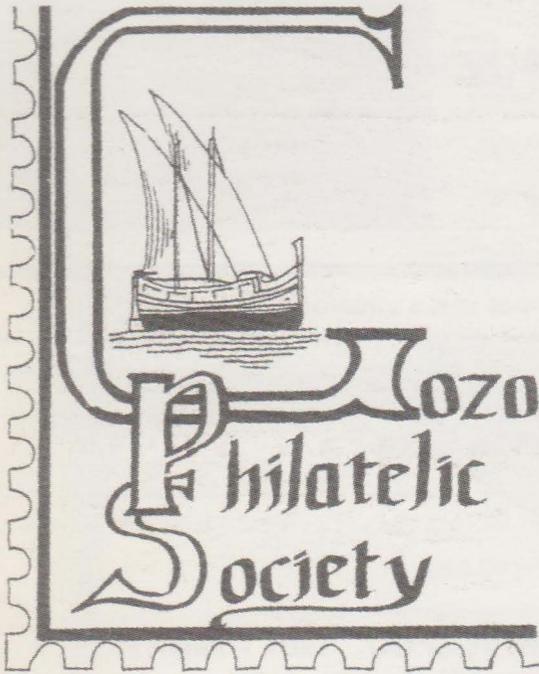


No. 6 October - December 2001 - 4/2001

NEWSLETTER



Season's Greetings

BOV Personal Loan

Kemm ilek tipposponi xi vaganza ferm mixtieqa jew ix-xiri ta' xi haga b'zonnjuza? Bil-BOV Personal Loan issa kollox huwa possibbli. Ghalhekk ghamel l-ahjar gha'la u hu self mill-Bank of Valletta.

...self ghal kull b'zonn.



Ghal cettar informazzjoni, jekk toghdok imla u toghat dan il kugun li:

The Manager, BOV Personal Loan product,
Processing Centre, BOV Centre, High Street Sliema, SLM 16

Isem: _____

Indirizz: _____

Telefon: _____



Freemans
OF LONDON

With the summer sun fading fast, it's time to think about updating your autumn wardrobe -

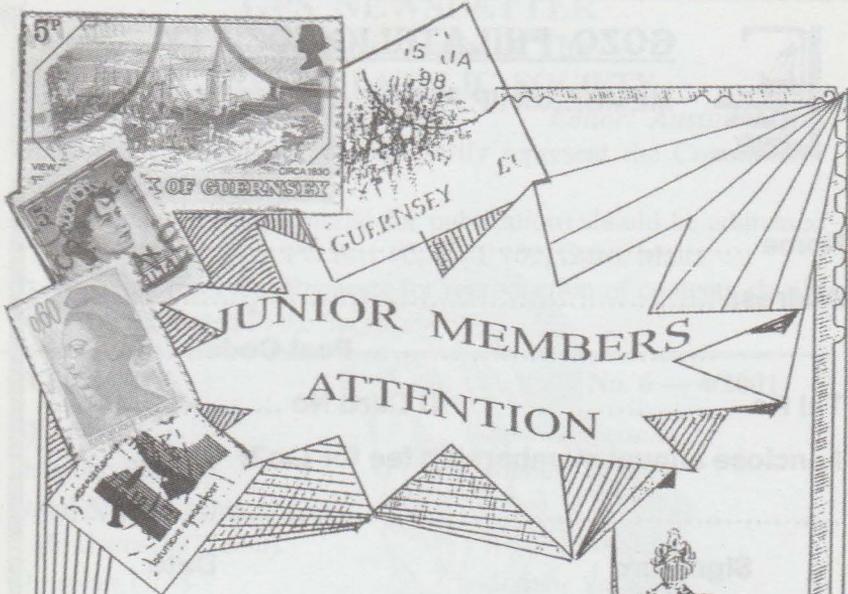
Whatever you do. Get inspired.....

NO-ONE BEATS US FOR FASHION

EASY ORDERING AND FAST DELIVERY

We offer Women's, Man's Kids & Sports wear, shoes, toys, bedding, toiletries, etc.

For more information Call now! **GOZO 21553338 MALTA 246084.**



*Introduce a new member to the
Gozo Philatelic Society
and you both receive
a pack of 50 stamps.*



MEMBERSHIP FEE: Only Lm1.00 yearly for Junior Members
Lm2.00 yearly for Senior Members

ENROLL NOW!



