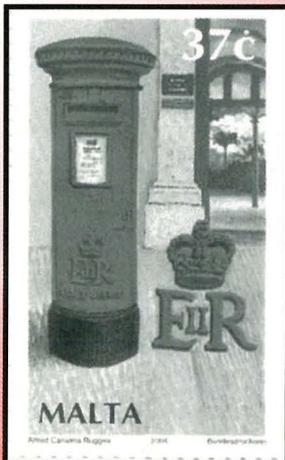
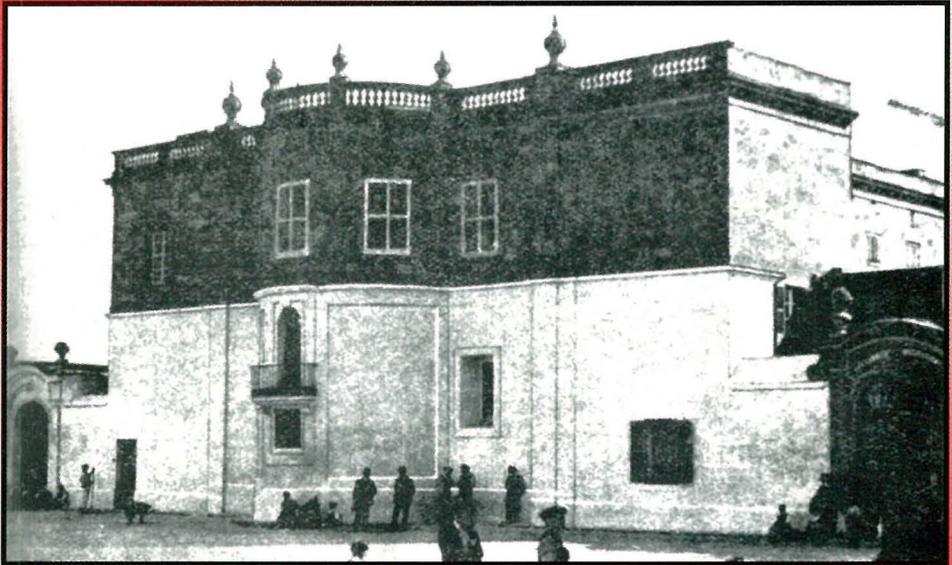


July - Sept 2008

No.33 - 3/2008

www.stamps-gozo.org



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Newsletter

Għal Kull Servizz Bankarju



**AKTAR VALUR
BIEX TIXTRI
JEW TIBNI
DAREK**

BOV Homelink
SUCCESS



Aghżel
int u nnota
d-differenza!

BOV Notice Account

306090



BOV TeenSaver Account

It-tfaddil li jikber malajr daqs it-tfal tiegħek



BOV Savings Plan

Il-pjan ta' tfaddil b'bonus!

BOV

www.bov.com e-mail: customer-care@bov.com

Front Cover:

- The ex-Victoria Hospital at St Francis Square Victoria Gozo.
- 37c stamp - depicting a Queen Elizabeth II Pillar Letter Box from a set of five stamps which was issued on 12th March 2004 and designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier.

CIRCULAR TO ALL GPS MEMBERS

The 9th GPS Philatelic Exhibition

is going to be held at the Ministry Exhibition Halls

1st - 9th November 2008.

the sections will be:

- **Junior** (Not yet 17 by 31.12.08)
(each exhibitor will receive a philatelic memento)
- **Traditional Philately “Saints & Centennials”**
 - **Social Philately**
 - **Postal History**

Jury will award section competition prizes:
trophies and vouchers.

All exhibitors receive Certificates.

* * * * *

This issue of our Newsletter includes a copy of the Regulations for the 9th GPS Philatelic Exhibition together with the relative Application Form. The Committee hopes ever more members will decide to fill it in (and return it by the closing date). Remember, that Juniors and Non-Competitors are in fact free the theme they can choose (and are not charged any fee).

Even if you decide not to exhibit, during its nine days you are heartily invited to visit it (more than once!) and to encourage others.



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No.

Name

Address

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

Tel No. ID Card No

I enclose annual membership fee for €5.00

.....
Signature

.....
Date

Being under 16, I enclose €2.00 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 1000, 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 1000, Gozo, Malta.**email address: www.stamps-gozo.org*

GPS DIARY (33)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

- 4th May 2008:** GPS organizes Philatelic exhibition at Cremona Secondary Spring Fair (with the participation of school club) during “GOZO 1 2 3 4”.
- 25th May 2008:** Monthly Members meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 18th June 2008:** Committee meeting chooses Traditional Philately theme (“Saints & Centennials”) and decides about regulations for the November Exhibition. (copy enclosed).
- 22nd June 2008:** Card for Ta’ Pinu commemorative handstamp (designed by our Anthony Grech).
- 28th June 2008:** Anthony Grech prepares cover for Munxar St Paul stamp.
- 29th June 2008:** Monthly Members meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ (last before the summer break).

Number 8 (Summer 2008) of *Il-Maltija, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Malta eV*'s periodical, again features the GPS prominently –

Please note that the article about Machine Cancellations in issue 32 was a corrected version of that in issue 29.

including covers and our Exhibition.

When sending by post, use only cheques drawn on Maltese banks (or Money Orders) or mint Euro Malta stamps to pay your subscription or acquire items shown.

Members can acquire a copy of our Statute (approved during the 5th AGM) by contacting the Secretary – it can also be downloaded from our Website.

