posted on non-British ships en-route to Malta. They would normally have borne the stamp of the country where the ship was owned or registered and on arrival at Malta the stamps would have been cancelled with a Malta Post Office A25 cancellation and in later years with a Malta cancelled date stamp, sometimes a paquebot cachet. Although not strictly speaking stamps of Malta some of them themselves would have been considered classic, particularly the early French stamps.

### Halpenny yellows

I now come to the real substance of my talk and the display this evening of the ½d Yellow, the Classical Stamp of Malta. I shall preface my remarks with a word of explanation on the numbering of the stamp according to Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. Until about two years ago Stanley Gibbons numbered the ½d Yellow from 1 to 19 and in building up my collection I followed this. There has been considerable debate over the years about the cataloguing of the ½d Yellow and whether variations in shade should merit a separate classification. I do not wish to enter into this debate although I do see logic in the argument that only a variation of colour (as opposed to shade) or perforation or water mark or paper should warrant a separate catalogue number. The shades of colour were usually as a result of a different printing and I personally feel that the stamp should either be classified as Said has by only 9 separate catalogue numbers or alternatively, if it is to be printing, then the full 30 printings would have to be listed (or 29 depending on the view which one takes of the pale buff on unwatermarked white paper which I discuss later).

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On the 30th April 1859 an order was sent to the Crown Agents for the Colonies who in turn then commissioned Messrs de la Rue & Co. to proceed with the engraving of a die and to print the stamps. It is thought that the designer is J.F. Joubert de la Ferté who had produced some 11 die proofs of the Queen's head and these are found in a book bearing his name. The seventh one which was prepared by him in March 1859 was used for the Malta ½d which in fact shows that a design was not specially commissioned for Malta. The next one in the book which he prepared in 1862 was used for the 1885 issue. The first consignment of stamps was sent from London to Malta in August 1859 but were not issued to the public until the 1st December 1860.

It is here worth recounting the various stages in the preparation of the stamp. The first step is the preparation of the design, known as an Essay, they would have been submitted to the Postal Authority and either accepted or unaccepted and marked accordingly. If accepted they were usually marked "approved" and may have been dated and signed by the official to whom they were submitted for approval. I have not however come across any Essays "approved" or otherwise which relate to the ½d Yellow although they do exist for the 1885 issues. Once accepted the engraving of the approved design was made on specially prepared steel plates. The surface of these plates had been carefully polished and then softened to enable the engraving to be carried out. The engraving would have been obviously in the reverse and it is known as a die. During the course of preparing the die, proofs were taken to check the progress of the die. These proofs were known as "progressive proofs" and when completed were known as the "die proofs". At this stage a complete proof was made and marked "before hardening" which was then submitted for final checking and approval. The plate was then hardened and the further proof marked "after hardening" taken. An impression of the die was then transferred to a Transfer Roller and then subsequently from the Roller to the printing plate. The plate was made by impressing on the sheet of steel or copper the required number of impressions of the stamp (i.e. the Die) in rows.

Later on De La Rue introduced a new process which again involved the use of a steel die but which was struck on a lead sheet creating a lead mould. Proofs were taken before and after the die had been used for striking the mould in order to check for damage and these proofs are marked "before striking" or "after striking" as appropriate. It should be further mentioned that de la Rue put impressions from the dies into their own striking book usually with dates, plate numbers and various other references or instructions that would have been written in manuscript.

I have been able to find a colour die proof of the ½ Yellow which is on glazed card. I also have a proof in black but there is nothing to indicate whether it would have been the die proof itself or simply a cut down proof at one of the later stages. I have been told of the existence of a die proof dated

21st June 1859 and also of one marked in pencil "after hardening" June 28/59 but have not had the opportunity of actually seeing these.

In my collection I have endeavoured to show with the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow, as indeed I did with all issues of Malta stamps, the progressive stage of the stamps so far as I could, namely by starting with Essays (where I was fortunate enough to be able to acquire copies) then the progressive die proofs, die proofs and then finally the stamp itself. The specimen overprint is however something that should be mentioned. Copies of the final stamp when issued were sent to the U.P.U. for distribution to member countries shortly before the actual issue so that they may be aware of the stamps. These were overprinted specimens or later on from about 1930 they were perforated but this did not of course apply to the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow. There are several varieties known of this overprint as additional copies were obviously sent to the U.P.U. when there was a change of colour. The first  $\frac{1}{2}$ d on blue paper has the overprint in two slightly different sizes. Later on in 1870 and also subsequently in 1874 the word "cancelled" appears instead of "specimen". These cancelled stamps were for use by the U.P.U. I show in my collection an imperforate specimen which was a plate proof. It is not clear whether this was for use simply by de la Rue or the Malta Postal Authorities or whether in fact it went to the U.P.U. for them to approve the colour, probably round about 1874.

The first issue was on what was known as Blued Paper without watermark. I show an imperforate copy which must have been a proof as there is no evidence to show that any of the sheets actually issued were imperforate. I also show an imperforate on white paper which is believed to be unique. It has a Crown CC Watermark and probably is the 1863 (fourth printing) and again I would submit that it is probably a proof rather than an error. The first cancellation used was the M obliteration and I am lucky enough to have the only recorded pair on cover and indeed this cover must be considered the Classic Entire of Malta. As it is unfortunately undated there is no explanation as to why the pair was used. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who can give me any information on this rarity. Dated covers of SG1 are extremely rare and only about a dozen have been recorded. It is presumed that the M cancellation was only used during December 1860 as the 19mm single ring Malta cancelled date stamp was used from the 3d January 1861. Multiples of SG1 are extremely scarce. Blocks of four are known and I have calculated that there are in fact about six extant. Of these however three that I have come across are in poor condition. Pairs are equally as scarce. There is one large multiple block of ten. When I first came across it in Geneva in 1978 it was severed in two places although when it recently appeared again in London some restoration had been carried out.

