

# MALTA — A DIARY

May-August 1978

compiled by

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- 5-5-78 The £M1 stamp of the present Definitive Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited, Malta. This is the first reprint of this value. The stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau. For record purposes it could be stated that by mistake the notice appearing in the Government Gazette of the 5th May, mentioned this reprint as being that of the £M2 value. This was rectified by another notice, appearing in the Government Gazette of the 12th May, 1978 correcting the notice of the 15th May. It is also of interest to note, that just as in the original print, when the Definitive Set was issued, only Panes "A", "B" and "D" of this value were issued for sale.
- 15-5-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "17 Ta' Mejju — Jum Dinji Tat-Telekomunikazzjoni" was used on the 15th, 16th and 17th May, 1978 at the Central Mail Room.
- 18-5-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Witrja Ta' L-Esperanto — 22-27.V.78" was used on the 18th, 19th and 20th May, 1978 at the Central Mail Room. The slogan also incorporates the emblem of the Malta Esperanto Society.
- 22-5-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded: "Next Stamp Issue — F.I.F.A. World Cup Set — 6 June 1978" was used, on and off, during the period 22nd May — 5th June, 1978 at the Central Mail Room.
- 26-5-78 In the Government Gazette of the 26th May, 1978 the Postmaster General, in collaboration with the National Commission for the International Year of the Child, notified that a set of postage stamps will be issued next year to mark the International Year of the Child (1979). The set will consist of two postage stamps featuring different designs based on the theme "Children". The selection of the two designs will be made after a competition open to Maltese children attending Government or Private Primary Schools. Prizes by way of book tokens to the value of £M25 shall be awarded for each design selected for reproduction on the postage stamps. Book tokens to the value of £M20 shall be awarded for each of the designs placed second and third respectively. Five book tokens to the value of £M5 each shall also be awarded as consolation prizes.
- 1-6-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Jum Dinji — Ta' L-Ambjent — 5 ta' Gunju" was used at the Central Mail Room on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th June, 1978.
- 6-6-78 F.I.F.A. World Cup Set issued today. This set will remain on sale up to Tuesday, 24th October, 1978 unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. Fig. 1.
- 6-6-78 The 5c stamp of the present Definitive Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited Malta. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau. This is the third reprint or the fourth printing of this value.
- 7-6-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan inscribed: "Ibza Ghall-Ilma — Save Water", was used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta as from the 7th June, 1978.
- 23-6-78 The 3c stamp of the present Definitive Set has been reprinted by Printex Limited, Malta. This stamp was available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau as from today. This is the first reprint or the second printing of the 3c value.

30-6-78 In the Government Gazette of the 30th June, 1978 the Postmaster General notified that a public competition for the design of a new set of postage stamps, to be issued next year, is open to all Maltese citizens. The set will commemorate the start of a new chapter in Malta's history, with the expiration of the Agreement with Britain for the use of military facilities on the Island, and her declared policy of neutrality and non-alignment in the interest of peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean. The set will consist of six postage stamps featuring three different designs. The designs should be such as to produce a coherent set. Each design must also be accompanied by colour combinations appropriate for one other stamp reproducing the same design.

1-7-78 A temporary Branch Post Office opened at the Malta International Fair, Naxxar from the 1st July, 1978 to the 15th July, 1978. The hours of business of this temporary Branch Post Office were from 6.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. from Saturday, 1st July to Saturday, 15th July, 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: "XXII Malta International Fair, Naxxar, Malta". Fig. 2.



29-7-78 The Field Post Office at St. Andrews closed today. Handstamps were still in very good condition, and this Post Office was very busy today, meeting the demand of philatelists trying to get a last day strike. This only leaves the Field Post Office at Luqa in operation. The letter box outside the St. Andrews F.P.O. will still be used and collections are still to be made. Arrangements were made, for stamps to be sold from the NAAFI, which is just opposite the F.P.O. The letter box will remain in use until the NAAFI at St. Andrews closes down.

8-8-78 In the Government Gazette of 8th August, 1978 the Postmaster General notified by means of Notice No. 337, that the postage stamps bearing sterling currency denominations issued in Malta from the 12th May, 1937 to the 20th March, 1972 which were invalidated on the 20th October, 1976 and exchanged for decimal currency stamps up to the 19th April, 1977 were of the issues and denominations detailed hereunder. A complete list, which is too long to reproduce here, can be seen in the above Government Gazette. This shows each set with its separate values and also the number of stamps of each value which were exchanged. The S.G. or Said 1978 catalogue numbers exchanged are from 214 to 466, i.e. from the 1937 "Coronation" issue to the 1972 "Heart" issue. It is of interest to note that there were only four values, of which no stamps were returned, plus a Triptych Christmas set. These were

No. 248, the 10/- of the 1948 Definitive set, No. 250 the £1 value of the 1949 Silver Wedding set, Nos. 281 and 282, the 10/- and £1 values of the 1956 Definitive set, and the set in Triptych form of the 1969 Christmas set. All the other stamps between 214 and 466, including sets in Miniature Sheets and Triptych form, were returned in different amounts. Many of the low values were returned in thousands, others in hundreds and only a few of the high values. But I will mention a few that were returned, and wouldn't it have been nice to be there to buy them at face value when they were being handed over. If you know what I mean, open up your catalogue and compare the prices.

S.G. No.	Value	No. returned	S.G. No.	Value	No. Returned
230	5/-	1	231	10/-	1
245	2/-	90	246	2/6	28
247	5/-	76	254	1/-	82
278	2/-	71	279	2/6	26
280	5/-	41	300	2/6	3
311	1/6	2	313	1/6	54
325	1/6	2	326	2/6	1
347	10/-	133	348	£1	103
358	2/6	70			

- 14-8-78 The Postmaster General notified that a Sub-Post Office was to open at 117, Main Street, Mellieha, today Monday, 14th August 1978. A hand metal date-stamp, inscribed with the words, "Mellieha S.P.O. — Malta", will be used at the Sub-Post Office. The above was released by means of Notice No. 336 in the Government Gazette of the 8th August 1978.
- 14-8-78 In the Government Gazette of today's date, a list of Licensed Stamp Vendor: and their addresses on the 1st August, 1978 was given. This list covered all Vendors in Malta and Gozo. For the record, there are 375 in Malta and 61 in Gozo, a total of 436.
- 26-8-78 The Malta Post Office participated at the "XXXa Fiera del Francobollo", which was held at Riccione, Italy from the 26th to the 28th August, 1978. For the occasion special commemorative hand postmarks inscribed with the words, "Malta Postal Administration — XXXa Fiera del Francobollo — Riccione", and bearing the dates of the exhibition were used at the General Post Office Counter Hall on the 26th, 27th and 28th August, 1978. Identical postmarks were used at the Malta Post Office Stand at Riccione. Fig. 3.
- 28-8-78 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded "Hares Saħħtek — Mill-Perikli — Fuq Ix-Xogħol", was used at the Central Mail Room during the period 28th August to 2nd September.