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No.

Name

Address

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

Tel No. ID Card No

I enclose annual membership fee for Lm2.

.....

Signature

Date

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

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by..... Member No

I acknowledge receipt of membership application from

.....

with relative fee of

An official receipt and membership card will be issued
later.

.....

(signed obo Gozo Philatelic Society)

Date





GPS NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Organ Of The GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on 12th February 2000

Editor: Austin Masini

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

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

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3rd September 1999

For "the promotion of the hobby"

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

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





GPS DIARY (6)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

Various members are contributing philatelically to periodicals and community radios. Visits are being organized regularly to schools.

Reciprocal agreement was reached between our Newsletter and that of the Nottinghamshire.

September 2001 - We gave permission for "Melita" (The Malta Study Circle's Newsletter) to carry articles originally published in ours.

Newsletter No 5 includes our full amended Statute, together with Exhibition regulations and application forms.

13th October 2001 - Official inauguration of our 2nd Philatelic Exhibition by Minister Giovanna Debono at the Exhibition Hall in St Francis Square in the presence of various guests. The number of participants (both junior and general) was more than satisfactory. Dealers' stands were present too. We launched the first of a planned series of large maps, showing stamp issuers.

20th October 2001 - A special cover was prepared to commemorate our Exhibition; bearing the new 6c Dog and its owner's signature Louis Cassar who is a Gozitan.

28th October 2001 - Last day of our exhibition: the stream of visitors (including whole classes) was most impressive. Many became members and acquired stamps and other items during this fortnight.

3rd November 2001 - Our committee accepted the Report of the Exhibition Judging Panel and finalized the prizes to be distributed (see pages 12 & 13). It was confirmed that all participants will receive a Certificate; in addition Juniors will receive a stamp folder (together with a medal for the best three) while senior winners will get a Prize Voucher.





PHILATELIC WEB (3)

Antoine Vassallo

Here are another ten Internet sites, hopefully interesting and useful — but again in no particular order! You are invited to recommend others.

www.rossia.com/stamps

**for collectors of Russian stamps
local issues from this small island**

www.pabay.org

[www.pio.gov.cy/dps/stamps/
stamps.htm](http://www.pio.gov.cy/dps/stamps/stamps.htm)>

**Republic of Cyprus Postal Service
stampcollectors' community**

www.cancelnations.com

www.bumperland.com

basic site for children

www.kidscollecting.about.com

includes stamp identifier

www.royalmail.com

GB stamps (and Collectors Club)

[www.philatelic-traders-society.
co.uk](http://www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk)

**dealers bound to integrity
help to identify stamps**

www.raster.it/stefano/a/

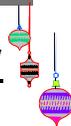
[www.bl.uk/collections/
philatelic](http://www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic)

from the British Library

For the attention of all members:

1. An English member is looking for exchange partners - those interested are invited to contact our secretary - Mr Antoine Vassallo.
2. **CORRECTION:** The article “Gozo’s Oldest” on page 12 of Newsletter No 5 referred to the 10/- Dore’ “as Malta’s most expensive stamp”; should read “as one of Malta’s most expensive.”





POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN GOZO 1887

(Part Four)

Anton F Attard

Part Four of our article being published in this issue concludes the rules and regulations concerning the Duties and Instructions of the Detached Post Officers, known today as Branch Postmasters. It is interesting to note that any official correspondence addressed to the Postmaster at the General Post Office had to pass through the Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo who was then the highest official in this Island and who later on was known as the Commissioner for Gozo.

The Registration Fee of 2d (8mils) for Registered Letters was very expensive if one takes into consideration the fact that the minimum wage at that time was less than 6d (2c5) per day.

The Appendices mentioned in the text will not be given.

Duties and Instructions of the Detached Post Officers (cont.)