The next printing was in August 1861 and, according to the De La Rue invoices, a third printing was in September 1862. This is where there is much debate as it is generally agreed that the second printing in August 1861 was brown orange and the third printing in September 1862 was either buff or pale buff. It is clear from the stamps that I show in my collection that there were buff coloured stamps in use as early as the 2nd April 1862 as I show a pair on cover and also a single both dated with that date. This is some five months before officially the buff and pale buff stamps with no watermark on white paper were issued according to the De La Rue invoices. I further show some singles dated 24th February 1863 and 2nd May 1863 which I feel can be distinguished from the two covers I exhibit a little further in the collection and which are dated 1st May 1863 and 30th May 1863 and which I am happy to agree are what was formerly known as SG<sub>4</sub> and what are generally now accepted as being the third printing. I find it difficult to accept that these earlier stamps are variations of the brown orange that was issued in August 1861. They are too distinct. It seems to me that there was a pale buff issued sometime between August 1861 and September 1862 and this stamp is the printing that was formerly catalogued by Stanley Gibbons as SG<sub>2</sub> and is now catalogued as SG<sub>3</sub>(A). I would argue therefore that there are 30 printings and not 29, excluding of course the printing in 1884 in green.

From the fourth printing in April 1863 watermarked paper was used. Initially the watermark was Crown C on white paper with perforation 14. In May 1878 and January 1879 a new perforating machine was introduced. (14 x 12½) perforating the stamps close to the margins and doing away with the wings but by November 1879 they had reverted to perforation 14. This continued right the way through until 1882 when the Crown CA watermark was introduced.

I am not attempting this afternoon to give you an analysis of all the various printing. The excellent work produced by the Malta Study Circle which in turn made use of material produced by the various researchers sets out details of all the 29 printings of the ½d Yellow and the one printing which is in green but not the pale buff that I argue was an additional printing in 1862.

There are considerable varieties known although I have not attempted to deal with them either in my display or this talk. Most of them relate to very minor flaws but do provide interesting research much of which has been capably reproduced by the Malta Study Circle in publication. There are however the main variety of watermarks namely inverted and reversed and where these are known I have attempted to obtain copies and these are displayed. A reverse watermark can be found on the 8th printing (formerly known as SG<sub>5</sub>) and both inverted and reversed will be found on the 11th printing (formerly SG<sub>10</sub> or 11).

DUE OUT IN OCTOBER:

**SAID MALTA STAMP AND  
POSTAL HISTORY CATALOGUE 1982**  
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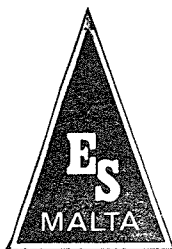
**SAID S.M.O.M. STAMP AND  
COIN CATALOGUE 1982**  
(First Edition) Price: £M1

— o —

DUE OUT IN NOVEMBER:

**SAID MALTA COIN, BANKNOTE  
AND MEDAL CATALOGUE 1982**  
(First Edition) Price: £M1

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Particular mention should however be made of the rough perforation 12½ introduced in May 1868 and also what I feel is one of the more attractive of the colours, the golden yellow introduced in January 1874. Whilst mentioning this stamp there is an interesting post mark in my collection on one of these stamps which I have been unable to identify and any assistance would be most welcome.

In my collection I have endeavoured to keep a balance between multiples and covers. What has been interesting is that with one or two of the printings which are quite common on cover it has been very difficult to come across multiples and vice versa. The stamps which are common in multiples are often quite scarce on cover. Perhaps the most obvious of these are the last two printings in 1884. These are extremely common in all sorts of multiples and there are several sheets known. Try and find good used copies however and you will see what I mean that copies on covers are extremely scarce. There is an explanation that has been given to me which I will recount to you for what it is worth. Apparently the majority of the sheets of the stamps were purchased by a mail order company. I am told that in fact it was for the distribution of advertising matter in England as there had been an increase in postal rates there which made it cheaper to post from Malta but this I have not been able to substantiate. However before the mailing took place there was a fire at the premises where the stamps were held. Which were destroyed. The stamps however had been kept in some form of fire-proof box and were discovered subsequently. As a result over the years vast quantities of these stamps appeared on the market and indeed I believe that they were purchased at one stage by a well known name within the stamp world who has systematically over the years put them out on the market at appropriate intervals. Certainly however sheets are constantly appearing and the stamp is nearly always found in unmounted condition but very few used examples appear.

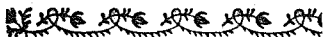
Those of you who have already viewed the display would have noticed some covers with multiples. I show three covers with five stamps on them which I believe are the largest known multiples. There is also a block of the 1866 printing which is one of the only two used blocks that I have come across.

Finally I have in the collection what may or may not be a genuine copy of the perforation 12½ x 14. The Royal collection has an unused pair but there is no record of the stamp ever being issued. I hesitate to say that my copy is genuine although there have been reports of its existence. It may

however be that it is my copy to which reference was being made. Since there has apparently never been any attempt to market the stamp and it is the only one which anyone seems to have come across it may well be that a copy did slip out.

I have endeavoured to give you some of the background to the stamps in my display and at the same time hope that I have not said anything too controversial. I rather fancy that agreement will never be reached on the number of printings, and indeed there will always be arguments between collectors and dealers alike on the classification of some of the colours.

