

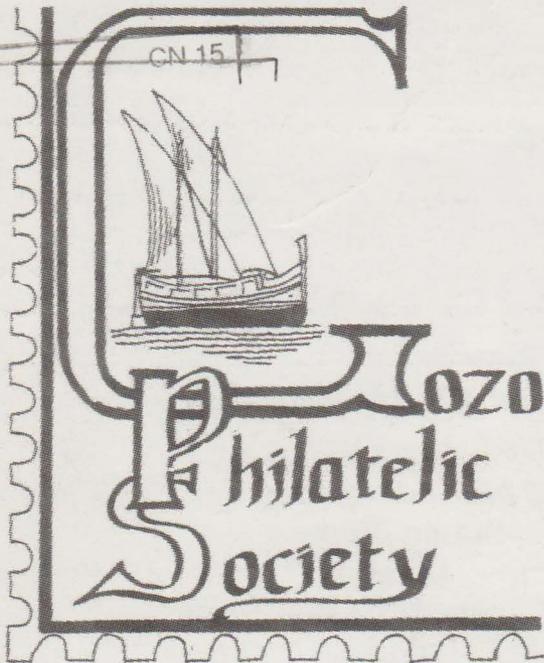
5c

malta



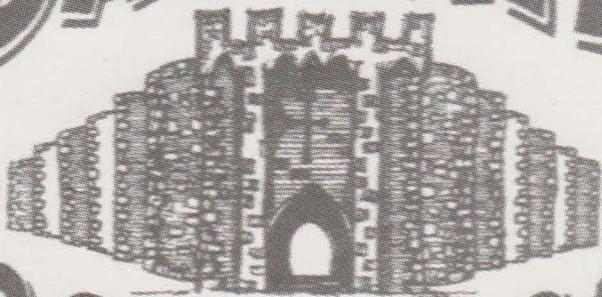
No. 11 January - March 2003 - 1/20

NEWSLETTER



NEWSPAPER POST

BARGATE



BOOKSHOP

VICTORIA - GOZO

For all your stationery needs.....

We stock also all philatelic material which includes:

Stamp Albums

Stamps

Stock Books

Hinges

Self Adhesive Strips etc.

G. Borg Olivier Street, Victoria Gozo

Tel: 21558645

Mob: 99447625

PALAZZO MARGHERITA

**L-ESPERJENZA
TAGHNA.....**

**.....IL-GARANZIJA TIEGHEK
FL-ISBAH GURNATA TA'
HAJTEK**

Ghal aktar dettalji tsempel 555737 jew 557898



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No.

Name

Address

..... Post Code.....

Tel No. ID Card No

I enclose annual membership fee for Lm2.

.....

Signature

Date

Being under 16, I enclose Lm1 for Junior membership
(Date of Birth.....)

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by..... Member No

I acknowledge receipt of membership application from

.....

with relative fee of

An official receipt and membership card will be issued
later.

.....

(signed obo Gozo Philatelic Society)

Date



GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ
of
THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on 12th February 2000 *Editor: Austin Masini*

Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the Committee's official policy.

Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to: Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 101, Gozo, Malta.

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CONTENTS	No. 11 — 1/2003
GPS Diary (11)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i> 2
President's Report AGM 2003	<i>Michael Refalo</i> 3
Secretary's Report AGM 2003	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i> 5
Financial Statement Year 2002	<i>John Muscat</i> 7
Stamp Issue Programme-Year 2003	8
Perforations	<i>George Vella</i> 9
Not Just For Beginners (2)	
Where in the World?	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i> 10
Stamp Terms	<i>Emanuel Vella</i> 12
Quiz Competition	14
Previous Quiz Competition Result	15
Gozo On Malta's Stamps	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i> 16
1st Airmail India	<i>Austin Masini</i> 20

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3rd September 1999

For "the promotion of the hobby"

"the provision of a point of reference" and "co-ordination"

Postal address: PO Box 10, VCT 101, Gozo, Malta.

GPS DIARY (11)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

December 2002: Launch of “Not just for Beginners” supplement in GPS Newsletter No 10, which issue also included a full up-to-date Index.

