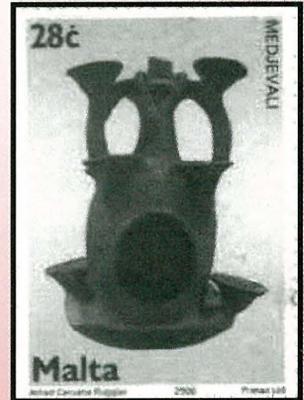
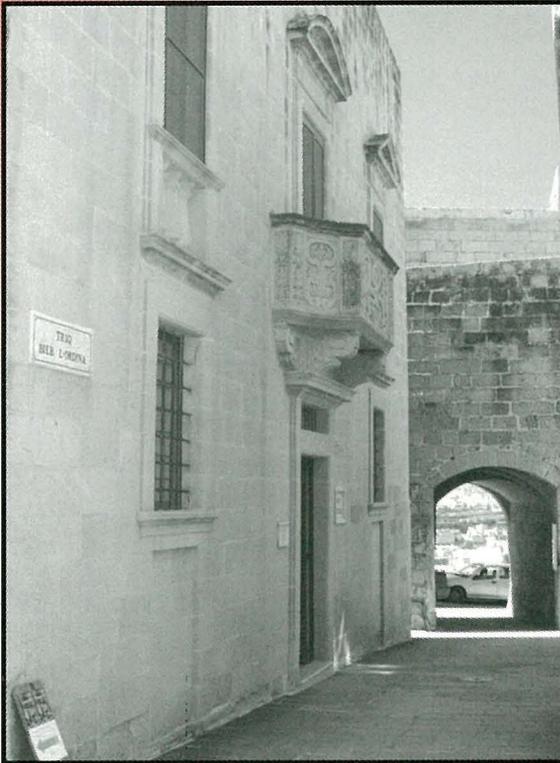




January - March 2010

No.39 - 1/2010

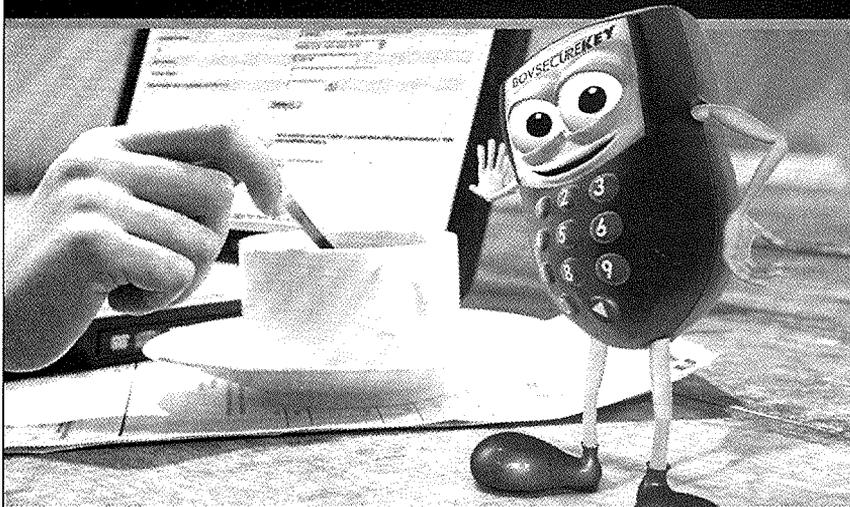
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**GOZO
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SOCIETY**

Newsletter

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Front Cover:

- Façade of the Archeological Museum .
- 26c stamp depicting a terracotta oil lamp-holder (*mnara*). This stamp was included in a Ceramics set issued on 25 February 2006, designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier.

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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_____ Post Code: _____

E-mail address _____ Tel. No. _____

I enclose €5.00 membership fee. (Overseas €12, including Newsletter)

(Fee for Junior membership, under 16 years, is €2.00.

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.....
Signature

.....
Date

Introduced by _____ Member No. _____

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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.