Finally I would again like to thank the President of the Royal Philatelic Society and his Officers for having invited me to give this display and to the Secretary Mr Griffiths for the assistance that he so kindly gave. To all of you I extend my thanks for having troubled to come and listen to me and I hope that what I have said would have been of some interest.



## AWARDS TO SOCIETY MEMBERS

At the WIPA International held in May 1981 members of the Society from Malta gained the following awards

Vermeil — Godwin Said — Collection of Malta Postal History

Silver Bronze — Emm. Said — Said Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue 1980.



# NEW METAL HAND DATE-STAMPS FOR JANUARY 1980

By

KARM. SCICLUNA BONNICI

In the Government Gazette of 3st December, 1979, the Postmaster General notified for public information that new metal hand date-stamps were being put in use, in Malta and Gozo, during January 1980. The date, number and place of use were as follows:

On the 8th January, 6 were used at the Central Mail Room and 4 at the Parcel Post Office.

On the 11th January, 4 were used at the Paola Branch Post Office, 3 at the Cospicua B.P.O., and 3 at the Birkirkara B.P.O.

On the 16th January, 1 was used at Hamrun B.P.O., 1 at Gżira B.P.O., 1 at Rabat B.P.O., 2 at Victoria B.P.O. Gozo and 2 at Mgarr B.P.O. Gozo.

In this article, the specific use of the first six, i.e. those used at the Central Mail Room, is being examined. These hand-stamps are similar to those used between 1957 and 1977. They contain the time, day, month and year slugs, with "VALLETTA" and "MALTA" arched in between the double rings. All six were put into use at the Sorting Room of the Central Mail Room, on the 8th January, 1980.

## Use in the Sorting Room

The Senior Officer at the Sorting Room was instructed to make use of eight metal hand date-stamps in the Sorting Room for the day-to-day work as was the case before 1977. Besides the six new metal hand date-stamps, the best two of the four introduced on 1st December 1977, were also retained, to make up the eight required.

## New System of Use

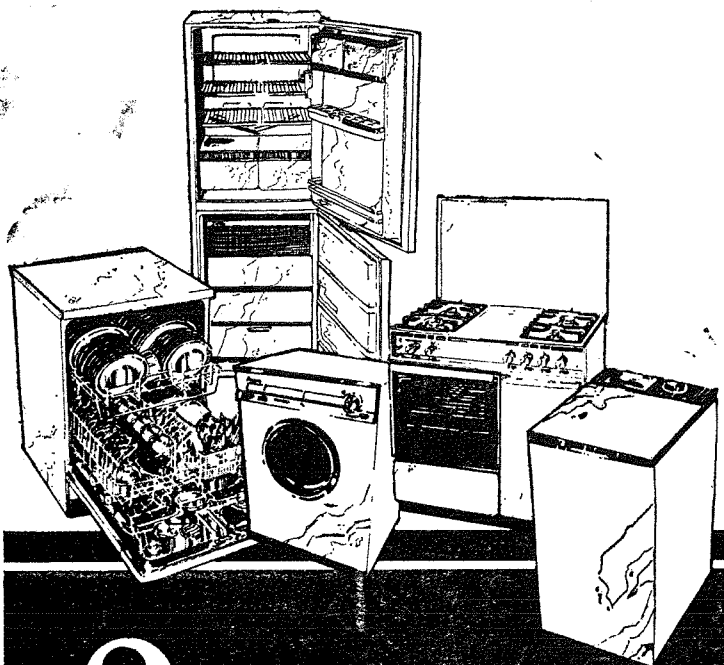
The eight metal hand date-stamps were put in use as follows:

Three of the new six for the morning duty, with the time codes 7 a.m. — 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The other three during the afternoon duty with the time codes, 2.30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.

The two hand metal date-stamps retained for use from the 1977 group, were put in use with the time codes, 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Sometimes there would be mail incoming during the day, and on these occasions, time codes are changed to meet the situation as required. From the records kept no incoming mail was registered on the first day of the "New System".



