



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Vol. 8 No. 3

AUTUMN 1978

MZ 6

This symbol stands for the largest philatelic organisation in the world.

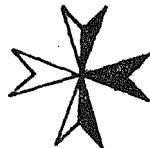


We handle the design, printing and distribution of stamps from over 50 postal authorities. Information on our new releases is all important and is eagerly awaited by collectors. To achieve this end we have built up excellent liaison with philatelic Journals throughout the world. Of special interest are the Crown Agents "Gazette" and the Crown Agents "News", which are published each month as an integral part of Britain's two largest stamp Journals—Stamp Monthly and Stamp Magazine.

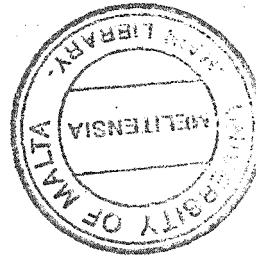
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BELIZE	ISLE OF MAN	SOLOMON ISLANDS
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A CROWN AGENTS STAMP BUREAU ANNOUNCEMENT



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MAGAZINE



Bronze-Gilt Medal at VIIth Malta
Philatelic Exhibition — 1977

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

VOL. 8 No. 3

MALTA

AUTUMN 1978

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Cover design: Chev. Emvin Cremona

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 "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.

Address all correspondence to:

The Editor, Nick A. Cutajar
The Philatelic Society Magazine
7A Wied il-Għajnejn Road
Żejtun, Malta.

FOREWORD

Once again, after the traditional six-months lapse, during which, I suppose, you have maintained contact with the wide beautiful world of Stamps, we are voicing an introductory note for the edition in hand. It gives us great pleasure and satisfaction to learn that our efforts over these last four years have borne some fruit, including international recognition. As many of you have already read, a Bronze Medal was awarded to the PSM Magazine at "PRAGA 78", this year's most important international held between September 8-17th. At the same time, we have received very favourable comments from leading philatelic personalities about our magazine.

In the philatelic world of today, literature continues to play considerable importance, especially that kind which contributes towards a better evaluation of the possibilities of philately in the fields of traditional philately, postal history and thematic. And it is with these three branches in mind that over the years we have endeavoured to balance the contents of our magazine.

Topical collecting has spiralled in popularity during these last twenty years, flourishing into a branch of philately that has earned a separate class in International Exhibitions. Topical collecting is now established as a branch of our avocation, with collectors searching for excitement and a source of enjoyment. Two articles in this edition are bound to interest particularly the thematic adherent. One deals with this year's avalanche of postal issues marking various anniversaries and accomplishments in the field of aviation, while the other covers the distinctive postal issues of Malta for the Christmas season, which one might rightly classify as Cremona's Christmas gifts.

AWARDS AT INTERNATIONALS

CAPEX 78

Competitive Class:

Mr. Godwin Said — Large Silver Medal
"The Postal History of Malta, including Pre-adhesives, Di infected Mail, Rates and Historical Documents dating from the 17th Century".

Literature Class:

Mr. Nick A. Cutajar — Large Silver Medal with Felicitations
"The History of the Postal Service in the Maltese Islands — TV script".

E. Said Publishers — Silver Medal

"Said Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue 1978".

PRAGA 78

Competitive Class:

Dr. Alfred Bonnici — Vermeil with Felicitations
"½d Queen Victoria Yellows".

Mr. Godwin Said — Silver Medal
"Specialized Collection of Malta Postal History".

Mr. Anthony Fenech — Silver Bronze Medal
"Rare Malta Covers".

Literature Class:

Messrs. E. Said — Bronze Medal
"Said Stamp and Coin Catalogue 1978".

The Philatelic Society — Bronze Medal
"The P.S.M. Magazine", Vols. 6-8.

Mr. Nick A. Cutajar — Bronze Medal
"The History of the Postal Service in the Maltese Islands — TV Script".

We offer our sincerest congratulations to the members who have attained the awards.

POSTAL HISTORY FROM THE ARCHIVES

G.B. STAMPS USED IN MALTA

General Post Office
Valletta, 4th Sept. 1883

Sir,

I think it right to annex for the information of H.E. the Governor particulars of the sale of postage stamps of the United Kingdom at this Office during the financial year ended in March last as a guide to the Island Government in regard to the approximate quantities of the several denominations of stamps which will have to be provided for use after the transfer. To these quantities must be added say 1,000 stamps of each denomination for distribution among the countries of the General Postal Union, through the International Bureau at Berne, and for sale to collectors, and in estimating the ½d. stamps required, it will be necessary to add together the sales of Imperial and Island ½d. stamps respectively.

I am inclined to doubt any present necessity for the issue of 5/- stamps, these having heretofore been sold chiefly to be sent as remittances, so that the denominations required would be ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 4d, 5d, 6d and 1/1 together with registration envelopes of two sizes, 1d (single) and 2d (reply) Post-Cards, and ½d and 1d newspaper wrappers. I presume that the new Malta postage

stamps would be ordered through the Crown Agents for the Colonies and as I was verbally informed by the Crown Agents in London last year that their manufacturer, Messrs. De La Rue, made a considerable reduction in the price when 500 sheets or upwards were printed vis.

For less than 500 sheets — 1s 4d per 1,000 stamps;

For 500 sheets or upwards — 10d per 1,000 stamps

there might be some advantage, apart from the saving in dues, in not issuing 5d or 6d stamps in the first instance; but in estimating the quantities required, to add to the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps to be ordered, double the computed sale of 5d stamps, and to add to the 2d and 4d stamps respectively the amount of the computed sale of 6d stamps. It need scarcely be added that even 10d per 1,000 is a much higher charge than the cost of printing stamps, in still larger quantities at the Inland Revenue.

I may add that it is desirable that the new stamps should not too nearly resemble those of the United Kingdom and that the colour of each denomination should differ from that of the corresponding Imperial stamp. If in the new stamps, the Royal effigy could be projected upon an eight pointed Maltese Cross, a distinction would be effected which might not perhaps be wholly unpopular in the Island.

I have etc.
(signed) ROGER DUKE.

Stamps	Post Cards
$\frac{1}{2}$ d Imperial	86.400
$\frac{1}{2}$ d Island	69.780
	156.180
1d	243.600
2d	43.800
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d	474.000
4d	19.500
5d	9.600
6d	15.000
1/-	12.500
5/-	560
Post Cards	Registration Envelopes
	1d (single)
	2d (reply)
	Size G
	Size H

P.S. I have just been informed that it has been decided to have certain stamps of uniform colour throughout the Postal Union, i.e.

the $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps
 green pink blue

(signed) R.D.

Courtesy British Post Office Records

THE NEW SYSTEM OF POSTAL TAXATION

by

CARMEL SCICLUNA BONNICI

On the 22nd April 1978, a circular was issued, informing those involved that a new system of postal taxation was to be introduced. This system started functioning at mid-day on Saturday, the 22nd April 1978. At 10 a.m. the order was given to stop taxing mail from the Central Mail Room of the Valletta G.P.O., the reason being that by mid-day, the mail from the Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as well as the collections of mail, would be ready and sent to their destination. Before describing the new system, it would be interesting to say something about how the previous system worked.

