



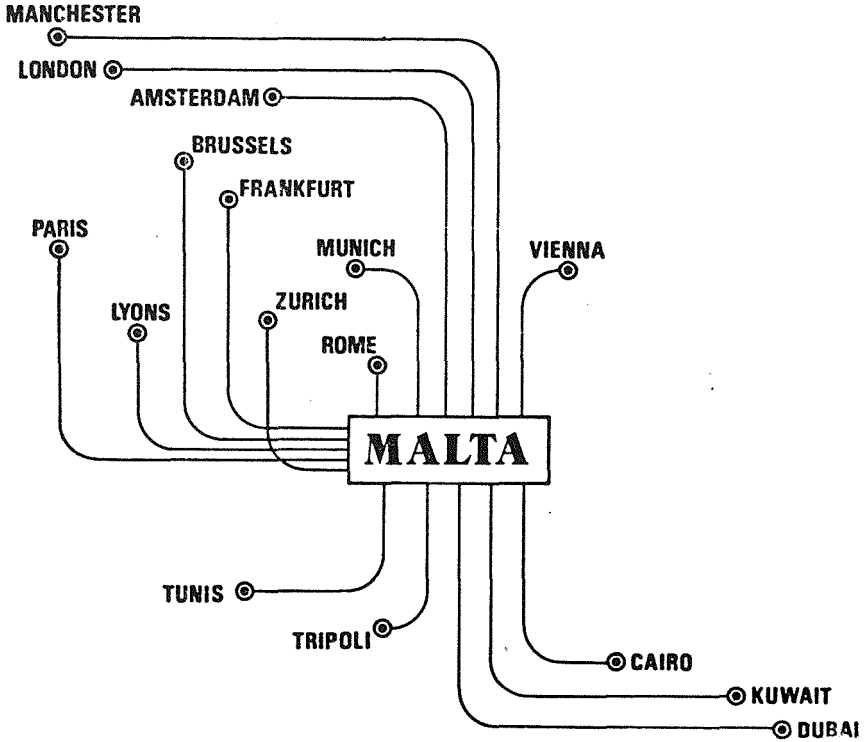
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE PSM MAGAZINE

VOL. 10 No. 3

AUTUMN 1980

AIRMALTA



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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: Nick A. Cutajar Ass. Editor: Joseph Farrugia

VOL. 10 No. 3

AUTUMN 1980

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FOREWORD

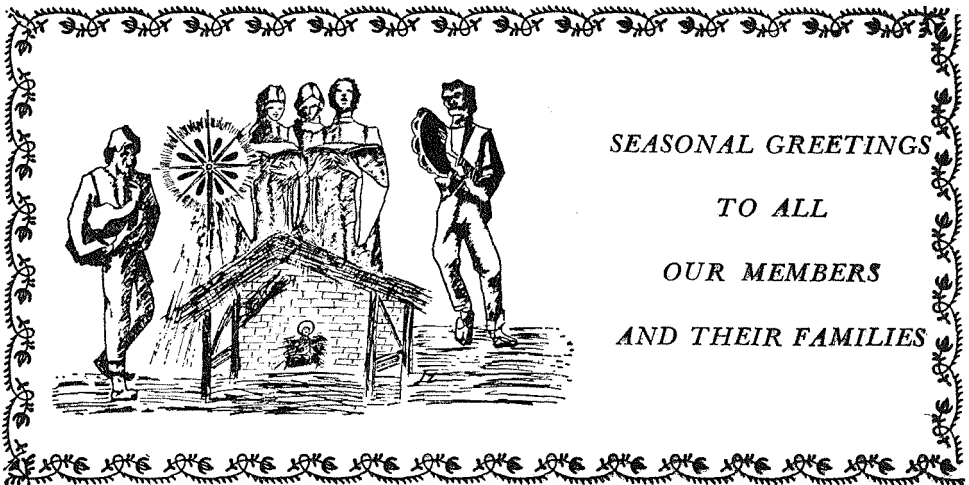
1980 has been an important and good year with a number of events directly bearing on the state of Maltese philately and the hobby in general. Early in the year we had the publication of the much-awaited Handbook by the Malta Study Circle. Concurrently, "London 1980" was held at Earl's Court. Back on our shores, our Magazine attained another Bronze award, and towards the end of the year, Malta's National Philatelic Exhibition.

All these events contributed towards the betterment of our philately and the impact will bear fruit in years to come. Meanwhile all those connected with organized philately should capitalize on these events and plan ahead.

Elsewhere we publish a full report of the Malta Study Circle "London 1980" meeting at which some members were actively present. At "London 1980" a number of philatelists obtained very good results exhibiting Malta. Our magazine only managed a diploma, but at "Norwex 80" we were awarded a bronze, the third at international level.

On the whole it has been a good year for the Society and the Magazine, we take care of. Members have responded to our appeal for more material for publication and we take this opportunity to thank them for their contributions. We do hope we would be able to repeat this next year and we invite all members to forward us their articles immaterial of the length. Should any member have suggestions regarding what we should publish, we would be delighted to receive them.

Meanwhile we'll hold on to our job.



THE TRADE FAIRS

PART II

by

ANTHONY FENCEH

Temporary Post Offices

For the first time Malta Trade Fair, held in 1952, in San Anton Gardens, two cancellers with arc as spacers, the first of this type to be used in Malta, were used at the Temporary Post Office at San Anton. They were superseded from mail cancelling duties in 1969, when the word "International" was included in the original name. However, the two cancellers have been retained for counter duties (on Registration receipts, etc.) until 1973. The times of the posts were only shown on the date stamps of the first three fairs and on the St. Paul's Shipwreck Centenary date stamps at The Fourth Fair.

The cancellers with the inscription TRADE & INDUSTRY EXHIBITION, MALTA (Expo 59), cancelled mail between 18th July and 2nd August 1959. Special commemorative postcards were prepared for the occasion.

Between the 3rd and 13th September 1959, a Temporary Post Office was opened at The College run by the Nuns of St. Joseph, Blata l-Bajda, in aid of their Building Fund. The special datestamp was not available on the 3rd, the opening day; so one of the two cancellers MALTA TRADE FAIR was used on the first day mail cancelled at the Temporary Post Office. But mail posted between the 4th and 13th September was cancelled by the new datestamp with the words TRADE & INDUSTRY FESTIVAL, MALTA with two small arc spacers.

A Temporary Post Office was opened at The Fourth Malta Trade Fair held for the first time at the Palazzo Parisio, Naxxar, between the 30th June and the 10th July 1960. Since then, each year, at each Trade Fair, a Temporary Post Office has been provided for the transaction of the following business:

- (a) Sale of stamps and postal stationery;
- (b) Registration of letters;
- (c) Issue and Payment of Money and Postal Orders;
- (d) Posting of parcels and other postal articles.

All postal articles posted at these temporary Branch Post Offices have been postmarked by the date-stamp(s) provided.

Different Date-stamps (Handstamps)

Up to 1968, the two cancellers with arc as spacers, were used to cancel all mail posted at The Trade Fair Temporary Post Offices. From 1969 to 1973, one of the cancellers was retained to date Registration slips and some other counter duties. Since then, no less than 15 different rubber handstamps, summarised hereunder, were used:

Date	Description	Inscription
1969	36mm double ring	XIII MALTA INTERNATIONAL date * TRADE FAIR *
1970	37mm double ring	XIV MALTA INTERNATIONAL date * TRADE FAIR *
1971	30mm double ring	XV MALTA INTERNATIONAL date * TRADE FAIR *
1972	31mm double ring	XVI MALTA INTERNATIONAL date Trade Fair Emblem
1973	34mm concentric circles	XVII MALTA INTERNATIONAL FAIR date Posthorn NAXXAR — MALTA
1974	(a) 37mm concentric circles	(Words in Maltese) XVIII IL-FIERA INTERNAZZJONALI TA' MALTA NAXXAR MALTA date Posthorn
	(b) 13th July 1974 only Europa First Day Commemorative c.d.s. (similar to those supplied to all Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices in Malta and Gozo).	L-EWWEL JUM TAL-ERUG — MALTA Fiera Internazzjonali Naxxar Date Posthorn Cept Emblem and Maltese Cross.