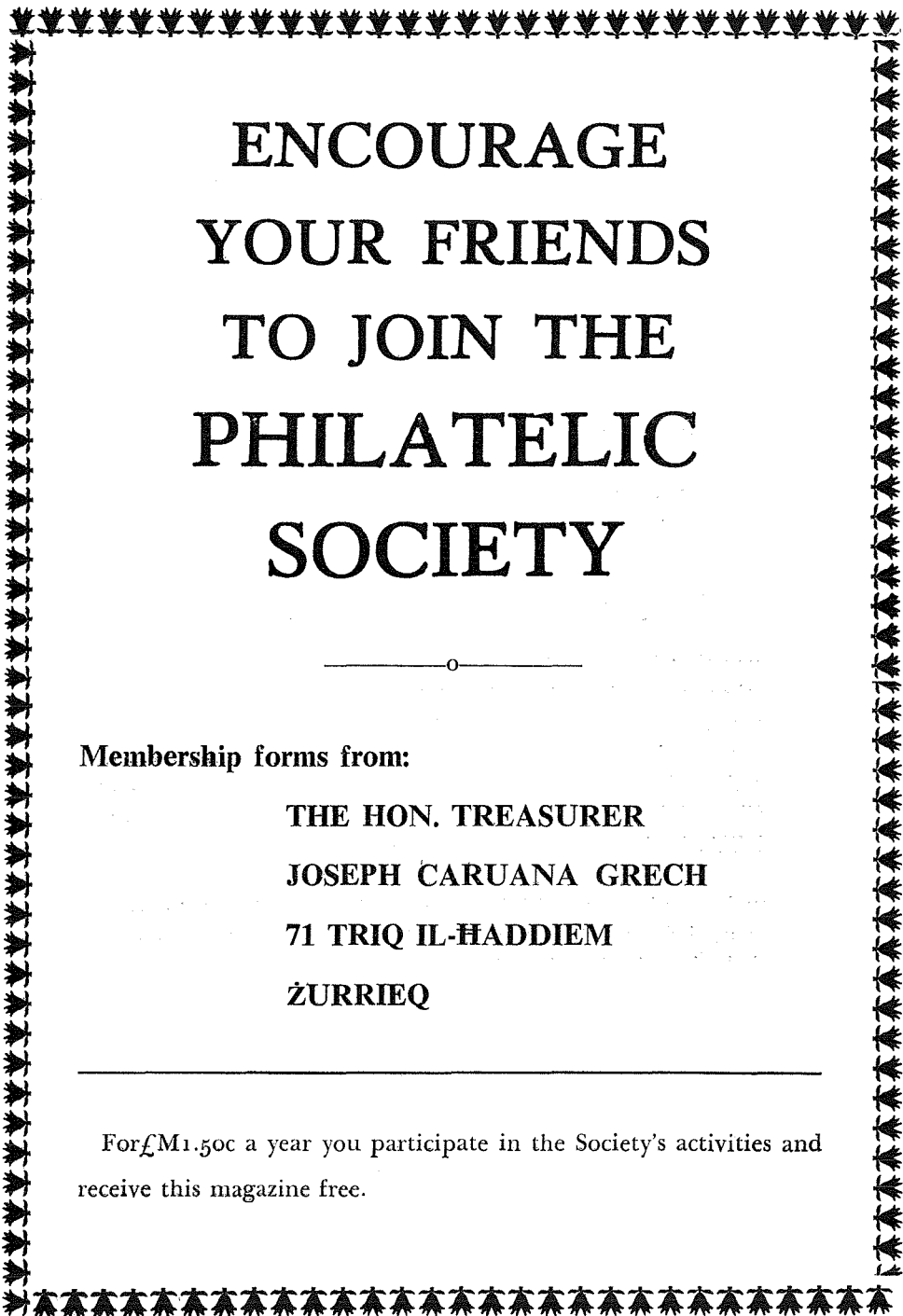
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## Previous use and marks of the two retained hand-stamps

Since some time after their first use on 1st December 1977, and up to the introduction of the "New System" on 8th January 1980, the previous metal hand date-stamps were used at any time during the day. From records and marks of the two retained hand date-stamps, there are strong indications, that generally, they were used with the time codes of 2.30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

The hand-stamp which was generally used at 2.30 p.m. found its place in the "New System" with the new time code of 6 a.m. During the first months of 1979, this hand-stamp suffered a severe blow which caused a break in its outer circle, on the bottom left hand part. This is exactly opposite the lower part of the arc spacer. It was used with the time code 6 a.m. on the first day of the "New System", i.e. on the 8th January, 1980. The other hand-stamp which was generally used with the time code 5 p.m. found its place in the "New System" with the time code 8 p.m. No special marks are visible except those of normal wear and tear from considerable use. It was noticed that this hand-stamp was not used on the 8th January, 1980, as the 8 p.m. mail was cancelled by one of the new six metal hand-stamps.

## Withdrawn metal hand-stamps

It is known that four metal hand-stamps were withdrawn from use at 8 a.m.

Two of these were those introduced in 1977.

Another one was from those introduced in 1957/58. The "Indoors Postmen" were responsible for it, up to the time of its withdrawal. It was used by them during the whole day. This hand-stamp has quite a story and I nick-named it "Wide Malta", because of the wider space between the "L" and the "T" of MALTA. This hand-stamp can be seen on the first Air Malta Flights of 1974.

The fourth hand-stamp withdrawn was also introduced in 1957/58 and was generally used for the 6 a.m. time code. It was completely worn out and was not used during the last few days before its withdrawal. The hand-stamp I have nick-named "Wide Malta" was used in its place.

## Still in use

The only metal hand date-stamp still in use out of the twelve introduced in 1957, is the one on the counter of the Registered Letter Branch. An article, "The Mysterious Hand-Stamp", tracing the movements of this hand-stamp, was published in the "Spring 1980" issue of our magazine.

# DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT NEW ISSUES

by JOSEPH FARRUGIA

## CHESS OLYMPIAD ISSUE

Date of Issue .....	20th November, 1980.
Values .....	2c5, 8c and 30c.
Stamp Size .....	2c5 and 8c — 38mm x 20mm. 30c — 20mm x 38mm.
Designer .....	Harry Borg.
Printers .....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process .....	Lithography.
Perforation .....	2c5 and 8c — 13.5 x 13.9. 30c — 13.9 x 13.5.
Watermark .....	Maltese Crosses pointing upright on 2c5 and 8c values, and pointing sideways on 30c value.
Paper .....	Chalk surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.

### Colour

The colour of these stamps was produced by patchwork using multicolours.

### Designs

The issue of this set commemorated the holding of the 1980 F.I.D.E. Congress and Chess Olympiads in Malta, from the 20th November to 8th December.

The first recorded Maltese chess enthusiast, Leone Benjacar, started to organise games of chess locally in 1880, so this set also commemorates the centenary of the organised game in Malta. Such an important event as the holding of the 1980 Chess Olympiads, is a most fitting occasion, to mark this centenary.

Malta became a member of the F.I.D.E. in 1959 and first took part in a Chess Olympiad in Leipzig in 1960. Although one of the smallest member nations of F.D.E., Malta has now been honoured with the holding of the Olympiads, thanks to the help and support of the Malta Government and the unstinted efforts of local and foreign chess enthusiasts.

