



January - March 2009

No.35 - 1/2009

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**GOZO  
PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY**

*Newsletter*

# Għal Kull Servizz Bankarju



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BIEX TIXTRI  
JEW TIBNI  
DAREK**

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## Front Cover:

- Facade of Munxar Parish Church Gozo Malta.
- €0.68 (29c) stamp - depicting St Paul titular statue found at Munxar Parish Church. This stamp is part from a set of four stamps issued on the 28th June 2008 to mark the beginning of the *Annus Paulinus*.

# **ISLANDTECH**

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# GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I enclose €5.00 membership fee. (Overseas €12, including Newsletter)  
(Fee for Junior membership, under 16 years, is €2.00.  
Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_)

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I enclose € (Junior € / overseas €12) to renew my membership.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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**CONTENTS****No. 35 — 1/2009**

GPS Diary (35)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	2
Non Avian Fauna	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	3
9th Annual General Meeting	<i>Secretary's Report</i>	5
9th Annual General Meeting	<i>President's Report</i>	7
Exhibition Results		8
Where in the World?! (26)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	10
Promoting Gozo through Philately	<i>Alfred Grech</i>	12
Stamp Terms (26)	<i>Emanuel Vella</i>	14
Script by Script (26)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	16
Identify the Issuer (Competition)		17
E & O not E (21)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	17
Beg. Sect. - The Hobby of Stamp Coll.	<i>Anton V Said</i>	18
Malta Overseas (8)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	20
I am a Stamp	<i>Matthew Bajada</i>	22
First Past the Post	<i>Leslie Sutton</i>	23

**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 (35)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

- 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008:** Exhibition begins being set up.
- 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008:** GPS Secretary Antoine Vassallo is nominated to the Voluntary Council and later chosen as an administrator of the Voluntary Sector Fund.
- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008:** Exhibition Judging. (see page 8)
- 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008:** First day of Exhibition – usual commemorative card designed by Anthony Grech.
- 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008:** Last Day of Exhibition.
- 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008:** Committee Meeting confirms Exhibition Prizes and prepares for AGM.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008:** Anthony Grech produces card for Gharb band handstamp.
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008:** Provisional booking made for 10<sup>th</sup> Exhibition.
- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008:** Members' Meeting on last Sunday of the month at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 28<sup>th</sup> December 2008:** Members' Meeting on last Sunday of the month at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009:** Final meeting of the Ninth Committee prepares for the AGM.
- 11<sup>TH</sup> January 2009:** Annual General Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ (see pages 5 & 7) with distribution of Exhibition Certificates and Prizes (page 8).
- 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009:** First meeting of tenth committee, formed thus: Anton Said – President, Dr Michael Refalo MD – Vice President and Treasurer, Antoine Vassallo – Secretary, Anthony Grech – Membership Secretary, Mary Grace Xerri – PRO, Emanuel Vella – Librarian, George Micallef – Equipment Manager, Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar – Chaplain, Austin Masini – Newsletter Editor and Daniel Calleja – member.
- 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009:** Members' Meeting on last Sunday of the month at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009:** Anthony Grech produces card for Gozo Tourism Association handstamp.

The Autumn 2008 Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Philatelic Society again reproduces an article from our quarterly. The Winter 2008 (number 10) of *Il-Maltija – Arbeitsgemeinschaft Malta eV*'s periodical – again features the GPS (Exhibition etc).

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

(Antoine Vassallo)

(continued from last issue)