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: editor@stamps.gozo.org

GPS DIARY (39)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

- 9 November 2009:** Exhibition begins being set up
- 10 November 2009:** GPS secretary meets School Heads
- 13 November 2009:** Maltapost handstamp issued, together with Occasion Card and personalized stamps.
- 13 November 2009:** Anthony Grech prepares Exhibition cover.
- 21 November 2009:** Closing down of 10th Exhibition (see pages 8 & 9).
- 24 and 26 November 2009:** Visits to Seminary Secondary School.
- 27 November 2009:** Committee meeting confirms Exhibition prizes and prepares for AGM.
- 6 December 2009:** Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 14 December 2009:** The Times prints prominently illustrated letter from Balzan member Joseph Fenech commemorating GPS's tenth anniversary.
- 29 December 2009:** Anthony Grech prepares two covers for the new Definitives (Ggantija and "French cemetery" tombstone).
- 10 January 2010:** AGM and Exhibition Prize Distribution (see pages 3 to 9).
- 13 January 2010:** First meeting of eleventh Committee confirms officers and posts.
- 5 February 2010:** Anthony Grech prepares cover for St Paul handstamp.
- 16 February 2010:** AGM and Exhibition Prizegiving featured in The Maltese Herald.
- 17 February 2010:** Anthony Grech prepares cover on occasion of new Sub Post Office (at Kerzem Local Council).
- 20 February 2010:** Committee meeting discusses *Lejlet Lapsi* participation and other activities.
- 10 March 2010:** GPS Secretary Antoine Vassallo confirmed as Gozo NGOs Association President.

As we have come to expect, *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Malta eV* have again featured GPS in their periodical: *Il-Maltija* number 13 gives space to both Exhibition and Cards. The GPS anniversary and Exhibition were in fact covered by various media, including the Sunday Times, *il-Hajja f'Għawdex* and the Maltese Herald (Australia).

10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10.01.2010

President's Report

The annual general meeting this year was again held on the second Sunday of the month of the new year, i.e. Sunday January 10, a decision taken by the Society's committee to keep such a date also for future general meetings.

The attendance was quite encouraging, especially by the juniors who most of them were accompanied by their parents. The meeting started by Mr Antoine Vassallo the society's secretary giving a detailed report of the society's activities including the usual school visits, members' meetings and the issuing of special cards and handstamps together with personalized stamps to commemorate special occasions. These were quite numerous this year with the society celebrating its 10th anniversary also because of the good number of stamps related to Gozo which were issued this year. The society held also various meetings for members during the past year and also issued its quarterly magazine which is gaining popularity among the members. This was followed by the financial report for the year 2009.

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. Another sponsor for the first time this year was Maltapost plc who sponsored us with stamp albums as presents both for the juniors and the seniors. A word of appreciation was also shown to Mr Anthony Grech for the creation of special occasion cards and handstamps which besides giving an identity to our society are another source of income to our society; also to family Vassallo and the Victoria

Scouts Group for giving us permission to use their premises for our meetings.

The new committee for year 2010 was then formed, followed by the prize giving ceremony to participants in connection with last November's annual philatelic exhibition. They were encouraged to participate again this year and to keep up the good work and the high standard achieved.

Anton V Said

TREASURER'S REPORT AS ON 10 JANUARY 2010

As on January 2009 AGM Balance was	€2249.30
Handover of Treasurer duties on 11.04.09	€1826.56
Difference between Income & Expenditure	€ 63.33
Balance as on 10.01.2010	€1763.23

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).

Dr Michael Refalo MD
Treasurer GPS

10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10-1-2010

Secretary's Report

I intend giving a straightforward bird's eye view of the 12 months since our last AGM, a "special" year celebrating the tenth anniversary of our founding:

At the first Committee meeting following the 9th AGM, posts were agreed: Anton Said (President), Dr Michael Refalo MD (Vice-President and Treasurer), Antoine Vassallo (Secretary), Anthony Grech (Membership Secretary), Mary Grace Xerri (Public Relations Officer), Austin Masini (Newsletter Editor), Emmanuel Vella (Librarian), George Micallef (Equipment Manager), and Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar (Chaplain). The other committee members were Daniel Calleja, Lina Gauci and Frankie Vella. Six further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.

As usual, the 10th Exhibition in November consumed substantial efforts – another successful edition! Prizes and participation certificates are being distributed this morning. The official opening was on Friday 13, with the participation of Mr Anthony Borg (who read out a message from the unavoidably absent Minister Giovanna Debono) and MaltaPost Chairperson Mr Joseph Said.

We in fact succeeded in beginning a solid relationship with the MaltaPost's Philatelic Division which will hopefully develop further – besides their kind provision of the Exhibition Junior prizes, as well as that for the Best Exhibitor.

