

❧ ❧ MISSENT MAIL ❧ ❧

Hadrian Wood

A letter I received from the UK recently took ten days to reach me. It was backstamped at Lisbon so obviously had been missent to Portugal, which explains the reason for its delay.

The fact that the letter took so long did not matter. It wasn't urgent, so the delay was of no consequence. My only regret was that the Portuguese Postal Authorities failed to apply a MISSENT TO PORTUGAL handstamp (be it in English, Portuguese or bilingual) as is the custom of other Post Offices in some countries. Had it been cancelled in this way the cover would have made a valid addition my collection.

My interest in "missent" handstamps on mail to Malta was aroused by two letters I had received within a few days, about eight years ago.

One was MISSENT TO BANGKOK and the other showed MISSENT TO MALAYSIA. Though a few more letters have almost certainly gone astray prior to reaching me since, none of these showed a MISSENT TOcancellation.

It was only with the help of some generous friends, both philatelic and non-philatelic, who pass on their "missent" mail to me, that I have been able to accumulate enough of these covers to be able to show a reasonable collection.

By air mail
Par avion



Mr. + Mrs. K. Valenzia,
4, Kent Street,
SLIEMA,
Malta

MISSENT
TO
BANGKOK

PCComputing

P.O. Box 58200
Boulder, Colorado 80322-8200

AIR MAIL

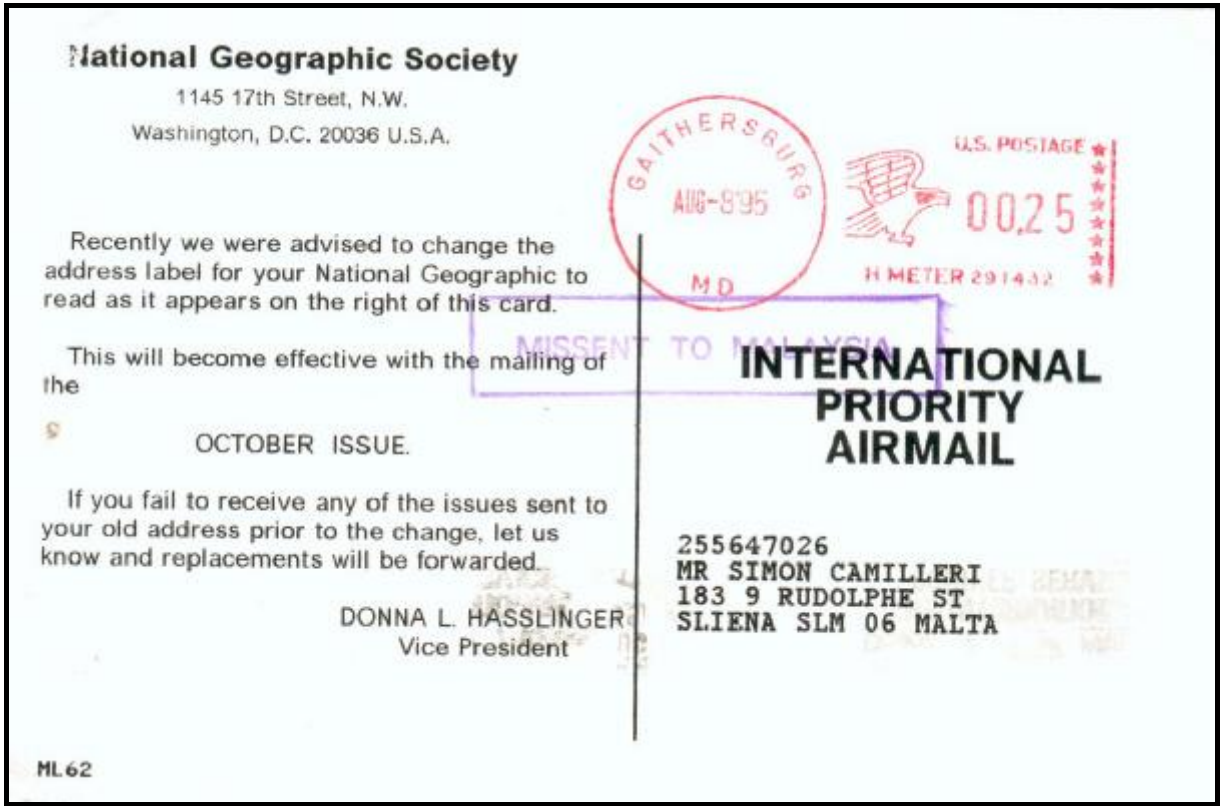


INVOICE ENCLOSED

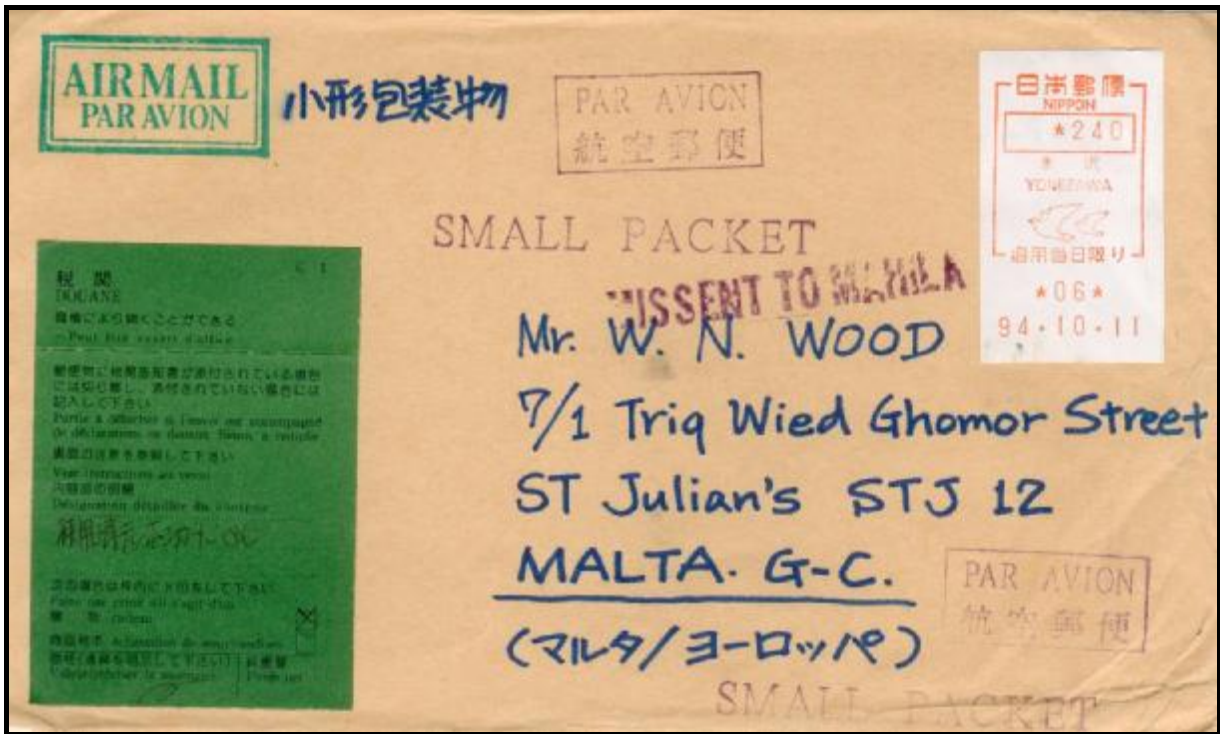
S VASSALLO
COMPUTIME LTD POB 286
VALLETA BLD SST CMR01
VALLETTA MALTA

01





The most common of these handstamps on mail to Malta appear to be MISSENT TO MANILA and MISSENT TO MALAYSIA.