**chronological list** (\* = not the main subject of design)

1899 Definitive 10/- viper\*

1919 Definitive provisional 10/- viper\*

1922 Definitive 10/- viper\*

1922 Self-government (wmk CC) 10/-  
viper\*



1922 Self-government (wmk Script CA) 10/- viper\*

1926 Definitives                      1/6 lion\*  
   10/- viper\*

1928 Definitives (P&R opt) 1/6 lion\*  
   10/- viper\*

1930 Definitives (P&R)            1/6 lion\*  
   10/- viper\*

1935 Silver Jubilee                    1/2d horse\*  
   2 1/2 d horse\*  
   6d horse\*  
   1/- horse\*



1938 Definitives	1/6 lion*
	10/- viper*
1948 Self Government	1/6 lion*
	10/- viper*
1954 Dogma	1½ d snake*
	3d snake*
	1/- snake*
1963 Freedom from Hunger	1/6 cow*, fish*
1964 Brucellosis	1/6 goat
1969 Independence	2/6 snakes*
1970 Exhibition	2d lamb
1970 Christmas	1/6 sheep*
1972 Decimal	2m dolphins*
	3m dolphins*, bee
	5m dolphins*
	1c dolphins*
	2c dolphins*
	5c dolphins*
	10c dolphins*
	50c dolphins*
1973 Definitives	10c horse
	LM2 dolphins*
1975 Christmas	8m sheep*
	7c5 horses*
1977 Tapestries	11c donkey*, ox*
	20c dog*



(to be continued)

## 9<sup>th</sup> AGM (11-1-2009)

### Secretary's Report

I intend giving a straightforward bird's eye view of the 12 months since our last AGM:

At the first Committee meeting following the 8<sup>th</sup> AGM, posts were agreed: Anton Said (President), Antoine Vassallo (Secretary-Treasurer), Anthony Grech (Membership Secretary), Mary Grace Xerri (Public Relations Officer), Austin Masini (Newsletter Editor), Emmanuel Vella (Exchange Packets), Paul Cini (Assistant Treasurer), George Micallef (Equipment Manager), Lina Gauci (Website Sales), Samuel Masini (Webmaster) and Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar (Chaplain). The other committee members were Louis Attard, Daniel Calleja and Frankie Vella. Six further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.

As usual, the 9<sup>th</sup> Exhibition in November consumed substantial efforts – another successful edition! Prizes and participation certificates are being distributed this morning. As an experiment, the Judges awarded their prizes on Friday and the Exhibition was open from Saturday, with no official ceremony.

Our Website [www.stamps-gozo.org](http://www.stamps-gozo.org) has had quite a good volume of visitors but we would like to be able to update it more regularly, including online buying and selling. (Hint for the incoming committee!)

The GPS participated in the Spring Fair at Cremona Lyceum Complex (during the *Gozo 1234* event).

Anthony Grech continued preparing covers (or even the handstamp itself) whenever the opportunity arose (this time, all with religious connections!): Ta' Pinu, St Paul, St Lawrence, St George's Basilica and Gharb band, together with the usual one for our Exhibition. We were in contact with Maltapost about some of these and have now asked them to commemorate Gorg Pisani's centenary.

We continued offering regular Members' Meetings on the last Sunday of the month, only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration, whose HQ we use.

Contacts with schools have not been as successful as hoped but we again participated in a Summer Club.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter (and the Website mentions most). More junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters, comments

and articles. The next issue will launch a new Competition, which will hopefully attract good participation.

We continue to participate on community radios and other media. I also mention that various foreign publications (including the German *Il-Maltija* and the Nottinghamshire PS Newsletter) featured our society. Gratefully, the GPS Exhibition and our other activities received quite a lot of media attention.

Further to the suggestion during the last AGM, we have been in contact with the MPS regarding Maltapost's issue policy.

Various members donate stamps and periodicals. We do have an increasing range of philatelic publications for free perusal and loan (listed on the Website) but a sustainably practical system has not yet been identified.

Having also landed again with the **Treasurer's** post, I do not want to bother you with too many figures:

At the last AGM I presented a balance of	€1867.43
During the year since, total income (including membership fees, exhibition applications, surplus on sales of philatelic material and productions, donations and bank interest) was	€1632.74

In this same period total expenditure (including Newsletter printing, exhibition prizes and other expenses, website hosting, postage, photocopying and stationery) was	<u>(€1255.87)</u>
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Thus balance carried forward is	€2244.30
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I finally note that the Society has no pending liabilities but possesses these further assets:

- a Exhibition stands and other equipment
- b Publications (for reference and for issue on loan)
- c Stamps and other Philatelic material (for sale and as gifts).

*Antoine Vassallo*  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

## 9<sup>th</sup> AGM (11-1-2009)

### President's Report

The Annual General meeting this year was held on Sunday 11th January 2009 at the Victoria Scouts Headquarters.

