



July - Sept 2005

Nº: 201 - 3/2005



**GOZO  
PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY**

*Newsletter*

NEWSPAPER POST

**FIRST PHILATELIC (AND ALLIED)**

**AUCTION/SALE ON**

**SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2005**

**FROM 10.00 A.M. ONWARDS**

**during the Exhibition**

Those interested in offering items for sale are to ask for regulations and forms from the Secretary (or Notary Dr Michael Refalo) by 22nd October 2005.

**A ground-breaking event -  
Mark in your diaries!**

Those who intend participating are encouraged to book a seat with the Secretary; otherwise a place cannot be guaranteed!

**Front Cover:**

- Horse-drawn hearse driven along Racecourse Street Victoria Gozo (*now Republic Street*) during the funeral of Mons. George Agius on 06.03.1962.
- 11c Stamp from a set of four - entitled Equines in the Maltese Environment - issued on the 19th August 2005, shows a horse-drawn hearse which was used in Malta.

**BEGIN PREPARING NOW!!!**  
**THE 6TH GPS PHILATELIC**  
**EXHIBITION**

will be held from 4th to 13th November 2005

At the Exhibition Halls

St Francis Square Victoria Gozo

All GPS members are obviously invited to exhibit and visit the exhibition as well as to be present for the opening ceremony on Friday 4th November 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

Competitive Classes

Postal History & Social Philately

Feasts & Festivals

*(Please note that the "Feasts & Festivals" theme covers a wide range of possible subjects. e.g. Christmas, festas, Carnival and particular events such as the Commonwealth Summit.)*

Juniors are not restricted to this particular theme but will all receive a gift for participating.

Certificates will be issued to all exhibitors, in competition or not.

A full set of regulations, together with an application form is enclosed but further copies are available from the Secretary.



# 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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**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 (21)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

**May 2005:** Issue No 4 of *Die Melita* (published by *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Malta e.V.* which has a new president is one of our overseas members - Wolfgang Juncker. Congratulations and Good work!) refers to the GPS Newsletter in an item about the “*Xaghra*” Windmill controversy.

**1st June 2005:** Preparations begun for the novel activity of a philatelic auction during our 6th Exhibition.

**June 2005:** Reference to our Society (and photos of covers designed by Anthony Grech) in issue 25 of *Filatelìa Religiosa Flash* (published by the Italian *Gruppo Don Pietro Ceresa*).

**25th June 2005:** Funeral of honorary member George Scicluna, possibly Gozo’s oldest philatelist, who used to publish the stamp periodical *Malta & Gozo Courier* (see page 12 issue 5). We send our condolences to his family.

**July 2005:** The Nottinghamshire PS Newsletter reproduces one of our articles (George Vella’s “Collecting Postmarks”) in its summer issue.

**1st July 2005:** Visit to Malta by Seminary Stamp club.  
(see page 8)

**8th August 2005:** Card produced by Anthony Grech for Mary Meylak handstamp.

**15th August 2005:** Card produced by Anthony Grech for *Wirja* handstamp.

### ***Errata Newsletter No 20:***

**Page 20:** (Please note that the sentence in the 5th line of the 2nd paragraph is direct quotation).

**Page 24:** the first person mentioned was surnamed Azopardi (one z); his dates were left out (1748-1809); Cassar’s were 1520-86.

## COMMEMORATIVE STAMP “EDELWEISS”

### Austrian Post

*(Hans Katzensteiner)*

Embroidery is the staff of which the



<b>First Day of Issue:</b>	<b>19.07.2005</b>
<b>Value:</b>	<b>EUR 3,75</b>
<b>Size:</b>	<b>40mm x 50mm</b>
<b>Quantity:</b>	<b>4000,000 stamps</b>

most valuable fashion dreams are made. Wars have been fought over embroidery, women kidnapped and men seduced. Embroidery is the only textile technique whose products are the result of an artistic destruction process. Scissors, needles and thread followed the embroideries from China along the Silk Road to Babylon. Monks then brought the secrets of embroidery to the monasteries and the imperial courts of Europe, where practitioners soon acquired special rights. Empress Maria Theresa also granted these rights to the embroiderers of the Bregenz Woods, whose hand-made embroidery created the basis for this centre of Vorarlberg embroidery in the 18th century. For decades, it has been a key element of the Austrian export trade.

Vorarlberg embroiders for the world. Its customers can be found in 180 countries on all five continents. Comparable to the mesh used in guipure, the queen of embroideries, the Vorarlberg embroiderers have developed a network of markets that inseparably combine innovation and quality. Thousands of patterns in the Embroidery companies archives testify to their diligence, skills and ever-new ideas.

