



VII
MALTA
PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION
1977

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF MALTA

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

The Privileges of membership are:

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

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

Annual Subscription:

Malta... £M1.50c

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

Applications from:

Dr. A. Ganado, The Hon. Secretary, 1, Scots Street, Valletta — Malta.

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 eases 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.

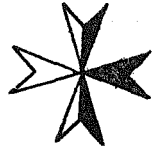
Contact the Exchange Packet Superintendent.

Anthony Fenech

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



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA MAGAZINE



VOL. 7 No. 3

AUTUMN 1977

CONTENTS

- 2 Foreword
- 3 Society News
- 4 Society Members Success at Internationals
- 7 The Evolution of the One Half Penny Queen
Victoria Yellow Stamp Dr. Alfred Bonnici
- 11 Time in Code Letter Form Mr. Anthony Fenech
- 16 The Most Exciting Experience Dr. Edwin Aquilina
- 19 Detailed Information of New Issues
(I.T.U., 'Europa 77') Mr. Joe Farrugia
- 23 Index to Plate & Imprint Blocks, 1972-1977
- 24 Radio, Television and Philately in Malta
- 25 Inland Post Office Service — 1881
- 26 Malta — A Diary, January-June Mr. Joe Farrugia

Cover design: Chev. E. Cremona

Address all correspondence to:

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

FOREWORD

This edition of the Philatelic Society of Malta Magazine marks the end of ten years of publication and included with the current number, we are publishing a complete index covering a decade. Originally produced in 1967 in stencilled form but with a paper back cover, for years it had been labelled as a Newsletter. By the second number, the "Newsletter" took a printed form and going back over the various editions, it became evident the amount of dedication my predecessors have shown in the production of each and every number. It is also evident that soon after its launching they were also experiencing shortage of material for publication with the result that only one number was produced for a couple of years; a very sad memory indeed, and I feel that such a sad state of affairs should never in future occur again.

It is only during these last three years that our Magazine has stabilized its regularity of publication, improved in size and quality, and maintained contact with both local and overseas members. It has not been easy to obtain these results, and were it not for the valuable and timely assistance forthcoming from Mr. S. Stanaway, and currently, Mr. Joe Farrugia, I wonder whether I would have found myself in the same predicament of my predecessors.

Few realise, unless they have been involved directly, the problems and the amount of time that such a publication entails. As soon as one number is distributed to members, work on the forthcoming number starts immediately. The demands on our resources are quite time-consuming: vetting and retyping the material, the visits to the printers, the proof reading, the page setting, further examination of page proofs, coupled with the efforts to obtain advertisers, and then the addressing and mailing to members.

With every number, there is always that underlying fear that there will not be enough material for publication. Fortunately, that fear has always so far been cushioned by contributions from members and the editorial staff, who are as busy, (and maybe more) as anyone else. But we want more members to be part of our staff, in fact, the more you contribute, the more interesting and varied our Society's magazine will become.

May this Tenth Year Edition be as enjoyable and interesting as earlier numbers, and may next year see more of you contributing, less we are faced with a 'sad state of affairs'.

* * *

The Malta Post Office is currently organizing the VIIth Malta National Philatelic Exhibition, now relegated to a biennial event in the Maltese philatelic calendar. It is hoped that the decision will result in a better organised manifestation of the philatelic maturity of these Islands.

Several people will be attracted to the Auberge d'Italie, where the exhibition is mounted. The majority will be ardent and not so ardent stamp collectors, who following a quick glance at the exhibits, proceed to secure their philatelic ephemera. But there will undoubtedly be a sizeable number of visitors, who are not collectors, but who out of curiosity, maybe, will 'drop in' to see what all the fuss is about. We sincerely hope, that such visitors will be able to form a different appraisal of our hobby.

Thus the conglomeration of displays from foreign countries and the collections on the stamps and postal history of the Maltese Islands, will provide a valid and varied selection of the world of philately. No other hobby can offer so much culture, knowledge, satisfaction and above all leisure than stamp collecting. A reflection of a nation's general development, stamps are essentially what they were produced to do, frank our mail, but today they have become the absorbing medium of millions of people all over the world. The field is vast and inexhaustive; varied and interesting.

I still treasure in my mind a quote a friend of mine once finished off his weekly letter: "Stamp collecting is only an excuse; its principal scope is the exchange of hearts". There is a substantial number of Maltese collectors who really 'miss out' by simply not being members of our Society. Membership in the Philatelic Society of Malta provides the necessary background for a more enjoyable hobby through the learned talks, the fraternity and other activities of the Society, such as the auctions, and the exchange branch.

To you all who read these ramblings, happy collecting, and a peaceful happy Christmas and a prosperous 1978.

THE EDITOR

SOCIETY NEWS

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Society resumed its activities one month ahead of schedule when Mr. Clive Smith, an overseas member of the Society, as well as a member of the Malta Study Circle of U.K., gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on part of his specialised and extensive collection of Queen Victoria stamps of Malta. The meeting was held on Monday, September 5th, 1977 at Mons. Gonzi Hall, Catholic Institute, Floriana.

Dr. J.H. Mercieca, President, welcomed Mr. C. Smith and introduced him to the large gathering of both local and overseas members and philatelists present. Mr. Smith then proceeded to talk about the Queen Victoria era, pointing out that the plates for the Q.V. $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellow had quite a considerable number of years of use, almost a quarter of a century, and that millions of stamps were produced from these plates, quoting approximate figures.

About 130 album sheets of the Q.V. ½d Yellows, as well as Great Britain stamps used in Malta, were displayed during the meeting. Amongst other items on display, which were awarded a silver-gilt medal at last year's British Philatelic Exhibition, were the marginal proofs of the 1860 ½d yellow, various specimen of the same stamp, used on cover, items nowadays hardly ever seen blocks of the many different printings of the same stamp in subsequent years, an 1885 Q.V. 5/- with inverted watermark as well as an old document of philatelic interest.

Following his talk, Mr. C. Smith replied to questions put to him by some of those present, especially about the displayed material. Closing the meeting, Dr. J.H. Mercieca, on his own behalf as well as on that of all present, thanked Mr. C. Smith for his outstanding display and interesting talk, as well as for the opportunity he had given to the Society members to view some of the exceptionally fine and rare items.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Notwithstanding efforts by the Treasurer drawing attention of members to pay their membership dues for 1977, there are still some members who have not yet settled their accounts with the Society. Your co-operation and quick settlement are kindly solicited. In future unpaid members will not be accepted to participate in the Exchange Circuits and Auctions. Address your cheques or money orders to "The Treasurer, G.M. Pace", 21 Eldorado Street, Hamrun, Malta.

SOCIETY MEMBERS SUCCESS AT INTERNATIONALS

AMPHILEX 77

We are delighted to record that entries from Malta were once again evident at "AMPHILEX 77", the F.I.P. sponsored International Stamp Exhibition of Amsterdam, Netherlands, which has been described as the most outstanding exhibition ever held, both for the excellence of material displayed as well as for its smooth and efficient organization. A total of 104,480 visitors attended the RAI Amsterdam Centre during the period 26th May to the 5th June 1977. The Malta Post Office participated in the section reserved for Postal Administrations. Society member, Mr. Godwin Said was the Commissioner for Malta.

The following awards were made to our members and we offer our congratulations to them:

Dr. Alfred Bonnici M.D. — Vermeil Medal

"Specialized study of the Malta Q.V. ½d Yellow, 1860-1885".

- Mr. Anthony Fenech — Silver Medal
“Collection of rare Malta covers including ½d yellows, Registrations, Zeppelins, and F.D.C.’s.”
- Mr. Godwin Said — Silver Medal
“Specialized collection of Malta postal history including pre-adhesives, disinfected mail, postal rates and documents from the 17th Century”.
- Mr. Edward Collins — Bronze Medal
“Complete collection of the Turkish Cypriot Post Service 1964-1976”.
- Literature Class**
- Messrs. E. Said — Bronze Medal
“The Said Malta Stamp & Coin Catalogue 1977”.
- Mr. Edward Collins — Diploma
“Articles representative of philatelic publicity”.