4. Receipts for Registered Letters are to be stamped and returned to the General Post Office by the next mail.
5. No delay is to be allowed to take place in despatching the "Letter Carriers" to deliver the correspondence received, and the exact time of their "departure" and "return" is to be entered in the "Mail Book" of which a form is annexed. Appendix B.
6. The particulars of every mail received and despatched, as also the exact time of the arrival and departure of the same, are to be entered in the Mail Book.
7. Each time the "Stamp" is changed, that is its date and Index letter set in, an impression thereof is to be made in the Mail Book.
8. All ordinary and registered Letters (which from whatever cause cannot be delivered) after remaining a month in charge of the Detached Post Officers, are to ➤





- be returned to the General Post Office, except “Refused Letters”, which are to be returned at once.
9. Letters once posted are not to be given back, upon any account whatever, but are to be forwarded to their destination.
 10. Cross-Posts not being yet established, ordinary correspondence is forwarded by the mail messenger from one District Post Office to another, to be included in the charge of the Letter Carriers in whose walks the addressees may be.
 11. Detached Post Officers are to register Letters presented to them for that purpose, taking care that proper postage and registration fee of 2d are prepaid, that the Letter does not contain coin or jewellery, and that it is clearly addressed and securely packed for transmission. Directly a Letter is registered and a receipt given for the same it must be stamped with the “R Stamp” on the address side, “Date Stamped” on the back, and its address entered in the “Letter Bill”. It must be then kept under lock and key, and when the mail is despatched, folded in the Letter Bill made up into a Parcel.
 12. Each Detached Post Officer will be given credit for a small stock of Postage stamps etc. which stock he must keep up by sending cash, weekly or oftener, to the General Post Office, and demanding what he may require in exchange for the cash remitted, using the prescribed Form “C”, Appendix Form C. Out of this stock supplies are daily to be made to the Letter Carriers (not to exceed 5s) to be sold by them on their route, settling accounts on returning to the Office.
 13. As a general rule no information must be given respecting correspondence passing through the Post except to the person to whom the same is addressed. ►

(continued on page 19)





CHRISTMAS FIRSTS

Antoine Vassallo



The first stamp was issued by **Canada (1)** in 1898. The design is not very “Christmasy” since it commemorated Imperial Penny Postage and so simply shows a world map with British possessions highlighted in red. The oceans exist in three distinct bluish shades. Postmaster-General Mulock was the “artist” while the printers in recess and typography were the American Bank Note Company in Ottawa. Canada resumed annual Christmas stamps in 1964.



1905 offered the second set, by **Rumania (2)**. The design, common to the four values (3 + 7, 5 + 10 and two differently-coloured 10 +10 bani) show an angel announcing Christ’s birth. This is confirmed by the inscription or motto (“...Peace to all ...”). The surcharge went towards a welfare fund. They were typographed by Bradbury Wilkinson.



Hungary (3) can be considered as the third country with a Christmas issue. In 1941 a surcharged stamp was used to collect funds for Christmas gifts to be sent to soldiers on the front. A. Fery was the designer and, as for most Hungarian stamps, the State Printing Works in Budapest were used (photogravure). A more usual set arrived in 1943.



The 130th anniversary of the “Silent Night” carol (*Stille Nacht*) was commemorated by **Austria (4)** with a stamp designed by W Dachauer, ➤





engraved by F.Lorber and recessed at the usual State Printing Works in Vienna. Its creators are depicted: Josef Mohr and Franz Gruber. Others were produced in 1953, 1954 and later.



1949 gives us **Spain (5)** with an Air stamp as part of an Anti-Tuberculosis Fund set. It commemorated the widespread custom of bell ringing during Christmas, printed in photogravure and recessed by the Government Printing Works in Madrid. Other stamps or sets were issued in 1950, 1955 and then regularly from 1959 onwards. Actually Postal Tax labels used to collect municipal funds in Barcelona were overprinted for Christmas (“Navidad”) in 1941-5, also as miniature sheets.



Cuba (6) began issuing Christmas Greetings stamps, without a religious theme, in 1952: 1 and 3 centavos showing a Christmas tree. They were printed in recess and typography by P Fernandez of Havana. Annual sets followed with hardly any gap.



Luxembourg's National Welfare Fund Set (“Caritas”) of 1955 (7) had clear Christmas themes: 25+5 centimes and 4f + 50c show Baby Jesus in the manger (Christmas Day); 80 + 20c gifts (St Nicholas’ Day); 1.20f+ 30c and 7f + 3.45 francs symbolise the Magi (12th Night). These six stamps by A Tremont were printed in photogravure by the Swiss Courvoisier. Annual sets only began much later. ►





Regular annual Christmas sets from **Australia** were begun in 1957 (8). These 3½ and 4 pence stamps were recessed at the Note Printing Branch of the Commonwealth Bank in Melbourne. D Cameron (who was also the engraver) represented “the spirit of Christmas”, using Sir Joshua Reynolds’ “Samuel”.



