

72 9

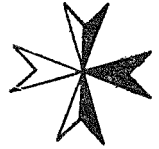


THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA



# THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA MAGAZINE



---

VOL. 7 No. 2

SPRING 1977

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Foreword
- 3 The Second International Contest "Vote A Stamp"
- 6 The Evolution of the One Half Penny  
Queen Victoria Yellow Stamp ... .. Dr. Alfred Bonnici
- 10 Competition
- 11 San Marino — A Centenary of Postage  
Stamps 1877 — 1977 ... .. Nick A. Cutajar
- 16 Detailed Information of New Issues  
(1c7 overprint, Tapestries) ... .. Joe Farrugia
- 21 The De La Rue 'Key Plate' Designs  
for the Stamps of the British Colonies ... .. Sydney N. Bush
- 23 Slogan Cancellations
- 24 "Malta — A Diary" — illustrations

*Cover design: Chev. E. Cremona*

Address all correspondence to:

The Editor,  
NICK A. CUTAJAR  
P.S.M. (Magazine),  
7, Wied il-Ghajn Rd.,  
Zejtun Malta G.C.

# FOREWORD

Although still in its infancy the second international "Vote A Stamp" contest, results of which are published elsewhere in the magazine, has generated worldwide interest and an overwhelming response, far superior to last year's, with letters received from every part of the world. This in most part is due to the valuable assistance provided by the Philatelic Bureau of the Malta Post Office, through which some ten thousand circulars were mailed, and other individuals.

It is encouraging to learn that the Bureau over the years has drawn to its fold a large number of collectors and dealers. The heavy publicity campaigns in major philatelic magazines is producing the desired effects. Greater efforts should be made to attract new collectors as well as foster the hobby among the young, especially in schools. The distribution of colour posters publicising new issues to schools in Malta and Gozo is only the first step. More emphasis should be made to give school children at all levels the opportunity to understand the reason behind a stamp issue and how the themes depicted correlate to their studies in various aspects of history and culture of the world around them.

\*\*\*\*\*

Like fashions, stamp collecting goes through periods of conservatism and liberalism. For years stamp collecting was mainly concerned with stamps and their studies from a particular country or area (the days of the whole world collector are history). In recent times, thematic collecting is emerging as a whole new concept encompassing such a wide variety of themes, subjects and ideals, that the list seems to defy a full stop. "Portugal '77" to be held later this year will be completely dedicated to thematic collecting, a sure sign of the popularity and power of this breed. The trend is widespread in the American continent as well as Europe, with Malta probably in the lower levels regarding popularity among collectors.

The demand for the right thematic material (stamps and postmarks of any kind are the backbone of thematic or topical collecting) is being reflected in higher prices for the right material from the popular countries, including Malta. In recent months this has been very evident in the case of Malta, with buying and selling prices appearing in most philatelic magazines. This is a clear indication of the steady flow of interest in particular issues of appeal to thematic collectors.

**The Editor**

# THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

## "VOTE A STAMP"

The "Madonna and Saints" Christmas 1976 10c + 2c stamp has been voted internationally as the most beautiful stamp issued by the Malta Post Office during 1976. This was announced on Monday 2nd May, 1977, by the Philatelic Society of Malta during its monthly meeting, held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana, when the votes in the International "Vote A Stamp" Contest were opened and registered.

The winning stamp attained 113 votes out of a total of 311 valid votes, an outright winner with 36%. Runner-up was the 5c + 1c stamp of the same Christmas Issue, showing the "Madonna and Child", with just over 10.6% of the votes.

The 1976 Christmas set, issued on November 23rd, 1976, consisted of four stamps, each with a surcharge in aid of Charitable Institutions; the top value, 10c + 2c, reproduced integrally a famous painting by Domenico de Michelino, showing the Madonna and various Saints. The same painting was also reproduced in three vertical sections, with the middle stamp, 5c + 1c, showing the "Madonna and Child". The painting is on permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts.

Voted into third place was the £M2 stamp, issued late in January 1976 illustrating the new emblem of Malta, with 9.97% of the votes.

Votes in this contest were received from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, W. Germany (55), Great Britain (63), the Netherlands, Eire, Israel, Italy (63), Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Malta (42), New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A. (25).

Following the announcement of the results, three names were drawn by lot from among those who voted for the winning stamp: Miss G.M. Lewis of Cleveland, U.K.; Sig. Greatti Bruno of Udine, Italy; and Miss K. MacDormat of London, U.K. Each will receive a complete 1976 collection, including the £M2 definite stamp, of Malta, kindly donated by the Postmaster General, Mr. George W. Borg, who fully supported the enterprise.

Speaking at the close of the meeting, the President, Dr. J.H. Mercieca, thanked the Malta Post Office and other individuals who contributed to the great success of this year's contest, pointing out that the Malta stamp is still regarded with respect and attracts a very substantial number of collectors from all over the world.

The President continued by auguring more participation internationally and announced that the Philatelic Society of Malta is currently negotiating a week's holiday in Malta to a winning collector, participating in next year's contest.

