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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF 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". This will of course affect the magazine and explains the changes.

MALTA

The Privileges of membership are:

- Our own quality magazine containing articles and news of general interest to members and collectors.
- Monthly meetings from October to June.
- An Exchange Branch, using specially prepared society booklets through which every member is invited to buy or sell.
- An Expert Committee for the examination of stamps.

Beginners, medium and advanced collectors alike enjoy and profit from Membership of the only PHILATELIC SOCIETY in Malta.

Annual Subscription:

Malta: £M1.50

Overseas: £2.25 sterling; U.S. \$3.75.

Application Forms:

Dr. A. Ganado, Hon. Sec., P.S.M. — 1 Scots St., Valletta

Membership Dues, Changes of Address:

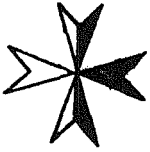
Rev. Fr. A. Galea, Treasurer, P.S.M. — 266 St. Paul's St., Valletta

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.



THE P S M MAGAZINE

Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIth Malta Philatelic Exhibition — 1977

Large Silver Medal at CAPEX 1978

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

VOL. 9 No. 1

WINTER 1979

C O N T E N T S

- 3 Foreword
- 5 Society Talk
- 8 Membership News
- 9 Religion on Malta Stamps — Part I Anthony Fenech
- 13 EMVIN CREMONA —
DOYEN OF MALTA STAMPS Nick A. Cutajar
- 22 Detailed Information of New Issues Joseph Farrugia
Christmas 1978; Flemish Tapestries — III
- 27 Stamping Around with Nick
- 30 Malta — A Diary, September-December 1978 Joseph Farrugia

Cover design Chev. Emvin Cremona

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FOREWORD

Art is a form of human expression requiring an intelligent approach and an emotional involvement, without which no product can ever reach that stage of desirability so much associated with fine works of art. In stamp-designing the manipulation of forms and colours produce visual expressions, reflecting the artistic skills of the author. In stamps, the designs are not always, unfortunately and necessarily, the personal output of the designer, his inner feelings at the time or his own mental expression. Very few stamp-designers have managed to reflect in their works their own imagination and resourcefulness, while many stamp-designs are not necessarily art in the true sense of the word.

However, we in Malta, are fortunate to have a stamp-designer who not only endeavours to produce art in miniature, but generally he has produced works of art out of stamp designs. He has involved himself so deeply, mentally and emotionally, that his designs retain all the beauty of the originals; he has mastered the skill to visualise the end product — a fragment of the initial size.

Chevalier Emvin Cremona has maintained a steady flow and output of designs unique in the world of stamps. Few stamp-designers have given so much for so long to their Motherland. As philatelists we feel in debt to this man of high artistic achievements.

In May this year, Emvin Cremona celebrates his sixtieth birthday and the Philatelic Society, through this magazine, feels it is her duty to pay him homage. Elsewhere in this edition, we are devoting a special feature article to the "Doyen" of Malta stamps. The fact that the article has already appeared in print does not diminish its value as a tribute; it is indeed our satisfaction that the article has appeared in both English and Italian at the same time and has served to highlight our gratitude throughout the philatelic world.

* * *

With this edition three novelties are being incorporated, two of which cater for regular columns and the third of a technical nature.

The Editorial Board, after a critical examination of past editions of our Magazine has decided to group various bits and pieces of items dealing with the Society and its activities, previously scattered throughout the contents. Thus matters covering the Society and its activities, including news about members, awards, monthly meetings, auction reports, etc., will in future be located under "SOCIETY TALK". With every edition we intend to cover as many items as possible and one topic we would like to include is a mention of publications received by the Society.

Another new feature comes under the heading "STAMPING AROUND" contributed by yours truly. Those who are expecting a listing of new issues will be disappointed; such details are always easily available from leading philatelic periodicals. However while "stamping around" I might fancy a particular issue and include a reference. It will be my duty to bring to your attention philatelic publications that are received on my desk or by the Society, reports of outstanding and not so outstanding philatelic happenings, such as auction realizations, exhibitions and meetings. "Stamping Around" is a personal column and the success or otherwise of this new venture into print is my own responsibility.

And now to the technical innovation, which we hope will provide the desired effect. While browsing through this edition, you will meet with pages printed in two-column. We have played with the idea of two-column pages for some time but for one reason or another we hesitated with the decision. We now feel it is the right time to spread some of the regular features in this style. We have some members complaining that the "Diary" tends to strain the eyes and we agree. The "Diary" itself will in future be in two-column format and thanks to our printer we are pleased with the new lay out.

The use of two-column format is actually an experiment for us who prepare the magazine. Assuring ourselves of the benefits of such a lay-out we will be keeping that setting for specific features. It will also act as a prelude to further innovations we intend to introduce in the very near future; even the format at this stage is under discussion. When plans are drafted, we intend to seek your views and we are sure that with such a consensus, the PSM Magazine will continue to be alive and progressive. But enough about innovations.

We take this opportunity to augur more co-operation on your part and we wish you and your families a Happy Easter.

THE EDITOR

SOCIETY TALK

Dues Reminder

Every member is kindly reminded that membership dues are payable in January. Please check to be sure you have remitted your 1979 dues. We want to keep your name on the magazine mailing list as well as on the exchange packet circuits, with no interruptions. Kindly make cheques or money orders payable to "The Philatelic Society" and forward to our Treasurer at your earliest. Your membership fee enables the continuation of the publication of our Magazine.

The Exchange Packet Branch

New members who have joined the Society during 1978 may be interested to know that the Society runs an efficient "sales circuit" for members. Foreign members may submit philatelic material for sale through the E.P.B. but due to high postal charges and delays as well as the risk of losses through the post, the circuits are only located locally. Normally a member is placed on a circuit based on his geographical location. Thus in most cases, the packet may be passed on by hand. A member on the circuit list may keep the packet for only three days and then pass on the packet to the next member on the list. After handing over the packet to the next member on the circuit, a detailed account of one's purchases should be mailed immediately to our E.P.B. Superintendent.

Please remember: remit the exact amount to avoid complications for our man on the job, and avoid any delays in passing over the packet. Interested members should contact: Mr. Anthony Fenech, The Philatelic Society, E.P.B. Superintendent, 'Miele' Old Railway Road, Balzan.

Are You an Ambassador?