The secretary of the society Mr Antoine Vassallo started by giving an extensive report of the society's activities during the outgoing year 2008. Such activities included meetings for members, school visits, exhibitions, issuing of special cards and handstamps to commemorate special occasions, issuing of our magazine and such work as the updating of our website. This was followed by the financial report, showing a balance of over 2000 euros.

The president's report then gave indications of the society's activities envisaged for 2009, giving major priority to those intended to commemorate the society's 10th anniversary. Also the issuing of special cards and handstamps for this occasion, which are already being thought about. It was also emphasized that a greater effort should be made to increase the number of members in our society.

A word of thanks then followed to all members of the outgoing committee and to the sponsors of our society, mainly the Bank of Valletta and Mr Joe Buttigieg of the Sliema Stamp Shop. Also appreciation was shown to family Vassallo and the Victoria Scouts Group for giving us permission to use their premises for our meetings.

The new committee for year 2009 was then selected followed by the prize giving ceremony to participants in connection with last November's annual philatelic exhibition.



A word of thanks should also go to them, together with a word of praise for the high standard achieved also this year. **Keep It Up!**

In this year's judges' report featured a very interesting remark that though the exhibits were of a very high standard, in certain cases these should be accompanied by write ups, thus guiding and helping the visitor to appreciate more the items on show.

**LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS according to Order of Merit.**

**JUNIOR SECTION**

1. Camilleri Amie
2. Refalo Nathaniel
3. Zammit Nicholas
4. Dingli Erika\*
5. Vella Marie\*
6. Said Miriana
7. Vella Garrett
8. Borg Corinne
9. Said Natalia
10. Borg Margherita
11. Xerri G Rebecca
12. Cardona Mathew
13. Galea Jolene
14. Borg Andrea
15. Sammut Nicholas
16. Vella Maria
17. Buttigieg Marlon
18. Vella Joseph
19. Spiteri Nathaniel
20. Cassar George Jr\*
21. Cassar Gianella\*

*\* same order of merit*

## **ADULT SECTION**

### **CATEGORY 'A' - TRADITIONAL PHILATELY 'SAINTS & CENTENNIALS'**

1. Grech Anthony
2. Rev Fr Gerald Buhagiar
3. Said Anthony

### **CATEGORY 'B' - POSTAL HISTORY**

1. Borg Jesmond
  2. Borg Jesmond
  3. Borg Jesmond \*
  4. Grech Anthony \*
  5. Xerri M'Grace
- \* same order of merit*

### **CATEGORY 'C' - SOCIAL PHILATELY**

1. Borg Jesmond
2. Grech Anthony

### **BANK OF VALLETTA TROPHY FOR BEST ITEM ON SHOW**

**Grech Anthony**

**Congratulations**

## Where in the World ?! (26)

(Antoine Vassallo)

### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**International Refugees Organization stamps** stamps  
(*Organisation Internationale pour les Refugies*): issued by the Swiss PO for use by officials of this international organization in 1950.

**INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION**  
stamps (*Union Internationale des Telecommunications*) issued by the Swiss PO for use by officials of this international organization from 1958.

**Ionian Islands:** British protectorate with stamps (*Ionikon Kratos*) from 1859 until ceded to Greece in 1864; Italian occupation issues (*Isole Jonie*) 1941-3.

**IRAN:** The Central Asian country of Persia was so renamed in 1935.

**IRAQ:** The Asian country had first stamps in 1918, under British occupation.

**IRELAND (*Eire*):** The southern part of the island of Ireland became an independent republic with own stamps from 1922; see also Northern Ireland.

***Irian Barat*** (West Irian) and ***Irian Jaya*** see Netherlands New Guinea. (now part of Indonesia).

***Irish Free State*:** see Ireland.

**ISHIKAWA:** Separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1989.

*Island* = Iceland.

**ISLE OF MAN:** island between Ireland and Britain with own postal administration from 1973; regional issues of Great Britain from 1958 (no inscription, with symbols).

**ISRAEL:** Eastern Mediterranean state founded in 1948.

**Istria:** Italian territory with Yugoslav issues from 1945 until ceded to Yugoslavia in 1947.

*Itaca* see Cefalonia.

*Ita-Karjala* = Eastern Karelia.

*Italia* = Italy.