SAN MARINO 77

The Republic of San Marino celebrated the Centenary of the first Postage stamps in the country with an International Philatelic Manifestation, “San Marino 77”, held at the Congress Palace between August 28 and September 4th, 1977. This philatelic event has been described as a lavish exercise, with so many philatelic activities organised simultaneously for the benefit of the visitors and participants. Several outstanding collections of postal history interest were displayed and some sixteen Postal Administrations had their own stand, including Malta, which registered quite a successful participation. The only competitive section in the exhibition was reserved for philatelic journalists from all over the world, who participated in the “International Journalistic Prize”.

It is with pleasure to record that our Editor, Mr. Nick A. Cutajar, won a Silver Medal for his article “SAN MARINO” — A Centenary of Postage Stamps — 1877-1977” published in the Society’s magazine, Vol. 7. No. 2.



“PRAGA ’78”

Prague will be the host, next year of the F.I.P. Sponsored “World Postage Stamps Exhibition”. Application forms, which must be received by the Organizing Committee by not later than January 31, 1978, are obtainable from PRAGA 78 Commissioner for Malta, Mr. Godwin Said, 114 Tower Road, Sliema, who has been nominated by the Society.

HARMERS

of London

announce

AN OUTSANDING AUCTION OF

MALTA

JANUARY 24-25, 1978

featuring the superb

“Col. D.G.N. Lloyd-Lowles”

collection

together with many other important properties

De-luxe catalogue £1

(prices realised 20p extra)

HARMERS of London

Stamp Auctioneers Ltd.

41, New Bond Street, London W1A 4EH

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ONE HALF PENNY QUEEN VICTORIA YELLOW STAMP



by

Dr. ALFRED BONNICI

B.Pharm. M.D. M.R.S.H.

CHAPTER 7

With the 25th printing we see a change to the Watermark Crown CA. These were the 25th printing invoiced on 14th February, 1882.

26th printing invoiced on 6th April, 1882.

27th printing invoiced on 9th May, 1883.

28th printing invoiced on 29th January, 1884.

30th printing invoiced on 27th August, 1884.

The 29th printing was in green to conform with the U.P.U. regulations and will be commented upon separately in Chapter 8.

The first four of these five supplies vary in colour from pale to deep orange-yellow (S.G. & Said 18) and it is very difficult to differentiate between these, without the aid of dated copies.

The 30th printing (S.G. 19) is reddish orange.

In the P.A. Wilde Auction at Bristol on 17th November, 1973 a sheet comprising 120 stamps of the 1882-1884 issue realised £255. (Malta Newsletter Volume 7 No. 9 — Page 138).

25TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 18)
Pale orange Yellow WMK Crown CA Perf 14.
Invoiced on 14th February, 1882.
From Day Book K Page 183.

25TH INVOICE: 14th February, 1882.
The Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage Stamps
200 sheets of 240 duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 48,000 stamps

3	4	0
	2	6
<hr/>		
3	6	6

**EARLIEST-LATEST
USED RECORDED
DATES:** Issued in Malta in February, 1882.
Earliest recorded Mrs. Turnbull — 27th March, 1882.
Latest recorded copy 30th January 1883 (Bonnici, Malta).

26TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 18)
Pale orange-yellow WMK Crown CA White Perf 14.
Invoiced on 6th April, 1882.
From Private Day Book K Page 230.

26TH INVOICE: 6th April, 1882.
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies.
 Malta Postage Stamps.
 201 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 48,240 stamps 3 4 4
 Case lined with tin 4 6

3 8 10

EARLIEST-LATEST USED RECORDED DATES: This printing was released in Malta in January 1883, and the earliest recorded date is 20th January, 1883. (Bonnici, Malta) and the latest recorded date is 9th July, 1883. (Orme).

27TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 18)
 Orange-yellow WMK CA Perf 14.
 Invoiced on 9th May, 1883.
 From Private Day Book L Page 208.

27TH INVOICE: 9th May, 1883.
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies.
 Malta Postage Stamps.
 202 sheets duty ½d of 240 = 48,480 stamps 3 4 7
 Case lined tin 4 6

3 9 1

EARLIEST-LATEST USED RECORDED DATES: The 27th printing was issued in Malta in 1883.
 The earliest recorded copy is 4th August, 1883 (Orme).
 The latest recorded copy is 23rd September, 1884 (Bonnici, Malta).

CHAPTER 8

The 28th-30th Printing (Nov. 1883 — Aug. 1884)

The procedure adopted for the Requisition and supply of the ½d yellow was as follows:—

The Post Master General (Roger Duke) informed the Governor General through the Chief Secretary to the Government (The Hon. Walter Hely Hutchinson C.M.G.), who in turn requested the Crown Agents in London to supply by ordering the printing for Messrs. De La Rue.

The official correspondence covering the 28th, 29th and 30th printings are produced at the end of this chapter. (Vol. 8. No. 1)

In 1883, it was decided that the time had come for the Malta Post Office to be controlled internally (The original date proposed for the transfer was July 1884).

On 4th September, 1883 Roger Duke, the Post Master General in Malta, wrote to the Hon. Walter Hely Hutchinson C.M.G. (Letter 1) requesting "approximate quantities of the several denominations of stamps which will have to be provided for use after Transfer", adding "I have just been informed that it has been decided to have certain stamps of uniform colour throughout the Postal Union, i.e., the ½d in green", etc. (letter No. 1).

The Chief Secretary Walter Hely Hutchinson on 8th September, 1883 wrote to the Crown Agents in London informing them of the request of the Maltese Post Master General. (letter No. 2).

On 26th September, 1883 De La Rue returned the above mentioned correspondence, giving the necessary information (Letter No. 4). From this letter it follows that the printing plate used for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d green was the same as that for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellows as among other details we find "A printing plate is in existence here for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps, so that it becomes necessary to provide for producing five denominations (1d, 2d, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 4d and 1/-)".

On 27th November, 1883, the Chief Secretary of Malta requested the Crown Agents to supply Malta with 200 sheets, (letter No. 5) and enclosed a requisition. This was received by the Crown Agents on 5th December, 1883 and written in the margin is the following note:—

"Instruct Messrs. De La Rue that having regard to the correspondence respecting the new stamps, generally we may assume that the Malta Government approves of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps being printed in green as recommended".

From the correspondence it is clear that the Crown Agents did not realise that this requisition was a separate and distinct one from the correspondence that had just passed between Malta and London for the issue of stamps after "the date the Post Office was to pass to internal control", and they assumed quite wrongly that this requisition was to be in green. This information was passed to the printers.

Consequently, on 10th December, 1883 the Crown Agents transmitted this requisition, stating "We herewith beg to return the requisition covered by your letter of yesterday for 200 sheets of $\frac{1}{2}$ d Malta Postage Samps, which you inform us are to be printed in green, etc." (letter No. 7).

On 13th December, the Crown Agents informed the Chief Secretary in Malta that the printing was going to be in green, which must have upset Roger Duke, the Post Master in Malta, considerably, as the Chief Secretary on 31st December, 1883 replied to the Crown Agents as follows:— (Letter No. 8).

"The Post Master reports much inconvenience will result if green half-penny stamps be introduced before the transfer of the Post Office to Colonial control, and I am therefore to request that you will be so good as to give the necessary instructions for a supply of yellow stamps, the green ones which you have already ordered being kept for future use."

On 11th January, 1884 the Crown Agents placed a new requisition for a supply of yellow stamps. (Letter No. 9).

On 14th January, 1884 Messrs. De La Rue informed the Crown Agents that the original order of the 10th requesting a green printing had not yet been executed, and so the colour of this printing would be yellow (letter No. 10).

On 16th January, 1884 the Crown Agents approved this letter (letter No. 11).

This 28th printing was delivered on 29th January, 1884 and in Private Day Book M Page 29, we find the following invoice:—

28TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 18)
 Invoiced on 29th January, 1884.
 From Private Day Book M. Page 29.
 28TH INVOICE: 29th January, 1884.
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies
 Malta Printing Stamps
 200 sheets of 240 duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 48,000
 Case lined tin

3	4	0
	4	6
3	8	6

COLOUR: Orange-yellow WMK Crown CA Perf 14.
 EARLIEST-LATEST This printing was issued in Malta in 1884.
 USED RECORDED The earliest recorded copy is 19th March, 1884. (Orme)
 DATES: The latest copy is 26th August, 1884 (Orme)
 Reversal of date slugs 14th May and 16th May have been recorded (Clive Smith).