## EXCERPTS FROM COLLECTORS' LETTERS

- "Beauty of classic art and its excellent reproduction on the stamp".  
*J.D. Hamilton, Sliema, Malta.*
- "The very perfected technique of printing and the reproduction of beautiful colours".  
*F. Manzini, Firenze, Italy.*
- "The size of this stamp is much better than the size of the other stamps of the Christmas set".  
*A. Will, Andernach, W. Germany.*
- "... a successful reproduction of a painting in normal stamp size".  
*E. Schnidler, Kre'eld, W. Germany.*
- "To be honest I like the whole set especially the way that one stamp was split in three to make up the whole set but I can only pick one stamp and that would have to be it (10c + 2c)".  
*G. Pulis, Ont., Canada.*
- "The picture can be divided into three parts to good effect; the country-name, value and occasion are put in a separate strip below the picture, and therefore do not interfere with it".  
*R. Wright, Leicester. U.K.*
- "It is admirably restrained in colour, and is high in its quality of printing and reproduction".  
*T.A. Barnett, W'Shire, U.K.*
- "Beautiful is defined in the English dictionary as pleasing to the eye, lovely, handsome, an assemblage of perfections through which an object is rendered, which I think best describes the stamp".  
*M.F.W. Taylor, Worcestershire, U.K.*
- "The Christmas issues have always had that special something better than the normal sets printed to mark or to recall an event. This time you have surpassed the normal sets".  
*G. Sa'iba, G'zira, Malta.*
- "The Stamp is not only functional, but pleasing in every way. Chev. E. Cremona has enhanced this beautiful work of Domenico de Michelino".  
*E. Go'ding, Northdane, S. Africa.*
- "I like the fact that the painting belongs to Malta".  
*P. McCurdy, Ayrshire, U.K.*
- "The delicacy and clearness of the figures is outstanding... I just wish that I could see the original. I have won a first prize for my exhibit of Christmas Malta Stamps and First Day Covers at a recent stamp exposition in Long Beach, California and am very proud of it".  
*Mrs. E. Brouevitch, Lakewood, Ca., U.S.A.*
- "I hope Malta will continue with such great designs and printers".  
*A.J. Schoonhoven, Henge'o, Netherlands.*
- "To single out one stamp from this array (18 stamps in 1976) is therefore similar to choosing the winner from the final line-up in a beauty contest. There is but little known about this artist, but his true name appears to have been Domenico di Francesco and he was called Michelino. He was of the Florentine School, born in 1417 and died in 1491. He was apprenticed to a cassone painter called Michelino and was afterwards, probably, in the studio of Fra Angelico. His only extant fully-documented work is the portrait of Dante in the Church of Santa Maria dei Fiori at Florence, which he painted in 1465-66, from a design by Baldovinetti".  
*W.L. Long, Essex, U.K.*
- "Not only is this stamp a beautiful painting and a masterpiece of art, it also reminds people that 'Love and Peace' exist at least once a year...".  
*From 12-year-old Martin K. Herrod, Warwickshire, England.*

## THE FULL RESULTS

ISSUE	DESIGN	VALUE	VOTES
Definitive 28/1/76	New Emblem	£M2	31
Maltese Folklore 26/2/76	Village Feast Mnarja Carnival Good Friday	1c3 5c 7c5 10c	6 15 21 8
XXI Olympiad 28/4/76	Waterpolo Sailing Athletics	1c7 5c 30c	5 3 4
"Europa" 28/7/76	Lace-making Stone-carving	7c 15c	29 16
3 Cent. School of Anatomy and Surgery 14/9/76	GM N. Cottoner Anatomical Dr. Fra. G. Zammit Sacra Infermeria	2c 5c 7c 11c	2 10 4 7
Christmas 1976 23/11/76	St. John and St. Michael Madonna and Child St. Christopher and St. Nicholas" Madonna and Saints	1c + 5m 5c + 1c 7c + 1c5 10c + 2c	1 33 6 113
	Invalids — 12		Total 311

WANTED TO BUY  
MALTA  
MINT AND USED STAMPS

M. BUTTIGIEG  
P.O. BOX 464  
VALLETTA, MALTA

# THE EVOLUTION OF THE ONE HALF PENNY QUEEN VICTORIA YELLOW STAMP



by  
**Dr. ALFRED BONNICI**  
**B.Pharm. M.D. M.R.S.H.**

CHAPTER 5  
1878 (S.G. 15)

**20TH PRINTING & 21ST PRINTING:** The 20th and 21st printing present no difficulty in identification as the stamps have a compound perforation  $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  produced by a line machine. The two printings differ in shade, the earlier yellow buff, the latter yellow.

**THE 20TH PRINTING; S.G. 15:** Yellow-buff WMK Crown CC White Perf  $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .  
Invoiced on 18th May, 1878.  
From Day Book H Page 25.

**20TH INVOICE:** 18th May, 1878.  
The Crown Agents for the Colonies.  
Malta Postage Stamps  
214 sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 51,360 stamps  
Case lined tin

3	8	6
	4	6
3	13	0

Issued in Malta in July, 1878.  
The earliest recorded date is 3rd August, 1878 (Orme) and the latest recorded date 9th October, 1879 on front (Clive Smith).