**Italian Austria:** Districts acquired in 1918 (Trentino, Venezia Giulia and Dalmatia).

**Italian Colonies:** general issues (*Poste Coloniali Italiane*) 1932-4.

**Italian East Africa (*Africa Orientale*):** including Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia, 1903-36.

*(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

### MUNXAR: THE PARISH

*(Alfred Grech)*



His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI launched the Pauline Year (2008-09) to mark the two millennia from the Apostle's birth. Maltapost's 2008 *Annus Paulinus* set - issued on the 28th June 2008 - showing St Paul titular statues of course does not omit Munxar's (€0.68).

For many centuries, despite having an identity of its own, the village of Munxar formed part of Sannat. The people of Munxar attended religious services at St Margaret's parish church in Sannat.

Late in the nineteenth century, Sannat parish priest Alessandru Cauchi, becoming aware that the spiritual needs of the community at Munxar were not being adequately catered for, filed a request to the commission of Canon Salv Bondi for the building of a chapel in Munxar. The matter was pursued by Fr. Mikiel Ang Spiteri, a zealous priest who presented Bishop Giovanni Maria Camilleri with a further petition for a local chapel.



Meanwhile on March 24 1913, with the request still under scrutiny at the Bishop's Curia, Fr Spiteri received a generous donation – the siblings Lorenzo, Guzeppi and Maria Cassar, known as “*ta' Katalla*”, offered a building site amounting to an area of two and a half acres. A building plan was duly sketched by mastermason

Luigi Vella and by February 2, 1914 excavation works had begun. It was decided that the Church would be dedicated to St Paul's Shipwreck.

At this stage, Fr Spir Gauci appeared on the scene, injecting new energy to the flagging morale. On March 22 1916, the community flocked to witness the laying of the foundation stone by Vicar General Mgr Guzeppi Farrugia. Masons Francis



Farrugia and Luigi Vella were entrusted with the building of the church and sacristy respectively. For the community of Munxar it was an occasion of surging pride and optimism when Bishop Michael Gonzi consecrated the new church on October 18, 1925.

The statue of St Paul depicting the fiery apostle just after his shipwreck in Malta – shown on the stamp - is the work of the Gozitan statuary Wistin Camilleri. It cost £40, £29 of which donated by Ganni Saliba. It was blessed by Bishop Gonzi on January 3 1933 and a week later it was taken in procession to Munxar.

Mgr Spir Gauci was succeeded by Mgr Carmelo Xuereb who set out to embellish the church with various art treasures which were sorely missing. Among his notable achievements were the acquisition of a new set of bells and the main altar silver frontal depicting the Last Supper which was wrought in Milan.



In the first three decades following the completion of the church, the paintings which adorn the church were commissioned and put in place. The titular painting showing the arrival of St Paul in Malta amidst the raging storm is the work of Robert Caruana Dingli, while the two lateral paintings depicting episodes from St Paul's

stay in Malta belong to Ramiro Cali. Of the other paintings, the most remarkable is that of Our Lady of Consolation in the right aisle which was commissioned to Lazzaro Pisani.

The post-war years saw the slow recovery of the embellishment programme. By then it was fast becoming evident that Munxar was ready for 'independence'. Prominent people from Munxar had already presented repeated requests to Bishop Joseph Pace in this respect. On the memorable day of December 12 1957, Bishop Pace issued the decree *Pro Munere Nostro Pastoralis* by which Munxar became a parish in its own right.

(continued on page 24)

**stamp terms used in PHILATELY (26)**

(Emanuel Vella)

**Melville Memorial Awards:** The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain holds an annual competition open to junior collectors in any part of the world up to the age of 17 as a permanent memorial to the late F.J. Melville. There are three age-group classes, for each of which a silver cup, (to be held for a year) cash and other awards are given.

**Menant & Co's Express Post:** New Orleans, USA mail service for which local stamps were issued in 1853/5.

**Mercuries:** The god Mercury or Hermes - the messenger - has been a favourite subject of many stamp designs. But when philatelists refer to Mercuries they usually mean the Austrian 1851 journal or newspaper stamps, although the head of the god adorned many special issues right up to 1918.

**Merkur (in German) Mercury:** Inscription of Local stamps of Anchen (Aix-la-Chopelle) 1895.

**Merson:** Luc-Olivier. He was the designer of the 1900-6 high value stamps of France. These were suitably inscribed for a number of French Colonies, the key type, known by his name.

