



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

OF MALTA

T H E P H I L A T E L I C S O C I E T Y O F M A L T A
C H O O S E T H E M O S T B E A U T I F U L M A L T A S T A M P O F 1 9 7 6

The Philatelic Society of Malta is this year holding the second international contest to select "the most beautiful Malta Stamp of 1976". Known as "Vote A Stamp", the contest is being held during the first quarter of 1977, and it is open to all collectors.

Last year's contest was successfully terminated on June 7th, 1976, during the end-of-season monthly meeting of the Society. The 5c "Europa" stamp, featuring a reproduction of Francesco de Mura's painting, entitled "Allegory of Malta" was declared the winner.

The success of last year's vote is evident from the numerous votes received from every part of the world. It is hoped that through your vote, this year's result will be more representative of the views of the collectors of the Malta stamp.

Collectors are invited to single out one stamp, which in their opinion is the most beautiful stamp issued by the Malta Post Office during 1976. Various prizes are at the disposal of the Society, the first three, consisting of a complete collection of the stamps released during 1976, will be awarded from among those who vote for the stamp that attains the highest number of votes. A number of consolation prizes will be awarded to the rest of the participants.

Post cards or letters, including the name and address of the sender are to clearly show the value and subject of the stamp, and preferably include the reasons for the choice. Letters are to reach the Hon.Secretary, by not later than March 31st, 1977.

Letters should be addressed to:

The Hon.Secretary,

Dr.A.Ganado,

The Philatelic Society of Malta

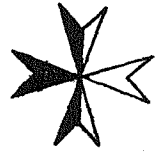
"Vote A Stamp"

1 Scots Street,

Valletta, Malta.



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA MAGAZINE



VOL. 6 No. 3

AUTUMN 1976

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FOREWORD

With the Tenth Anniversary celebrations now part of the history of organised philately in Malta, it is for the future to bear witness to the efforts that have been made in boosting philately within our precincts. The results are not yet ascertained in full, but already there are tangible proofs. One point emerges clear and deserving our immediate consideration: suddenly there appears to be an incredible world-wide interest in our Society.

Letters are still being received from various parts of the globe requesting copies of the tenth anniversary edition of our magazine, details of the Society set-up and membership, the results of the "Vote A Stamp" contest, and contacts with the Society and its members for exchange purposes.

Elsewhere in this issue we are publishing a list of the new members that have joined our Society during the year. There are some others whose membership is still being processed and whose names and addresses will be published in the next issue. To all these new members we extend a warm welcome and it is hoped that their contribution will be available.

The letters mentioned above arrived from various parts of the world but mainly from the United Kingdom and the United States. This shows that while the U.K. still retains its interest in Malta, the American collector is showing an increase of interest, not only in the Society, but in the stamps of Malta.

In reply to the unprecedented amount of queries received, a letter-circular has had to be prepared and mailed. Several correspondents who wished to establish exchange contacts with members of our Society will be listed in a special file, available to all interested members from the Secretary.

Meanwhile the "Vote A Stamp" contest has generated an interest in both the Society and the Stamps of Malta. It is hoped that the contest will be an annual event. All members are kindly requested to give the contest as much publicity as they can and are invited to obtain copies of the leaflets explaining the contest for sending to their fellow collectors.

In closing, it is with a deep sense of dedication that the Committee has embarked on new efforts to provide a better service to all its members. This will be undoubtedly call for further financial strains and it is for this reason that a great importance is being attached to membership dues and subscriptions. Your contributions will always be appreciated while it is emphasized that your immediate settlement of dues lessens the worries of the Committee.

THE EDITOR

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Society brought to a close the celebrations marking the Tenth Anniversary of its Foundation, with a dinner, held at the Green Lounge of the Hotel Phoenicia, Floriana. The function was presided by the President, Dr. J. H. Mercieca, and attended by a large number of members and their guests, including some from overseas. The President welcomed the Postmaster General, Mr. G. W. Borg and Mrs. Borg, who were guests of honour, as well as the numerous members and their guests.

The Hall was appropriately decorated and, behind the top table, was displayed the Maltese flag, in the centre of which hang a large framed reproduction of the first Malta stamp of 1860, the half-penny Queen Victoria Yellow.

The menu was expressed for the occasion in appropriate philatelic terms, neatly printed on special cards bearing the emblem of the Society. On every menu, a current Malta stamp was affixed and cancelled with the special commemorative postmark, authorised by the Malta Post Office the previous day. The menu was placed in a commemorative envelope, specially printed for the occasion, and addressed at the Hotel Phoenicia, bearing the name of the diner.