By air mail
Par avion

Miss



MISSSENT TO MANILA

MISSSENT TO MANILA

The Iron Lady Musketeers,

Apt 1.

Casa Galea Naudi,

St. Vincent Street,

St. James

Malta G.C.

Handwritten signature and scribbles.

28.2.83
Alison & I have had a wonderful 4 month trip around India, Nepal & Sri Lanka. She is safely home in England & I'm staying on in Calcutta until May or until it gets too hot for me to bear! The latter will probably be just. Have just heard from my father that he is going to retire in May, so I think I'll go back to England earn some more money & go travelling with them in the autumn. Should be rather fun because they're such nice wives.

Jalavihara—water sports of Krishna, Bundi, Rajasthan, Circa 1760-1770 A.D., Courtesy: Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay



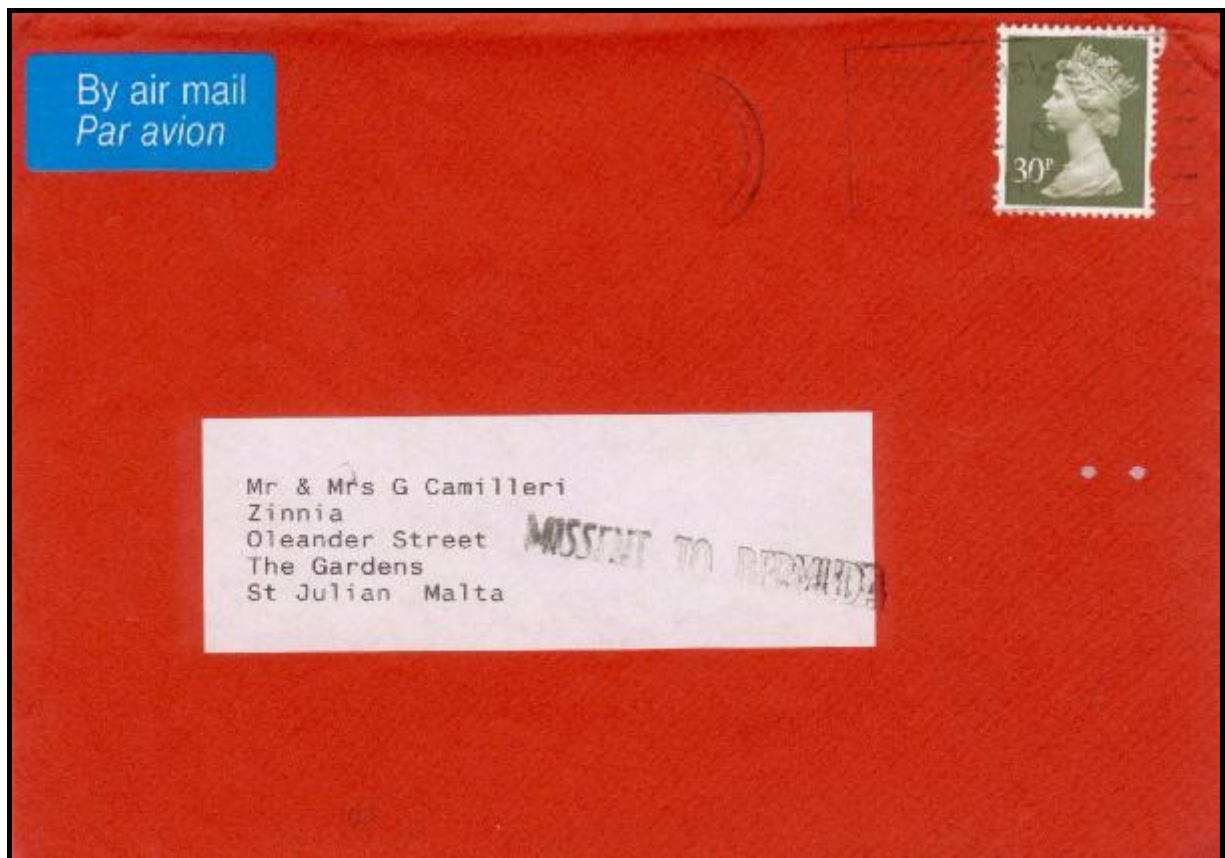
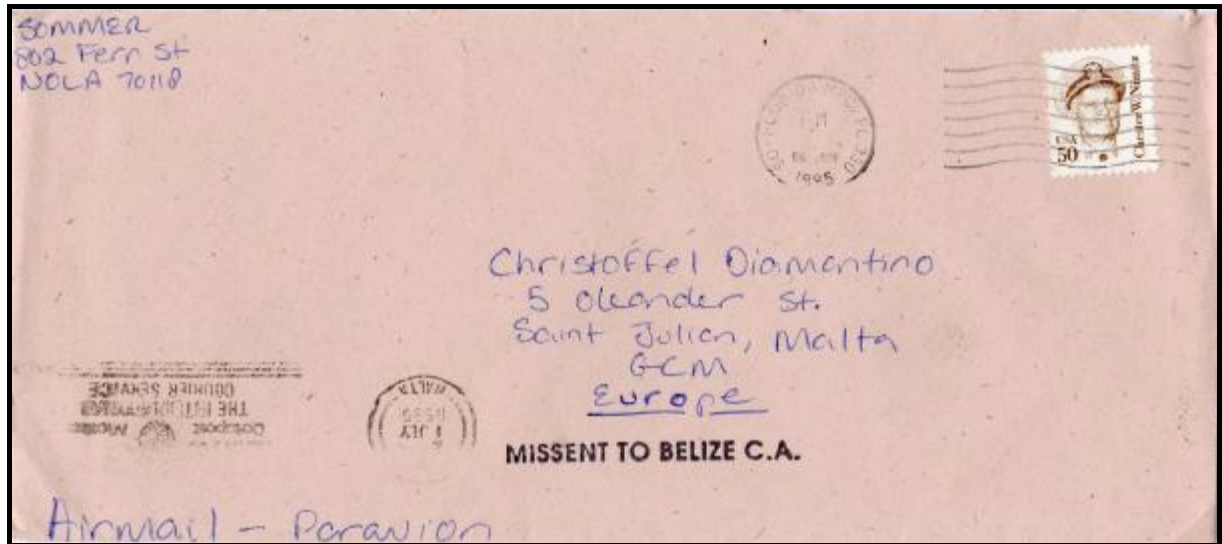
DIAMONTEINO FAMILY
5, ORLEANDER ST
THE GARDENS
MALTA