Anthony Grech continued preparing covers (or even the handstamp itself) whenever the opportunity arose: GTA, Don Bosco Oratory (two different), Gozo mailboat stamp, Gorg Pisani, Xlendi liner stamp, Scenery set (three different: Qbajjar, saltpans and Ggantija) and Definitive set (two different: Ggantija and "French cemetery" tombstone), together with the usual one for our Exhibition.

This year he was quite busy since he also designed a handstamp for our tenth anniversary (and relative cover) and the popular personalized sheet (five different).

Webmaster Samuel Masini has not been able to upgrade our Website regularly but he is aiming at a full redesign during 2010.

The GPS participated in the *Lejlet Lapsi* events, exhibiting our special covers at the Sir Arturo Mercieca School foyer.

The GPS was among the signatories on a letter asking for a stamp set featuring Gozitan literary figures and on another asking that Gozo should have its own official coat of arms.

The regular Members' Meetings, only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration whose HQ we use, are now being held on the first Sunday of the month.

Contacts with schools have not been as successful as hoped but we did visit the Seminary Secondary and again participated in the Don Bosco Summer Club.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter (and the Website mentions most). The Newsletter regularly attracts positive comments but I should surely mention the really special number 37. More junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles. The new Competition did not unfortunately solicit much participation.

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

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

Antoine Vassallo

Australian MALTA (16)

another glimpse at the prize-winning collection
 built up by John Vassallo, GPS member in Australia

The First Pictorial Set
4½d & 5d

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the stamp world was being swept by a pictorial mania. This spread to Malta as well. The first four pictorial stamps (4½d, 5d, 2½ and 10½) were issued on 4th February 1898. The farthing stamp (¼d) followed in January 1901.

Wm & Co. London L.S. 2114



Gozo Fishing Boat

SPECIMEN

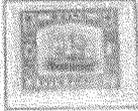


Galley of Knights of St. John

750 specimens of each were produced.



4½d Sepia



5d Vermilion

Registered Letter to Bavaria rated 5d - the overseas rate to non British countries in 1901 was 2½d for the first Oz and each additional Oz. Letter must have weighed between 1 and 2 Oz.

<p>REGISTERED</p> <p>Two Letters with no more than 10 to be registered and 2</p> <p>R</p> <p><i>Germany</i></p> <p><i>Kunze, Kuehn & Co.</i></p> <p><i>Bavaria</i></p> <p><i>1898</i></p> <p><i>1901</i></p>	<p>LETTER</p> <p>no weight of the first Oz. Heavy letters 2½d</p> <p><i>186</i></p> <p><i>Bamberg</i></p> <p><i>1901</i></p>
--	---

GPS EXHIBITION 2009 - RESULTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS BY ORDER OF MERIT

JUNIOR SECTION

1. Camilleri Amy
2. Borg Margherita
3. Dingli Erika]
4. Zammit Nicholas] Called together
5. Borg Corinne
6. Refalo Nathaniel
7. Xerri Rebecca
8. Zammit G Marlon
9. Galea Jolene
10. Borg Andrea
11. Said Natalia
12. Said Miriana
13. Galea Celene
14. Vella Joseph
15. Xerri Carlos
16. Attard Josef
17. Cardona Mathew]
18. Vella Emanuel] Called together
19. Attard Stephanie]
20. Sciberras Peter] Called together
21. Vella Marie
22. Sciberras Thomas
23. Cassar Gianella
24. Cassar George

ADULT SECTION

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

1. Grech Anthony 1st
2. Rev Fr Gerald Buhagiar 2nd

POSTAL HISTORY

1. Borg Jesmond 1st
2. Borg Jesmond 2nd
3. Xerri M'Grace 2nd
4. Gauci Lina Pr. for Participation
5. Said Anthony Pr. For Participation

SOCIAL PHILATELY

1. Grech Anthony 1st
2. Grech Anthony 2nd

**BANK OF VALLETTA TROPHY FOR
BEST ITEM ON SHOW - POSTAL HISTORY
Jesmond Borg**

**BEST EXHIBITOR - Album (1964 - 2004)
Sponsored by MaltaPost
Anthony Grech**

CONGRATULATIONS

Where in the World ?! (29)

(Antoine Vassallo)

Stamp Issuers Past and Present

Jerusalem: Italian PO's (*Gerusalemme*) 1909, Russian PO's (*Ierusalem*) 1909-10 and German PO's 1900-14.