Would you want the Philatelic Society grow? Then what are you doing in that direction? One way you can give a helping hand is to recruit new members. The number of new members you sponsor is the evidence of your eagerness to see our society grow. We cannot promise any rewards, but we would be willing to print your name along the new members you have been able to sponsor. Additions to our membership list continue to give us a sense of pride. 1978 has been a record year for the Society; let's make 1979 even better.

The Society has available appropriate application forms which also give a brief history of the Society. Members wishing to obtain copies of this application form should get in touch with Mr. J. Farrugia, Corresponding Secretary, 34 Nursing Sisters Street, St. Julians, Malta. All matters dealing with membership, such as change of address, new members, etc. should be communicated to Mr. Farrugia, who is also responsible for the mailing to members of the magazine.

Auction Action

A very successful auction was held by the P.S. on Monday, February 5th, 1979. A special word of appreciation must go to Messrs. S.N. Bush and J. Hamilton, who both did a fine job entailing them long hours of preparations. As a result of this success, the P.S. planning to hold another auction later this year, probably in October/November. And for the first time, our overseas members will be able to participate. A letter-circular has been mailed to overseas members explaining the new venture. On our part we shall do our best to post you in time and we expect our overseas members to ensure that their lots and subsequent bids are mailed within the stipulated dates. So help us to help you.

“Vote a Stamp”

The IVth International “Vote A Stamp” Referendum/Contest has been launched by the Philatelic Society in February, with the publication of a specially printed two-colour brochure, (copy enclosed with this edition addressed locally, overseas members air-mailed separately in February). The mechanics remain unchanged. Collectors are invited to vote for *one* stamp which in their opinion is the most beautiful stamp released by the Malta Post Office during 1978. Overseas entries must be accompanied by one International Reply Coupon, while local participants should enclose a 5c stamp. This is the only requirement for entries to participate in the Contest part.

Once again the P.S. is awarding a free holiday in Malta for one person as the first prize in the Contest. The prize is awarded to the participant whose name is drawn after a draw among those participants voting for the winning stamp. The winner will be entitled to a free return air ticket to Malta travelling AIR MALTA from any point served by the National Airline, as well as free accommodation, which includes half-board, at the luxurious *Malta Hilton*.

Three other prizes, consisting of a 1978 year collection, kindly donated by the Postmaster General, Malta, will be distributed after a draw of all the entries received.

Members who would like further copies of the “Vote A Stamp” brochure, should obtain them from Messrs. E. Said, Valletta who produced it.

CAPEX 78 — Correction

E. Said Publishers have been erroneously reported as having been awarded a Silver Medal for the “Said Malta Stamp and Coins Catalogue 1978” at CAPEX 1978. Please note that the firm was in fact awarded a “Large Silver Medal”. We apologise for the inaccuracy. (Ed.).

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Always keep the first Monday of the month free of any appointments. Make sure you are always able to attend the monthly meetings. And bring a guest with you. The warm friendly atmosphere is always in evidence.

BRASILIANA '79

The Philatelic Society has appointed Mr. Godwin Said, as National Commissioner for "BRASILIANA '79", the 3rd International Exhibition of Thematic Philately. Members interested in participating are kindly invited to write to Mr. Godwin Said, 11, Tower Road, Sliema.

Fully Support Your Society

- * Come to Monthly Meetings
- * Pay your dues in time
- * Attract new members
- * Participate in the Auctions and Exchange Packet Branch.

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.

COMMITTEE 1979

The following is the Committee of the Philatelic Society for 1979:

President

Dr. J.H. Mercieca

Vice President

Dr. A. Bonnici

Secretary

Dr. A. Ganado

Treasurer

Rev. Fr. A. Galea

Asst. Treasurer & Exchange Packet Branch Superintendent

Mr. A. Fenech

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Mr. N. A. Cutajar

Asst. Editor & Corresponding Secretary

Mr. J. Farrugia

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Mr. J.F. Porsella Flores

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Lt. Col. Wm. Attard, Mr. V. Mercieca, Mr. G. Said

Auditors

Mr. A. Cassar Torregiani & Mr. J.P. Hamilton

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

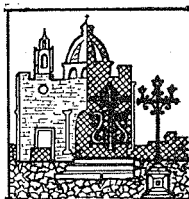
A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

- 326 Mr. Wolfgang Grohn Philatelic Service,
Offenbacher Landstr. 114,
D-6450 Hanau 7, Fed. Rep. of Germany.
- 327 Mr. J. de Boer M. Colleniustraat 68, Postbus 2023,
9704 CA Groningen, Netherlands.
- 328 Mr. Peter C. Hansen Suderstrasse 66b,
D-2391 Harsislee, West Germany.
- 329 Mr. Bjorn Gunnar Solaas Postboks 552,
N 4601 Kristiansand S., Norway.
- 330 Mr. Charles Naja 9 St. Ann's Court, Bisazza Street,
Sliema, Malta.
- 331 Mr. Horst Schmidt Meisenweg 19, 07923 Konigsbronn,
West Germany.
- 332 Mr. Mark DeGiorgio 23 Jocelyn Road, Richmond,
Surrey, England.
- 333 Mr. Bernard Kilford 5 Pine Trees Close,
Fareham, Hants. PO14 15P, U.K.
- 334 Ms. Lois L. Corbin 501 East Seminole, Apartment 7,
Lake Wales, Florida, U.S.A.
- 335 Mr. Jan C. Bezemer Schildmanstraat 43,
3342 Bp. Hendrik Ido. Ambacht,
Holland.
- 336 Mr. Maynard L. Nell 5414 S.W. Logan Ct., Portland,
Oregon 97219, U.S.A.
- 337 Mr. Derek George Mann 20 York Close, Chippenham,
Wiltshire SN14 0QB, U.K.
- 338 Mr. Alois Ittner Anton Bruckner Str. 14,
D-6053 Obertshausen 1, West Germany.
- 339 Mr. Otto Baerwald Bismarckstrasse 10, Postfach 12,
D-7410 Reutlingen 1, Germany.
- 340 Mr. D. Rajamany 84 Jalan Satu, Desa Jaya, Kepong,
Selangor, Malaysia.
- 341 Mr. Ali M. Ghaemi P.O. Box 427, McLean,
Virginia, 22101 U.S.A.
- 342 Dr. D.H. Ball Arnewood Rise, Tiptoe,
Lymington, Hants, U.K.
- 343 Mr. Manuel F. Muscat 518 Brussels Street, San Francisco,
California 94134, U.S.A.