The Olympiads were held in the Exhibition Hall of the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, which was made available by the Malta Government. This hall is 161 metres in length, and is believed to be one of the longest halls in Europe. It can host under one roof, for the first time ever, all the male and female participants in the Chess Olympiads. Teams from more than 100 member nations of F.I.D.E. took part in this Chess Olympiad.

Congratulations also to Mr. Harry Borg, the designer of this beautiful set, to commemorate such a unique occasion.

The 2c5 and 30c value stamps show 2 and 3 chess pieces respectively with bastions as background. The 8c value stamp shows 2 chess pieces with the Mediterranean Conference Centre as background.

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 in the 30c value and next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows in the 2c5 and 8c values. As the Printed Sheets of the three values are not all made up in the same way, it is useful to remind again that a Pane of stamps is looked at in such a way, that the Plate/Pane number are at the left of the bottom margin. In this issue the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left in the 2c5 and 8c values and from left to right in the 30c value.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins of all Panes. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in black.

The Printed Sheets of all three values consisted of four Panes, "A", "B", "C" and "D". Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps in the 30c value and five rows of ten stamps in the 2c5 and 8c values. The 30c stamp is of the vertical format whilst the 2c5 and 8c stamps are of the horizontal format.

### Plate/Pane Numbers

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

2c5 = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5, 1D x 5.





8c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6, 1D x 6.





30c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5, 1D x 5.

### Perforation of Margins

In the 2c5 and 8c values, the left hand margin of Panes "A", "B", "C" and "D" are imperforate, whilst the top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are fully perforated.

In the 30c value, the top margin of Panes "A", "B", "C" and "D" are imperforate, whilst the left hand, right hand and bottom margins of these same Panes, are fully perforated.

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

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

From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheets, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown above left, for the 2c5 and 8c values, and above right for the 30c value. In this way, stamps of all values, would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is upright on the 2c5 and 8c values, and sideways on the 30c value.

### Imprint Blocks

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row on the 2c5 and 8c values, and under the last two stamps of the bottom row on the 30c value. 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 of philatelic mail on the first day of issue. The postmark inscribed, "L-Ewwel Jum tal-Hruġ — Malta — 20 Nov. 1980", also included the name of the respective locality and the 1980 Chess Olympiad's emblem.

This set will remain on sale up to Saturday, 27th June, 1981, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Sale of stamps from this set, by 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue, realized the sum of £M52,881.

## BIRDS ISSUE

Date of Issue .....	20th January 1981.
Values .....	3c, 8c, 12c and 23c.
Stamp Size .....	26.43mm x 35.016mm.
Designer .....	Maurice Tanti Burlò.
Printers .....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process .....	Lithography.
Perforation .....	13.4 x 13.5.
Watermark .....	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper .....	Chalked surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.

### Colour

The colour of these stamps was produced by printing in multicolour.

### Designs

The four birds selected for this issue by the Malta Postal Administration all breed in Malta. They are also protected under the bird protection regulations and as such they cannot be shot or have their nests disturbed. Recent Maltese legislation for the protection of birds and other game will benefit both local and international bird conservation. The declaration of Ghadira Pool as a National Nature Reserve, together with the establishment of the new local bird sanctuaries, show that Malta is now playing its full part in wildlife conservation.

The four birds depicted on this set are:

3c — TYTO ALBA ("Barbagann" — Barn Owl — 34cm.) has a striking heart shaped facial disc. It has white underparts and pale golden buff upperparts with large pale grey markings. Its long feathered legs, with strong claws, enable it to catch and secure its prey which consists mainly of rats and mice.

8c — SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA ("Bufula Sewda" — Sardinian Warbler — 13cm) is one of the commonest warblers found breeding in the Maltese Islands. The greyish male has a jet-black head, whilst the female is browner and has a grey head. Both have a white throat, a reddish eye ring and a broad rounded tail with white outer feathers. Around mid-February a nest is built in a low shrub and two to five eggs are laid. Both birds take part in incubation and two, sometimes three, broods are reared in a season.

12c — LANIUS SENATOR — ("Kaččamendula" — Woodchat Strike — 17cm) has a chestnut crown and nape, with black forehead, cheeks, back, wings and tail. It has white shoulder patches, wing bars, rump and outer tail feathers. The throat and breast are also white. The few pairs which stay to breed build their nest in a leafy tree top. Five eggs are laid in May or June.

23c — HYDROBATES PELAGICUS ("Kangu ta' Filfla" — Storm Petrel — 15cm) is the smallest European seabird. It is black all over including the bill and webbed feet, having only a white rump. The Storm Petrel is seen near the mainland only at night and during the breeding season. It breeds in large colonies, and in the Maltese Islands, the only colony is confined to the islet of Filfla. A single egg is laid between mid-May and the end of June on bare ground in holes, crevices or burrows.

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 all values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. The colour in the case of the 3c, 8c and 12c values, is that of the bottom colour of the colour checks, and on the 23c value, it is that of the bottom colour but one. In each case however, it is the fifth colour from the top of the colour checks.

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. All stamps are of the vertical format.

### Plate/Pane Numbers

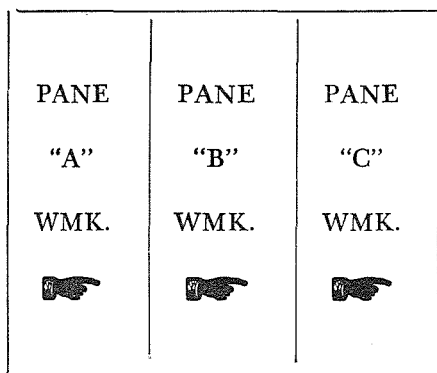
These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row and also extending on the left hand margin, in all Panes of all values.