1975 (a) 37mm concentric circles

XIX MALTA INTERNATIONAL FAIR
NAXXAR — MALTA

date

Trade Fair Emblem

(b) 15th July 1975 only
Europa First Day of
Issue

L-EWWEL JUM TAL-HRUĠ 15-7-1975

Cept Emblem

Commemorative c.d.s.
(similar to those
at all Post and Sub-
Offices in Malta and
and Gozo).

Fiera Internazzjonali
NAXXAR — MALTA

1976 (a) 33mm circular but
without outer rim.

XX MALTA INTERNATIONAL FAIR
NAXXAR

date

MALTA

Trade Fair Emblem



(b) 8th July 1976 only
Europa First Day of
Issue
Commemorative
postmark used at all
Post Offices and Sub-
Post Offices in Malta
and Gozo, rectangular
with rounded corners.

L-EWWEL JUM TAL-HRUĠ (Posthorn)
8-VIL-76

Fiera Internazzjonali
NAXXAR — MALTA

1977 (a) 31 x 31mm square with
rounded corners.

XXI MALTA

FAIR

date

NAXXAR — MALTA

Trade Fair Emblem

(b) 5th July 1977 only
Europe First Day of
Issue
Commemorative c.d.s.
28mm concentric
circle common to all
Post Offices and Sub-
Post Offices in Malta
and Gozo.

L-EWWEL JUM TAL-ĦRUG (arc) MALTA
Cept Emblm
5-VII-77 FIERA INTERNAZZJONALI
NAXXAR

1978 34mm circular but
without outer rim.

XXIII MALTA INTERNATIONAL FAIR
(reading anti-clockwise)
Large Trade Fair Emblem
date
NAXXAR
MALTA



1979 35mm circular but
without outer rim.

XXIII INTERNATIONAL FAIR
OF MALTA
Trade Fair Emblem
NAXXAR
date
MALTA

Registration

Valetta Registration Labels and handstamps were used at The Trade Fair Temporary Post Offices held at San Anton in 1952, '53, '55; at The Trade and Industry Exhibition and the Trade and Industry Festival held in 1959. The Valetta labels used at these Temporary Post Offices seem to come from the same coil and it is believed that not more than 200 labels were used in all. The Valetta handstamp was applied in black except at the Trade and Industry Festival where some examples in red have been recorded.

At the 1960 Trade Fair Temporary Post Office, Valetta labels (different from those used previously) and a new cachet 50mm x 18mm R TRADE FAIR (MALTA) and No. were used to number Registered Mail. The use of labels, however, was discontinued after 1960, but the cachet R TRADE FAIR (MALTA) No. continued to be used until 1969, with the exception of 1967 when an R MOSTA (MALTA) and No. (41mm x 17.5mm) cachet was used.

After 1969, the following Registration Cachets (2 of each type) were applied on Registered Mail:

Year Description

- 1970 51mm x 18mm R/INTERNATIONAL/TRADE FAIR (MALTA)/No.
1971 Same as in 1970.
1972 51mm x 18mm Very thick R/INTERNATIONAL/FAIR/ (MALTA)/No.
1973 50mm x 18mm Long R/XVII MALTA INTERNATIONAL/FAIR (NAXXAR MALTA)/No.

(Until this year, the Registration slips had been dated by the double ring "MALTA TRADE FAIR" with arc as spacers introduced in 1952).

Row 8 No. 1 White spot below "E" of "TRADE".

Row 9 No. 4 Retouch at top of figure in top right corner.

Quantities sold: 4d — 721,699; 8d — 322,084; 3/- — 274,297.

First Day Sales up to 4.30 p.m. was £32,400.

- 1974 (For the first time the inscription on the cachet was in Maltese; and the Registration slips cancelled by the rubber stamp used on all other business).

40mm x 17mm R/FIERA INTERNAZZJONALI/TA' MALTA : — NAXXAR/Nru.

(Two rubber Registration cachets were provided, as usual, but one had to have the "R" part of it cut off and used, together with a small cachet 'Parcel Post' to number parcels posted at the Temporary Post Office).

- 1975 42mm x 18mm R/MALTA JNTERNATIONAL/FAIR — NAXXAR/No.
Note that "J" instead of "I" appears on the Registration Cachet used.

1976 Same cachet used in 1975.

1977 Same cachet used in the previous two editions.

1978 Same cachet used in '75, '76, '77.

1979 41mm x 12mm with very bold letters

R/INTERNATIONAL FAIR/OF MALTA — NAXXAR/No.

The REGISTERED (RECOMMANDE) cachet was first seen on Registered Mail at the Trade Fair Temporary Post Office in 1976. It continued to be applied in the following years, sometimes in black, but oftener in red.

AR (Avis de Reception), Advice of delivery or Payment strikes have been recorded since 1974, when an oval AR 22mm x 12mm was used. In 1977, '78 and '79 an oval AR, 22mm x 12mm, was applied mostly in black, but sometimes in red also.

If any mail intended for registration (bearing the word "Registered" or the letter "R" or a rectangular cross) and franked with the necessary postage and is dropped into a letter-box, is cacheted POSTED OUT OF COURSE. In 1976, a 37mm long POSTED OUT OF COURSE cachet with small letters was used on such mail. A different P.O.C. cachet, 45mm long and in block letters was used

for this purpose in the 1977, '78, '79 Trade Fair Temporary Post Office.

Letters which contained coins and found posted in the letter-box annexed to the Trade Fair Post Office were compulsorily registered. The first type of cachet to be used was in 1976 when a 42mm (small lettered) cachet "Compulsory Registration" was used. The Post Office officials noted the mistake in the spelling of the word "Compulsary"; in fact in 1977 a new cachet, this time 49mm block lettered cachet reading "COMPULSORY REGISTERED". In 1978, the cachet was again changed and a 52mm long "COMPULSORILY REGISTERED" replaced it. It is interesting to note that at the 1979 Trade Fair Temporary Post Office this cachet was once again changed to be replaced by a new 53mm long cachet worded "COMPULSORY REGISTRATION".

Money and Postal Order Service, Sale of International and Commonwealth Reply Coupons

Postal Orders, International and Commonwealth Reply Coupons were sold at the Trade Fair Temporary Post Offices opened at the Fair Grounds each year; but the sale of the Commonwealth Reply Coupons was discontinued when Commonwealth preferential postal rates ceased. The last date recorded of the use of these Reply Coupons at a Trade Fair Office is 1st July 1975, the opening of the 1975 Temporary Post Office.

No record has been kept of the use of The Money Order Service at the Trade Fair Post Offices before the year 1975, when a Valetta B.P.O. Money Order block with the name of the Post Office was crossed and cacheted by a 34mm x 10mm "Malta International/Fair — Naxxar" cachet. Money Orders issued at the Trade Fair Post Office in the years 1976, '77, '78 came from blocks Printed Valletta (C.O.) with the name of the Post Office struck off and Money Order endorsed by the same cachet used in 1975. In 1979, the new Money Order blocks (both for local and foreign use) were available. The name of the Issuing Office "Valetta" was erased by a new cachet 32mm x 9mm inscribed "International Fair/of Malta — Naxxar" in block letters.