The 29th Printing

The Post Office in Malta was scheduled to be transferred in July, 1884.

On 29th May, 1884 the Chief Secretary wrote to the Crown Agents requesting the various quantities stating "The Post Office is to be handed over in July, etc." (Letter No. 12).

On 3rd June, the Crown Agents requested (Letter No. 13) De La Rue to print the quantities mentioned in (Letter No. 1) and De La Rue replied on 4th June (Letter No. 15) stating "That a good supply should reach Malta by the end of this month. The requisition to complete will take from six to eight weeks from now." (Letter No. 14).

In actual fact, there were 2 consignments of this 29th printing in green, one on 20th June, and another consignment on 5th July. Invoices from De La Rue. Day Book M. Page 72, 20th June, 1884. 688 sheets of 240 duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 165,120 stamps and on page 77 of Day Book M, 5th July, 1884, 1,017 sheets $\frac{1}{2}$ d postage, etc.

The 30th Printing

The Post Office was not, however, transferred in July as had originally been planned, and so the Malta Government although they had now an ample supply of $\frac{1}{2}$ d green (in storage) ran once again short of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellows, and on 8th August, 1884, the Chief Secretary requested the Crown Agents to supply the "Usual 200 sheets of Malta local Postage Stamps." (Letter No. 19).

On 18th August the Crown Agents placed the order with De La Rue for 200 sheets of $\frac{1}{2}$ d adding "I have to add that the colour of the stamps is to be in Yellow". (Letter No. 20).

This letter was acknowledged by De La Rue on 19th August (letter No. 21) and from De La Rue Private Day Book M, Page 92, we know that this 30th printing was dispatched to Malta on 27th August, 1884.

30TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 19)
 Reddish-orange WMK Crown CA White Perf 14.
 Invoiced on 27th August, 1884.
 Private Day Book M Page 92.

30TH INVOICE 27th August, 1884.
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies
 Malta Postage Stamps
 200 sheets of 240 duty $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 48,000 stamps
 Case lined tin

3	4	0
	4	6
3	8	6

EARLIEST-LATEST Issued in Malta 1884.
 USED RECORDED Earliest recorded date 17th August, 1884 (Orme).
 DATES: Latest recorded date 26th November, 1885 (Orme).

TIME IN CODE LETTER FORM

by

ANTHONY FENECH

PART I

Code letters have appeared on many hand-stamps obliterating mail in Malta. Many Postmark collectors have questioned their significance but very little work has been done on them. However, much evidence has been assembled to indicate that "letters" were used to code times for specific box closings until "time in the clear" had been adopted.

W.G. Stitt Dibden in his exhaustive study of 'The Squared Circle Postmarks' noted that from the early 1800's the Post Office in Great Britain, used a day code in stamps, that is, "A" was given to the first day of the month, and advanced each day, thus the 25th of the month, say, was indicated by the letter "T". In 1896, the Too Late Code "Z" was used for Too Late first despatch and "ZZ" for Too Late last despatch.(1)

Towards the end of the century, the public knew the details of a "clock code" which had been in use by the telegraph service for many years. The Postmaster of Liverpool suggested a modification of this "clock code" thus:

letters A to M for the hours (excluding "J")

letters A to L for the minutes in five-minute intervals (excluding "J"), that is, the coded time for 10.45 a.m. appeared on the handstamp as KI; Anti-Meridian and Post-Meridian being denoted by the letters "A" or "P" in combination with the hour and minute letters, so KI A on the handstamp indicated 10.45 a.m.

But on August 11th 1894 it was decided to scrap the "code time" and to introduce "time in the clear"; after August 2nd 1899, it became the rule that clock time was not to be used in counter handstamps. Then it became obligatory, after July 7th, 1902, to use the asterisk in place of code or time letters and figures where the use of the handstamp did not include cancelling letters from box closings.(2)

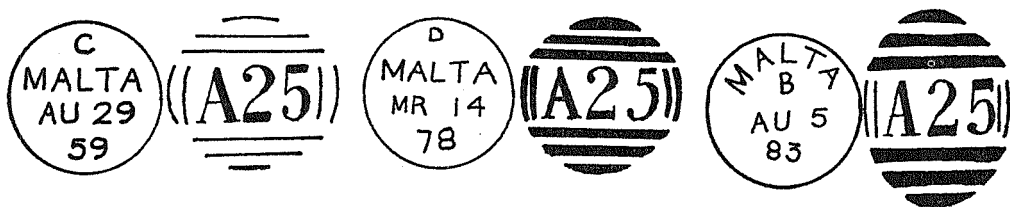
EARLY POSTMARKS

In Malta, code letters have featured on many handstamps. The following are the coded handstamps used by the Central Office, Post Offices, Postal Agencies, Sub-Post Offices and Army and Field Post Offices in Malta to date:

The earliest recorded type of a handstamp with Code Letters in Malta is a 19 mm diameter c.d.s. type struck in red alongside the M Cancellations or perhaps on the back of such letters and entries in the years after 1857. Only strikes with the code letters A and B have been recorded. Maybe this same strike was used to cancel early half-penny yellows in the early sixties.

Copies of the unwatermarked Half-Penny Yellow, Blue Paper and White Paper, have been cancelled with this type of handstamp, but in black ink, in the early in 1861, '62, '63. In the '70's, this handstamp is known used, back-stamping mail. In 1873, mail coming from the east, via Constantinople, mostly ribbed with disinfected slits, is backstamped with this strike, in black, bearing code letters "A", "B", and very rarely "C", (Fig. a).

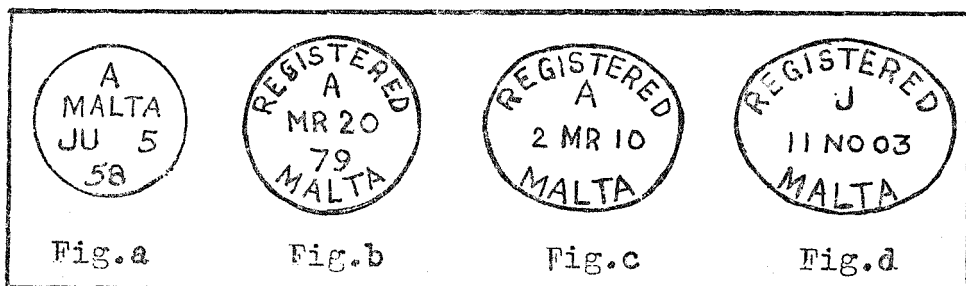
The A 25 Duplex Circular, with thin or thick bars employed between the years 1859 and 1881 bear the code letters A to E. The early morning strikes bear the Code Letter "A"; as the day advanced, Code letter slugs were changed alphabetically, those with the Code letter "E" being the ones employed in the evening. The Code letters lie above MALTA in these types of handstamps. The use of the "E" code letter in such handstamps is rather scarce.



The A 25 non-duplex horizontal oval was used on Registered Mail but together with the 23 mm Registered Circular Handstamp in red or deep red with Code Letters "A" and "B", the former struck in the morning and the latter in the afternoon and evening, (Fig. b).

In 1881 and after, the A 25 Duplex Oval types were used cancelling Great Britain stamps used in Malta as well as the Half-Penny Yellows and Greens, consignments 24-30,(3) (Said Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20), and the 1885 Queen Victoria Definitives, with Code Letters A to L, including the Code Letter "J", the use of which was completely ignored as Code Letter in Great Britain on Post Office handstamps.

The non-duplex A 25 vertical oval was used on Registered Mail cancelling Said Nos 30, 32, 33 and Edward 1903-04 Set ($\frac{1}{2}$ green to 1/- grey and violet) and also the "ONE PENNY" over-prints, never alone, but in conjunction with the Registered oval with code letters (Roman Capitals) "A" to "Q"(4) to date the Registered Cover. Red ink was used up to about 5 DE 90 and for a short period from 9 OC 02 to 20 FE 03; otherwise the Registered Oval with code letters is found with black ink.(5) Other types of Registered Ovals, sometimes cancelling also the stamps, are without code letters following the regulations by the U.P.U. that Counter use of the handstamp should not include any code letter. The cancellors on the counter have none or sometimes an asterisk as had been the custom at the Forces Post Offices, Field Post Offices and also on the G.P.O. (small letters) types, Trade and Industry Exhibition, Malta, in 1959, and on the Qormi S.P.O. 24 mm metal stamp since 1974.