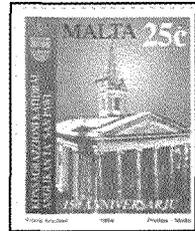
More ST PAUL

(Gerald Parnis - Junior member)

Additions to the lists of Malta stamps showing St Paul which appeared in issue No 21.

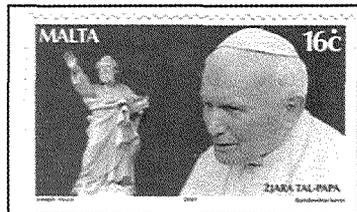
Note: the same design as J.B. 21: 10/- blue black was used for revenue purposes and overprinted in London "REVENUE" in black. Perforation 14, watermark Crown over "CC". Issued in 1902. The same design also was printed in Deep red: 10/- but overprinted and surcharged 5/- in black. Watermark 3:Multiple Crown "CA", perforation 14 and issued in 1912.

- J.B. 923: 25c St Paul's Anglican Cathedral from the Commemorations set of 10th May 1994. Perforation 14 x 13.75 comb, watermark 7: Maltese Cross. Designed by Frank Ancilleri.



On the second visit of H.H. Pope John Paul II, other set of stamp was issued by Maltapost and St Paul was depicted on one of them.

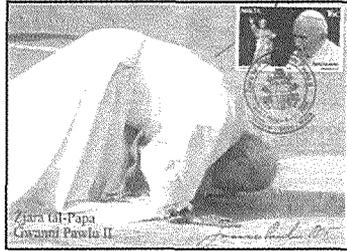
- J.B. 1155: 16c St Paul and H.H. Pope John Paul II. Unwatermarked paper, perforation 13.75 x 37.75 comb. Issued on the 4th May 2001 and designed by Joseph Mizzi.



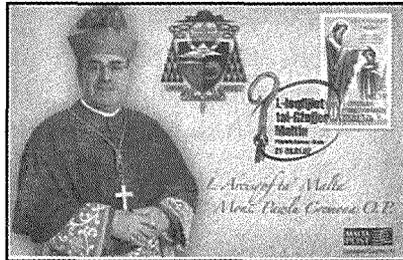
- OC 1: An "Occasion Card" was also issued for the same event depicting Pope John Paul II and an imprint of stamp J.B. 1155.

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

- OC 16: An “Occasion Card” issued on the occasion of Mons Paul Cremona as the new Archbishop of Malta also depicting stamp J.B. 276 of 1960 but value at 0.51c/€1.19.
- OC 17: An “Occasion Card” issued on the occasion of Mons Mario Grech as the new Bishop of Gozo also depicting stamp J.B. 276 of 1960 but value at 0.51c/€1.19.



Occasion Card No 1



To commemorate this occasion of the second millennium from the birth of St Paul of Tarsus, now Turkey, on the 28th June 2008 Maltapost issued also a set of 3 stamps and a miniature sheet designed by Mr Paul Psaila. Thus the year of St Paul or “Annus Paulinus” will commence on the 28th June 2008 and will end on the 29th June 2009. To commemorate this event the Gozo Philatelic Society also issued a registered cover depicting the €0.68/29c stamp which is the statue of St Paul found at Munxar Parish Church Gozo



*With acknowledgments of
J.B. Sliema Stamp Shop*



Non-Avian Fauna on Malta's Stamps (1899-2007)

(Antoine Vassallo)

Many animals big and (especially) small have appeared on Malta's stamps along the years. In this thematic survey (which has no intention of being really scientifically exact) I will be leaving birds out since they merit separate treatment. And neither will I be covering cards and similar peripheral material.

Please note that I have decided on a natural "cut-off" date (the end of the Lira in 2007) and that a chronological list will appear at the end. An asterisk shows that the animal is not the main subject of the design - obviously this is often just my opinion!

The first animal to be depicted was a **viper**, as a small (but not insignificant) part of the St Paul stamp issued in 1899. Since this was repeated in later depictions of this saint, it thus counts as one of our commonest! An important "competitor" is the still minuter **horse** - together with the dragon - on the innumerable representations of the George Cross (the first being in 1957), sometimes just as a border decoration (beginning from the 1949 Silver Wedding). However I will not be listing these. In any case, equids are well represented - I obviously treat them later, among other mammals.



Members of the **snake** family also appeared on the **1954** Dogma, **1969** Independence 2/6, **1988** International 19c, **1990** Pope 4c, **1991** PSM, **1993** Councils and **1998** Anniversaries



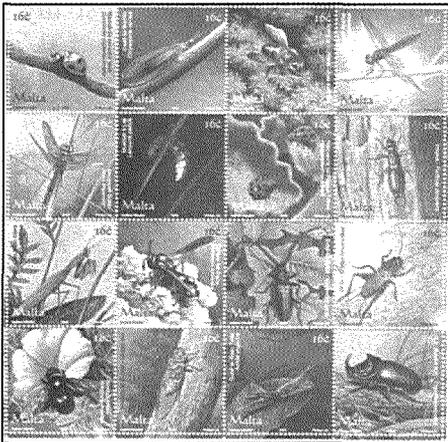
11c 19c. Two specific species were included within the **2004** Indigenous Fauna set (**16c**): leopard snake and whip snake.

Other **reptiles** have also been depicted. The wall **lizard** was shown on the **1995** Nature **14c**, repeated among the **2004** Indigenous Fauna (**16c**). This sheet gives us four other reptiles:

the **chameleon**, the **skink** and two different **geckos**.

This same set offers a **turtle**, already shown on the **1979** Marine **5c**. A **terrapin** is included among the **2006** Pets **7c**.

A **frog** was the subject of the **2001** Europa **16c**. A **snail** can be noted on the **1999-2001** Flowers **50c**.