Parcel Post Service

No record of such a Service has been recorded at the Trade Temporary Post Office before 1974. In fact, no Parcel Post labels or cachets were available at the 1974 Trade Fair Post Office. Parcels were offered to the Counter Clerk to be posted. The Clerk ingeniously applied one of the Registration cachets with the "R" part cut off to number the parcels, and above it, a small one-line metal "Parcel Post" 21.5mm x 2mm cachet to indicate the service.

In 1975, a rectangular 42mm x 32mm rubber cachet PARCEL POST/MALTA INTERNATIONAL/FAIR — NAXXAR/No. was available. The same cachet was applied at The Temporary Post Office during the next three Trade Fairs. In 1978, parcels had to be examined by the Post Office Clerk and

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marked with a cross and signed before they were accepted for transmission. This was a precaution against the delivery of letter bombs, one of which caused the death of a doctor's daughter, Karen Grech.

In 1979 a new rectangular 43mm x 31.5mm rubber cachet "PARCEL POST/INTERNATIONAL FAIR/OF MALTA — NAXXAR/No. was employed at all parcels posted at the Temporary Post Office, at The International Fair of Malta, held in Naxxar. As in 1978, the parcels posted at The Trade Fair had to be examined by the Clerk, marked with a cross and signed before accepted to be forwarded to their addresses.

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- The Malta Post Office Reports
- The Malta Year Books
- Malta — The Trade Fairs by J.G.C. Lander
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- The Malta Sun
- The Review and Il-Gżejjer

The writer welcomes any Addenda to this article and is very anxious to extend his knowledge regarding the posting of parcels at The Trade Fair Post Office prior 1974; Money Orders and Postal Orders issued at these Temporary Post Offices between 1952 and 1973; and A.R. Registration before 1974. Anything relevant to the matter is very much appreciated.

GREAT BRITAIN USED ABROAD

- MALTA -

From Q.V. to Q.E. II

by GRAHAM SMEED

The use of Great Britain Queen Victoria adhesives and stationery from the Imperial Post Office in Malta over the period 1857 until the end of 1884 is well documented and numerous examples of stamps with the well known 'M' or A25 cancellations are reposing in most collections.

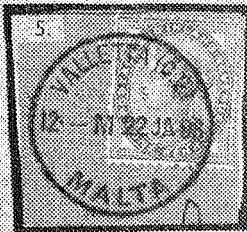
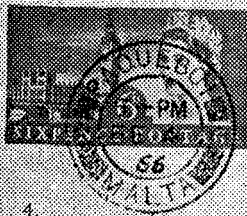
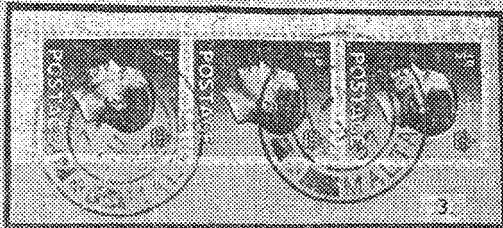
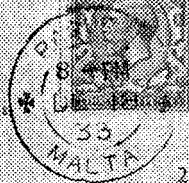
After the 1st January 1885 the Malta Post Office was established and it issued a series of suitably inscribed adhesives and postal stationery which was all accepted by countries of the U.P.U. The use of British adhesives and stationery ceased, but, over the past few years in my usual 'magpie' habit I have formed a collection of Great Britain used either in or from Malta and have examples from all reigns, which illustrate how the rules governing the use of such adhesives could be applied to some items and accepted in payment of postage, while others have incurred the penalty by being 'taxed' or having postage due charges levied.

The instances when British adhesives have been accepted for postage fall basically under two headings: Maritime and Military Mail. The rules governing the posting of mail aboard ships were drafted at several U.P.U. conferences in the 1890s. and eventually the word PAQUEBOT adopted to identify such mail. A straight line handstamp reading this was sent to Malta, by post, on 30 January 1894, a very clear example is shown in figure 1 a picture postcard with K.G.V. 1d. cancelled VALLETTA 19FE12. Later a circular datestamp incorporating the words PAQUEBOT and MALTA was introduced (about 1930), this is shown used on a p.p.c. with K.G.V. 1½d. dated DE 18 33, fig. 2.

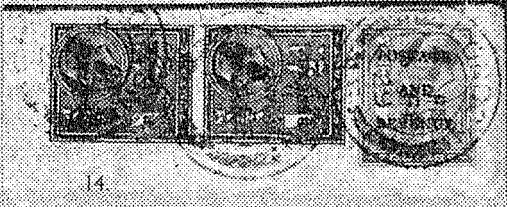
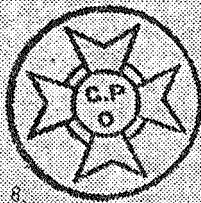
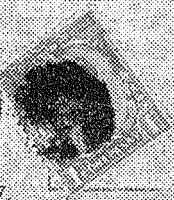
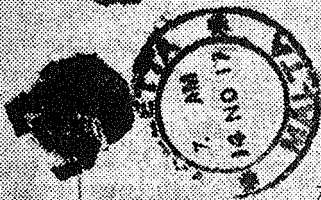
A short time afterwards another similar c.d.s. was introduced with spacer blocks and crosses and examples are seen on fig. 3 which is a strip of three ½d. of King Edward VIII dated AU 9 39. An unusual combination is seen on fig. 4 with a Q.E. II 6d. Air Letter clearly marked with a PAQUETBOT — MALTA c.d.s. of FE 4 66. A Queen Victoria item which raises some speculation as to its origin or use is a small piece with a 1d. lilac cancelled with the VALLETTA (C.O.) c.d.s. dated 22 JA 98. fig. 5. I suspect it may have been from a paquebot cover, but not enough remains to give the true story! These examples all show acceptance of Great Britain adhesives etc., by the Malta Postal Authorities for the payment of postage.

The regulations regarding the use of stamps and/or free mail for service personnel are rather complicated and it depends what type of posting or if the sender was injured and in hospital, so the mail is usually identified as O.A.S.

PAQUEBOT



10



i.e. On Active Service. During the 1914-18 war Malta was a busy base for Allied activities, and large numbers of servicemen passed through the port of Valletta either to or from the war zones, consequently large numbers of O.A.S. cards and covers are known. However some of these 'travellers at the King's expense' were under the impression that a stamp would speed their missive to love ones back home and I have two examples showing this: fig. 6 p.p.c. with K.G.V. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. just tied by VALLETTA c.d.s. date 6 NO 14, the card also has a faint censor mark, no postage due has been raised, but on fig. 7 a p.p.c. with K.G.V. 1d., again only just tied, with the VALLETTA c.d.s. 14 NO 17, the Post Office has struck a 'T' mark, and then somewhere, not necessarily in Malta, the adhesive and 'T' mark have been obliterated by a rather smudgy black 'dumb' cancel. Another mark found applied to G.B. adhesives is the G.P.O. in Maltese Cross. This handstamp was originally intended as a canceller for adhesives on registered mail and this use is found from about 1906, but, during and just after the 1914-18 war this mark is found on items of mail with military connections and bearing G.B. adhesives. I have several examples in my collection including (fig. 8) a letter bearing a K.G.V. 1d which has been passed by ship's censor, this was probably from a ship in Grand Harbour, to Italy and backstamped Genova 23.12.17. Another example showing use of the G.P.O. in Maltese Cross is a p.p.c. from Constantinople and addressed to H.M. Dockyard, K.G.V. two $\frac{1}{2}$ d. card dated in manuscript 13/7/21.

