

Door knockers featured on stamps

The humble "Habbata" (door knocker), a relatively small and insignificant item of furniture, has featured on a Maltapost set of four stamps.

The stamps, with face values of €0.26 (Lm0.11c), €0.51 (Lm0.22c), €0.63 (Lm0.27c) and €1.77 (Lm0.76), are 44.0mm x 31.0mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9mm x 14.0mm (comb). The stamps are offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited of Qormi, and are available in sheets of ten.

The door knocker entered architectural history many years back as a matter of necessity. However it has survived the mechanical and electric doorbell to become part of Malta's street embellishment . Available in numerous motifs, shapes and sizes it often reflects the personality and taste of the house owner. Buildings throughout the Maltese Islands can boast of some exceptionally fine examples which qualify as veritable works of art.

Perhaps the most traditional motif is that in the shape of a dolphin.

The four examples chosen for the stamps are to be found on the doors of the Ministry of Finance in South Street, Valletta, the Museum of Fine Arts, also in South Street; the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations in Melita Street, Valletta; and the Museum of Archaeology in Republic Street, Valletta.

These stamps are available as First Day Covers, in mint or cancelled format, and as Souvenir Folders and Presentation Packs. The stamps will be on sale from 5th March at all MaltaPost postal branches in Malta and Gozo, the MaltaPost Mobile Unit, and the Philatelic Bureau (tel. 2596 1740, e-mail philately@maltapost.com). Additional information on this and other issues is available on the MaltaPost website www.maltapost.com.