$3c = 1A \times 5, 1B \times 5, 1C \times 5.$   
 $8c = 1A \times 5, 1B \times 5, 1C \times 5.$   
 $12c = 1A \times 5, 1B \times 5, 1C \times 5.$   
 $23c = 1A \times 6, 1B \times 6, 1C \times 6.$

### Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes A, B and C of all values are imperforate. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. In some "A" Panes of different value, registration lines could be seen in the top left hand corner, whilst the same could be seen on some "C" Panes, but in the top right hand corner.



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.

### Imprint Blocks

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row and also extending on the right hand margin in all Panes of all values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in the same colours as those for the progressive cumulative totals of columns of stamps. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp, which also incorporates the line drawing of a bird, was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. By 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue, sales amounted to £M57,344. This set will remain on sale up to Thursday, 16th July, 1981, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

## FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

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This new feature is aimed at giving members information about the issues from the more popular collecting countries and about the more popular themes.

1981 saw, or has yet to see, three major issues of the omnibus type, namely, the Royal Wedding issue, the sets commemorating the International Year for the Handicapped and those for the 1981 World Food Day.

The wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer in July gave rise to the issue of a maxi-omnibus, both by Commonwealth countries and by others which have no conceivable connection with the Royal House of the United Kingdom. As usual on such occasions the philatelist's appetite was whetted by a variety of attractive, and generally costly, presentations. Unfortunately many of these had little or no philatelic value and, some, even less artistic merit. At the last count over forty countries had issued stamps, souvenir sheets, sheetlets, gutter strips, booklets and what-have-you. A number of 'local' issues with no postal validity have also seen the light of day.

The other two events have been, or are being, commemorated in a much more restrained manner. Even here, however, postal administrations, or their advisers, seem reluctant not to seek to fleece philatelists. Collectors are therefore well advised to stay away from territories whose only aim seems to be that of getting as much money out of them as possible.

Having been so critical in a general way one cannot but praise those postal administrations who still realise that the main object of a stamp is for it to be used on mail.

# MALTA — A DIARY

September-December 1980

5-9-80

The 4m stamp of the present 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.

12-9-80

The results of the 1980 Chess Olympiads Stamp Design Competition were announced in today's Government Gazette. The set of designs submitted by Mr. Harry Borg, under the nom-de-plume "ALBA" has been placed first. The two sets submitted by Mr. Charles Azzopardi and Mr. Marco Cali, under the nom-de-plume "ALEKHINE" and "DOOLING" have been placed second and third respectively. The twenty-six sets entered in the competition were exhibited at the G.P.O. from 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on the 15th, 16th and 17th September 1980.

24-9-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "World Maritime Day — 26 September 1980 — Maritime Training — For Safer Shipping — And Clearer Oceans", was used on the 24th, 25th and 26th September 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

26-9-80

The 1c, 3c and 4c stamps of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set have been reprinted by Printex Limited. These three stamps were available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

27-9-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "World Tourism Day — 27 September 1980" was used on the 27th September, 1980 at the Central Mail Room.

The logo of the World Tourism Organisation is also incorporated in the slogan.

29-9-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed "Next Stamp Issue — Christmas '80 Set — 7 October 1980", was used during the period 29th September to 6th October, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

1-10-80

The Postmaster General notified that the sale of Airport Passenger Service

Charge Stamps from the Post Office shall cease with effect from Wednesday, 1st October, 1980.

#### **7-10-80**

Christmas Set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of Philatelic Mail at the G.P.O. and at all B.P.O.'s and Sub-Post Offices.

#### **9-10-80**

A special hand-postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room on the 9th October, 1980, to mark the 11th Universal Postal Union Day.

The hand-postmark incorporates the emblem of the Universal Postal Union and is inscribed: "The Universal Postal Union Day — 9.10.1980 — Valletta — Malta".

#### **14-10-80**

The 2c stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been re-printed by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

#### **31-10-80**

At the sorting room of the Central Mail Room at Castille Place, five new hand-stamps (endorsements) were used as from today. These were:

- (a) Found Posted Unaddressed (52mm x 5 mm and 54mm x 5mm).
- (b) Found Posted In This Condition (57mm x 5mm and 58mm x 5mm).
- (c) Damaged By Stamping Machine (44mm x 4mm and 61mm x 5mm).
- (d) Received In This Condition (50mm x 5mm and 58mm x 4.5mm).
- (e) Received By Wrapper Torn (54mm x 5mm and 56mm x 5mm).

#### **31-10-80**

The 5c stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been re-printed by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

#### **3-11-80**

A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Next Stamp Issue — 1980 Chess Olympiads Set — 20 November 1980" was used, on and off, during the period 3rd November to 19th November 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

#### **3-11-80**

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Għinu t-Tfal fil-Bżonn —

Użaw il-Bolli tal-Milied", was used, on and off, during the period 3rd November to 24th December, 1980, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan means: "Help Needy Children — Use Christmas Set Stamps".

**7-11-80**

The 10c stamp of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been re-printed by Printex Limited. This stamp was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

**12-11-80**

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "L-Elettriku — Hu Bżonnjuż — Użah bil-Għaqal", was used, on and off, during the period 17th November to 12th December, 1980 at the Central Mail Room. The slogan means: "Electricity — Is Essential — Use It with Care".

**12-11-80**

The Postmaster General notified that a special hand-postmark, to mark the XIX Edition of the Golden Knight International Amateur Film Festival, was to be used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room, Castille, on the 12th November, 1980.

