

MALTA — A DIARY September - December 1979

compiled by JOSEPH FARRUGIA

- 14-9-79 The 2c. stamp of the present Decimal Definitive Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited. This is the fourth reprint or fifth printing of this value. It was available for sale at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O.
- 20-9-79 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed, "Telecom 79 — I.T.U. 3rd World — Telecom Exhibition — Geneva 20-26.9.79", was used, on and off, during the period 20th to 26th September, 1979 at the Central Mail Room.
- 21-9-79 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed, "Next Stamp Issue — Marine Life Set — 10 October 1979", was used, on and off, during the period 21st September to 9th October, 1979, at the Central Mail Room.
- 24-9-79 On the occasion of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in Malta, a Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta. This Branch Post Office was opened from Monday, 24th September to Thursday, 27th September, 1979, for the exclusive use of the participants at the Meeting. The hours of business of the Temporary Branch Post Office were:
8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
- The following postal business was transacted:-
- (a) sale of postage stamps and postal stationery, including a specially designed commemorative envelope.
 - (b) registration of letters.
 - (c) posting of parcels.
 - (d) issue and encashment of money and postal orders.
- The specially designed commemorative envelope, which reproduces the "Sacra Infrmeria" from stamp artwork prepared in 1964 by Emvin Cremona, were also available for sale at 5 cents from the Philatelic Counter, of the G.P.O., from the 24th to the 27th September 1979, from 8.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
- Postal articles posted at this Temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked with a date-stamp inscribed:- "Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting — Valletta — Malta". The emblem of the Commonwealth is also incorporated in the date-stamp.
- Any person who wished to obtain an impression of this date-stamp, had to submit his requirements, in writing, to the Officer in Charge Philatelic Bureau, Department of Posts, Valletta, enclosing the required prepared philatelic material and covering remittance were necessary.
- 9-10-79 A special hand-postmark was used at the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, on the 9th October 1979, to mark the 10th Universal Postal Union Day. The hand-postmark, which also incorporates the emblem of the Universal Postal Union is inscribed:- "10th Universal Postal Union Day — 9-10-79 — Valletta — Malta".
- 10-10-79 "Marine Life Set" issued to-day. A special hand-postmark inscribed "Hlejjaq Tal-Baħar", (meaning "Marine Life"), "L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Ħruġ 10.10.79", (meaning "First Day of Issue"), "Malta", and the name of the respective locality. A line drawing symbolizing the sea is also incorporated in the postmark.
- 1-11-79 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Next Stamp Issue — Christmas '79 Set — 14 November 1979", was used on and off during the period 1st to 13th No-

- ember, 1979, at the Central Mail Room.
- 10-11-79 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Gimgha Tas-Siġar — 10-17 November 1979 — Ibza għas-Siġar", was used on and off, from the 10th to the 17th November 1979, at the Central Mail Room. Two motifs symbolizing trees, are also incorporated in the slogan. The slogan means: "Week of the Trees — 10-17 November 1979 — Save the Trees".
- 13-11-79 The notice which appeared in the Govt. Gazette of the 12-1-79 and repeated in the Govt. Gazette of 1-6-79 (both recorded in this diary) approving the opening of a Sub-Post Office in Nadur, Gozo, appeared again in today's Govt. Gazette. This time applicants were given up to 5 p.m. of Friday, 7th December, 1979.
- 14-11-79 The Christmas set issued today. A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue. It is inscribed: "L-Ewwel Jum tal-Hruġ 14 Nov. 1979", "Malta" and the name of the respective locality. A line drawing symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem is also incorporated in the postmark.
- 19-11-79 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Għinu t-Tfal fil-Bżonn — Użaw il-Bollii tal-Milied", was used, on and off,
- from the 19th November to the 24th December, 1979, at the Central Mail Room. A decorative star is also incorporated in the slogan. The slogan means: "Help Needy Children — Use Xmas Set Stamps".
- 20-11-79 The notice which appeared in the Govt. Gazette of the 27-3-79 and repeated in the Govt. Gazette of the 29-5-79 (both recorded in this diary), approving the opening of a Sub-Post Office in Sliema, appeared again in to-day's Govt. Gazette. Time for applications was extended up to 5.00 p.m. of Monday, 24th December, 1979.
- 4-12-79 The 4m, 1c3 and 3c stamps of the first Decimal Definitive Postage Set have been reprinted by Printex Limited. The stamps were available for sale at the Philatelic Counter, of the G.P.O.
- 26-12-79 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Jum il-Paci — 1 ta' Jannar — Peace Lab Malta" was used at the Central Mail Room, on working days during the 26th - 31st December 1979. The slogan means: "Day of Peace — 1 of January — Peace Lab — Malta". The slogan also incorporates a line drawing of the Peace Laboratory, Malta, and a dove symbolizing peace.