RELIGION ON MALTA STAMPS

Part I

by ANTHONY FENECH



Several Malta stamps have subjects of religious significance. Shrines, paintings, statues, churches, memoria's and monuments provide a subject of immense scope for thematic collectors. More than one hundred Malta stamps issued to date bear a religious theme. Mr. Anthony Fenech takes a closer look and reviews some of our stamps with a religious motif. (Ed.).

St. Paul

Malta issued her first postage stamp on December 1st, 1860. It was a simple design showing the head of Queen Victoria enclosed in an octagonal frame bordered by a regular pattern of leaves. During the centenary year of the first Malta stamps, in 1960, the Malta Post Office issued two commemorative sets — one, a set of three stamps marking Malta's stamp centenary, and the other, a set of six magnificent stamps, ably designed by Chev. Emvin Cremona, commemorating the Nineteenth Centenary of St. Paul's Shipwreck, when the Maltese received the message of Christianity.



In fact, no less than nineteen stamps so far released by the Malta Post Office depict St. Paul and his Shipwreck on the Island. Among them we find reproductions of some of the fine paintings on the ceiling of St. Paul's Shipwreck Church in Valletta, by the Italian artist, Attilio Palombi (1860-1912). One, reproduced on the 1½d stamp of the Centenary Issue, showed the Saint, helping the shipwrecked mariners shore.⁽¹⁾ A different treatment of the same scene was used on the 10/- of 1899, 1919 and 1922 which also depicted the sinking ship in the background. The wooden statue, sculptured by Melchior Gafà, in 1657, and venerated at the same church of St. Paul Shipwrecked, in Valletta, is featured on six 10/- stamps in the definitive series of 1926, 1928, 1930, 1938, 1948 and 1956. The three diamond shaped stamps in the 1960 commemoratives show respectively the statue of St. Paul at St. Paul's Grotto annexed to the Rabat Parish Church; an angel with the Acts of the Apostles, in which is to be read in gold letters, "We must come unto a certain Island" (27,26) and "the island was called Melita" (28,1); and the highest denomination, the 2/6 blue-green, which also exists with gold omitted, showing St. Paul holding the Second Epistle to the Corinthians in which he wrote, "I have suffered shipwreck in Christ's name" (Ch. 12).

The £1 definitive stamp of the 1965 series, perhaps the most impressive of the whole set, depicts the patron saints of Malta—St. Publius (nominated by St. Paul as the first Bishop of the Maltese Islands), St. Paul and St. Agatha, standing together in solemn dignity. The three saints appear together on the inside of the main entrance to Mdina. The statue of St. Publius venerated in the Floriana Parish Church is shown on the 1/6 issues of 1926, 1928, 1930, 1938 and 1948 definitives. St. Luke, with St. Luke's Hospital in the background, is depicted on the 6d stamp of the Catholic Doctors' Congress set of 1964.

Monuments and Statues

Sciortino's monument to Christ the King erected during the Eucharistic Congress of 1913 in the Miglio Gardens, Floriana, and the marble masterpiece by Mazzuoli, representing the Baptism of Christ which is found behind the main altar in St. John's Co-Cathedral are featured on the 2/- and £1 stamps respectively of the 1956 definitives. The 1967 stamp commemorating the third centenary of the death of Gafà feature the statue of St. Catherine of Siena

found in the Magnanapoli, Rome; St. Thomas of Villanova, found in St. Augustine's Church, Rome; and Christ receiving Baptism from St. John the Baptist, found as one bozzetto at the Żejtun Parish Church.⁽²⁾



St. Pius V is featured on the 3d stamp in the series commemorating the Fourth Centenary of the Foundation of Valletta issued in 1966. It was Pope Pius V who, as his predecessor Pius IV, had given his whole hearted support and help to the Grand Master in the building of Valletta on the peninsula known as Shebb-er-rass — “the light of the headland”.⁽³⁾

On the 28th June, 1967 these stamps commemorating the nineteenth century of the Martyrdom of St. Peter and St. Paul were issued. The 2d value shows St. Peter being crucified head downwards, whilst the 3/- value illustrates the beheading of St. Paul. The coronation of St. Joseph as Patron Saint of the Universal Church was commemorated by two stamps issued on the 24th July, 1967. The stamps are reproductions from a painting by Giuseppe Cali, a Maltese artist, found in Qala Parish Church, Gozo.

Religious Art



Religious Art is portrayed on some stamps issued by the Malta Post Office. The 1/3 value of the 1965 definitive series shows two angels and a source of light symbolizing the 24th International Eucharistic Congress held in Malta in 1965.

A set of eight stamps was issued in 1970, commemorating the XIIth Art Exhibition of the Council of Europe held at St. John's Co-Cathedral. Among the designs, we find a reproduction of Caravaggio's famous "Beheading of St. John the Baptist", found in St. John's Co-Cathedral; another reproduction of Preti's "The Baptist Clad in the Habit of the Order" found at the National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta; a reproduction of an allegorical painting showing the three functions of the Order, found at the National Museum; Caravaggio's "St. Jerome" found in St. John's Co-Cathedral; and Favray's "Brother Gerard receiving Godfrey de Bouillon".

The 5c value of the Europa 1974 series illustrates the silver monstrance attributed to Bernini and found in St. John's Museum and representative of the Baroque period.⁽⁴⁾ Reproductions of de Mura's (1696-1782) "Allegory of Malta" and "Judith and Holofernes" by Valentine de Boulogne (1591-1632) were the two stamps issued in the 1975 Europa set. The theme was Art.

The Malta Post Office has devised four sets in the series dedicated to the Flemish Tapestries of St. John's Co-Cathedral. The sets have been scheduled to appear between 1977-1980. The first four stamps making up the first issue, released on March 30th, 1977 were Rubens': "The Annunciation", "The Four Evangelists", "The Nativity" and "The Adoration of the Magi". The second set in the series were issued on January 26th, last year, and again featured Rubens' "The Entry into Jerusalem", "The Last Supper", "The Raising of the Cross" and "The Resurrection". Two other sets in the series are scheduled for 1979 and 1980.