The collection of mail from "Pillars" or letter boxes, from many parts of Malta, is done by G.P.O. vans between 7.15 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. The postmen from the Branch Post Offices collect the mail from the nearest areas around them about 7.15 a.m. by means of motor-bikes and bicycles. The outlying areas around the Branch Post Offices are not necessarily collected by this postman, but the G.P.O. vans. Once the mail is collected and taken to the Branch Post Offices, "sorting" is done, and mail is then sent to the Central Mail Room in sacks. Similar "sorting" is done at the Central Mail Room, from where all mail is then delivered to all the Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo in sacks tied with labels known as "sack necks".

Whilst all this sorting is taking place at the Central Mail Room as soon as a postman notices a torn letter, or a letter not having the right amount of stamps on it, or perhaps a letter without any stamps, he first cancels any stamps on the letter and then passes it to another postman sitting near the Senior Officer. This postman is known as an "Indoors Duty Postman" and his duties are various and very important. Amongst these duties can be mentioned the following:-

1. Keeps a close watch on incoming and outgoing mail.
2. Changes the time on handstamps and those on machines.
3. Stamps the "endorsements".
4. Repairs damaged letters and in certain cases also adds his signature to that of the Senior Officer on endorsements.
5. Adds Postage Due stamps on envelopes and in general puts into effect the Postal Taxation System, by taking care of the following:
 - (a) Ordinary local letters not exceeding 30 grams should be posted with stamps of 2c value. If the value of stamps on such a letter is say 1c, the letter becomes subject to postal tax, and instead of an additional 1c, a double rate must be paid, i.e. 2c for each 1c short.
 - (b) Cases of letters having been crossed in Blue or Black or perhaps having the letter "R" on them, are assumed that the sender wanted them to be registered, but only puts a 2c value stamp on them. In this

case the "Indoors Duty Postman" adds 6c value stamp for registration, but does not use double taxation as in case (a). In this case he uses the "endorsement", "Post out of Course". This endorsement is a rubber one without time or date.

(c) Cases similar to (b) but without any indication for registration and having only 2c value stamps on them, and posted as an ordinary letter. In this case the postman notices that the letter contains valuables. It is his duty to increase the rate by 6c and register the letter using the rubber endorsement "Compulsory Registered".

Up to the 28th April 1973, on "Compulsory Registered" letters labels in English used to be fixed at the back of such letters worded:

This packet, which was posted in the ordinary way, has been compulsory registered by the post office because it

* contains Coins

* bears the word registered

* is crossed with blue lines

Valuable articles should not be sent in unregistered packets. Packets intended for registration should not be dropped in a posting box, but should be handed in at a Post Office and a receipt obtained. Packets found to contain money or jewellery and packets bearing the word "Registered" or any similar word or mark, posted without registration, are registered by us and we charge on delivery.

* Please advise the sender about this.

* Delete and amplify where necessary.

Note: It is of interest to remember that on this date, the 28th April 1973, the decimal "Postage Due" set was issued.

(d) Another special case is that of postal articles which contain anything other than correspondence, or the dimensions, size, weight or thickness of which are different from those of a normal letter. In this case the postman stamps an endorsement, "Not in accordance with posting conditions", and passes it to the Armed Forces of Malta for safety checking, and the letter is then sent back to the sender if his address is seen on the back of the letter. In the case of no sender on the back, the letter passes through the "dead letter office" and the sender receives it in an official envelope. The above precautions are being taken in accordance with the circular of the 29th December 1977, reference "letter bombs".

Reference (a), (b) and (c) it has to be taken into consideration that the money collected by all the postmen from the areas of each Branch Post Office, must somehow find its way back to the Central Mail Room, so that the "Indoors Duty Postman" or Senior Officer is refunded the same amount of money, corresponding to all the "Postage Due" stamps that he would have fixed on such

letters. I would say that when and how he was refunded, always presented problems and arguments and hence the reason for the new system. Anyway this is briefly how the system of "Postal Taxation" used to work. With the new system nothing much has been changed, except that Postal Taxation is taken care of by the Branch Post Offices concerned instead of by the Central Mail Room. An example would help explain the new system.

Let us say a person from Mar a posted a letter to another person living in Mellieħa and that this letter was subject to postal tax because it had only a 1c stamp on it instead of 2c. What happens is this:

- (i) When the letter arrives at the Central Mail Room by the usual procedure, the 1c stamp is cancelled by the 27mm metal Valletta handstamp with the time and date on it. It also receives the rubber box "T" stamp for taxation, but no postage due stamps are added to it. As Mellieħa is part of the Mosta Branch Post Office, when this letter arrives at the Mosta Branch Post Office, postage due stamps, at the rate explained earlier, are added and the letter goes on its way. If the address is correct, there are no problems, the money collected by the postman is refunded to his own Senior Officer, at the Mosta Branch.
- (ii) Assuming that this letter which has been taxed at Mosta, and posted at Marsa, for some reason does not have the right address on it and the postman cannot deliver the letter. The postal tax has to be paid, so what happens is this:
 - (a) the letter goes back from Mosta to the Central Mail Room and provided the letter has the sender on the back,
 - (b) from the Central Mail Room it goes to the Hamrun Branch Post Office, because Marsa is part of the Hamrun Section.
 - (c) The Hamrun postman serving that particular area in Marsa where the sender lives, collects the money from the sender.
 - (d) The money is given to the Senior Officer of the Hamrun Branch, who in turn refunds it to the Senior Officer of the Mosta Branch.

Going back to (a) when the letter being returned does not have a sender on the back, on its arrival at the Central Mail Room, it is diverted to the "dead letter office". This letter is opened by an officer to find out the address of the sender. This Officer puts this letter in an official envelope addressed to the sender, and on this envelope again fixes other postage due stamps, because the original ones would have been already cancelled.

