

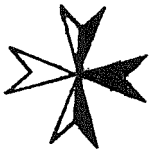


THE PSM MAGAZINE

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VOL. 10 No. 1

WINTER 1980



THE PSM MAGAZINE

Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIth Malta Philatelic Exhibition — 1977

Bronze Medals at PRAGA '78; PHILASERDICA '79

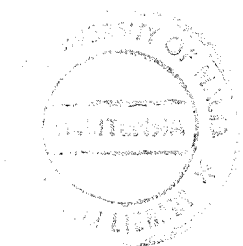
Editor: Nick A. Cutajar Ass. Editor: Joseph Farrugia

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September-December 1979



Cover design Chev. Emvin Cremona

Address all correspondence

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7 Wied il-Għajn Road
Żejtun, Malta.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As a result of Act XXII, 1978, an extraordinary General Meeting was held by the Society on November 4th, 1978 aimed at renaming the Society. (The Act in question controls the use of the name of "Malta", "Nation" and derivatives. The Act came into force as from November 1st, 1978). The Meeting decided on the name for the Society and henceforth it will be known as "The Philatelic Society".

MALTA

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Annual Subscription:

Malta: £M1.50

Overseas: £3.00 sterling; U.S. \$4.50

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Membership Dues, Changes of Address:

Rev. Fr. A. Galea, Treasurer, P.S.M. — 266 St. Paul's St., Valletta

Exchange Branch:

Mr. A. Fenech, "Miele", Old Railway Rd., Balzan

Magazine Mailing, Back Numbers:

Mr. J. Farrugia, Ass. Ed., P.S.M. — 34 Nursing Sisters' St., St. Julians.

FOREWORD

Postal history is becoming increasingly a fashionable aspect of our hobby as collectors turn to new pastures of endeavour. Some take up postal history and cover-collecting for fun, which is all well and good; others take a closer interest and aim to establish a collection covering specific aspects following liberal guidelines; a select few consider postal history more in detail and dedicate long hours of research. Whatever the impulse, postal history and cover-collecting offer a vast field of enterprise.

Obviously the rule of demand and supply has been applied to postal history prices. Some may have already been scared away from this aspect of philately as a result of prices. However there is an abundance of material that can be acquired for a low-outlay in terms of cash, but offer a high-yield in terms of fun and enjoyment. We are living postal history through all the modern means of postal communication — postcodes, datapost, telepost.

If cover collecting has caught your fancy you now probably look at your correspondence in a new light, opening it with more care, and wonder whether you ought to save that cover with an interesting stamp and postmark or other postal markings. Most covers we receive in our mail could be saved as trading stock for future needs.

Before embarking into postal history and cover-collecting one should examine the mechanics that have to be faced sooner or later. One of the first problems is storage — if it's worth saving, it is worth protecting. Condition, especially in the case of older material, is very important and special care should be given to such covers to protect them from further damage or deterioration. Aim to produce your own method of storage that best suits your pocket but at the same time offers maximum protection against damage, humidity and bacterial action.

Meanwhile as postal history increases in popularity, postal historical writing becomes more widespread. Today students of postal history have the benefits of a wide range of handbooks and periodicals which should be constantly and methodically digested. Ensure you have enough reference material on the subject of your choice and build up files of tear-sheet articles and notes.

Furthermore you might be inclined to write about your own discoveries, or your own branch of postal history. Be sure to follow all the rules of factual writing, be clear and to the point and your Editor will be more than enthusiastic to publish your article.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I refer to Mr. Peter Buttigieg's excellent article on the "International Postal Service During the 19th Century" (Vol. 9, No. 3); may I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Buttigieg on a wonderful piece of research — Well done!

I hope that others will do like Mr. Buttigieg, and publish research material so that we will continue to publish in our Magazine, such articles, which have established our Magazine as being one of the most sought after Philatelic publications.

However, I hope that I be permitted for the sake of accuracy the following observation:-

There were in fact "Five" different types of cancellations used on the 30 printings of the Q.V. $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow for normal letters and two others for registered mail:

1. The "M" cancellation in an oval of bars used only during December 1860, this being the rarest, followed by —

2. The single ring cancellor 1.9cm which at that time was being used

to register the arrival of mail from overseas, and was found on the back of incoming mail. The earliest recorded date on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow being "3rd January 1861" and the latest "21st August 1861". This was followed by —

3 & 4. The thick and thin bar Duplex Cancellor having the "MALTA" in a straight line and the kilier "A 25" in a circle of bars having a diameter of 2.1cm., which lasted up to the 22nd Printing (the latest recorded date being "30th December 1880), followed by —

5. The Type 2 Duplex having "MALTA" along the concave side of the ring, and the "A 25" in a lozenge oval of bars 2.7cm x 2cm.

The cancellors used on Registered Mail during this period were two, namely, a) "A 25" squashed measuring 2.7cm x 2cm, and b) a lozenge shaped "A 25".

Yours sincerely,

ALFRED BONNICI

A1

- = first class, nonpareil
- = the main arterial road
- = a piquant sauce

“A1 at Lloyds” is the highest commercial compliment. It is hardly a coincidence that A1 at LONDON 1980 is the location number of the booth of

the Robson Lowe Group

50 
PALL MALL

SOCIETY TALK

Junior Members



We are more than glad to note that three of the new members who have recently joined our

Society (complete list published at the end of this column) are junior members. They are Raymond Abela of San Gwann, Malta; John P. Zammit of Victoria, Gozo; and Carlos Eduardo Ferreira of Sao Paolo, Brazil. Members who can spare a few stamps, not necessarily Malta stamps, are invited to send them to the editor, who will distribute them among our junior members.

Closed Albums

We are sorry to give the sad news that one of our active members, although far away from Malta, has passed away on the 21st July 1979. We are referring to Mr. Frank Savona who emigrated to Canada many years ago and was about to visit Malta again in September last. He was always suggesting new ideas not only to us but also to the Postmaster General. Our condolences go to his wife Josephine, his children and their families. R.I.P.