This same year saw the first set (for Season Greetings) from **South Korea** (9). These three stamps, designed by Min Chul Hong and lithographed by the Korean Government Printing Agency, are also available as imperforate miniature sheets.



A three-value set (10) was issued by **Liechtenstein** in 1957 too. A Frommelt depicted St Mamertus Chapel and its contents. Courvoisier printed in photogravure. This tiny principality has rarely missed out from celeb rating Christmas since then.



Belgium was the next European country to show a Christmas theme. One (11) of the 1958 set surcharged for Fund collecting showed a live crib (“Pax” = Peace). J Vroye engraved J van Noten’s design. This stamp was printed in recess and photogravure at Malines.



1958 also gave us a set from **Cost Rica** (12). Two unconnected stamps were surcharged for an obligatory Christmas tax to collect funds for poor children. The original stamps were printed in recess and photogravure by Waterlow & Sons of London and the State Printing Works in Vienna respectively ►





We go to Africa for a 1959 set. **Belgian Congo** issued three stamps (50 centimes, 1 and 2 francs) in a single design (13), photogravured by Courvoisier. They were overprinted on Independence in 1960 for use in the province of Katanga and in low value for Congo.



Vatican City began its annual issues in 1959 with three stamps (10, 15 and 70 lire) showing Grassellini's adaptation of "The Nativity" by Gerard Honthorst (14). Like others, they were photogravured at the Government Printing Works in Rome.



1960 saw the beginning of **New Zealand's** annual celebration. This first stamp (15) depicts Rembrandt's "Adoration of the Shepherds" and was photogravure-printed by Harrison & Sons of London.



Norfolk Island received a measure of local government in 1960 and commenced an annual issue for Christmas, using the same design (16) as Australia's. B Stewart adapted and engraved K McKay's painting.



We finally reach South America, thus touching all continents. In 1961 **Peru** issued a stamp (17) as Christmas and New Year greetings for Postal employees. It was lithographed by Sanmarti in Lima and was reprinted various times in varied shades on different papers. ➤





1962 gives us the first annual series from the **USA**. This was a simple design **(18)** by J Crawford. As usual this stamp was recessed by the Government's Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



Malawi issued a set in 1964: four stamps (3d, 6d, 1/3 and 2/6) in a common design **(19)**, available also as an imperforate miniature sheet. Harrison used photogravure to print V Whiteley's work.



This brief survey ends with **Malta**. Our annual sets began on independence in 1964 **(20)** and were synonymous with artist Envin Cremona for many years. These first three stamps (2, 4 and 8 pence) were photogravure-printed by De La Rue of London □

EDITORIAL NOTE

As this is our last issue before the festive season, I take this opportunity to wish the committee, members and everyone of you my sincere greetings for a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I would also like to encourage every member - especially Juniors - to contribute towards this Newsletter by writing articles. A special word of thanks and gratitude goes to one of my best friends Bernard Bartolo who is always willing to help in the set-up of this publication. Without your generous help this publication would not have been a success. Thank you once more. □





FIRST DAY COVERS



issued by MALTAPOST
during YEAR 2001

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>
1. Malta Carnival	23rd February 2001
2. Lighthouses	21st March 2001
3. Caruana Dingli's Folklore	18th April 2001
4. Pope's Visit to Malta	4th May 2001
5. Europe 2001	23rd May 2001
6. Birds of Malta	22nd June 2001
7. Old Maltese Musical Instruments	22nd August 2001
8. Definitive 2001 (<i>Part Three</i>)	19th September 2001
9. Dogs	20th October 2001
10. Christmas 2001	29th November 2001





COMPETITION RESULTS OF THE 2ND GPS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



(Antoine Vassallo Secretary)

Summary of Judging Panel's Report

The Panel consisted of Mr Anthony Fenech and Mr J Buttigieg with Dr Michael Refalo as Chairman. They commented on the generally high standard of the exhibits and the good level of presentation, even for the non-competing. They added that the good number of Junior entries augurs well for the future of philately in Gozo.