**CENTRAL STRIP:** With this printing began the use of central strip between the Right and Left panes of the top and bottom panes in each sheet, perforated close to the margin of the stamps, giving rise to the central strip, and so doing away with the wing margin.

**EARLIEST-LATEST USED DATES RECORDED:** A dated copy with each strip attached to it bears the date 10th January, 1880 (Ganado, Malta) and a similar stamp with a perforated strip attached to it is on cover bearing the date 19th December, 1878 (Dr. Clough).

**21ST PRINTING:** (S.G. & Said No. 15)  
Yellow WMK Crown CC Perf  $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .  
Issued on 14th January, 1879.  
From Day Book H Page 147.

**21ST INVOICE**

14th January, 1879.  
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies.  
 Malta Postage Stamp  
 213 Sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 51,120 stamps  
 Case lined tin

3	8	2
	4	6
3	12	8

**EARLIEST-LATEST USED DATES RECORDED:**

This printing was released in Malta in 1879. The earliest recorded date is 14th February, 1879 (Orme), and the latest recorded date is on cover addressed to Il Sig. Carlo Zimmerman Barbaro, Cavaliere Del S. Sepolcro, Armeria, Zurrieq, htving the date 4th May, 1881 (Dr. Clough).

**CHAPTER 6**

(1880-1881) S.G. Said No. 16 & 17

The 22nd, 23 and 24th Printing

These three printings complete the stamps printed on the Crown CC watermarked paper Perf 14. Of these printings 22nd and 23rd (S.G. & Said No. 16) were orange — Yellow, of a lighter and brighter shade than any of the previous consignments, and they can be easily distinguished from the aniline printing as the ink does not show through the back.

Supply No. 24 (S.G. & Said No. 17), consisted of a stamp of pale to bright yellow. With the 23rd supply we find the introduction of the oval cancellation A 25 S.G. Type 2 with Malta along the concave side of the circle, letter slug beneath the month and date in a straight line. Copies with the S.G. Type cancellation belong to the 22nd printing (S.G. Said No. 16).

**22ND PRINTING:**

(S.G. & Said No. 16)  
 Orange Yellow WMK Crown CC Pef 14 White.  
 Invoiced on 10th November, 1879.  
 From Day Book 1 Page 25.

**22ND INVOICE:**

10th November, 1879.  
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies  
 Malta Postage Stamps  
 209 Sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 50,160 stamps  
 Case lined with tin

3	6	10
	4	6
3	11	4

Issued in Malta in April, 1880.

**EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES:**

The earliest recorded date being 19th April, 1880 and the latest recorded date 30th December, 1880 (Ganado, Malta). Considering that the 22nd printing was issued in Malta in April, 1880 and the 23rd printing invoiced on 27th August, 1880 it seems that the 22nd printing had a relatively short run.



**23RD PRINTING:** (S.G. & Said No. 16)  
 Bright Orange yellow WMK Crown CC White Perf 14.  
 Invoiced 27th August, 1880.  
 From Private Day Book J Page 187.

**23RD INVOICE:**  
 27th August, 1880.  
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies.  
 Malta Postage Stamps  
 211 sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 50,640 stamps      3    7    6  
 Case lined tin      4    6

---

3    12    0

**EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES:** Th's printing was issued in Malta in 1880 (Orme). The earliest recorded date is 12th December, 1880 (Orme) and the latest recorded date is 26th March, 1881 (Bonnici, Malta).

**24TH PRINTING:** (S.G. & Said No. 17)  
 Pale — to bright yellow WMK CC White Perf 14.  
 Invoiced on 28th March, 1881.  
 Private Day Book K Page 32.

**24TH INVOICE:**  
 28th March, 1881.  
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies.  
 Malta Postage Stamps  
 209 sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 50,160 stamps      3    6    10  
 Case lined tin      4    6

---

3    11    4

**EARLIEST-LATEST USED RECORDED DATES:** Issued in Malta in April, 1881.  
 Earliest recorded date, 18th April, 1881 (Ganado, Malta).  
 Latest recorded date 17th July, 1882 (Orme)  
 Inverted watermark copies have been recorded.

## MALTA GIBRALTAR CYPRUS

(1937 - 1976)

Please send 10p or 8c postage for lists.

*I also wish to buy and welcome your  
 offers but please write first.*

RODGER G. YEO

P.O. BOX 10, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 7NG, U.K.

# AUCTIONS

are our business . . .

. . . we sold the "Cann", "Dale-Liechtenstein", "Caspary", "Hind", "Roosevelt" and many other famous Collections and we are pleased to be associated with the auction for the Physically Handicapped Rehabilitation Fund of Malta.

*If we can be of any assistance with the sale of your collection or if you wish to buy from the many important sales held regularly at our London, New York or Sydney offices, we would be pleased to hear from you.*

**H.R. HARMER LTD.**

41 New Bond Street, London, W1A 4EH, England.

**H.R. HARMER INC.**

6 West 48th Street, NY 10036, New York, USA.

**H.R. HARMER AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.**

187 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia.