Jhalawar: Indian state with own stamps 1887-1900.

Jind: (also Jeend, Jhind) Indian state with own stamps 1874-1950.

JOHORE: Malay state with stamps from 1876.

Jonie = Ionian Islands.

JORDAN: Middle Eastern kingdom with stamps from 1920 when still under British Mandate (*E.E.F. East of Jordan or Transjordan*)

Jordanian Occupation of Palestine stamps 1948-9.

Juan Fernandez: 1910 overprints not restricted to these Chile Islands.

Jubaland (*Oltre Giuba*): part of Italian Somaliland with stamps 1925-6.

Juby = Cape Juby.

Jugoslavia = Yugoslavia.

Junagadh: see Soruth.

KAGAWA: Separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1991

KAGOSHIMA: Separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1990

Kaiserliche Konigliche Osterreichische = Austria

Kalymnos = Calino

Kamaran: Island in the Red Sea, now part of Yemen, which had a Turkish PO until 1915.

Kamerun = Cameroons

Kampuchea = Cambodia

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

Karelia = Eastern Karelia.

Karki: (Carchi) Aegean island with Italian issues 1912-32.

Karnten = Carinthia plebiscite issues 1920.

Karolinen = Carolines.

Karpathos = Scarpanto.

Kasai = South Kasai.

Kashmir Indian state with 1866-7 issues; then joint with Jammu.

Kasos = Caso.

Kastelorizon = Castelrosso.

Katanga: Breakaway Congo state 1960-2.

Kathiri State of Seiyun: one of the Aden Protectorates with stamps 1942-67.

Kavalla: French PO (*Cavalle*) 1893-1914; now Greek port.

KAZAKHSTAN: This former Soviet Union republic declared independence and began issuing stamps in 1992.

KEDAH: Malay state with own stamps from 1912.

Keeling Islands: see Cocos.

KELANTAN: Malay state with own stamps from 1911; Japanese occupation issues 1942-3; Thai occupation issue 1943.

KENYA: East African state with own stamps from 1963, previously part of British East Africa Protectorate

Kenya & Tanganyika: British East African territories with stamps 1922-64 under common postal service.

Kenya & Uganda: British East African territories with stamps in 1922.

(to be continued).

Bold italic = Inscriptions;

BOLD CAPITALS = Current Issuers;

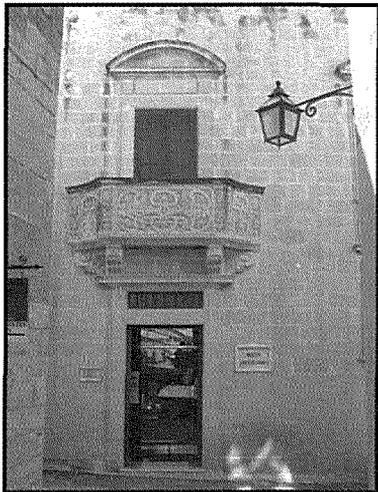
Bold = Former Issuers.

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

PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY

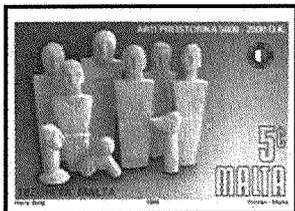
The ARCHEOLOGICAL Museum in Victoria

(Frankie Vella)

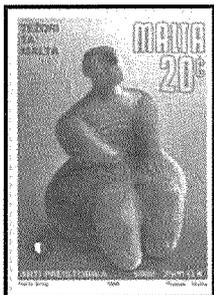


Gozo, although smaller than its sister island Malta, is nonetheless rich in history, art and tradition: numerous different civilizations have left their mark. The Museum of Archaeology, situated at the Citadel in Victoria, boasts of a varied representative collection. This Museum has just undergone refurbishment and a re-designing programme.

It is housed in what was formerly a two storey house consisting of nine rooms, known as '*Casa Bondi*'. On the initiative of Sir Harry Luke, it was restored shortly before the Second World War – in 1937, after which its name was changed from '*Palazzo Bondi*'. This was the surname of one of Gozo's old influential families – and this residence was used along the centuries by quite a few VIP visitors. Of great interest is the balcony situated on the main door, entirely sculpted in limestone.