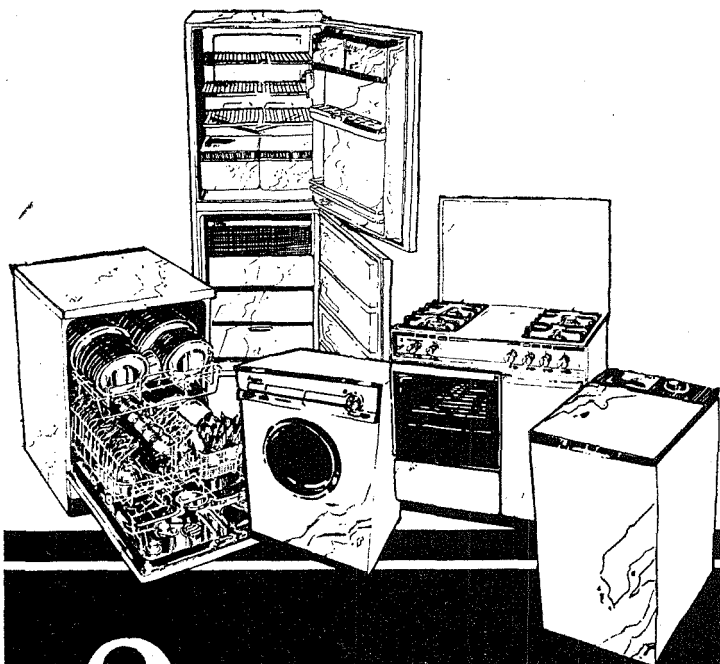
We also regret having to report the death of Phyllis Turnbull on 24th August 1979. Members of the Society remember her during the visit to Malta and her talk and display at our monthly meeting. Mrs. Turnbull was a founder member of the Malta Study

Circle and a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. She contributed a lot of research material and discoveries to the philately of Malta. Her dedication to Maltese philately will be taken over by her husband James, who intends to preserve her memory through her collection. R.I.P.

Auction Action

A total of £M785.65 was realized during the two-day sale of the auction organized by the Society, making it the best held so far. The auction was split in two dates, November 5th and December 3rd, 1979, with 170 lots, both dates coinciding with the monthly meeting. Attendance at both sales was not as encouraging as expected and quite a number of lots were unsold. The highlight of the lots was a cover, Rome to Malta bearing Papal State 1868 20c blk/purple, posted in Rome on May 11, 1869, bearing Italian handstamp "Franco-bollo Insufficiente" and the rare Malta "8d" postage due circular handstamp which realised £M150 against an estimate of £M75.

For the first time, our overseas members had the facility to bid postally but the response was rather limited. The Society is most grateful to its members for their support and the organizers who volunteered for the difficult task to put words into action.



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Membership Fees

The Treasurer has drawn our attention to the fact that some members, especially overseas ones, have not yet submitted their fees for 1980. Please do so at your earliest. Overseas members are also requested to note that due to high bank charges for personal cheque, they should send £(stg)3.00 or U.S. \$4.50.

Overseas members who prefer to receive their copy of our magazine by airmail should write to Mr. Joe Farrugia, who handles the mailing of the magazine to members and inform him of their preference. An extra charge will be required for this service.

"Vote a Stamp"

The Society embarked once again on this international referendum/contest, now in its Vth edition, early in 1980. The event will elect the most beautiful Malta stamp of 1979. This year entries are being solicited through a letter in lieu of the expensive brochures produced last year. Participants are requested to single out one stamp and add their comments.

The stamp which obtains the highest number of votes will be declared the Most Beautiful Malta Stamp 1979. The first name drawn by lot from

among those voting for this stamp will be awarded the first prize which consists of a free holiday for one week in Malta, flying return AIR MALTA and with accommodation at the MALTA HILTON. The other participants will receive gifts in the form of complete Malta 1979 year collections offered by the Postmaster General.

Closing date for the receipt of votes is April 30, 1980 and the results will be announced during the monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, May 5th, at the Catholic Institute, Floriana. All letters should be mailed to "Vote A Stamp", 7 Wied il-Għajn Road, Żejtun, Malta.

Alan Bannister Entertains

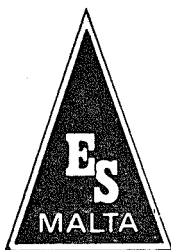
Guest speaker at the monthly meeting of February 4, 1980 was Mr. Alan Bannister, past editor of the "Malta Newspaper" of the Malta Study Circle. He displayed his silver-award collection of the "Malta Village Postmarks" as well as specialized collection of the K.G. VI issues. His display was indeed fascinating providing a comprehensive history of the mail from and into the villages during the second half of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth. Similarly important and interesting was his collection of the K.G. VI issues, with specialized items of plate books, imprints and varieties.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 344 | Mr Otto Baerwald | Bismarkstrasse 10, Postfach 12,
D-7410 Reutlingen 1, Germany. |
| 345 | Mr. Charles Costa | P.O. Box 464, South San Francisco,
CA94080, U.S.A. |
| 346 | Mr. W.R. Tipper | 338N, Narrangansett Lane, Jamesburg,
New Jersey 08831, U.S.A. |
| 347 | Mr. Joseph P. Zammit | 86, St. Orsola Street, Victoria, Gozo. |
| 348 | Mr. Raymond Abela | 2, Block 10A, Governmt Housing Estate,
San Gwann. |
| 349 | Mrs. Rene M. Junca | St. Rt. A, Box 57A, Franklin,
Louisiana 70538, U.S.A. |
| 350 | Mr. Ron W. Bordoli | 2 Clays Close, East Grinstead,
West Sussex RH19 4DJ, England. |
| 351 | Mr. Carlos Eduardo Ferreira | Rua Antonio Pinto, 208 — Tremembe,
Sao Paulo — Sao Paulo, Brazil. |
| 352 | Mr. Arthur Cook | 12 Sherwood Close, Derwent Braes,
Shotley Bridge, Consett, Co. Durham,
DH8 OTX, U.K. |
| 353 | Mr. Henry Zabielski | 56 — 12 64th St. Maspeth,
New York 11378, U.S.A. |
| 354 | Mr. Martin Haasen | Box 184, DK — 3800 Torshavn,
Foroyar, Denmark. |
| 355 | Mr. Francisco Lechuga
Gutierrez | Ave. Independencia No. 102 Oriente,
Toluga, Estado De Mexico,
Republica Mexicana. |
| 356 | Mr. Joseph Camilleri | 99 Sannat Road, Victoria, Gozo. |
| 357 | Mr. Smiraglia Geom. Dario | v le F. Testi 3, 20159 Milano, Italia. |
| 358 | Mr. Christopher John Dadswell | 330 Bexhill Road, St. Leonards on Sea,
East Sussex, U.K. |
| 359 | Mr. Jurgen Kluge | 2326 Delkus Crescent, Mississauga —
Ontario, Canada L5A 1K7. |
| 360 | Mr. Mohammed Arif
Balgamwala | 3/6 Saeeda Mansion,
Burns Road A.M.6, Karachi, Pakistan. |
| 361 | Mr. Immeolo Antonio | Via S.G.O. Giacomo, 46,
92100 Ragusa, Sicilia, Italia. |
| 362 | The Hon. Mr. Justice
Giovanni Refalo, LL.D. | 31 Amery Street, Sliema. |
| 363 | Mr. Dick Visser | Auf Kengert — Larochette,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. |