REFERENCES:

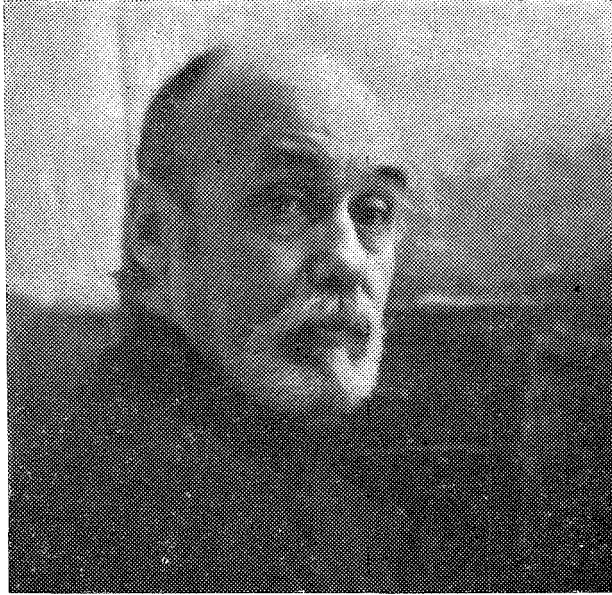
- (1) and (3) "Malta — The Story of Malta and her Stamps" by James A. Mackay.
- (2) and (4) "Said Malta Stamp Catalogue — 1978" (Glossary of Illustrations).



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CHEV.

EMVIN CREMONA

DOYEN OF MALTA

STAMP DESIGNERS

by

NICK A. CUTAJAR

CHEV. EMVIN CREMONA — DOYEN OF MALTA STAMP DESIGNERS *

by NICK A. CUTAJAR

One hundred and seventy different original stamp designs within the space of twenty years, excluding the artwork for a host of other stamps, that is the output of Chevalier Emanuel Vincent Cremona, the doyen of Malta stamp designers. Stamps are, however, only a sideline constituting a relatively minor aspect of his artistic achievements as church decoration, stage scenery, interior decor, book covers, carnival floats, trade fair stands, exhibition booths and every other form of art have all been treated with devotion and zeal by Chevalier Cremona who is also considered as one of Europe's most talented stamp designers. Of all his artistic activities, stamp designing stands out supreme, making him known all over the world. Chev. Cremona's designs are best defined as a reflection of his deep sense of patriotism.

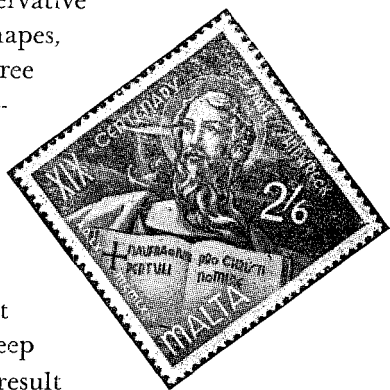
He was born in Valletta on the 27th May, 1919, and at an early age his artistic tendencies became apparent. When he was only sixteen, he held his first public exhibition, when his works were included in the Malta Art Association Exhibition of 1935. That same year, he enrolled as a student at the Government School of Art. In 1938 he was admitted at the Regia Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome. During his stay in Rome, he exhibited at the "Mostra Prelitoriale" meriting favourable comments from critics like Jacobbi. One of his works on display in this exhibition was purchased by the Ministro dei Fasci e delle Corporazioni. On his return to Malta, he held a one-man exhibition at the "Ellis Studio", presenting thirty oil paintings, four water-colours and six pen and ink drawings, most of which had been executed during his sojourn in Rome, where he became attached to the Modern Art Movement.



When war broke out, in 1941, Chev. Cremona was conscripted with the King's Own Malta Regiment. His artistic talents were soon utilized in camouflage effects. In his military career, Chev. Cremona reached the grade of an intelligence sergeant but his war experiences became very useful in later years when he exploited them in portraying the anguish and destruction of the war in his very first stamp designs commemorating the granting of the George Cross to the Maltese people. Between 1943 and 1945, he took part in several exhibitions and it is opined by critics that the end of the war saw the end of the young artist. After the war, Chev. Cremona bloomed into a formidable mature artist.

In 1945, he was awarded the "Mrs Schembri Bequest", a scholarship for two years at the famous Slade School College of the University of London, under Professor Randolph Schwabe. Two years later, Chev. Cremona proceeded to Paris, where he was admitted to yet another famous school, "L'Ecole Supérieure des Beaux Arts". The experience he gained overseas during these years sealed his passport to fame, becoming master in his own right. At this stage of his career, he had established and perfected his style, best described as 'symbolic impressionism', more concerned with the spiritual and psyche of the subject than its natural contours. On his return to his Island home, he was employed as a teacher of painting at the Government School of Art, a post he resigned in 1959.

In 1958, Chev. Cremona exhibited at the XXIX Esposizione Biennale Internazionale d'Arte di Venezia and one of his works, "Composizione", was reproduced on the official exhibition catalogue. In 1959, Emvin, his characteristic coined abbreviation of his first names, was entrusted with the decorations on the occasion of the Nineteenth Centenary Celebration of the Shipwreck of St. Paul in Malta. His efforts were considered "unique in their grandeur, elegance, originality of concept and mystical effluence" culminating in a set of six stamps, released on the 9th February, 1960. This set was a challenge (as indeed, every design for him is) and while retaining a mystical aura, he freed himself of the conservative form of stamps and produced three diamond shapes, coming to terms with tradition by including three vertical shaped designs. The result was an exceptionally fine set, attracting world acclaim and the award of the "Union Mondiale Saint Gabriel" for the best stamp with a religious motif. Chev. Cremona himself admitted to me that he becomes very much involved emotionally and psychologically on his work. At times he is also tormented while he searches deep into the spirit of the subject in hand and as a result the "mental concept of the subject takes precedence over the recognizable natural forms".



In 1961, he was created Knight of the Pontifical Military Order of St. Sylvester and in 1963 he was awarded a gold medal by the Malta Society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce for artistic achievements. During that same year, he was commissioned by the Malta Government to execute a painting for presentation to the United Nations Organization, New York, and another Cremona canvas was presented to the International Labour Organization, Geneva, in 1969.

Meanwhile, Chev. Cremona had been entrusted exclusively with the preparation of the designs for Maltese postage stamps, his first appearing in 1957. In 1964, his designs for various sets attracted worldwide acclaim. Malta, that year, hosted two medical congresses, the Anti-Brucellosis Congress and the First European Congress of Catholic Doctors. To commemorate the Anti-Brucellosis Congress, Malta issued a set of two stamps, one featuring the portraits of the two pioneer research workers into the disease, namely Sir David Bruce and Dr Themistocles Zammit, and the other showed laboratory equipment and a Maltese goat. Three attractive stamps were also issued to mark the First European Congress of Catholic Doctors. The three designs of this set depicted subjects which were reminiscent of the Order of the Knights of St. John and their hospitaller role.



