

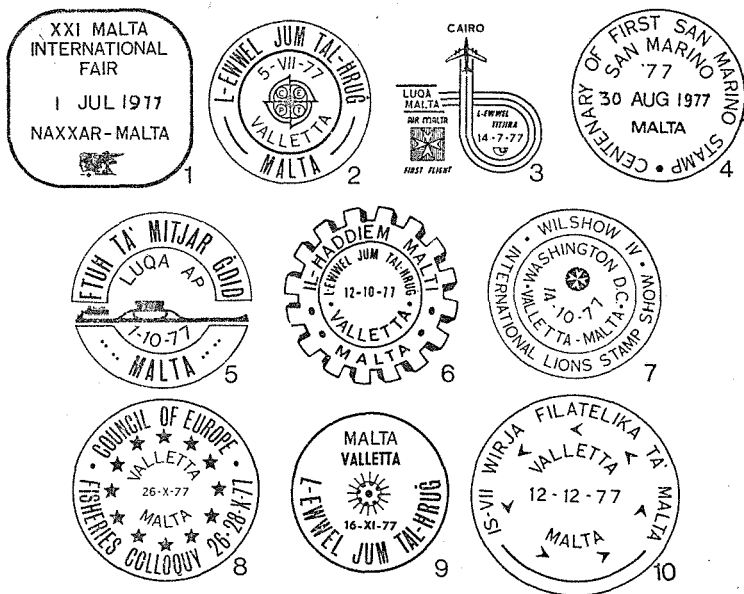
MALTA — A DIARY

JULY — DECEMBER 1977

Compiled by JOE FARRUGIA

- 1- 7-77 A temporary Branch Post Office was opened on Friday, July 1, at the XXI International Trade Fair, Naxxar. Hours of business for the sale of stamps, postal stationery, registration of letters, issue and payment of Postal and Money Orders, and posting of parcels was from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. starting from Friday 1st July to Friday 15th July. Postal articles were postmarked by a special date-stamp inscribed with the words: "XXI Malta International Fair, Naxxar, Malta". (Fig. 1)
- 5- 7-77 "Europa 1977" set issued today. These stamps remained on sale up to Wednesday, 30th November, 1977, unless stocks were previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 2)
- 14- 7-77 On the occasion of the first Air Malta Flight, Malta/Cairo on Thursday, 14th July, the Malta Post Office used a special hand postmark indicating the date of the first flight and place of destination. The postmark was used at the Philatelic Bureau. (Fig. 3)
- 16- 7-77 The Field Post Office, 171, at St. Francis Barracks, Floriana, closed today. Handstamps F.P.O. 171 and Parcel Post 112 were still in very good condition. This leaves only two more F.P.O.s on the Island, one at St. Andrews and the other at Luqa.
- 25- 7-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Xth Middle Sea Race — 1 Oct. 1977" was used on and off during the period 25th July to 30th September, 1977, at the Central Mail Room.
- 2- 8-77 By means of Notice No. 466 in the Govt. Gazette of 2-8-77 the Postmaster General notified for general information that a set of three postage stamps, featuring three different designs, and a miniature sheet, will be issued in 1978 on the occasion of the F.I.F.A. World Cup — 1978.
- 13- 8-77 The Malta Post Office participated in the Official Class, in the Philatelic Exhibition "Homeland — Environment — Nature", organised by the Grafenau Stamp Club, of West Germany. The exhibition was held in the woods of the National Park in Bayer on August 13 and 14.
- 27- 8-77 The Malta Post Office participated in the XXIX Fiera Internazionale del Francobollo held at the Palazzo del Turismo, Riccione, Italy, between August 27 and 29. The fair was organised by the Rimini Philatelic Circle and the Tourism Committee of Riccione.
- 28- 8-77 The Malta Post Office participated at the "San Marino 77" International Philatelic Exhibition which was held at the Congress Palace of the Republic of San Marino from the 28th August to 4th September 1977, on the occasion of the centenary of the first San Marino Stamp.
- For the occasion, the Malta Post Office printed a number of commemorative covers which were available for sale at 5 cents each from the G.P.O. from Monday, 22nd August 1977. During the period of the exhibition a special commemorative date-stamp inscribed with the words: "Centenary of the First — San Marino Stamp — San Marino '77 — Malta" was used at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O. A limited number of commemorative covers, each bearing one Malta stamp and one San Marino stamp, cancelled with the appropriate postmark of the respective Postal Administration, were also available for sale at 25 cents each. Orders for such covers were made