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FINE ARTS ON MALTA STAMPS

PART II

by LOIS L. CORBIN

- | SCOTT | | SAID |
|-------|---|-------|
| 263/5 | <i>GEORGE CROSS</i> , plain silver cross with medallion, created in 1940 by Percy Metcalfe, showing St. George and the dragon in centre. Words "For Gallantry" appear around the medallion, royal cipher in angle of each link of the cross. George Cross Island, Malta is so called from the award of the G.C. to the Island by George VI in April 1942. It is the civilian award equivalent to the Victoria Cross. All values (1½d, 3d and 1/-) issued 15th April 1957 to mark the XV Anniversary of the Award. | 263/5 |
| 266/8 | <i>Symbols of Architecture</i> . All values (1½d, 3d and 1/-) designed by Chev. Emvin Cremona to promote Technical Education. | 266/8 |
| 275 | <i>ST. PAUL'S SHIPWRECK</i> , 1902 painting in Church of St. Paul Shipwrecked, Valletta, Malta, by Italian Artist ATTILIO PALOMBI (c. 1860-1912). Shows Paul aiding the rescue of the shipwrecked sailors. Ceiling painting 3d issued 9th February 1960 to commemorate the 19th Centenary of St. Paul's Shipwreck. | 275 |
| 276 | <i>Consecration of St. Publius</i> , based on painting from the church of St. Paul Shipwrecked by CHEV. EMVIN CREMONA and adapted by him for this issue. 6d stamp as in above. | 276 |
| 277 | <i>Statue of St. Paul</i> , St. Paul's Grotto, Rabat (Mdina). Under Sanctuary adjoining St. Paul's Church is the ancient Grotto of St Paul where, tradition holds, St. Paul lived; present structure is a rebuilding of an enlargement to the original done in 1692 by Lorenzo Gafà (?). Statue is the 1746 marble carving of an unknown 17th century sculptor, presented by Grand Master di Pinto. 8d stamp as above. | 277 |
| 287 | <i>Madonna Damascena</i> , Byzantine style icon, which appeared in the sea near the coast of Rhodes in 1475 and since then a sacred possession of the Order of Knights of St. John; it relates to a prototype and traditionally dates to St. John Damascene. Following the Great Siege of 1565, Grand Master La Valette paid homage for the victory over the Turks in the Greek Church of Vittoriosa where the picture was kept. In 1578, it was transported to the Greek Church in Valletta built in its honour. 2d stamp of set issued 7 September 1962 to commemorate the Great Siege. | 287 |

- 288 *Great Siege Monument*, bronze, by ANTONIO SCIORTINO (1879-1947); the figures represent Religion, Fortitude and European Civilization. Sciortino was born in Żebbuġ, Malta; studied engineering and architecture; director of British Academy of Arts in Rome and inspector of Fine Arts at the National Museum, Malta; submitted winning entry for Cenotaph Memorial in London, model preserved in National Museum, Malta. His works include busts of Poet Shevchenko, Tchekov, Bolivar and Carmen Sylva. 6d stamp as above. 288
- 289 *Grand Master Jean Parisot de La Valette*, 1494-1568. French born, Grand Master of the Knights of Malta from 1557-1568; adapted from bronze tomb slab on his grave in crypt, St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta; defended Malta brilliantly against Turkish assaults and siege of 1565; built new city and capital, named Valletta in his honour. 6d stamp as above. 288
- 290 *Defence of Fort St. Elmo*, from an old engraving, by ANTON FRANCESCO LUCINI published 1630 in Bologna; it is after a fresco by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio (1547-1600), in Hall of St. Michael and St. George, Grand Master's Palace, Valletta. 1/- stamp as above issue. 290
- 299 *David Bruce and Themistocles Zammit*. Zammit owed a vote of thanks by fine arts bluffs and archeologists, responsible for most of the important archeological excavations during the early 20th century. Theorized that mysterious double tracks surviving near Naxxar Gap used to haul soil to form terraces on the stony slopes. 2d stamp issued 14 April 1964 to mark the Anti-Brucellosis Congress, Valletta. 296
- 300 *Nicolas Cottoner* (c. 1610-1680) Attending Sick Man and Congress Emblem. 18th Grand Master (1663-1680) of the Knights of St. John, preceded by his brother Rafael. Name is that of notable Spanish Family, usually "Cotoner"; both patrons of art, responsible for the interior adornment of the Co-Cathedral of St. John; statue of G.M. Cottoner (Scott 259/Said 259) one of the most imposing monuments in the famous cathedral. 2d issued 5 September 1964 to mark the First European Congress of Catholic Doctors. 298
- 301 *St. Luke and St. Luke's Hospital*. St. Luke travelled with St. Paul extensively, and apparently was with him in Malta. The Maltese remember him with St. Luke's Hospital, Valletta; in front is the statue of Luke in Co-Cathedral of St. John. The hospital of the Order built in Birgu was removed to Valletta 299

Continued on page 26

THE FORT RICASOLI MUTINY

by

DR. ALFRED BONNICI M.D.

I am publishing today the following interesting letter (by kind permission of the owner) for general information. The letter was written by a Scottish soldier, J. Laing, serving in Malta in the early years of British rule, on the 16th April 1807. Writing to his father in Edinburgh, Scotland, the author narrates in detail the mutiny that took place on the 4th April, 1807 in one of the Foreign Corps under the direction of British Officers, known by the name of "Colonel Grunt Froberg's Regiment", stationed at Fort Ricasoli.