The postmark is inscribed: "XIX Golden Knight International Amateur Film Festival — Malta — 12.XI.80".

**14-11-80**

In today's Government Gazette the Postmaster General notified that a stamp design competition was to be held in connection with the Europa 1981 stamp issue. The theme of this issue will be Maltese Folklore. The set will consist of two stamps featuring different designs corresponding to any of the following three local events:

- (i) inauguration of "Lampuki" fishing season at Marsaxlokk;
- (ii) greasy pole, (ġostru);
- (iii) traditional horse races held on the occasion of local feasts.

**20-11-80**

"Chess Olympiad" set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail. The postmark is inscribed: "L-Ewwel Jum tal-Ħruġ — Malta — 20 Nov. 1980", the name of the respective locality and also incorporates the 1980 Chess Olympiad emblem.

**20-11-80**

The Postmaster General notified that on the occasion of the holding of the 1980 Congress of the International Federation of Chess (F.I.D.E.) and World

Chess Olympiads, a Temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the "Mediterranean Conference Centre", Valletta. This Branch Post Office was to be open from Thursday, 20th November to Saturday, 6th December, 1980, excluding Sundays, as follows:

20th November 1980 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

21st November to 6th December 1980 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The following postal business was to be transacted

- (a) Sale of Postage 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 post-marked with a special hand date-stamp inscribed with the following words:

"F.I.D.E. Congress and World Chess Olympiads — 1980 — Valletta — Malta".

Persons wishing to avail themselves of the services of the Philatelic Bureau in obtaining First Day Covers of the 1980 F.I.D.E. Congress and Chess Olympiads commemorative stamps, or an impression of the special postmark that was to be used at this Temporary Branch Post Office, were to submit their requirements in writing to the Officer-in-Charge Philatelic Bureau, not later than the 18th November, 1980.

#### **27-11-80**

To mark the completion of the work by UNESCO as well as the 20th anniversary of the international campaign to save the monuments of Nubia, a machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "UNESCO 1960-1980 — Victory in Nubia" was used at the Central Mail Room on the 27th, 28th and 29th November 1980.

The slogan also incorporates an image of the Pavilion of Trajan submerged under the water of the Nile.

#### **2-12-80**

The 5m and 1c3 stamps of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set have been reprinted by Printex Limited.

These two stamps were available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.

#### **3-12-80**

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "VIII Malta — Philatelic Exhibition — G.P.O. 9-16 Dec. 1980" was used, on and off, during the period 3rd to 15th December, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

9-12-80

The Postmaster General notified that on the occasion of the holding of the VIII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1980, a Temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the Auberge d'Italie, Valletta, at the place where the Exhibition was to be held. This Branch Post Office was to be opened from the 9th December to the 16th December, 1980.

The hours of business of this Temporary Branch Post Office were:

Tuesday 9th December 1980 — 1 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday 10th December to Tuesday, 16th December, 1980, (except Saturday, 13th and Sunday, 14th December), — 8.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December, 1980 — 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

The following postal business was transacted

- (a) Sale of Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery.
- (b) Registration of letters.
- (c) Issue and payment of Money and Postal Orders.
- (d) Sale of commemorative medals.

Letters posted at the VIII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1980, Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked with a date-stamp inscribed with the following words "It-VIII Wirja Filatelika, Valletta" meaning, "The VIII Philatelic Exhibition 1980, Valletta". To mark the occasion of the VIII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1980, the Department of Posts issued a commemorative medal and a specially designed cover.

The bronze gold-plated medals are serially numbered and issued with a certificate indicating the respective number of the medal and the total number of medals cast. The medal reproduces on the obverse the 6c stamp of the Restoration of Monuments issue depicting the Vilhena Palace, Mdina and on the reverse the Ta' Qali National Stadium.

Cased medals at £M4.50 each and special covers at 5c each may have been obtained from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. and from the Temporary Branch Post Office from the 9th to the 16th December, 1980. A limited number of medals of the 1971, 1974, 1975 and 1977 Malta Exhibitions were also available for sale at the price of £M4.75 each.

26-12-80

A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jum il-Paċi — 1 ta' Jannar — Peace Lab. — Malta" was used at the Central Mail Room on working days during the period 26th-31st December, 1980. The slogan also incorporates a line drawing of the Peace Laboratory, Malta, and a dove symbolizing peace. The slogan means: "Day of Peace — 1 January — Peace Lab. — Malta".

## ERRATA CORIGGE

In previous articles on "Detailed Information of New Issues" the Following Plate/Pane Numbers were not printed.

Restoration of Monuments Issue (Vol. 10 No. 2)

2c5 = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

6c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

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

Christmas Issue 1980 (Vol. 10 No. 3)

2c + 5m = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

6c + 1c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

8c + 1c5 = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

12c + 3c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

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**A VISIT TO THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY — LONDON**

**THURSDAY, 8th JANUARY, 1981**

By GRAHAM SMEED

I was invited to attend a meeting of 'The Royal' on the occasion of the lecture by Michael Lawson on the subject of Classic Issues of Malta. I was the guest of Gerald Davis, a well known postal historian and author of several works about India and Burma. Before the lecture started Gerald gave me a conducted tour of the museum and library housed in several rooms. The museum had several glass cases displaying a wide range of old handstamps and ephemera associated with days gone by, while in an adjoining room there were displayed round the walls and in glass cases, some of the litho stones used to produce early issues of India, the dies, transfer rollers and parts of plates from many Colonial issues (I did not notice any Malta), and examples of the gauze from 'Danny Rolls' with bits attached that were used to make the water-marks in the paper.