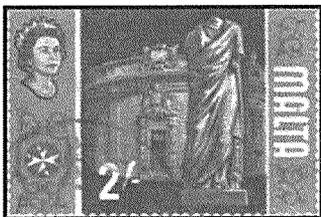
On entering, one can admire drawings by renowned artist Charles Frederick Von Brockdorff (1775-1850) showing the Xaghra Ggantija Temples. This same section also houses several clay artefacts which



make some archaeologists think that the first inhabitants, from Sicily, lived in Gozo before settling in Malta. These state-of-the-art showcases received ERDF co-financing. The 1996 “Treasures of Malta” set, featuring Prehistoric Art, included two stamps showing stone statuettes found at the Xaghra Stone Circle during the 1987-

1994 excavations.

Another part of the museum, on the second floor, is dedicated to the Punic and Roman era. Amphorae and anchors, made of lead and wood, have been found on the seabed – mainly in Xlendi Bay in 1961. Apart from coins dating from Phoenician,



Carthaginian and Roman times, there are also items made of silver and other ornaments. A full human skeleton (found on Comino covered by two amphorae halves) is also interesting. The Latin inscriptions and statues dating from

Roman times attract attention too. One of the latter is the headless Julia (sister of Julius Caesar and grandmother of Augustus) – or rather so attributed, although it is associated with Ceres the goddess of creation. This is shown on the 2/- 1965 definitive.



A further section of the museum concentrates on Medieval (and early Medieval) times: one of the tombstones is dated March 1174. This is outside the period when the Arabs ruled over the Maltese islands (869-1091) but their way of

(continued on page 24)

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (29)

(Emanuel Vella)

Mosul: Vilayet (Turkish Province) and town in Iraq. Fiscal stamps of Turkey were O/P "L.E.F." "D" during the British occupation of 1919 for the use of the Indian Mesopotamia Force. The vilayet covered 36,211 sq miles and had a population of around a quarter to a million.

Mother Die: The name is sometimes applied to the original engraved die in line engraving, and—erroneously - to the secondary die.

Motive Collecting: (Ger Motiv) Thematic, subject or topical collection. IMOSA (Die Erste Internationale Motivbrief-marken-Austellung) held by the Saar Philatelic Federation in March-April 1952. It was the first exhibition devoted to this phase of the hobby. IMA, the second of such shows was held in Berne, Switzerland in May 1953.

Mouchon Eugene Louis: Born 1843. Designed the "Peace and Commerce", tablet and other keytypes of France. He also engraved the "Sower" general issues and the first stamps for Ethiopia.

'Mouchon' Type: A stamp design of France with a seated female figure displaying a tablet engraved (Droits de Phomme) 'The Rights of Man' which has been named after the artist who designed and engraved it in 1900. It was redrawn in 1902.

Mount Atlas: (Ayion Onos) A mountain on the Athos arm of the Chalcidice Peninsula, famous for its monasteries, formerly in European Turkey and now a monastic district in Greece. Russia maintained a post office there in 1909-10 and overprinted general issue for use there.

Mount Brown Stamp Catalogue: Issued in 1863, was one of the first in Great Britain.

Mount Currie Express: Local stamps, value 1d, issued by Messrs Ballande & Goodliffe for use in franking letters carried by native runners in Guqualand East and Natal in South Africa between 1874-7.

Mount Everest Expedition: Issued so inscribed were designed to raise funds for the 1924 attempt to conquer this Himalayan mountain. It is stated that some copies were used to frank mail between the expeditionary camps and the official British Indian post office. They have local status.

Mounting: To preserve the condition and value of a collection, it is important that used stamps are correctly mounted in an album. Only good quality stamps hinges (sometimes called stamp mounts) should be used, as these can afterwards, if necessary, be peeled from the stamp and album leaf, leaving little or no mark on either. To mount a stamp, fold over the top quarter of the hinge, lightly moisten and affix the hinge to the stamp. Then fold the part not fixed to the stamp and after moistening it fix it to the album. Press the hinge to the page not the stamp so that the stamp can be examined both from the front and from the back. An alternative method—though more expensive—is to mount them in ‘Hawit Strips’ which are then themselves mounted on the album page. Covers are best mounted by the use of ready-gummed ‘corners’ of the kind sold for mounting snapshots.