The letter is quite clear and no further elaboration on the event is needed. However the entire is also very interesting from the postal history aspect as it leaves a number of questions unanswered.

On the entire we have: (1) a set of obliterations indicating the route; (2) a set of charges. The following obliterations are shown: (on the front) — a) Ship Letter Portsmouth; b) "May/1807/31"; and (on the back) — c) "F/May 28/1807".

a) The "Ship Letter/Portsmouth" is the standard S.B. Type (Robson Lowe Encyclopedia) indicating that the letter travelled by ship and delivered at Portsmouth. In fact in the letter itself we find "The Royal George Sir W.T. Duckworth is just going out so I must bid you adieu". The "Royal George" I believe was a Naval frigate, and Portsmouth was the naval dockyard.

c) From Portsmouth one must presume that the letter went to Fal-mouth — hence "F/MAY 28/1807",

and from there it went to Edinburgh, Scotland by coach, arriving:-

b) in Edinburgh "MAY/1807/31", taking four days to do the journey by coach.

The set of charges (or numbers) are: a) 2/9 on front, b) 4/3 on front, c) 11/5 on back. These are more difficult to put a meaning to:-

The charges for Ship Letter rates from 1796 to 1814 were:-

Single 4d, Double 8d, Treble 1/-, per ounce 1/4; Captain's Gratuity id. (Malta Study Circle, S.P. 39).

This letter having 12 pages weighed approximately 2 ounces, so a) the 2/9 (2 & 9) can be explained by a way of 2 ounces at 1s 4d per ounce plus 1d Captain's Gratuity.

What about the marks 4/3 and 11/5? Surely this could not mean 4s 3d and 11s 5d, as these are exorbitant amounts for the period. A likely explanation is that they signify a division of money between the Government and the Contractor or vice versa.

If we examine the Inland Postal rates in the United Kingdom in 1805, we find that

“not exceeding 80 miles the charge was 7d” (M.S.C. S.P. 39). Portsmouth is approximately 78 miles from Falmouth, so the charge would be 7d, divided in the ratio 4d and 3d (4/3).

“Not exceeding 300 miles the

charge was 11d plus 2d for each additional 100 miles”. The distance to Edinburgh is approximately 500 miles making a charge of 16d divided in the ratio of 11d and 5d (11/5).

I am a strong believer in this theory; can readers elaborate further?

Now we read on:-

Malta, 16th April, 1807

My dear Father,

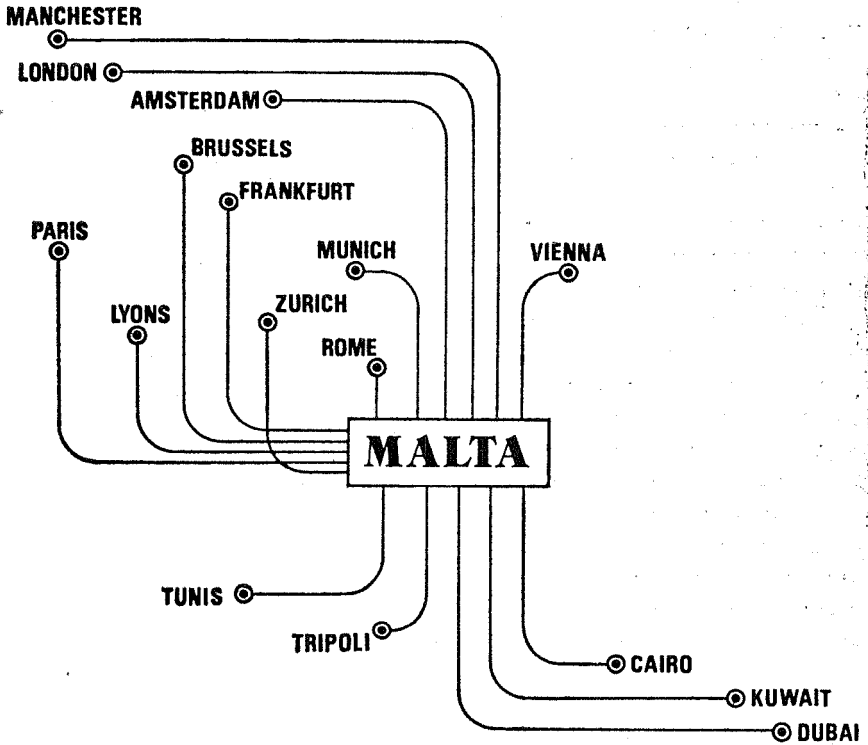
Since I wrote to you by last month's packet we have had access to witness the most extraordinary scenes. The public prints will probably give you more ample details than I can, at this moment, afford time to write you, but what I do communicate you may rely on as authentic.

On Saturday the 4th of April a mutiny broke out in one of the foreign Corps which is distinguished by the name of the Colonel, a Count Froberg. The Regiment was quartered at Ricasoli, one of the Forts at the entrance of the harbour and on the opposite side from the Town of La Valletta — It is now understood to have been the intention of the mutineers to have delayed the execution of their plans until the Officers were at dinner, but the latter having perceived some alarming symptoms were about to institute an enquiry when the Ringleaders finding that no time was to be lost, instantly declared themselves, collected their party, secured the persons of the officers and of such of their comrades as they could depend upon, drew up the bridge and shut the gates. Some of the officers were massacred on the spot and several others were wounded. The Adjutant of the Regiment, Lt. Schwartz (a German) seems to have been particularly abnoxious to the men from the strictness of his discipline.

