

Accountancy Markings 1857-1875 Part 1 of 2

This article has been written by Colin Searle based in information and scans of some of Ken Trehwella's material

In September 1857 the postal-administration of Malta was taken over by the G.P.O. in London. Although British adhesives were introduced at this time it was not until 1st March 1858 that prepayment of post was made compulsory. This article deals with letters sent from Malta to Italy and illustrates the various markings used, up to the period of the formation of the universal Postal Union.

A method was required to determine what proportion of the postage should go to each country. A postal convention with Italy on the 12th December 1857 agreed various accountancy markings to be used. These were later updated by the Postal Treaty of 1970

The various markings used during this period fall into five types.

Type 1. P in an oval denotes pre-paid found in both black and red.

Period of use 31.10.1853 to 1863

Type 2. P-D in an oval indicates paid to destination found in black and red. This same mark is known in a circle.

Type 3. PD unboxed in red accompanied by red crayon manuscript values.

Period of use 20.7.1864 to 15.7.1875

Type 4 As in-3 above but with unboxed 2¼ hand stamped in red.

Period of use 13.3.67 to 31.1.1872

Type 5 PD 2¼ handstamped in red and encased in a rectangular box.

Period of use 3.8.1872 to 11.5.1875



The Postage rate to Italy was 3d and it is noted that many of these early covers carried no accountancy markings.



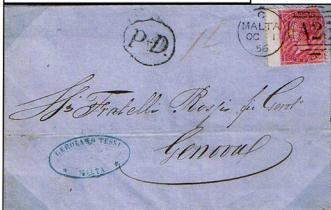
Type 1 in black

This cover to Messina illustrates **Type 2 in Red** which appears to have been struck prior to the adhesives being applied. The letter is double rated at 6d. And shows a fine strike of the Malta A25 duplex dated 16.2.1861. As this and the previous cover were carried by ordinary ship letter "per Capitale" they do not carry any manuscript markings, but indicated the postage was paid to destination. The oval mark in the top right hand corner is that of the shipping agent.



Type 2 in black

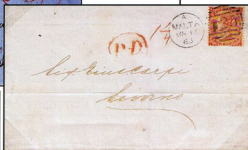
The second type of accountability mark is made up of the letters "P-D" 8mm high within a horizontal oval 21mm x 18 mm. The single letter rate is now 4d and all covers now appear to carry additional red crayon manuscript marks of $1\frac{1}{4}$ for single letters and $2\frac{1}{2}$ for double rated. This would appear to be the amount allotted to the Malta Postal authorities, but this was to change by the end of 1863.



This is also an example of the inverted slug referred to elsewhere in this issue of Melita.



Types 3 to 5 will be discussed in the Winter edition of Melita.



The use of the manuscript $1\frac{1}{4}$ indicates the amount due to the Malta Postal authorities and this system seems to have been acceptable from the introduction of type II in October 1856 until it was changed in 1863. After this, for reasons unknown the amount due to the Italian Authorities was shown.