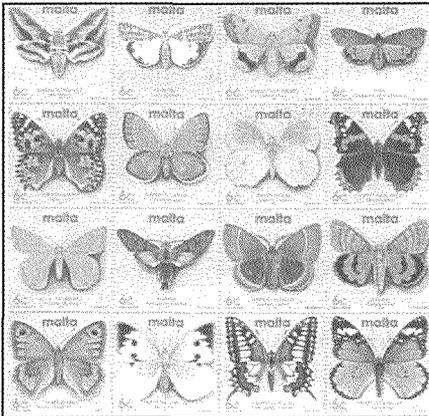
A long list of **insects** have been represented, the first alphabetically being the **ant** (**1999-2001** Flowers **50c**).

The **2005** Insects (**16c**) sheet gave us five **beetles**: longhorn beetle, rhinoceros beetle, **glow-worm** and two **ladybirds** (seven-spotted ladybird and gourd

ladybird). I had previously already noted a ladybird (**1999-2001** Flowers **27c**).

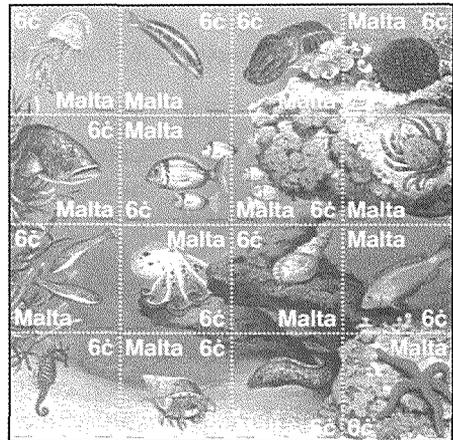
The Insects set also gave us **cicada**, **cricket**, **earwig**, **grasshopper**, **lacewing**, **prayer mantis** and two different **dragonflies** (including the **darter**). A dragonfly had already appeared (**2001** Europa **45c**). This sheet included **wasp** and

two **bees** (carpenter bee and honey bee) too. Bees had appeared previously (1972 Decimal 3m - later repeated on the 2007 End of Lira MS) and 1999-2001 Flowers 5c).



The 2002 Moths & Butterflies offered 16 (6c) different but **butterflies** entered our collections before (1986 Europa 8c, 1993 Elderly, 1999-2001 Flowers 1c 3c 10c 11c 12c 20c LM2 and finally 2006 CEPT 5c). I noticed a **caterpillar** on the 1999-2001 Flowers LM1.

As can be expected, **fish** have often appeared (1963 Freedom from Hunger, 1987 Seabed 8c 12c MS, 1993 Councils and 1999 Europa 35c). The 1999 Sea Fauna (6c) offers six specific ones: **bream**, **grouper**, **moray**, **parrot fish**, two **wrasse** (rainbow wrasse and ornate wrasse) and **seahorse** (*hippocampus ramulosus*). The 2002 Seahorses later gave us two others (*hippocampus guttulatus* 6c 16c and *hippocampus hippocampus*). The 2006 Pets sheet gave us two more: **fighting fish** and **goldfish** (both 7c). The **dolphin fish** or **lampuka** (1979 Marine 7c , 2002 Cuisine 16c and 2007 End of Lira MS) could not be left out.



(to be continued)

MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps (6)

In 1961 the French Post Office began issuing stamps specifically for use within the UNESCO headquarters building in Paris (and thus can be classed as “officials”). This is of course the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - the specialized agency founded on 16th November 1945 and which now counts almost two hundred states as members.

In 1972 UNESCO adopted the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is partly done through the nomination of sites within their territory by the various states and the establishment of management plans. The list has now exceeded nine hundred properties, ranging alphabetically from Afghanistan’s Jam minaret to Zimbabwe’s Matobo hills. To further publicize these efforts, numerous UNESCO stamps feature an increasing range.