In case (ii) the same complications for the refunding of money have to be followed as in the old system of postal taxation, but as these cases are in the minority compared to those of case (i), the aim of the new system is attained.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to the following members:

308	Councilor Brian Christopher Smith, F.R.S.H.	20, Becket's Way, Framfield, Near Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5PE, England.
309	Mr. Frank J. Fenech	1619 71st, Brooklyn, New York, 11204, U.S.A.
310	Mr. Michael Lueck	Siemensstr. 12, 5138 Heinsberg, Fed. Rep. of Germany.
311	Mr. H.B. Ivan de Nemethy	33 George Street, Blackpool FY1 3DB, U.K.
312	Mr. D.C. Davies	51 Goresfield Avenue, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside L62 6BY, U.K.
313	Mr. Gerald Orville Wright	3573 Pershing SE, Hubbard, Ohio, 44425, U.S.A.
314	Mr. George E. Gillespie	833 East 38th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11210, U.S.A.
315	Mr. H. Basterl	717 Pelhamdale Ave., N. Pelham, New York 10803, U.S.A.
316	Kt. Cmdr. Frank Savona O.S.J.	3725 Apt. 304, Dundas Street W, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6S 2T5.
317	Mr. Porretta Sandro	Via Luigi Capuana 94, 00137 Roma, Italia.
318	Mr. R.C.W. Hales	84 Southbank Road, East Cowles, Isle of Wight, England.
319	Mr. Dean Pollock	P.O. Box 543, North Platte, Nebraska 69101, U.S.A.
320	Mr. Leslie Paul Deaton	22 St. John's Drive, Bilton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, U.K.
321	Mr. J.D. Mackenzie	248 Florence Avenue, Willodale, Ontario, Canada M2N 1G6.
322	Mr. F. Graham Stevens	728 Wellington Street, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada N7T 1J2.
323	Mrs. J.A. Cran,	21 Shetland Drive, Wantirna, Victoria, 3152, Australia.
324	Mr. Hans Palstra	Distelstr. 6, 2222 XB Helvoetsluis, Netherlands.
325	Mr. Joseph Camilleri	Villa St. Michael, Cardinal Cardijn Street, Balzan, Malta.



THE CHRISTMAS STAMPS OF MALTA

by
NICK A. CUTAJAR

No other country has tackled the Christmas theme in a manner so dignified and interesting than the Island of Malta ever since its first Christmas set of 1964. And no other stamp designer has produced such a variety of designs on the Christmas theme, for so long for any one country than Malta's prolific artist, Chev. Emvin Cremona, who has been responsible for every issue on the subject ever since.



The first Christmas set of stamps of Malta were issued on November 2, 1964, (incidentally the first Malta issue following the attainment of Independence on September 21). The set consisted of three stamps, (2d, 4d and 8d) with a common design, printed in photogravure. The following year, Chev. E. Cremona produced a design used on the three values comprising the second Christmas issue, which were also produced in photogravure. While the design of the 1964 issue depicted the Nativity scene, that of 1965 depicted the Adoration of the Three Kings.



The third Christmas issue again consisting of three stamps (1d, 4d and 1/3) had a common design showing a stylized Nativity scene. This issue produced some quite interesting varieties, namely: (i) The Blindfold Virgin and Baby Jesus on the 4d value, the result of a colour shift of which only one sheet of 60 stamps has been recorded; (ii) the Gold omitted on the 1/3 value; (iii) one constant flaw known on all values.

The 1964-1966 period reflects very evidently Cremona's style and his artistic qualities: a style that is original as well as creative, stylized yet not pure abstract. In later years we see his style evolving into a unique symbolism, so far few stamp designers have managed to attain.

Originality of Shape

Cremona's creativity knows no bounds and even in the art of the miniature he manages to put forward his impressions effectively. His creativity was best manifested in the 1967 and 1968 issues, when he originated shapes at the time unheard of in the world of stamps. The designs of the 1967 set were best treated in a triptych form since the three stamps illustrated a composite Nativity Scene (1d, 8d and 1/4). Each value was printed in the form of a trapezoid, that fitted into the triptych so perfectly that were it not for the perforation separating the stamps, another trapezoid (three stamps larger) results. The stamps were also available for sale printed singly in sheet form and in *tete-beche* position. Over 366,770 triptychs were sold of this issue. The only variety known on this issue takes the form of "white stars" as a result of the omission of the red.

An irregular pentagon shape was the offering in 1968. Apart from the originality of shape, the designs once again manifested the simplicity of lines in an almost geometric pattern of triangles, parallelograms, trapeziums and rectangles. The use of contrasting colours, particularly black as well as gold, is an important attribute in Cremona's work.

Unfortunately the shapes of the stamps were not comfortable to Post Office counter clerks, especially in the case of the 1968 issue as it was rather cumbersome to separate the stamps from their unique layout in the sheet. Who knows, we might have had more of these geometric permutations were it not for this difficulty.

The 1968 Christmas issue was a first for Malta: it was the first set of stamps inscribed in the Maltese Language. All subsequent Christmas issues were inscribed in the national language.

Charity Surcharge

The 1969 Christmas set was yet another first for Malta: it was the first of the Island's stamps to be surcharged for Charity purposes. The stamps, 1d + 1d, 5d + 1d, 1/6 + 3d, were printed in triptych form and featured one continuous design with a background of the landscape of Mdina (the old Capital). The foreground had a purely local character, showing musicians with their folkloristic instruments, Heavenly Angels and Choir Boys.

In 1970, the local character was the basis for the designs of the Christmas set, with a return to a conventional size and shape. The stamps, 1d + 1/2d, 10d + 2d, 1/6 + 3d, against a background of Maltese Churches, depicted the Midnight Procession by small children with the statue of Baby Jesus, the Nativity Scene and a Choir, respectively.



Miniature Sheets

Christmas stamps of Malta seem to be characterized by firsts, because the 1971 Christmas issue produced the first Souvenir Sheet ever issued by the Malta Post Office. Cremona developed further his style and designed three longish rectangular shapes with stylized designs showing an Angel auguring peace on the 1d + ½d, the Madonna and Child Jesus on the 10d + 2d, and a Shepherd on the 1/6 + 3d. The sale of this set on the first day of issue was exceptionally high for a Christmas issue, probably due to the high face value occasioned by the miniature sheet which accompanied the set.

The 1972 and 1973 Christmas issues were also accompanied by Miniature or Souvenir Sheets. The 1972 set showed expressions on the Angel's face, related to particular moments in the Mystery of the Nativity. The set for the following year contained a modern rendering and interpretation. In 1972, Malta changed to a decimal system of currency, and thus the set was inscribed in this system; both the 1972 and 1973 sets had the values: 8m + 2m, 3c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5. No other miniature sheets were issued after 1973 for the Christmas issue. Of particular artistic interest is the appearance of the "Star of Bethlehem" on the period 1971-1973.

The "Star of Bethlehem" was also the basis of the conventional 1974 four-value set. It is in fact an imaginary futuristic expression of the "Star" on each of the stamps, each of which illustrates in minuscule, a nativity scene in the bottom right hand corner.

Paintings Reproduced

It has been the custom of several countries to reproduce famous paintings on their Christmas issues and Malta has only resorted to reproducing works of art recently. In fact only the 1975 and 1976 Christmas issues featured reproductions. The artwork was entrusted into the capable hands of Emvin Cremona.

The "Nativity" by Maestro Alberto (XV-XVI Century) was the subject of the 1975 issue. The painting was reproduced in full as one composite unit, perfectly and symmetrically separated into three stamps that form the triptych. The stamps were also available separately in sheets. The 3c + 1c stamp, the middle stamp of the triptych showing the Nativity, was voted into second place in the First International "Vote A Stamp" Contest organized by the Philatelic Society of Malta during 1976.