Fashion has always told stories that can be worn. They

can now stick on postcards, envelopes, in an album, on the skin or in a wallet. The smallest work of embroidery art now decorates a stamp. The dress has been designed by Haemmerle and Vogel from Lustenau, a long standing family business and embroiderers to the avant-grade. It is here the most outrageous desires of the fashion kings are turned into reality. And it is here that a stamp has been created that can be worn, the first wearable stamp in the world. The leitmotif of this unusual creation is the edelweiss, queen of the alpine flowers. So real you can pick it, the petals and the pollen are in relief against the thick base of threads. The serrated edge of the stamp is as indestructible as the myth of the edelweiss.

Embroidery is an art, plastic, valuable and timeless. And art comes from artisan, the skilled worker. The future is what one has the skill to do. The dress on the stamp is a festive Austrian Dress. It will bear the date of first issue, but will never go out of fashion. It will travel around the world and tell a new unusual story, the story of the stamp that wears an embroidered dress. In 2005 it is a commemorative stamp from Austria, born in Lustenau, the metropolis of the Vorarlberg embroidery industry. □

**Lots of Stamps for Sale at a cheap price!!!**

**These include Poland, Canada, Germany, Czechoslovakia, etc.**

**Also available First Day Covers of Malta at ½ Catalogue price.**

**Those interested can contact Mr John Muscat on Tel No 21553875**

\*\*\*\*\*

We have for sale at very low prices the following items:

- **Malta and Great Britain Stamps.**
- **First Day Covers and**
- **Other Philatelic material**

*Anyone interested can contact* Mr Jesmond Borg

55 St Joseph Square Qala Gozo

Tel No: 21552277

**GOZO'S GPS OLDEST MEMBER  
DECEASED !!**



With deepest sympathy we announce the death of Mr George Scicluna which happened on the 23rd June 2005 at the venerable age of 90 years. Mr Scicluna was a member of our society which he much respected. George was proclaimed a Life Honorary Member by an unanimous vote of the Society's committee in 2001. In fact he was the most senior member of the Gozo Philatelic Society. Mr Scicluna was indeed a great philatelist and for some time he even issued a periodical called "The Malta and Gozo Courier". His collections were so close to his heart that he turned down the lots of offers he had to sell them. In fact he was never interested to part with his life-long treasure. In issue No 5 of our Newsletter we published an article about George, written by Mr A Vassallo.

As for my memories I will never forget the expression on his face when at the age of 87 he visited our yearly philatelic exhibition. His handshake was not of an old man, it was of a young at heart philatelist.

Now George went to meet Our Lord. I am sure that he was also most welcome in heaven by Our Lady whom he loved so dearly and by Saint George, his patron Saint. On behalf of all the members of the Gozo Philatelic Society, I offer our condolences to all members of his family. May he rest in peace. □

**THE GOZO AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL  
SHOW - "IL-WIRJA TA' SANTA MARIJA"  
150TH ANNIVERSARY 1855 - 2005**

*(Anthony Grech)*

The father of the Maltese Ornithology, Chev Antonio Schembri together with Mr Giuseppe Gauci set up the then known as 'Societa Agricola e Industriale' in Gozo in 1855. Today this is known as "The Agricultural, Industrial and Cultural Society of Gozo". Although Maltese by birth, Chev Schembri was by no means a foreigner to Gozo. In fact in 1856 he contested for the vacant seat in the Council of Government to represent Gozo. He was so well respected in this Island that out of 372 votes he got 276 and was elected. The Society organised its first Agricultural and Industrial Show in the same year i.e. 1855. The first Exhibition was held at the Government Primary School in Victoria. Although it was something new for Gozo, many farmers participated and many more were disappointed, because their products were not accepted for the show, due to the fact that they presented their items after closing time. The school and its rooms where the show was set up were decorated with flags, and the walls were covered with damask cloth. As is the case today there were lots of different products on show such as fruits, vegetables, cereals, Gozo cheese and also field tools. The Governor of Malta Sir William Reid, to encourage and help in the success of the show donated a quantity of field tools to be distributed among the exhibitors and also allocated £20 to be awarded as prizes. This first show was a great success with a numerous public attendance. The second show held the year after, in 1856, was even greater. It was better organised and more attended. The products on show were much more numerous and the decorations more extravagant. For this show a new section was introduced; that of domestic farm animals. These included milk cows, bulls and mares. This exhibition showed that this annual event was here to stay and so it did.