## COMPETITION

### TWENTY QUESTIONS

Here is your chance to win free membership subscription for 1978. Read carefully the following "Twenty Questions", get hold of a good British Commonwealth Catalogue and write down the answers. Your replies must reach the Editor, by not later than the 20th September, 1977. Members participating in this competition must have their 1977 membership dues paid for consideration, otherwise their replies are not considered. Results of the competition will be made known at the October monthly meeting, due to be held on Monday, 3rd October, 1977. The letters containing the answers will be opened at the Committee meeting of the 22nd September, 1977. IMPORTANT: Mark your envelopes on the top left hand side "Competition".

The answers to all the questions can be found in Stanley Gibbons' Commonwealth Catalogue.

1. On what stamps is the difference between the inscription "POST OFFICE" and "POST PAID" all important?
2. On the stamps of which country is a postman shown on a camel?
3. Who was W.B. Perot?
4. What epic feat, commemorated on a G.B. stamp, earned the conferment of a knighthood by the Queen?
5. On which stamp can the signature of King George VI be seen?
6. Which countries issued stamps on which no value was expressed?
7. On which stamps was a geographical error perpetrated and subsequently corrected?
8. Which country only ever issued three stamps?
9. Which 'local provisionals' of famous stamps were so-called "Wood blocks"?
10. On which stamps is an apparent 'Indian Rope Trick' performed?
11. On the stamps of which country is the Black Swan commemorated?
12. What is unusual about an 'extra flagstaff'?
13. Which stamp is most highly catalogued by Stanley Gibbons?
14. What is Vraic and on which stamp is it depicted?
15. Which country issued stamps in 1954 to a design first used by it in 1890?
16. A unique award is commemorated by five separate issues of one country. What award, which country?
17. Which stamp pictorially commemorates six Prime Ministers?
18. Which country issued stamps printed set-tenant in what two different languages?
19. Which stamp, originally issued as one of a set of three, was subsequently re-issued surcharged to commemorate a certain victory?
20. Which country initially issued the stamps overprinted of another country?

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please attend whenever possible and bring a guest; the warm friendly atmosphere of philately is always in evidence at our monthly meetings.

# SAN MARINO

## A CENTENARY OF POSTAGE STAMPS

1877 — 1977

By NICK A. CUTAJAR

On August 1st, 1977, San Marino celebrates the centenary of the issue of its first postage stamp. Up to the 31st July, 1877, the stamps of Italy and Sardinia were used, and on the 1st August, a postal convention between Italy and the Republic of San Marino came into force, whereby correspondence from and to San Marino to and from any destination was to be franked appropriately.

The world's oldest republic, claiming foundation and unbroken history from the Dalmatian Saint Marinus in the fourth century, San Marino is situated on Mount Titano's three fortified peaks, offering panoramic view in every direction.

On August 1st, 1877, the first stamps were issued, five values, 2c green, 10c ultramarine, 20c red, 30c brown and 40c lilac. The 2c value showed the figure "2", while the rest of the set depicted the Republic's emblem, naturally incorporating the three peaks of the Titano. These stamps were followed by three other values, 5c yellow, 10c deep blue, and 25c lilac-brown, on the 1st April 1890. All seven values are known with shades, and Proofs exist and are even catalogued by Sassone in Vol. 1, giving also the printing figures for each value.

In 1892, following revised postal rates, the local postal authorities decided to overprint some of the first stamps using the modest printing works of a local firm, which had a limited number of characters and types at their disposal. The overprint consisted of the letters "Cmi" on the left and the value on the right. The letter "C" was in capital form, while the letters "mi" in lower case and elevated with a dash underneath. The overprints were issued between June and September 1892.

There were two 5c overprints, one on the 10c deep blue, and another on the 30c brown. Two 10c overprints are also known, both on the 20c red, one of which had the figures "10" on each side and no "Cmi." Another 5c overprint ultramarine is known and is very highly catalogued in view of the fact that very few of this colour were overprinted.

As a result of the very primitive methods of printing and the different characters and types available to the printers, these overprints provide one of the most fascinating studies in the stamps of the Republic. Inverted, double, double with one inverted, and missing overprints are known and catalogued. Further evidence of the lack of types and characters at the printer's disposal is provided by the wording of the overprint itself. Some stamps show the figure "5" in thick character. The lack of full-stop after the letters "mi." seems to have been overcome by either omitting it altogether or substituting it by a comma. The list of varieties is quite extensive: "i" inverted, "G" instead of "C"; "mi" lower than "C"; "C" some distance away from "mi"; thin lines instead of one thick: eight points instead of one thick line. Over and above, all these varieties are known to exist with the overprint in the inverted and double positions.



The set of five stamps issued on June 15, 1977 to commemorate San Marino's Stamp Centenary. Designed by Franco Filanci, and engraved by Alfred Fischer, the stamps reproduce the Republic's first set of stamps in colours resembling the originals (attributed to the burin of the engraver Repettati) on the printing proofs, with a more marked and likely tone:- L.40 - green (2c but with the "three peaks" design); L 70 - light-blue (10c); L.170 - red (20c); L.500 - ochre-brown (30c); and L.1,000 - violet (40c).