The following year, another famous painting entitled "Madonna And Saints" by Domenico de Michelino was selected to feature on the Christmas issue. This painting is almost square in shape and separation into three stamps to form a triptych was not a suitable idea. So, Emvin Cremona decided to reproduce integrally the painting on one single stamp, the 10c + 2c stamp, and then designing three other vertical sections, 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, and 7c5 + 1c5, with the "Madonna and Child" as the middle stamp. The 10c + 2c and the 5c + 1c stamps were voted into first and second place respectively in the Second International "Vote A Stamp" Contest.

The Christmas Crib — 1977 Issue

The Christmas Crib is so much part of the Maltese family during the Christmas period, that it comes as no surprise that Malta should dedicate a set of Christmas stamps to it. The crib is a characteristic of Christmas in Malta, and almost all families, especially if there are children, build one out of papier-machè with clay statuettes, representing Biblical figures. The statuettes are known locally as "pasturi". National and parochial competitions are held every year throughout the Maltese Islands.

The 1977 Christmas designs are actually based on papier-machè figures from the award-winning crib of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers of Cospicua, Malta. Originally built in 1960 and subsequently modified and enlarged over the years, the crib is essentially of Italian style and it attracts large crowds every December. A special feature of the crib is the ingenious use of light for water simulation and day and night effects, as well as continuous music.

The crib has won several prizes, including at least four times first prize in the National Contest. It is the work of three fathers, in papier-machè, and the figures or statuettes are not the originals, including the ones shown on the stamps, made in 1960, of which there are between 50 to 60 between biblical figures and cattle.

In conclusion, suffice it to say that indeed Malta's contribution to the Christmas theme has enabled a wide variety of subjects and designs that should enhance any collection of stamps on the Christmas Mystery.

Originally published in Italian in "Gabriel"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

With reference to Mr. Joseph Scicluna's letter from N.J., U.S.A., in Vol. 2 Spring, 1978.

1. I would like to point out that the printing of stamps, like the printing of money, falls under the heading of "Security Printing" for obvious reasons, and must not be compared to any procedures adopted by ordinary printers.

It is extremely illegal (and thank Heavens that is so) that any security printer cannot print at his discretion in excess of the requested Invoiced quantities. Any surplus, odds, and ends, waste etc. must be destroyed, and the paper used accounted for. This is usually watermarked paper. In the case of Malta S.G. 1, 2, 3, are unwatermarked.

2. In the case of the Malta $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Queen Victoria issue — the procedure adopted was as follows. The Malta Government placed its order with the Crown Agents who in turn commissioned Thomas De La Rue, Security Printers, to go ahead with the execution of the printings.

The Invoices quoted are the invoices as entered in the Day Book of De La Rue, and I took great pains to go through all the De La Rue Day Books where all orders (invoiced) were noted. The reason why I quoted the page and the letter of the Day Books of each particular invoice, was to convince doubting Thomas's like Mr. Joseph Scicluna once and for all that there were actually 30 printings. If in spite of all this Mr. Scicluna still has doubts on my research, I can only advise him to spend 6 days as I have done in the vaults of the British Postal Museum, London, who are the custodians of the Archives of De La Rue, and verify facts himself.

These orders from Malta — to the Crown Agents to De La Rue sometimes took only days.

3. As far as the issue dates in Malta, there are no records of this either in Malta or in London.

We can only get a fair idea by dated copies — so I in particular would be extremely grateful to Mr. Scicluna if he could perhaps elucidate us on supply No. 28.

4. Re. the date quoted in Supply No. 30, it was a printing error.

5. Lastly, may I point out to your readers that $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in Malta during 1860-1885, was a lot of money, when one takes into consideration, that the weekly wage of a skilled Dry Dock worker varied from 9d. to 1/- per week. This was the period of the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and eighth (farthing). So there is a valid reason why very few people bought stamps in excess of their need. In spite of this I am sure that there must have been some notaries, lawyers and other professionals who maybe, stocked 4 or 6 stamps, but there must have been very few. How many $\frac{1}{2}$ d. blued blocks of 4 exist, or for that matter S.G. 2 and 3 etc.?

Yours sincerely,
ALFRED BONNICI

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

BY JOSEPH FARRUGIA

WORLD CUP 1978 ISSUE

Date of Issue	6th June 1978.
Values	2c, 11c and 15c.
Stamp Size	20mm x 38mm.
Art Designer	Anthony De Giovanni.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.85 x 13.5 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

- 2c Blue, Red, Ochre and Black.
- 11c Green, Blue, Ochre and Black.
- 15c Grey, Blue, Red, Ochre and Black.

Designs

The World Cup competition organised by F.I.F.A. is the most significant sporting event after the Olympic Games. In Malta, football is the most popular sport and the World Cup captures the enthusiasm of local football fans who follow the competition with great interest. On the occasion of the 11th edition of the World Cup being held this year in Argentina, the Malta Postal Administration issued this set of three commemorative stamps. The 2c stamp depicts a goalkeeper saving a shot. The 11c stamp shows two players in heading duel and the 15c stamp features a player dribbling past an opponent.

A souvenir sheet 125mm by 90mm, in a horizontal format, incorporating the three stamps was also issued with this set.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 9mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows, in all Panes of all the three values. With this set, it must again be reminded, that a Pane of stamps is looked at in such a way, that the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left hand side of the bottom margin, and the Printers Imprint is on the right hand side of the same margin. In this way, looking at any Pane of any value, of this set, the stamps will be seen sideways resting on their 38mm side.

In the two values, 11c and 15c, the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left, in all four Panes of each value, but from left to right in the 2c value Panes.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in Red, Blue and Ochre in the 2c, 11c and 15c values respectively.

The Printed Sheets of all three values consisted of four Panes, "A", "B", "C" and "D". Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. Stamps of all three values are of the vertical format.

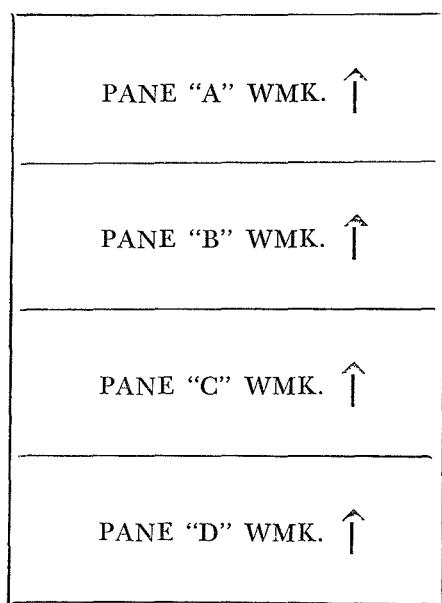
Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane of 50 stamps, of each value.

2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.
11c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.
15c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5, 1D x 5.