Today this show takes place on the 14th and 15th August, at the Villa Rundle Public Gardens in Victoria, when the Maltese islands are celebrating the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven. This important feast is popularly known as “*Santa Marija*”. In fact the populace of Gozo refer to this show as the “Show of Saint Mary” or better in Maltese as “*Il-Wirja ta’ Santa Marija*”. Nowadays this show is well established in the Gozitan calendar. It is visited by thousands of Gozitan and Maltese and a great number of tourists who happen to be on holiday on the islands. The Society also organises two other smaller shows. One is for indoor plants and another is held during Christmas time, having as a main theme flower arrangements and other artistic works.

In fact to commemorate the Show’s 150th anniversary, Maltapost plc issued a special handstamp. This was applied on mail from a temporary branch post office which was set up purposely at Villa Rundle Public Gardens, where as usual the Show takes place on the 14th and 15th August 2005. The Gozo Philatelic Society too on this occasion, issued a limited number of 100 postcards which were hand-stamped during this show with this special handstamp.



**Reference:**

“*Wirja tal-Biedja u Snajja’ 2004*”.

1st & 2nd Edition “*Wirja tal-Biedja u Snajja’* (1855 - 1856) by Mr Anton Mizzi.

## MAWRA SA MALTA

(Luke Masini - Form I Gozo Seminary)



Kien haqqna rigal wara tant studju minhabba l-ezamijiet ta' l-ahhar tas-sena. Hekk gara, ghax il-gimgha 1 ta' Lulju Itqajna lkoll l-Imgarr biex immorru mal-vapur tas-7.30 ta' fil-ghodu. Ghalina t-tfal li naghmlu parti mill-grupp Filateliku tas-Seminarju Minuri din kienet okkazjoni sabiha u flimkien ma' Dun Gerard Buhagiar u s-sur Anthony Grech rhejnilha lejn Malta.

Kif wasalna c-Cirkewwa sibna x-xarabank tistenniena li malajr waslitna tas-Sliema. Hemm morna ghand is-*Sliema Stamp Shop*. F'dan il-hanut dommna kwazi saghtejn sabiex kulhadd kellu cans jixtri xi bolli u affarijiet ohra li kellu bzonn ghall-kollezzjoni tieghu. Il-gost taghna kien inqallbu fil-bolli u fil-*First Day Covers!* Hawn iltqajna mas-Sur Anthony Fenech, filatelist bravu hafna li kien gie l-islola taghna u ghamlilna laqgha tassew interessanti. Grazi ghall-hidma tieghu, irhejnilha flimkien lejn il-Posta Generali ta' Malta. Xewqa ohra li sehhet. Hawn veru laqghuna tajjeb. Dhalna f'sala, offrewlna xi *drinks* u hadulna ritratt tal-grupp kollu. Ahna hsibna li dan ir-ritratt sejjer jispicca fuq xi gazzetta, imma mhux hekk gara! Wara gie s-sur Galea u beda jkellimna dwar il-bolli ta' Malta u x-xoghol kollu li jsir biex johrog set bolli gdid ta' Malta. Barra dan huwa stedinna biex nissugerixxu x'tip ta' bolli nixtiequ li l-*Malta Post* tohrog. Hawn kulhadd beda hierieg b'idejat differenti, fosthom kien hemm min issugerixxa li johorgu bolli b'forom differenti, ohrajn qalu li johorgu bolli forma ta' ballun tal-futball biex titfakkar xi *World Cup* u hafna aktar. Veru hadna gost ghaliex kellna dan

ic-cans li nuru l-idejat u x-xewqat taghna avolja ghadna kollezzjonisti zgħar.

Izda s-sorpriza tal-gurnata waslet fi tmiem il-laqgħa, għaliex f'daqqa wahda dahal wiehed u beda jqassam envelope lil kull tifel. Fuq dan l-envelope kien hamm bolla bir-ritratt tal-grupp taghna li kienu hadulna hekk kif wasalna. Kemm hadna gost! Dan għalina kien l-isbah rigal għaliex din kienet l-ewwel darba li sibna ruhna fuq bolla! Wara mbagħad inzilna isfel u stajna naraw kif isir *is-sorting* tal-ittri kollu u sar t-timbru tal-gurnata fuq l-envelope li konna rcevejna. Għaddew tlett siegħat mingħajr lanqas biss indunajna, hrabna lejn ix-xarabank u wara li waqafna u kilna xi haga, sibna ruhna mill-gdid fuq il-vapur lejn Għawdex. X'hin wasalna l-Imgarr sellimna lil xulxin u morna lura d-dar mal-ġenituri taghna li kienu qed jistennewna x-xatt.