The Registered Oval types (Figs. c & d), with the code letters "A" to "Q" are also found in conjunction with

(i) the 'bar' cancellations (Four Types) — two with the horizontal bar passing through the word "MALTA", from about 1 MR 93 to MY 03⁽⁶⁾ and the other two with the centre bar discontinued so as not to pass through "MALTA" employed between SP 01 and MY 05.:

(ii) The Maltese Cross cancellor from 3 AP 05 to JA 22;(7)

(iii) the handstamp with large R for Registration together with the Valletta 30 mm double ring with crosses.

Mr. J.G.C. Lander, the Malta Study Circle Official, in charge of the Organisation and Publishing of Study Papers, in his detailed study of the Valletta G.P.O. Postmarks, reports more than 120 different time slugs in the early years of the twentieth century, exactly between the years 1901 and 1921. This could be perhaps the reason for the range of Code Letters "A" to "R" listed by Messrs. Said in their 1977 Malta Stamp Catalogue.

There were indeed more than one type of the "Malta" 19 mm/20 mm diameters c.d.s. in use. Code letters "A" to "R" were reduced to "A" to "K" during and after World War I, even though, Lander, in his article 'Valletta G.P.O. from 1897 — Part 2' (Malta Study Circle Newsletter, Vol. 8, No. 2, Spring 1975) states that the MAL — 1 c.d.s., that is, the handstamp in question, was used on about half the mail from April 1916 to April 1917.

The code letters on these postmarks represented definite times corresponding to the "times in the clear" shown on the modern postmarks. Thus letters with

Malta A/JY 5/11 addressed to Notabile, bears Notabile C/JY 5/11 on the back;

Victoria A/MR 26/97 addressed to Valletta bears Malta G/MR 26/97 on the back;

Malta A/OC 1/19 addressed to Cospicua bears Cospicua B/OC 1/19 on the back;

Malta A/MY 22/93 addressed to Ghain-Sielem, Gozo, bears Migiarro B/MY 22/93 on the back;

Malta A/JU 5/08 addressed to Sliema, bears Sliema 7.45 a.m./5 JU/08 as backstamp;

Malta F/DE 24/07 addressed to Sliema, bears Sliema 4.15 p.m./24 DE/07; but with

Malta D/FE 16/20 addressed to Sliema, bears Sliema 9.00 a.m./17 FE/20 (that is the day after). This proves that the time represented by the Code Letter "D" in the 80's, 90's and early 20th Century, does not correspond with the same time expressed by the Code letter "D" during and after World War I.

Thus, during the period of use of this circular stamp (Malta 1)⁽⁸⁾ it may be assumed from the hundreds of items studied, that Code letters "A" to "E" were struck before noon; the code letters "F", "G", "H" on mail to Valletta and branches before 6.00 p.m.; "I", "J", "K", and "L" on mail to Valletta only or abroad; whilst the code letters "M" to "R" (rather scarce), as Late or Too Late Mail. In fact some covers bearing the c.d.s. with these code letters "M" to "R" are cacheted 'Too Late Fee'. The use of the code letters "M" to "R" has been recorded mainly on Queen Victoria stamps between the years 1887 and 1901. One the most most striking examples of the code letter "M" is that struck on Queen Victoria 5/- rose, and dated SP 10 97.

During the second period of use of the c.d.s. Mal. 1, however, it resulted that code letters "A" to "D" were employed on the morning mail, "E" to "H" on the afternoon and evening mail, whilst "I" to "L" on late box closings.

REFERENCES

- 1 & 2 "Squared Circle Postmarks" by W.G. Stitt Dibden.
- 3 "Malta Half-Penny Centenary" by Major Fred Orme T.D., published on 1/12/60 as supplement to "The Philatelist and Postal Historian".
- 4 "Said Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue — 1977" — Registration Marks Section, pp. 178, 179.
- 5, 6 & 7 Malta Study Circle's "Malta Newsletter" Vol. 5, No. 7, April '68.
- 8 "Valletta G.P.O. From 1897, Part 2" by J.G.C. Lander in "Malta Newsletter" Vol. 8, No. 2, Spring 1975.



PUBLICATIONS

The American Tropical Association has gathered 27 years of its vast publication output into one complete topical library covering 136 years of philately in a three foot shelf space. A brochure, "1977 Complete Topical Philatelic Library" as well as details of the Society are obtainable from "American Topical Association", 3308 North 50th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216, U.S.A.

"Petroleum Stamps of the World" is the title of the second edition of the catalogue describing all known petroleum and petroleum-related stamps of the world. Further details are obtainable from Drs. H. Merison, Vice-President, "Petrophil", Babruituislaan 60, 2241 JV Wassenaar, The Netherlands.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA MAGAZINE
TEN YEAR INDEX
Spring 1967 — Spring 1977

- Spring 1967**
Vol. 1 No. 1
(Newsletter)
- Society News, 2
 First Day Covers, 2
 Programme for Spring 1967, 3
 Chev. E. Cremona — Pen Portrait (Joe Hamilton), 4
 Philatelic Literature-Catalogue, 5
 Pen Friends, 7
 Malta from the Magazines, 8 — 9
 Malta Sales Figures, 9
 Malta Hearsay, 10
 The Quality of Stamps (Louis Frank), 12 — 15
 More Malta from the Magazines, 16
 "The Story of Malta and her Stamps" by James A. Mackay Book Review, 17, 18
- Summer 1967**
Vol. 1 No. 2
- Programme for June 1967, 3
 Society News, Monthly Meetings, 4 — 6
 New Members, 6 — 7
 Pen Friends, 7
 The 'Melita' Issue (Dr. M. van Meensel), 8
 New Issues in Malta, 10
 Malta from the Magazines, 11
 Malta Marvels (M.E. Jetten), 11 — 13
 The Circular Village Stamps of Malta (W.L. Freshwater), 14 — 15
 Malta Hearsay (B. Hamilton), 16
 The George Cross Issue, 16
 Malta Stamps at Amphilex '67, 3
 Society News, 4 — 5
 The Genius of Jean De Sperati, 6 — 7
 From St. Barnabas to Archbishop Makarios (M. van Meensel), 7 — 10
 Philatelic Exchanges (J.H. Mercieca), 11
 Philatelic Fury, 12 — 13
 "Postage Due Handstruck Markings of Malta" by the Malta Study Circle, (R.P.), 13
 Malta Hearsay (E. Said), 14
 The Circular Village Stamps of Malta — 2 (W.L. Freshwater); 15 — 1
 The £1 Stamps of Malta (M.E. Jetten), 17 — 18
 Post Offices of Israel in Occupied Territory, 18
 The Malta 5d stamp of 1889 (Chas. Spiteri), 19
 Pen Friends, 20.
- Autumn 1967**
Vol. 1 No. 3
- The Philatelic Society of Malta, Statute, 4 — 8
 1967 Xmas Issue: Are You for or Against?, 10
 Junior View. With the Beginners (J.D. Campbell), 11 — 12
 The Charm of Stamp Collecting (E.W.B.), 12
 Notes on: Old Philatelic Periodicals (Chas. G. Cassar), 13
 "Stamps of Malta" (Edmund Rizzo), 14
 The Backs of Stamps (R.K.D.), 15
 The Queen of Malta Stamps (J.D. Hamilton), 16 — 17
- Spring 1968**
Vol. 2 No. 1