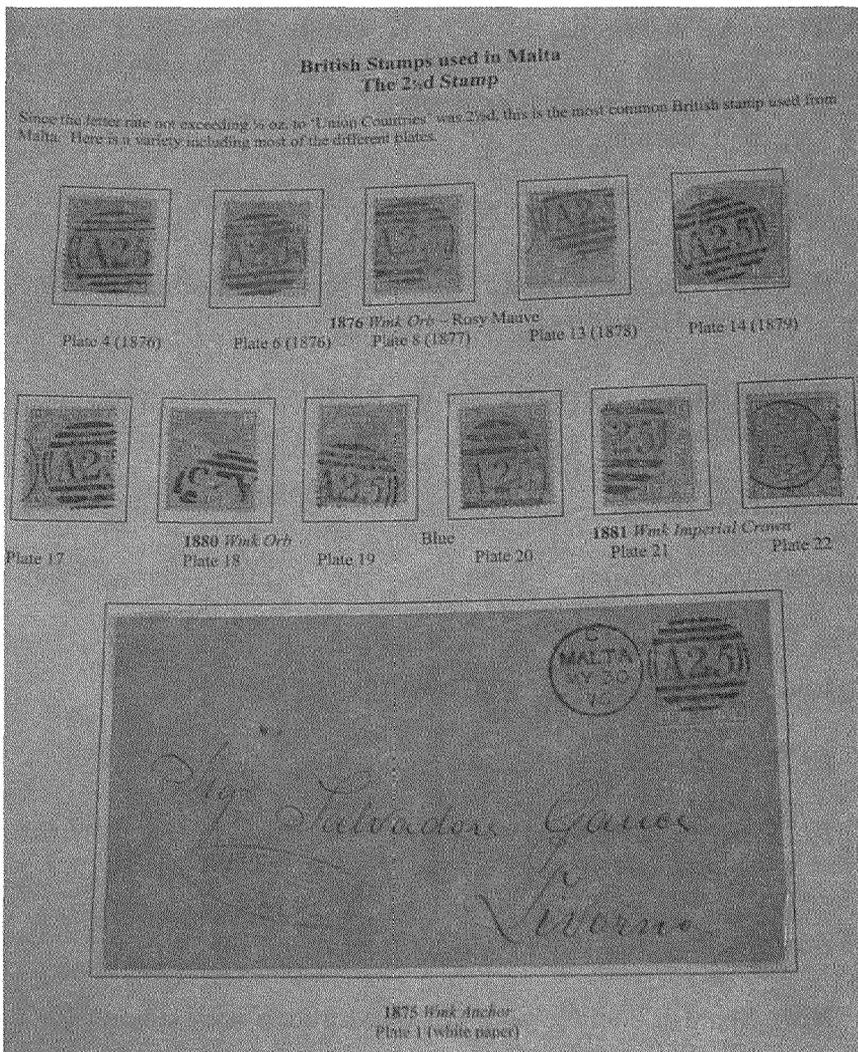


A set of three stamps was issued on 12th December 1981, titled “sites in need of preservation”. They were designed by Lenoir, engraved by J Pheulpin and printed in recess. One of the subjects was Malta’s Fort St Elmo (the other nationalities being Morocco and Thailand). Our list includes the Megalithic Temples (Ta’ Hagra, Skorba, Hagar Qim, Mnajdra and Tarxien being added in 1992 to the original Ggantija), Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and Valletta. St Elmo (*Sant’ Iermu*) is surely very representative of the fortifications surrounding our capital: after being incorporated in the 1920s Melita design, it was included in various later sets.

Antoine Vassallo

You are invited to send write-ups (or even just suggestions) about other foreign stamps with themes or designs related to Malta

Australian MALTA (12)
 series of glimpses at pages from
 the prize-winning collection built up by
 John Vassallo, GPS member in Australia



Where in the World ?! (24)

(Antoine Vassallo)

Stamp Issuers Past and Present

HUNGARY (*Magyar*): first stamps from 1871 when kingdom within the Austro-Hungarian Empire; now a republic; occupation issues in 1919 (France, Romania and Serbia).

Hyderabad: Indian state with own stamps 1869-1949.

HYOGO: separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1991.

IBARAKI: separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1990.

Icaria see Ikaria.

ICELAND (*Island*): Island in the North Atlantic with stamps from 1873.

Idar: Indian state with own stamps 1939-44.

I.E.F. = Indian Expeditionary Forces.

***I.E.F.'D'*:** Overprinted stamps of Turkey for British occupation of Mosul (Iraq).

Ierusalem = Russian Pos in Jerusalem.

Ifni: Spanish enclave on coast of Morocco with stamps 1941 till 1969 when ceded.

Ikaria: Aegean island with own stamps 1912-3; now part of Greece.

Ile Rouad = Rouad.

li: separate stamps from 1945 to 1949, when rejoined China.

Imperial British East Africa Company = British East Africa.

Inde Francaise = French India.;

INDIA: State in South Asia with stamps from 1854; from 1852 issues by East India Company (*Scinde District Dawk*); many states had own stamps; parts became Pakistan in 1947; see also Portuguese India.

Indian Custodian Forces in Korea: overprinted stamps 1953.

Indian Expeditionary Forces: overprinted stamps (*I.E.F.*) for use by Indian troops serving abroad 1914-22.

Indian National Army: stamps (*Chalo*) used in the Japanese-occupied areas of India during the drive on Imphal.

(to be continued)

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!)

PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY

AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF GOZO'S HOSPITALS



A set of five stamps depicting various letterboxes in the Maltese Islands was issued on the 12th March 2004. This was designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier. The 37c stamp depicts a Queen Elizabeth II Pillar Letter Box and the building to be seen in the background of this postage stamp is a historic one as it served as Gozo's General Hospital for several years. It is found at St. Francis Square Victoria Gozo and at first it was meant to be a hospital for men only, as women had their own ones as we shall see.

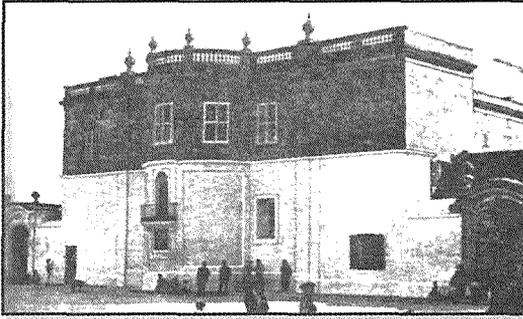
The first hospital ever to be set up in Gozo was founded by a Gozitan patriot Francesco Bonnici. He bequeathed all his property to this first hospital on the island by means of his last will published in the Acts of Notary Andreas de Benjamin of 22nd February, 1454. This first hospital, called St. Julian's Hospital, was meant mainly for poor women and pilgrims visiting the Island. It was situated at the Citadel a few paces away from St. Barbara's Chapel. At the time of Monsignor Dusina's Apostolic Visit in 1575 this hospital was in shambles and could hardly receive four patients.

More than a hundred years later Bishop Gerolamo Molina exhorted the Gozitans to help this institution so that patients could be cured at this hospital instead of keeping them at home. Monsignor Melchior Alpheran de Bussan, Grand Prior of the Order of St. John, by means of a deed published in the Acts of Notary Joseph Calleja of 25th November, 1732, donated the sum of one thousand six hundred escudos to this hospital.