- at the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O. Valletta, up to noon of the 22nd August (Fig. 4)
- 5- 9-77 The Postmaster General notified that a machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Irbah M50,000 — Ixtri Biljett Issa", was going to be used on and off, at the Central Mail Room, as from Monday, 5th September, 1977.
- 19- 9-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Next Stamp Issue — Maltese Worker Set — 12 October 1977" was used at the Central Mail Room, as from 19th September 1977.
- 1-10-77 On the occasion of the opening of the New Runway at Luqa Airport, on 1st October, 1977, a special hand-postmark was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta and at the Branch Post Office at Luqa Air Port. The special hand-postmark was inscribed with the date "1-10-77", the words "Ftuħ ta' Mitġar Gdid", "Malta" and the name of the respective locality. An outline of the New Runway was also incorporated thereon. (Fig. 5)
- 12-10-77 Maltese worker set issued today. These stamps will remain on sale up to Tuesday, 28th February, 1978 unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of sale. (Fig. 6)
- 14-10-77 The Malta Post Office again participated in the Annual Washington International Lions Stamp Show — Wilshow IV — held in Washington U.S.A. from the 14th to 16th October 1977. For the occasion a number of commemorative covers were prepared and sold at 5 cents each from the G.P.O. as from the 3rd. October 1977.
- A limited number of special covers each bearing one U.S. stamp and one Malta stamp, each cancelled with an appropriate postmark of the respective Postal Administration were also available at 25 cents each. Orders for such covers were received at the Philatelic Bureau, up to noon of Friday, 30th September 1977.
- A special hand postmark was used at the Counter Hall of the G.P.O. during the period from 14th to 16th October 1977. The postmark was inscribed with the words: "International Lions Stamp Show — Washington D.C. Wilshow IV — Malta Post Office". An identical postmark was used at the Malta Post Office Stand at Wilshow IV. (Fig. 7)
- 21-10-77 The Govt. Gazette of the 21st October, 1977 the Minister of Development, Energy, Port and Telecommunications, approved the opening of Sub-Post Offices at San Gwann and at Mellieħa. Applications for the two posts of Sub-Postmasters at these localities were to be received by the Postmaster General up to 5 p.m. on Friday, 11th November, 1977.
- 26-10-77 A special hand-postmark was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta, on Wednesday, 26th October, 1977 on the occasion of the Fisheries Colloquy of the Council of Europe which was held in Malta from the 26th to the 28th October, 1977. The special hand-postmark was inscribed: "Council Of Europe — Fisheries Colloquy 26-28.X.77 — Valletta — Malta". The crest of the Council of Europe is also incorporated thereon. (Fig. 8)
- 28-10-77 With reference to the Stamp Design Competition, F.I.F.A. World Cup 1978 set, the Postmaster General notified that the two sets of designs submitted by Mr. Anthony De Giovanni under the noms-de-plume VINS and ANASTASIA had been placed first and third, respectively, and the set submitted by Mr. Harry Alden under the nom-de-plume SERUSIER had been placed second. The set placed first will be reproduced on the postage stamp



set to be issued in 1978 on the occasion of the F.I.F.A. World Cup. Twenty four sets entered the competition and these were exhibited at the G.P.O. on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd November, 1977.