SENIORS: After examining the entries on the criteria of presentation, rarity, completeness and research, these placings were decided:

1. TRADITIONAL PHILATELY (Personalities)

1st	Kings & Queens of British Malta	Mr A Grech
2nd	Grand Master La Vallette	Mr G Vella
3rd	Popes and Holy Years	Mr A Said Cremona
4th	Papa Gwanni Pawlu II	Rev G Farrugia
5th	Austria	Mr H Katzeinsteiner



2. POSTAL HISTORY

1st	Anton Buttigieg	Mr A Grech
2nd	First Malta Stamp	Mr A Said Cremona
3rd	Zjara tal-Papa f' Malta	Mr C Saliba ➤





JUNIORS: based on criteria of presentation, completeness and research, the first three placed were:

1st Carl Xerri; **2nd** Christabel Galea; **3rd** Noah G Cassar

BANK OF VALLETTA CHALLENGE CUP

The Panel also had to choose one single entry, competing or otherwise, on the level of presentation and completion. **“Kings and Queens of British Malta”** presented by Mr Anthony Grech won this prize. It was noted that several others merited recognition for their effort.

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

The GPS Committee would also like to thank the panel for its in-depth report.

SAN {OR} FIL- FILATELIJA

Emanuel Mizzi



Il-bolla li ser nikteb dwarha hija l-bolla tal-5 `ente`mi li jar`et mill-posta ta' Malta flimkien ma tliet bolli o`jra fis-16 ta' Settembru 1975 fl-okka`ljoni tas-sena tal-Wirt Ewropew fl-Arkitettura. Id-disinn huwa ta' Richard England. Din il-bolla hija ta' lewn gri` impittra fl-abjad u fiha tidher bi` prominenza il-koppla u l-kampnari tal-Ba`ilka ta' San {or[tal-belt Vittorja mdawra bil-bini. Fuq il-kwart tag]ha tan-na]]a tal-lemin hemm strixxa]amra u fuqha hemm miktub: “1975 Sena tal-Wirt Ewropew fl-Arkitettura”. Qabel il-kliem fuq l-istess strixxa hemm il-”logo” li ntuza b]ala timbru postali. Il “watermark” hija s-salib tal-kavallieri ta' Malta. (Wmk 7)





MALTESE CHRISTMAS STAMPS

George Vella

To back up Antoine Vassallo's article about the world's first Christmas stamps, in this article we are to review the Christmas stamps issued in Malta.

On the 3rd November 1964 Malta issued its first set of three Christmas stamps and continued to do so every year to the present one. The design was entrusted to Chev. Envin Cremona who made a hit in Maltese philately. This unique set consisted of a 2d red, a 4d blue and an 8d green. Cremona used an overprint in gold to enhance this set, the printer being De La Rue. Cremona designed his first set of Maltese stamps on the XV anniversary of the George Cross that was awarded to Malta during the Second world War in 1942. These were issued on 15th April 1957. For the first time on Maltese stamps the artist used an overprint in silver for this set. This was something quite conventional to use silver or gold on stamps.

Envin Cremona was entrusted to design other sets of Maltese stamps together with the Christmas stamps up to 1979 consecutively. His line of design is very unique and similar to other sets of stamps that he had produced. From 1964 to 1974 his style of design in Christmas stamps is on the modern line. Yet from 1975 to 1979, except for the 19789 set, these are on a classical line of design. In all he designed sixteen sets of Christmas stamps.

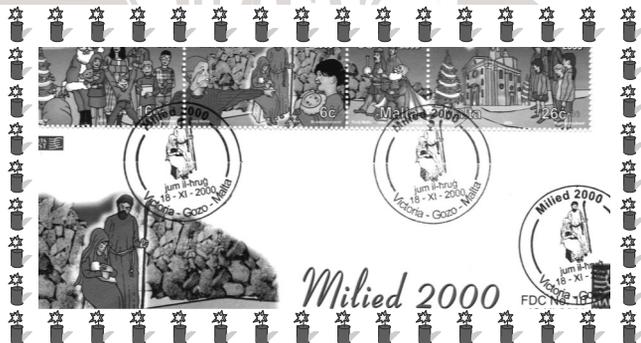
The other Christmas stamps were designed by other different artists starting by Raymond Pitre'. Tony Bugeja followed and Joseph Mallia designed two sets; that of 1982 and of 1989. Norbert Attard designed the 1983 set while Luciano Micallef





designed two sets; that of 1984 and of 1986. Ganni Bonnici designed the 1985 set while Richard Caruana and Ray Gauci designed the 1987 and 1988 sets respectively. The “Ghaqda Hbieb tal-Presepju designed the 1990 set and Lawrence Buttigieg designed the 1992 set. Harry Borg designed seven sets up to 1999, except the one of 1998 which was designed by Maltapost. His first set was designed in 1991. George Mallia designed the year 2000 set and this year’s set was designed by Aldo Gatt.