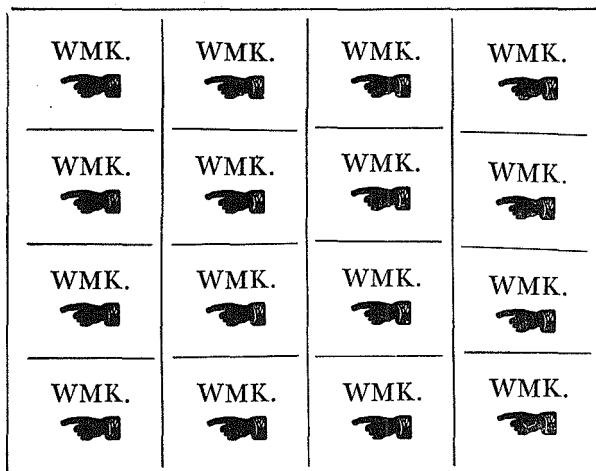
Perforation of Margins

The left hand margins of Panes "A", "B", "C" and "D" of the three values are imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of Panes "A", "B", "C" and "D" of all three values are fully perforated. No registration marks were seen when all Panes were examined, except for a small horizontal line in the top left hand margin of Pane "C" of the 11c value.



From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheets of all three values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all three values, would be seen sideways, resting on their 38mm side. Hence the reason why, when individual stamps are examined, the watermark will be seen sideways.

The Printed Sheet of the Souvenir Sheets consisted of 16 souvenir sheets, made up of 4 rows of 4, as shown on left. As there are no Pane numbers or anything else to distinguish them, it is not possible to give the relative position of a souvenir sheet in a Printed Sheet. But for records purposes, and thanks to help received from the Philatelic Bureau, we can give the set up of a



Imprint Blocks

"Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in Red, Blue and Ochre in the 2c, 11c and 15c respectively. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed with the words, "Tazza Tad-Dinja Tal-F.I.F.A. — L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hruġġ", the name of the respective locality and the date "6.6.78". A decorative motif, representing a football and a net is also featured on the postmark. Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue, sales from this set, realized the sum of £M73,581.

1978 AIR MAIL SET

Date of Issue	3rd October 1978.
Values	5c, 7c, 11c, 17c, 20c and 75c.
Stamp Size	47.15mm x 20.5mm.
Art Designer	Richard Caruana.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.35 x 13.5 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

5c Yellow, Brown, Ultramarine and Black.

7c Ochre, Red, Blue, Grey and Black.

11c Orange, Green, Grey and Black.

Printed Sheet of souvenir sheets, showing also the direction of watermark. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, souvenir sheets and their three stamps, would be seen upright resting on their 125mm side. Hence when individual stamps from souvenir sheets are examined, their watermark will also be seen sideways.



17c Fawn, Blue-Grey, Grey and Black.
20c Sepia, Red, Blue, Grey and Black.
75c Light-Cobalt, Sienna, Grey and Black.

Designs

This set replaces the Air Malta Inauguration Issue which has been withdrawn at the close of business, on the 2nd October, 1978.

The Malta Postal Administration is used this new Airmail Set, which consists of six stamps featuring three designs. The 5c and 17c values depict an aircraft flying over a megalithic temple, the 7c and 20c values show an Air Malta Boeing 720B in flight and the 11c and 75c values reproduce a Jumbo Jet taking-off from the recently inaugurated 3,544 metres runway at Luqa Airport.

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, 11c, 17c and 75c values, but next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows, in all Panes, of the 7c and 20c values.

In the values 5c, 7c, 17c and 20c, 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 value the colour checks from top to bottom are: Black, Green, Orange and Grey, whilst in the Pane numbers from right to left, they are: Grey, Black, Green and Orange. In the 75c value the colour checks from top to bottom are: Black, Sienna, Light-Cobalt and Grey, whilst in the Pane numbers from right to left, they are: Black, Grey, Sienna and Light-Cobalt. It is very difficult to distinguish between the colours Black and Grey in the colour checks and more difficult in the Plate Pane numbers, but I was assured that they are two different colours. If memory serves me right, this is the first time since Printex have been producing Maltese stamps, that the colour checks from top to bottom did not correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers either from right to left, or from left to right.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in black in the 11c, 17c, 20c and 75c values, whilst in the 5c and 7c values they are printed in the same colour as that of the bottom disc in the colour checks of each value.

The Printed Sheets of all six values consisted of three Panes, "A", "B" and "C". Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. Stamps of all six values are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers

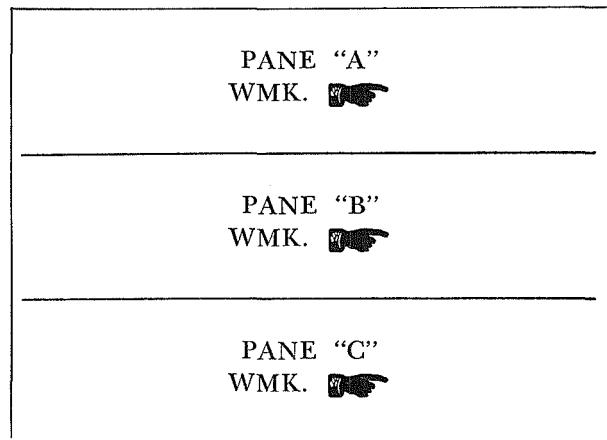
These are seen completely under the first stamp of the bottom row in the 5c and 17c values. Also under the same stamp, but starting with the first vertical perforation line, in the 11c and 75c values, (the first figure "1" is nearly lost in the perforations). In the 7c and 20c values the Plate/Pane

numbers start from the left hand margin, through the first vertical perforation line and continue under the first stamp of the bottom row.

5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.
7c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
11c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.
17c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.
20c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
75c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

Perforation of Margins

The top margin of Pane "A" of the six values is imperforate. The top margin of Panes "B" and "C" of the six values are fully perforated. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of Panes "A", "B" and "C" of the six values are also 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 each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps will be seen the right way up. Hence the reason, when individual stamps are examined, the watermark will still be seen sideways.

Imprint Blocks

"Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row and also extending to the right hand margin, through the last perforation line, in all Panes of all values. Letters are 1mm high, and printed in the same colours as those of the cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps. 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, "Posta Bl-Ajru — L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hruġ", and the name of the respective locality together with the date, "3.10.78". The postmark also incorporates a decorative motif representing the sun and an aircraft flying over a megalithic temple. Sales from this set, up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue, realized the sum of £M130,830.



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AVIATION PIONEER'S EXPLOITS

STAMPED WORLDWIDE

by NICK A. CUTAJAR

Man's fascination of the bird, his longing to imitate his aloofness, be airborne above the earth, and come close to the bright sun and the glittering stars, is as old as time itself. The ancient myths about Icarus and Phaeton, who tried to make this longing a reality are well known; both, however, met with a tragic end. In the first half of the sixteenth century, Leonardo da Vinci proposed the design of a flying machine which appeared to have solved, at least in theory, the possibility of flying in planes, but unfortunately, man's technological achievements of the time were by far inferior to Vinci's genius. The mathematics of flight and physical laws concerning flight were evolved in the eighteenth century by Newton.