** = The Regiment in all consisted of about 700 or 750 — of those 150 or more were then out of the fort employed in guarding the Cottonera lines and other ferries — of the remaining 600 many were not provided with arms (the Corps being newly raised) and the first objective of the mutineers (who it is supposed might amount to 150-200) was to secure arms.*

This poor young man was run through by several bayonets at once, Capt. Watleville was shot through the head (rather I believe by accident than by design) and died instantly, one of the Ensigns endeavoured to escape over the walls and by leaping into the sea to save himself by swimming; but having broken one of his arms by the fall he sank, overcome by pain and fatigue. In the course of half an hour from the commencement of the mutiny it was known in La Valletta and you may conceive the sensation which the news communicated

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as the place is so immediately in our vicinity and the Officers were known to all of us — (so near indeed is the Fort that it is completely overlooked from the higher part of the Town, and may be as far perhaps, as from the Castle to the Register Office). The Ringleaders lost no time in loading the great guns and mortars and pointing them against the Town, and in this operation Captain Fead of the Artillery and his men who were quartered in the Fort, were compelled under the threat of instant death to assist. General Killelly instantly ordered detachments from the different other regiments in the garrison to surround Ricasoli towards the land so as to cut off the retreat of the mutineers should they attempt to escape into the country, and a parley was held over the walls — The only terms on which they would surrender were — an unconditional pardon, and to be sent to their own country in transport provided by our Government. The greater part of the Regiment is composed of Greeks and other Turkish subjects and they alleged that at the period of their enlistment they were deceived as to the nature and condition of their service. That there may be some ground for their assertion I fear there is too much reason to apprehend and it is to be regretted that Government though not immediately concerned should indirectly sanction such measures by accepting of tenders for the raising of Corps without enquiring into the means adopted for provisioning the men. But however true the allegations of those unfortunate men may be, they were not to be justified in the means they took to redress their wrongs. I need scarcely add that the conditions they proposed were instantly rejected. They then said that they were resolved never to surrender at discretion and that they were determined sooner that to yield to massacre everyone of their officers whom they kept as hostages and to bombard the Town. It was known however, that they had not above one day's full provisions in the Fort and it was generally believed that when they should begin to suffer from famine, they would seize on the Ringleaders and open the gates. At all events it was deemed advisable to delay the adoption of violent measures from a conviction that the mutineers driven to despair would inevitably have executed their threat of murdering the officers and their families. They were given to understand however, that the very first gun fired on their part should be the signal for the whole vengeance of the Garrison being wreaked upon them and accordingly several tremendous batteries were manned and pointed towards them. So passed the night of Saturday. On Sunday the 5th things remained pretty much in the same state. In the course of the morning an officer was sent out by them to say that if they were not furnished with bread in the course of two hours they would commence massacre and their fire. The General remained firm and they were too well aware of the consequences to themselves to execute their intentions. Poor Captain Fead was paraded about on the ramparts under a strong guard of the Mutineers to see that the guns were properly loaded and pointed

and he was obliged to deliver over to them the keys of the powder magazines and to execute the mandates of those miscreants in every respect. Finding it necessary to comply, Fead thought it well to do so with a good grace and they became such good friends that they elected him Commander of the Fort and as such they obeyed him as far as to put under arrest some of their own party with whose conduct he had occasion to find fault.

On Monday the 6th a Greek Priest was sent over to talk to them under the walls, but the good man's exhortations had little or no effect. In the course of the evening some of the ringleaders signified their intention to surrender, but they were soon overpowered. Next morning they showed some symptoms of relenting by sending out the wives and families of some officers but the husbands were retained. In the course of the day they killed a horse or two, their provision being nearly exhausted. One of the officers who happened to be in La Valletta when the mutiny began went up to the gate and was invited in by the Mutineers. The young man had the courage to go in and to remain some time endeavouring to persuade them that they had nothing to expect by holding out. They treated him civilly enough but desired him to acquaint the General that they would only surrender on the original terms proposed by them. This was not only the time Mr. de Clermont went into the fort but they at length told him that they were resolute and that it might be dangerous for him to return with a similar message. Clermont saw his brother officers who were now despairing of their lives. Major Schummalketal (with whom as indeed with almost all the officers, I am acquainted) was wounded very severely and his situation was the more deplorable from the anxiety of his mind and the privation of those comforts which were so necessary for his recovery. Mr. Muralt was wounded in the head by a musket ball and almost the whole lot of them were maimed or bruised in some way or another. To add to the horror of their situation the savage mutineers were frequently insulting them and threatening that when their provisions were finished, they would feed on them adding that they were not unaccustomed to such repasts. Indeed there is nothing of which these wretches might not be supposed capable many of them having been leaders or members of different gangs of bandette, in Wallachia, Bulgaria and other provinces of Turkey. For my part I confess that I began to despair of ever seeing any of the officers again. The night was dark and dismal and blowing and the mutineers were now becoming more rife from despair for deed of horror. The only hope seemed to be that of their escaping over the walls during the night, in which case there being no doubt of any one of them being apprehended by our patrols. What was our surprise then, next morning to observe of a sudden crowds of people issuing from the Gate and amongst the rest all the officers. How this extraordinary reverse took place I have never yet satisfactorily discovered, nor do the officers themselves know for certain. It



malta hilton mh

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appears however that their escape was not the effort of any premeditated scheme, but that some of those who had been induced to join the Mutineers from fear of availing themselves of a favourable moment killed the sentinels at the gate and having got together as many of their friends as they could and the officers amongst the rest sallied forth. Many of the ringleaders hoping perhaps to be lost in the crowd rushed out likewise and in the course of the morning the Fort was almost deserted. Those who came out were all secured by our soldiers, and the persons who had borne the most distinguished part in the mutny were soon pointed out by Capt. Fead and others and kept apart from the rest but all were confined.

Some desperadoes still remained in the Fort drew up the Bridge and expressed their determination to die rather than to surrender. To show that they were in earnest they had a guard constantly stationed in the powder magazine where there were upwards of 500 barrels of powder and they vowed that if reduced to extremities, they would blow themselves up. It is not exactly known what number remained but I don't think there were above 20 or 30, and of that number some escaped during the Thursday and Friday and several sick and wounded were lowered down by ropes from the walls. It was still thought better to abstain from storming the fort with the view of preserving if possible the magazine and such part of the fort as must be ruined by its explosion. On Friday afternoon the 10th however we were alarmed by the firing of one of the mortars from the fort. The shell came over the town but fortunately did no harm. Whether they were irritated by some of our soldiers firing musquet upon them I know not, but I rather think this was the case. It now became necessary to put an end to the business and accordingly it was determined that a party should scale the walls next morning at 3 o'clock. A party of chosen men from Froberg's commanded by Mr. De Clermont accordingly ascended by scaling ladder but they had scarcely arrived at the top when the Mutineers alarmed by the barking of some dogs made the best of their way to the magazine with the exception of two who ran to fire off four Mortars which were placed together and directed towards the Town. You may conceive the alarm occasioned to the inhabitants by a bombardment at 4 o'clock in the morning. Yet strange to relate not one of the shells took effect. It is almost incredible that five shells should have been fired upon a very close built and populous town without injuring either the person or property of one of the inhabitants and the truth is I believe that Capt. Fead when forced to load the mortars availed himself of the ignorance of the Mutineers to overcharge the mortars and to elevate them as to carry the shells in general, over the town. The two men who remained to fire the mortars being cut off from their usual retreat, the powder magazine, attempted to conceal themselves, but they were soon discovered and were tried by a Court Martial with 23 of their