- 28-10-77 The Postmaster General notified that the Qormi Sub-Post Office at 57, St. Sebastian Street, Qormi was closing down with effect from the 1st November, 1977.
- 29-10-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Jum ta' Tfaddil Nazzjonali — It-Tfaddil Ighin Lilek — U Lil Art Twelidek — 31 Ta' Ottubru 1977" was used at the Central Mail Room, on the 29th and 31st October, 1977.
- 2-11-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Next Stamp Issue — Christmas '77 Set — 16 November 1977" was used at the Central Mail Room as from Wednesday, 2nd November, 1977.
- 16-11-77 "Xmas. 1977" set issued today. These stamps will remain on sale up to Wednesday, 25th January, 1978 unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 9)
- 18-11-77 The Postmaster General notified that the new hand date-stamps were put in use, as from today, at the Sliema Branch Post Office and at the Parcel Post Office, Valletta. Six new hand date-stamps were used at Sliema and two at the Parcel Post Office, Valletta. The cancellation stamps at Sliema are inscribed with the name of the locality and the word "Malta", whilst those at the Parcel Post Office are inscribed with the words, "Parcel Post Service — Malta". Old cancelling stamps were withdrawn from use at the close of business on 17-11-77.
- 19-11-77 The Malta Post Office participated in the "Portugal '77" International Philatelic Exhibition which was held in the Sports Pavilion of the Cristal Palace,

- Oporto, Portugal from the 19th to 28th November, 1977.
- 21-11-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Gimgha Nazzjonali — Tal-Ktieb — 21-27 Ta' Novembru 1977" was used at the Central Mail Room on Monday, 21st November, 1977.
- 25-11-77 The Postmaster General notified that new hand date-stamps, were put in use, as from today, at the Branch Post Office of Zejtun, Żurrieq, Rabat, (one new hand date-stamp in each), Ħamrun (three new hand date stamps), and Luqa Airport (two new hand date-stamps). The cancellation stamps of these Branch Post Offices are inscribed with the name of the respective locality and the word "Malta". Old cancellation stamps were withdrawn from use at the close of business on 24-11-77.
- 28-11-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "VII Malta Philatelic — Exhibition — 12-17 December 1977" was used on and off, at the Central Mail Room, as from the 28th November, 1977.
- 1-12-77 The Postmaster General notified that new hand date-stamps, were put in use, as from today, at the Valletta Branch Post Office, at Old Bakery Street (two new date-stamps), the Central Mail Room, Valletta, (four new date-stamps), the General Post Office Counter, Valletta, (six new date-stamps) and the Philatelic Bureau, Valetta, (two new date-stamps). These new cancellation stamps at Valletta are inscribed as follows:
 "Valletta B.P.O. — Malta", (at Old Bakery Street Branch Post Office).
 "Valletta — Malta", (at Central Mail Room and G.P.O. Counter).
 "Valletta — Malta" and the letter "A" or "B", (at the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O.).
 Old cancellation stamps were withdrawn from use at the close of business on 30-11-77.
- 5-12-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Għinu T-Tfal Fil-Bżonn — Użaw Il-Bolli Tal-Milied" was used at the Central Mail Room, as from Monday, 5th December, 1977.
- 12-12-77 A temporary Branch Post Office opened at the Auberge d'Italie, Valletta, on the occasion of the holding of the VII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1977, which was held at the same place. This B.P.O. was open from the 12th to the 17th December, 1977. The hours of business of this temporary B.P.O. were:
 Monday 12th December, 1.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
 Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th December, 8.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.
 The following postal business was transacted: the sale of Postage stamps and Postal stationery, registration of letters, issue and payment of Money and Postal Orders, as well as the sale of Commemorative Medals.
 Special covers at 5 cents each, to mark the occasion of this VII Malta Philatelic Exhibition, were sold from the Philatelic Bureau, the Philatelic Window at the G.P.O. and from the temporary B.P.O.
 Letters posted at the VII Malta Philatelic Exhibition 1977 temporary B.P.O. were postmarked with a special date-stamp inscribed with the following words: "Is-VII Wirja Filatelika ta' Malta, Valetta — Malta". (Fig. 10)
- 26-12-77 A new hand date-stamp was used on all postal articles posted at Gżira Branch Post Office as from Monday, 26th December, 1977. The words inscribed on the hand date-stamp are "Gżira — Malta" similar to the old one which was withdrawn at the close of business on the 24th December, 1977.

28-12-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded "Day of Peace — First January" was used at the Central Mail Room, on the 28th, 29th and 30th December, 1977.