The designs of these first stamps were used over a number of years to produce various other values in different colours. But the first pictorial stamps of San Marino were issued on 30th September 1894. These formed a threesome (25c, 50c, and L.1) to commemorate the Inauguration of the Governor's Palace. The first two values showed an outside view of the Palace from within a "flower-window" and the L.1, in a horizontal format, depicted the porch of the Palace.

The "Statue of Liberty" in Liberty Square was featured on two stamps issued on the 5th February 1899 to meet local rates only. Other similar stamps were issued in 1922 with the same design. The same statue was the subject of several other stamps. In 1918 a set of nine values was released on 10th June, inscribed "Pro Combatenti", the first six values showing the statue. Six values

were issued in December of the same year, overprinted with the date "3 November 1918" to commemorate the end of World War I. It might be added at this stage that there are several overprints on the middle issues, for various reasons, some to offset the shortage of appropriate values to correspond to revised postal rates, others to commemorate or honour particular events.

San Marino and Italy have enjoyed a common heritage and no wonder Italy and its people feature prominently on the Republic's stamps. In 1923 the Italian commune of Arbe entrusted its flag to San Marino and this was commemorated by the issue of a single stamp.

The following year, on 25th September 1924, a set of five stamps commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Retreat of Garibaldi to San Marino, who is seen on two of the stamps. Giuseppe Garibaldi, the great soldier and his wife Anita, (who both visited Malta) took refuge in the Republic, disbanding the red-shirts. The 50th Death Anniversary of Garibaldi was honoured by San Marino with a set of eight values released on 30th July 1932.

The VII Centenary of the Death of St. Francis was honoured with a four-some set on January 1928. This issue is very significant for collectors, as it saw the end of the 'crown' watermark. The following year a new watermark was introduced, consisting of three feathers in ascending order of size. This was used up to 1942. Between 1943 and 1960, the then current Italian type of watermark was used, and from 1961 onwards a revised design of the "Three Feathers" was again introduced.

The San Marino Post and Telegraph building was officially inaugurated in 1932 and a set of five stamps showing the building itself was released on February 4. The following year, two of this set were overprinted to honour the Philatelic Meeting of San Marino on the occasion of the Italian Philatelic Congress. San Marino participated in the Philatelic Pavillion of the Milan Fair and once again the stamps showing the "Palazetto delle Poste" were overprinted appropriately.

San Marino, knowing fully well its importance in world philately has been responsible for several stamp shows and international philatelic meetings, all appropriately commemorated up to this day. A way back as 1942, on August 3, the "Philately Day, Rimini-San Marino" was held and marked with a special overprint. Rimini lies on the outskirts of the Republic, home of the dynamic "Circolo Filatelico Numismatico d' Rimini" which is the only Philatelic Society in Italy that produces an offset-printed philatelic newspaper in colour with hardly any adverts.

San Marino didn't escape the tide of fascism and stamps commemorating the 20th anniversary of the San Marinense Fascists were prepared in 1943. The stamps were never issued following the downfall of the fascists, but mint copies are known to exist and catalogued reasonably. However the stamps after obliterating the words "Ventennale/Dei Fasci/1922-1924" were issued on August 27, 1943 to commemorate the downfall of fascists; a splendid counter-action, maybe unique in the history of stamps. Stamps of the same issue were later on during the year issued for the "Provisional Government".

The Republic ranks high in the affections of Italian and European philatelists. With the ever-growing trend for thematic collections, San Marino will not find any difficulty in marketing its beautifully designed stamps. Stamps, after tourism is a major source of income, and through both, the tiny enclave prospers.

Post-war issues of San Marino are particularly interesting and sought after by thematic collectors, for whom San Marino is undoubtedly a collectors' paradise, with every thinkable subject having been stamped at one time or other, from the less popular themes, such as the press and statesmen, to the more popular themes of sport, art and transport.

---

### EXCHANGE BRANCH

Have you sent books to the Society's packets? Many members are eagerly waiting to see your stamps. Fresh material is always needed.

Remember, sales of our duplicates will help pay your subscription, and ease the expenses of the Society.

To those who don't see the packets, you are missing out.

Don't worry about parcel post charges, the chances are you can pass the packet on by hand. Our man on the job sees to that.

Contact the Exchange Packet Superintendent.

*Anthony Fenech*

"Miele", Old Railway Rd., Balzan, Malta



**QUALITY PRINTERS**

**SECURITY PRINTERS**

**Printex Ltd. Mill Str., Qormi, Malta**



# DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

## 1c7 Overprint Issue

Date of Issue .....	24th. March 1977.
Value .....	1c7
Stamp Size .....	24.13mm x 28.42mm.
Art Designer .....	Chev. Emyin Cremona.
Printers .....	Harrison and Sons Ltd.
Process .....	Photogravure.
Perforation .....	14 x 14.6.
Watermark .....	Maltese Crosses pointing upwards.
Paper .....	Chalk surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.