**Messenkope's Union Square Post Office:** The inscription on a New York, USA, local in use in 1849.

**Metallic Inks:** These have been employed on occasion to produce distinctive effects upon stamps. The "Darius"

and other issues and o/ps on stamps of Palestine and Arabia have been embellished with gold and silver inks. A British Commonwealth instance was the South African Silver Wedding (1948) issue.

**Metelin:** City on Lesbos (Lesvos) a Turkish island off the coast of Asia Minor in the Aegean Sea, where Russia maintained a postal agency and for which it overprinted stamps in 1910. In 1912 it was occupied by Greece and Turkish stamps were o/p for use in the island. Italy occupied it in World War II, and it is now back in Greek Lands. Area (Lesbos) 632 sq metres, population in 1980 was 40,518.

**Metered Mail:** The use of the automatic machine meter frank was authorised internationally by the U.P.U. in 1920 and it is now in by large mailing organizations throughout the world. The franking has to be done in red and must bear the name of the country of origin. A parcel-franking machine was introduced experimentally in a few G.B. post offices in 1947 and many are now in regular use. The first machine was invented in 1905 by Mr Moss of New Zealand. The collection of meter postmarks is an interesting branch of philately. There are also catalogues for Meter postmarks and postage stamps.

**Metropolitan Errand & Carrier Express Company:** was a local (New York) delivery service of 1855/9 which used engraved stamps so inscribed.

(to be continued)

*Script by Script (26)**(Antoine Vassallo)*

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

Today I look at another Indian state – and begin a new Competition.

**Jind** (Jhind) is often grouped with Nabha and Patiala as the “Phulkian” states, a name derived from their common ancestral ruler. All three (covering a total of over twenty thousand square kilometres) are in the huge area of the former Punjab province but no longer exists independently, having been incorporated within other states.

Only the first concerns us in this series: its stamps have unusual designs based on local script and ornaments, with a prominent letter “R”. This is simply the initial of Raghbir Singh, the Rajah or ruler. They first appeared in 1874 and were printed in lithography at the Jind State Rajah’s Press in Sunroor, the capital – also known as Sangrur. Various shades and papers exist, some printings being used for fiscal purposes after Jind entered into convention with India and so began issuing overprinted Indian stamps in 1885. Jind had been founded in 1763, was loyal to the British in the 1857 Mutiny and continued to render service to the British government in other wars.



And here’s the promised **COMPETITION** ⇨

## IDENTIFY THE ISSUER

You are invited to go through your catalogue to identify the Mediterranean islands which used these stamps for the few years between 1859 and 1864. They now form part of a European “classical” country. You should be able to recognize this Queen! Another HINT: alphabetically, we remain quite near and listed in one of our regular series!

**Prize: Free stamps to all participants!**

\*\*\*\*\*



### **E & O not E (21)**

(Antoine Vassallo)

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

In 1993 **Iran** embarked on a series of flowers – quite a respite from the usual (and often dreary) “political” portraits! Hyacinths, irises, narcissi, orchids, pansies, poppies, roses and tulips were shown in simple designs – printed in multicoloured photogravure.

The 60 rials displays a viburnum specimen. These widespread shrubs, from the honeysuckle family, have terminal clusters of small flowers – thus they are popular for ornamental purposes. The stamp shows an example with white flowers. Quality control seems that have been rather defective, however, since a big percentage appeared with centre inverted. Sheets were obviously fed into the press in a wrong orientation. This went unnoticed, probably because the design does not strike immediately as “incorrect”.

This is an example of an error which can be added to anyone’s collection: it is so common that the price should not exceed an euro or two. I understand that they could be acquired easily in substantial numbers, complete with margin selvage, from Tehran bazaars!



**Normal Centre**



**Inverted Centre**

## BEGINNERS section

### The Hobby of Stamp Collecting

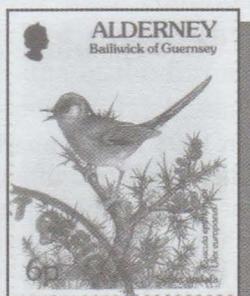
(Anton V Said)

To day we intend to deal with a thematic collection.