15th December 2002: Members’ Meeting at Scouts HQ for distribution of Participation Certificates and prizes to all those who took part in the Third GPS Philatelic Exhibition.

11th January 2003: Last meeting (at *Dar il-Lunzjata*) for the Third Committee, during which the AGM reports were finalized.

12th January 2003: Third Annual General Meeting held at Scouts HQ. Election Reports presented are printed from page 3 to 7. President Dr Refalo announced his retirement from the post while a new member was nominated to the Committee.

18th January 2003: First meeting of new Committee during which posts were allocated as follows: Anton V Said Micallef - President, Frank Masini - Vice President, Antoine Vassallo - Secretary and Treasurer, John Muscat - Archivist & A/Treasurer, Felix Cutajar - PRO, Anthony Grech - Membership Secretary, Austin Masini - Newsletter Editor, Rev Fr George Farrugia - Chaplain, Anton Said Cremona - Auditor, Emanuel Vella - Exchange Organizer and George Vella - Member.

***Please note that members can contact the Archivist - Mr John Muscat for free temporary loans of various philatelic publications.
Tel. 21553875.**

***When sending by post, please do not send cash money, but use only cheques (or Money Orders) or Mint current Malta stamps.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has been a fruitful one for our Society. The hard work of our Committee has given its fruit and this is reflected in the increased membership which has now comfortably exceeded the 250 mark.

However, an increase in membership is not enough. The success of a Society like ours depends upon two important elements; namely the activities organised, particularly those aimed at our younger members, and a valid administrative set-up.

The Secretary has mentioned the activities organised during the year. In particular, the school visits and our Annual Exhibition may be considered the highlights. Members of our Committee have been to several schools throughout Gozo and the success of this initiative is reflected in the increasing membership of youngsters.

In addition, for the third consecutive year we have organised the Exhibition in the halls of the Ministry for Gozo. Virtually all comments about the Exhibition were positive. The merit for this is due exclusively to those members of the Society who have given their time and, at great sacrifice, ensured that it would be a success. Their constant presence throughout the days when it was open ensured that adequate explanations were given to school children and to visitors in general. Last year I had said that one of the aims of the Society should be that of organizing meetings for students in order to teach and explain anything connected with philately. I am pleased to say that this has been done with success

It is perhaps the time now to organise ourselves more efficiently. We have to define clearly the tasks which each ↪

member of our Committee holds. In addition, non-committee members should become more involved in the workings of the Society. Unfortunately, we tend to rely on those few whose enthusiasm never wavers. There are, I am sure, other Society members who would willingly help in organising our activities. Maybe, the younger members should also be involved in matters which concern them. In particular, I feel that these should contribute more to our newsletter. I am sure that the new committee will explore ways and means to achieve this. Perhaps I might suggest that a prize be awarded for the best entry by a junior member in each newsletter.

I would like to propose a vote of thanks to our Committee that has worked so hard with enthusiasm and dedication.

I will close my address with a personal note. Since the constitution of the Society you have honoured me with the post of President of the Society. It has been satisfying to see the Society reach this level of success within a short time. The six or seven persons who met at *Lunzjata* some three years ago to form the Society could not have foreseen that success. Now it is the time to leave the post to someone else. Other commitments claim their time and it would not be fair for me to keep this post knowing that I would not be able to give my time to it. This, however, does not mean that I will stop giving the Society such help as I am able to. I thank you for your trust in me and wish the new Committee the same satisfying experience which I have had.

Finally I wish to thank the Victoria Scout Group for making their premises available to us today and on other occasions. I thank you all and wish you all a fruitful New Year. ☐

MICHAEL REFALO
12TH JANUARY 2003

THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (12.01.2003)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the third year running, I can report further consolidation and progress for our Society: the increase in numbers being backed up with expansion of services offered to members.

Following the last AGM, our committee was confirmed and seven full meetings were held to discuss various topics but especially to prepare activities - for which additional informal and sub-committee meetings were also necessary. Additionally we decided to set up a sub-committee for Juniors.