In 1783 another hospital for women was built at Rabat, Gozo, and was also named "St. Julian's Hospital". The foundation stone was blessed by Bishop Labini on 3rd May, 1783. It was meant to be another hospital for women and to substitute the older one at the Citadel.

In the year 1719 Canon John Mary Camilleri bequeathed all his possessions for the building of a new hospital for men at Rabat. It was to be situated at St. Francis' Square. The hospital was built during the rule of Grand Master Manuel de Vilhena and was completed ten years later in 1729. Its plan was drawn up by the Order's engineer Chev. Henri de Mondion.

Unfortunately, Canon John Mary Camilleri and his maidservant were found assassinated at their residence in the Citadel (the house where now the Gozo Museum of Archaeology is



Victoria General Hospital at St Francis Square

found). It is said that the assassin scratched at the door facing the stairs leading to St. Michael's bastion and the maidservant thought it was the cat that wanted to go in, but instead of the cat she was affronted by an assassin. Tradition say that from that year

onwards, Gozitans used to make a special hole for the cat when building a new house, called 'cat's hole', so that the cat can go in and out on its own. Moreover, at that time it was rumoured that the assassin who took the life of Canon Camilleri and his maidservant might well have been a relative who pretended to receive a good inheritance from Canon Camilleri.

By means of a deed published in the Acts of Notary Bartholomew Pascali of 28th October, 1729, Grand Master Manuel de Vilhena passed on to the new hospital all the moneys and property confiscated from a certain Gozitan medical doctor and jurat named Giuseppe Cassar who was condemned by the Castellania Court in Malta for imprisonment with hard labour. Dr Giuseppe Cassar died on 26th August, 1729. The record of his death reads as follows: *Giuseppe Cassar del Gozo forzato di 73 anni in circa figlio di Marcello.*

The story goes that a poor farmer nicknamed *Il-Pnar* found a golden calf near St. Nicholas' chapel at Dwejra and he passed it on to Dr Giuseppe Cassar. Cassar failed to keep his word and give adequate payment for the golden treasure. The story ended up in Court and Cassar was condemned for his life with a chain tied to his feet and all his property was confiscated by the Grand Master. The new hospital at St. Francis Square was named after St. John and St. Anthony and consisted of two large halls with an altar at each end.

In 1838 St. Julian's Hospital in Rabat was closed down and the female patients were transferred to the hospital at St. Francis Square which was reorganized as a general hospital for both sexes. The former premises of St. Julian's Hospital now house the Sacred Heart Seminary of Gozo.

(continued on page 23)

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (24)*(Emanuel Vella)*

Marca da Bollo: Italian Revenue stamp.

Margin: This word has two philatelic meanings. One refers to the blank bordering paper of a sheet of stamps and the other refers to the borders of individual stamps. The margins of a sheet often carry the imprint and authority of the printer or government printing establishment; instructions and notes for separation or division into specified values and amounts; arrows and other marks for a similar purpose; control letters and/or figures; cylinder numbers; perforating alignment holes and details that help in identifying the form of perforator used and other interesting details which to the philatelist have quite a story. There are marginal watermarks that normally appear there only, the stamps themselves being without mark. These margins known to the general public as stamps edging have many uses and the first stamp hinges or mounts were undoubtedly made from them. The stamp margin is an imperforated specimen which are most important and should not under any circumstances be re-cut. For the wider, the margin, within reason, the more obvious is the authenticity of the specimen, is of more value to the collector. All four margins should be good and clear of the design and it should be quite obvious that it is not a perforated copy which has had its perforations removed.

Marianne: Figure symbolising France, featured on certain post-war French issues.

Maritime Mail: Although this term is often used in philately to denote all types of seaborne mail, the postal marking with this wording is used exclusively on mail received from ships and overseas shore stations of the Royal Navy. It was introduced in 1939, and as a security measure gives neither the port of landing nor the date.

Married Pairs: Phrase applied to Great Britain 1840 penny blacks matched with subsequent penny reds printed from the same plate, thus bearing identical check letters.

Mason's New Orleans City Express: Locals issued in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1850-7.

Matrix: Intermediate die or mould used in duplicating an original die, line-block or other engravings.

Maximum Cards: These are pictorial cards bearing :

- a) a relevant picture or design.
- b) a stamp related to the subject on the card, and
- c) a postmark relevant to both postage stamp, postal card and event, personage, place or other subject thereon.

"Mayfair" Find: Stanley Phillips records that in the 1850's a London youth wrote to the Colonial postmaster enclosing £5 for a supply of stamps then current. When received, for some reason or another, these were put away to be unearthed some 60 or 70 years later and then worth several thousands of pounds.

(to be continued)

*Script by Script (24)**(Antoine Vassallo)*

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

I revert to a couple more Indian states, a group which offers quite a few identification problems (though, of course, they are not usually packet material!)



Indore (now incorporated in Madhya Pradesh) began issuing stamps in 1886, showing the Maharaja (four different ones over the period to the 1940s). The name was in fact that of the state capital, a city founded in 1715 which boasts of various industrial complexes and a university. The state accepted to

become a British protectorate in 1818, a century after it was established under Maratha dynasty by Malhar Rao Holkar. The name (originally "Holkar") is mercifully shown in our script too, probably because British printers were chosen. However a locally-produced design did appear in 1889 – and this is quite "anonymous"! These two half-anna stamps were handstamped, without gum or perforations.



Jasdan has a very short philatelic history: just a single stamp appeared in 1942, typographed in Bombay by Indap & Co. This green one anna shows the sun. Over the few years until this state was merged with Kathiawar in 1948 (to create Saurashtra), various shades and perforations appeared.