- Malta "Services Week" Cancellation (J.H. Mercieca), Disinfected letters (J.H. Mercieca), 19 — 21
 Diploma of Honour for Malta Stamps, 21
 Philatelists and Stamp Collectors, 22
 Archer's Perforation. An Interesting Discovery (H.F. Johnson), 23 — 24
- Summer 1968**
Vol. 2 No. 2
(Magazine)
- New Committee Elected, 4
 Monthly Meeting — April, 5
 Monthly Meeting — May, 6
 The Philatelic Push..., 8
 The 1968 Malta Issues, 8 — 9
 Old Philatelic Periodicals (Chas. G. Cassar), 9
 "Stamps of Malta" *contd.* (Edmund Rizzo), 10
 Pen Friends, 11
 Magnificent Display, 13
 The Food and Agricultural Set of 1968, 14
- Winter 1969**
Vol. 2 No. 4
(Recte No. 3)
- Malta Pauline Centenary Stamps (Paul A. Pace), 3 — 5
 Dr. E. Aquilina Writes:— (re Village Postmarks), 5
 Philatelic Information. Biggest 'Penny Black' Stamps Discovery; Hawid Strips to any Size (R.J. Walley), 6
 Letter Extracts (E. Blaquiere), 7
 The Monthly Meeting in November, 8
 A Brief Survey of Modern Postmarks Used in Malta — 1952 to Date (R.J. Walley), 9 — 15
 Stamps of the World, 15
 The New Malta Postage Dues, (E. Said), 16
- Summer 1969**
Vol. 3 No. 1
- New Committee Elected, 3
 Maltese Postal History, 4
 The Monthly Meeting of December, 5
 The Postmark the Thing (J.O. Critchlow), 6 — 8
 "Stamps of Malta" *contd.* (Edmund Rizzo), 8 — 9
 The Grammar of Philately, Part 1, Philatelic Glossary, 11 — 13
 The Exhibition Sub-Committee, 13
 With an Ear to the Ground, 14
 An Undiscovered Variety, 14
 Centenary of the Birth of Mahatma Gandhi (E. Said), 15 — 16
- Winter 1970**
Vol. 3 No. 2
- Malta Napoleonic Occupation 1798-1800, French Soldier's Letter of 1798, 4 — 5
 The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (E. Said), 6 — 8
 Philatelic News, Letter to the Editor (L. Frank), 9
 History of the Post and Stamp (L. Frank), 10 — 14
 The Postal History of Thurn and Taxis, 15 — 16
- 1971**
Vol. 3 No. 3
- The Disinfection of Letters (M. Carnevale-Mauzan), 4 — 13
 Slitting of Letters For Disinfection in the Eighteenth Century in Malta (Paul Cassar), 14 — 16
- Winter 1972**
Vol. 3 No. 4
- The Malta Philatelic Society (J.H. Mercieca), 5
 Medicine on Stamps (C. Cassar), 6 — 7
 United Nations — An Interesting and Pleasant Collection (E. Aquilina), 8 — 9
 Stamps of the Channel Islands (D.C. Woodward), 10 — 11
 The Malta Philatelic Exhibition — 1971 (The Editor) 12 — 13

- Autumn 1973**
Vol. 4 No. 1
- Success in "Polska 73" by Maltese Philatelists, 5
The IVth Malta Philatelic Exhibition, 6 — 9
Numerical Cancellations of the British Post Office (St. Stanaway), 10 — 11
Manxland — A Swift Historical Account (Nick A Cutajar), 12 — 13
Air Mail Notes (S. Stanaway), 14
Boom in Stamps, 15
"Said Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue" 1974, 16
- Autumn 1974**
Vol. 4 No. 2
- Major Varieties of Paper (S. Stanaway) 4, 12
List of Members of the Philatelic Society of Malta, Year 1973, 5 — 6
Statute, (amended), 7 — 12
Malta Stamps A Broad Survey (E. Aquilina), 13 — 15
- Winter 1975**
Vol. 5 No. 1
- Louis Frank (A.G.), 2 — 3
Cospicua — New Discoveries; Rabat, 3
The Annual General Meeting — 13th January 1975, 4 — 5
Amendments and Additions to the Published Membership List, 6 — 7
December Meeting — 'Film Evening', 7
Malta Special Commemorative Postmarks, 8
From the Annual Report 1973/74 of the Post & Telephones Dept., 8, 14
Plate Blocks and Imprint Blocks on Maltese Stamps (J. Farrugia), 9 — 10
Plate and Imprint Blocks — 1974 (J. Farrugia), 10 — 1
From Under the Hammer of Harmer's, 13
Malta — 1975 Programme of New Issues, 14
"Philatelic Terms Illustrated" Book Review (S.S.), 1
"Said Stamp and Coin Catalogue 1975" Book Review (N.A.C.), 16
- Spring 1975**
Vol. 5 No. 2
- The Postal Services and the U.P.U. (J.H. Mercieca) 2 — 4
Dr. K. Clough's Visit to Malta, 4 — 5
The Turkish-Cypriot Postal Administration (Ted Collins) 6, 16
Plate and Imprint Blocks — 1973 (Joe Farrugia), 7 — 9
Detailed Information of New Issues (J. Farrugia), 9 — 10, 15
Society Members' Success at "Espana '75", 11 — 12
R.A.F.'s Souvenir Flown Covers, 12
The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (G. Said), 13 — 14
"Malta Postal Rates" Book Review (Carmel G. Bonavia), 15
- Autumn 1975**
Vol. 5 No. 3
- Membership News — New members, Obituary, 2
Society News and Announcements, 3 — 4
Coding Key to Members Interests, 5 — 6, 11
Plate and Imprint Blocks — 1972 (J. Farrugia), 7 — 9
Detailed Information of New Issues (J. Farrugia), 10, 12
"Village Postmarks" Book Review (A.F.), 14
"Said Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue, 1976" (N.A.C.), 16
- Winter/
Spring 1976**
**Vol. 6
No. 1/2***
- From the President's Desk: (J.H. Mercieca), 5 — 6
Address by the Postmaster General (G.W. Borg), 7
The Chairman of the 'Malta Study Circle' of U.K. Writes: (Graham Smeed), 8
The "Gibraltar-Malta-Cyprus Study Circle in Germany" (Gerhard Dorfinger), 9
The Annual General Meeting, 10 — 12
The Evolution of the One Half Penny Queen Victoria Yellow Stamp.
Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2, (Alfred Bonnici), 13 — 21

- Charity or Welfare Stamps (J.H. Mercieca), 23 — 25
 April Meeting — The House Auction, 26 — 27
 The Diplomatic Courier of the Order of St. John in Eighteenth Century
 Malta (Paul Cassar), 29 — 33
 The Anglo-Maltese Stamp Hinges, 33
 Salient Points in Stamp Collecting (E. Aquilina), 34 — 35
 Detailed Information of New Issue (J. Farrugia), 37 — 45
 Malta Philatelic Exhibition in 1901, 46
 Organised Philately in the Maltese Islands, Part 1 (Nick A. Cutajar),
 47 — 51
 Malta Air Mail Service (Carmel G. Bonavia), 52 — 55
 "Et Dona Ferentes" (Duane Koenig), 55 — 58
 Vote A Stamp, 58
 Postmen's Personal Handstamps, 59 — 60
 Maltese Philately — A Bibliography (Carmel G. Bonavia), 61 — 63
- Autumn 1976**
Vol. 6 No. 3
- The Tenth Anniversary, 4 — 5
 International Exhibitions, 5 — 6
 The Evolution of the One Half Penny Queen Victoria Yellow Stamp,
 Chapter 3, (Alfred Bonnici), 7 — 11
 Membership News, 13 — 14
 Detailed Information of New Issues, (Joe Farrugia) 15 — 21
 Vote A Stamp, 21
 The United Nations Postal Administration, Marginal Inscriptions, 22 — 23
 Foreign Contacts, 23
- Winter 1977**
Vol. 7 No. 1
- Secretary's Report — 1976, 2 — 4
 The Committee/Membership Subscription, 3
 Programme April-June 1977, 6
 Membership News, 6
 The Evolution of the One Half Penny Queen Victoria Yellow Stamp,
 Chapter 4, Alfred Bonnici, 8 — 12
 Detailed Information of New Issues (Joe Farrugia), 14 — 18
 Malta — A Diary (Joe Farrugia), 19 — 23
 The Second International Contest "Vote A Stamp", 3
- Spring 1977**
Vol. 7 No. 2
- Excerpts From Collectors' Letters, 4
 The Full Results, 5
 The Evolution of the One Half Penny Queen Victoria Yellow Stamp,
 Chapters 5 & 6 (Alfred Bonnici), 6 — 8
 Competition — Twenty Questions, 10
 San Marino. A Centenary of Postage Stamps 1877 — 1977 (Nick A.
 Cutajar), 11 — 14
 Detailed Information of New Issues (Joe Farrugia), 16 — 19
 The De La Rue 'Key Plate' Designs for the Stamps of the British Colonies
 (S.N. Bush), 21 — 22
 Slogan Cancellations, 23
 Malta — A Diary. Special Postmarks illustrations, 24

* Vol. 6, Numbers 1 & 2 were published jointly as a special number of 64 pages to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Malta.