Although a full diary is being published regularly in our quarterly Newsletter, it is my duty to give a basic overview.

- i) 4 members' activities (including swapping, purchasing and general help) at Scouts HQ through the kind cooperation of the Group Leader.
- ii) Production of items such as special covers.
- iii) Exchange packets.
- iv) School visits (and the probability of future school clubs).
- v) Other activities: 2 Pasta Nights and *Lunzjata* Mass.
- vi) Our main activity was understandably our Third Exhibition, again held at the Ministry Halls; the over fifty exhibits were most impressive. Certificates were prepared for all exhibitors, who moreover got a choice of gift (through the support of BOV and SSS). The opportunity was taken to have manufactured (by a member) specific aluminium display boards. October 2003 is booked for the Fourth.

Mention of the Newsletter leads naturally to a comment that, also thanks to the Editor, has become a highlight of membership benefits. I do not feel I am exaggerating if I describe it as a quality periodical in its own right, especially with the latest experimental supplement "Not just for →

Beginners". But members are fervently invited to contribute, even just short items. The substantial numbers of copies which have to be distributed suggested that we should register with Maltapost for posting at a reduced rate.

We decided that members living abroad will be charged an Euro 12 annual subscription, if they require regular despatches. For practical reasons, we have begun the necessary procedures to register with the Tax Department. We were given grants from the Gozo Ministry and its Culture Council.

Members are using local media (including community radios) to publicize our hobby. Our information is included in the Malta Year Book, on the Gozo Ministry website and at the NGO Centre. I was instructed to write a press letter about the possibility of a Gozitan personality to be philatelically honoured: in October we got two (or three!). We feel we should continue to act as a pressure group (even if behind the scenes).

We encouraged a Victoria Bookshop so that a good range of philatelic accessories is now available in Gozo.

Long hours by a couple of members, not necessarily forming part of the Committee, were really instrumental for all this to have been possible. I know they prefer not being named individually so I will just mention too that members have offered suggestions and even philatelic items - mostly aimed at Juniors. But we also purchased further stamps to try to satisfy demand.

We have renewed our membership of the UK-based Malta Study Circle. This, together with exchange contacts, results in receipt of additions to the publications we can offer on free loan to our members.

You may be interested to be informed that one of us was among the few participants at Maltex 2002, his exhibit being based on his prize-winner at the GPS 2001 Exhibition.

Complacency is dangerous and so I recommend the incoming Committee to concentrate on organizing members' activities still more frequently (and probably to restructure duties in view of the way our Society has developed). □

ANTOINE VASSALLO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2002**(From 1st January — 31st December 2002)***prepared by John Muscat and audited by Anton Said***INCOME**

Opening Balance	LM 318.88c
Membership Fees	LM 243.72c
Exhibition Sponsorship - BOV	LM 150.00c
Donations	LM 110.00c
Newsletter Adverts	LM 65.00c
Pasta Night activities	LM 43.75c
Sale of albums, cards, stamps, etc.	LM 415.41c
Exhibition Entrance Fees	LM 26.00c
TOTAL	LM1372.76c

EXPENDITURE

Printing of 4 Newsletters & various stationery	LM 286.00c
Secretarial Expenses	LM 40.00c
Vouchers and prices for participants	LM 160.00c
Purchase stationery	LM 34.16c
Purchase of stamps from U.K.	LM 40.00c
Postage Expenses	LM 57.36c
First Day Covers and Cards	LM 50.90c
Printing of circulars and photocopies	LM 46.00c
Two flower wreaths	LM 10.00c
Aluminium Boards	LM 177.47c
TOTAL	LM901.89c

Balance at Bank as on 31st December 2002 LM470.87c



Stamp Issue Programme For The Year 2003

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>MONTH OF ISSUE</u>
1. Definitive (additional values)	January
2. Vintage Cars.....	February
3. Military Architecture	March
4 St George Paintings	April
5. Europa and Small Games	May
6. Queen's Coronation Jubilee	June
7. Sea Shells	August
8. Maritime	September
9. Windmills.....	October
10. Christmas.....	November

PERFORATIONS

George Vella

What are perforations in stamps? It is a technical term in philately. These perforations help the user or the post office official to separate stamps from each other when they are in a sheet or block. As you know when you see them in a sheet the stamp is vertically and horizontally perforated by small holes. This makes it easier to separate stamps from each other.