Jhalawar too offers just one set: two obscure designs in use from 1887 to 1900. They actually represent Rhemba, a Hindu dancing nymph or Apsara. They were typographed in green shades on ungummed laid paper, interestingly (and probably uniquely) in horizontal strips of twelve. The face values were 1 paisa and one-fourth anna. This former princely state is now a district of Rajasthan.



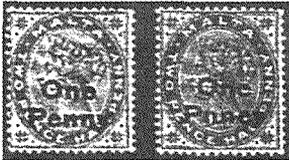
E & O not E (18)

(Antoine Vassallo)

*Glances at stamps with design or printing mistakes
(well-known or obscure)*

Malta's joining the Imperial Penny Postage in 1899 led to a heavy demand for 1d stamps but, since Queen Victoria died in 1901, it was decided not to make a new printing of the definitive. However the shortage became too acute to wait for the new Edward VII series; so a surcharge had to be produced, with the 1885 2½d blue as the "victim". Stocks of this were still abundant and various thousand sheets, in more than one shade, were overprinted – in a setting of sixty, possibly in two printings - at the Government Printing Office in Valletta. Although over half a million were put on sale on 4th July 1902, none remained by the end of the month. The reason is not obvious: it is known that a bank bought a huge quantity and there may have been some attempt at speculation.

As happens often with overprints (especially if not undertaken by specialist printers), many varieties of broken type exist – as well as copies with double surcharges. But this stamp is famous for a misspelt "Pnney" on the second one



**One
Penny**

in the ninth row (i.e. number 50). There is hardly any doubt that – rather than being a genuine accidental error - it had been made on the Postmaster General's instructions: he extracted blocks of six, containing the glaring "mistake", from the sheets for his own profit. The non-availability of complete sheets over the GPO counter was brought to the attention of the Government and a Committee of Enquiry was set up. As further proof, it was noted that the PMG personally applied red ticks (on the top left-hand corner) on unsurcharged stamps to prevent forgeries of "his" error – though these are known. His resignation ensued.

with acknowledgments to the Malta Study Circle's Handbook.

BEGINNERS section

The Hobby of Stamp Collecting

(Anton V Said)

A beginner must take into consideration certain aspects before making his choice which stamps to collect. It is quite unwise to choose a country which had issued quite a small number of stamps, as within a short while one would have nearly all of them with hardly anything left to search for. On the other hand, it may be a nation whose early issues are so rare that the only way of getting them is by spending large sums of money. By doing so one would be killing the interest in this hobby before it is born, so picking at random is likely to lead to disappointment and one would regret it later. A selective collector must not only know what he's doing, but also why he is doing it.

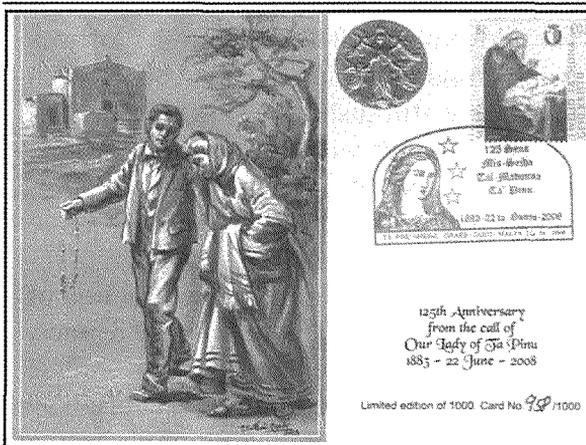
Up to quite recently a common and most popular form of selective collecting was that of collecting the stamps of the British Commonwealth only. A very good reason for this was, that these countries tended to follow the example of Britain itself in limiting the issues to a few sets of stamps every year. Countries in the Commonwealth who didn't follow this system, that is of issuing new stamps at random, are in a minority.

A number of such countries have issued stamps just to make money, or better still to take money out of collectors' pockets to make a fortune, money which would otherwise have gone towards the worthwhile part of your collection. They used to print out stamps very beautifully and pleasant to look at without intending that such stamps be used and pass through a post office. To make these stamps look real and genuine they

even postmarked them in hundreds before the sheet of stamps was even broken up. In certain cases these, rather unscrupulous persons went even a step further, by printing the word "POSTAGE" in neat English capitals to give the impression that these were destined for postage use. These types of "good for nothing stamps" sometimes can be easily detected as such by twining them over and one would notice that these are still with the full gum on the back. Sometimes, the neat way the postmark is printed on them betrays their genuinity, and there is no need for one to be an expert to recognise them.

These are a few examples of cases one must be careful about while searching for genuine stamps worthwhile of putting in your album, otherwise you would be filling the pages with a lot of rubbish.

(Ref: Instructions to young stamp collectors - Robert Batman)
(to be continued)



A commemorative card to mark the 125th Anniversary from the call of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu to Karmni G r i m a and Frangisk Portelli - 1883-2008, was issued by the authorities of the National Shrine of

Ta' Pinu in conjunction with the Gozo Philatelic Society.
Story to follow in next issue.