(to be continued)

Not just PAPER

introducing a series highlighting examples of unusual stamp production

For most of the hundred and seventy years since the appearance of “stamps” in the philatelic sense in 1840, they could easily be described as simply printed scraps of paper. Over time, perforations were added and watermarks were often present. Although some needed the consumer’s application of glue (especially in locations where this was the practical solution to humid and hot weather), most stamps were sold with gum on the back which could be moistened to become adhesive for enough minutes to be attached (“water-activated” in modern American usage).

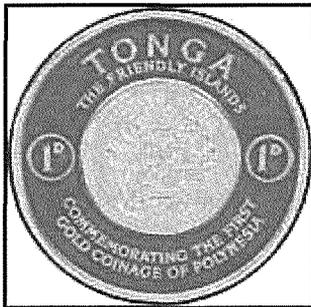
But then, in the 1960s, various issuers began **self-adhesive** “pressure-sensitive“ (probably always rubber-based) experimentation. These pressure-sensitive adhesives had to be peeled off backing paper – which could also serve as an advertising medium. Especially when the layer of binder material protecting the stamp from the adhesive is not present or is inadequate, soaking of used examples is not easy – and so collectors are increasingly deciding to mount them on piece.

In February 1964 West African Sierra Leone issued what are often described as the world's first self-adhesive postage stamps: fourteen free-form die-cuts commemorating the New York World's Fair, produced by Walsall Lithographic Co Ltd on Samuel Jones & Co Ltd paper. They were in the shape of

its map, strikingly similar to the May set honouring John F. Kennedy.



However in June 1963 the Pacific archipelago of Tonga had offered thirteen coins embossed on paper-backed gold foil (another Walsall production).



Neither of these two countries proved especially conservative in the different forms they offered during the next few years!

as always, readers are invited to send comments or even contributions

BEGINNERS section***The Hobby of Stamp Collecting****(Anton V Said)*

By now it is supposed that one has decided the type of stamp collection he is to start, whether it is a thematic collection or choosing a particular country or countries. Maybe also irrespective of the topic or county chosen one has quite a good number of stamps that came his way whether by “kiloware” or from relatives or buying stamp packets from stamp dealers. After sorting those which you require for your collection from those intended to be swapped with friends, one may start the cleaning process. One must remember that he should never try to pull off the stamps from the paper as he would surely damage them. The best way is “to float them off” by pouring some clean warm water but not hot into a bowl, then float each stamp (face uppermost) on the surface of the water. One can float as many stamps at one time as the amount of space available in the bowl. Leave the stamps from ten to fifteen minutes to give the water time to soak the gum that is sticking the stamp to the paper. Most stamps can then be gently peeled off, others may need a few more minutes to be easily peeled off successfully, depending on the type of gum used on the stamps.

Proving one’s hands are clean it is better to handle the stamps with the fingers when peeling off the envelope paper. The paper of stamps is weakened when it is damp and picking



them up with tweezers they may be damaged. It is important to know that in wetting the stamps one must not immerse them in the water as the ink used in the stamps’ cancellations

may run over, and sometimes even the colours of the stamps themselves, if the colours used happen to be cheap stuff and so the stamps are ruined. The same result may take place if the water for the peeling off is too hot.

Then place the stamps face downwards on a sheet of clean blotting paper or kitchen paper towel or better still a piece of dry, clean cloth, thus preventing the wet stamps sticking again on a very smooth, hard surface. The stamps would soon dry in room temperature and then are flattened while they are being stored away neatly in a stock book. Great care should be taken in choosing a good stock book as in the market one may find rather cheap ones which owing to the poor quality of their paper may damage the stamps while waiting to be mounted in a proper album when the time comes.

Another very important thing one should know in wetting the stamps is that stamps which are on coloured paper (envelopes) should be wet by themselves, thus avoiding the colour of the paper on which the stamps are fixed staining the other stamps when the paper is soaking wet.



Also avoid storing the cleaned stamps in envelopes or small boxes as this method tends to damage the stamps' perforation, but always use good stock-books for storing.

One last advice, nowadays the trend is to thing twice before tearing a stamp off an envelope as most old stamps and some modern ones too, if they have an interesting postmark are more valuable if left on the envelope. If in doubt always try to ask a more experienced collector's advice.