After the dinner, the President delivered a speech, in which he outlined the achievements of the Society since its foundation on March 7, 1966. He also dwelt on the position of Malta's stamps within the shores of our country and abroad, and offered the Society's help and advice whenever this was needed. Dr. J. H. Mercieca, concluded by thanking the Minister of Posts and Electricity, and the Postmaster General for providing the prizes in the recent "Vote A Stamp" competition, and for the approval in the use of the special Tenth Anniversary commemorative postmark. The President, then toasted "The Guest of Honour".

Mr. G. W. Borg, in his reply, said how pleased he had been to be associated with the Philatelic Society of Malta on this auspicious occasion, and wished the Society continued success. Mr. Borg, expressed his desire for closer co-operation between the Department and the Society in matters pertaining to philately, which would immensely contribute to keeping high the good name of the Malta Stamp.

Mr. Borg then proposed the toast "*The Philatelic Society of Malta*".

THE COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARK

The special commemorative postmark, which had been authorised by the Malta Post Office, was only used for one day, on June 25th, 1976. The rectangular postmark incorporated the Society's emblem, based on the half-

penny Q.V. Yellow, both of which were designed by the Society's treasurer, Mr. George M. Pace. The emblem, a near square rectangle, with four quadrants cut off, carries the words around the three sides: "PHILATELIC/SOCIETY/OF MALTA" while at the bottom the foundation date - 1966. The postmark carried the emblem to the left, and the appropriate wording TENTH/ANNIVERSARY/25 JUNE 1976/VALLETTA-MALTA/1966-1976".

Special covers were prepared by the Society in a very limited edition to take the stamp and commemorative postmark. A cover reproduced the Society's emblem in an enlarged format, while a souvenir card, apart from the emblem also incorporated a reproduction of an early "M" cancellation in black, which was used to cancel the first Malta stamp for a very short time, prior to the use of the circular date-stamp.

Every fully paid member, received a set of the special philatelic items, which consisted of a souvenir sheet and a commemorative cover. The cover was signed by the President, Dr. J. H. Mercieca and the designer, Mr. G. M. Pace. In addition, members were mailed a copy of the magazine published especially for the Tenth Anniversary, in a cover bearing a 1c stamp cancelled with the commemorative postmark.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Mr. Godwin Said, Commissioner in Malta for HAFNIA 76 and ITALIA 76 has forwarded the following results and details about international exhibitions.

HAFNIA 76 20th — 29th August 1976

Malta and its stamps were featured at Hafnia '76, held under the auspices of the F.I.P., and the first international philatelic exhibition held in Denmark to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the first Danish stamp. The Malta Post Office participated in the Official Class, while both local and foreign philatelists entered their collections in the Competition Section.

The following are the results achieved by local philatelists and members:

Dr. A. Bonnici — Vermeil Medal. (Queen Victoria ½d Yellows)

Mr. Godwin Said — Silver Medal (Malta Postal History)

Mr. Anthony Fenech — Silver/Bronze (Early Malta Cancellations)

Messrs. Emmanuel Said — Bronze Medal (Said Malta Stamp & Coin Catalogue 1976).

A highly specialized collection of Malta stamps under the nome-de-plume "Milex" from the United Kingdom distinguished itself and was awarded a coveted Gold Medal. Another Malta collection from Finland obtained a Bronze Medal.

FRANKFURT AIRMAIL EXHIBITION — May 1976

Dr A. Bonnici — Silver Medal (Malta Airmails)

ITALIA 76 14th — 24th October

Malta's stamps and philatelists from Malta also did exceptionally well at ITALIA 76, the international philatelic exhibition held in Milan under the auspices of the F.I.P. All Maltese participants distinguished themselves with the highest award for a Maltese Philatelist and for Malta being a Gold Medal.

The following local philatelists and members of the Society participated:

Dr. A. Bonnici — Gold Medal (Queen Victoria $\frac{1}{2}$ d Yellows)

Mr. Anthony Fenech — Vermeil Medal (Foreign used in Malta)

Mr. Godwin Said — Silver Medal (Malta Postal History)

Messrs. Emmanuel Said — Bronze/Silver (Said Malta Stamp & Coin Catalogue 1976)

Mr. Nick Cutajar — Bronze Medal ("Cronaca Di Malta" published in "FRANCO-BOLLI", Rome).

These awards provide an invaluable boost to Maltese philately and the Society, apart from the satisfaction they give to the participants, to whom we extend our congratulations. These awards, of course, offer an encouragement to other Malta collectors to exhibit their philatelic treasures, especially at international exhibitions. This has now become possible as participation in International Exhibitions is a direct result of the efforts of the Philatelic Society of Malta in affiliating to the International Federation of Philately.