POST HASTE (6)

*continuing an irregular series about the interesting
Story of the Post*

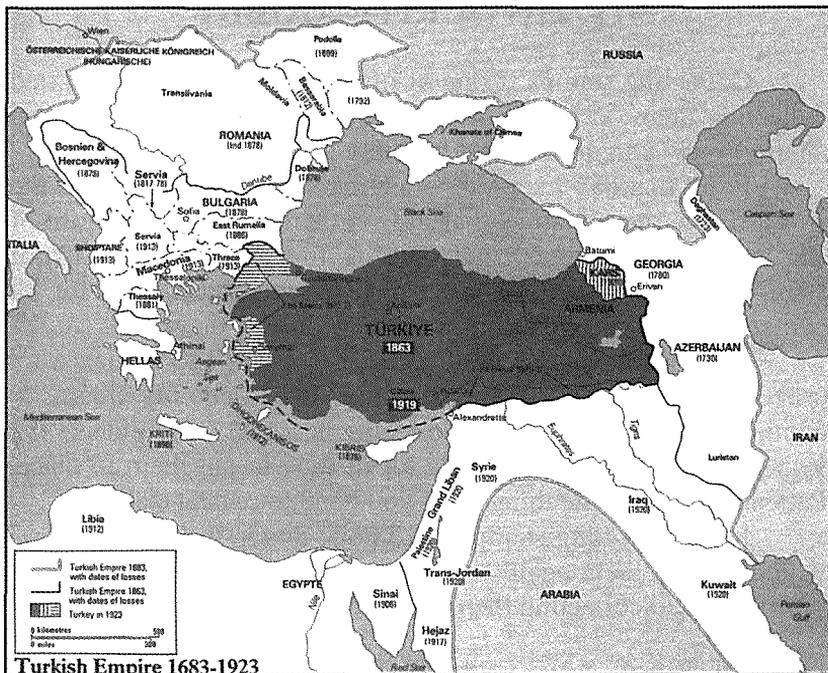
(Antoine Vassallo)

Ottoman matters

The Ottoman Empire reached its furthest extension in 1648, defeat in Malta probably blocking more additions to the west. Decline was continuous from the late eighteenth century. The break-up of the European Ottoman or Turkish territories may be considered as having begun in 1821 with the Greek War of Independence (though the revolt actually was ignited in the Danubian principalities: Moldavia and Walachia, now Romania). One of the most famous active supporters was Lord Byron (who died during the Missolonghi siege in 1824).

An official service already operated between provincial capitals but the first public postage system in the Empire was created through the Imperial Post's Director-General's announcement of 11th November 1840. Although "offices were to be opened in all important places", by 1863 (when stamps were issued) there were still just 58 post offices in total throughout the Empire. These issues were for use in the whole of the Empire (which extended to Arabia and Libya) – postmarks are necessary for identification.

The next forty or fifty years saw the progressive contraction of European Turkey until it became limited to eastern Thrace. The postal effects of these numerous changes are of course reflected in the stamps of the area's countries. The Balkan Wars led to continuous disruption of civilian communication but the Turkish post continued to operate in each territory until replaced by the new government's.



However Turkish postal history is not restricted to material issued by it and has older origins. The right to organize couriers was granted to Russia as early as 1720, followed by Austria in 1739 – both set up a post office in Constantinople in 1748. During the next hundred years other countries (such as Britain, France and Italy) followed suit by establishing posts in the Empire. In fact most mail leaving the Empire tended to use these foreign offices, a practice only stopped through the 1914 abrogation of the Capitulations. These were extra-territorial rights (including that of alien residents to run their own postal services) negotiated by trade treaties since the early sixteenth century. Some foreign POs were re-opened during the restored Capitulations in the early 20s.

with acknowledgements to Rossiter & Flower's Stamp Atlas

MY FAVOURITE HOBBY

Collecting stamps is one of my favourite hobbies. I started collecting them on my sixth birthday when I was given a stamp album by my grandfather as a birthday present.

From that day I started collecting stamps from all over the world. I like those stamps that have a theme, especially those of Christmas at Christmas time. During this time I add a lot of stamps to my album because my parents receive a lot of Christmas cards from various countries all over the world.

I like collecting stamps because it is fun and I relax a lot especially when I have some free time and I open my album to admire the different stamps. Collecting stamps, sometimes is not very easy because it takes me a lot of time to put them in place. Patience is one of the things that you need to collect stamps.

I like collecting stamps and I hope that in the future when I would look at them again I would remember the wonderful time when I started collecting them.

Chantell Camilleri - Bishop's Conservatory School Vict. Gozo.

Dialogue between two stamps

- A. Hi I am a stamp with a picture of a Robin.
B. Hi I am a stamp with a picture of a footballer.
A. How are you?
B. I am fine thanks, and you?
A. Fine thanks, where have you travelled to?
B. I have travelled to Malta, England, France and Italy, and you?
A. I have travelled to two places only, to Germany and India.
B. I have to go now, I am travelling to Asia.
A. Goodbye.
B. Goodbye.

Mark Camilleri

Promoting Gozo through Philately*(from page 13)*

During the times of the British Governor The Right Hon Richard More O'Ferrall (1847-1851) the old people's sections of the hospital were added and on 24th January, 1851, 172 old people, males and females, were admitted. In 1940 this Old People's Hospice was named St. John's Hospital.

Subsequently, after the declaration of Rabat as the town of Victoria, the General Hospital was renamed Victoria and was closed down in 1975 when both patients and old people were transferred to the new Craig Hospital at Ta' L-Ibrag in Victoria, now the Gozo General Hospital.

In 1896 the sum of £1,840 was voted to build a Quarantine Establishment on the Island of Comino after persistent pressure by the local press. In 1900 a further £100-18s 6d were voted to make good for expenses incurred in 1899 to complete this Lazzaretto or Isolation Hospital.