As most of us know the first stamp was issued by Great Britain in 1840. This was the famous “Penny Black”. At that time the sheets were not perforated but they had to be cut up from each other with a scissors. Very often leaving the margins very uneven. By 1855 stamps started to be perforated and we still have them today. But as you might know lately the old custom was revived by having self-adhesive stamps with no perforations.

In stamp catalogues you usually find such abbreviations as **perf.** or **imperf.**; to explain if a stamp is perforated or not. The latter means “*not perforated*”.

One should note that there are two kinds of perforations: the **COMB** and the **LINE**. The COMB perforation has regular corners on the stamp while the LINE perforations has irregular corners on the stamp. These are important when one studies the edges of stamps.

The figures included may help you a lot to identify stamps and the perforation gauge on page 23 is also to scale.

COMB



LINE



(Continued on page 23)

not just for BEGINNERS

Originating from various requests and comments, this regular section aims at offering help to both juniors and adults. Regular features will include explanations of philatelic terms and details of stamp issuers; but we do invite members to send questions and enquiries (e.g. about identification uncertainties). Moreover you are encouraged to offer your own contributions, even short items or tips.

Where in the World ?! (2)

(*Antoine Vassallo*)

Stamp Issuers Past and Present

Africa Occidental Espanola (= Spanish West Africa)

Africa Orientale Italiana (= Italian East Africa)

Afrique Equatoriale Francaise (= French Equatorial Africa)

Afrique Francaise Libre Territories in Africa adhering to the French Government in exile (1940-5).

Afrique Occidentale Francaise (= French West Africa)

AITUTAKI One of the Cook Islands which issued its first stamps in 1903 and again from 1972.

Ajman Persian Gulf state which first issued stamps in 1964 (then under British Postal Administration). From 1973 uses stamps of the United Arab Emirates.

ALAND This autonomous province of Finland in the Gulf of Bothnia has had its own stamps since 1984.

Alaouites This coastal district of Syria had its first stamps in 1925 and was renamed Latakia in 1930.

ALBANIA (*Shqipëria*) This European country on the East coast of the Adriatic issued its first stamps in 1913.

Alcazar (Morocco local overprints)

ALDERNEY This Channel Island dependency of the Bailiwick of Guernsey (Channel Islands) has its own stamps since 1983 ↪

- Alexandretta** (= Hatay)
Alexandria (*Alexandrie*) Stamps were issued for the French Post Office in this Egyptian port 1899 to 1931.
- ALGERIA** (*Algerie*) This former French possession in North Africa had its first stamps in 1924.
- Allemagne** overprint (= Belgian Occupation of Germany)
Allende (Mexican stamps overprinted during Civil War)
Allenstein Overprinted stamps were issued in 1920 for what is now Olsztyn in Poland.
- Allied Military Government** (see Trieste & Venezia Giulia)
Alsace & Lorraine Stamps were issued in 1870 and 1940 for the German Occupations of these areas of France.
- Alwar** This state in North India had separate stamps between 1877 and 1902.
- A.M.G.** overprint (see Trieste and Venezia Giulia)
A M Post (Areas of Germany under Allied Military control after second World War)
- Amtlicher Verkehr** (= German state of Wurttemberg)
Amur This Siberian province had its own stamps in 1920.
Andaman & Nicobar Surcharged stamps were issued during the Japanese Occupation of these islands in the Bay of Bengal.
- ANDORRA** Spanish POs issued stamps for the small state in the Pyrenees from 1928 and French POs (*Andorre*) from 1931.
- ANGOLA** This former Portuguese colony in Southwest Africa had its stamps from 1870.
- Angora (now Ankara)** Separate stamps were used from 1920 to 1922 for the Turkish Nationalist Government.
- Angra** This district of the Azores had separate issues from 1892 to 1905.
- ANGUILLA** This British dependency in the West Indies separated from St Kitts Nevis and has its own stamps since 1967.
- Anjouan** While a French Colony, this island had its stamps from 1892 until attached to Madagascar in 1914. It is now part of the Comoros.