In Malta the surcharge on Christmas stamps was introduced in 1969 and the proceeds go to the Community Chest Fund to be later distributed among charitable institutions. Four miniature Christmas sheets were issued and also hand rubber stamps. □





Tag|rif mill-{\urnali ta' l-Img|oddi

Mi[bur minn Anthony Grech

Novita fil-]idma tal-Posta din is-sena kienet it-twaqqif ta' uffi`ju tal-Posta u Telefon fil-`Malta Trade Fair` li saret mis-17 sal-25 ta' Settembru 1955. Minn dan l-uffi`ju setg]u jsiru t-transazzjonijiet kollha li g]andhom x`jaqsmu mal-Posta u Telefon.

*Mill-Bullettin ta' tag|rif
Ministeru tal-Posta u Biedja Ottubru 1955*

O[letti Re]istrati

Impustati Malta	15364
Waslu bl-ajru	20820
Waslu bil-ba]ar	2953
Telqu bl-ajru	5730
Telqu bil-ba]ar	1260
-irkulazzjoni lokali	32147
Pakki postali li waslu	5977
Pakki postali li [ew imsiefra	1286
Pakki postali lokali	82
Pakki postali re]istrati	1710



*Mill-Bullettin ta' tag|rif
Ministeru tal-Posta u Biedja Ottubru 1955*





QUIZ COMPETITION

Open to all Junior Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society

- i) What country issued the first Christmas stamp and in which year ?
- ii) When did Malta issue the first Christmas Set ? How many stamps were there in this set and who designed it ?
- iii) What does “Christkindl” mean and in which country is this Church found?
- iv) In which year did the Postal Administration in Austria set up its first official post office in Christkindl ?

Please send your answers on a separate paper together with your name, address and membership number by not later than 31st January 2002 to: ***The Secretary***

Gozo Philatelic Society

P.O. Box 10, Victoria Gozo VCT 101

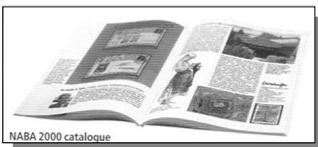


Prize



A special **Handstamp** dated 19.12.2000 (*First Christmas of the Millenium*) from Christ the Child Church in Austria generously donated by Mr Hans Katzensteiner who is also one of our members.

Please see article on pages 23 and 24.





PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULTS

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No 5 are as follows:

- i) 1st December 1860. 30 Printings.
- ii) 4th May 2001.
- iii) Perforations are fine punched holes on a stamp to form a letter or a motif.
- iv) William Cody. He was nicknamed Buffalo Bill..

PRIZE WINNER:

G.P.S. Prize Winner of a set of six Mint German Postal Cards goes to **Saviour Attard** of Nadur Gozo. (Member No 90)

(This set was generously donated by Mr Wolfgang Junker who is also one of our members.)

CONGRATULATIONS !!





(continued from page 5)

14. Detached Post Officers are to see that Letter Carriers do their duty properly and smartly and obey respectfully the directions they receive. Any disobedience of orders, acts of insubordination and of disrespect, or want of proper civility to the Public, are to be instantly reported to the Postmaster General.
15. The premises in which the Postal business is carried on are to be kept clean, and everything in them should be in proper order.
“The inscription” over the Entrance (District Post Office) and the Letter Box fixed outside the Premises to be accessible to the Public at all hours, are not to be allowed to become illegible from age, or wilful damage, but should be reported to be renewed at reasonable periods.
16. The “Office hours Tables”, the “Time piece”, the “Time Table of the arrival and departure of the mails”, the Press of the “Poste Restante” or of the Letters to be called for”, and the Foreign and Inland Postage Tariffs” are to be exhibited in proper places for the information and guidance of the Public.
17. The Detached Post Officers are to correspond, upon all matters, with the Deputy Postmaster and Chief Clerk, and should this Officer not attend to their requirements they may, then, make their representations direct to the Postmaster. All correspondence, however, is to pass through the Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo. □

*(Extract from, the Regulations of the General Post Office.)
(To be concluded)*



THE FIRST MALTESE CHRISTMAS SET

Emanuel Vella



The first Maltese Christmas set was issued on the 3rd November 1964. It consisted of 3 square stamps designed by Chev. E.V. Cremona. They were printed by De La Rue and had perforations of $12\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$. The watermark was Maltese Cross.