"AMPHILEX 77" 26th May — 5th June 1977

In co-operation with the Netherlands Postal and Telecommunications services, the Philatelic Foundation of Netherlands will be organizing "AMPHILEX 77", under the patronage of the F.I.P. The International Exhibition will be held between the 26th May and 5th June 1977 in Amsterdam. The various sections in the Competition class include Postal History, Thematic and Subject collections, Aerophilately, Junior and Literature. Further details are available from Mr. Godwin Said, National Commissioner, "Scorpio", 114 Tower Road, Sliema.

"CAPEX 78" 9th — 18th June 1978

The Society has received details of the second international stamp exhibition to be held in Canada, known as "Capex 78", which will commemorate the centenary of Canada's entry into the Universal Postal Union in 1878. "Capex 78", which will take place from June 9th to 18th, 1978, is being organized by the Toronto Association of Philatelic Exhibitions under the sponsorship of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the patronage of the F.I.P. Further details are obtainable from: "Capex 78", P.O. Box 204, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4T 2M1.

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THE EVOLUTION OF THE ONE HALF PENNY QUEEN VICTORIA YELLOW STAMP

by

Dr. ALFRED BONNICI

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

CHAPTER 3

1863-1868 S.G. & Said Nos. 5-7

Watermarked paper Crown CC began to be used with the 4th printing of 17th April, 1863 and continued to be used up to the 24th printing of 28th March, 1881.

INVERTED WATERMARK:

Normally, this watermark is found in an upright position, but specimens of the 4th printing are known with inverted watermark. Other printings with inverted or reversed watermark have been recorded and these inverted watermarks will be pointed out under each printing individually.

With the introduction of "watermark paper" marginal inscriptions were used for the first time in 1863. The plate "No. 1" uncoloured in a coloured circle, appeared at the NE and SW corners of the sheet. The words MALTA — POSTAGE ONE HALF-PENNY were printed in the horizontal margins above the four panes. A perforation guide across was also printed in the upper margin. These margins and those of the sides were watermarked "CROWN COLONIES".

RIGHT & LEFT WINGED MARGINS:

The perforation between the upper two panes and the lower two panes was central giving rise to 20 "Right Winged" margin, and 20 "Left Winged" margin stamps in each sheet. When these Right and Left Winged margined stamps form blocks, they are known as "Interpanneau Blocks".

This system of central perforation between panes continued up to the 19th printing. With the 20th printing, a new perforating machine was introduced (14 x 12½), perforating the stamps close to the margins, doing away with the wings, and instead, we have an independent perforated strip separating the "Left and Right" panes vertically.

4TH PRINTING:

Buff (S.G. & Said No. 5).
Invoiced on 17th April, 1863.
From Private Day Book AA Page 168.

4TH INVOICE: 17th April, 1863.

Agents General for Crown Colonies Malta Postage

115 Sheets of Postage x 240 = 27,600 1 5 3

Case lined tin 6

1 11 3

Delivered to Mr. Winckley

COLOUR — BUFF: The 4th printing (S.G. & Said No. 5) Buff are nearer to a Pale-Brown and the following supplies (4, 5, 7 and 8) can only be differentiated by a careful study of dated copies.

PAPER: The 4th printing was on a thin hard surfaced paper and the shade of the stamp is Buff, very similar to the 'unwatermarked' 3rd printing (S.G. & Said No. 3).

EARLIEST-LATEST DATES RECORDED: It was issued in Malta in June 1863, the earliest recorded date is 4th June, 1863 (Orme) (Royal Collection) and the latest recorded date is 19th May, 1864 on piece, (Bonnici Malta).

Strips, Wing margin blocks of four, and a pane of 60 with sheet margin at top, have been recorded (Harmer 15/16, 1970 sale as lots Nos. 175, 176 and 177), and a strip of 5, block of 4, block 3 x 2, and block of 24 mint recorded in (Harmer 5/26, 1971 sale as lots Nos. 458, 459, 460 and 461), and an inverted watermark has been recorded by (Orme and Cann).

An imprimatur from the foot of the sheet has been recorded in Robson Lowe (19th May 1963 sale, item 500) as well as a copy overprinted SPECIMEN in small print, printed on a 10" incline (item 501) exists.

5TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 5).
Pale-brown to Brown. Watermark Crown CC. White paper.
Perf. 14. Invoiced on 11th January, 1864.
Invoiced on 11th January, 1864.
Private Day Book A page 233.

5TH INVOICE: 11th January, 1864.
Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage
103 sheets x 240 duty half-penny = 24,720 @ 11d 1 2 8
Case lined tin 2 4

1 5 2

COLOUR: The colour of this printing is best described as Pale-Brown, although extreme cases exist of "Dark Brown" stamps with blurred impression due to over-inking.