During the same year, 1964, Malta gained its independence and Chev. Cremona was commissioned to design a series of stamps to commemorate this important event in the history of the Maltese Islands. He produced a set of three different designs, that will remain a monument to his deep sense of patriotism. Their simplicity and symbolism continue to fascinate collectors and evoke high sentiments of patriotism. Chev. Cremona himself says of this set, that he wanted it to be simple yet meaningful, worthy of the event it had to pay homage to.

The year 1964 was indeed one of the busiest years for Chev. Cremona as he also produced the designs of the first Christmas stamps issued by Malta. The stamps had a common design in Cremona's unique stylized human form. Ever since that year, Chev. Cremona has produced all the Maltese Christmas stamps. Over the years he has interpreted the Christmas theme in so many ways, that he is hardly paralleled by any one artist for one single stamp issuing authority. Every design has a dignified and mystic aura, combining modern thinking with the traditional. Chev. Cremona's creativity knowing no bounds, he has reserved

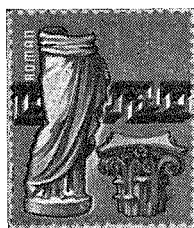
“Every design has a dignified and mystic aura, combining modern thinking with the traditional”



Original sketch of the detail (figure compositions)
of the 1c + 5m stamp of the Christmas 1978 Issue.



some of his experiments in stamp designing and format for the Christmas issue. His tendency to depart from the norm, resulted in shapes such as trapezia, pentagons triptychs and the inclusion of a composition within the Souvenir Sheets.



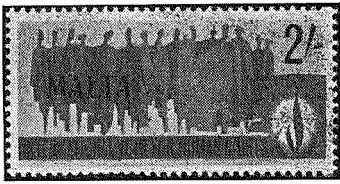
During the same year, he had been steadily working on a set of nineteen pictorial stamps for the definitive issue that was expected of the new independent state of Malta. The designs synthesised four milleniums of Maltese history and Chev. Cremona had at his disposal the wealth of art and culture in every form corresponding to definite periods in the long history of the Maltese nation. From the innumerable original sketches and drafts, emerged one of the most colourful and original definitive sets of the British Commonwealth. Once again his efforts attracted worldwide attention and his designs for this set were publicly exhibited at the Crown Agents stand at the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Centenary Exhibition held in London's Festival Hall between the 17th and 20th February, 1965.

In 1973, Chev. Cremona was also responsible for yet another long series consisting of fifteen designs. While the 1965 definitive set was imaginatively conceived on a historical note, that of 1973 was more flamboyantly composed, colourful and contemporary, with history, culture, industry, folklore and tourism homogeneously integrated.

Going through some of his primary sketches and drafts, for various stamp designs, one cannot help observe the richness of ideas and interpretation of Cremona's mind. He is rarely satisfied with his work and is humble enough not

to comment on his achievements. His home, which he himself has designed and decorated in a homogeneous manner, contains the ingredients of a man for whom art is a plant, an old crumbling headless and handless statue, a rough stone, an elaborate contoured section of a tree trunk. All such things, unattractive to the common man, provide him with excitement. His inspiration stems from everyday life while the interpretation is purely Cremona, fresh and imaginative, delicate and original.

It is impossible to discuss each and every design of the stamps that bear his imprint. Each is a masterpiece by itself, and over the years, Cremona's stamps have reached a stage, when the name of his nation, "Malta", could easily be removed from the stamp layout and it would still be readily recognized as a Malta stamp.



When I asked Cremona which stamp he himself likes best, he avoided a direct reply but he disclosed to me that he is still fascinated by the 1968 set of three stamps issued to commemorate early the 6d stamp. Each design featured a gathering of people from different nations in a homogeneous group. Homogeneity for the man who has designed most of the stamps of modern Malta, is a very important consideration. The same basic concept of a homogeneous group crops up again years later in the Christmas issues between 1969 and 1971.

Philatelic writers and critics agree that for almost twenty years, Malta's unique stamps represent a homogeneous array of bold, imaginative and distinctive designs. This uniformity of style, unfortunately, cannot be always respected in future, for no other artist will ever manage to involve himself emotionally as Chev. Cremona. It can be stated that Chev. Emanuel Vincent Cremona has enlivened philately and raised a stamp designing to a miniature art form. He has made art of stamps.

This article was originally published in "IL NUOVO CORRIERE FILATELICO", No. 20, December 1978.

Publishers: "Società di Studi Filatelici e Storico Postale", Firenze.

Editor: Prof. Dr. Vito Salierno.

The article had a parallel translation in Italian published in the same edition.

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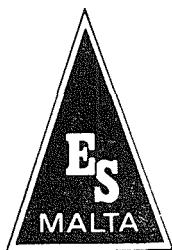
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DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by
JOSEPH FARRUGIA

CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1978

Date of Issue	9th November 1978.
Values	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c + 1c5 and 11c + 3c.
Stamp Size	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c + 1c5 = 27mm x 33mm. 11c + 3c = 61mm x 25mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c + 1c5 = 13.9 x 13.75 11c + 3c = 13.6 x 13.45.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

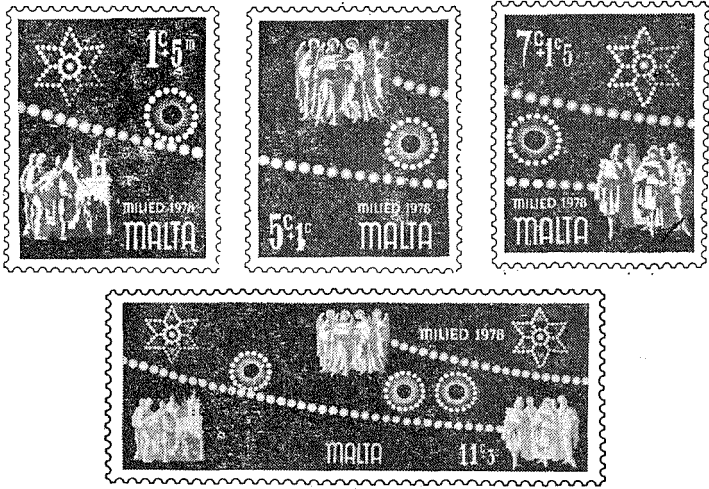
Colours

The colour of this set was produced by printing in multicolour, using five different colours for the 5c + 1c stamp and six different colours for the other three values.

