INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY COMMEMORATED IN THIS YEAR EUROPA STAMP SET

The International Year of Astronomy will be commemorated in this year EUROPA stamp set. The set, designed by Alexei Pace and Gordon Caruana Dingli, will be issued by the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau on Saturday 9th May 2009.

The stamps have face values of Euro 0.37 and Euro 1.19. The stamps are 44.0 mm x 31.0 mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The stamps are printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited and are available in sheets of ten.

The Euro 0.37 stamp features a portrait of Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642) by Francesco Boschi and one of Galileo's sketches of the moon set against a starry background including the constellation Orion. The stamp also commemorates the 40 year anniversary of the first manned lunar landing by featuring the Apollo 11 lunar module "Eagle". The Euro 1.19 stamp shows the great telescope of William Lassell, set up in Malta between 1861 and 1865, against a background of stars showing Nebula M42, which Lassell himself observed on various occasions from Malta

This set is obtainable as a First Day cover, in mint or cancelled format, and as a Souvenir Folder or Presentation Pack, from all MaltaPost retail branches in Malta and Gozo, the MaltaPost mobile Unit and the Philatelic Bureau (tel. 25961747, email philately@maltapost.com, postal address: 305 Triq Hal-Qormi, Marsa, MTP1001). Additional information regarding this and past issues is also available from the MaltaPost website www.maltapost.com.

IS-SENA INTERNAZZJONALI TAL-ASTRONOMIJA MFAKKRA FIS-SETT TA' BOLLI EUROPA TA' DIN IS-SENA

Is-sena Internazzjonali tal-Astronomija ser tkun mfakkra fis-sett ta' bolli EUROPA ta' din is-sena. Is-sett, ddisinjat minn Alexei Pace u Gordon Caruana Dingli, ser jinhareg mill-Bureau Filateliku ta' MaltaPost nhar is-Sibt 9 ta' Mejju 2009.

Il-bollli ghandhom il-valur ta' Euro 0.37 u Euro 1.19. Il-Bolli huma ta' daqs ta' 44.0 mm x 31.0 mm, b'perforazzjoni ta' 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). Il-bolli huma stampati fuq karta impressa bis-slaleb ta' Malta minn Printex Limited u jistghu jinkisbu f'folji ta' ghaxar bolli.

Il-bolla tal-Euro 0.37 turi pittura ta' Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642) minn Francesco Boschi, kif ukoll wiehed mill-illustrazzjonijiet ta' l-istess Galileo tal-qamar bi sfond bl-istilel u tal-kostellazzjoni *Orion*. L-istess bolla tfakkar ukoll l-40 sena anniversarju tal-inzul tal-ewwel bniedem fuq il-qamar billi turi l-vettura lunari ta' Apollo 11 - "Eagle". Il-bolla ta' Euro 1.19 turi t-teleskopju ta' William Lassell, li nbena f' Malta bejn l-1861 u l-1865, fuq sfond ta' stillel kif ukoll in-Nebula M42, li l-istess Lassell osserva f'diversi drabi minn Malta.

Is-sett jista' jinkiseb bhala 'First Day Cover', ittimbrat jew 'mint', jew bhala 'Souvenir Folder' jew 'Presentation Pack', mill-ufficcji kollha tal-MaltaPost f'Malta u Ghawdex, mill-mobile unit tal-MaltaPost stess u mill-Bureau tal-Filatelija (tel: 25961747, email philately@maltapost.com, indirizz postali: 305 Triq Hal-Qormi, Marsa MTP 1001). Aktar informazzjoni fuq dan is-sett jew fuq hargiet precedenti jistghu jikisbu minn fuq is-sit tal-MaltaPost www.maltapost.com.