friends the same day. The whole 25 were condemned to death and to be executed the same day. Ten to be hanged and 15 to be shot! One of the latter was respited but there were 10 hanged and 14 shot. Such a degree of hardened depravity as these men exhibited can scarcely be conceived. They seemed totally callous to their fate and went out of the world with as little concern as if they had been mere spectators of the scene. On Sunday and Saturday our soldiers who were now in possession of the fort watched the miscreants who had taken possession of the magazine in the hope that they would be reduced by famine to come out. They occasionally put their heads out and fired on our people who in their turn aimed at them, but no shot took effect on either side. It was conceived that they would hardly do so afterwards. April 12 on Sunday evening however, about 9 o'clock the whole city was alarmed by the most tremendous explosion. The shock which it occasioned was such as to shake the houses to their foundations. You may conceive the effect of the confusion caused by the explosion of upwards of 500 barrels of powder. The number of windows broke is incredible yet we who reside in La Valetta are separated by the Harbour from Ricalosi. Both the quantity of powder was greater than that which exploded last July and the concussion was greater here from the distance being less and the interruptions to the ground fewer.

Fortunately however only three lives were lost on the occasion as our guard was posted in a very strong bomb proof building in the fort. Those who perished were three sentries who were knocked down by the shower of stones occasioned by the explosion. It was believed of course that the miscreants were blown to atoms, but it now appears that the villains had escaped over the wall leaving a slow match and train to effect their purpose. It seems that only six were in the magazine during the day preceding the explosion. It is now certain that 4 of the 6 escaped over the wall immediately before the explosion leaving a slow match to set fire to the magazine. Five soon found and the other two cannot possibly be long concealed and I need scarcely add that they may expect their 'reward'.

The Royal George Sir W.T. Duckworth is just going out so I must bid you adieu. Sir J. Smith is expected to sail few days when I shall not fail to write.

This narration be legible, you may show it to any of our particular friends, but I should not wish any other use to be made of both as it is hurriedly written and for many other reasons.

Govt. has sustained a loss in the magazine of a few thousand pounds, but had any other plan been followed than that adopted by the general many lives must have been sacrificed for those scoundrels.

With love to you all, believe me

Your sincere affect son

J.L.

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOSEPH FARRUGIA

CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1979

Date of Issue	14th November 1979.
Values	1c+5m, 5c+1c, 7c+1c5, 11c+3c.
Stamp Size	47mm x 29mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.8 x 13.6.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upwards.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

The colour of this set was produced by printing in multicolour using five different colours plus gold.

Designs

This is the sixteenth set of Christmas stamps issued by the Malta Postal Administration. Again, each stamp includes a surcharge in addition to the postal value, the proceeds from which, will be distributed amongst child welfare philanthropic organisations. The set, consisting of four stamps, features "The Nativity" on the 7c+1c5 stamp and "The Flight into Egypt" on the 11c+3c stamp. These two paintings are both by the well known Maltese artist Giuseppe Cali (1846 — 1930). A detail from "The Nativity" is seen on the 1c+5m stamp and a detail from "The Flight into Egypt" is depicted on the 5c+1c stamp. These two paintings are found at the Annunciation Parish Church, Tarxien, Malta. Tarxien became a parish in 1592, and is also closely associated with the rich archaeological history of the Maltese Islands. The Tarxien Neolithic Temples, dating back to about 3,000 years B.C. are world famous and tourists make it a point to visit them.

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 two bottom rows, in all Panes of all values. The colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left, in all Panes of all values.

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

The Printed Sheets of all four values consisted of two Panes, "A" and "B". All values are of the horizontal format. Each Pane of stamps has forty stamps, made up of five rows of eight stamps.

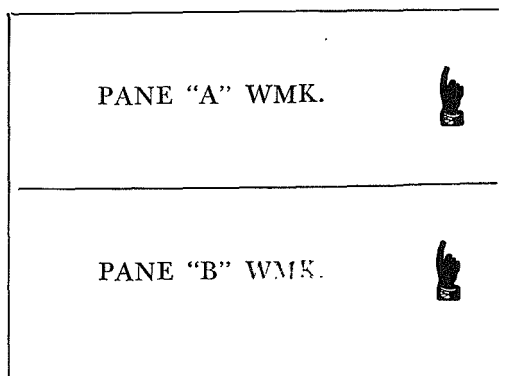
Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in both Panes of each value.

1c+5m = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.
 5c+1c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.
 7c+1c5 = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.
 11c+3c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

Perforation of Margins

The top, bottom and right hand margins, of Panes "A" and "B" of all values are fully perforated. The left hand margin of Panes "A" and "B", of all values are imperforated.



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

Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps will be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is also upright.

Imprint Blocks

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes of all 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 cancellations on the first day of issue. It is inscribed with the words, "L-Ewwel Jum tal-Ħruġ", "Malta 14 Nov. 1979" and the name of the respective locality. A line drawing symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem is also incorporated in the postmark.

This set will remain on sale up to Monday, 14th January 1980, unless stocks are previously exhausted. Sales from this set, up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue, amounted to £M40,143.



QUALITY PRINTERS

SECURITY PRINTERS

Printex Ltd. Mill Str., Qormi, Malta

FLEMISH TAPESTRIES FOURTH ISSUE

Date of Issue	30th January 1980.
Values	2c, 8c and 50c.
Stamp Size	2c and 8c — 48mm x 33.5mm. 50c Miniature Sheet — 114 mm x 86mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printes	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	2c and 8c — 14 x 14 (comb). 50c Miniature Sheet — 13.5 x 13.2.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways in
Paper	2c, 8c and Miniature Sheet.
Gum	Chalk Surfaced.

Colours

The colour of these stamps was produced by the multi-colour process.

Designs

This is the fourth and final set in the Flemish Tapestries Series. The first set was issued on the 30th March 1977, the second on the 26th January 1978 and the third on 24th January 1979.