Designs

This is the fifteenth set of Christmas stamps, and as in the case of the previous nine Christmas issues, each stamp includes a surcharge in addition to the postal value. The proceeds from this surcharge will be distributed amongst child welfare philanthropic organisations and charitable institutions by a Government appointed committee.

This year's set features Christmas street lights and decorations in Malta. Several streets are illuminated with fairy lights and colourful motifs during the Christmas period. The Government encourages the organisations through an annual competition based on the colour scheme, movement of lights, Christmas motifs and the general aspect of the decorated streets. The 1c + 5m stamp represents peasants playing the tambourine and the bagpipe with a village church in the background. The 5c + 1c stamp depicts a choir of Angels, and the 7c + 1c5 stamp shows boys and girls singing Christmas carols. The 11c + 3c stamp reproduces the other three stamps in a whole composition.



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 the 5c + 1c value, but next to the last stamps, of the two bottom rows, in all Panes of the 1c + 5m, 7c + 1c5 and 11c + 3c values. In the values 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5, the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left, in all three Panes of each value. In the 11c + 3c value, the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right. There is only one Pane for this value.

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 the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5 values consisted of three Panes, "A", "B" and "C". Stamps of these values are of the vertical format. The Printed Sheet of the 11c + 3c value consisted of only one Pane, "A". Stamps of this value are of the horizontal format. Each Pane of these four values has fifty stamps, made up of ten rows of five stamps.

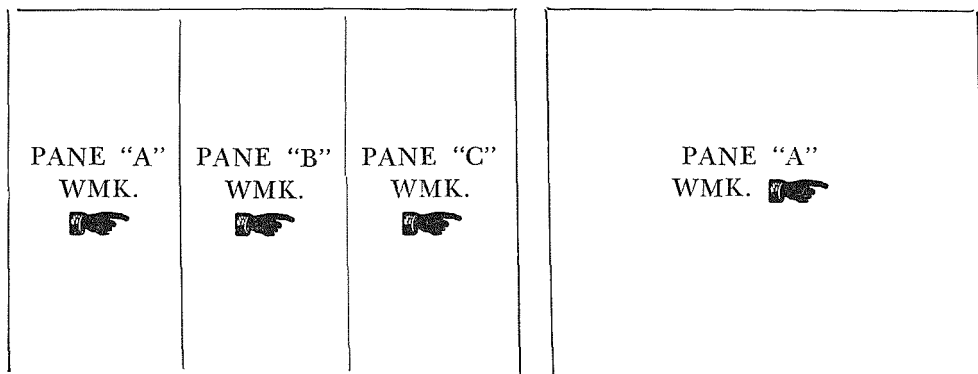
Plate/Pane Numbers

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

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

Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes "A", "B" and "C", in the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5 values, are imperforate. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins, of Panes "A", "B" and "C" of these same values are fully perforated. In the 11c + 3c value, which has only Pane "A", the top margin is imperforate, whilst the other three are fully perforated. No registration marks were seen when all Panes of all values were examined.



From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet, of the three lower values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown above, on left, whilst the Printed Sheet for the high value, would look as shown on right. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps will be seen the right way up. Hence why, when individual stamps are examined, the watermark will be seen sideways.

Imprint Blocks

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in the lower three values. There is a 1mm horizontal line, between but no such line in the 5c + 1c value. In the high value, the Imprint reads, the words "LIMITED" and "MALTA" in the 1c + 5m and 7c + 1c5 values, "PRINTEX MALTA LIMITED", and is also seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black in all values. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed with the words, "L-EWWEL JUM TAL-HRUG", and the name of the respective locality, together with the date "9 Nov 1978". The postmark also incorporates a decorative star. Sales from this set, up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue, amounted to £M36,132.

FLEMISH TAPESTRIES THIRD ISSUE

Date of Issue	24th January 1979.
Values	2c, 7c, 11c and 25c.
Stamp Size	48mm x 39.5mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14 x 14 (comb.).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

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

Designs

This is the third set of four stamps in the Flemish Tapestries series. The first set was issued on the 30th March 1977 and the second set on the 26th January 1978.

These priceless 17th Century Tapestries were specially commissioned by Grand Master Ramon Perellos, on his election in 1697, for the Cathedral of St. John in Valletta.

The 1979 set reproduces four Tapestries woven from paintings by Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640). They formed part of the series of fifteen "Triumphs" commissioned by the Infanta Isabella, Archduchess of Austria, for the Poor Clares Convent of Madrid, and executed by Rubens in 1625-29. The Tapestries were woven by the firm of Josse de Vos. They are hung in St. John's Co-Cathedral during the special liturgical functions which take place in June and are on exhibition at St. John's Museum, Valletta, during the rest of the year.

The scenes represented in this set are, "The Triumph of the Catholic Church" (2c), "The Triumph of Charity" (7c), "The Triumph of Faith" (11c), "The Triumph of Truth" (25c).

Colour Checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left on all Panes of all 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 black. The Printed Sheets of all four values consisted of two Panes, "A" and "B". Each Pane has 40 stamps made up of eight rows of five stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers

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

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

7c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

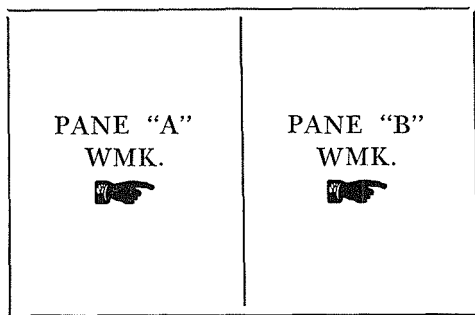
11c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

25c = 1A X 6, 1B x 6.

Perforation of Margins

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

The Printed Sheets of all values had four registration crosses, one in each corner, of the Printed Sheet. When the Printed Sheets were cut into Panes, these crosses could still be seen, at the top and bottom of the left hand margins on Panes "A", and at the top and bottom of the right hand margin on Panes "B". It looks as if they were also used as guides for cutting the Printed Sheets, because half of the horizontal part of the bar is rarely seen. A Plate Block from Pane "A" and an Imprint Block from Pane "B" will show the two bottom crosses or part of them.