They were printed in sheets of 60 (10x6) each. Their value was:

2d Crimson and gold
4d violet-blue and gold
8d green and gold

The number of stamps sold by 6th January 1965 was:

2d 1150927
4d 281669
8d 249160

As said above these were issued in sheets of 60 stamps, 10 horizontal and 6 vertical. On R6/1 (Plate 1B and 2B) of the 4d stamp a conspicuous flaw on the hood of the Madonna has only been eliminated by retouching. (*Fig A below*)

A flaw just above the crook near the right upper corner also appears on R7/6 (Plate 1B). This is also on the 4d stamp. (*Fig B below*)

Another flaw appears on the 8d stamp. This flaw is on the cloak and is on R4/5 (Plate 1A and 2A). (*Fig C below*)



Fig A



Fig B



Fig C





REALLY SERVED ITS PURPOSE !!!

Anton V Said Micallef

This year's Gozo Philatelic Exhibition, amongst other things, proved to be a step forward in the right direction to promote this interesting and fascinating hobby among the general public at large.

Enthusiasts from every walk of life were greatly impressed when they visited the exhibition and decided to enrol or encouraged others to do so. All the items displayed, both those entered by the seniors and even those in the juniors' section were worthy of one's visit.

In fact the enrolment was more than satisfactory with some seventy new members during its fortnight's duration.. Besides juniors the new members include quite a good number of adults, from housewives who decided to pick up this hobby as a means of relaxation from their everyday routine of house chores to others with a very demanding career. A great satisfaction for the society was the good number of foreigners who turned up and paid a visit and those residing in Gozo even decided to join in. A particular case which stood out, was of a foreign resident residing at St Paul's Bay in Malta, who besides visiting the exhibition twice decided to become a member, notwithstanding the hardships he has to undergo in attending the general meetings and other activities as he has to cross the channel each time. Others expressed their wish of joining as soon as they manage to buy some property and settle in Gozo. Maybe even these in the future would have their exhibits put up which will be an important section in the exhibition. In fact Mr Hans Katzensteiner from Vienna is the pioneer in this regard. ➤





Words of encouragement during and after this exhibition poured in from all quarter. We are reproducing some of these, left on the visitor's book which was available during this period. □

The Hon G Debono - Minister for Gozo - ***"Very interesting"***.

Dr Michael Refalo LLD (Notary) - GPS President - Victoria -
"A marvellous job".

Mons Dr Anton Gauci DD, JCD, JUB - Victoria -
"Something really worthy of praise".

Roger Mallinder - UK -
"It was fascinating and beautifully displayed".

John B Pace MD, B.Pharm, FRCS (Ed), KM - Victoria -
"Original, artistic and a professional exhibition".

Ingrid Hanzl-Farkas - Vienna Austria -
"I am very happy to have visited the exhibition".

John Buttigieg - Sliema -
"Keep it up. You are improving every-time".

Irma Legglaar - Holland - ***"Friendly people"***.

Anton Galea - Victoria -
"Il-wirja tag]kom i[[enen anke lil min mhux dilettant".

Dick Todd - Kercem -
"From an old man, it is good to see a Junior Section".





THE “CHRISTKINDL”

SPECIAL POSTMARK

Hans Katzensteiner



***Christ the Child Church
in Austria***

Amid the many Advent activities and adult preparations, the children are busily making some plans of their own. Traditionally, Austrian youngsters write to Christkindl (*Christ the Child*) early in Advent to tell him of their hearts' desires. The Christmas list is carefully placed in a window or on a windowsill where the Christ child will be sure to see. By the following morning the letter is invariably gone.