As there was usually a large naval presence in Grand Hargour the Malta Post Office introduced a suitably inscribed circular handstamp; RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS — MALTA. fig. 9. Q.E. II 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. dated SP 13 54. Over the years a number of Forces Post Offices were operated in or near large military establishment, and mail posted in these received a FIELD POST OFFICE cancellation. There was a concessionary postal rate in Malta whereby service personnel could send letters locally, i.e. within Malta and Gozo for a fee of 2d.; example is a cover bearing a Q.E. II 2d., posted at Floriana F.P.O. 16 JY 77 and delivered in Balzan. However, the Malta Post Office did not take too kindly to a letter bearing a Q.E. II 2d., which was quietly popped into a G.P.O. posting box. The offending label has circular handstruck marks to indicate zero value and 2 x 2c postage due labels have been added before delivery. The treatment of unacceptable items has varied slightly over the years; the circular 'zero value' handstamp is known from about 1885 and an example is shown in fig. 10 K.G.V. 1d. not cancelled but dated Sliema 12 NO 12 with attendant 'T' and 1d. Foreign Branch postage due handstamps. A cover posted at Notabile B.O. DE 28 14 has received similar treatment to the previous item, but in addition the K.G.V. 1d. stamp has been well obliterated by a 'dumb' oval of nine lines, as well as having a G.B. 1d. postage due label added before delivery.

An even more curious obliterator, which looks like some of the U.S.A. cork cancels, fig. 11, a p.p.c. date MR 21 30 and has an interesting message "am writing in the G.P.O. at noon" so presumably the makeshift cancel and 'T' mark were applied in Malta? Another 'dumb' cancel is found on a commercial cover, fig. 12, this was probably a S.A.E. sent out by the company to facilitate reply, the K.G.V. 1½d. is blobbed out alongside is the Sliema c.d.s. ?MY 31 and 'T'. The Foreign Branch h/s 1½d. and three ½d. postage due labels have been applied in London before delivery.

Not many examples of irregular use of Great Britain postal stationery are recorded, however, a couple of 'philatelic' items have come my way; a Q.E. II 2½d. stationery envelope with manuscript circles to indicate zero value and manuscript 'T', dated VALLETTA JA 3 55, no other marks are apparent so it looks as if no charge was made!

A registered 'combination' cover is really exceptional, fig. 13, an H. size G.B. K.G. VI 8½d. with Malta Q.E. II 1/6 adhesive cancelled PRINCE OF WALES RD. SLIEMA.

To give this story a final twist I show an envelope bearing Malta adhesives, K.G.V. 2 x ½d. and 1½d. cancelled in London 6 FE 29, fig. 14, no postage due or other marks are applied, so this letter either missed the sorter's eye or was mis-routed to Switzerland to where it was addressed.

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FINE ARTS ON MALTA STAMPS

PART IV

by LOIS L. CORBIN

FINE ARTS

SCOTT		SAID
331	<i>Dante</i> . Detail of fresco by Raphael "The Disputa" in the Stanza della Segnatura, Vatican. All values (2d., 6d., 2/-) issued 7th July 1965 to mark "VII Centenary of Birth of Dante Alighieri".	331
334	<i>Turkish Encampment and Fort St. Michael</i> . Adapted from paintings by Matteo d'Alleccio (1547-1600) on commission from Grand Master Aloph de Wignacourt a half century after the events of the Great Siege of 1565, from the fresco frieze in the Hall of St. Michael and St. George of the Grand Masters' Palace, Valetta. 2d. stamp of the set to commemorate the "IV Century of the Great Siege", issued 1st September 1965.	334
335	<i>Knights and Turks in Battle</i> (same as 334). 3d. stamp.	335
337	<i>Arrival of Small Relieving Force from Sicily</i> . Same as 334. 8d. stamp of the same issue.	337
338	<i>Trophy</i> , arms of the Grand Master Jean de la Valette decorative relief of his tomb in the crypt of St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta (see 289, Vol. 10, No. 1, p. 12). 1/- value of the above issue.	338
339	<i>Allegory of Victory</i> , mural by Calabrese from St. John's Co-Cathedral, in the large lunette over the main entrance, adapted. Mattia Preti (1613-1699), known as Il Cavaliere Calabrese or Il Calabrese, Italian painter; his works include frescoes in the Church of Sant'Andrea delle Valle in Rome and 'Job Visited by his Friends', Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels. Il Calabrese was himself a Knight of the Order and modified the original plans for St. John' Co-Cathedral by G. Cassar, the church was completed in 1578. The ceiling of the Cathedral is embellished with the frescoes of Mattia Preti. 1/6 value.	339
340	<i>Great Siege Victory Medal</i> : Jean de la Valette on obverse, David slaying Goliath on reverse, as told in the Old Testament; both sides of the medal shown on stamp. Medal struck 400 years ago after famous victory over the Turks. 2/6 value.	340
344	<i>Winston Churchill</i> , by amateur artist. All values (2d., 3d., 1/-, 1/6) of set issued in memory of Sir Winston Churchill on 24th January 1966.	344

- 348- *Valletta City*. Valletta was founded in 1566, named after Grand 348-
 352 Master Jean Parisot de la Valette (on 2d. stamp). Construction 352
 begun after the lifting of the Great Siege; designs of the new city
 made by Francesco Laparelli (1/- stamp), architect to the Pope and
 Michelangelo's assistant, assisted by Maltese architect Girolomo
 Cassar (2/6 stamp). After the siege the defences of the Island were
 in a very poor state; members of the Order fearing another Turkish
 attack were in favour of evacuating the Island. La Valette convinced
 the Order should not leave, requested the help of Christian princes
 and Pope Pius IV (3d. stamp) to assist him in building a new city.
 The funds made available were not enough, but members of the
 Order were persuaded to help and the local population submitted
 to a new tax on imported wheat and wine, providing the needed
 money. On March 28 1566 the foundation stone was laid. City
 designed (6d. stamp) with parallel roads crossing each other at
 right angles, running across the centre ridge of the main promo-
 notory, and the grid form of the whole plan is one of the earliest
 examples of modern town planning. All values of issue of 28th
 March 1966 to mark "IV Centenary of the Foundation of Valletta".
- 353 *John F. Kennedy Memorial*: one of the newest examples of modern 353
 Maltese architecture, set in a grove at Salina; the memorial pavillion
 is shown as background. (Architect?) 3d. and 1/6 values in memory
 of President John F. Kennedy, issued 28th May 1966.
- 367 *St. Catherine of Siena*, c. 1667 marble group by Melchiorre Gafà 367
 (1635-1667). Born in Malta, Gafà studied in Rome; considered one
 of the most accomplished exponents of Roman baroque art. Bernini
 said to have regarded him as the only artist who could surpass him.
 Among his best known work are the marble groups of St. Catherine
 of Siena and St. Thomas of Villanova in Rome, and St. Rose of
 Lima, in Peru; the bronze bust of Alexander VII in Washington,
 and the St. Paul processional statue in Valletta. "The Glory of St.
 Catherine of Siena" is in the apse of the Church of Santa Caterina
 in Magnanapoli, Rome. 2d. stamp issued 1st August 1967 to mark
 the "III Centenary of the Death of Melchiorre Gafà".
- 368 *St. Thomas from Villanova*, by Gafà, the bozzetto for the colossal 368
 marble group of St. Thomas of Villanova is in the transept of the
 Church of St. Augustine in Rome. A 1661 terracotta copy of this
 bozzetto shown on the stamp is in the National Museum of Fine
 Arts, Valletta. 4d. value of above issue.