POST HASTE (9)

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

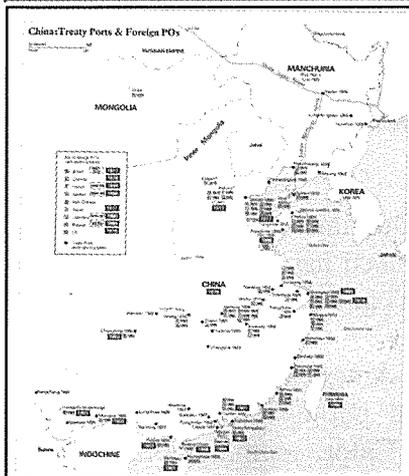
(Antoine Vassallo)

Sinology

China had a postal system from the time of the Chou Dynasty hundreds of years before what is now the Christian era. According to Marco Polo (towards the end of the 13th century AD), the government service (*I-Chan*) had some ten thousand post stages! Unofficial mail was carried separately by “letter guilds” (*Min Hsin Chu*). The Treaty of Kyakhta in 1727 provided for the first regular exchange of mail between China and Russia, while diplomatic couriers were permitted to foreigners in 1858 by treaty.

An internal service of the Imperial Maritime Customs was developed by Robert Hart (an Englishman) in the 1860s. By the end of the century, this grew into an Imperial Postal Service which absorbed a Shanghai local service and put the *Min Hsin Chu* out of business. But, until China joined the Universal Postal Union in 1914, all mail for foreign destinations had to pass through foreign Post Offices. So supplies of appropriate stamps were on sale at Imperial Chinese postoffices to be used in combination with Chinese stamps (though internal postage could also be paid in cash, in which case a handstamp was applied). In actual fact the great powers maintained their own systems for eight further years.

It should be of interest to mention some of these foreign POs.



- **British** consular POs were first opened in treaty ports in 1844. More were added in the next decades, all closing in 1922. However other offices operated in further localities in the area, the last year being 1930.

- The first **French** postoffice was at Shanghai (1862, with stamps of France being used for thirty years), with more being added until there was a total of eight by 1902. All were closed at the end of 1922. Additionally, the

territory of Kwang Chow was leased as a base from 1898 to 1943.

- **German** POs comprised Shanghai (from 1886) and eleven others, all closing in 1917.

- The first **Indo-Chinese** PO was opened at Mongtze in 1900, five others being added in the next months.

- **Italy** had two POs from 1917 to 1922 for diplomatic staff as well as troops – at Peking and Tientsin.

- The main **Japanese** office was opened in Shanghai in 1876 but agencies existed elsewhere too.

- **Russia** opened its first POs in 1870, with further ones (some of which “main offices”) being added by the end of the century. Distinguishable stamps (surcharged in Cyrillic) were issued from 1899 but all offices closed in 1920.

The **USA** operated a postal agency (from 1867 to 1922) in Shanghai.

Shanghai in fact merits specific mention. Though part of Imperial China, it was governed by an international Municipal Council. As the national services were inefficient and had high charges, the municipality organized a separate postal system (from 1864 to 1898) with agencies in various cities.

with acknowledgements to Rossiter & Flower's Stamp Atlas

E & O not E (23)

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

(Antoine Vassallo)

In the last issue, I criticized the Dominican Republic for errors connected with the Olympics. I need hardly add that they are certainly not the only “sportingly” guilty country!

Today I feature another Central American issuer. On August 16, 1958 the Republic of **Haiti** put on sale seven stamps showing their athlete Sylvio Cator, commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of a world record he set on September 9, 1928 - the two designs show him long jumping. The inscribed date is however wrong; even the record is incorrect: it was actually 7.93 metres (and not 7.937).

Cator cannot really be called a World Champion since the World Athletic Championships are much more recent. In those days the only World Championships of the International Amateur Athletic Federation took place during the Olympic Games every four years. Therefore his feat should have been described as a world record performance. It is worthwhile to add that a month earlier, during the Amsterdam Olympic Games, Cator jumped 7.58 metres and won the silver medal behind American Edward Hamm (7.73 metres).

Born in 1900, Cator was a footballer who played for the Trivoli Athletic Club and the Racing Club Haitien. He also participated in the 1924 Paris Olympics – in the stadium where he was to achieve the record leap four years later - in the high jump (he finished 15th) and the long jump (12th). He

participated one more time in the long jump at the 1932 Los Angeles games (9th). Getting the best ever Haitian athletic result made him a very popular personality and in 1946 he was elected Mayor of Port-au-Prince. He died in 1952.

His name was again in the news in early 2010 because of the shattering earthquake that struck Haiti. In fact the Port-au-Prince multi-purpose national stadium, called *Stade Sylvio Cator*, was used as a venue where to treat victims - although partly destroyed itself.