Nixtieq ngħid grazzi f'isem shabi kollha lill-Grupp Filateliku ta' Għawdex, lis-Sur Anthony Fenech u lil *Malta Post* ta' din il-gurnata li għaddejna flimkien. Gurnata li komplet timliena bil-kuragg biex matul il-vaganzi tas-sajf inkomplu nibnu l-kollezzjoni taghna. Grazzi. □

*An Outing to Malta (Summary in English of above article)*

*A group of Form I students were taken to Malta on an outing. Being a philatelic group our first stop was at the Sliema Stamp Shop. Our enthusiasm was at its peak surrounded by all that bonanza of philatelic material such as stamps, albums and first day covers. A beaming smile on J.B's face, when the group left, was proof enough that business was bresk that morning.*

*A second stop was at the Malta Post where we were shown around and the whole procedure of the stamping and sorting of letters was explained to us. Surprisingly enough, before we left we were given each an envelope as a memento, stamped with a personal stamp of the whole group. Indeed this was a memorable outing for the whole group, thanks to the organisers. □*

## *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 ?!** (12)

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

#### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**Danmark** = Denmark.

**Dansk-Vestindien** = Danish West Indies.

**Danubian Principalities (Moldavia & Wallachia):** declared their Independence from the Turkish Empire, issuing stamps from 1858; called Romania from 1865.

**Danzig:** Independent city with own stamps 1920-39 (**Freie Stadt**), also Polish PO (**Gdansk**) 1925-39; now the city of Gdansk in Poland.

**Dardanelles:** Russian PO in what is now Turkish Canakkale 1909-10.

**Datia** = Duttia.

**DDR** = E Germany.

**Deccan** = Hyderabad.

**Dedeagatz:** now the Greek port of Alexandroupolis with French PO (**Dedeagh**) 1893-1914 and Greek occupation 1913.

**Debrecen:** Rumanian occupation of Hungary 1919-20.

**DENMARK:** Country of North-Western Europe with stamps from 1851.

**Deutsche Bundespost** = West Germany (Federal Republic).

***Deutsche Demokratische Republic*** = East Germany  
(Democratic Republic)

***Deutsche Post*** = Allied Zones of Occupation in Germany  
after World War 2.

***Deutsche Post Osten*** = German Occupation of Poland.

***Deutsches Reich/ Deutschland*** = Germany.

***Deutsch-Neuguinea*** = German New Guinea.

***Deutsch-Ostafrika*** = German East Africa.

***Deutschosterreich*** = Austria 1918-21.

***Deutsch-Sudwestafrika*** = German colony of Southwest  
Africa.

**Dhar:** Indian state with own stamps 1897-1901.

***Diego-Suarez:*** French base in Madagascar with own stamps  
1890-6.

**Djibouti:** Port in French Somaliland with stamps 1894-1902  
(also ***DJ***), 1941 (Vichy) and 1943 (Free French).

**DJIBOUTI:** Independent republic in East Africa with  
stamps from 1977 (formerly ***Afars & Isaas***).

**Dobruja** = Bulgarian occupation of Rumania.

**Dodecanese** = Aegean Islands.

**DOMINICA:** Stamps from 1874 as British colony in the  
Caribbean; independent from 1978.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Independent republic on the  
eastern part of the Central American island of Hispaniola  
with stamps from 1865.

**Don:** South Russia territory autonomous from 1918 to 1920.

**Dorpat:** 1918 stamps for the German occupation of  
Estonian Tartu. *(to be continued)*

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***Bold italic*** = Inscriptions;

**BOLD CAPITALS** = Current Issuers;

**Bold** = Former Issuers.

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

## **stamp terms used in PHILATELY (12)**

(Emanuel Vella)

***Hand-struck stamp:*** Term usually applied to postal markings indicating that postage had been pre-paid or was due, applied by hand in the pre-adhesive period.

***Harrow Perf:*** Both horizontal and vertical perf. done on a whole sheet of stamps in one pressure operation.

***Head Plate:*** Alternative name for the keyplate (q.v.) of British Colonial Designs; so called from the inclusion of the monarch's head.

***Health Stamps:*** Charity stamps sold at more than their postal value. The surcharge being in aid of funds to promote health or combat disease.

***Hinge:*** Stamps hinges are rectangular pieces of tough, thin paper, gummed on one side and designed for the neat mounting of stamps in an album. They have been in use as long ago as 1860. Good quality hinges, which peel easily when required, leaving little or no trace on either stamp or album leaf are strongly recommended. Hinges are available in various sizes. Most are sold folded, ready for use.