<p><i>Former Issuers</i> CURRENT ISSUERS <i>Inscriptions</i></p>

(Since it is obviously impossible to be completely exhaustive, you are encouraged to bring any gaps to my notice! — to be continued)

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (2)

(Emanuel Vella)

Airmail: Mail carried by air. This goes back to 17th August 1859 when Prof John Wise balloon “Jupiter” carried mail from Lafayette to Crawfordsville Indiana U.S.A. The destination was intended to be New York, but contrary winds forced the balloonist to descend. The first time letters which were carried by aircraft appears to have been a flight from Paris to St. Nazaire, France in August 1908.

Air Covers: Envelopes or other wrappers bearing cachets or airmail stamps or other evidence or their having been airborne.

Air Labels or Etiquettes: Members of the U.P.U. adopted a standardised blue label for affixing to airborne correspondence to expedite such mail. The label is worded in French (the official language of the U.P.U.) and of the issuing country. It is supplied free and affixed to the top left of the address. Their collection is an interesting sideline in aero-philately.

Album: Stamp albums are normally blank books, or partially printed, but with blank spaces designed to hold and display a collection of stamps. The first recorded album designed for the collection of postage stamps was published in Paris, by Lallier in 1862.

Anchor: Watermark used in certain issues of Great Britain and colonies.

Aniline: dye that runs when wetted. The dye is water soluble.

Approvals: Priced selections of stamps sent out by dealers to collectors to buy what they want and return those they do not pay for.

Arms Types: Stamps bearing coats of arms. These are an interesting thematic subject.

Arrangement: The interest and value of any collection are greatly enhanced by careful and artistic presentation in the album. Each page should be arranged to present the stamps to the best advantage.

Backprint: Any printing on the back of a stamp. Sometimes it is also referred to printing on the front of the stamp but beneath the main design.

Backstamp: a postmark applied to the back of any item of mail. It is usually applied by the receiving post office.

Bank Mixture: Stamps, usually on paper gathered from incoming mail of banking houses, whose international contacts and insured registered post may be presumed to have exceptional philatelic interest.

Barred: Stamps overprinted with black bars or rules are usually the remainder of stocks sold to the stamp trade at cut prices.

(to be continued)

* * *

script by script (2)

This space in each issue will feature stamps without any identifiable name in our normal alphabet or providing some similar difficulty.



Stamps of the **People's Republic of China** (“Communist”) are easily identifiable through the ideogram similar to an inverted Y or V in the middle of the name tablet. Many earlier Chinese stamps include a prominent symbol which can be described as a sun with rays. ☐

QUIZ COMPETITION

Open to all Junior Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society

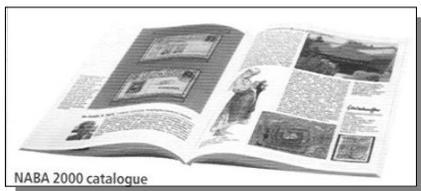
- i) Name two kinds of Perforations.
- ii) How many Maltese Sets were officially Imperforated ?
- iii) Name the 1st Airmail route in India and how long did the journey last ?
- iv) Which date is known as the “Red Letter Day” ?

Please send your answers on a separate paper together with your name, address and membership number by not later than 31st March 2003 to:

*The Secretary
Gozo Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 10, Victoria Gozo VCT 101*

Prize

First Day Cover of Malta or Mint Set of Malta Stamps generously donated by Mr Jesmond Borg.



PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULTS

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No. 10 are as follows:

- i) May 1918.
- ii) 8th November 1971.
- iii) The collection and study of postage stamps for use on airborne mail.
- iv) More than 16 million items.