### Colours:—

Mauve, Red, Black, Gold and Silver.

### Design:

This stamp together with the 4½d stamp, depicted the stay of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John in Malta, as part of the Historic Definitive Set of 1965. In the centre is seen an eight pointed cross, popularly known to-day as the Maltese Cross. On the left, there is the Coat of Arms of the Order and on the right a suit of armour and two weapons. At the top can be seen a support to hold three lanterns placed at the stern of galleys used by the Order.

The stamp, formerly of the 4d. denomination, was overprinted by the 1c7 value tablet to indicate its new denomination. The overprinting in letterpress was carried out at the Government Printing Press.

The Printed Sheet consisted of two Panes, "A" and "B". Both Panes are being released for sale in this overprinted issue. Each Pane has 60 stamps made up of six rows of ten stamps. There were two printings of this stamp. The first was on the 7th. January 1965 when the set was released and the gum used was Gum Arabic. The second printing was in March 1969 and the gum used was P.V.A. Whether the whole overprinted issue is from the second printing or from both, I cannot yet say. The Panes I have examined are from the second printing and the gum is P.V.A.

### Perforation of Margins:—

The left hand margins of Panes "A" and "B" are fully perforated, but the right hand margins of both these Panes are imperforate. There are only single extension holes at top and bottom margins in both Panes.

Panes of this stamp as a 4d. value, have been seen having the right hand margin also fully perforated. It would be interesting to know if the same will be noticed in this overprinted issue.

### Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the last three stamps of the bottom row. A block of six must be bought to include all the Plate numbers. The order of the colours of Plate/Pane numbers, from left to right is:— Silver, Silver, Black, Gold, Red and Mauve. The reason for the double Silver is, that two silver plates were used when this stamp was printed, one for the words "Knights of Malta" and the other for the word "Malta".

No colour checks or Printer's Imprint are seen on any of the margins.

1c7 = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail at the G.P.O. and at all Branch and SubPost Offices on the first day of issue. It was inscribed with the words:— "L-Ewwel Jum tal-Hruġ — Overprint 1c7 — 24.3.77" and the name of the respective locality. Up to 4.30 p.m. on the first day of issue, stamps sold amounted to £M4,322.76c.

---

## FLEMISH TAPESTRIES ISSUE

Date of Issue .....	30th. March 1977.
Values .....	2c, 7c, 11c and 20c.
Stamp Size .....	48mm x 39.5mm.
Art Designer .....	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers .....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process .....	Litography.
Perforation .....	14 x 14.
Watermark .....	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper .....	Chalk surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.

### Colours:—

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

## Design:

The Malta Post Office has chosen the Rubens Fourth Centenary Year to issue the first in a series of sets of postage stamps reproducing the magnificent Flemish Tapestries woven at the end of the 17th. Century.

The priceless Tapestries were commissioned by Ramon Perellos on his election as Grand Master of the Order of St. John in 1697. They were executed by Judocus de Vos, a member of one of the most celebrated families of tapissiers who flourished in Flanders during the 16th. and 17th. centuries. The Tapestries are on permanent exhibition at the Museum of St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta.

There are in all fifteen large panels, and fourteen smaller ones. Thirteen of the large tapestries were woven on cartoons made from paintings by Peter Paul Rubens (1577 — 1640). Another large tapestry, showing "The Last Super", was woven on a cartoon made from a painting by Nicholas Poussin (1594 — 1665), while the fourteen smaller panels and a portrait of Grand Master Perellos were woven after paintings by Mattia Preti (1613 — 1699).

The series of Malta postage stamps will feature the large tapestries. This year's "Rubens" set reproduces the "Annunciation" (2c), the "Four Evangelists" (7c), the "Nativity" (11c) and the "Adoration of the Magi" (20c).

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. If one were to look closely at the colour checks, it will be seen that the bottom colour, gold, is repeated twice. As far as I could check, this is the first time, since Printex have been producing Malta stamps that a particular colour check has been printed twice in any one issue. On enquiring for the reason, I was informed that the word "MALTA" on the stamps, (which is the only part printed in gold), was given two runs in gold, for better contrast, because of the background involved especially in the 11c and 20c values. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of all values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in black.

The Printed Sheets of all four values consist of two Panes. Each Pane has 40 stamps made up of eight rows of five stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format. This is the first time also since Printex have been producing Malta stamps, that a Pane consists of 40 stamps instead of the usual 50. This is because of the large size of each stamp, which was necessary to reproduce the great amount of detail involved. This detail will be more appreciated if one were to look at this set through a magnifying glass. In my opinion, Printex succeeded in producing one of the finest commemorative sets, which together with the future "Flemish Tapestries" sets will form one of the most beautiful parts of a Malta collection.

### Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, and also extending to the left hand side of the first vertical perforation line.

2c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7.

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

11c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7.

