

Query No.1. from H.S. Damsell.

S.G. No.1. $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d buff on blued paper no watermark.

Three types of cancellation are known on this stamp.

- (X) The "M" mark.
- (Y) The small circular date mark. "Inscribed "A. MALTA & DATE".
- (Z) The same in conjunction with "A.25 & bars " 'duplex' type.

Query A.

Has any member a cover or dated piece with S.G.1. cancelled with "M" mark ?

If so please give date.

Query B.

Will members please give the dates of any dated copies of S.G.1. in their possession, stating the type of cancellation, i.e. whether type X or Z ?

It is possible that another mark has been used to cancel this stamp, probably the large double circle type with "Malta & date (type 'P.H.' in Lowe's "Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire")

Query C.

Has any member a copy of S.G.1. cancelled with this mark, or any other than X, Y and Z ?

Malta cancellations are normally black. Red cancellations, however, have occasionally been found on the "Used Abroads".

Query D.

Has any member a copy of S.G.1. cancelled with a red mark ? If so which one ? This stamp was strictly for local use, but some of the later issues are known with foreign postmarks.

Query E.

Has any member a copy of S.G.1. with any foreign postmark ? Please describe.

Please write answers on back or on an extra sheet if necessary, and sign.

I am unable to answer your queries from stamps in my collection but I have a copy of the catalogue of the E.E. Yates collection of "Malta" dispersed on 12th May 1939 by Robson Lowe, which gives a tremendous amount of information about Malta stamps. I have also a copy of the late A.J. Sefi's "Postage Stamps of Malta" (now scarce). Both these I am willing to send to you if you would like to borrow them.

H.F. Moore,

I did not know that the "M" cancellation was used on S.G.1. According to my notes the "M" cancellation was discontinued on Feb. 12th 1859, it was superseded by "A.25" on Feb. 18th. 1859, is this incorrect? I only have one cover with S.G.1. this is cancelled with (Y) this date is Jan 16th. 1861.

G.W. Paulson.

I have two entires with "M" pmk on 1d and 2d G.B.

First, dated Sept. 13th '57, in the large double circle type. } Both in conjunction
Secondly, dated Ju. 4. '58 in small single circle type. } with "M" on stamps.

Dates Pmks on S.G.1. (Y) Jy. 6. 61, stamp in deeper buff shade.

(Z) Jy. 4. 61, do do

(Z) No. 14 62, Pale Buff colour but deeply blued.

Other copies pmked A.25 and/or part of circular pmk but no year date showing.

O.W. Meredith.

Two copies (Y) July 11th 1861, Not on piece.

(Z) ? 1863 " " "

L.Pogson.

Have Z.43 Plate II cancelled Red Oct. 10 73. Along with two of the same cancelled in black on small piece. Have S.G.I. on entire Aug. 21.61. (F. Schulze)

ONE COPY Y JU. 15. 61 NOT ON PIECE S. MC VITTIE 6/7/49.
I HAVE A SINGLE OF S.G.1. WITH "M" PMK INITIALLED BY NISSEN & A COVER WITH Z MARKING
DEC 12/61. ALSO A SINGLE WITH A DOTTED PMK. W.H.C. HINDE

S.G. NO. 1. 1/2d. BUFF ON BLUED PAPER.

The copies thus recorded including my own copies are as follows, in the order of dates. As suggested by Moore I have included the dated copies mentioned in the catalogue of the 'Yates' sale.

14 - JA - 61	(Yates)	6 - JY - 61 (Y)	Meredith.
16 - JA - 61 (Y)	Paulson,	11 - JY - 61 (Y)	Pogson,
21 - JA - 61 (Y)	Damsell	17 - JY - 61 (Y)	Damsell
15 - FE - 61	(Yates)	25 - JY - 61	(Yates)
20 - FE - 61	(Yates)	26 - JY - 61	"
27 - FE - 61 (Y)	Damsell	30 - JY - 61 (Y)	Damsell
5 - MR - 61	(Yates)	5 - AU - 61	(Yates)
22 - MR - 61	"	7 - AU - 61	"
3 - AP - 61 (Y)	Damsell	30 - AU - 61	"
1 - JU - 61 (Z)	"	3 - DE - 61 (Z)	Damsell
8 - U - 61 (Y) (? Aug.)	"	14 - NO - 61 (Z)	Meredith
11 - JU - 61	(Yates)	31 - JA - 63	(Yates)
4 - JY - 61 (Z)	Meredith.	- - 63 (Z)	Pogson.
12 - DE - 61 (Z)	HINDE		

In the Yates Catalogue under S.G.1. the following appears :-

Lot 31. Dotted Postmark, a superb copy with slight crease which is not perceptible on face.

In a report of a sale by "Trafalgar Stamp Auctions" on October 31st./Nov. 6th. 1935 ^{SEE OVER} the following is mentioned "December" 1860, 1/2d. buff used in Alexandria "BOI. £4.15."

Does any member own either of these stamps? Or can they say who does? I should like to have fuller descriptions of these two pieces so that they may be recorded.

In Sefi's handbook (which in some respects is unreliable) mentioned by Moore, he states the "M" mark is known on those stamps" and I also have two poorish copies of S.G.1. Cancelled "M". This answers Paulsons query, but I still have no clue as to when the "M" mark was abandoned for the circular dated mark. This was the reason I asked if any member had a dated piece with "M" mark, maybe none exists, but it would be

interesting to see one. From the information you have given me it would seem that the circular date mark (Y) was followed by the duplex "date and A.25" (Z) about June 1/61, as this is the first recorded date of the duplex mark. The (Y) type appears again however in July /61, and the two marks seem to have overlapped for a while, but I conclude that from AUG/61 the duplex mark was used solely.

Any further information on this stamp (S.G.1.) Buff on blued paper would be very welcome.

H.S. Damsell.

"BOI" CANCELLATION Meredith has a halfpenny yellow with this mark. H.S.D.

As per yardley's paper the 'M' cancellation was discontinued at the end of 1860 - Since these stamps were issued on 1/12/60 the 'M' cancellation was only used for 1 month. I have three good copies with the two types of 'M' cancellation mentioned by Grabfield. I have 3 covers with the duplex P.M. dated 2/7/61, 25/10/61, on the third cover there is only part of the date mark.

Of my dated copies off cover I have 3 copies 11/6/61, 23/2/61 30/4/61 with Y cancellation & 3 copies which could be Y or Z, the A25 mark being on the missing cover.

I have a red 'M' cancellation on Z3 (G.B. 1^d rose-red).

I would be most interested where Mr Paulson has his information from that the 'M' cancellation was discontinued in Feb 59. There must be something in this since all the covers with G.B.'s with 'M' cancellations I have got are all dated prior to Feb 1859 - Has somebody else later ones?

I believe W.R. Gatt's article mentioned in yardley's introduction should give some information on these points. Has any of our friends a copy of this article? There are two more aspects

MALTA STUDY CIRCLE.

LETTER
NO 1.

Query No. 1.

11^a

of this stamp S.G. 1: Firstly there are two distinct shades which are mentioned by Yardley and Sefi the difference being an orange tinge on the greater part of the stamps but there are some copies with no real orange and which are in my opinion a true buff, these are much scarcer. Sefi calls this shade "pale brown orange" and Yardley "dark bistre brown"

Further there exist some of these stamps with very distinct carmine ~~spots~~ spots which gives the stamp a very orange appearance & another with only very slight carmine spots I would be very interested in any more information on the above two new queries.

S. Cann.