***Horizontal:*** In reading the gauges of stamps perforations, the horizontal edges are given first. e.g. 11 x 10. The 11 is for horizontal perforation while the 10 is for vertical perforations or upright.

**Hydrogen Peroxide:** A chemical bleaching and cleaning fluid. Used diluted on used stamps to restore whiteness to yellowed paper. Thorough rinsing after washing is imperative

**Imperforate or Imperf:** Printed sheets of stamps without aid to divide or separate. (i.e. without holes to divide the stamps.) The early issues of G.B. and many other pioneer countries were imperforated. They were separated with scissors or knife by the vendor. Imperforated stamps with clear margins are always more valuable. Henry Archer of Great Britain is credited with the invention of the first successful perforating machine. Perforation makes stamps separations much easier.

**Imperial Crown Watermark:** Was introduced into stamps of G.B. in 1880. It is wider and flatter in shape than the “large” crown and has a prominent circular orb under the cross.

**Impression:** A copy taken by pressure from a plate, die or block.

**Imprimatur** (*in Latin “Let it be printed”*): The first authorised sheet from a plate which is finally approved. Imprimatur sheets are usually placed in the archives of Postal Administrations.

**Imprint Block:** A block of four or more stamps to which the margin is attached, bearing the printers’ imprint.

*(to be continued)*

## *Script by Script (12)*

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

*This regular space features stamps without any identifiable name in “latin” script or providing some similar difficulty.*

**Afghanistan** often appears at the top of the list of countries in printed albums. Most of its stamps have a clear (although sometimes quite small) Afghanes or even the full name. However “latin” script only began being used in 1927.

Afghanistan’s earlier stamps are usually too expensive-and uncommon - to be included in general collections. Though they can be described as quite distinctive (and strange), it is not even easy to identify the actual value (most “sets” using just one colour throughout!). Interestingly, the usual form of cancellation up to 1891 was tearing or cutting off a portion of the stamp (or punching a hole); thus these stamps in used form appear to be damaged !

A first circular design (imperforate and gumless) was issued in 1871 (Muslim year 1288 as shown by small Arabic numerals) under Amir Sher Ali. Amir Abdur Rahman Khan in 1880 brought an adapted design. Rectangular designs arrived in 1891. Seemingly “normal” stamps were issued from 1907 but these can be mistaken for superficially similar Turkish ones of the period.



A German member is interested in buying postal stationery, stamps (only with circular date stamp) and IRC for his Malta collection - contact the Secretary.

**PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULT**

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No.20 are as follows:

- i) U.K.
- ii) 1860
- iii) 25.03.1957
- iv) Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

**PRIZE WINNER:**

GPS Prize Winner of First Day Cover of Malta:  
Amanda Buttigieg of “Down Under” L-Aandrijiet Street,  
Munxar Gozo (Membership No. 34)

**CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**This was the last Competition in this format.**

**We are happy to announce a**

**NEW CONTRIBUTOR SCHEME**

We invite all members to send questions (e.g. regarding stamp identification) or short comments, suggestions, collecting experiences etc. All those received from Juniors will be awarded philatelic mementos while all contributions published will be suitably rewarded (stamps, covers etc.)

Moreover we are also launching an English Language Competition in collaboration with the Royal British Legion. For full details please see page 18.

Jose M Rodrigues (Leonardo Mota 715-Ap.401, 60170-40-Fortaleza CE, Brazil) is interested in exchanging Fauna stamps (Mint and FDC) and Banknotes.

**E & O not E (7)***(Antoine Vassallo)*

*Stamp collecting is probably the only field where a printing error increases the interest - and possible value!*

Today I show a stamp issued by the United States Post Office in 1962 to honour Dag Hjalmar Agne Carl Hammarskjöld. This Swedish statesman helped to set up the Emergency Force in Sinai and Gaza in 1956 and continued to work for Middle East conciliation. He was awarded the 1961 Nobel Peace Prize after his death in an air crash in Zambia while engaged as Secretary General of the United Nations Organization in negotiations over the Congo Crisis. He was the second person to hold this post, having succeeded Norwegian Trygve Halvdan Lie in 1953.

H M Sanborn's simple design was printed in brown, yellow and black. A sheet was found with the yellow background inverted. To stop the creation of a major rarity the Post Office ordered a reprint with this mistake: we can thus call it a deliberate or official error. The result is that both versions are very common.

A later attempt to repeat this idea (of copying errors so as not to become very valuable) was stopped through a court case by the possessor of Canal Zone stamps with a missing colour. A 4c stamp had been issued in 1962 to commemorate the opening of Thatcher Ferry Bridge, printed in black and silver. The missing silver colour meant that the bridge became invisible!