COLLECT
Malta and S.M.O.M.

Malta	Mint	Used
King George VI Complete Collection. (Cat. Nos: 214/260 59 stamps)	£M42	£M42.75
Queen Elizabeth Complete Collection. (Cat. Nos. 216 to 535 273 stamps 11 Sheetlets and 4 Miniature Sheets)	£M118	£M109
Sovereign Military Order of Malta Complete Collection from No: 1 — 138. (157 stamps and 10 Miniature Sheets)	£M80.25	£M80.25

Please call or write for our Free Price List
of all Malta and S.M.O.M. Issues

EMMANUEL SAID

**Specialists in stamps and coins of
Malta and the S.M.O.M.**

OFFICE

43/2 Zachary Street, Valletta Telephone: 26853, 622134

SHOPS

32 Britannia Street, Valletta Telephone: 27472
Tagliaferro Centre, Sliema Telephone: 30886

**THE
MOST
EXCITING
EXPERIENCE . . .**



. . . I have ever encountered in my twenty-five years of stamp collecting, is intimately connected with Malta Village Postmarks.

About ten years ago, I was assigned to select postmarks from a batch of about fifteen thousand $\frac{1}{4}$ d Harbours (1899-1904). I must also stress the point at this stage, that such postmarks may at time be very elusive for as a rule they do not leave a good impression on the brownish-red coloration of this denomination.

The session was very long and monotonous and nothing seemed to come out of it. It must be pointed out that in those days of the early twentieth century, the $\frac{1}{4}$ d value was mainly employed in the despatch of newspapers, which as is commonly known, were sent from Valletta, where the main printing presses were located, to several villages scattered throughout the Maltese Islands.

Thus, nearly all the postmarks in this connection, carried the "Valletta" strike, circular or oblong — in short, by the end of the search, my eyes were seeing nothing but "Valletta" all over.

Having picked up my last batch of a hundred, I came across a pleated block. I did not bother to open it up, as I was saying to myself, "this is yet another Valletta, why bother!". My conscience pricked me at the moment, and this made me hesitate. Suddenly I stopped... looked again at this particular pleated block... thought it over again and opened it gently.

Much to my surprise, behold, there it was — a block of four with an extra fifth, for good measure, struck with a superb "XEUCHIA-GOZO" village postmark right in the middle and another part strike "XEUC..." on the additional stamp.

This was indeed the find of a lifetime. It certainly made me satisfied and quickly erased from my memory the dull and monotonous hours, characteristic of my long and seemingly endless search.

DR. E. AQUILINA

* * *

Do you have an exciting or unusual experience you would like to relate to your fellow collectors? Everybody must have had some unusual experience during his or her years as a stamp collector.

In other words, we would like to receive your reports of what constituted for you a memorable experience in your stamp collecting career. Keep them short and interesting to read.



QUALITY PRINTERS

SECURITY PRINTERS

Printex Ltd. Mill Str., Qormi, Malta

TWENTY ANSWERS

1. Mauritius — 1847 and 1848.
2. Sudan.
3. Postmaster at Hamilton, Bermuda, who issued his own adhesive stamps between 1848 and 1961.
4. Sir Francis Chister's round-the-world solo voyage in 'Gipsy Moth IV' in 1966/67. SG 751.
5. Malta 1956/57 — 3d. 'King's Scroll'. SG 272.
6. Barbados (1852), Mauritius (1854), Trinidad (1851).
7. Guernsey (Bailliwick) 1969/70 — 1d and 1/6d.
Latitude shown as 40° 30' N — later corrected to 49° 30' N.
8. Ionian Islands — 1859.
9. Cape of Good Hope triangulars of 1861.
10. Kenya, Uganda & Tanganyika — K.G.V T.9, K.G.V. T.15: 'Dhow on Lake Victoria' — Rope not joined to sail.
11. Western Australia.
12. Error on certain stamps of K.G.V Silver Jubilee issues showing an extra flagstaff on Windsor Castle.
13. British Guiana 1856 — 1c black/magenta SG 23.
14. Seaweed — Channel Islands 1948: 3rd Anniversary of Liberation.
15. Leeward Islands — S.G. 'Georgian' Key-Type.
16. Malta — George Cross: 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1967.
17. South Africa (Union) — 'Union Day' 1960 3d SG 184.
18. South Africa (Union) — English and Afrikaans.
19. G.B. 'World Cup Football Competition' 1966 — 4d SG 693.
surcharged 'England Winners' SG 700.
20. Gibraltar 1886; overprinting on Bermuda.

THE RESULT

Entries in the competition were opened and the answers checked during the Committee meeting of September 2, 1977. The two best entries had only one wrong answer and the Committee decided to award first place to the one who had given more detailed answers, reflecting deeper research.

Dr. J.A. Attard was thus placed first and wins a copy of the "Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Catalogue — 1978" kindly donated by Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd.

Mr. J. Porcella Flores had the second best replies, and although it was originally intended to award only one prize, the Committee decided to award him free membership for 1978.

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

TELECOMMUNICATION ISSUE

Date of Issue	17th. May, 1977.
Values	1c, 6c, 8c, 17c.
Stamp Size	38mm x 20mm.
Art Designer	Harry Borg.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 x 13.85 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways in 1c and 6c values, but pointing upwards in 8c and 17c values.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

- 1c Green, Red and Black.
- 6c Turquoise, Red and Black.
- 8c Terracotta, Red and Black.
- 17c Violet, Red and Black.

Designs:—

Since 1969, the International Telecommunication Union has designated the 17th. May of each year as "World Telecommunication Day" during which publicity is given to the important and useful work the I.T.U. is performing within the United Nations Organisation. The I.T.U. also chooses, every year, a special theme to mark this special day. The theme chosen for 1977 is "Telecommunication and Development". The two designs featured in this set symbolize the progress made in telecommunication and development in the Maltese Islands.

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 the 8c and 17c values, but in the top left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the top row for the 1c and 6c values. To avoid misunderstandings, it must be remembered 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 at the right hand side of the bottom margin. In this way, looking at Panes of the 8c and 17c values, the stamps will be seen sideways resting on their 38mm side. In the 1c and 6c values, the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of these two values. In the 8c and 17c values, the colours from top to bottom correspond to the colour used for Pane numbers from right to left, on all Panes of these two values.

I think it will be of interest to note, that since Printex have been producing Malta stamps, apart from some of the Europa issues in small sheets of ten, there was only the Triptych Pane "A" of the Xmas. 1975 issue, which had the colour checks separated from the Imprint Block of four. Even in this case they were included in the Plate Block. But in this Telecomm. issue, for the first time, anyone wanting a block including the colour checks for the 1c and 6c values, must buy this block from the top, left hand corner of the Pane. This block will neither include the Pane numbers nor the Printers Imprint.

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

The Printed Sheets of all four values consist of four Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. Stamps of the 1c and 6c values are of the vertical format, while the 8c and 17c values are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row. I noticed that whilst in the 1c and 6c values, the Plate/Pane numbers are more or less in line, they are not so in the 8c and 17c values.

1c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3, 1D x 3.

6c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3, 1D x 3.

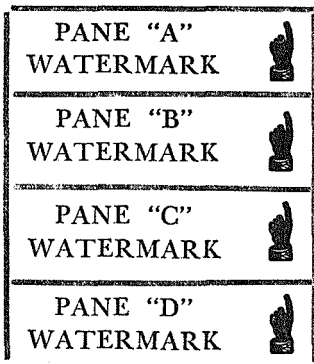
8c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3, 1D x 3.

17c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3, 1D x 3.

Perforation of Margins:—

In each of the 1c and 6c values, the top, bottom and left hand margins, of all four Panes are fully perforated, whilst the right hand margin of these same Panes are imperforate. In each of the 8c and 17c values, the top, bottom and right hand margins, of all four Panes are fully perforated, whilst the left hand margin of these same Panes are imperforate.