Thematic collection first began some years ago in a very small way, when general collectors wanted something interesting to



do with their duplicates. They began to set out special pages for showing at exhibitions - pages containing stamps of birds, ships, boats



trains, helicopters or bridges. A handsome page of birds can be made up



from a wide variety of stamps. But this no matter how beautiful they may be and how well arranged is of no more than ten seconds' interest to the person who doesn't collect. So this type of thematic collecting in a way created a problem to the collector as showing a number of stamps about one subject put in line on a page didn't arouse much interest to the non philatelist.



Thematic collections can be quite



different. Thematic collecting when tackled properly amounts to a great deal more than simply accumulating the right stamps marshalled in rows across the page. This would be dull and meaningless to look at. A thematic collection needs careful mounting and also needs notes to explain what it is all about.



Let us take “sports” for example. If this is tackled properly, one should begin by going in to the past, tracing the revival of the Olympic Games, the discus - throwing of Greece in 1896 to the Australian issues of 1956 and any issued for

the Rome Olympics of 1960. One then can spread this subject further by taking soccer, air racing, hunting and fishing, sailing and canoeing.

The same can be said if one takes, say, the subject of “railways” in his hobby. It would be much appropriate if he goes back in time when George Stephenson invented the first locomotive engine in 1814 and then coming to the modern present day railways.

This theme may be broadened further, as we will see in the next issue. (that of June)

*Reference “Instructions to young stamp collectors” by Robert Baheman.*

## MALTA OVERSEAS

*local connections on foreign stamps (8)*

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

After the **United Nations Organization** began issuing stamps for use at its New York Headquarters in 1951, in 1969 separate ones appeared for mail from its Geneva *Palais des Nations* HQ. At first, the New York designs were normally used, with a change to the local currency of a Swiss Franc made up of 100 centimes. Later issues paralleled the themes but with additional designs. Such an instance was the set consisting of two stamps issued on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1984 honouring UNESCO World Heritage sites. In fact on the same day, another two were produced by New York (with a further two for the Vienna centre, which had by then acquired its own too). I have already given the background of this initiative by the United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organization (in number 6 of this series – issue 33).

The designers were RJ Callari and T Lee; the lithographic multicolour printers were London's Harrison & Sons Ltd. I do not really know who was responsible for a, possibly insignificant, "error". In fact the Geneva 50c is inscribed "La Valette". However the spotlight seems to be on Fort St Angelo in Birgu - though the Grand Harbour could be another acceptable description. The photo is actually St Angelo seen from Valletta – and so this could have featured in the E&OnotE series! (The other stamp showed an Argentine scene). Malta's capital is inextricably linked to the



Knights of St John and they fortified Valletta so strongly that it became one of the greatest Mediterranean strongholds. But other parts of Malta (and Gozo) were strengthened defensively. Fort St Angelo existed in the early medieval period and was known as *Castello a Mare* under the Aragonese. It became the seat of the Grand Master and withstood the Turkish assailants during the Great Siege. With the coming of the British, the fort retained its importance as a military installation, listed as a ship (originally as HMS *Egremont*, but renamed HMS *St Angelo* in 1933).

St Angelo has appeared numerous times on Malta's stamps, beginning with the King George VI ½d definitive (1938, 1943 and 1948). Other sets containing it were the 1975 and 2003 Architecture, 1983 Europa (reproduced in 2006) and 1999 SMOM.

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

### **You are all invited to contribute to this, our periodical**

Members are encouraged to send comments and suggestions, as well as other contributions for publication (about your collection and experience, about postal history and stamp subjects etc etc). Because of our numerous foreign members, the language should preferably be English; but a summary could be added to an item in Maltese - in any case the editorial board can translate. 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!

## I am a STAMP.....

Stamps are issued to commemorate a special event or occasion. I am a stamp issued to commemorate Pope John Paul II.



Masltapost decided to issue a special stamp after the death of this famous pope who died on the 2nd April 2005. I was printed in a printing press with many other stamps like me. When we were ready we were all packed and then given to many Maltapost branches for sale.

My adventure started on the first day of issue on the 15th April 2005 when I was fixed on an envelope called "*First Day Cover*". Then a tall man stamped me really so hard that I was hurt a lot and I also didn't like the smell of the ink. I was ready for sale with the price of 51c marked on me.