The two tapestries depicted in this year's set are among the finest in the collection. The 2c stamp shows, "The Institution of Corpus Domini" generally known as "La Disputa", painted by Rubens in 1609 for the Church of St. Paul, Antwerp. The composition of this splendid scene, which is vertical in the original, has been adopted horizontally so as to conform to the shape of the other tapestries.

The 8c stamp shows "The Destruction of Idolatry", a dramatic scene which Rubens painted for the Convent of the Discalced Carmelites, Madrid, in 1628.

The 50c value is a miniature sheet with a portrait of the donor of these tapestries, Grand Master Perellos, probably woven from a painting by a Maltese artist of the period. It bears an inscription to the effect that the tapestries were presented to the Church in 1700.

The portrait is flanked by figures of St. Jude and St. Simon, two of the fourteen panels "en grisaille", which also hang in St. St. John's. So this set brings to end this beautiful series, which I am sure, will enrich the Malta collection.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in Panes of the 2c and 8c values. The miniature sheet does not show any colour checks or Pane numbers.

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

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

The Printed Sheets of the 2c and 8c values consisted of two Panes, "A" and "B". Each Pane has 40 stamps made up of eight rows of five stamps. Both stamps are of the horizontal format.

The Printed Sheets of the Miniature Sheets consisted of 16 miniature sheets, made up of four rows of four. Stamps in the miniature sheets are of the vertical format.

Plate/Pane Numbers

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

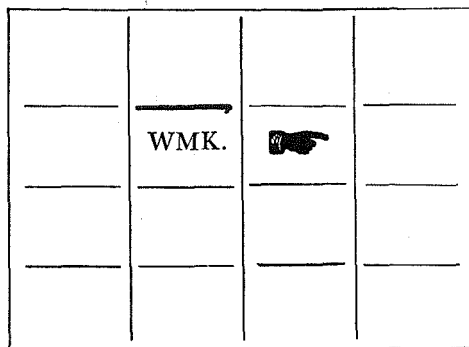
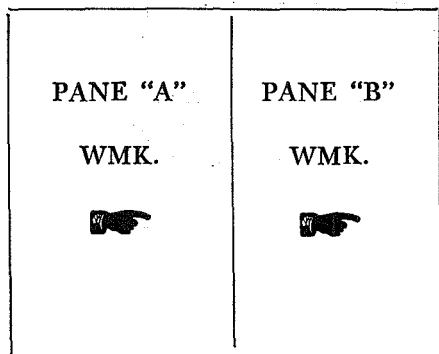
2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

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

Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes "A" and "B" of both values are imperforate. The right hand margin of Panes "A", the left hand margin of Panes "B", and the bottom margin of Panes "A" and "B" are fully perforated. The left hand margin of Panes "A" and the right hand margin of Panes "B" are not fully perforated, but an extension of ten perforation holes can be seen on them.

Registration lines, next to the top perforation line, could be seen in the top right hand corner of Panes "B" and in the top left hand corner of Panes "A". One thing to notice, as far as perforations are concerned, is that whilst the 2c and 8c values are both perforated 14 x 14, the 50c stamp in the miniature sheet is perforated 13.5 x 13.2.



From a study of all details given, the Printed Sheet of the 2c and 8c values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown at top left. In this way, stamps would be seen the right way up. The figure on the right gives an indication of how the Printed Sheet of the miniature sheets would have looked before cutting. In this way, miniature sheets are also seen the right way up.

Imprint Blocks

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in Blue. An Imprint Block of four, of the 2c and 8c values, will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. The postmark is inscribed "L-Ewwel Jum tal-Ħruġ", (First Day of Issue), "Malta", the name of the respective locality and the date, "30.1.80." A Maltese Cross is also incorporated in the postmark. Sale of these two stamps and the miniature sheet, up to 1 p.m., on the first day of issue, realised the sum of £M100,260.

This set will remain on sale up to Tuesday, 29th July, 1980, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Continued from page 12

in 1575, where it occupied an irregularly shaped block between Merchants' Street and St. Lazzarus curtain overlooking the entrance to the Grand Harbour. It was always a rather utilitarian building, and it does not compare, architecturally, with other hospitals of the period elsewhere in Europe. The influence of architect Girolomo Cassar (1560-1586) is discernible, though the architect is unknown, he was perhaps a student of Cassar's. The courtyard and the buildings around it, were added under Perellos in 1662. The same Grand Master also created a medical library for the hospital. The Cotoner brothers, too, appear to have been active in improving it, creating a school of anatomy and surgery, and one for infectious diseases. 6d stamp issued as above.

302 *Sacra Inefrmeria, Valletta* (Hospital of Knights of Malta) 1/6
issued as above.

300

STAMPING AROUND WITH NICK

Adieu Gutter Pairs

Gutter-pair "traffic lights", a printer's colour guide introduced in 1972 on British stamps as a contingency in case stamps were ever provided in sheets of 50, were withdrawn by the British Post Office after the Christmas issue of last year. The gutter is a blank strip dividing sheets of 100 stamps and it is here that one of the two printed guides giving the colours used appears. The Post Office has decided against sheets of 50 stamps and thus "traffic lights" have become obsolete on the gutter pairs.

Meanwhile collectors should carefully examine recent issues of British definitive stamps as there have been several developments in recent months. In October 1979 definitive stamps appeared with all-over phosphor and gradually all definitive stamps will be issued on phosphor-coated paper, except the 8p second class letter rate which will continue to have one printed phosphor bar. At the same time, several values of definitive stamps, no longer needed to meet customer demand were withdrawn from general sale in November 28. In December an 8p definitive stamp produced by Enschede Printers in Harlem, the Netherlands went on sale. Apparently there are no obvious differences between the printings produced by the Dutch firm and the usual British printers. As part of the general review of definitive stamps,

six new values were introduced in January, and this time three different printers were involved in their production — the House of Questa (75p), John Waddington of Kirkstall (4p), and Harrison and Sons (17½p, 17p, 13½p, 12p). Specialists in the definitive issues of the British Isles should look for substantial differences between the new stamps and the usual ones from Harrisons.