Registration marks in the form of short coloured horizontal lines were seen at the top of the right hand margin on Panes "C" only, in the 1c and 6c values. Similar lines were also seen at the bottom of the left hand margin on Panes "B" only, in the 8c and 17c values. From a study of all the details given,



the Printed Sheet, before cutting, of all four values would look as shown on left. It has to be noticed that the direction of watermark in the Printed Sheets is the same in all four values. But looking at the Printed Sheets in this way, stamps of the 8c and 17c values will be seen the right way up, and stamps of the 1c and 6c values will be seen sideways resting on their 38mm side. Hence when individual stamps are examined and looked at, the right way up, the watermark in the 8c and 17c values will be found upright and that in the 1c and 6c values will be found sideways.

Imprint Blocks:—

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is under the last stamp of the bottom row and printed in red in all four values. Letters are 1mm high. An Imprint Block of four will include the colour checks in the 8c and 17c values but not in the 1c and 6c values. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail, inscribed with the date "17-5-77" and the words "L-EWWEL JUM TAL-ĦRUG", "MALTA" and the name of the respective locality. The emblem of the I.T.U. was also featured thereon. Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of the issue, the amount realised from the sale of these stamps was £M40,031.

*****>

EUROPA 1977 ISSUE

Date of Issue	5th. July 1977.
Values	7c and 20c.
Stamp Size	43mm x 21.5mm.
Art Designer	George Fenech.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.35 x 13.75 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

The colour of these stamps was produced by the four colour process.

Designs:—

The subjects of the two designs, featuring “Ta’ I-Isperanza” (7c) and “Is-Salini” (20c) — two localities in Malta, have been selected in conformity with the guide-lines given by the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations for 1977.

This is the seventh Europa Set, and has again been issued in small Panes of ten stamps. Except for the first issue in 1971, which was issued in normal sheets of 60 stamps, all the rest from 1972 to date have been produced in sheet-lets of ten stamps. (I wonder if its about time that these Europa issues are produced in the normal way, in Panes of 50 stamps, like any other issue).

Both values are of the horizontal format. Each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. The first space of the tow row, is used for the wording, “EUROPA 1977”. The first space of the second row is used to describe the design of the stamp and also shows the C.E.P.T. symbol. The value of a whole Pane of ten stamps is seen in the top margin above the middle stamp.

Colour checks, in the form of four coloured discs, 3mm in diameter, are seen on each Pane, in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the top row. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes of both values. This last statement is not strictly true because the third colour (magenta) from the top, in the colour checks, is missing in the Pane numbers, on all Panes of both values. This is the first time since Printex have been producing Malta stamps that all the colours in the colour checks are not seen again in the Plate/Pane numbers.

There are nine Panes of ten stamps, to each Printed Sheet of each value.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row. As stated earlier, only three colours are seen instead of four, even though space seems to have been provided for the missing colour.

7c = 1A x 3 up to and including 1I x 3.

20c = 1A x 3 up to and including 1I x 3.

Perforation of Margins:—










The top margin of Panes “A”, “B”, and “C” of both values are imperforate. The top margins of all Panes from “D” to “I” are perforated in both values.

(Contd. on next page)

SCANDINAVIAN PHILATELIC LITERATURE

A priced list of Scandinavian Philatelic Literature is available, for 1 I.R.C. from: Scandinavian International Philately, P.O.B. 8042, Rotterdam, Holland.

(Contd. from previous page)

PANE "A" WMK. 	PANE "B" WMK. 	PANE "C" WMK. 
PANE "D" WMK. 	PANE "E" WMK. 	PANE "F" WMK. 
PANE "G" WMK. 	PANE "H" WMK. 	PANE "I" WMK. 

The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of all Panes from "A" to "I" in both values are perforated. From the information given, the Printed Sheet before cutting would have looked as shown on left. This is similar to the setting used in the Europa 1976 issue.

Imprint Blocks:—

The Imprint, "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA", in letters 1mm high, is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row.

A special hand-postmark inscribed with the date, "5.VII.77" and the words "LEWWEL JUM TAL-ĦRUG", "MALTA" and the name of the respective locality was used on the first day of issue. The emblem of the C.E.P.T. also featured on the postmark.

On the first day of issue sales amounted to £M216,371 which compares very favourably with last year's Europa set.



INDEX TO PLATE & IMPRINT BLOCKS 1972 — 1977

For the convenience of Plate & Imprint Blocks collectors, the following index is included. The first number refers to the Volume, the second figure refers to the Number, and the third number refers to pagination.

- 1972: Heart — 5, 3, 7; Decimal Coinage — 5, 3, 7; Overprints — 5, 3, 8; Europa — 5, 3, 8; Christmas — 5, 3, 9. ...
- 1973: Decimal Definitives — 5, 2, 5; Decimal Postage Dues — 5, 2, 6; Europa — 5, 2, 6; International Anniversaries — 5, 2, 6; Christmas — 5, 2, 7.
- 1974: Prominent People — 5, 1, 10; Air Mail Definitives — 5, 1, 10; Europa — 5, 1, 11; U.P.U. Centenary — 5, 1, 11; Christmas — 5, 1, 12.
- 1975: Republic of Malta — 5, 2, 8; International Women's Year — 5, 3, 10; Europa — 6, 1/2, 37; European Architectural Heritage Year — 6, 1/2, 38; Christmas — 6, 1/2, 40; Republic Anniversary — 6, 1/2, 42; £M2 Definitive — 6, 1/2, 43.
- 1976: Maltese Folklore — 6, 1/2, 44; XXI Olympiads — 6, 2, 15; Europa — 6, 2, 16; School of Anatomy & Surgery — 6, 2, 18; Christmas — 7, 1, 14.
- 1977: Suits of Armour — 7, 1, 17; 1c7 Overprint — 7, 2, 16; Flemish Tapestries — 7, 2, 17; I.T.U. — 7, 3, 19; Europa — 7, 3, 21.

RADIO, TELEVISION AND PHILATELY IN MALTA

Although the Maltese Islands are small in size, in the world of philately, Malta caters exceptionally well for stamp collectors, especially through the mass media, and in particular, through radio and television. At one time this year, Malta could boast of three radio programmes for stamp collectors as well as a television series.

Postal History on Television

During the first half of this year, "Television Malta" transmitted fortnightly a series of programmes, averaging a quarter of an hour, on the "History of Postal Service in the Maltese Islands". The series was incorporated in the popular weekly programme for the whole family, "Dawra Madwarna" presented by well-known actor John Suda. Mr. Nick A. Cutajar, our Editor, was responsible for the script and presentation of the series on the postal history of Malta. A large number of captions, showing covers, stamps, and official notices, as well as a substantial number of slides were used to illustrate each and every programme throughout.

This has been the first time that a television series on the postal history of the Maltese Islands was ever devised and we offer our congratulations to "Television Malta" for the initiative. Maybe in the future, we can have a series on the stamps of Malta.

Meanwhile, as a result of the demand for copies of the script used in the televised series, Mr. Nick A. Cutajar has produced a stencilled copy of the whole series, in two languages, Maltese and English. Those interested may write to Mr. Cutajar direct.

Philatelic Radio Programmes

At one time this year, three philatelic radio programmes were on the air; a feat few countries can boast of, consideration of size and audience recognized. The first philatelic radio programme went on the air, just over five years ago, on Station B (Maltese Language) of Rediffusion, as it was then known. It was in mid-September, 1972, when Mr. Nick A. Cutajar presented the first radio programme for the stamp collectors of Malta and Gozo. Since then this programme has kept its appointment uninterruptedly, every fortnight, bringing the world of stamps into the homes of the Maltese families.

A few years later, Radio Malta introduced a weekly philatelic radio programme as well, run and conducted by Mr. Harry Vella, the local philatelic journalist. In 1975, yet another philatelic programme was inaugurated, when the B.F.B.S. Radio Station at Floriana, included a 5-minute slot, "Stamp News" conducted by Society member, Mr. Edward Collins, who earlier this

year, had to bring the programme to a close, as he was returning back to England. It is reliably understood that Mr. Collins will be pressing for a philatelic radio programme in the U.K.

International Stamp Exchanges through Radio

Entitled "The Stamp Collectors", the programme conducted by Mr. Nick A. Cutajar, has just celebrated its fifth anniversary and for the occasion, "Xandir Malta" is launching a unique scheme which proposes closer co-operation between philatelic radio programmes throughout the world. The idea behind the scheme, originated by Mr. Cutajar, consists of the compilation of lists of collectors who want to establish contacts with other collectors in other parts of the world. Editors of philatelic radio programmes throughout the world, and others connected with similar programmes are being invited to participate in the scheme, considered to be the first of its kind in the broadcasting sphere.



