

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT
PRINTING PRESS

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HISTORY

Printing was introduced to Malta in 1642 by a Sicilian Man married to a Maltese woman. Since then, the governing bodies have always had a printing press, and therefore the Government Printing Press can be considered the oldest printing press in Malta.

Throughout its long history, the printing press has been housed in various locations. In 1975, the printing press was moved from its quarters under the Palace Armory, in Valletta to St James' Cavalier, Valletta. When the Cavalier renovation got underway in 1995, the printing press was once more moved; this time to an ex-car assembly factory in Marsa.

PRESENT

The mission statement of the Government Printing Press has always been to meet all the printing requirements needed by Government departments, Ministries and other entities. The Government Gazette is the main publication of the Govt.Press and a copy of the first issue (27th October, 1813) is still displayed at the Press in pristine condition.

Security measures at the printing press can be very strict due to the sensitive nature of some of the documents printed. On certain occasions, for example during Budget time, all telephone lines are disconnected in order to ensure that no information is leaked prior to the Budget Speech. Ballot Papers for all Elections are also printed at the Press. Political party agents are present during the whole process of the printing, sealing and distribution. Once printed the ballots are stored in sealed strong room. Fire safety measures are obviously also present. Fire extinguishers are omnipresent and in the unlikely event of a fire, sprinklers installed on all the ceilings come into fall force. Unfortunately, any paper would automatically get destroyed (because of the sprinklers) but at least the fire will not spread.

The printing press tries its utmost to be as green as possible. Used aluminum plates are sold by tender for recycling. In 2010 some were used for the Nativity Crib displayed at the Office of the Prime Minister. The paper on which the Government Gazette and all Legislative publications are printed on recycled paper. All the 700+ light tubes were changed to energy saving units. Moreover, old machinery is kept in working condition in case of emergency.

The Printing Press' building also houses a small museum which has on display some very old printing presses and equipment.

THE PRINTING PROCESS

At present the Printing Press is capable of produce most of the printing jobs in house i.e. from the planning and design right through the whole process of printing and finishing including lamination/binding up to delivery.

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS



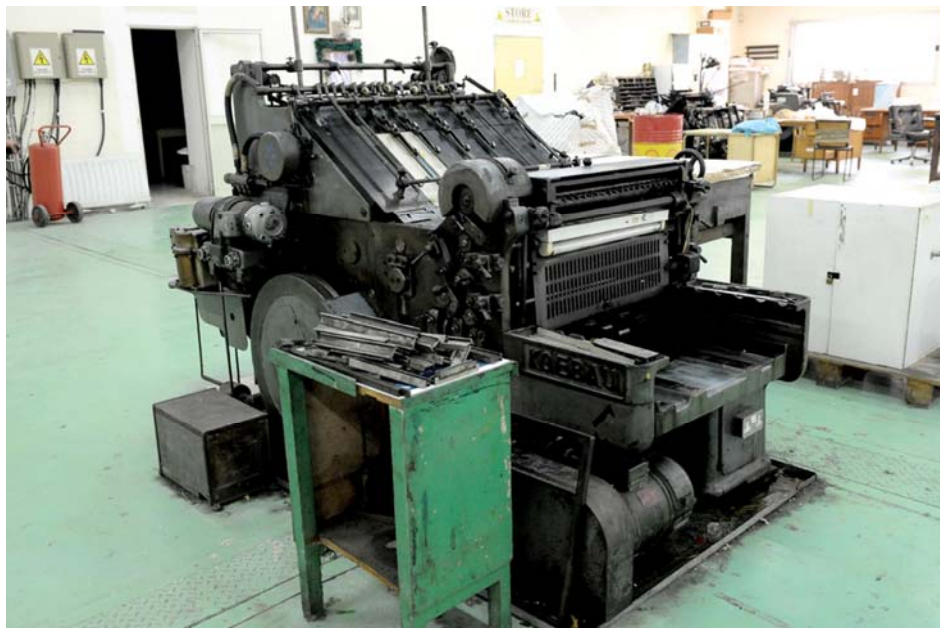
- ❖ **Photo 1:** A Designer works on the calendar which is distributed in all government departments.



- ❖ **Photo 2:** Plate making. *NB* Used aluminum plates are later sold for recycling purposes.



❖ **Photo 3:** The 2-colour Speed Master.



❖ **Photo 4:** REX letter press machine. This 50 year old machine has been altered to be used for die cutting and creasing.



❖ **Photo 5:** One of the 3 one colour SORD machines in service at the Press.



❖ **Photo 6:** The New Folding machine installed in 2009.



❖ **Photo 7:** Finishing Section: Receipt books being stitched.



❖ **Photo 8:** GST machine (Gatherer, Stitching and trimming)



❖ **Photo 9:** The Perfect Binding machine- Books are glued together at the spine with strong flexible glue. The end result is similar to paperback books.



❖ **Photo 10:** Mailing machine: Used mainly for the addressing and mailing of the Government Gazette.



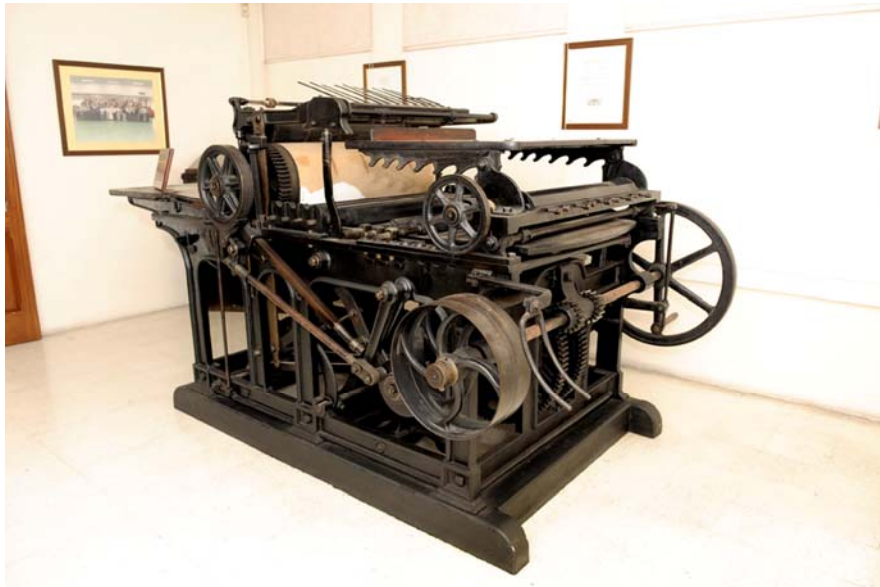
❖ **Photo 11:** Jobs ready for delivery.



❖ **Photo 12:** Stocks of paper are stored in an interconnecting giant warehouse.



❖ **Photo 13:** An old Guillotine displayed in the Museum



❖ **Phone 14:** An old printing press (date of manufacture 1879).