EARLIEST-LATEST DATES RECORDED: This supply was issued in Malta in 1864 and the earliest recorded date is 1st June, 1864 (Clough), whilst the latest recorded date is 2nd December, 1867 on piece (Bonnici Malta).

The top three rows of the Right and Left pane with the inscription "Malta Postage One Half-Penny" on each, making a block of 36 has been recorded, but I believe that this has now been broken up. In the top Right hand pane, 2nd row 2nd stamp from right, there is a crack in the plate under the letter "E" of PENNY which can be followed constantly through to the 30th printing, proving the same plate was used throughout.

SPECIMEN: Copies of this printing have been recorded with SPECIMEN in small thin type.

6TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 6)
Bright Orange Watermark Crown CC White Perf 14
Invoiced on 7th September, 1864.
Private Day Book B, page 32.

6TH INVOICE: 7th September, 1864.
Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage
107 sheets Duty "one half-penny"
25,680 @ 11d =

1	3	6
3	6	
1	7	2

Packed in tin lined case

Delivered to Mr. Winckley

COLOUR Between the 5th and the 7th printing there is a Bright Orange printing, (S.G. & Said No. 6) but varying from Pale to Bright according to the amount of ink used, and mostly on thin surfaced paper. The ink is mineral and does not stain the paper as does the 15th printing "Golden Yellow".

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES: It was issued in Malta at the end of 1864 the earliest recorded being 4th November, 1864 (Orme) and the latest 4th December, 1865 on piece, (Bonnici Malta).

INVERTED WATERMARK: Inverted watermark stamps have been recorded of this printing, (Bonnici).

7TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 5)
Buff watermark Crown CC Perf 14.
Invoiced on 30th March, 1865.
From Private Day Book B Page 114.

7TH INVOICE: 30th March, 1865.
Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage
102 sheets Duty one half-penny
240 = 24,480 @ 11d

1	2	5
5		
1	7	5

Packed in tin lined case and cartage

COLOUR:

The 9th printing of the 2nd October, 1866 S.G. & Said No. 7 is of a distinctive "pale red brown". The ink is clear, though varying in depth, and this together with the reddish tinge, distinguishes it from the deeper shades of S.G. & Said No. 5 with which it might otherwise be confused.

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES:

It was issued in Malta in early 1867 and the earliest recorded date is 1st January, 1867 (Royal Collection) and the latest 11th January, 1869 (Ganado, Malta). A copy dated 6th May, 1867 on letter has been recorded (Clive Smith). Winged Marginal Mint blocks of nine have been recorded.

10TH PRINTING:

(S.G. & Said No. 8)
Brownish — Buff WMK Crown CC, Rough Perf 12½.
Invoiced on 27th May, 1868.
From Private Book C Page 193.

10TH INVOICE:

27th May, 1868.

Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage

240 sheets duty one half-penny	
240 on each sheet = 48,000 stamps @ 1/6	3 12
Case lined tin	5 6
	<hr/>
	3 17 6

PERF 14 x 12½:

This is the first printing that departed from the previous perforation 14, perforated by the line machine. This printing and printing No. 12 of July 1870 has a perforation of 12½. But whereas printing No. 10 of May, 1868 has a rough perforation, printing No. 13 of 21st July, 1870 has a clean cut and is thus easily distinguished.

COLOUR:

The 10th printing (S.G. & Said No. 8) exists in two slightly different shades of "buff-brown" and the perforation is rough, varying from very rough to tolerably clean-cut. Vertical pairs have been found imperforate on top and bottom (Harmer 19th April, 1971 sale item 21), and an unused specimen, imperf horizontally is in the Tapling collection, coming from the right hand corner of a sheet.

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES:

This printing was issued in Malta at the end of 1868. The earliest date is 3rd November, 1868 (Orme) and the latest recorded 31st May, 1870 (Mrs. Turnbull). Mint blocks of four have been recorded (Harmer 15/16th June, 1970 item 205).