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

In this way, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why the watermark is sideways.

Imprint Blocks

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, will include the colour checks, and a registration cross if it is from Pane "B".

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. £M62,364 worth of stamps were sold on the first day. This set will remain on sale up to Friday, 22nd June 1979, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

STAMPING AROUND

with NICK

HJMR Co. Inc., P.O. Box 610308 North Miami, Fla. 33161, U.S.A., have available a special edition of the firm's Newslist, featuring 28 pages of priced offers of worldwide philatelic literature, which include Billig's Philatelic Handbooks, Robson Lowe's wide range, hundreds of catalogues, handbooks, and monographs by philatelic publishers in the U.S. and abroad. Copies are available from HJMR at above address for 25c (U.S.).

KYLLING & SON, Sankt Kunds Vej 10, DK-3000 Helsingor, Denmark, have available a Philatelic Dictionary of Foreign Words, in seven languages, to and from Danish, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, with almost 40,000 entries, an appendix of 600 of former and present stamp issuing countries, number tables and several hundreds of names of colours in six languages. It is priced at 75,000 d.kr. (£7 or U.S. \$13.00); details available from above address.

If you are a topical collector, then membership in the 10,000-strong American Topical Association is highly recommended for the best source of information, fellowship and inspiration in your field of philatelic activity. Several publications, in the form of handbooks, and including "Topical Time", a bi-monthly fund of articles, check-lists and notes, are available.

One recent venture of A.T.A. is a series entitled "Topical Digest", indeed a digest of the cream of topical articles that have appeared scattered in various philatelic periodicals over the years. Received on my desk recently is "Topical Digest No. 8", incorporating sixteen different articles dealing with a wide range of topics. Priced at a modest \$5.00, it can be obtained by writing to A.T.A., 3308 North 50th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216, U.S.A.

And if you collect the Holy Family on Stamps, then I suggest A.T.A.'s handbook No. 92 — "The Holy Family", — which gives a complete checklist of the World's Stamps (1867-1977) depicting members of the Holy Family. Its cost, \$8.00, is more than justified considering the amount of research that has gone into its compilation. A list of A.T.A. publications as well as a publicity flyer are available for a stamped s.a.c. from yours very truly.

This past year, Canada's stamps have attracted unprecedented demand following CAPEX 78, resulting in a spiralling increase in most prices. Witness to this is the "1979 Canada Specialized Postage Stamp Catalogue" published by Philatelic Supply Company, of Dept. 222, 127 Cartwright Ave., Toronto,

Ontario, Canada, M6A 1V4. The sixth edition under review covers most aspects of Canadian philately, and the publishers should be proud as their "Specialized" is now well accepted as a standard reference for BNA philately.

The major portion of Sir Henry Tucker's collection of the stamps of Bermuda was sold at Harmers Bond Street Auction rooms for a total of £400,357 on October 17th — a record for a one-country sale, and the highest figure ever achieved by Harmers of London. Competition for the 581 lots was fierce, with four-figure realisations a norm, four lots fetched over £20,000 each, and record prices for postal history. B.B.C. Television cameras recorded the sale of four lots in the Postmasters' Provisional Stamps of 1848-1863, which fetched a total of £115,000, the top price of £36,000 being paid for an envelope bearing the second "PAID AT HAMILTON, BERMUDA" crowned circle stamp, while a copy of the first "Perot" stamp in red dated 1853 went to a continental buyer for £32,000. This stamp once formed a pair with a copy in the Queen's collection. The second portion will be auctioned by Harmers of New York on April 24th, 1979.

And talking of Television and philately, Britain after all has its first ever "Stamps Only" TV show. Pressure for such a programme has only been on for about a couple of years. Our member Ted Collins, on his return to U.K. wrote a couple of letters to a few philatelic periodicals, and mention was made of Malta's TV documentaries on the Postal History of Malta, with member Graham Smeed illustrating a "Letter to the Editor" with a shot he took while in Malta last year during the transmission of the final documentary. The British TV show is scheduled to appear on BBC 2 on Saturday mornings starting on January 1979. The series is composed of ten programmes under the title "In the Post".

The "Missing Virgin" turned up at Harmers Bond Street Auction recently. Issued in the British Virgin Islands between 1867 and 1870, the 1/- stamp should have a central figure of St. Ursula printed in black, but a few copies show only the surrounding rose-carmine printing. An example, listed as the last lot in an auction of world rarities marking Harmers sixty years as stamp auctioneers, was estimated to realise £25,000. It fetched £19,500.

Starting with 1979, collectors of the issues of the U.N.P.A. will have to add U.N. stamps expressed in Austrian schillings. The first stamps so denominated are expected in August this year, when the "Vienna International Centre for the United Nations" will be inaugurated. A postal agreement, similar to those concluded with the United States and the Swiss Postal Authorities, has already been signed between the U.N. and the Austrian Authorities. The stamps would

be available at the Vienna International Centre for the Centre's mailing and sold to collectors as well. The threesome combination of U.N. issues are unique in the world of stamps, reflecting the international character of the Organization.

From the International Philatelic Press Club, comes the news that the Malta Post Office has been selected as the recipient of the I.P.P.C. Award for 1978. The Award, the highest tribute that a Postal Administration can receive from those directly connected with philatelic journalism, is offered annually to that Postal Authority considered to provide philatelic journalists and publicists with outstanding and detailed information about new stamp issues.