The actual beginnings of flight, however, followed a different path, with man constructing vehicles that were lighter than air, through balloons and airships.

Man first ventured into the air in a balloon filled with hot air, applying the principle that hot air is lighter than cold air, and thus it tends to move upwards. This happened in France in 1783, the daring young man being Pilatre de Rosier, who piloted a paper balloon made by the Montgolfier brothers.

The airship followed the successful balloon and in 1900, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin (1838-1917), designed a manoeuvrable rigid airship taking to the air that same year. The airship became known affectionately after its German inventor. Otto Lilienthal, (1848-1896), another German aviation pioneer, dedicated himself to attempts at flying in gliders but died in a tragic crash during one of his experimental flights.

Aviation Anniversaries

In many respects, 1978 is an excellent year for commemorating historic feats in aviation. Seventy-five years ago, the American brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright, made aviation history when they flew for the first time a motorized air-machine. Gliding experiments on the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, were subsequently followed by the addition of a petrol four-cylinder engine to the bi-plane. Four attempts were made, the longest, of December 17, covering a distance of 852 feet. These flights were the first in which man had been carried from the ground in sustained, controlled flight in a powered heavier-than-air machine.

It is also fifty years ago that two famous Australians, Charles Kingsford-Smith and Charles Ulm, accompanied by the Americans, Harry Lyon and James Warner, succeeded in flying across the Pacific from California, via Hawaii and the Fiji Islands, to Australia, where they landed nine days later in Brisbane.

In another epoch-making attempt, in 1928, an Irish Officer, James Fitzmaurice, Commandant of the Irish Army Air Corps, with two German aviators, Capt. Hermann Kohl and Baron Gunther von Hunefeld, took off on April 12 from Baldonnel in County Dublin on board the "Bremen", a Junkers W33 monoplane, and managed to cross the Atlantic landing on a frozen lake in Greeny Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the evening of April 13. This was the first ever successful east-west crossing of the Atlantic.

Sixty years ago, the Royal Air Force came into being, established during the last year of World War I, on April 1, 1918. The Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Navy Air Service were amalgamated to become the world's first autonomous Air Force.

Postal administrations around the world lost no time (and income) and honoured through postal issues, various pioneers of aviation. Actually the avalanche of aviation-related issues had its beginning last year, when various other anniversaries connected with aviation occurred. Aviation history enthusiasts, and in particular, philatelists specializing in aviation as a theme, will have plenty of new postage stamps and other postal issues to add and choose from, emanating from almost every stamp-issuing entity.

Lindbergh

According to ASFE (the European Philatelic Press Agency), up to the end of May, 1978, some 567 stamps and other postal issues have been issued, which directly or indirectly honour the American aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh. By the end of the current year, the number is bound to increase as there is always an issue every month from some corner of the world, celebrating the man who in 1927 on board single-handed of the "Spirit of St. Louis", crossed the Atlantic from New York to Paris in 33½ hours. That event earned the controversial Lindbergh wild enthusiastic acclaim in France, Belgium, England as well as his home country. Last year several countries paid homage to Lt. Charles Lindbergh and his mono-plane's accomplishment, but maybe the most controversial issue in this regard was that released by the U.S. Postal Service.

It was a single 13-cent stamp depicting the "Spirit of St. Louis" over the stormy Atlantic and tactfully omitting the mention of the man who had succeeded to accomplish the first solo transatlantic flight, the U.S. Postal Service sought to commemorate.

While the U.S. paid a token homage to him, other countries made it up by producing lavishly designed stamps, some of which included a portrait of Charles A. Lindbergh. Grenada, for example, released a set of seven stamps plus a Souvenir Sheet to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Zeppelin's first controlled flight and Lindbergh's solo crossing of the Atlantic, with his portrait on two stamps and the airman in the cockpit of the "Spirit" on another. In March, another issue composed of seven odd stamps and a Sheet was released by Dominica, commemorating the same aviation pioneers as Grenada, the first four dedicated to Lindbergh, the other to Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin (1838-1917).

The Wright Brothers

Pride of place this year goes to the Wright Brothers, who are portrayed on several postage stamps. Antigua, in March, dedicated a set of seven and a block to the Wrights, depicting various mechanical and aeronautical aspects of the first engined aircraft flown seventy-five years ago. Togo too had another six stamps and a sheet, one stamp showing Orville Wright injured in the first airplane crash of 1908.

This was followed by Dominica in July with a set of four and a S.S. honouring W. & O. Wright. The 40c stamp shows the 1908 Flyer, which was flown in Europe where the Wright Brothers met with King Edward VIII of England and King Alfonso of Spain. The Souvenir Sheet accompanying the Dominican set portrays the Wrights with their Flyer III and symbol, while the upper half of the border incorporates a variety of pre-Wright Brothers flying machines and gliders.

Turks & Caicos Islands, in promoting a six-valued set, themed "Progress in Aviation" and issued in July, combined the achievements of the Wrights with local aviation. The 1c stamp showed Flyer III, based on a famous 1908 photograph, flying over New York's Statue of Liberty, implying easy access to the Islands. A Cessna 337, known locally as the "Push and Pull", because of the front and back props, is depicted on the 6c stamp, the plane used for local traffic between the Islands and the weekly service to Hawaii. Wilbur Wright's portrait signature appear on the \$2 stamp.

The Maldives Islands, in February 1978 issued a ten-value set honouring not only the Wright Brothers, but other aviation pioneers such as Otto Lilienthal of Germany, the English A.V. Roe, Clifton Hadley and O. Chanute. Otto Lilienthal's 1891 glider, the balloon of the French Montgolfier Brothers, the Wright Brothers' monoplane and Bleriot's machine are featured on the annual Youth Stamps of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The United States marked the 75th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' historic first powered flight of 1903 with a pair of 31-cent international airmail

stamps, issued on September 23 in Dayton, Ohio, the hometown of the Wrights. The brothers left Dayton with their airplane on September 23, 1903, headed for Kitty Hawk, North. The stamps were designed by Ken Dallison who is noted in the art world for portraying man's achievements with machinery with drawings featuring both people and the machines they operate. The stamps honouring the Wright Brothers are the first in a new series of international airmail stamps to be issued over the next few years. Subsequent stamps in the series will honour other American aviation pioneers and significant aviation developments.

The technical characteristics are of some importance. The stamps were printed by the offset and intaglio methods, yellow, red, brown, blue and black the offset colours, blue and black the intaglio colours. The U.S. Postal Service noted that green phosphor rather than red phosphor was used in "tagging" the stamps during production. Phosphor is the element in the stamp design which activates automatic mail processing equipment. Before domestic airmail was phased out in the United States, it was necessary to use two types of phosphor to differentiate between airmail and first-class mail. That requirement no longer exists and the green phosphor is less expensive to use in production.