*Deliberate Error:  
Reprinted United  
States Dag  
Hammarskjöld  
stamp with inverted  
centre (shown with  
normal)*



*(Our readers are encouraged to submit their own suggestions for future Newsletters.)*

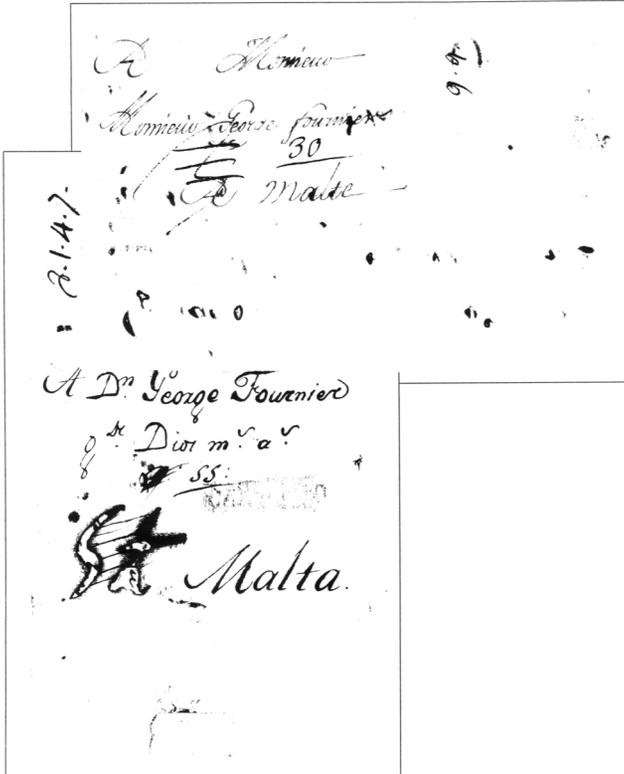
## Australian MALTA (6)

*John Vassallo, who lives in Australia, offers glimpses of his Malta Collection.*

I continue showing parts of my Postal History exhibits.

### **MALTA POSTAL SERVICE**

#### **The Earliest Markings (*continued*)**



As trade improved postal markings started appearing to help organise the deliveries. The two letters shown here are to another merchant Mr George Fournier with some very early markings. One has a “30” manuscript, which shows the cost of delivering the letter and the other has a black marking “CATANI???”; perhaps showing that it went through this place in Sicily dated 1770?

We are proud to be allied with the Royal British Legion  
in organizing an

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETITION.**

Regulations will be distributed in all Gozitan schools but there will be separate sections for primary and secondary school students.

Competitors are free to choose any topic connected with stamps - examples: why I collect stamps; my stamp club; exhibiting stamps; “the hobby of Kings - the king of hobbies”; story of a stamp; stamp designs; general knowledge from stamps; my collection; thematic collecting; etc.

Attention should be given to spelling and style. Length itself is not the essential aspect (preferably between 150 and 250 words) but the number of words has to be stated at the end. Reference can be made to publications and the internet but actual material should not be copied.

Entries (with a signed declaration “all my own unaided work”) stating name and address, school, date of birth and GPS membership number (where applicable) are to be collected at schools or sent directly to:

**COMPETITION GPS P.O. Box 10 VCT 101.**

Orders of merit for book and philatelic prizes will be decided by the Royal British Legion. Moreover all competitors will receive philatelic mementos.

The Royal British Legion is holding English Language courses at the Ninu Cremona Lyceum for Primary and Secondary school students on Mondays after school hours starting 17th October 2005.

Those interested can contact Mr Joe Hamilton of 2 “Napoli” St Joseph Labre Street Victoria Gozo on Tel No: 21338780 or 21563420.

## ST PAUL ON MALTESE STAMPS

*(Emanuel Vella)*



The first stamp which bear the image of St Paul is the 10s Blue-Black. This was issued on 4th February 1889. It was adopted from an engraving by Gustav Dore'. The designer of this stamp is unknown and its watermark is Crown over "cc" - this is watermark 1 on the JB catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History. It is perforated 13.75 x 14.

The next St Paul stamp was issued in 1919 - 1920. It has the same design as the previous St Paul stamp, but instead of a border with "Malta Postage" with a Maltese cross in the middle it has only Malta. This stamp with watermark Multiple Crown C.A. is the most expensive Maltese stamp. It is catalogued at over LM1500 for a mint stamp and you need another LM500 for a used one.