PRIZE WINNER:

GPS Prize Winner of an attractive packet of different European stamps goes to Jean Pierre Saliba of "Eden" Ta' Said Street, Nadur, Gozo, NDR 103. (Member No.92)

*This packet was generously donated by
Mr Hans Katzensteiner
who is also one of our members.*

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

ERRATUM:

**RE COMPETITION RESULTS OF THE
3RD GPS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
published in Newsletter No 10 pages 20 & 21.**

This should read as follows:

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY (Nature & Environment)

2nd Prize: was awarded to Jesmond Borg.

JUNIORS

3rd Place: was awarded to Janice Rapa.

GOZO on Malta's Stamps

(continued from Issue No. 10)

(Antoine Vassallo)

The Gozo Philatelic Society Logo was designed by Mr Anthony Grech on the first pictorial Maltese stamp. So it is appropriate to glance at Gozo on Malta's stamps.

A Gaultiana collection can be expanded with various other items as follows:

A) YEAR PACKS (issued by the Post Office from 1988 onwards)

- i) 1992 features *il-Qolla s-Safra*, a hillock at Marsalforn.
- ii) 1998 features *id-Dwejra*.

B) "SPECIMEN" OVERPRINTS (formerly produced for presentation to UPU etc)

- i) 1889 4½d (=number 1.1) - exists in two differently sized overprints.
- ii) 1911 4 ½d (=1.3)
- iii) 1926 1/- (=2.1)
- iv) 1926 2/6 (=2.2)
- v) 1928 1/- (=3.1)
- vi) 1928 2/6 (=3.2)
- vii) 1930 1/- (=4.1) - from now on Perforated (Not overprinted)
- viii) 1930 2/6 (=4.2)
- ix) 1938 2d (=5.1)
- x) 1943 2d (=5.2)

C) STAMP VARIETIES

- i) 1905 4½d (=1.2) - inverted watermark
- ii) 1928 1/- (=3.1) - imperforate side

- iii) 1965 2½d (=7.1) - gold or orange omitted.
- iv) 1965 2/- (=7.2) - gold (centre or framework) omitted.
- v) 1965 10/- (=7.3) - gold omitted.
- vi) 1966 1/- (=8.2) - "Churchill" gold omitted.

D) Smaller Differences (plate flaws etc)

E) PERFINs

F) MAXIMUM CARDS

G) OCCASSION CARDS ETC.

H) VIEW CARDS

I) FIRST DAY COVERS ETC.

J) OFFICIAL FOLDERS (began being issued in 1969)

K) POSTAL CARDS (issued with printed designs as normal stamps in connection with Exhibitions)

- i) "Tembal 83" (as 19)
- ii) "Naposta 97" (as 34)

L) POSTMEN'S PERSONAL HANDSTAMPS

M) "VILLAGE" POSTMARKS

- i) 1901-20 CACCIA (= Xaghra)
- ii) 1910-12 GARBO (= Gharb)
- iii) 1900-02 GHAIN-SIELEM (=Ghajnsielem)
- iv) 1897-1900 MIGIARRO (=Mgarr);
1900-36 MIGIARRO B.O.

- v) 1900-13 NADUR
- vi) 1886-87 RABATO (= the present Victoria)
- vii) 1900-01 SANNAT
- viii) 1887-1900 VICTORIA; afterwards VICTORIA B.O.
- ix) 1900-10 XEUCHIA (= Xewkija)

N) MODERN POSTMARKS

- i) Ghajnsielem
- ii) Gharb
- iii) Mgarr (with or without dot on g)
- iv) Nadur (also SPO)
- v) Qala
- vi) Victoria (with different spacers; with, and now without, BO)
- vii) Xaghra (also SPO)
- viii) Xewkija SPO
- ix) Xlendi SPO

O) MACHINE POSTMARKS/CANCELLATIONS

P) SPECIAL MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

- i) “Gozo the island where time stood still” (first used originally in July 1984)
- ii) “Tliet mitt sena mit-twaqqif tal-parrocci ta’ Sannat, Xaghra, Zebbug 1688-1988” (April 1988)
- iii) “Tliet mitt sena mit-twaqqif tal-parocca Santa Marija tal-Qala 1688-1988” (May 1988)
- iv) “Nghozzu wirt Ghawdex sajjf 1991” (July 1991)
- v) “Bi-centinarju tal-kwadru titulari tal-Katidral t’Ghawdex 1791– 1991” (July 1991)
- vi) “Niltaqghu ma’ hutna l-emigranti 1 ta’ Awissu 1981 Mgarr Gozo Malta” (July 1991)
- vii) “75 years of scouting in Gozo” (November 1991)