Charles Kingsford-Smith

On 31 May, 1928, Charles Kingsford-Smith and Charles Ulm together with navigator Harry Lyon and radio operator James Warner, took off from Oakland Field in San Francisco to fly the 7,389 miles to Eagle Farm, Brisbane, Australia. During this epoch-making flight, their aircraft, the "Southern Cross", was to fly via Honolulu in Hawaii and Suva in Fiji.

In March, Australia paid homage to Kingsford-Smith and Ulm, as well as to two other famous Australian pilots, Bert Hinkler and Harry Hawker through four stamps each of 18-cent denomination. A Souvenir Sheet adjoining the issue, incorporated four imperforate stamps, two of the Kingsford-Smith design and two of the Ulm design, alongside an interpretation of the "Southern Cross" on its flight across the Pacific. Meanwhile, Australia celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Flying Doctor Service with a single 18-cent stamp, showing a Baron Beechcraft coming to land at a station airstrip.

Kingsford-Smith and Ulm touched down at the Albert Park Sports Oval in Suva on the afternoon of Tuesday, 5 June, during their Trans-Pacific Flight. The "Southern Cross" was the first aircraft ever to land in Fiji, necessitating contingency plans both for the landing and the take-off of June 7. The "Southern Cross" touched down at Eagle Farm, Brisbane on June 10, 1928, where it is now preserved and displayed; the aircraft used by Kingsford-Smith was a Fokker F.VIIB-3M powered by three 215 h.p. Armstrong Siddley Lynxes.

On June 26, Fiji commemorated the historic landing of the "Cross" and the Trans-Pacific flight with the issue of two stamps one of which showed the "Southern Cross" after landing at Suva, the other prior to take-off from Fiji at Naselai Beach. Another stamp in the Fijian issue commemorated the Wright Brothers first flight on December 17, 1903.

The Royal Air Force

The Isle of Man had very close links with the RAF and a set of four stamps from the Isle commemorated the 6th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force, reflecting aircraft development of the last six decades. The fourth stamp in the Fijian series referred to earlier, also commemorated the RAF Anniversary, the stamp showing the famous Bristol Fighter F2B.

This aircraft was the most successful of F.S. Barnwell's many designs for the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company. The earlier version, the F2A was armed with a centrally mounted synchronised Vickers machine gun and a single Lewis in the rear cockpit. The improved version, F2B had the same armaments but incorporated wider-span tailplanes, modified from lower centre and better vision from the front cockpit. Its assignments during World War I became famous and it was much feared and respected by the enemy. The Bristol Fighter was also used in Palestine and Italy. Some five thousand five hundred Bristols were ordered by the Royal Flying Corps. Plans were drawn up for large scale production of the Bristol Fighter in the United States, but only twenty-seven aircrafts were built before the contract was terminated. The Bristol Fighter remained in post-war RAF service as a standard type until 1932, and is shown on the 30c stamp from Fiji, while a Bristol Scout of 1915 is shown on the 7p value of the four-value series from the Isle of Man.

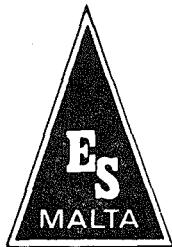
Aviation Progress

Charles Kingsford-Smith, the Wright Brothers and the Dutchman Anthony Fokker are pictured on a series of four from Western Samoa. The Falkland Islands on April 28, 1978 marketed a two-stamp issue to mark the 26th Anniversary of the First Direct Flight from Southampton, U.K. to Stanley, on East Falkland. Ghana, on the other hand, sought to celebrate the progress in aviation over the years and during the same month, released four stamps proposing to mark: the first powered flight of the Wright Brothers on the 8p stamp; the first practical airliner, the Heracles on the 30p; the first jet airliner D.H. Comet, on the 60p; and the first supersonic airliner, the Concorde, on the 1cd.

The Concorde was also the subject of four stamps released by the new Hebrides Condominium on May 9, this year. It is, of course, particularly appropriate that Concorde, a prime example of Anglo-French co-operation in

(Continued on page 27)

Emmanuel Said



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EDWARD STANLEY GIBBONS

Stanley Gibbons, the renowned international stamp dealers and publishers, have recently announced the opening of a new branch in the heart of Monte Carlo, a short distance from the world famous Casino. Stanley Gibbons Monaco S.A.M. is situated at 2 Avenue Henri Dunant, Monte Carlo, appropriately enough, opposite the Post Office.

Stanley Gibbons was founded in 1856 by Edward Stanley Gibbons (1840-1913), the son of a Plymouth chemist who had collected stamps from an early age and was so passionately fond of them to deal from.

From these humble beginnings developed a stamp business that soon exceeded the turnover of the pharmacy which, on the death of his father, the young Gibbons closed to enable him to concentrate on stamps alone. In 1863 a chance visit to the shop by two sailors resulted in the sale to Gibbons of a sack full of Cape Triangular stamps won in a raffle in Cape Town.

This sack, which he bought for £5, enabled Edward Stanley Gibbons to expand his business further and in 1874 he moved his stock and company to London, where he later, in 1891, established his premises in the famous Strand, where the company's headquarters are still to be found today.

The legendary story of this sack is told in a scarce history of the firm written and published early in this century by Charles J. Phillips, the Birmingham accountant who bought the firm of Stanley Gibbons in 1890 for £25,000 from its founder.

The story is recounted by him as follows:

"In 1863 Mr. Gibbons had one of the best transactions of his life, and the following are exact particulars I have got from him.

One morning two sailors passing the chemist's shop noticed the sheets of stamps in one of the windows and went inside and said: 'Do you buy used postage stamps?' On Mr. Gibbons replying in the affirmative, they said they had some on their ship and would bring them in.

Sure enough next day the men turned up, and one of them carried a kit-bag full of stamps over his shoulder.

They were asked into the back parlour, and turned out the contents of the bag on a large round table.

The stamps were all triangular Capes, thousands and thousands of them, many in large strips and blocks of eight or more — Perkins Bacon and Co's printings and woodblocks mixed up anyhow.

Mr. Gibbons, even in those early days, could not imagine how two sailors could have got a sackful of triangular Capes, and asked them for particulars:-

'When our boat got to Cape Town we had leave, and some of us went on shore for a spree, and me and my mate here happened to go in a show we found folks crowding into and found a bazaar going on. Some ladies persuaded us to

take a shilling ticket in a raffle, and we won this here bag of stamps, which the ladies had begged all round Cape Town for this bazaar.'

Well, the men were delighted to take a five-pound note for the lot, and departed highly pleased.....'

When Gibbons made this legendary purchase he was taking a considerable risk. Cape Triangulars were little known by collectors and he had no way of knowing whether or not they would catch on. However, fortunately collectors liked them and his gamble in paying £5 paid off. Today, single stamps from that sack could be worth as much as £20,000!