Leaving the museum rooms we passed through a room containing bound volumes of old journals, including the predecessors of Stamp Collecting and Gibbons Monthly etc., and then on into further library rooms each containing many volumes carefully indexed to enable the researcher easy access to a wide range of esoteric topics. There only appeared to be about six publications devoted entirely to Malta, so hope our Handbook will soon join their ranks.



At four o'clock the rattle of teacups heralded the start of serious business with a dash by most of those present to reach the biscuits!

After a general chat and informal discussions everyone started to drift towards the meeting room and promptly at five o'clock the President, Mr. Ron Butler F.R.P.S.L., opened the proceedings and introduced Mr. Michael Lawson who then read his paper on the Classic Issues of Malta. He outlined the early postal history of the Island and introduction of the stamps of Great Britain at the Packet Agency in Valletta and the stages through which the postal service changed over the years until the Malta Post Office issued U.P.U. accepted adhesives in 1885. He outlined many points in the talk by referring to some of the exceptional items on display and also thanked many eminent philatelists and dealers who had helped in his researches.

The material displayed ranged from issues of Great Britain used in Malta, with several entries, also some unusual frankings and large used blocks cancelled A25, e.g. 4d. brown block of 12; 6d. overprint, block of 4, 1/- orange-brown, block of 6 etc., other unusual items included singles, a pair, and a cover with the wavy line grid, a cover with the Malta-Palermo 'key-hole' strike dated 1865, several maritime covers with Piroscafi marks also two superb registered covers dated 1864 and 1874, and very clear strike of the MALTA SHIP LETTER handstamp. These all preceded the main part of the display which was a study of the ½d. yellow, showing numerous examples of shades, watermarks, perforations, die proofs, plate proofs, specimens including a gutter margin of 12 copies overprinted CANCELLED. Several of the shades were shown used on entries, while others were displayed in large mint blocks of 6, 12, 15, 24 also two complete panes of the 1882 printing.

Some of the more unusual items shown included, Sperati forgeries, a rather dubious example of the B31 cancellation, a blue 'star burst' patterned cancel of unknown status as well as faked imperforate and faked perforations  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ . To conclude this erudite study was a cover with five ½d. yellows used well after the last issue date, 3-12-02, and examples of the first U.P.U. series of definitives of 1885, and a fine used block of four of the 1886 5/, postmarked VALLETTA (C.O.) 20 AU 02.

After some brief comments from the floor and presentation of a token to Mr Lawson, everyone was invited to look at the exhibits, and many found it difficult to conclude discussions in the room so adjourned to a nearby hostelry!

I found my visit most enlightening and company of so many eminent philatelists a very awesome occasion which I shall remember for a long time.

## SOME RECENT ISSUES

### COMMONWEALTH

AUSTRALIA: July 15; 5c 25c, 30c, 50c, 55c; remaining 5 in series of 6 new definitive stamps to go with new postal rates. August 19; 24c, 35c, 55c, 60c; Australian Fungi.

ANTIGUA: March 31st; 6c, 10c, 20c, 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c, \$1, \$2.50, \$5, \$10. Independence 1981.

BANGLADESH: August (date unknown); 50p, 4.00 Tk; International Year for Disabled Persons.

BOTSWANA: July 13; 6T, 10T, 30T, 45T; 1st Anniversary of the Death of Sir Seretse Khama.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND: August 10; 24c, 30c, 40c, 60c; Reptiles of the Indian Ocean.

GUERNSEY: August 25; 8p, 12p, 18p, 22p, 25p; Inter-Island Transport.

MALAYSIA: August (date unknown and denomination unknown); 100th Anniversary of Sabah.

LESOTHO: April 20; 1s, 2s, 3s, 5s, 6s, 7s, 10s, 25s, 40s, 60s, 75s, M1, M2, M5; Birds.

NORFOLK ISLAND: June 5; 5c, 35s 60c; 125th Anniversary of Pitcairn Migration to Norfolk Island.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: June 17; 10t, 15t, 20t, 30t, 35t; Aviation.

REPUBLIC OF NAURU: July 21; \$1; 5th Anniversary of Bank of Nauru.

SINAGAPORE: August 25; 10c, 75c, \$1; Sport For All.

### FOREIGN

ARGENTINA: June 6; \$1; International Congress on Medicine and Sciences Applied to Sport. June 13; \$1, \$2; 20th Anniversary of the enforcement of the Antarctic Treaty. June 27; \$1, \$2; Centenary of the "Circulo Militar."

BRAZIL: August 22; Denominations unknown; Folklore Series.

CAMEROON: August 20; 500F; Royal Wedding.

COSTA RICA: July 10; 0.15, 1.60, 1.00, 2.50, 3.00, 5.00; The Bank of the Working Class.

FRENCH POLYNESIA: July 10; 26F, 28F, 44F; Folklore.

GERMANY June 9; 5pf, 10pf, 15pf, 20pf, 25pf, 35pf; Landscape Parks. June 23; 5pf, 15pf; International Year of Disabled Persons.

ICELAND: August 20; 50aurar, 100aurar, 200aurar; Birds.

MALDIVES: June 27; 95L, 1R; 50th Anniversary of Citizens Majlis.

NORWAY: August 25; 1.50Kr, 2.20 Kr; International Year for Disabled Persons.

POLAND: May 21; 65ozl; Birth Centenary of General Wladyslaw E. Sikorski. June 15; 2,50zl; Architects' Congress. July (date unknown); 2,00zl, 2,00zl, 2,50zl, 2,40zl, 6,50zl, 6,50zl; Games Shooting.

RWANDA: June 29; 20c, 30c, 2F, 2,50F, 10F, 15F, 70F, 200F; Animals.



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CHRISTMAS

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