At the Victoria post office I saw a lot of people on that day. People who collect stamps came to the post office to buy the first day covers for their collection. Finally my turn came and I was bought by a man named Michael Bajada. He paid the money and then he put me in his brief case and went out of the post office.

Back home he put me in a huge album full of many stamps some old and some new. Now I have many new friends to talk to and to live with. Mr Bajada often shows his collection to his friends and he says that I am his faviouite stamp because he used to admire Pope John Paul II a lot. So that's why he likes me so much.

Now I am three years old and I am a really happy stamp. I think I will live a long life because I am sure that Mr Bajada will pass his stamp collection to his children.

*Matthew Bajada Year V Bishop's Conservatory School Gozo*

## FIRST PAST THE POST

*(Leslie Sutton)*

A visit to the stamp fair at York Racecourse Grandstand, which was the venue for over sixty of the U.K. Philatelic dealers, was a little disappointing because none of the traders from Malta attended, as they have done in previous years.

As a collector of postal used Malta stamps for the last thirty years, I had hoped to get up to date stamps and fill in a few gaps in my village postmarks collection. A good version of the Naxaro cancel and some modern issues on three album leaves was the extent of my purchases.

Unfortunately the British weather prevented an extensive viewing of the historic sites, museums and churches for which - like Malta - it is renowned.

My accommodation was located on the Tadcaster Road close to the racecourse boundary; this allowed access to the fair's location, requiring only ten minutes walk over a meadow-grassed area and part of the racecourse itself.

I found the bus service from the city excellent, signs of a large influx of visitors was evident when asking for directions (a shrug or a shake of the head accompanied by a teathy grin being the response in many cases). The loan of an A to Z map book of York from the Nottinghamshire library system was a great help. It was well worth the visit.

*This article by a GPS member resident in England appeared in the Nottingham Philatelic Society Newsletter (with which we have a special relationship).*

**Promoting Gozo through Philately**

(from page 13)



**First Parish Priest**

The first parish priest was the ex-Dominican friar Fr Alan Fenech who was installed on March 8 1959. He toiled without respite for the spiritual enrichment of his flock and the organisation of the new parish. Fr Fenech was succeeded by Fr Saviour Debrincat, a native of Munxar, who in his extensive span in office (1965-1996) steered the parish towards a comprehensive integration of the norms set down by Vatican

Council II. Especially remarkable is the impressive Parish Centre which remains a living monument to Fr Debrincat's dedication.



Likewise fruitful was the ten year span of the third parish-priest, Fr Frankie Bajada from Xaghra (1996-2006), who can be accredited with the main altar project to suit the modern needs of the liturgy. He was followed by Fr Tonio Galea, from St George's parish in Victoria, installed by Bishop Mario Grech on December 3 2006.

It can surely be stated that, in the half century that has passed since the establishment of the parish, the villagers have always been guided by a strong sense of duty and of belonging towards the community. Only in this way can individuals and families acquire a faith, deep and unwavering, to match modern sensibility.

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**Photos:** With acknowledgment of Munxar Parish and Ms Rita Galea.

## FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). Limited Edition of 500 cards. €2.50
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:-Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. Limited Edition of 100 covers. **(Less than 10 left)**. €4.50
- A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. Limited edition of 200 cards. €2.50
- Card to commemorate the 7th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition (3 to 12 November 2006) including the 8c Christmas stamp and cancelled with the Christmas First Day of Issue hand stamp Limited Edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. €1.50
- Special card issued on the occasion of the TOY STAMP issue. Cancelled on the first day of issue at Xaghra Post Office featuring the "POMSKIZILLIOUS MUSEUM OF TOYS" found in Xaghra Gozo. Limited Edition of 75 cards. €1.75
- 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 cards. €1.75
- Card in the form of a First Day Cover on the issue of the re-printed 1c stamp depicting the *Sempreviva* of Gozo. This stamp was officially issued in Gozo later than in Malta. (19.10.2006). Limited edition of 160 cards. €0.50
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of the Comino Tower stamp. Postmarked with the First day of issue handstamp from Ghajnsielem S.P.O. Limited edition of 75 covers. **(Less than 10 left)**. €2.50