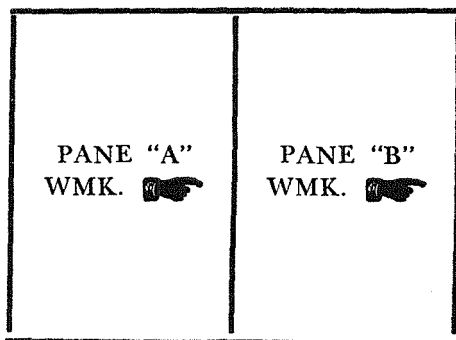
20c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7.

### Perforation of Margins:—

The bottom margins of both Panes of all values are fully perforated. The right hand margins of Panes "A" and the left hand margins of Panes "B" of all values are fully perforated, whilst the left hand margins of Panes "A" and the right hand margins of Panes "B" are fully perforated except for a little space at the edges where there is space for another two perforations. The top margins of Panes "A" and "B" of all values are imperforate.

Registration marks in the form of a coloured horizontal line or lines are seen in the top left hand margin, just under the first horizontal perforation line in Panes "A" of all values. Similar registration marks are seen in the top

right hand margin in Panes "B" of all values. In the top left hand corner of Pane "A" of the 7c value only, I noticed at the edge of the top left hand margin an inverted letter "A" and part of a letter "H" printed in red. Also at the edge of the top margin, in the same corner, the letters "N" and "HY" can be seen printed sideways in yellow. The Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting, would look as shown on left. In this way, stamps would be seen the right way up.



### Imprint on Blocks:—

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, and also extending to the right hand side of the last vertical perforation line. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue, the sale of these stamps realised the sum of £M59,824.

EMMANUEL SAID  
MALTA STAMPS AND COINS

32, Britannia Street, Valletta, Malta

offer

a complete service to the  
Malta and S.M.O.M. Collector

---

Publishers of:-

*The Coinage  
of the  
Knights in Malta*

by

*Felice Restelli — Joseph C. Sammut*

The new authoritative reference work  
on every known coin struck by the  
Sovereign Military Order of St. John  
during their stay in Malta 1530-1798  
(1440 Coin illustrations).

Offices : 43 Zachary Street,  
P.O. Box 345,  
Valletta — Malta.

Telephones ; 622134, 27472  
Cable : Trustworthy, Malta.

## THE DE LA RUE 'KEY PLATE' DESIGNS FOR THE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH COLONIES

by S.N. Bush

The introduction to Stanley Gibbons' British Commonwealth catalogue, under the heading "Colonial Types — Types of the General Plates used by Messrs De La Rue & Co. for printing British Colonial Stamps", illustrates two designs prepared by that firm, known respectively as the "Victorian Key Type" and the "Georgian Key Type".

What is meant by a Key Type design? Briefly, it is a basic design from which plates are prepared for the printing of the stamps of more than one country, where only the title and the value expression differ. There is nothing unique about this. Gibbons' 'Simplified' catalogue lists Key Type designs for France and for its overseas possessions, and for those of Germany, Portugal and Spain, the 'Crown' Key Type of Portugal for use in Angola appearing as early as 1870.

There was good reason for the use of Key Type designs for, in the case of the British Crown Colonies, whilst each colony was responsible for formulating its own stamp requirements, and for bearing the cost of their production it was the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London who were, and still are, responsible for their design and printing. Thus, by using a common design for several colonies, the production costs can be shared among them.

Before discussing the De La Rue Key Types, it should be mentioned that an attempt to produce a Key Type was made in 1851 by Perkins Bacon & Co., who then held the Post Office printing contract. This showed the figure of Britannia seated, with no value expressed and with the country title only appearing at the foot of the stamp. The colour of the stamp expressed its value. Stamps to this design were prepared for Trinidad (1851), Barbados (1852) and Mauritius (1854).

A similar design, but showing the title in a shallow arc over the head of Britannia and with the value replacing the title at the foot, was used for the same three colonies between 1858 and 1859.

Perkins Bacon produced a number of further designs over the next four years, but as each showed slight differences between each colony for which they were used, Bahamas, Grenada and Natal, they cannot truly be called Key Types.

Turning now to the Gibbons' listed Key Type designs, prepared by De La Rue & Co. who had, after 1860, gradually taken over the Post Office contract, the "Victorian" shows the crowned head of the young Queen Victoria facing left within an octagonal frame, with the title at the top and the value in words at the foot. This, the Die I, first appeared in 1879 for Antigua and Nevis, followed over the next three years for Montserrat and Virgin Islands (1880), Cyprus and Turks Islands (1881) and St. Lucia (1882). Five years later, in 1887, one stamp of Natal (SG 106) appeared to this design.

In 1889, a redrawn design appeared showing slight touches to the Queen's crown, the hair 'bun' and throat shading. This is Die II. Stamps to this design were produced for Natal, one stamp, (1889), St. Lucia (1891), Cyprus (1892) and Turks Islands (1893).

After this date the design disappeared except for Cyprus, for which it continued to be used, with successive 'sovereign' heads, uncrowned but with a

small crown suspended above the head, and again facing left, until the 1921-23 issue of King George V. Thus this design had a life-span of just over forty years.