Continued on page 21

For Sale by Private Treaty:

MALTA

1860 ½d. on blued, 1861-62 no wmk. ½d. shades (6), 1863-81 CC14 ½d. shades (15), 1868 CC 12½ ½d. (2) and 1882 ½d. (10) 34 stamps. Cat. over £5250.	£1250
1899 colour trials on watermarked paper: ¼d. (3), 4½d. (10), 5d. (9), 2/6 (12) and 10/- (9) — a collection which would be impossible to duplicate.	£9500
1913 colour trials on MCA paper made for the 4d. value from the ¼d. (die ?) — six colours, one approved, also 2/6.	£1500
1899 unwatermarked ¼d. ochre, 1913 MCA ¼d. purple and bottle green, colour trials.	£450
1899 colour trials ¼d. ochre, 4½d. greenish-grey, 5d. Prussian Blue, 2/6 deep brown.	£600
1899 colour trials ¼d. ochre, 5d. sage-green 1913 MCA ¼d. purple, ¼d. orange-red, ¼d. bottle green, ¼d. black.	£1050
1902 Edward die proofs, two with uncleared value tablet, ½d. (2) and 1d. (2), all different (6).	£1000
1902 ½d. imperf. colour trials on CA paper, four different.	£375
1912 4d. essay, mock-up, part artist's work.	£425
1914 George V head die proof.	£150
1920 2d. die proof dated 12.11.20.	£150
1922 Melita 1/- essay.	£375
1926 5/- vignette die proof.	£275

Enquiries to Richard Stewart at



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DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOSEPH FARRUGIA

CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1980

Date of Issue	7th. October 1980.
Values	2c + 5m, 6c + 1c, 2c + 5m, 6c + 1c,
Stamp Size	8c + 1c5 = 20.5mm x 47.15mm 12c + 3c = 48mm x 39.5mm. 8c + 1c5, 12c + 3c.
Art Designer	Raymond Pitre'.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	3 low values 13.4 x 13.4 (comb). high value 14 x 14 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright in all three low values and pointing sideways in high value.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

The colour of this set was produced by printing in multicolour using six different colours.

Designs:

This is the seventeenth set of Xmas. Stamps issued by the G.P.O. Besides the postal value, each stamp includes a surcharge, the proceeds from which will be distributed amongst philanthropic organisations.

This set of four stamps features a triptych painting, (the high value stamp 12c + 3c), by a Maltese artist, Anton Inglott (1915-1945). The painting shows the Annunciation (2c + 5m stamp), Conception (6c + 1c stamp) and Nativity (8c + 1c5 stamp).

The painting in triptych form, is on permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta.

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

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 the top, or first colour, of the colour checks.

The Printed Sheets of the 2c+5m, 6c+1c and 8c+1c5 values consisted of three Panes, "A", "B" and "C". Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps.

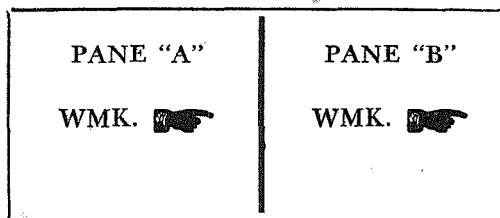
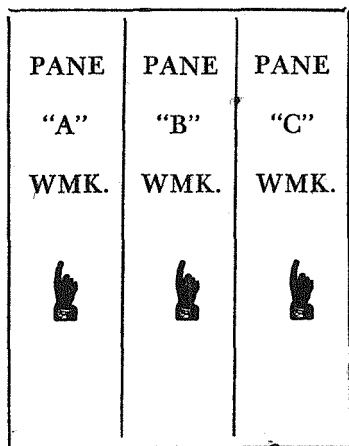
The Printed Sheet of the 12c+3c value, consisted of two Panes "A" and "B". Each Pane has 40 stamps, made up of eight rows of five stamps.

Plate/Pane numbers:

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

Perforation of Margins

As with other sets, a Pane of stamps is looked at in such a way, that the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left of the bottom margin. In the case of the three low values, 2c+5m, 6c+1c and 8c+1c5, the left hand margin of Pane "A", of each value is imperforated, whilst the left hand margin Panes "B" and "C" are fully perforated. The top, bottom and right hand margins of Panes "A", "B" and "C" are also fully perforated. In the case of the 12c+3c value, the left hand margin of Pane "A" is imperforated, whilst the left hand margin of Pane "B" is fully perforated. The top, bottom and right hand margins of Panes "A" and "B" are also fully perforated.



From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet of the 2c+5m, 6c+1c and 8c+1c5 values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown at top left. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps will be seen the right way up, hence why water mark is upright. The printed sheet of the 12c+3c value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown at top right. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would also be seen the right way up, hence why water mark is sideways. The perforator in both cases ran from left to right.

Imprint Blocks:

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in both Panes of the 12c+3c value, and under the last two stamps of the bottom row in all Panes of the other three lower values. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in all values.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to January 23, 1981 unless stocks are previously exhausted. Brisk sales were reported on the first day of issue, and up to 5p.m. sales amounted to £M41,827.

BOOK SHELF

SAID MALTA STAMP AND COIN CATALOGUE 1981

The twelfth edition of this catalogue has been published by Messrs. Emmanuel Said of 32, Melita Street, Valletta, and is being released on Monday, 6th October, 1980.

The Catalogue includes detailed and fully illustrated sections dealing with the stamps, postal history and coins of Malta and lists all the currency notes issued by Malta. A fully illustrated section is devoted to the stamps of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. It also gives a complete listing of the Order's contemporary coins.

The stamps of Malta from the Republic issue onwards, as well as all miniature sheets and sheetlets and airmail stamps are illustrated in colour. Prices of stamps, covers and other philatelic material have been revised to take account of present-day market prices and auction realisation. In the album of 420 pages with over 700 illustrations and nearly 300 line illustrations, the philatelist will find everything he wants to know about Maltese philately.

All the special sections, such as those dealing with Malta Post Office machine cancellations, Prisoner of War Mail, Official postal stationery, pre-adhesive and postage due handstamps, disinfected mail, major varieties, etc. have been revised and up-dated. The section dealing with proofs and colour-trails have been completely re-written and reflects our latest knowledge on this topic.

The catalogue, in an attractive linen cover designed by Edwin Bonello, has been photaset, printed and bound by Printex Limited, Malta. It is being sold at £M2.50c per copy.

"MALTA. The Postal History and Stamps 1576-1960"

R.E. Martin, editor for the Malta Study Circle;
London, Robson Lowe Ltd., 1980. pp. 412, ill.

It has been felt necessary for some years for a complete and updated manual about Malta. Several individuals and bodies, especially the Malta Study Circle, have been researching Malta's postal history and related aspects, published in numerous publications, in particular the Circle's, such as the Study Papers and Newsletters, not to mention other contributions scattered in a handful of periodicals. For almost thirty years, the only available treatise about Malta was Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia, vol. 1, published in 1952.

The present volume, "Malta". The Postal History and Stamps 1576-1960" published by the same house, is subdivided into thirty-two chapters, spanning five centuries of Malta's philately. After the introductory chapter dealing with the history and topography of the Maltese Islands, there follows seven chapters discussing the pre-adhesive postal history. Chapters 9 to 26 cover in detail and chronologically philately proper, including aspects of postal history such as Village Marks, Postmen's Personal Handstamps, Prisoner of War Mails, Forces Mail, Air Mail and War Time Air Mail. The last six chapters are dedicated to Specimens, Revenue Stamps, Postal Stationery, the General and Branch Post Offices machine and hand stamps, and Registration.

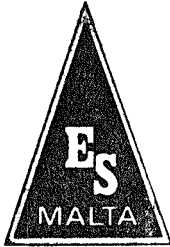
Every chapter is meticulously researched, based on all information already published as well as on up-dates, thus providing an in-dept study of the subject under discussion. As a result the 'handbook' took more the form of an 'encyclopedia'. Over 250 philatelists contributed towards this volume and credit should be given to Mr. R.E. Martin, Editor and the Handbook Committee of the Malta Study Circle, who worked incessantly to have the handbook published in time for "London 1980".