MEETINGS

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



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members who joined the Society during the year.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 222 | Mr. William Borg Carabott | 195, Prince of Wales Rd., Sliema. |
| 223 | Mr. Anthony Padovani Ginies | 75, St. John the Baptist St., Sliema. |
| 224 | Mr. Joseph Booker | 50, Church St., Sliema. |
| 225 | Mr. Eugenio Pace Meli | "St. Rita", 21 Eldorado St., Hamrun |
| 226 | Mr. Godfrey Holland Youngs | 5, Lascaris Bldgs., Lascaris Wharf,
Valletta. |
| 227 | Mr. Joseph Rossi | 37, Boschetto Rd., Rabat, Malta. |
| 228 | Chev. George John Ransley | Flat 4, Falcon Flats, Rudolph St., Sliema |
| 229 | Mr. Mark Ransley | Flat 4, Falcon Flats, Rudolph St., Sliema |
| 230 | Mr. Alan H. Pierce | "Villa Narcevis", Victoria Gardens,
St. Julians. |
| 231 | Mr. Michael Walter Southam | "Villa Sunrise", 36, St. Anthony St.,
Balzan. |
| 232 | Mr. Walter St. John Southam | "Villa Sunrise", 36, St. Anthony St.,
Balzan. |
| 233 | Dr. Robert Naudi, M.D. | "Dar il-Hena", New Street, Msida. |
| 234 | Mr. John Micallef | 17, St. Vincent St., Sliema. |
| 235 | Mr. Albert J. Tabone | 29, Windsor Terrace, Sliema. |
| 236 | Mrs. E. Harris | Box 6, S-59081, Gullninger, Sweden. |
| 237 | Mr. Anthony Camilleri | 154, Eucharistic Congress Rd., Mosta. |
| 238 | Mr. Saviour Borg Bonaci | "Autumn Flats", N.2, Regional Rd.,
St. Venera. |
| 239 | Mr. Carmel Scicluna Bonnici | 7, Our Lady Street, Zebbug, Malta. |
| 240 | Mr. Philip Preziosi | 52/5, St. Ursula St., Valletta. |
| 241 | Mr. Joseph Pace | 42, New St., Hamrun. |
| 242 | Mr. Edward Zammit | "St. Paul", Sulphur Lane, Blata l-Bajda. |
| 243 | Mr. Mervyn Richard
Owen Thomas, M.B.E. | 67b. St. Catherine St., Marsaxlokk. |
| 244 | Mr. Joseph A. Agius | Block XII, Flat 9, Gardenia St.,
Sta. Lucia. |
| 245 | Dr. George Manara D.D.S. | 23, Point St., Sliema. |
| 246 | Mr. Anthony E. Meilaq | 152, St. Mary St., Tarxien. |
| 247 | Mr. Roger Strickland | "Villa Sta. Margherita",
Riviera Gardens, Upper Gardens,
St. Julians. |
| 248 | Mr. J. C. Azzopardi | 3, Old Prison St., Vittoriosa. |
| 249 | Mr. John Azzopardi | 372 East, 93rd St.,
New York 10028, U.S.A. |
| 250 | Mr. Roger De Giorgio A. & C. E. | 165, Tower Rd., Sliema. |

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 251 | Mr. Mario Bugeja | 40a, Victoria Ave., Sliema. |
| 252 | Mr. Paul Mercieca A. & C. E. | 192, Rudolph St., Sliema. |
| 253 | Mr. Franco Vassallo | 7c/3, Bonavita St., Sliema. |
| 254 | Miss Isobel Graham | "Inchahone", Mdina Rd., Attard. |
| 255 | Mr. Allen J. Kaplan | 22, Aqueduct Rd., Wayland,
Ma. 01778, U.S.A. |
| 256 | Mr. C. Norman Peacor | Country Club Heights, Monson,
Mass. 01057, U.S.A. |
| 257 | Lt. Col. W. J. Attard | 65, St. Mary St., Sliema. |
| 258 | Mr. John Charles Fox | 69/3, Ta' Xbiex Seafront, Msida. |
| 259 | Mr. John P. Hamilton | 2/2, Philip Sciberras Sq., Floriana. |
| 260 | Mr. George Ernest Pace | 15/3 Sappers St., Valletta. |
| 261 | Mrs. R. Sandford-Jones | 2 Salina Court, Qawra. |
| 262 | Mrs. Eleanor Brouevitch | 6725, E. Yearling St., Lakewood,
California 90713, U.S.A. |
| 263 | Mr. H. Wood | 52, St. Dominic St., Sliema. |
| 264 | Mr. Edgar J. Micallef
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DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

XXI Olympiad Issue

Date of issue	28th. April 1976.
Values	1c7, 5c and 30c.
Stamp Size	38m.m. x 20 m.m. (all values).
Art Designer	Harry Alden.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process.....	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 x 13.9 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upwards.
Paper	Chalked surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

1c7 Green, Red and Black.

5c Blue, Red and Black.

30c Brown, Red and Black.

Designs:—

The stamps feature three of the most popular sports in Malta. As background each stamp includes bastions built hundreds of years ago to form part of Malta's system of fortifications. The three stamps depict "Waterpolo" 1c7, "Sailing" 5c, and "Athletics" 30c.