## FOR SALE

- Cover issued on the occasion of the 2005 Christmas set stamp issue 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 covers. €2.50
- Card to commemorate the 50 years of Europe. Cancelled with the special handstamp issued for the occasion during the festivities held at Nadur Gozo. Limited edition of 75 cards. €2.50
- Registered Hand Coloured cover to commemorate the issue of two stamps depicting Gozo Balconies (one at Victoria and the other at Gharb). The covers were hand stamped with the First Day of issue Post-Mark. Limited edition of 75 covers. €2.50
- Card commemorating the GPS 8th Annual Exh. 2007 and the launching of the GPS website. Limited edition of 100 cards. €1.50
- Set of two cards with first day of operation hand-stamp of the new Post Offices at Xlendi and St Lawrence. Limited edition of 75 cards each. €2.50
- Card commemorating the 125 Anniv from the Call of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu to Karmni Grima and Frangisk Portelli. Each card is cancelled with a special handstamp issued by Maltapost and stamped at the National shrine on Sunday 22nd June 2008. The card has an embossed metal image of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. Limited edition of 1000. (Only 10 left). €3.00
- Card commemorating 5th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition and 5th Anniversary of the GPS. Limited edition of 400 cards. (Less than 10 left). €1.50
- Set of 2 registered covers commemorating Karolina Cauchi and Patri Manwel Magri (Gozo Benefactors). Limited edition of 30 covers. (Less than 5 left). €5.00
- Card commemorating the 9th GPC Exhibition. Limited edition of 100 cards. (Less than 10 left). €1.50
- Card commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Gozo Tourism Association. Limited edition of 75 cards. €2.00

**NB: Each Card or Cover is individually numbered.**

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

*Those interested may contact:*  
Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

### Members' Meetings

are held regularly on the **1st Sunday** of the month:

**5th April**

**3rd May**

from 9.00am to 11 .00am

at Victoria Scouts HQ (Triq Santa Dminka).

exchange, purchase, information etc.

Entrance Free!

*Will be stopped during June, July and August*

*And will start again on the **1st Sunday** of September*

- Please note that members can contact the Secretary for free temporary loan of various philatelic publications - a list will be shown in a future issue.
- 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.
- Membership fees include Newsletter delivery and so for overseas members is 12 Euro - they can use Money Orders or new currency notes.
- Members can acquire a copy of our Statute (approved during the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM) by contacting the Secretary – it can also be downloaded from our Website.
- Young members who will renew their membership for year 2008 will be given a token of free stamps. Now is the time to renew your membership.
- 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!



The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History

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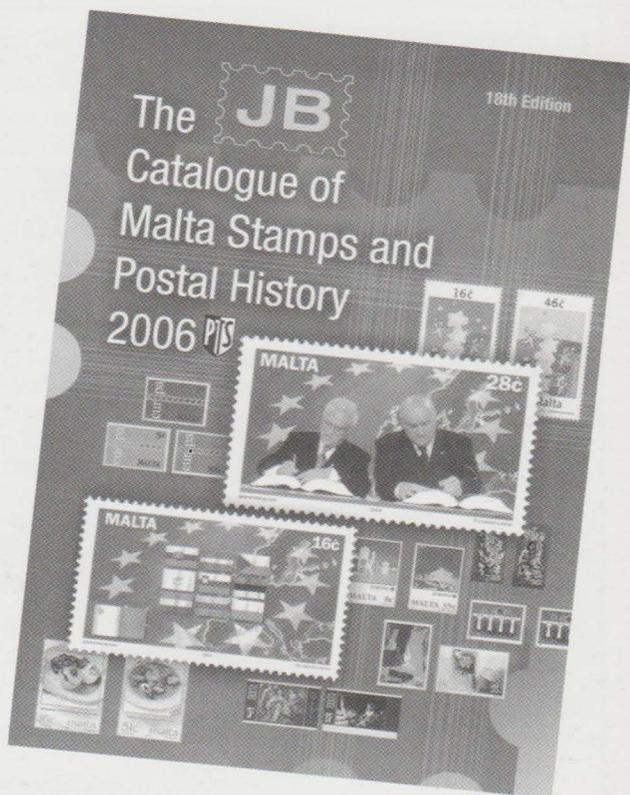
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