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!

(from page 13)

life was not hindered immediately by the Normans who invaded and took over. This artefact is called *il-Gebbla ta' Majmuna* since the inscription refers to the death of this 14-year-old girl. Tradition states that it was found somewhere in Sannat but modern archaeologists are doubtful. In any case, it is shown on the 2½d in the same 1965 definitives.

I now come to the stamp highlighted on the cover of this Newsletter. This **26c** value was included in a **Ceramics** set issued on 25 February 2006, designed by Alfred Caruana Ruggier. This terracotta oil-lamp holder (or *mnara*) for multiple lights has the upper part missing: it is of unknown provenance but is surely late medieval (14th or 15th century).



Expert Emmanuel Fiorentino notes that it recalls an ancient Mediterranean tradition of anthropomorphic ceramic ware. Actually, the museum boasts of a good assortment of '*mnaras*' from different times. In fact another stamp has featured such an oil lamp: the 1972 Decimal

Coinage 5m.

Obviously, this series will have to return in the future with more information but I should note that the Gozo Archeological Museum served as an extension of the Victoria Branch Post Office on 22 January 2006. A special handstamp was in fact issued by MaltaPost on the occasion of the consecration of Mgr Mario Grech as Bishop of Gozo at the Cathedral.

FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). **€ 2.50**
Limited Edition of 500 cards.
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:-Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. **€ 4.50**
Limited Edition of 100 covers. **(Less than 10 left).**
- 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 **€ 1.50**
Limited Edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left).**
- 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. **€ 1.75**
Limited Edition of 75 cards.
- 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. **€ 1.75**
Limited edition of 160 cards.
- Card in the form of a First Day Cover on the issue of the reprinted 1c stamp depicting the *Sempreviva* of Gozo. This stamp was officially issued in Gozo later than in Malta. (19.10.2006). **€ 0.50**
Limited edition of 160 cards.
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of the Comino Tower stamp. Postmarked with the First day of issue handstamp from Ghajnsielem S.P.O. **€ 2.50**
Limited edition of 75 covers. **(Less than 10 left).**

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 22 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.

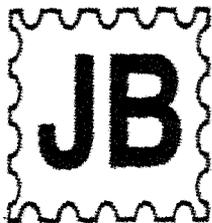
Those interested may contact:

Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

Members' Meetings

are held regularly on the **1st Sunday** of the month
4 April 2 May 6 June 4 July
from 9.00am to 11.00am
at Victoria Scouts HQ (Triq Santa Dminka).
exchange, purchase, information etc.
Entrance Free!
All Juniors will receive a gift of free stamps

- 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 - they can use Money Orders or new currency notes.
- 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.
- Young members who will renew their membership for year 2010 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**

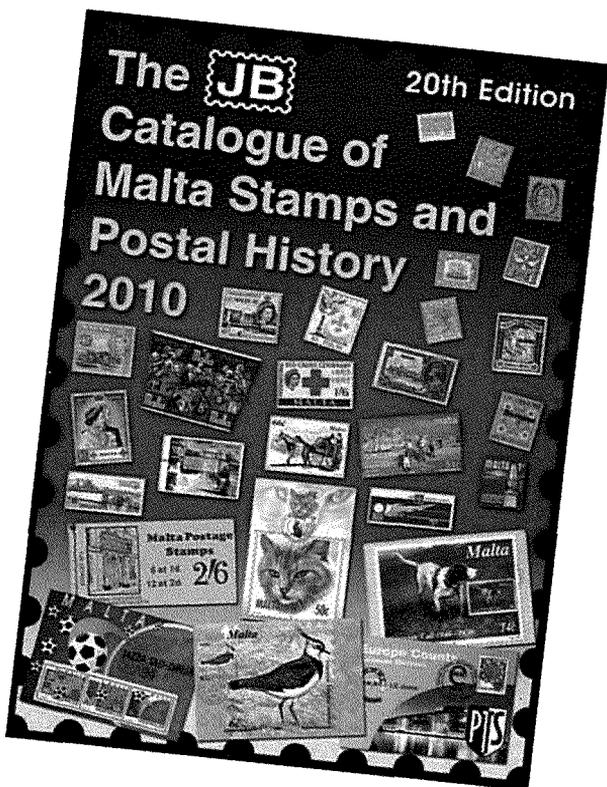
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