Colour checks, as usual, are in the form of coloured discs 3m.m. in diameter. These are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. The colours of these discs from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left on all Panes of all values. Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5m.m. and printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consists of four Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

1c7 = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.

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

30c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.

Perforation of Margins:—

The top, bottom and left hand margins of all Panes, of all values are fully perforated. The right hand margins of all Panes, of all values are imperforated. The right hand margins of all Panes are wider when compared to the left hand margins, whilst the bottom margins are wider when compared to

the top margins. Registration marks in the form of coloured horizontal lines could be seen only in Panes "B" of each value. They are at the bottom of the right hand margin under the colour checks, and their lengths vary between 6m.m. and 10m.m. Colours red and black can easily be distinguished in the 1c7 and 30c values, but in the 5c value the black line nearly covers completely the red line. These horizontal lines are surrounded by other very faint coloured lines forming a sort of rectangle extending from the bottom of the right hand margin of Pane "B" of each value, to the top of the right hand margin of Pane "C" of each value. I think these faint lines are a very good hint as to how the Printed Sheet looked like before cutting. One other thing noticed in this set, which has never occurred with any other set printed by Printex Ltd. is, that the colour checks are seen in all Panes of all values on an imperforated margin. From a study of all details, I would say, that the Printed Sheet was such, that the stamps were printed sideways resting on their 20m.m. side, Pane "A" being on the left followed by Panes "B", "C" and "D". If after printing and before cutting, the Printed Sheet were to be turned ninety degrees to the right, the stamps would look the right way up, with Pane "A" at the top and Pane "D" at the bottom.

Imprint Blocks:—

"PRINTEX LIMITED" can be seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1m.m. high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks and if it is from Pane "B" of any value, it will also include the horizontal lines mentioned earlier. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. Up to 4 p.m. sales amounted to £M52,662.

EUROPA 1976 Issue

Date of issue	8th. July 1976.
Values	7c and 15c.
Stamp Size	43m.m. x 12.5m.m.
Art Designer	Frank Portelli.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.4 x 13.8 (Comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

7c Violet, Light Blue, Dark Blue, Dark Red.
 15c Dark Brown, Orange, Ochre, Light Brown.

Designs:—

The theme chosen by C.E.P.T. for this year was "Craftwork" and the two stamps feature "lace-making", 7c and "stone-carving" 15c.

This Europa Set, like the rest before it, has been issued in small sheets of ten stamps. Both values are of the horizontal format. Each sheet is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. The first space of the top row, is used to show the C.E.P.T. symbol plus the wording "EUROPA 1976". The first space of the second row is used to describe the design of the stamp and show tools used in the particular trade. The value of the whole sheet of ten stamps is shown in the top margin only, above the middle stamp.

Colour checks, in the form of four coloured discs, 3m.m. in diameter, are found on each Pane of both values. They are seen in the right hand margin next to the last stamps of rows one and two. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes of both values.

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

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are found under the first stamp of the bottom row.

7c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1I x 4.

15c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1I x 4.

No registration marks were seen on any Pane of both values, but I noticed that not all the Panes of each value were of the same size horizontally. Either the left hand margin or the right hand margin of some Panes were not of the same width as the rest.

Perforation of Margins:—

Panes A, B and C of both values have the top margin imperforated. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of all these Panes are fully perforated.

Panes D, E, F, G, H and I have the top, bottom, left hand and right hand margins, all fully perforated.

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

As to the formation of the Printed Sheet before cutting, I do not have any doubt that it was as shown on the left. The reason being, that in the Malta Post Office Stand at the Trade Fair Naxxar, the whole printing process of the "Europa 1976" issue, was shown, up to the final Printed Sheet before cutting. As far as I know this was the first time that the whole printing process of any issue was shown at any Trade Fair or Exhibition, and I can assure the Post Master General, Mr. Borg and his able crew that it was really appreciated by all philatelists who visited the Stand.

Imprint Blocks:—

The imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA", in letters 1m.m. high, is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. The colour of the Imprint of each value, is in the same colour, as the first disc from the top, of the colour

checks. An Imprint Block of four will only show the Imprint, i.e. neither the colour checks nor the Pane numbers will be included.

A special handstamp for cancellation was again used on the first day of issue. Sale of stamps on the first day was quite high, over £M184,100 compared with £M167,257 last year.

ANATOMY AND SURGERY ISSUE

Date of issue	14th. September 1976.
Values	2c, 5c, 7c and 11c.
Stamp Size	47m.m. x 20.5m.m.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.4 x 13.5 (Comb)
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

- 2c Dark Claret, Red, Light Claret and Gold.
- 5c Deep Blue, Red, Brown Yellow and Gold.
- 7c Olive Green, Red, Dark Claret and Gold.
- 11c Dark Grey, Red, Mushroom and Gold.