- viii) “Teatru Astra 25 sena ta’ hidma kulturali u edukattiva” (January 1993)
- ix) “Conference of peripheral maritime regions Mgarr Hotel Gozo Malta” (April 1996)
- x) “Dun Pawl Micallef filantropu Ghawdxi 1897-1997” (January 1997)

Q) SPECIAL HAND CANCELLATIONS

- i) for philatelic twinning between Victoria and Trieste (1969)
- ii) for PGS international sports festival in Vict. (1990)
- iii) for the Pope’s visit to Ta’Pinu (1990)
- iv) for “Merhba 91” at Mgarr (1991)
- v) for coronation of Fontana titular painting (1993)
- vi) for Victoria UPU exhibition (1993)
- vii) for Mgarr peripheral maritime regions conference (TPO April 1996)
- viii) for Dun Pawl Micallef centenary (1997)
- ix) for bicentenary of French forces capitulation in Gozo (1998)
- x) for Victoria branch centenary (2000) - GPS initiative
- xi) for Victoria “Maltex 2000” (2000)

Produced also for new issues (only irregularly up to 1969)

R) GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY PRODUCTIONS

S) POSTAGE PAID INDICATORS (“Framas” etc.)

Note:

All members who wish to exchange stamps can contact our Exchange Organiser who is Mr Emanuel Vella of “Mandor” Grunju Street Nadur Gozo. Tel No. 21552252.
This is being done absolutely Free of Charge.

1ST AIRMAIL INDIA

Austin Masini

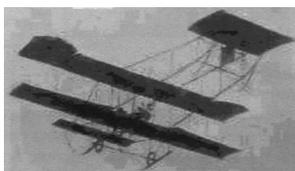
The aircraft was invented by the Wright brothers in USA but the first Airmail to fly in the world was flown in India.



Sir Walter George
Windham

In early December 1910, SS Persia, a British merchant ship arrived in Bombay with big cases containing dismantled plane parts. Accompanying the cargo were Commander Sir Walter George Windham and two pilots Henri Pequet, a Frenchman and Keith Davies, an Englishman. Along with them were also two mechanics Haffkin (British) and Billon (French). This was the team sent by Humber Motor Company, Coventry, England to exhibit the planes at the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition to be held at Allahabad UP. Towards the end of the year 1910 the Humber Motor Company manufactured two Roger Sommer biplanes one of which was sent to

India with the team.



Sommer Biplane

It happened that Windham was approached by a clergyman in charge of the Holy Trinity Church, Allahabad, to see if he could raise some funds for a hostel planned by the church. Windham thought that if he could fly some mail across the river Ganges (*Ganga*) to

Naini and put a special postmark, he could raise the money for the hostel.

The Postmaster General of United Provinces and the Director General of Post Offices in India approved the idea and a special postmark was authorized. The cancellation read ***First Aerial Post***. A clergyman was appointed as the



Special Postmark depicted on the stamp on the Golden Jubilee of the Event

Postmaster at the parade ground at Naini. A surcharge of 6 annas (37 paise today) was made and letters poured in from all over India. One letter had stamps worth 25 rupees. On February 17th, the day before the event, the Oxford and Cambridge Hostel at Allahabad was turned into a small GPO. The sorting of letters and postcards (approx 6000) started at 9.00 hours in the morning and lasted till midnight. Henry Pequet signed some 400 postcards himself!



Henri Pequet

It was a fine morning at Allahabad on the 18th of February, 1911. Henri Pequet took off with a wrist watch on his right hand and an altimeter fixed to his left knee. The biplane flew from Allahabad to Naini at 40 mph at an altitude of 130 feet. When it landed at Naini, he was greeted by the lone postmaster. Pequet flew back. The whole journey lasted 27 minutes.