A modern variant of this old custom has grown up in the past few decades, centered in the town of Christkindl. During the year 1950 the Austrian Postal Administration set up its first official Christmas Post Office in temporary headquarters in the taproom of the village inn, “At the Sign of the Heavenly View.” It is here where the most popular Christmas postmark originated. That first season, a lone employee handled some 42,000 pieces of Christmas mail. Today the Postal Administration had to drastically enlarge its staff. Between late November and the 5th January, they handle more than a million letters, packages and requests each year. ➤

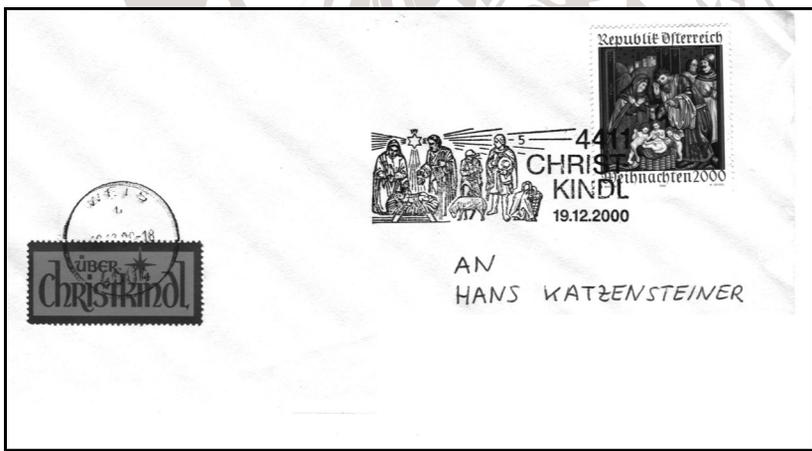




Children address their letters to Christkindl. If a parent encloses a self-addressed reply envelope, the child receives a special Christmas greeting in response. The greeting bears the Christkindl postmark which is a stamp showing the Holy Family under the Christmas star.

Letters and parcels from all over the world are routed through the Christkindl Post Office to receive the special stamp. Quite a few parcels in the Austrian mail at Christmas time emit the tantalizing aromas of cookies, pastries and other baked goods in transit.

The period just before Christmas Eve is the time when the Christmas baking begins. The houses are filled with the appetizing scents of Christmas pastries for which the Austrians are justly famous. No Austrian Christmas would be complete without it. □



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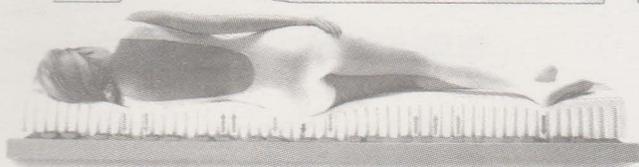
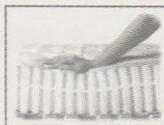
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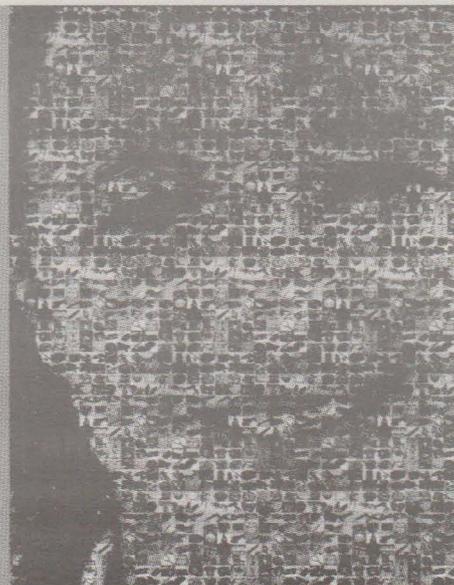
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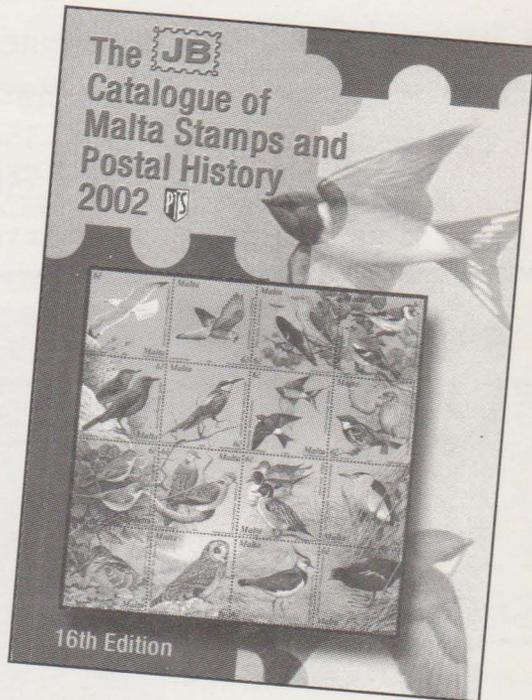
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