MISSSENT TO MANILA

Hope you are all well. With love Marion Bensted (just in case)

Handwritten note on the right margin: "can we see something like 1"

But my collection also includes such unlikely places as BELIZE, BERMUDA, BRUNEI, JAKARTA, KOREA and even as far away as ADELAIDE in South Australia.



BY AIR MAIL
par avion

Royal Mail

ROYAL MAIL

POSTAGE PAID
DURHAM 9
GREAT BRITAIN

Mrs M Ripard

77/2 Tigne St

Sirena SLM 11

Malta

MISSSENT TO BRITAIN

2º CONGRESO
CONFEDERACION
EUROPEA
INMOBILIARIA
MADRID
5-7 Nov 1991



PRIMER CONGRESO
CONFEDERACION
EUROPEA
INMOBILIARIA
MADRID
4-7 Nov 1991

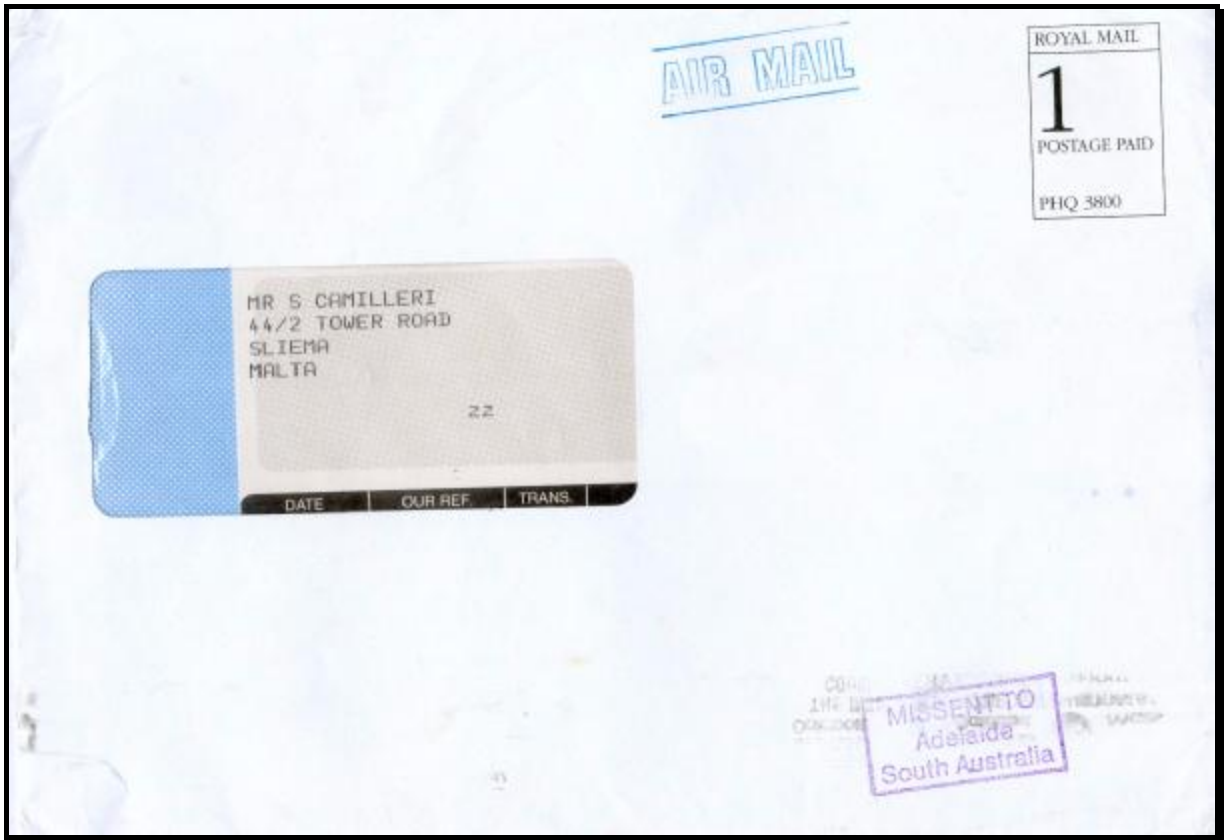


PRIMER CONGRESO
CONFEDERACION
EUROPEA
INMOBILIARIA
MADRID
4-7 Nov 1991

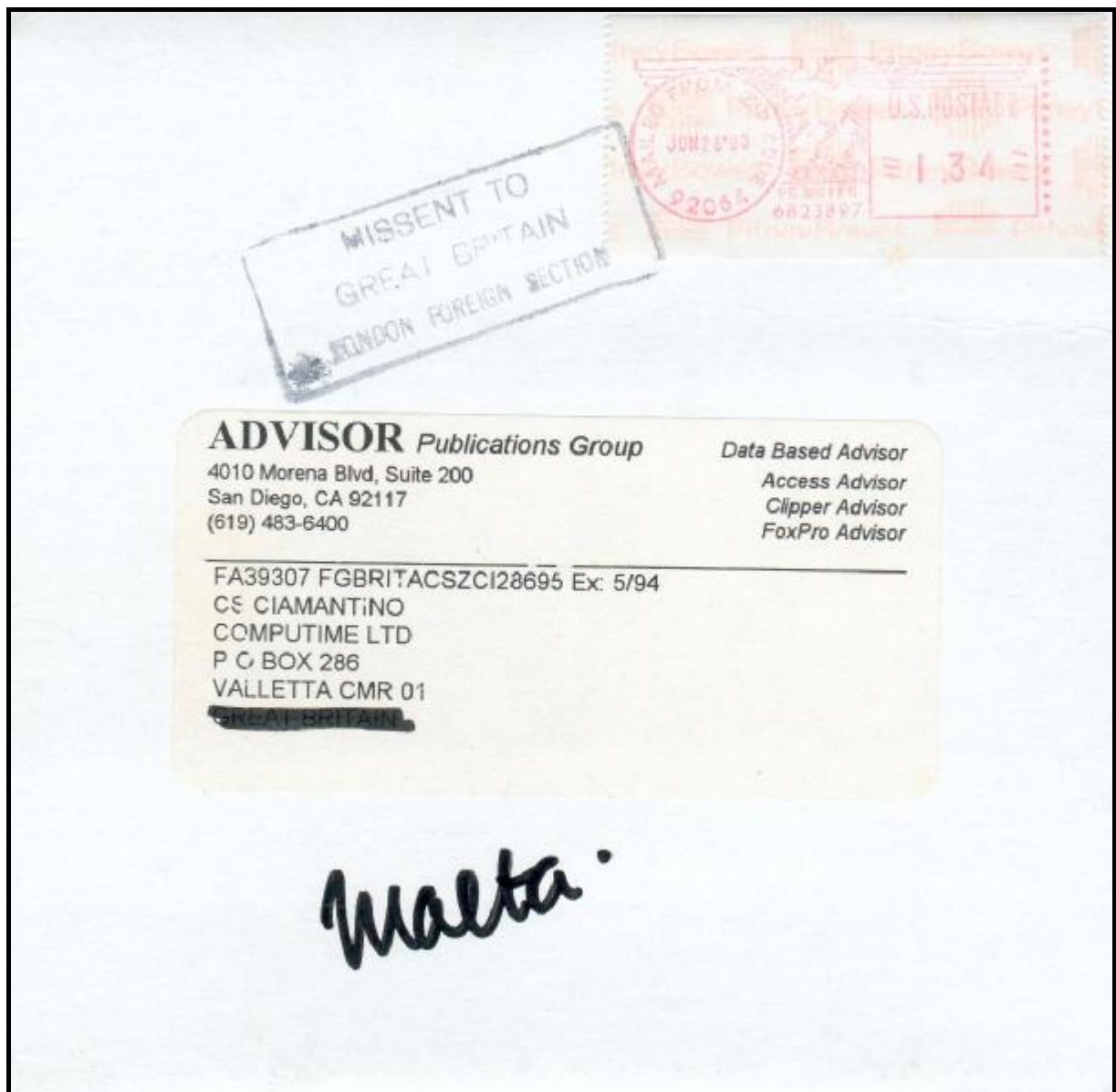


P.S.M. MAGAZINE
IMA VASSALI STREET
LA VALLETTA
MALTA

MISSSENT TO
JAKARTA SOEKARNO HATTA



Besides former British colonies, Post Offices in Asia appear to be the most conscientious when applying this handstamp. This does not seem to be the case with most other countries. With the exception of the United Kingdom, Malta, Cyprus and Gibraltar, I am not aware of other countries in Europe that currently make use of such markings.



It is difficult to determine the cause for the delay of a letter when no explanatory marking is applied. Occasionally, as in the case of the letter via Portugal, the reason can be detected by the country's receiving mark. But more often than not, no transit marks are applied prior to redirecting missent mail to the proper place of destination.