The 1st Airmail Route

The occasion coincided with Puma Kumbha, the Hindu festival held once every 12 years. Pequet had a bird's eye view of a million Indians washing away their sins in the Ganges below. Thus the event was watched by over a million Indians that day!

One of the recipients of the first airmail was King George V of England. His secretary wrote to Windham *"The King desires me to send you his thanks for the letter he received from India, bearing the inscription **"First Aerial Post"**, which will be an interesting addition to His Majesty's stamp collection"*. ↪

Henri Pequet that day introduced aviation as a Postal Tool at Allahabad. The 18th February 1911 will always remain as a **Red Letter Day** not only in India but all over the world !

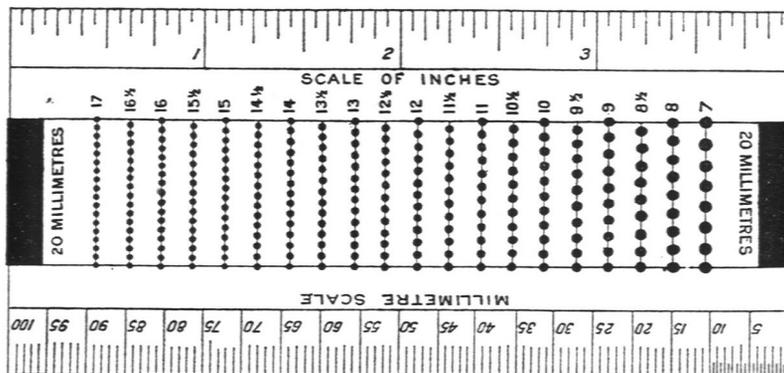


A Post Card on the first airmail



Moreover, India brought out this special cover to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of this event. A DHC Otter aircraft of the UP Flying Club flew the Allahabad-Naini-Allahabad route carrying these covers. A planeload of invitees flew to Allahabad to witness the event. □

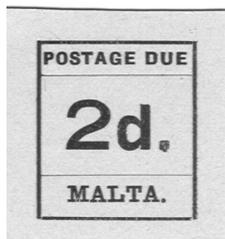
(continued from page 9)



HOW TO USE THE PERFORATION GAUGE

Slide the stamp along the dotted scale until you find one that exactly fits the perforations of the stamp. You can then read the right perforation number and no counting or squinting is necessary. The numbers refer to the number of holes found in a space of 20 millimetres, and not to the number of holes that are between the stamps, and as stamps vary considerably in size it will be seen that standardizing to a space of 20 millimetres means the Perforation Gauge can be compact, and easily understood by every collector.

To conclude one should say something about the Maltese imperforated stamps. Actually two sets of stamps were officially imperforated. The first is a set of ten, **Postage Dues**, issued on 16th April 1925 and printed in Malta at the Government Printing Office. The second set of four stamps was issued on the 9th January 2002, which are **Self-adhesive Stamps**.



Yet there are some more imperforated Maltese Stamps. These were not intended to be imperforated but skipped the perforation machine. These include one of the Penny Yellows of 1871, the Four Penny Brown of 1885, both pertaining Queen Victoria. Others are the Three Penny of the Definitive Issue of 1965, plus some stamps of the First European Congress of Catholic Doctors issued on 5th September 1964. □

* * * * *

MEMBERS ATTENTION!!!
(FORTHCOMING EVENT)

Tuesday 25th March 2003

At Dar *il-Lunzjata*

from 1.00pm onwards Members Meeting
(Exchange, buying and selling of postage stamps)

3.30pm Holy Mass at Lunzjata Chapel

All members and friends are invited to attend
for this activity.

FOR SALE

Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). (*Timbru speċjali ta' Kapitulazzjoni tal-Francċiżi f'Ghawdex*) **Lm1.00c**

Millenium hand stamped cards (8). (*Set ta' 8 kartolini timbrati blaħħar timbru tal-millenju wahda ghal kull posta f'Ghawdex*) **Lm2.50c**

Special Covers of limited edition to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely: Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. **Lm2.00c**

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Those interested may contact:

Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

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