Continued from page 16

- 369 *Christ's Baptism*, the 1667 bronze group representing the "Baptism of Christ", adapted from Gafa's original clay model in the Sacristy of the old Parish Church of St. Gregory in Żejtun, Malta. 1/6 value. (Editor's note: The bozzetto of the above statue is in fact at the Museum attached to the Parish Church dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria, Żejtun).
- 370 *St. John the Baptist*, from the same group "Baptism of Christ". 3/6 This work caused Gafa's death (in Rome), as he was knocked down by a large lump of clay while modelling the huge figure of this group in the Belvedere Foundry at the Vatican. 2/6 value.

Editorial Request: The author of this series of articles would appreciate any corrections in the descriptions and details given. Readers are kindly requested to forward same to: Lois L. Corbin, 501 East Seminole, Apt. 7, Lake Wales, Florida 33853, USA.

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Traditional Philately Versus Postal History

The problem of locating postal history collections and the formation of a group of postal history judges at International Exhibitions is the subject of an editorial by Prof. Dr. Vito Salierno which appeared in "Il Nuovo Corriere Filatelico", No. 30, August 1980, a press copy of which has been forwarded to us.

The author took to task the way postal collections were "classed" at LONDON 1980. It appears that the 147 collections in the postal history class were judged by eight postal history judges but not as a separate class, the judges being "included as individuals in other group of jurors".

In the opinion of Prof. Dr. Vito Salierno, "what occurred at LONDON 1980 set a dangerous precedent, which, if repeated, would have unfortunate results and lead to greater confusion in drawing the limits between traditional philately and postal history".

Literature Guidelines

International Exhibitions are now being held too frequently and Organizing Committees invariably either follow to the last detail FIP recommendations, or make their own conditions and regulations, which at times run counter to FIP rules.

After ten years of philatelic literature exhibitions at all levels, the FIP Commission for Philatelic Literature

(President: Charles J. Peterson), has prepared a set of "guidelines" for Exhibiting of Philatelic Literature. These guidelines should enable Organizing Committees to have a properly formulated separate Philatelic Literature class.

Internationals Forthcoming MILCOPEX 81, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

27 February — 1 March

Organized by the Milwaukee Philatelic Society; this is an annual exhibition and this year the theme will be "British Philately" with a concurrent Literature Exhibition on an international level.

WIPA 1981, Vienna, Austria

22 — 31 May 1981

Organized by the Association of Austrian Philatelic Clubs under FIP patronage with the motto "Quality not Quantity".

PHILATOKYO 81, Tokyo, Japan

9 — 18 October 1981

Commemorating the 110th Anniversary of the first Japanese Postage Stamp, under FIP patronage and auspices of the Inter Asia Philatelic Federation.

ROCEX TAIPEI 81, Taipei, Taiwan

25 October — 2 November 1981

Organized by the Republic of China Department of Posts to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Republic of China.

PHILEXFRANCE 82, Paris, France

10 — 24 June, 1982

A grand international exhibition with 6,500 frames; further details awaited.

U.S. Olympic Boycott Off!

The U.S. Postal Service lifted off the "Olympic Boycott" on August 4th, just as soon as the 1980 Olympic Games ended in Moscow.

The Summer Olympic stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service were withdrawn from sale on March 11th, to conform with President Carter's request for a total boycott.

Announcing the decision to resume sales of the Olympic stamps, Postmaster General William F. Bolger said that the sale will be resumed in honour of America's Olympic athletes who refrained from participation in the Moscow games, the future of the Olympic movement, and also to honour the late Olympic great Jesse Owens, who died on March 31st at the age of 66.

Printex

A lot of people, including philatelists, tend to know very little about Security Printers, especially with regards to stamp production, but also about other products. Most Security Printers by force are shrouded in secrecy and we philatelists can understand the reason. In Malta, Printex Ltd. have been producing local postage stamps since 1972 and equipped with sophisticated machines offering some of the best in lithography printing, the firm has maintained a very high standard of stamp

production with no major variety ever finding its way into the catalogue lists.

Printex Ltd., however, are more popularly known for their unphilatelic products and the impressive display boards at their offices only provide a quick glance to the type and scope of commissions they have undertaken over the years. Products such as books, (paperback, clothback and hard bound), postcards, promotion leaflets, maps, prints including antique-look, calendars, diaries, brochures, posters are just a few items that come to mind.

Talking to Managing Director, Mr. Maurice De Giorgio in his orderly office, one immediately realizes that he is a man of perfection, and nothing but the perfect is good for the firm. This is of course reflected in the firm's output, particularly, stamp products. Printex Ltd., have built a reputation (and a tradition) for perfection and we philatelists can rest assured that in so far as production of stamps is concerned, the Maltese stamp will remain a pleasure to look at, and to store in our albums.

Auction Action

Hereunder we list some Malta realizations from the October 4th day sale by Robson Lowe at Basle:

- 1885 — 4d. variety imperforated marginal pair — £2,292.
- 1886 — 5/- hand painted essay in the issued design (4 May 1885) — £2,005.
- 1919 — 10/- on multiple crown CA

paper — £2,005.
1919/1921 — 10/- imperforate plate:
proof on MCA paper, a block of
four — £1,934.
1886 — 5/- hand painted essay, large
head with letters (27 March 1885)
— £1,862.

1885 — ½d. proof perforation 12 on a
small paper — £1,504.
1885 — 2½d. hand painted essay in
blue tracing paper — £1,289.
1922/26 — "Melita" essay £M1 in
black — £1,217.

THE 1924/5 BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION HANDSTAMPS

by A.D. SABEY

A number of collectors are under the impression that the small circular handstamp sometimes applied to mail from Malta during 1923 and 1924 was only used there. However a little research reveals that a similar type of handstamp was also employed in British Guiana, Johor, Kedah and Kuala Lumpur areas of Malaya and in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Of these, British Guiana appears to be the most plentiful and it is believed to have been used from July 23 probably to the end of the summer of 1924 and again in 1925 for the second session of the Exhibition.

The three Malayan regions — Johore, Kedah and Kuala Lumpur used a similar handstamp for roughly the same period of time although no 1925 dates have been noted.

With regard to MALTA, the use of this handstamp was not regular. As with other territories which used a handstamp, it was not employed as the canceller but as an additional item. Thus for it to be applied, the mail must have been dealt with in two operations.

Other interesting facts have come to light in that three variations in the composition of the stamp are known:-



- 1) Two narrow horizontal lines below the feet of the lion.
- 2) Two wider horizontal lines below the feet of the lion, and the lower of these has a 2mm. break, just left of centre.
- 3) The dots between BRITISH and EXHIBITION, and EMPIRE and 1924 are not central.

MALTA STUDY CIRCLE

(A Society for those interested in the postal history and postage stamps of Malta)

London 1980 Meeting Report

The first event in the Circle programme at London 1980 Exhibition was the Dinner held in conjunction with the Gibraltar Study Circle, on Thursday 8th May, at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, London S.W.1.

Fifty members, friends and guests from both organisations sat down to a most enjoyable meal followed by some entertaining speakers.

Mr. Wally Jackson (G.S.C.) introduced the principle guests and remarked that at the last moment the Gibraltar Minister of Postal Services and the Malta High Commissioner had both been forced to withdraw on medical grounds, so good wishes for speedy recoveries were expressed on behalf of all those present. Wally then introduced Dr. Alfred Bonnici from Malta, and he proceeded to relate the similarities of the two countries of study also the fact that in the past Malta had exported to Gibraltar not only workers but also means of transport in the form of the karrozzin, a horse drawn cab, also much of the early mail service to Malta from the U.K. was via Gibraltar. He continued by giving a reminiscent review of the Malta Study Circle's history and the recent work on the Handbook project which had reached fruition in time for the Exhibition.