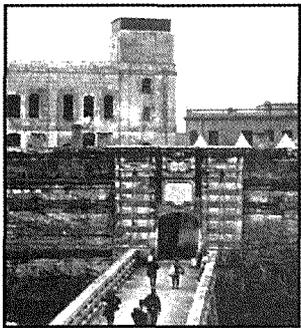
On 21st October, 1897, a hospital for infectious diseases was also opened in a large Government house half way down on the road from Victoria to Mgarr. It is locally called *Lazzarett*. Prior to 1994 it served as a mental hospital but was closed down that year and the patients were transferred to the Mental Hospital adjacent to Gozo's new hospital at Ta' L-Ibrag.

At the beginning of the twentieth century Trachoma was rampant in Gozo so much so that the Government deemed fit to open an Ophthalmic Hospital for the cure of eye diseases. It was inaugurated at Ta' L-Ibrag, Victoria, on 22nd June, 1929. Later on this hospital was closed down and on 3rd August, 1933, it was reopened as St. Theresa's hospital for tuberculosis patients. It had two wards with nine beds each, one for males and another one for females. It was closed down in the 1960's.

On 16th November, 1967, Queen Elizabeth II laid down the foundation stone of a new general hospital for Gozo at Ta' L-Ibrag. The contract for the building of the new hospital was signed at the Banca Giuratale on 1st March, 1970. It took over five years to complete and was inaugurated on 31st May 1975 and named after

(to page 24 →)

Professor Alfred John Craig (1909-1970). Subsequently its name was changed to Gozo General Hospital.



*Entrance to Fort Chambrai
Early 20th century*

On 16th January, 1934, a hospital for mental diseases was opened at Fort Chambrai and was housed in the former two-storey barracks of the Knights of St. John. About 150 patients were residents at this hospital.

On 18th February, 1989, the foundation stone of a new mental hospital adjacent to the General Hospital was laid down. It was inaugurated on 17th December, 1994, by the Prime Minister of Malta.

Between 1937 and 1956, the former British married quarters at the same Fort were used as a leprosy hospital. The first 15 patients (13 males and 2 females) were transferred to the Leprosy Hospital on 9th December, 1937. In 1940 this hospital was renamed Sacred Heart Hospital. It was closed down in 1956.

In Gozo we also had temporary hospitals. The first one was the bubonic plague hospital of 1814 situated in a farmhouse at Xaghra overlooking the present day parish cemetery. The Bishop's Conservatory at Victoria was used as a Cholera Hospital in the nineteenth century. Between 1914 and 1918 Fort Chambrai was used as a rest camp for the wounded of the Gallipoli Campaign.

The first emergency hospital in Gozo was opened at Manresa House, Victoria, and the first patients, 120 males, from St. Vincent De Paule Hospital in Malta were transferred to this hospital on 20th March, 1941.

Trionfi House was a private clinic run by the Dominican Sisters. It was situated in St. Ursula Street, Victoria. It was blessed by the Bishop of Gozo, Monsignor Giuseppe Pace on 14th April, 1952, and was closed down in the 1980's. Now it is an old people's home.

ANTON F. ATTARD

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- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). €2.50
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:-
Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. €4.66
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- Special “In Memory” card hand stamped at Gharb Sub Post Office on the occasion of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist held at Ta’ Pinu Shrine, for the repose of the soul and in memory of Mr Anthony Fenech, a great philatelist and a sincere friend of the Gozo Philatelic Society. Limited edition of 160. €1.75
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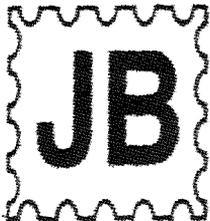
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- Cover issued on the occasion of the Christmas set stamp issue (2005) with a personalized stamp of Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi - the stamp set designer. These covers are individually signed by the artist himself. Limited edition of 130. €2.50
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- 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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- When sending by post, use only cheques drawn on Maltese banks (or Money Orders) or mint Malta Euro stamps to pay your subscription or acquire items shown. Stamps with values in old currency are not accepted.
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- We also welcome letters asking for help regarding stamp identification etc. Anything published will merit a philatelic gift! And Juniors will receive a memento in any case!



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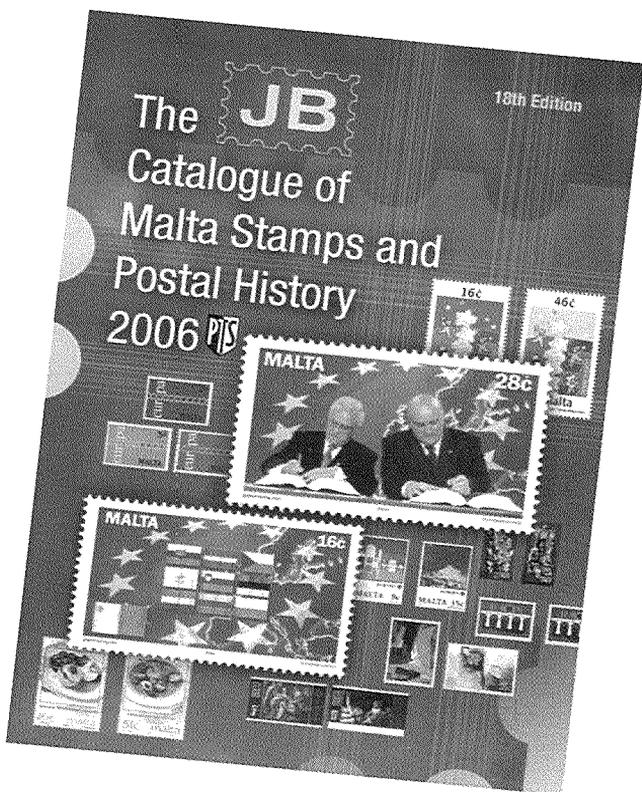
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