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MALTA — A DIARY

September-December 1978

compiled by

JOSEPH FARRUGIA

- 4-9-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "NEXT STAMP ISSUE — 1978 AIRMAIL SET — 3 OCTOBER 1978" was used, on and off, during the period 4th September to 2nd October, 1978, at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.
- 8-9-78 The Malta Post Office participated in the official class of the International Stamp Exhibition "Praga 78" that was held in Prague from 8-17 September 1978. The theme of the exhibition was, "Stamps and Philately — A World of Knowledge and Peace". The exhibition was organised under the patronage of the F.I.P.
- 11-9-78 As a matter of interest, a special handstamp in the British Forces Postal Service Series, was used today on B.F.P.S. No. 1934. This concerned an event which happened in Malta, i.e. commemorating the "35 Anniversary of the Arrival of Surrendered Italian Fleet at Malta". Special cover envelopes were issued.
- 14-9-78 The Malta Post Office participated in the 39th annual philatelic exhibition — "ROYPOX 78" — which was held in Queen's Park, New Westminster, Canada on October 14 and 15.
- 18-9-78 The Postmaster General notifies that the hand metal date-stamp at present in use at the Sub-Post Office, St. Julians, will be withdrawn at the close of business on Monday, 18th September 1978. A new rubber hand date-stamp inscribed: "St. Julians S.P.O. — Malta" will be used as from Tuesday, 19th September, 1978.
- 22-9-78 The 10c stamp of the present Decimal Definitive Postage Set, has been reprinted by Printex Limited Malta. This is the first reprint or second printing of this value. Just as in the original printing, Panes "A", "B", "C" and "D" were issued for sale. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau.
- 25-9-78 The Sliema Branch Post Office which was temporarily housed in the Government School, Isouard Street, corner with Depiro Street, Sliema, was transferred back to the Prince of Wales Road premises with effect from Monday, 25th September 1978.
- 30-9-78 Another special handstamp in the British Forces Postal Service Series, used today on B.F.P.S. No. 1625, also concerns an event in Malta. A special cover envelope is commemorating the "Closure of R.A.F. Luqa".
- 3-10-78 "1978 Air Mail Set" issued today. This set replaces the Air Malta Inauguration Issue of the 30th March 1974, which was withdrawn at the close of business yesterday, the 2nd October 1978. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.
- 9-10-78 A special hand-postmark was used at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O. and at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, on the 9th October, 1978, to mark Universal Postal Union Day. The hand-postmark incorporates the emblem of the Universal Postal Union and is inscribed: "UNI-

- VERSAL POSTAL UNION DAY — 9.10.1978 — VALLETTA — MALTA”.
- 13-10-78 The 4c stamp of the present Decimal Definitive Postage Set, has been reprinted by Printex Limited Malta. This is the first reprint or second printing of this value. Panes “A”, “B”, “C” and “D” were issued for sale from the Philatelic Bureau.
- 16-10-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: “NEXT STAMP ISSUE — CHRISTMAS '78 SET — 9 NOVEMBER 1978”, was used, on and off, during the period 16th October to 8th November, 1978, at the Central Mail Room, Valletta.
- 1-11-78 The Malta Postal Administration participated in the official class of the Second International Postage Stamp Fair held in Essen, West Germany from November 1-5. The fair, organised by the German Fair and Exhibition Company, was promoted by the Association of German Philatelists, the Association of German Postage Stamp Dealers and the International Federation of Stamp Dealers Association.
- 7-11-78 The Postmaster General notified that a Sub-Post Office shall be opened at San Gwann Stores, (S.G.S.), Misraħ Lewża, San Gwann, on Tuesday, 7th November 1978. A hand metal date-stamp, inscribed with the words, “SAN GWANN S.P.O. — MALTA” will be used at this Sub-Post Office.
- 9-11-78 “Christmas Set 1978” issued today. This set will remain on sale up to Friday, 19th January 1979, unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.
- 24-11-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: “GHINU T-TFAL FIL-BZONN — UŻAW IL-BOLLITAL-MILIED”(meaning “Help Children In Need — Use Christmas Stamps”, was used on and off, during the period 24th November 1978 to 19th January 1979, at the Central Mail Room.
- 28-11-78 In today's Government Gazette, with reference to the notice which appeared in the Government Gazette of the 26th May 1978, the Postmaster General notifies that 321 designs have been entered in the competition for the selection of the designs for the postage stamps to commemorate the International Year of the Child (1979). Details of the sixteen designs considered to be more suitable for reproduction on the proposed set of stamps than the other 305 are given. The three designs placed first, second and third have been selected for reproduction on the proposed set of stamps, which is to consist of three denominations and not two as previously notified. The competitors who submitted these designs will each be awarded a prize by way of a book token to the value of £M25.
- 28-11-78 The 2c stamp of the present Decimal Definitive Postage Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited Malta. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau.
- 22-12-78 An interesting notice appeared in today's Government Gazette. The Postmaster General notified that the Postal Administration of Bangladesh has informed the U.P.U. that certain stamp dealers are offering for sale various overprints of Bangladesh postage stamps and miniature sheets devoted to the

Silver Jubilee and 25th Anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen.. The Administration of Bangladesh has stated that it has issued none of these overprints. They are therefore illegal and without value.

31-12-78 I would like to close this year's diary by congratulating the Malta Post Office for the "International Philatelic Press Club 1978 Award", won by the Malta Post Office. The award, given

annually by the International Philatelic Press Club, goes to that Government considered to provide journalists with outstanding information about its new postage stamps and mail services. Mr. Victor Gauci, Malta's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York, received the award on behalf of Mr. G.W. Borg, Postmaster General, from Mr. Ernest A. Kehr, Executive Chairman of the International Philatelic Press Club.

SMALL ADS

Small Ads are charged at 2c per word, including name and address. Members of the Philatelic Society qualify for one free advert in any one year of not more than 30 words. All copies must be received two months prior to publication date.

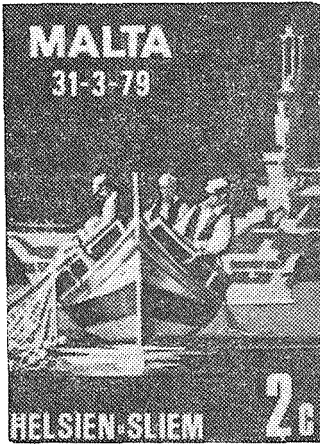
WANTED in exchange or to buy, Malta covers, postcards, stationery with clear hand or machine cancellations.

Peter C. Hansen,
Suderstr. 66b, D-2391 HARRISLES,
West Germany.

Advanced collector seeks exchange partners on wants list basis, for used stamps from Malta Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Australia etc. Also offered Africa and Asia.

Hans Palstra, Distelsr. 9,
3222 XB Hellevoetsluis, Holland.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE: I'm always interested in any type of philatelic literature including old periodicals, especially if it refers to Malta. Nick A. Cutajar, 7 Wied il-Ghajj Road, Zejtun, Malta.



REPUBLIC OF MALTA

DATE OF ISSUE

31st MARCH 1979



END OF MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT SET

This set consists of six stamps featuring the three designs shown above. The stamps may be obtained from leading stamp dealers.

Designed by Chev. EMVIN CREMONA

PHILATELIC BUREAU, GENERAL POST OFFICE.
AUBERGE D'ITALIE, MERCHANTS STREET
VALLETTA - MALTA