The third St Paul stamp has the same design as the previous one but the watermark is Multiple Crown and script "C.A.". This is not as expensive as the pervious one and unless you see the watermark no one would know the difference. This stamp is also Blue-Black in colour. A printing was also done in Red but these were used for revenue purposes.



In 1922 the stamps of St Paul of 1889 which were not sold were overprinted with "Self Government" printed in red. This overprinting was done at the Government printing office in Valletta. In 1910 - 36 during the reign of King George V the stamps which were issued in 1921 were also overprinted with "Self Government".

The definitive set of 1926-27 also have a stamp of St Paul. This is the 10s stamp. The set is inscribed 'POSTAGE'

and has watermark Multiple Crown and Script CA. This stamp is black and carmine and was put on sale on 9th February 1927. This set was again overprinted "Postage and Revenue" on 1st October 1928. This was again done at the Government Printing Office in Valletta.

Another St Paul Stamp is the 10s stamp of 1930. This stamp was designed by John Harrison. It is inscribed "Postage and Revenue" and is also black and carmine.



The definitive set of 1938 also has a 10s stamp of St Paul. This set was designed by Waterlow and Sons and used the medallion portrait of King George VI by Bertram Park. This set including the St Paul's stamp was overprinted "Self Government 1947" in black or red. The stamp of St Paul was overprinted in

black.

The next 10s stamp is that of the definitive set which was issued in 1956-57. It was printed in red and issued on 19th November 1956. This is the set of Queen Elizabeth II.

On 9th February 1960 Malta commemorated the 1900 anniversary of St Paul's shipwreck on the Maltese islands. A commemorative set of six stamps was issued. It was designed by Chev. E.V.Cremona. The whole set of six stamps has a face value of 5s0½d.



Many other stamps with the image of St Paul were issued after this set but I will write about them later on. □

## MALTA'S RELIGIOSITY EVIDENCED PHILATELICALLY A CROSS-REFERENCED A - Z

(Antoine Vassallo)

(continued from Newsletter No 20)

### P is for PEOPLE (cont)

I list here some persons not included elsewhere

- Adelaide Cini (1838-85) - **3c Philanthropists 1986.**
- Chev EV Cremona (1919 –87) merits inclusion as the designer of innumerable “religious” stamps, not forgetting the Tapestries sets and the first 16 Christmas issues.
- Alfons Maria Galea (1861-1941) financed orphanages and institutes and was involved in Bible translation - **8c Philanthropists 1986; 75c Salesian Centenary 2004.**
- Fra Wolfgang Philip Guttenberg (1647-1733) - **35c Mellieha 1999.**
- Nicolo’ Isouard (1775-1818) - composer of sacred music. **5c Personalities 1974.**
- Antonio Sciortino (1879-1947) - sculptor of sacred statues. **10c Personalities 1974.**
- Fra Giuseppe Zammit (1646-1740) - first holder of the Chair of the School of Anatomy & Surgery. **7c Surgery 1976.**



See **B D E H K M N O S V Z**

### Q is for QUOTATIONS

Many producers of first day covers have decorated them with quotations, including Biblical and other religious references. But, as far as actual stamps are concerned, I have only identified these:

- St Paul Centenary **1960** (shown in Latin):
  - a) **8d**: “The other sick people also came and were cured”. (Acts of the Apostles chapter 28)
  - b) **1s**: “We are to be stranded on an island....called Malta”. (Acts of the Apostles chapters 27 and 28).
  - c) **2s6d**: “I have been shipwrecked ....for the name of Christ”.  
(Second letter to the Corinthians).
- Christmas **1983** (miniatures from Book of Hours).
- Christmas **1987** (illuminated Choral books).
- Papal Visit **1990** - the *se-tenant* sheetlet included 2 stamp-size labels reproducing Acts 28:1,2 (in Maltese and English).



- A musical score. **20c Art 2004** can also be mentioned.

### **R is for ROMAN CATHOLICISM**

According to constant tradition, Malta was converted to Christianity 60 AD and Roman Catholicism is still the constitutionally official religion. It has a strong influence on folklore and culture, reflected also in place-names and artistic objects. Innumerable stamps cover these themes, as shown in this survey.

I mention here just these:

- **1d** Definitives **1965**. (Proto-Christian era) swearing-in ceremony. **1c3m** Republic **1975**.
- **£1** Definitives **1965** signifies the deeply-rooted faith of the Maltese.
- respect towards the Souls in Purgatory is strong among believers (eg 3-value set Scapular Centenary **1951**).