Designs:—

This set of four stamps is being issued to mark the 300th. Anniversary of the Foundation of the School of Anatomy and Surgery. This School was founded on the 19th December, 1676, by Grandmaster Nicholas Cottner (shown on 2c stamp) at the Holy Infirmary (the facade and part of the balcony of which are seen on the 11c stamp) of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, at Valletta. The first holder of the Chair was Dr. Fra Giuseppe Zammit (depicted on the 7c stamp). The 5c stamp depicts the anatomy of an arm.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3m.m. in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows. 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 2.5m.m. and printed, for each value, with the same colour as the top disc of the colour checks.

The Printed Sheet of each value consists of three Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

7c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

11c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

Perforation of Margins:—

The top margins of Panes "A", of all values, are imperforate. The bottom margins of all Panes, of all values, are fully perforated. The top margins of Panes "B" and "C" of all values are fully perforated. The right hand margins of all Panes, of all values are fully perforated. The left hand margins of all Panes, of all values, are fully perforated except for a little bit at the edge, where in the 5c and 7c Panes, there is space for another perforation and in the 2c and 11c Panes, there is space for another two perforations. The left hand margins of all Panes of all values are a little bit wider than the right hand margins. As for the letters used for Pane numbers, I noticed, that for Panes "A" and "B" of all values, the first "1A" and "1B", all start on the first vertical perforation line or after it, and in Panes "C" of all values, the first "1C" start before the first vertical perforation line.

From a study of all details, I would say, that the Printed Sheet was such, that stamps were printed the right way up, with Pane "A" being at the top, Pane "B" in the middle and Pane "C" at the bottom.

Imprint Blocks:—

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" can be seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, with the last word "MALTA" being in the right hand margin, just after the last vertical perforation line. Letters are 1m.m. high and printed in different colours for each value. In each value, the colour is the same as that of the top disc of the colour checks for that value. This corresponds with the colours used for values of columns of stamps at top and bottom margins.

An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. The sale of stamps, up to 12.30 p.m. on the first day of issue, realised £M40,937.

CORRECTION

Detailed Information of New Issues

"Europa 1975" Issue:—

(Vol. 6. No 1 & 2,) Page 38, section "Perforation of Margins" should have read thus:

Perforation of Margins:—

Panes B, D and F of both values, have the top, bottom, left hand and right hand margins fully perforated. Panes A, C and E of both values have the top, bottom and right hand margins fully perforated. The left hand

margin of all these Panes is imperforate.

A	B
C	D
E	F

I did not notice any cutting lines or any other registration marks on any of the margins. From a study of the perforations on all margins, Pane numbers and direction of watermark, the Printed Sheet before cutting consisted of the six Panes as shown on left.

“VOTE A STAMP”

The international competition “VOTE A STAMP”, launched this year as part of the Society’s Tenth Anniversary Celebrations, was successfully brought to an end during the Society’s meeting of June 7th, 1976, the end of season monthly meeting held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana.

The Results of the voting were as follows:

First Place: The 5c value of the “Europa ’75” issue, featuring a reproduction of Francesco de Mura’s “Allegory of Malta”. The stamp obtained just over 25% of the total number of votes.

Second Place: The 3c + 1c value of the Christmas issue, featuring a reproduction of the central portion, the Nativity Scene, of a painting by Maestro Alberto. The stamp obtained a little over 11% of the votes.

Third Place: The 5c value of the European Architectural Heritage Year Issue designed by Richard England.

Following the announcement of the voting by the President, Dr. J.H. Mercieca, three prizes were decided by lot from among those who voted for the stamp that was voted into first place. The following participants were awarded and received a complete set of all the stamps issued in 1975, kindly donated by the Postmaster General, Mr. George W. Borg; Mrs. Isobel Graham of Attard, Malta; Mr. D.E. Heald of Surrey, U.K.; and Mr. G. Stahl of Vaduz, Liechtenstein.

Five other consolation prizes in the form of a copy of the “Said, Malta Stamp and Coin Catalogue, 1976”, kindly donated by Mr. G. Said of E. Said Stamp Dealers, Valletta, were awarded to Mr. K. Busing, W. Germany; Mr. G. Cingue, Italy; Mr. W. Monkemeier, W. Germany; Mr. J. Farrugia, Malta; and Mr. G.A. Bowman, U.K.

The competition has generated a lot of interest in Malta stamps both local and abroad. Its success is best judged by the international response, with votes arriving from Australia, Canada, Denmark, West Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Ireland and N. Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein and Pakistan.