INLAND POST OFFICE SERVICE 1881

During Sitting N. 22 of Wednesday, December 14, 1881, of the Council of Government, Council member Mr. Cassar Desain put forward the following question:

"I wish to ask the Hon. Chief Secretary to Government to state, 'Whether there is any objection to issue a Notice, amending and reforming that of the 28th July, 1876 (No. 57) in such a manner, as to ensure punctual delivery of letters and newspapers in the Country District, including Gozo; 1st By ordering that all letters and newspapers provided with an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp, even though they may not happen to have the name of the street and number of the house clearly written on them, shall be delivered by the Police at the house of the person to whom they may be directed; 2nd By providing that the Inland Post shall work on Sundays and holidays."

The Chief Secretary replied:-

"I think that a rule may be established to the following effect: that local letters prepaid a penny ought to be delivered at the house whenever the addresses can be found, no matter whether the addresses be quite complete or not, and that any neglect should be reported to the Post-Master, at the same time, forwarding the particulars of the irregularity. When the delivery of a letter is delayed, the envelope of the letter should be sent. As to the second question, the Government does not consider it expedient, for many reasons, to work the Inland Posts on Sundays and holidays, and it is improbable that the Post-Master General would lend the officers of the Imperial Post Office for the purpose. The Mail Contractor would certainly not undertake the work without additional remuneration."

MALTA — A DIARY

January — June

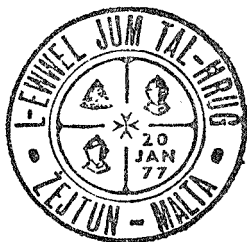
- 3-1-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded:— “Next Stamp Issue — Suits of Armour Set — 20th. January 1977”, was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta, from the 3rd. January, 1977.
- 20-1-77 “Suits of Armour Set” issued to-day. The set remained on sale up to Tuesday 19th. April 1977, unless stocks were previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 1).
- 15-3-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded:— “Next Stamp Issue — Flemish Tapestries Set — 30th. March 1977”, was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta, from the 15th. March 1977.
- 18-3-77 Notice No. 130, in to-day’s Government Gazette, stated:— With reference to Government Notice No. 217 of the 20th. April, 1976, regarding the exchange of invalidated sterling denomination postage stamps for other valid stamps of an equal value, the public is hereby reminded that no such invalidated postage stamps will be exchanged after the 19th. April, 1977.
- 24-3-77 “Overprint 1c7 Stamp” issued to-day. This 4d. stamp, from the “Historic Definitive Set 1965”, was overprinted in letterpress at the Government Printing Press. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 3).
- 30-3-77 “Flemish Tapestries Set” issued to-day. The set is to remain on sale up to Friday, 29th. July 1977, unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 2).
- 3-4-77 On the occasion of the first Air Malta Flight, Malta/Zurich on Sunday 3rd. April, the Malta Post Office used a special hand postmark indicating the date of the first flight and place of destination. The postmark was used at the Philatelic Bureau, Auberge d’Italie, Merchants Street, Valletta.
- 6-4-77 On the occasion of the first Air Malta Flight, Malta/Vienna on Wednesday, 6th April, the Malta Post Office again used a special hand postmark indicating the date of the first flight and place of destination. The postmark was again used at the Philatelic Bureau.
- 11-4-77 The Postmaster General notified for general information that five “postage paid” hand stamps were used as from Monday, 11th. April 1977. Four of the hand stamps, inscribed by the words “General Post Office — Malta — Paid” were used at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, and the other, inscribed by the words “Victoria Post Office — Gozo — Paid”, was used at the Branch Post Office, Victoria Gozo. Each of these five “postage paid” hand stamps was used for the 5m, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c and 7c values.
All “postage paid” hand stamps currently in use at the Central Mail Room, Valletta, and at the Branch Post Office, Victoria, Gozo were withdrawn at the close of business on Saturday, 9th. April, 1977.
- 13-4-77 A machine stamp-cancelling slogan marking the 30th. anniversary of the setting up of the International Civil Aviation Organisation was used at the Central Mail Room, Castille Place, Valletta, on the 13th., 14th., and 15th. April 1977.

- 27-4-77 A machine stamp-cancelling slogan worded:— "Next Stamp Issue — World Telecommunication — Day Set — 17 May 1977" was used at the Central Mail Room, as from Wednesday, 27th April, 1977.
- 30-4-77 The Malta Post Office participated in "Europa '77" — the 17th. International Exhibition of European Postage Stamps and the 17th. Philatelic Salon of African States. The Exhibition was held in Naples from the 30th. April to 8th. May 1977.
- 2-5-77 The Postmaster General notified for general information that "postage paid" machine stamps was going to be used at the Branch Post Offices of Birkirkara, Ħamrun, Paola and Sliema as from Monday 2nd. May, 1977. Each of these "postage paid" machine stamps is inscribed with the words "Paid", "Malta" and the name of the respective Branch Post Office. The "postage paid" machine stamps of Ħamrun and Sliema Branch Post Offices were each going to be used for the 5m, 1c, 2c and 3c values and those of Birkirkara and Paola were each going to be used for the 1c, 2c and 3c values.
- 3-5-77 The 8m and 7c5 values of the present Decimal Definitive Postage Issue have been reprinted by Printex Limited, Malta. These stamps were available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau, as from this date. This is the second reprint of the 8m value and the first reprint of the 7c5 value.
- 17-5-77 "World Telecommunications Day" set issued today. This set is to remain on sale up to Saturday, 31st. December, 1977 unless stocks are previously exhausted. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. (Fig. 4).
- 23-5-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading:— "Stamp Auction In Aid Of — Rehabilitation Centre — Malta 11 June 1977" was used at the Central Mail Room, as from Monday, 23rd. May 1977.
- 26-5-77 The Department of Posts participated in the Official Class of the International Postage Stamp Exhibition, "Amphilex '77" which was held under the patronage of the F.I.P.
- 1-6-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Jum Dinji — Ta' L-Ambjent — 5 Ta' Ġunju" was used at the Central Mail Room, on the 1st., 2nd., 3rd. and 4th. June 1977.
- 20-6-77 A machine stamp cancelling slogan worded:— "Next Stamp Issue — Europa 1977 — 5 July 1977", was used at the Central Mail Room, as from Monday, 20th. June, 1977.
- 20-6-77 The Postmaster General notified that a temporary Branch Post Office was to be opened at the Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard from the 20h. June 1977 to the 25th. June 1977, on the occasion of the holding of the 2nd. Conference for the Progressive Socialist Organisations and Parties of the Mediterranean.
The hours of business of the temporary Branch Post Office were:— from Monday, 20th. to Friday, 24th. June
8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
on Saturday, 25th. June, 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

Business transacted consisted of the sale of stamps and postal stationery, registration of letters, issue and payment of Money and Postal Orders, as well as Posting of Parcels.

Postal articles posted at this temporary Branch Post Office were postmarked with a date-stamp inscribed with the following words:— "Mediterranean Socialist Conference, Malta" over the emblem of the Progressive Socialist Organisations and Parties of the Mediterranean. (Fig. 5).

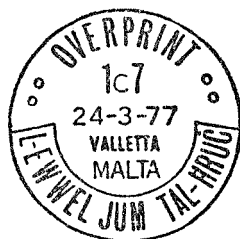
24-6-77 The Postmaster General notified that a special hand date-stamp worded:— "St. John Ambulance — 1877-1977 — Malta" was going to be used at the Central Mail Room, on the 24th. June, 1977. (Fig. 6).



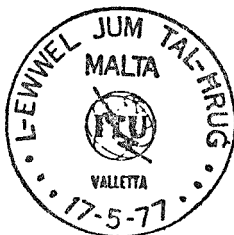
1



2



3



4



5



6

WANTED TO BUY
MALTA
MINT AND USED STAMPS

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

REPUBLIC OF MALTA

CHRISTMAS 1977



PRINTED IN SHEETS OF 50 & 75 (Vertical Set x 25)
DATE OF ISSUE: 16th NOVEMBER 1977
ARTWORK PREPARED BY CHEV. EMVIN CREMONA
PHILATELIC SERVICES — PHILATELIC BUREAU G.P.O MALTA