The second Gibbons' listed Key Type is the "Georgian", although, in fact, it first appeared in the reign of Queen Victoria. This is probably the best known of all colonial designs because, altogether, no less than nineteen colonies used it at various times through successive reigns.

The initial design (Die I) again shows the crowned head of the young Victoria facing left within a scalloped octagonal frame supported by side tablets inscribed "POSTAGE/& REVENUE". The title is again at the top, but the value is expressed, variously, at the foot within an elongated hexagonal tablet supported on each side by scroll-work.

This design first appeared in 1889 for the Gold Coast. Seven other colonies used it during the reign of Queen Victoria, the issue of Northern Nigeria not appearing until 1900.

On the accession of King Edward VII, his crowned head facing left, but with a small crown suspended above the head, replaced the head of Victoria. Fourteen colonies, too numerous to specify, used this design during this reign of only nine years.

For the reign of King George V, the only change was the replacement of the head by that of the new king, still facing left, Die I. Fifteen colonies used this design, not necessarily the same colonies as had done so during the previous reign, and all, with one exception, for issues made between 1912 and 1914.

About 1920, the design was redrawn, showing slight retouches to the thick horizontal line either side of the crown, the tops of the side tablets and to the scroll-work at each side of the value tablet. This is Die II and must be carefully looked for when collecting stamps of this design during the reign of King George V. Twelve colonies used this Die II design.

The "Georgian" Key Type survived into the reign of King George VI, whose head now appeared facing right, being used for Leeward Islands and Mauritius (until 1948); and into the present reign, with the Queen's head facing left as before, for the Leeward Islands only. This colony, in fact, issued stamps to this Key Type design in all its forms over five reigns, and when its stamps were withdrawn in 1956, this design had survived for a total of sixty-seven years, a remarkable tribute to its popularity!

A feature of the "Georgian" Key Type, referred to previously, is the variety of expression of the value within the table, five different forms being used. 'Low values' are generally expressed in plain figures in relief on a shaded background, 'high values' in block figures on a plain background, but there are many exceptions. Other varieties occur in the background and in the small inner frame within the tablet. For the Leeward Islands only, the value is expressed in words.

No attempt is here made to associate particular watermarks with Die I and Die II of the "Georgian" Key Type except to quote Gibbons: "Unless otherwise stated in the lists, all stamps with wmk Multiple Crown CA are Die I while those with wmk Multiple Script CA are Die II".

There are at least three other basic designs which, because of their use by, in one case, seven colonies, claim the right to be termed Key Types. These are Types 8/9, 16/17 and 22 of British Honduras, but they are outside the scope of this article. However, a perusal of Gibbons' British Commonwealth catalogue for them and, possibly, others will well reward the collector.



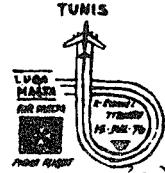




(b)



(c)



(e)



(d)



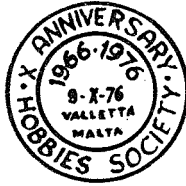
(f)



(g)



(h)



(i)



(j)

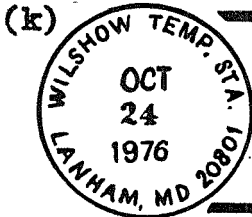


(k)

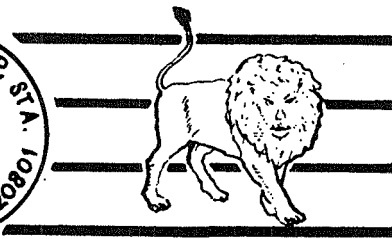


(l)

COMMEMORATIVE MALTA AND WASHINGTON POSTMARKS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LIONS STAMP SHOW



(m)



The special hand postmarks shown above refer to the article "Malta-A Diary" which was published in Vol. 7, No. 1 (Winter 1977) on pages 19-23, dealing with, among other items, special cancellations employed by the Malta Post Office during 1976.

(All postmarks are reproduced in smaller size).

# PHILA - GUIDE

A weekly illustrated publication offering Selected Items of Great Britain and Malta from pre-stamp to modern issues. Once monthly, a comprehensive listing is published covering all Reigns (1840-1977) including Specialised Shades, Watermark Varieties, etc., pricing stamps singly and in sets, mint and used together with up-to-date 'buying' prices. Whether your interests are Line-engraved, Surface-printed, GB used in Malta, Superb single items or Malta issues and Postal History, or whether you are a medium or advanced collector, then Phila-Guide will keep you in touch with the world market.

Mr. Alfred Attard, our representative in Malta, will be pleased to send you these weekly publications with our compliments and to outline our various philatelic services.

Our speciality is the Stamps and Postal History of Great Britain: Malta is still our 'baby' but she is growing fast!

## JANNOCK STAMPS

Flat 1, Nadette Mansions,  
New Street,  
Off Qormi Road,  
St. Venera,  
Malta.  
Tel: 48123

Head Office:  
62, Elmbridge Road,  
Gloucester,  
GL2, OPB,  
England.  
Tel: (0452) 26950

(The International Dealer and Wants Lists Specialists)