A surprise visitor to the dinner was

Mr. Robson Lowe, accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. H. Cumming, they made a brief stop between other engagements and with the usual warm typical 'Robby' humour he explained the call was only to receive a little sustenance before journeying to their next appointment! Dr. Bonnici then thanked both Mr. Lowe and Mr. Cumming for their enthusiastic support and technical advice in helping the Malta Study Circle publish the Handbook, these remarks were heartily applauded by all those present.

The second speaker to be introduced was Mr. R.B. Pitaluga, Director of Postal Services, Gibraltar, and in a very forthright manner described himself as a non-stamp collector, but he was interested to see how the hobby operated and concluded his remarks by wishing both organisations every success in their activities.

To conclude the formal proceedings and propose a vote of thanks on behalf of the overseas visitors Mr. G.A. Osborn from Bermuda had the diners chuckling over his anecdotes on postal history and stamps, but also he deviated to more humorous tales so as not to bore the non-collectors present. This all received enthusiastic applause.

The second major event in the programme was the International meeting held during the morning of Saturday 10th May, at Earls Court, when

several members from overseas presented displays of varied and unusual items.

The chairman, Arthur Moyles introduced Mr. J.W. Turnbull from Australia, saying that many members knew the name as his late wife Phyllis had been a founder member and enthusiastic contributor of articles and information to Circle publications. Jim, to all his friends, modestly admitted that all the items he was showing were from his wife's collection and he related how he was the initiator of her interest in Malta as in his job he associated with Maltese migrants and saw some envelopes bearing Malta stamps being thrown away asked for them to be saved for his wife. From this small beginning the collection grew into fifty volumes.

The display included: a Knight's letter dated 1655 with embossed seal, covers carried by Falmouth Packets in the early 1800's, several examples of the first curved boxed Malta handstamp struck in red and in black, examples of various styles of the straight line h/s MALTA POST OFFICE, forwarding agents cachets, the 1857 circular Malta paid, with strikes in red and black, a Malta Ship Letter used in 1860, another maritime item was a cover from Alexandria to France with the Malta MB (mobile box) mark dated 1867, a very unusual MALTA struck in black on a cover from Malta to Guernsey having a manuscript charge of 3/3 was dated 1817.

There was also a selection of postage due markings and several W.W.I

prisoner of war items, one having the only recorded example of FREE FROM PRISONER OF WAR in oval having a number 5, this was on a card written in Turkish and addressed to Rome, dated 1921, and to conclude the varied display was a K.G.V. 1d. postal stationery card used from COSPICUA MY 28 23 having the earliest recorded date of use of the Wembley Exhibition handstamp.

After members had closely examined this wonderful array of items, the Circle's Malta representative Mr. Hadrian Wood was introduced, he shyly described his collection of postage due marks as being well written up and he knew members preferred to look rather than hear him speak. The wide range of postage due items displayed was the biggest selection the Circle had ever seen at a meeting, it commenced with manuscript markings, some of which may not have been applied in Malta, several examples of the straight line INSUFFICIENTLY PAID, also a wide selection of most values known of the circular handstamps indicating charge, and T marks; also as a bonus many cards delivered in Malta had postman's personal handstamps as well, so many aspects could be studied from one item. An almost complete series of charge values from ½d. to 1/- were displayed, a most unusual combination was threepence struck alongside ½d. These circular marks were mostly on postcards and mainly covered the period 1867 to 1922. Examples of the upright oval handstamp with charge

and A25 were shown, dated 1893 and 1895 respectively, handstamps in the U.P.U. centimes, five centimes used in 1896, and ten centimes used in 1924. Several examples of the large unframed 2d. were included, as well as some items where the charge had been altered or cancelled, and the different methods used gave another small study in itself; e.g. three pence in circle cancelled and the unframed 2d. applied, a 4d. in circle cancelled by an A25 ibliterator alongside the Delivery Branch c.d.s. dated 1904, and a curiosity, a 4d. in circle cancelled by part of the registered h/s Malta amid bars and the revised charge of 3d. in circle applied nearby. A good range of the box charge marks of the 1924-26 period were also shown and to conclude this wonderful display were official paid items of mail where the boxed charge marks were applied in red with the Official Paid c.d.s. these were dated 1933.

Mr. Cecil Diamantino from Malta then showed a few examples from a recent 'find' of pre-adhesive material. This included disinfected cachets, and seals, straight line charge marks in various styles of lettering, also a cover dated JU 26 82 bearing a block of four Q.V. ½d. yellows, and to complete his contribution a couple of censored covers, one from W.W.I dated 1916, the other W.W.II dated 1940 with a very large cachet reading Deputy Chief Censor.

Mr. Hymie Mervis from South Africa was then introduced to members, and he commenced by apologising for not showing any material but

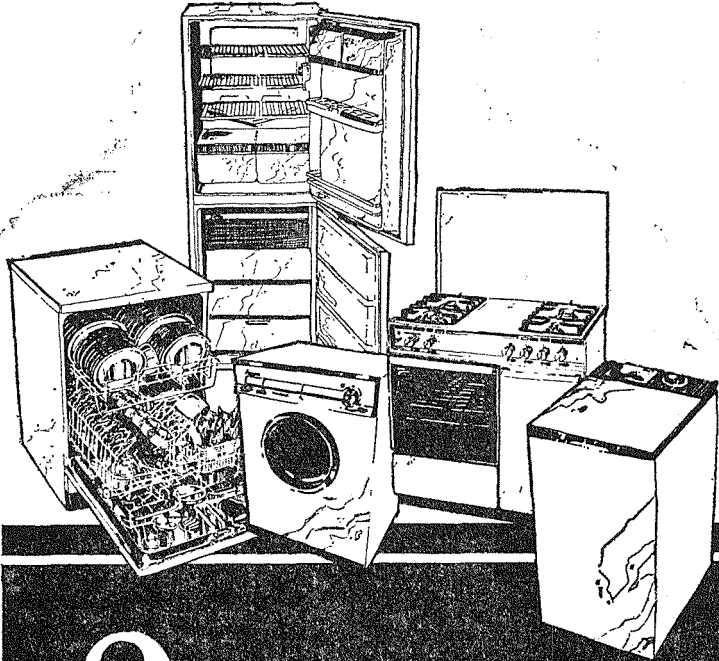
had problems in customs in his country. He did offer to do a revue of the Handbook for the publication "The South Africa Philatelist" and hoped to put Malta on the collecting map in his part of the world.

As there was still some time available the chairman, Arthur Moyles showed a few items of general interest including a registered cover dated 1938 which was plastered with ¼d. adhesives and tied up by pink tape sealed by G.P.O. red wax seals. Two examples of the Tower Road registration label used at Prince of Wales Road, but only one being altered in manuscript to show the correct place of use, and a returned picture postcard, also a wartime German propaganda picture postcard showing the Luftwaffe bombing Valletta, also a couple of P.O.W. cards sent to Malta in W.W.II.

Mr. George Coates then showed a few of his recent acquisitions. These included Malta Paid c.d.s. in red, also an example in black, forwarding agents cachets, and an airmail cover dated 1934 with a cachet in Greek, a Zeppelin cover to Malta dated 1929 with a query as to the route it used to Malta, but he commented it was probably dropped in Italy as that had been a practice although there were no backstamps to prove it.