Marshall Islands Bogus Stamps

"Five documents characterized as postage stamps of the Marshall Islands that were sold in Japan on or after October 30, 1979, are not postage stamps of the Marshall Islands and their issuance was not authorised by the Government of Marshall Islands", states a statement issued by the Marshall Islands Government through the U.S. Postal Service. The news of the issue of such stamps seems to have generated a lot of interest among collectors and several sets were reputedly sold.

The Marshall Islands statement informs the philatelic press that "The Marshall Islands Government has asked the individuals involved in the sale and distribution of these documents to offer reimbursement to any individual who purchased them on the misimpression that they were postage stamps of the Marshall Islands".

The islands of Jaluit and Majuro and 865 other small islands and atolls in the north central Pacific Ocean form the Marshall Islands, discovered by Spanish sailors in 1529 and explored by Captains Marshall and Gilbert in 1788. The islands, including Nauru, were made a German protectorate in 1885. In September 1914, the Marshall Islands were occupied by New Zealand forces and in December 1920 were mandated to Japan. Since July 18, 1847, they have been a United States trust territory. Nuclear weapons tests were carried out at Bikini atoll in 1946 and at Eniwetok in 1957.

The first Marshall Islands stamps were sent to the Colony from Germany and issued in 1897 and consisted in German stamps of 1889 overprinted "Marschall-Inseln" subsequently amended to "Marshall-Inseln" both printed diagonally. In 1901 stamps were issued appropriately inscribed with the German name for the Islands.

Turkish Cypriot Stamps Illegal

During the 18th Congress of the Universal Postal Union, held in Rio de Janeiro — Brazil from September 12 to October 25, Cyprus asked that "Turkish Cypriot Stamps" placed into circulation after the invasion by the Turkish troops in Cyprus in 1974, be declared illegal. The Congress adopted by a great majority the Cypriot proposal to declare "illegal and of no validity the stamps issued or to be issued by the so-called

'Turkish Cypriot Postal Administration' of the so-called 'Turkish Federated State of Cyprus' and to instruct the International Bureau of the U.P.U. to call upon the member countries of the Union to refuse to handle any mail bearing the illegal postage stamps". The motion was passed but thereupon the Turkish delegate pointed out that the United Nations recognized Turkish rights to occupy the territory known as the "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus" and that therefore the production and use of distinctive stamps was not illegal.

R.S.A. Expelled from the U.P.U.

At the same U.P.U. Congress, another resolution was passed, backed by African countries, some Arab states and the Soviet bloc, calling for the expulsion of the Republic of South Africa from the U.P.U. The resolution passed by a fair margin but later, some countries, including the United States, Switzerland, France and Italy denounced the political motive of the resolution.

Way back in 1064 in Vienna the U.P.U. Congress experienced a similar resolution, and the R.S.A. was expelled from the congress but not from the U.P.U. The same thing happened in Tokyo in 1960 while in 1973 the R.S.A. did not send a delegate to the centennial congress held in Lausanne. Last year, no invitation was extended to the Republic of South Africa to attend the Brazilian Congress.

The S.M.O.M. Again

The postal convention between Italy and the S.M.O.M. — Sovereign Military Order of Malta — has been approved by the Council of Ministers on November 27, 1979. The convention was signed in Rome on March 13, 1979. On December 3rd, the Italian President Pertini signed the official decree and what remains now is that the convention will appear in print in the "Gazzetta Ufficiale", which then makes the convention effective. At the time of writing we do not know whether this has happened but predictions give the end of February as the latest. To celebrate the event the Magisterial Posts will use their first figurative proper post mark, which can only cancel stamps issued after April 1, 1979. Meanwhile we await the official confirmation of bilateral postal agreements with Argentina and the Phillipines. These two countries apparently are disposed to recognize as postage stamps all issues since 1967.

What Future for the Posts in Europe?

"The Posts in Europe yesterday, today and tomorrow" is the theme of the Information Section of the International Philatelic Exhibition "EUROPA 80" to be held in Naples between April 25 and May 4, under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Italy, Sandro Petrini.

The Royal Palace of Naples, recently restored to its magnificent splendour of old times, will host this important European philatelic event.

The evolution of the posts will be reconstructed from the old times to the present day. The same theme will be the subject of an international conference with delegates from the C.E.P.T. countries. This being the twentieth edition of the Exhibition, the Italian Post Office will release a special stamp.

Royal Stamps

Leaving through stamp catalogues, especially those of European countries, we meet with kingdoms and principalities that have either ceased issuing stamps or became a republic. Thus many royal portraits disappeared from stamps. Spain seems the only exception with portraits of the "caudillo" Franco replaced by those of King Juan Carlos. This country has a long-standing royal tradition and the Spanish Postal Authorities have been inspired by this tradition in issuing over the years stamps with royal portraits.

In the course of this year, Austria will release stamps to commemorate the second centenary of the death of Empress Maria Theresia. She was Empress of Germany, Queen of Hungary and Bohemia and sovereign over the southern part of the Low Countries and all Danube countries. Three portraits with Maria Theresia will be depicted on the set of three scheduled for April, 1980.

In The Netherlands, Queen Wilhelmina will appear again on stamp: on a "Europa" stamp which this

Continued on page 31

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-

- vember, 1979, at the Central Mail Room.
- 10-11-79 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Gimgha Tas-Sigâr — 10-17 November 1979 — Ibza għas-Sigâr", 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-Ħruġ 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-Bolli ta'-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-Paċi — 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.

Continued from page 29

year is themed "Personne Celebre". 1980 is the centenary of the birth of Holland's former Queen. The last stamp bearing her portrait was issued in 1950 — a reddish-brown 7½ cents stamp with the overprint SIX from the well-known series by the designer Simon Louis Hartz. Meanwhile, on January 31, 1980 the press was informed that Queen Juliana, the reigning monarch, will step down from the throne on her 71st birthday on April 30 in favour of her oldest daughter, Crown Princess Beatrix. So Holland should offer a very interesting year for royal stamps.

Old stamps with monarchs of the past, reproduced on new issues have appeared and will appear this year in Portugal and New Zealand.

On January 2, 1980 Portugal put out two stamps reproducing old stamps with the portrait of King Luis, while recently New Zealand issued a special set issue marking the 125th anniversary of its first postal stamp, and featured stamps of 1855 with the portrait of Queen Victoria.



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NEXT STAMP ISSUES:

DUN GORG PRECA (2c5) 12th April 1980

EUROPA 80 (8c & 30c) 29th April 1980