Another edition of the “Vote A Stamp” contest is being held during the first quarter of 1977. The contest will decide the “Most Beautiful Malta Stamp — 1976”. As last year, three prizes will be awarded to the first three contestants drawn by lot from among those who vote for the stamp that has attained the highest number of votes, (and is thus declared the ‘Most beautiful Malta stamp for 1976’). The rest of the participants will compete for a number of consolation prizes. All votes are to be addressed to: “Vote a Stamp”, The Secretary, Dr. A. Ganado, The Philatelic Society of Malta, 1 Scots Street, Valletta, Malta.

THE UNITED NATIONS POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

MARGINAL INSCRIPTIONS

Marginal inscriptions appearing twice on the bottom and top or twice on the side margins of each sheet of stamps are a traditional feature of United Nations postage stamps.

Ever since the issue on 24 October 1951 of the first United Nations postage stamps, the demand for the non postal tab, known as marginal inscriptions among UN philatelists, has been very high. On that occasion the inscription simply read "first UN issue — 1951".

Generally collectors build up collections with corner blocks of four or six stamps together with the marginal inscription. They attempt to keep the collection symmetric by trying to collect all of one corner and not a mixture. Other collectors with more limited funds make do with a single stamp with marginal inscription.

The popular specialised UN catalogues have established a catalogue valuation approximately as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) MI single (mint or used) | Stamp price plus up to 100% |
| b) MI block of four (mint or used) | Five times price of single stamp |
| c) MI block of six (mint or used) | Seven times price of single stamp |
| d) MI block of four on FDC | Three times price of normal FDC |

Marginal inscriptions on UN stamps always show the UN seal and the year of the issue. In the case of commemorative stamps the name of the issue in abbreviated form is also indicated usually in English or French.

On 8 October 1976, when the new commemorative stamps were issued commemorating the 25th anniversary of the first United Nations postage stamps, there was a special marginal inscription awaiting philatelists. The sheets of stamps for this issue were printed in sheets of 20, not 50 as in the case of all previous issues. In addition to the regular MI reading "UNPA 1951/1976", a special text reading "XXV Anniversary/United Nations Postal Administration" will be found along the sheet on the dollar values, and "XXV Anniversaire/Administration Postale des Nations Unies" on the Swiss franc values.

It is interesting to recall that, whilst it is the first time that the United Nations Postal Administration has ever authorised special inscriptions on the sheet margins away from the corners, two unauthorised inscriptions act in a way as forerunners. Neither inscription was ordered by the United Nations Postal Administration, but each was received from the relevant printers as a "fait accompli".

a) 8c regular issue of 2 June 1958

All sheets of stamps were received from the printers in England with the printers' name appearing under the two middle stamps on the bottom margin. A quantity of 5,000,000 stamps were printed. The stamp was never reprinted.

b) 25c regular issue of 20 September 1965

Contrary to UNPA specifications, sheets of stamps were delivered by the printers without marginal inscriptions, but with the printers' name in large letters in the bottom margin.

The United Nations Postal Administration was forced to have the missing marginal inscriptions printed locally by letterpress. This work took over two weeks to complete, and resulted in a large number of sheets becoming damaged. Information reached the public that the stamp would be reprinted, this time on sheets not containing the imprint "Bundesdruckerei Berlin". Consequently the demand for this

stamp was much larger than usual. Bottom strips of 10 had to be rationed. On 28 October 1965, five weeks after the issue date, the first printing sold out. A second printing placed on sale late on 5 November 1965 differs in margins, marginal inscriptions, paper and colour from the first printing.

FOREIGN CONTACTS

Both the Editor and the Secretary, during the course of the year, received a good number of letters from collectors from various parts of the world requesting contact with members of our Society. Most letters deal with proposals for exchanges of stamps and other philatelic material of various countries. Among these letters we single out one from Mr. Nicholas Zambellas, President of "The Philatelists of Athens", who requested contact with members of our Society who wish eventually to dispose through exchanges or sale of older issues of Greek stamps. He may be contacted by writing to Mr. Nicholas G. Zambellas, President, "The Philatelsist of Athens", 7 Tesitsa Street, Athens (148), Greece.

It has been decided that in future periodic lists of similar requests from foreign collectors will be prepared giving out the names and addresses as well as countries of interest. Copies of these lists will be available from the Secretary.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Have you paid your membership fee for 1977?
Please do so by the end of January 1977.

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.

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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



REPUBLIC OF MALTA

SUITS OF ARMOUR ISSUE



Grand Master
Jean De
La Vallette



Grand Master
Aloph De
Wignacourt



Grand Commander
Jean Jacques
De Verdelin

Date of issue: 20 JANUARY 1977

ARTWORK CHEV. J. BRIFFA

Philatelic Services, Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Valletta, Malta.