Mr. John Lander then followed up with another couple of air mail items, to U.K. and asked for assistance in determining the routes as the rates varied so much during the 1930-1940 period, and to conclude the morning's

Continued on page 32



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MALTA — A DIARY

May-August 1980

- 1-5-80 The Postmaster General notified for general information that an agreement had been signed between the British and the Maltese Postal Administrations for the encashment of British Post cheques in Malta. The new service which came into effect on the 1st May 1980, entitles account holders of the National Giro Bank of Great Britain to withdraw from the local Post Offices any amount in Maltese Currency up to a maximum of £M30 on each card presented.
- 6-5-80 On the occasion of the participation by the Malta Post Office in the London '80 International Philatelic Exhibition, which was held at Earl's Court from the 6th to the 14th May, 1980, the Department issued for sale a commemorative Postal Card. Each card is numbered. The first Malta stamp, which was issued in 1860, is reproduced on the obverse of the card. The Europa '80 postage set was affixed on the card and cancelled with a special hand-stamp inscribed "Post Office Malta — 6.14.V.80 — London 1980" and incorporating the Emblem of Malta and the Postal Horn. The Postal Card was available for sale at 50 cents from the Philatelic Counter of the G.P.O. from the 6th May to the 14th May 1980, unless stocks were previously exhausted. A special souvenir leaflet, also numbered, featuring the Flemish Tapestries miniature sheet, in an enlarged form, was given free with each Postal Card. The Postal Card could have been sent through the post, provided that the proper postage was affixed on the reverse of the card. The stamp or stamps were cancelled with the normal metal hand-post-mark.
- 12-5-80 The Postmaster General notified that four metal "postage paid" hand-stamps inscribed "General Post Office — Malta — Paid" and one metal "postage paid" hand-stamp inscribed "Victoria Post Office — Gozo — Paid" were to be used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta, and at the Branch Post Office, Victoria, Gozo, respectively, as from Monday, 12th May 1980. Each of these five "postage paid" hand-stamps was being used for the 1c5, 2c5, 3c5, 8c and 12c values. The rubber "postage paid" hand-stamps for the 1c5 and 2c5 values which were in use at the Central Mail Room and the rubber "postage paid" hand-stamp for the 2c5 value which was used at the Branch Post Office in Victoria, Gozo, were withdrawn at the close of business on Saturday, 10th May, 1980.
- 22-5-80 A Sub Post Office was opened at "Vinvic", By the Church Street, Xaghra, Gozo, on Thursday, 22nd May 1980. A hand metal date-stamp, inscribed with the words, "Xaghra S.P.O. — Gozo", was used at the Sub Post Office.
- 26-5-80 Applications for the post of Sub-Postmaster at Sliema were issued again in the Government Gazette of the 22nd April, 1980. Applications were to be received by 5.00 p.m. of Monday, 26th May 1980. This notice has appeared three times, the first being in March 1979.
- 27-5-80 In today's Government Gazette it was notified that the VIII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1980 will be held from the 9th to the 16th December, 1980, at the Auberge

- d'Italie, Valletta. Rules for participation and awards to be given were also included.
- 30-5-80 In today's Government Gazette the rules for a postage stamp design competition were issued. The designs are for a set of postage stamps to commemorate the Chess Olympiad which is due to be held in Malta between the 20th November and the 8th December, 1980, at the Mediterranean Conference Centre. It is intended to issue this set, later this year.
- 2-6-80 A machine stamp-cancelling slogan, marking World Environment Day, was used from the 2nd to the 5th June 1980, at the Central Mail Room. The slogan reads as follows:- "Hidma Nazzjonali — Għal Pajjiż Nadif — Jum Dinji ta' l-Ambjent '80", meaning "National Participation — For a Clean Country — World Environment Day '80".
- 5-6-80 Four new metal hand date-stamps were put in use, two at the Branch Post Office, Żurrieq, one at the Sub-Post Office, St. Paul's Bay and one at the Sub-Post Office, Birżebbuġa, on Thursday, 5th June, 1980. Besides the word "Malta", the date-stamps have inscribed thereon. "Żurrieq", "St. Paul's Bay S.P.O." and "Birżebbuġa S.P.O." respectively. The date-stamps which were being replaced, were withdrawn from use at the Branch Post Office and Sub-Post Offices mentioned above at the close of business on Wednesday, 4th June, 1980.
- 13-6-80 The 5m, 50c and £M2 stamps of the present 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.
- 19-6-80 A SubPost Office was opened at 32, Main Street, Nadur, Gozo, on Thursday, 19th June, 1980.
- A hand metal date-stamp, inscribed with the words "Nadur S.P.O. — Gozo" was used at the Sub-Post Office.
- 23-6-80 A machine stamp-cancelling slogan inscribed. "Dr. Them. Zammit — Discovered — Undulant Fever Germ — In Goat's Blood — 25.6.1905", was used on the 23rd, 24th and 25th June, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.
- 1-7-80 A temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from the 1st July, 1980, to the 15th July, 1980. The hours of business of the temporary Branch Post Office were from 6.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. from Tuesday, 1st July to Tuesday, 15th July, 1980, for the transaction of the following business:
- (a) sale of stamps and postal stationery;
 - (b) registration of letters;
 - (c) issue and payment of Money and Postal Orders;
 - (d) posting of parcels and other postal articles.
- Postal articles posted at this temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked by a date-stamp inscribed with the following words: "XXIV International Fair of Malta, Naxxar".
- 11.7.80 The 1c, 1c3 and 4c stamps of the Present 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.
- 14-7-80 A "postage paid" machine stamp inscribed "2c5 Paid — Valletta — Malta" was used at the Central Mail Room as from Monday, 14th July, 1980.
- 25-7-80 A special hand-postmark was used at the G.P.O. Valletta, on Friday, 25th July, 1980, to mark the 14th International Conference of the International League of Teachers

of Esperanto. The postmark is inscribed:

“XIV Konferenza Internazzjonali — Ghalliema ta' l-Esperanto — 25.7.80 — Valletta — Malta”, meaning “XIV International Conference — Teachers of Esperanto — etc.” The postmark also includes a line drawing of a star, representing the emblem of the Esperanto Movement.

21-8-80 A new hand date-stamp was put in use at the Brank Post Office, Zabbar, on Thursday, 21st August, 1980.

The new hand date-stamp is inscribed “Zabbar — Malta”. The old hand date-stamp, which was replaced, was withdrawn from use at the close of business on Wednesday, 20th August, 1980.

25-8-80 To mark the centenary of the birth of Robert Stolz, a machine stamp-cancelling slogan with the inscription, “Robert Stolz — 1880-1980” was used on the 25th August, 1980, at the Central Mail Room.

The slogan also incorporates the introductory theme notes of the Philatelic Waltz.

Continued from page 28

displays Mr. Graham Smeed showed examples of the recently issued new style registered envelopes used from the newly opened Qormi Branch Post Office.

Arthur Moyles thanked all the overseas members for bringing so much interesting and varied material; he remarked that Hadrian's postage due collection was the finest he had seen and the example of the 9d. in circle handstamp the first recorded and was not mentioned in the Handbook.

Many members and friends then retired to the various lounges or bars to continue the 'meeting'; all agreed it had been a very interesting and seen and the example of the 9d. in examples of the recently issued new memorable event.

<p>The Editor will be pleased to discuss with members articles they would like to contribute to the PSM Magazine. Please write in the first instance to the Editor.</p>



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REPUBLIC OF MALTA

BIRDS SET



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Designed by MAURICE TANTI BURLO

**FORTHCOMING ISSUE
EUROPA APRIL 1981**

THE PHILATELIC BUREAU, GENERAL POST OFFICE,
AUBERGE D'ITALIE, MERCHANTS STREET,
VALLETTA — MALTA
Cables: POSTGEN MALTA)

Salesian Press (St Patrick's) Sliema