### S is for SAINTS

- a) The top (**£1**) value of the **1965** Defs shows St Publius, St Paul and St Agatha, Malta's Patron Saints.
- St Publius (mentioned in the Biblical Acts of the Apostles and traditionally treated as Malta's first bishop) had been included in the **1926**, **1928**, **1930**, **1938** and **1948** Defs (all 1/6). His baptism by St Paul was the **3d** in the Shipwreck Centennial set **1960**. He can be seen also on the **2004** Art Miniature Sheet.
  - St Paul (who brought the faith to Malta, as described prominently in the Acts) is in fact probably the most popular subject for our stamps. Besides this 6-value set



for the **1960 XIX** Centenary of his Shipwreck on our shores, a three-value one was issued in **1967** for the Centenary of his Martyrdom and that of St Peter.

A famous Dore' engraving was adapted for the top (**10/-**) value in the first pictorial Defs (in **1889**), overprinted "Self Government" in **1922**. A similar design (again **10/-**) was issued in **1919** and, with changed watermark, in **1922**; this too was overprinted a few months later. A statue of St Paul was used for the **10/-** added in **1927** to the Defs and included with the **1928** and **1930** sets, as well as in the **1938** and **1948** Defs. This statue was used for the **1956** Defs (still **10/-**). A medieval painting is shown on **72c** (MS) Art **2004**.

St Paul is the subject of the **4c** in the **1990** Papal visit set (also issued in a sheetlet), while the **1919** stamp was prominently shown in the design of the **1991** Philatelic Society Anniversary **10c**.

- St Agatha (whose cult was probably brought over from Sicily, like eg St Lucy's) can be seen also on **57c** and **Miniature Sheet** Art **2004** and in (3-value set) Scapular Centenary **1951**.
- St George, considered as "Patron of Victoria and Protector of Gozo", can be included here too. A five-value paintings set was issued in **2003** on the XVII th Centenary of his martyrdom. He was also represented as a small, albeit important, part of the design of the four-stamp Silver Jubilee Omnibus in **1935**. And the George Cross (used prominently or otherwise on some eighty stamps) shows him too!



*(to be continued)*

## **FOR SALE**

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

**Millenium hand stamped cards (8).** (*Set ta' 8 kartolini timbrati blaħħar timbru tal-millenju waħda għal kull posta f'Għawdex*) **Lm2.00c**

A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:-  
Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. **Lm2.00c**

A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. **Lm1.00c**

Malta Stamp Album in 3 Volumes with spaces for every stamp to date. **Lm20.00c**

Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

***Those interested may contact:***

**Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338**

## **FOR SALE**

- Card to commemorate the 200th Anniversary Of The Blessing Of Nadur Parish Church. Cancelled with a Commemorative Special Hand Stamp at Nadur Gozo Sub Post Office. Individually hand coloured and limited edition of 75. **Lm0.25c**
- Cover to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the death of the Gozitan Artist - Painter and Sculpturer Wistin Camilleri. This cover shows the tomb monument of the artist and a piece of his sculpture found at Ta' Pinu Church. Limited edition of 50. **Lm0.25c**
- Card to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Cancelled with a Special Hand Stamp used only at the Victoria Gozo BPO. Limited **Lm0.50c** edition of 100.
- Card to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of Fontana Parish Church cancelled with a Special Hand Stamp. Limited edition of 50. **Lm0.50c**
- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

***Those interested may contact:***

**Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338**

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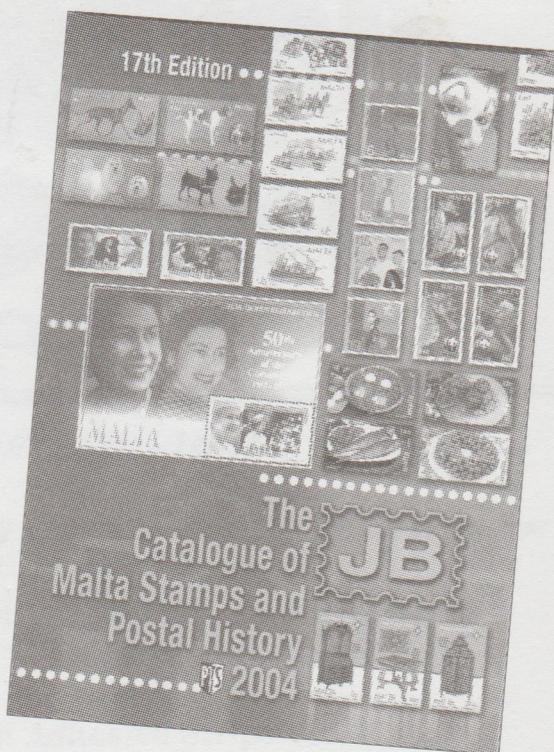
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