In the late 19th century, Edward Stanley Gibbons was selling stamps from the sack for prices like 3 shillings a dozen, 8 shillings a gross. The fact that he was selling them at such prices for a number of years, shows how big the sack must have been.

In July 1890 Gibbons sold his business for £25,000 — a fortune in those days — to a Birmingham businessman and spent the remainder of his life touring the world. One of his favourite places was the South of France and he spent much time in Monaco.

Today his memory is preserved in the Principality not only by the new shop bearing his name, but also in the gardens of the Musee Nationale and elsewhere, where beds of the attractive red rose named after his firm are to be found.

15 Treville Street, Plymouth, the historic address where in 1856 Gibbons started his stamp business from a counter in his father's chemist's shop, was destroyed during World War II bombing raid. However, the premises to which Gibbons moved his thriving concern in 1870 — No 8 Locyer Street, The Hoe, Plymouth — still stands and the Plymouth City Council recently announced that they are to put up a plaque on this building to the memory of the world's best known stamp dealer.

(Continued from page 24)

the scientific and technical fields, should be commemorated philatelically by the Condominium, a country that has been jointly governed by Britain and France since 1906. National airlines were the subject of other stamp issues which reflected aviation progress. Thus the Philippines, last year marked the 50th Anniversary of Pan Am with a set of stamps while Spain marked IBERIA's fiftieth anniversary last year too. Czechoslovakia, this year hosting PRAGA 78, the International Philatelic Exhibition, during 1977 had a set dedicated to early aviation, while Hungary, in October 1977 had a set of airmail stamps depicting modern aircrafts and in November dedicated a set to the history of the airship. Soviet aircraft industry was the subject of a set of 6 stamps released in August 1977.

(Continued on page 32)

BOOK REVIEW

SAID Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue 1979. E. Said Publishers, Malta.
14.2 x 20.5cm, Linen soft cover, 392 pages, 652 illustrations, 13.X.1978,
£M2 (£4, \$8 overseas airmail).

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new"
TENNYSON

The tenth edition of this catalogue has been published and the publishers celebrated in style with a marvellous new production that is a great contribution towards Maltese philately. For this Anniversary edition proposes several new innovations and additions to the general reference work of local philately.

In the first place a look at what the new edition proposes as the principal changes: (1) listing in strict chronological order, an absolute necessity; (2) a revised classification of the Q.V. ½d Yellows, a straightforward list; (3) the elimination of previous gaps, a sensible solution; (4) the numbering of triptych sets, a reasonable innovation; (5) separate listing for airmail stamps, souvenir and miniature sheets, and sheetlets, a debatable proposition.

No sensible student of philately would argue against the "strictness" of listing stamps in their chronological order. But if we are to accept and respect the true perspective in history, I see no reason why airmail stamps should be divorced from their true chronological sequence, and positioned separately; after all, airmails are no more distinct than definitive or regular stamps. By the same reason as suggested in the edition in hand, definitive stamps, commemorative and special stamps, as well as airmails should be classified under three distinct groups or sections.

The Q.V. ½d Yellows continue to generate a fund of debate. Stanley Gibbons have just added a few notes explaining the various printings as a result of Dr. Bonnici's serialised study in the P.S.M. Magazine. The Catalogue proposes a straightforward classification based on a number of criteria as clearly spelled out in the Editor's foreword. Hopefully we will be able to have at hand a specialized section covering the ½d Yellows in "a future edition" as promised by Editor, Mr. Godwin Said.

The allotment of a number of triptychs is also welcome, since these are on sale at post office counters as a unit. By the same argument Miniature and/or Souvenir Sheets are bound to earn a number, though whether they are listed separately as a distinct section or following up the respective issue makes little difference.

For several years, we have relied on Gibbons for the stamps of Great Britain used in Malta (1841-1885), but over the years, new discoveries and studies have raised doubts in collectors' minds. Now, for the first time the Said Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue 1979 comprises a new section (7 pages) devoted to this

fascinating and important aspect in Maltese philately. Thanks to meticulous research of a well-known local philatelist, this phase is painstakingly covered offering a true picture coupled with the various types of Maltese cancellations known to have been used over definite periods of time.

Two other new sections in the edition under review cover "Proofs and Colour Trials" and "Postage Due Handstamps". No less than 14 pages are devoted to the section listing Proofs based mostly on studies of the De La Rue archives, though it seems, research in this field is still in progress. Prices of course reflect recent realisations at international and other auctions. Another contribution to the catalogue is the section covering the various types of charge and postage due marks, prices of which are fantastically high, though this is no surprise, considering that recent demand for such material has pushed prices.

The Pre-adhesive markings have undergone a general revision and we have full details and illustrations of a number of varieties hitherto unlisted. Also revised and sufficiently illustrated are the popular Postmen's Personal Handstamps, which still remain within everybody's reach.

Besides the various sections, that have been referred to above, the 1979 Tenth Anniversary Edition of the Said Catalogue provides a complete service to collectors in the form of lists and sections covering Village Postmarks, Official Postal Stationery (listing also the obliterated Q.E.II registration envelope of the 23rd February 1978), Specimen Stamps, Disinfection markings and cancels, special Handstamp, as well as machine slogan cancels, and Censorship Mail (W.W.I.). The Glossary of illustrations should prove beneficial to the thematic collector, while for Continental collectors the Said/Gibbons/Yvert conversion table should be very useful, (as well as to the rest of the collectors now that "the old order changeth")

The "Said Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue 1979" covers also the issues of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, including coins, while in the same numismatic section, coins of the Republic of Malta and Paper currency are also covered.

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, Asia, Middle and South America.

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

When replying to advertisements please mention the P.S.M. Magazine.

MALTA — A DIARY

May-August 1978

compiled by

JOSEPH FARRUGIA

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: "Wirja 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: "Ibiza 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 Vendors 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 Sahħtek — Mill-Perikli — Fuq Ix-Xogħol", was used at the Central Mail Room during the period 28th August to 2nd September.

(Continued from page 27)

Famous Air Posts Exhibition

The May display in Stanley Gibbons' Romano House Gallery was dedicated to rarities and historical souvenirs which portray the exciting and imaginative development of pioneer airway and postal services over continents, oceans and polar regions, spanning the period of the 1830's onwards to the late 1920's. Famous names were represented by stamps and covers, some of which signed, of Lindbergh, Kingsford-Smith, Alan Cobham and others whose contributions to aviation enabled the possibilities of today.



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REPUBLIC OF MALTA

1978 CHRISTMAS SET



RELEASED 9-11-78

DESIGNED by CHEV. EMVIN CREMONA

1979 STAMP ISSUE PROGRAMME SET

FLEMISH TAPESTRIES

(3rd set)

END OF MILITARY FACILITIES

AGREEMENT

EUROPA

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE

CHILD

MARINE LIFE

CHRISTMAS

RELEASE DATE
JANUARY

MARCH
MAY

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